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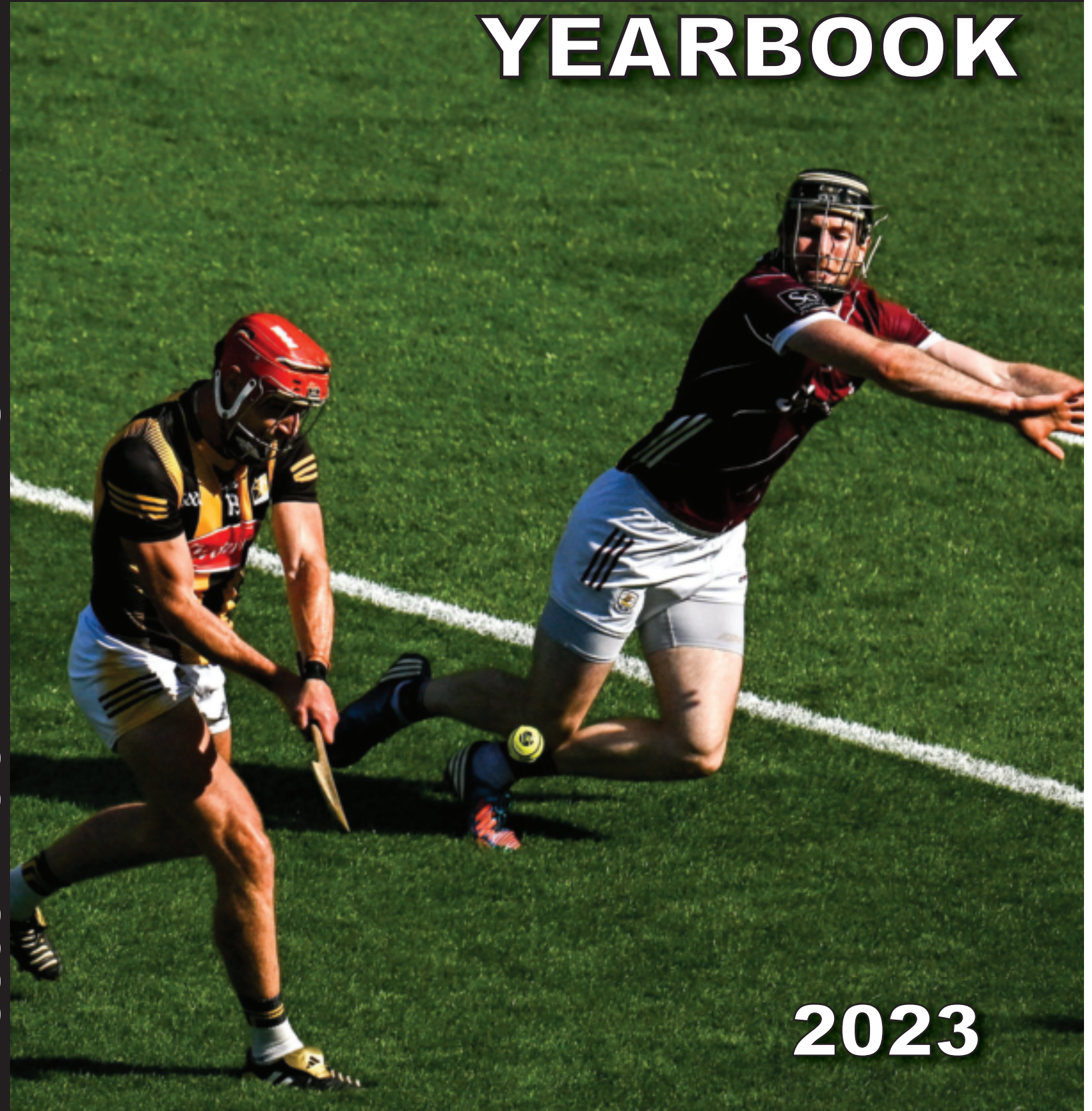


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KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK

KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2023



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KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2023

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Réamhfhocal



It gives me great pleasure to write my first Yearbook address to you. 2023 has been a year of change – first of all I would like to thank the outgoing officers for their work and dedication in the last number of years – former Chairperson Jimmy Walsh, former Secretary Conor Denieffe, and former PRO Paul Fitzgerald. Barry Hickey, Treasurer still remains a constant and I would like to acknowledge the unseen work he does. I would also like to acknowledge the work of new officers Secretary Seamus Reade, PRO Mary Morgan and Vice Chair Jim Fennelly who have done outstanding work.

This year, in his first year, Derek Lyng put his own stamp on the team, reaching the All-Ireland final, winning a fourth Leinster title in a row and qualifying for the National League final. Our U20's suffered a reversal of fortune against our Leinster rivals Wexford, last year defeating Wexford by 1 point, this year saw us lose out by 2 points. Our minors lost out at All-Ireland Semi Final stage to All-Ireland Champions Clare and All-Ireland Finalists Galway in the Leinster final. The Junior Football team lost out to New York in the All-Ireland final. The more things change, the more they stay the same with Shamrocks Ballyhale winning Senior Club All Ireland for a record ninth time, defeating Dunloy in Croke Park while 2 months later St. Kieran's College landed another Colleges All-Ireland title, also in Croke Park.

At club level, I would like acknowledge all our County Final winners at all levels both adult and Bord na nÓg which are well documented here. I would like to acknowledge the work done by the Junior Board and the Bord Na nÓg Committees. I wish the Kilkenny Champions O'Loughlin Gaels, Thomastown and Tullogher Rosbercon all the best in the Leinster and All-Ireland Club Championship.

The Kilkenny County Board has completed a review of our Development Squad teams. A new Kilkenny Coaching and Games committee has been set up, led by David Denieffe and new Coaching Officer Pado Flynn. The appointment in 2023 of Michael Fennelly as Performance Lead has also helped with the improvement of standards. Club Kilkenny is another new initiative that we hope will improve the links between Kilkenny County and our clubs.

This year's unsavoury events, both at local and national level, have outlined the need for "give respect get respect" in particular for Referees. If we don't plan now we are facing a shortage of Referees in the coming years.

Age grades and split season have created new problems. We still have only 52 weeks in a year but with more matches and a condensed season, the need for extra floodlit facilities and training pitches is going to be vital in the future.

I would like to acknowledge all sponsors, in particular Tírlan PLC, our competition sponsors and all those who contribute in any way to helping to support Kilkenny GAA. The Supporters clubs in Kilkenny and Dublin do a lot of work behind the scenes and give great support to Kilkenny GAA.

Thanks to the team involved in the production of this Yearbook – Gerry O'Neill, Barry Henriques, Pat Henderson and all the Committee. I would also like to thank anyone else who supports Kilkenny GAA in any way.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.
Cill Channigh Abú.

*PS Ó Ciunaithe
Cathaoirleach, Coiste Chontae Chill Chainnigh.*



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KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2023

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FRONT COVER:

11 June 2023; Cillian Buckley of Kilkenny scores his side's fourth and winning goal, despite the efforts of Galway's Pádraic Mannion, during the Leinster GAA Hurling Senior Championship Final.

Photo by Seb Daly/Sportsfile

POSTER :

Huw Lawlor
Photo by Matt Browne/Sportsfile

EDITORIAL



"2023 was a good year from a Kilkenny perspective and then again, not so. As the man said, "all things are relative including the element of perspective"

We got to a second successive All Ireland Final against the same opposition. Because of the closeness of the encounter in 2022 hope sprung eternal in the Kilkenny breast that we were not going to replicate the errors of our ways in successive years. We were getting a second chance to right the wrongs of 2022. As usual the Cats travelled in major numbers, with a zip in their step, and hope in their hearts. It was not to be.

Ach sin scéal do lá eile

At National level, we had a Leinster senior Trophy thanks in the main to a Killian Buckley goal in Croke Park against Galway. The rest of the National arena was thin. Kilkenny support had to rely on some magnificent hurling by St Kierans College who larruped their way through the Colleges scene to take the Trophy back to the Callan road after a brilliantly executed victory over Presentation, Athenry. It was then left to our College camogie players. Loreto won their All Ireland against St Pat's, Maaghera. after a hectic battle, while St. Brigids Callan won their final beating Gort CS in a comprehensive victory

The hurling in the local Championships squirmed between great and passive. At Senior level, the Shamrocks from Ballyhale were most people's fancy to claim a record-breaking six titles on the bounce. But they were down seven players who had lined out in their All Ireland Club win of the previous year. Would that be a problem, people surmised? O'Loughlin Gaels were cautiously making steady progress through the League and the subsequent Championship. They had a big asset in their hurling portfolio- half of the Kilkenny defence that went down to Limerick were from the Hebron Road club. It was to prove significant. Bennettsbridge were shaping up to deliver a challenge but pulled up on the line. Dicksboro had credibility but not too much more when the chips were down. The challenge from the remaining protagonists just filtered out when needed most. The County Senior Final between Shamrocks and O'Loughlins was a terrific encounter. O'Loughlins went marching onwards with a first round win against Mount Leinster Rangers in the Leinster Club Championship, and by the time you read this they may have progressed further. Thomastown - at last - reached their hurling Valhalla with a very impressive win over Mooncoin. Ditto Tullogher Rosbercon who flattened every obstacle on their way to win a very good Junior Championship. One would expect that both will have travelled further by the time you read this.

This being our 33rd GAA Yearbook, it carries all the stories, facts, stats, results etc of a good in-house year. Thanks, in the main to the efforts of our scribblers of the quality of John Knox, Enda Mc Evoy, Trevor Spillane, P.M. O'Sullivan we are proud of the fact that we are still producing a compilation of the highest quality, comparable to any we have done heretofore. Many thanks to outstanding people like Gerry O'Neill, Pat Henderson, Tommy Lanigan, Jimmy Walsh, Mary Morgan, Conor Brennan and Conor Denieffe. Thanks too to the Officers of the County Board who did not spare their encouragement.

I thank all of our sponsors who have remained so supportive, and loyal for a very long time and exhort you to support them whenever the opportunity presents.

Thank you for your continued support. Hope you enjoy our work.
Go néirí an bothar libh.

Barrie Henriques
(Editor).



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County SH Championship Report by Tommy Lanigan

Photos: Willie Dempsey & SPORTSFILE



O'Loughlin Gaels - County SH Champions 2023

Back: Matthew Russell, Oisín Murphy, Owen Wall, Luke Hogan, Barry Lawlor, Kevin Murphy, Conor Kelly, Jamie Ryan, Declan Murphy.
Middle: Jamie Malone, Conor Heary, Huw Lawlor, Jamie Young, Finn Hogan, John McNamara, Ryan Poyntz, Cian Loy, Fergal Brennan, Ben Leydon, Patrick Butler, Anthony Forristal, David Fogarty.
Front: Paddy Deegan, Ronan Buckley, Sammy Johnston, Jordan Molloy, Ruaidhri Galwey, Evan Walsh, Sean Bolger, Mark Bergin (Captain), Mikey Butler, Eoin O'Shea, Stephen Murphy, Jack Nolan.

All hail the superb O'Loughlin Gaels! For the first time since October 2017, a Kilkenny club has reached the exceptional standards of performance to dethrone the greatest club hurling side of any generation. Make no mistake, it took an extraordinary effort coupled with a dogged resolution that few teams could muster in the face of the long-time champions of Kilkenny and Ireland.

Many within their own club were concerned that O'Loughlins were 'weak up front', that they found scoring a challenge and they had a mediocre run as far as the county semi-final. All true to an extent. But the day and place to shine is the last Sunday of October in Nowlan Park. Being there gives you a chance, being at your very best is another matter.

O'Loughlins were at their very best. They had been superbly prepared by Brian Hogan and his selectors who must be given great credit for their work. Somewhat smaller in stature than the formidable Shamrocks, O'Loughlins compensated with speed and confidence, added to a hard edge that we have seen in their performances over the past two decades.

The game itself was tense from the beginning, O'Loughlins making the early pace with fine points from a range of players, particularly their unerring free-taker and captain Mark Bergin. Conor Heary was causing no end of trouble with his strength and drive while the other forwards worked very hard to curtail the Shamrocks clearances. At the back there were tremendous tussles, Mikey Butler became Adrian Mullen's second skin, Huw Lawlor dominated the space in front of goal in his customary imperious fashion and Paddy Deegan had some great battles with Eoin Cody and anybody else who came his way. Shamrocks kept in touch as is their custom, patient, unhurried, picking out the telling passes and enabling TJ to gain space and keep them in touch on the scoreboard. Despite a four point early lead, the sides were level 0-9 each at the interval.

We waited for the Shamrocks 'moving time', usually the third quarter. It didn't happen. O'Loughlins continued to apply the pressure on the Ballyhale midfield and half backs, lessening their influence. Paddy Deegan, Cian Loy and Jack Nolan drove forward repeatedly with growing effect. Yet Ballyhale led into the last six minutes thanks to TJ and Mullen. Wing back David Fogarty, who

had scored in every game this year stepped up to level the game with three minutes remaining. It was all O'Loughlins now and it was fitting that Paddy Deegan shot a superb point to win the game.

Deegan's performances and bravery were exceptional all year for club and county and, on the day that mattered for his club he was wonderful. O'Loughlins had heroes everywhere, particularly the unheralded players, Jordan Molloy, Cian Loy and Heary both back from injury, Owen Wall and the ever reliable Stephen Murphy. Conor Kelly proved to be the best impact sub. one could imagine.

No consolation to Shamrocks in losing only their second game in six years, amazingly by last second scores in both cases, Ballygunner and the 'Gael'. They conceded no goal in this year's Kilkenny championship but had to settle for silver.

O'Loughlin Gaels; Stephen Murphy, Tony Forristal, Huw Lawlor, Mikey Butler, David Fogarty, Paddy Deegan, Jordan Molloy, Jack Nolan, Cian Loy, Mark Bergin (C), Eoin O'Shea, Conor Heary, Owen Wall, Paddy Butler, Sean Bolger. Subs; Conor Kelly (0-1) for Paddy Butler, Luke Hogan (0-1) for O'Shea, Jamie Ryan for Nolan, Jamie Malone, Ronan Buckley, Oisín Murphy, Ruaidhri Galwey, Kevin Murphy, Ryan Poyntz, Finn Hogan, Jamie Young, Decky Murphy, Sammy Johnston, Evan Walsh, Fergal Brennan, Ben Leydon, John McNamara, Barry Lawlor, Matthew Russell, Robbie Buckley (inj).

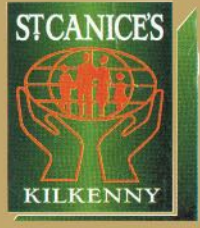
Ballyhale Shamrocks; Dean Mason, Dara Mason, Darragh Corcoran, Killian Corcoran, Evan Shefflin, Richie Reid, Paddy Mullen, Conor Walsh, Liam Barron, Adrian Mullen, TJ Reid, Eoin Cody, Eoin Kenneally, Colin Fennelly, Niall Shortall. Subs; Marcus O'Gorman, Brian Butler, Mark Aylward, Conor Phelan, Eoin Reid, Stephen Barron, Larry Cody, Cian Cullen, Fionn Shefflin, Kevin Fennelly, Tomás Barron, Chris Coady, Edmond Fitzpatrick, Enda Kenneally.

Referee; Peter Burke (Emeralds).

The semi-finals had been contrasting affairs.



O'Loughlin's Captain Mark Bergin lifts the Tom Walsh Cup Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



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O'Loughlins Captain, Mark Bergin receives the Senior Trophy from Chairman PJ Kenny and Vincent Kenrick, St Canices Credit Union Sponsor and Joe Malone. (Photo Willie Dempsey)

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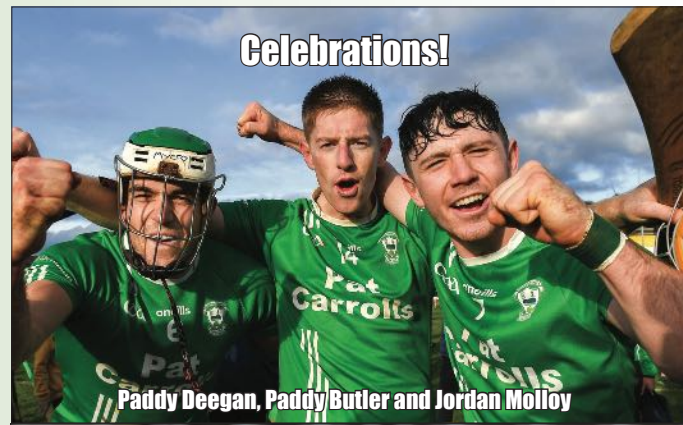
'Shamrocks were never under any stress against a feeble James Stephens side, who had over-reached to make it to the last four. The Village were unable to contest physically against their powerful opponents and it quickly became a rout. The game was over as a contest by the end of the first quarter as Ballyhale demonstrated all their power, guile and impeccable first touch to run up a huge score against their old adversaries. TJ Reid's performance alone was worth the entrance money. Much had been made earlier of the loss of five of last year's 'Shamrocks, notably the talismanic Joey Holden and Ronan Corcoran but they carried on as before. The final score of 5-19 to 0-14 didn't flatter the Southerners. But did it create a sense of hubris in the champions that affected them in the final? We will never be sure but....

The second semi-final between O'Loughlins and Bennettsbridge provided lots of entertainment and no little skill with the city side coming out on top in a pulsating finish. Indeed their manner of victory mirrored events in the final. A tight game, the introduction of Conor Kelly as an effective forward substitute and a late increase in pace and self-belief characterised O'Loughlins' performance against a very good Bennettsbridge side. It also suggested that O'Loughlins had found their scoring mojo as a fine return of 3-16 suggested, two smashing goals coming from the lively Owen Wall. The 'Bridge scored 0-22, enough to win many games but the O'Loughlins defence held firm in the face of great efforts from a rejuvenated Liam Blanchfield. The early loss of younger brother Kevin through injury didn't help the 'Bridge cause as their bench was light on senior quality. But they must surely wonder why or how they didn't improve their game when the winning post loomed and opportunity beckoned.

The losing semi-finalists have much to ponder. James Stephens showed none of the brio that took them to the 2022 final. They have been unable to replace the power and leadership of Conor Browne and Niall Mullins and are sorely lacking a marquee forward. Considerable challenges lie ahead. Bennettsbridge, on the other hand have plenty of heft on their side and lots of scoring forwards and the best free taker of the past decade in Nicky Cleere. Well coached this year, they have the capacity for greater things but their issues seem to be an inconsistency and lack of self-belief when facing the big games. These can be fixed.

The quarter-finals had thrown up two great contests. Dicksboro had stormed through the league and seemed well equipped to halt the march of Ballyhale. The 'Boro have been the form club at underage for more than a decade and it needed to show at senior level. Many thought this might be their year. Allowing themselves to be physically bullied in the early stages of a terrifically entertaining game did their cause no good. Nor did some poor side-line decisions. The sending off of Paddy Mullen with twenty minutes remaining galvanised the Shamrocks as the Boro failed to take over when opportunity beckoned and grim resolution was required. Ballyhale deservedly weathered yet another storm on a scoreline of 1-20 to 0-21 and began to wear a coat of invincibility.

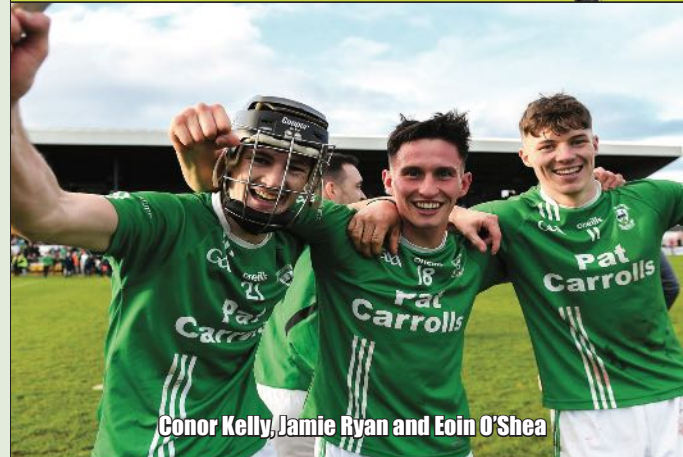
A week earlier Mullinavat turned their season around with a good win in the relegation semi-final and almost caught eventual champions O'Loughlins in a tough encounter. The Vegas men had dumped them out of the championship in the first round in 2022 but this time O'Loughlins were ready for battle. The City men were mightily relieved to go home



Celebrations!
Paddy Deegan, Paddy Butler and Jordan Molloy



Mark Bergin and Nigel Skehan



Conor Kelly, Jamie Ryan and Eoin O'Shea



SHAMROCKS BALLYHALE - COUNTY SENIOR HURLING FINALISTS 2023

Back: Liam Barron, Enda Kenneally, Adrian Mullen, Paddy Mullen, Dara Mason, Larry Cody, Chris Coady.

Middle: Brian Butler, Tomás Barron, Liam Barron, Darragh Corcoran, Colin Fennelly, Conor Phelan, Eoin Kenneally, Cian Cullen, Kevin Fennelly, Finnian Shefflin, TJ Reid.

Front: Mark Aylward, Dean Mason, Niall Shortall, Eoin Reid, Richie Reid, Conor Walsh, Evan Shefflin, Mark Gorman, Enda Fitzpatrick.

Well Done,
O'Loughlins!

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with a 0-18 to 2-10 victory, having shown little indication of future greatness. Mullinavat, powered by the outstanding Malone brothers asked some very tough questions but ultimately failed to take advantage on the scoreboard.

James Stephens defeated Graigue-Ballycallan by 1-18 to 0-15 in an entirely predictable encounter. The Graig men were just too young and inexperienced at this level and never threatened to get close to a Village team that had a relatively easy task throughout. Neither side had set the world on fire during the league and it showed.

The team that had impressed in the league, Glenmore, proved the most disappointing at this stage. Liam Blanchfield at full forward did most of the damage for the 'Bridge as they eased comfortably to a six point win 3-14 to 0-17.

Glenmore had topped their League group, and while Dicksboro had beaten them well in the league final, they never improved for the championship. They have a number of good young hurlers in their midst and combined with the excellent Murphy clan they should be good for several years to come.

Graigue-Ballycallan have shown improvement. Firm favourites for relegation in 2022, they have introduced several promising young players and to reach the quarter-finals this year is a mark of considerable progress. Yet their panel is tight and they cannot afford to lose any personnel for a few years until they consolidate this side.

Mullinavat would seem to have opposing issues. They are still powered by the u21 winning team of almost a decade ago and have been unable to introduce more than a few promising players since, therefore they struggle for much of the year. Their league form of the past two years has been poor with consequent worries of relegation. In fairness they have improved greatly by championship time but the hurdles are getting bigger.

The first round saw the best game of the season thus far as Tullaroan lost, surprisingly enough, to a Bennettsbridge team that was on fire by 5-12 to 3-10. Tullaroan had no answer on the day to a powerful 'Bridge side though they were authors of their own misfortune with a defensive implosion. Tullaroan had a very respectable league but were one of those teams who never managed to lift their game to championship heights. At least twenty five per cent all round improvement from League performance is needed to survive the rigours of championship. They have quite a few promising hurlers but tend to look too often to the old reliables.

Graig sprung a surprise when beating Clara by four points 1-18 to 1-14, a contest between a very young side and one beginning to show its age. Clara had played well enough during the league without causing expectations of greatness but were outgunned by a speedy young Graig side. Clara will have much to do when it comes to replacing their veterans and hope their young guns stay in Ireland for the near future.

Erins Own had a curious year. On the back of being good quarter-finalists in 2022 their results in '23 were poor. Two drawn league games were no

ST CANICE'S CREDIT UNION SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2023			
1st ROUND			
<i>Bennettsbridge</i>	5-12	<i>Tullaroan</i>	3-10
<i>Graigue Ballycallan</i>	1-18	<i>Clara</i>	1-14
<i>Mullinavat</i>	4-11	<i>Erin's Own</i>	0-10
<i>Shamrocks Ballyhale</i>	2-16	<i>Danesfort</i>	0-14
QUARTER-FINALS			
<i>Shamrocks Ballyhale</i>	1-20	<i>Dicksboro</i>	0-21
<i>James Stephens</i>	1-18	<i>Graigue B'Callan</i>	0-15
<i>Bennettsbridge</i>	3-14	<i>Glenmore</i>	0-17
<i>O'Loughlin Gaels</i>	0-18	<i>Mullinavat</i>	2-10
SEMI-FINALS			
<i>Shamrocks Ballyhale</i>	5-19	<i>James Stephens</i>	0-14
<i>O'Loughlin Gaels</i>	3-16	<i>Bennettsbridge</i>	0-22
RELEGATION FINAL			
<i>Erin's Own</i>	1-17	<i>Danesfort</i>	1-15
COUNTY FINAL			
<i>O'Loughlin Gaels</i>	0-20	<i>Shamrocks Ballyhale</i>	0-19

reflection of their excellent endeavour in the league when they should have won at least two games. The team they didn't need to meet in the relegation semi-final was Mullinavat who had too much physical power for them. The 4-11 to 0-10 defeat was by far 'Comer's worst performance of the season, a dangerous time to hit rock bottom. But for the consistent brilliance of Conor Fogarty they would have been in deep trouble.

The general expectation was that Danesfort would be relegated this year, and it came to pass. However the 'Fort men went down fighting. After a dismal league, they had the misfortune to meet Ballyhale Shamrocks in the first round/relegation semi-final. After staying very competitive for 50 minutes they were overwhelmed. The relegation final was a tense affair and they came very close to survival but for a great late Conor Fogarty goal. 'Fort will find the return journey challenging.

The major issue for all clubs this year has been the availability of their best players. 'Shamrocks lost six of last year's Club championship winning team to a combination of travel, career break from work or emigration. While they reached the county final this year, their bench failed to spark, probably costing them a record breaking title.

Following two years of Covid enforced travel restrictions, young people have returned to the skies and seas with a vengeance. Few clubs can afford to lose good strong players in their early to mid-twenties, the building blocks of top teams. While a very few inter-county teams may be able to compensate, clubs cannot do so, particularly the rural clubs. Yet we had quite a decent championship this year



DICKSBORO - SH LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2023
 Back: Aran Murphy, Tom Kenny, Liam Brennan-Smyth, Timmy Clifford, Liam Moore, Harry Shine, Joe Sheehan.
 Middle: Martin Gaffney, Eoin Fennelly, Ollie Walsh, James Carroll, Stephen Dermody, Cillian Hackett, Edward Moylan, Alan Phelan, Daragh Holohan, Andy Gaffney, Kevin Nolan.
 Front: Cillian Buckley, Eoghan Moylan, Brian Manogue, Mark Nolan, Evan Cody, Niall Rowe, Padraic Moylan, Bill Sheehan, Conor Fitzpatrick.



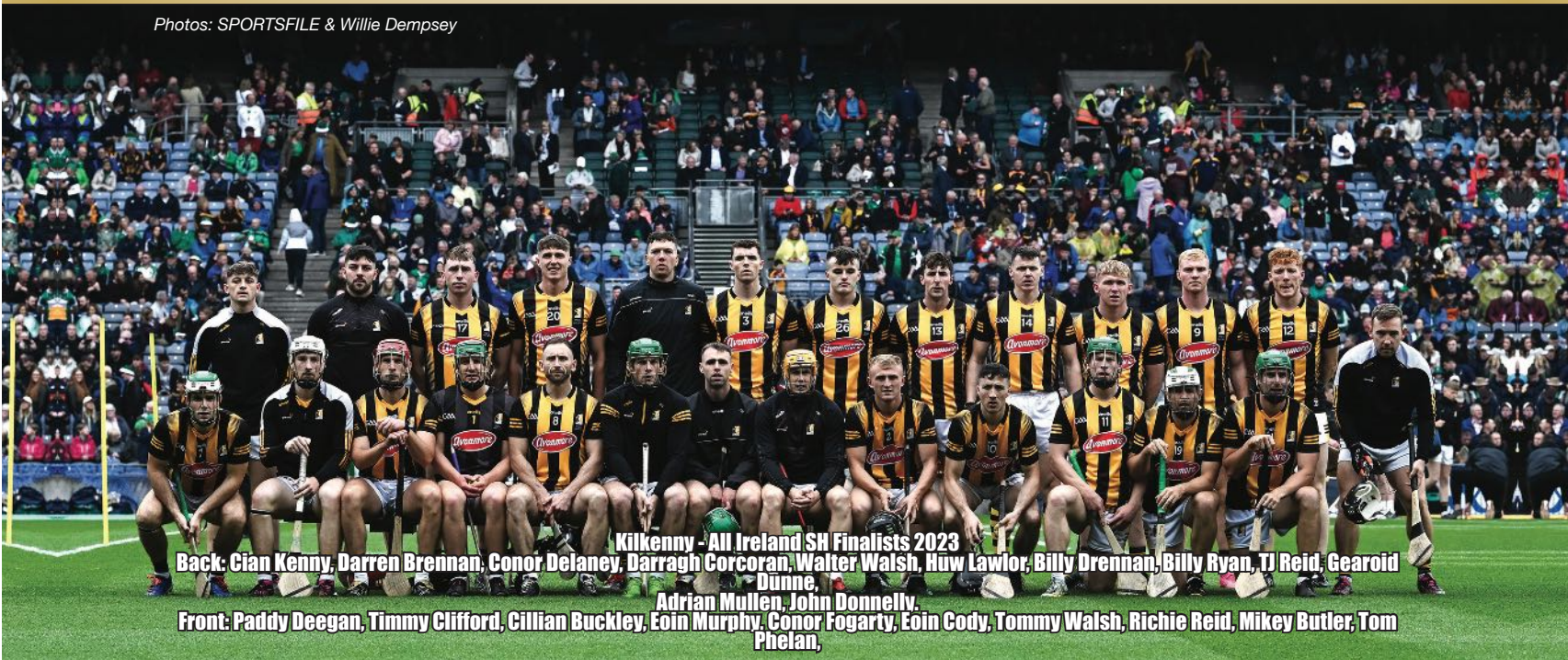
**ACTION
FROM THE
FINAL**



Limerick Cement their Status

Inter County SH Report by Tommy Lanigan

Photos: SPORTSFILE & Willie Dempsey



Kilkenny - All Ireland SH Finalists 2023
Back: Cian Kenny, Darren Brennan, Conor Delaney, Darragh Corcoran, Walter Walsh, Huw Lawlor, Billy Drennan, Billy Ryan, TJ Reid, Gearoid Dunne, Adrian Mullen, John Donnelly.
Front: Paddy Deegan, Timmy Clifford, Cillian Buckley, Eoin Murphy, Conor Fogarty, Eoin Cody, Tommy Walsh, Richie Reid, Mikey Butler, Tom Phelan,

All Ireland Senior Hurling Final 23 July 2023

Limerick 0-30, Kilkenny 2-15

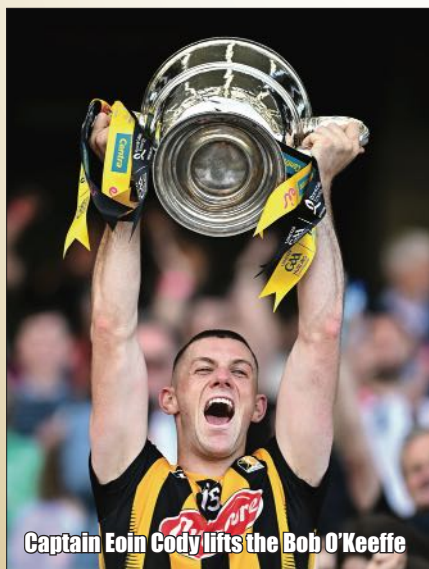
Limerick cemented their status as one of the all-time great hurling teams as they completed the four in-a-row with a remarkable second half comeback to stun Kilkenny. It was Kilkenny's misfortune to be at the receiving end of one of the most complete second half displays of hurling in the modern era as Limerick took total control of this final and left Kilkenny bereft.

The good semi-final performance against Clare counted for nought. A well worked goal from Eoin Cody in the tenth had given Kilkenny the ideal start and they led by 1-9 to 0-9 at half-time. Debutant finalist Tom Phelan had tormented the Limerick defence and finished the half with three excellent points. Confidence was high, the defence had come to terms with the powerful Limerick attack, the forwards were moving with purpose and scoring well.

Six minutes into the second half, the excellent Paddy Deegan scored a fine goal to put Kilkenny 2-10 to 0-11 ahead. From that moment the game changed irrevocably. Limerick cut loose on every line. Their second-half display was truly one of the greatest seen in Croke Park and nothing Kilkenny players could do would diminish their onward march to victory.

From that stage, they outscored Kilkenny 0-19 to 0-5 with Peter Casey scoring 0-5 from play in a brilliant performance while Diarmuid Byrne's was the game's leading scorer with 0-8. Kilkenny's only hint of a goal in the closing stages was well snuffed out by David Reidy as he stopped substitute Alan Murphy from getting a shot at Quaid's goal.

For a change, there was no argument with the result. Kilkenny did as much as they could in face of the onslaught, but, on the day they were outmuscled, outrun and out-hurled. Limerick join Kilkenny (2006-2009) and Cork (1941-1944) as four in-a-row winners and they'll return next



Captain Eoin Cody lifts the Bob O'Keefe

year to try and become the undisputed greatest hurling team. That leaves a big challenge for their opponents.

Kilkenny; Eoin Murphy (0-1f), Mikey Butler, Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh, Conor Fogarty, Richie Reid (0-1), Paddy Deegan (1-1), Adrian Mullen (0-1), John Donnelly (0-1), Walter Walsh, TJ Reid (0-7f), Tom Phelan (0-3), Billy Ryan, Martin Keoghan, Eoin Cody (1-0).

Subs; Pádraig Walsh for Fogarty, Alan Murphy for W Walsh, Cian Kenny for Ryan, Cillian Buckley for T Walsh, Richie Hogan for Buckley, Cillian Buckley for Donnelly (67).

Limerick; Nicky Quaid, Mike Casey, Dan Morrissey, Barry Nash (0-1), Diarmuid Byrne (0-8,7f), Will O'Donoghue, Kyle Hayes (0-1), Darragh O'Donovan (0-1), Cian Lynch (0-2), Gearoid Hegarty (0-2), David Reidy (0-2), Tom Morrissey (0-1) Seamus Flanagan, Aaron Gillane (0-5,2f), Peter Casey (0-5). Subs; Cathal O'Neill for T Morrissey, Graeme Mulcahy for Flanagan, Conor Boylan for Hegarty, Barry Murphy for O'Donovan, Aaron Costello for M Casey.

Referee; John Keenan (Wicklow)

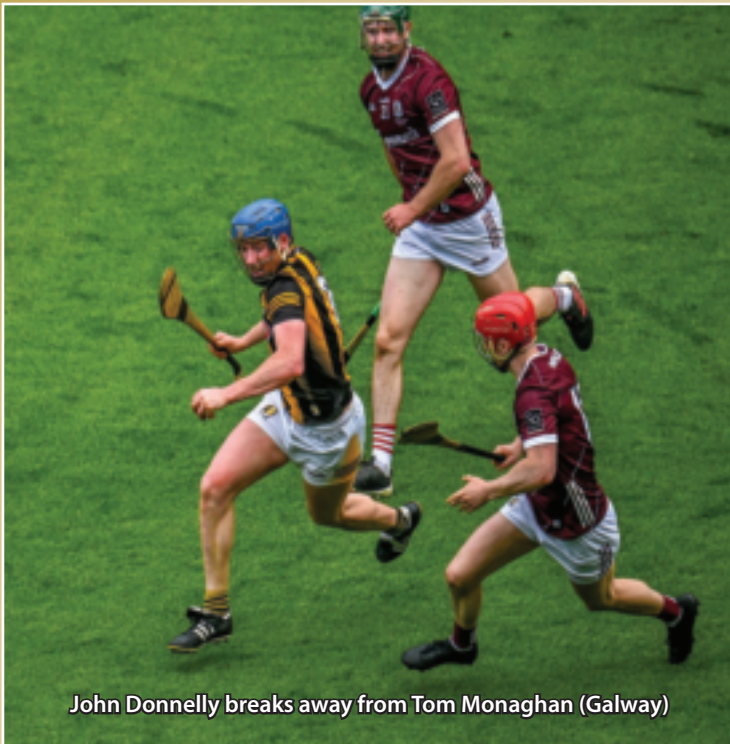
All Ireland Senior Hurling Semi-final, 9 July 2023, Croke Park

Kilkenny 1-25, Clare 1-22

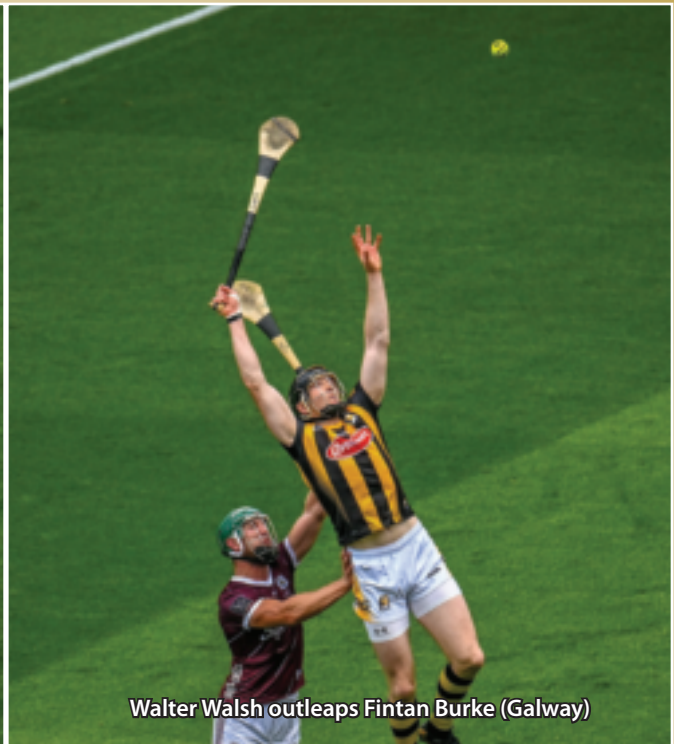
After Clare's heroic but ultimate failure in the Munster championship, it was strange to see them installed as favourites for this game. Nobody expected the procession Kilkenny enjoyed at the same stage last year. We were treated to a wonderful game of hurling, with Kilkenny needing no little fortune and a stunning save to see them through to the All-Ireland final. Were Kilkenny a better side than last year following this excellent performance? Two weeks would tell us.

Like last year, Clare elected to use a sweeper and Kilkenny took full advantage. Mikey Butler became a second skin for the previously rampant Tony Kelly, while Huw Lawlor dominated the first half with a wonderful display of fielding and distribution. In attack Eoin Cody came of age as a team leader with a terrific display of shooting and playmaking. Clare hung on grimly and it needed a sublime Conor Fogarty block to save a Clare goal, while TJ Reid was foiled by Eibhear Quilligan at the other end.

Clare shot eleven points without reply in the third quarter as they threw off the defensive shackles and it needed an Eoin Cody goal against the run of play after a defensive error to restore a one point lead for Kilkenny. This came just after a Mark Rodgers goal had been called back. Sometimes you need a bit of luck and Kilkenny certainly got it on this dubious refereeing decision. A Clare goal from the great Shane O'Donnell tied the sides at 1-20 apiece. However points from TJ (2) and one from Cody nudged Kilkenny three ahead and then came the siege of



John Donnelly breaks away from Tom Monaghan (Galway)



Walter Walsh outleaps Fintan Burke (Galway)



Mossy Keoghan goals for Kilkenny in the Leinster Final



Conor Fogarty v Jack Grealish (Galway)



Eoin Murphy's spectacular save against Clare in the semi-final.

the Kilkenny goal in the final minutes.

Peter Duggan's last second strike was brilliantly saved by Eoin Murphy, a save that will be remembered as one of the greatest. Kilkenny's pluck and ability to find scores when needed made the difference, as did the confidence of management to focus on a very attacking game-plan. We were in an All-Ireland final that many had hoped for but few expected.

Kilkenny; Eoin Murphy, Paddy Deegan (0-1), Huw Lawlor (0-1), Tommy Walsh, David Blanchfield, Richie Reid, Mikey Butler, Conor Fogarty, Adrian Mullen (0-2) Tom Phelan (0-1), Martin Keoghan, John Donnelly, Billy Ryan (0-1), TJ Reid (0-12, 11f), Eoin Cody (1-5).

Subs- Walter Walsh for Keoghan, Cian Kenny (0-1) for Donnelly, Cillian Buckley for Fogarty, Richie Hogan for Phelan, Pdraig Walsh (0-1) for Ryan.

Clare; Eibhear Quilligan, Seadna Morey, Conor Cleary, Adam Hogan, Rory Hayes, John Conlon, David McInerney (0-1), Cathal Malone (0-1), Diarmuid Ryan (0-1), Ryan Taylor (0-1), Tony Kelly (0-1), David Fitzgerald (0-3) Shane O'Donnell (1-1), Peter Duggan (0-2), Mark Rodgers (0-10,7f). Subs; David Reidy (0-1) for Taylor, Aron Shanagher for Reidy.

Referee; Colm Lyons (Cork).

Leinster Final Saturday Croke Park, 11 June 2023

Kilkenny 4-21, Galway 2-26

What a smash and grab!! Kilkenny's stubborn refusal to concede this game provided a wonderful finish for the Noresiders and a 75th title in this thrilling Leinster final. The last occasion we saw such a last minute win in the same fixture, the glory went to Wexford's Rory Jacob in 2004. The manner of this victory must give a huge boost to this Kilkenny side which struggled for consistency for so long in this game.

It was ironic that Galway's best hurler, Paraic Mannion was the one to make a loose clearance straight to the hand of sub. Cillian Buckley who was calmness personified as he found space and shot to the net for a famous one point victory. To a greater extent it was Galway's own fault as they retreated to defend a two point lead as the 'Boro man should have been nowhere near the '21 but had to follow his man from half back.

It was an exceptional win for Derek Lyng's men without the services of Adrian Mullen, Richie Reid and Mikey Carey. From the first whistle they struggled to keep pace with a lively Galway team who raced in to a six point lead. Mossie Keoghan continued his goal scoring run with a tidy goal before retiring injured. Kilkenny fought back well and were level at the interval, thanks to very good work from his replacement Walter Walsh.

Mikey Butler grabbed an excellent goal early in the second half and Kilkenny moved into a 3-17 to 1-15 lead with twenty minutes remaining. Then the Galway revival began, aided by fresh legs from the bench. Jason Flynn shot a goal and a succession of points brought them level. Kilkenny's response was weak, scoring only four points in the last quarter. Late points from Kevin Cooney and Brian Concannon seemed to have wrapped up Galway's first Leinster title since 2018 but there was one last bit of drama which Buckley delivered, to the unbridled joy of Kilkenny's supporters.

Kilkenny; Eoin Murphy, Mikey Butler (1-0), Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh, Conor Fogarty, David Blanchfield (0-1), Darragh Corcoran, Cian Kenny (0-2), Paddy Deegan, Tom Phelan, John Donnelly (0-2), Billy Ryan, Martin Keoghan (1-0), TJ Reid (0-9, 6f), Eoin Cody (0-3). Subs; Walter Walsh (1-2) for Keoghan, Pdraig Walsh (0-1) for Fogarty, Cillian Buckley (1-0) for Corcoran, Timmy Clifford for Phelan, Billy Drennan (0-1) for Ryan.

Galway; Eanna Murphy Jack Grealish, Gearoid McInerney, Darren Morrissey, Pdraic Mannion, Daithi Burke, Fintan Burke, Joseph Cooney (0-1), Cathal Mannion (0-1) Tom Monaghan, Conor Cooney, Kevin Cooney (0-3) Conor Whelan (1-6), Brian Concannon (0-3), Evan Niland (0-12,8f). Subs; Jason Flynn (1-0) for Monaghan, Sean Linnane for C. Cooney, TJ Brennan for Morrissey.

Referee; Sean Stack (Dublin).

Leinster SH Championship 23-04-2022 UPMC Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 0-29, Westmeath 0-7

Kilkenny showed they were championship ready with Westmeath being the hapless victims in this first round Leinster championship game. The Cats encountered no difficulty whatever at any stage of the contest. Westmeath managed four points from play and failed to mount any adequate defence despite two sweepers.

Kilkenny welcomed back TJ Reid for his first a game since 'Shamrocks club title win and he looked very sharp, adding nine points to the Kilkenny total and doing lots of damage otherwise. Uncharacteristically he missed a penalty.

John Donnelly and Adrian Mullen starred too, shooting ten points between them. Under Derek Lyng's management, the team was beginning to have a settled and familiar look, having given lots of opportunity to a large number of players during the league. Realistically, nothing else could be read into this result

Leinster Senior Hurling Championship Rd. 2

30 April 2023, UPMC Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 0-28, Galway 1-25

This was more like championship fare, the added spice being Henry Shefflin on the Galway side. This was a game Kilkenny could and probably should have won, having hurled well throughout, bar the opening minutes. They led by a point deep into injury time and a last gasp point by Declan McLoughlin earned Galway a draw in a very exciting finish.

Kilkenny's platform was set in a superb third quarter when they outscored Galway by 0-8 to 0-2 and looked like they were heading for a convincing victory. However Galway surged back with a strong running game and closed the gap in the final minutes. Frustration for Kilkenny who had done most of the hurling in the second half but the bonuses were in the outstanding performances of TJ Reid and Eoin Cody.

Kilkenny; Eoin Murphy, Mikey Butler (0-1), Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh, David Blanchfield (0-1), Richie Reid, Pdraig Walsh, Darragh Corcoran (0-2), Conor Fogarty, Timmy Clifford (0-1), Adrian Mullen (0-2), John Donnelly (0-2), Billy Ryan (0-2), TJ Reid (0-9,8f), Eoin Cody (0-6).

Subs; Martin Keoghan (0-2) for Clifford, Cian Kenny for P. Walsh, Alan Murphy for Donnelly, Cillian Buckley for Fogarty.

Leinster Senior Hurling Championship Rd. 3

Corrigan Park, 7 May 2023

Kilkenny 5-31, Antrim 3-20

A hat-trick of goals in the first half from Martin Keoghan and one in each half for top-scorer TJ Reid underlined Kilkenny's dominance over a game but very limited Antrim side. In truth it was no more than a shooting session for the Kilkenny team as they were destined to win with lots to spare.

Kilkenny had failed to find the net in their first two games and it was clear that management suggested improvement in that department. That being said, Antrim worked very hard and a Conor Johnson goal gave them some early reward. The half time score was 4-16 to 1-7 thanks to Keoghan's work, supplemented by a TJ Reid goal.

A couple of route one deliveries saw Antrim score two early second half goals but Kilkenny continued to add points at will and a second TJ Reid goal in the final minutes sealed an easy victory. Little could be learned from the game other than an eagerness and spirit that has continued under new management.

KILKENNY; E Murphy (0-1f), M Butler, H Lawlor, T Walsh, D Blanchfield (0-1), R Reid (0-1), D Corcoran, A Mullen (0-2), A Murphy (0-3), T Phelan (0-1), J Donnelly, B Ryan (0-4), M Keoghan (3-3), TJ Reid (2-10, 6f, 2 '65), E Cody (0-2). Subs; P Walsh for T Walsh, C Buckley (0-1) for A Murphy, W Walsh (0-2) for T Phelan, R Hogan for A Mullen, N Brennan for M Keoghan.

Leinster Senior Hurling Championship Rd. 4

20 May 2023, UPMC Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 0-27, Dublin 0-21

Kilkenny moved a step closer to retaining their provincial title, but had to work hard to see off a spirited Dublin in UPMC Nowlan Park. This was a different Dublin side that surrendered so tamely during the League. Dublin started as the more lively side racking up four quick points before Kilkenny got moving. By the end of the first quarter the game was level at 0-4 each. Kilkenny played some very good hurling through the second quarter with the forwards continuing their accurate shooting and corner back Mikey Butler adding a superb point too. Dublin relied on frees from



Tirlán



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Donal Burke but the Cats led by 0-13 to 0-9 at the interval.

While Dublin tried very hard, they were unable to break through a very solid Kilkenny defence, where Richie Reid played his best game for Kilkenny and wea swell supported by Huw Lawlor and Mikey Butler. Donal Burke's frees kept Dublin in touch as Kilkenny were guilty of conceding several needless fouls. Six unanswered points in the final fifteen minutes from TJ and Richie Reid, Eoin Cody and Paddy Deegan enabled Kilkenny to take control as Dublin faded and the Cats found large gaps opening around midfield.

Overall it was a good evening for Kilkenny, the win giving them a place in the Leinster final in advance of Wexford's arrival next week. This was a solid test after two earlier mismatches and Kilkenny needed a contest against a speedy and strong team.

KILKENNY; Eoin Murphy, Mikey Butler (0-1), Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh, David Blanchfield (0-1), Richie Reid (0-1), Darragh Corcoran, Adrian Mullen (0-2), Paddy Deegan (0-3), Tom Phelan (0-3), John Donnelly, Billy Ryan (0-1), Martin Keoghán (0-2), TJ Reid (0-10, frees), Eoin Cody (0-2). Subs; Walter Walsh for Ryan, Cian Kenny for Phelan, Pádraig Walsh for Corcoran, Cillian Buckley for R Reid, Billy Drennan (0-1 free) for TJ Reid.

Referee: Colm Lyons

Allianz National Hurling League 2023

As the Allianz National Hurling League is currently structured, it seems inevitable that Kilkenny will qualify for the semi-finals as a minimum. They shared the title in Covid-ridden 2021 and lost a very fine semi-final against Cork in 2022.

This year they went one better, reaching a final against Limerick. Unquestionably the NHL has been hugely devalued by the championship round robin, now the most frantic and enjoyable six weeks of the hurling calendar. The old adage 'it's only the league' is now sadly true. The hurling counties have conspired to get rid of the threat of relegation and treat the competition as a series of challenge matches. There are proposals to improve its competitiveness next year but they are lukewarm and, if implemented, won't make much difference to Kilkenny's prospects.

Allianz NHL Div. 1 Final Limerick 2-20 Kilkenny 0-15

Limerick eased to their 14th Allianz Hurling League title with a comprehensive win over a limp Kilkenny side in front of 17,243 fans in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. From Barry Nash's goal in the 18th minute the Shannonsiders were in control and had the luxury of shooting fifteen second half wides in a game when the final whistle couldn't come soon enough for Kilkenny.

Limerick were short four regulars and with a few more coming back from injury, it was expected to be a close game. Instead the Kilkenny challenge did not extend beyond the half hour mark and the game was well and truly buried when Aaron Gillane shot a tremendous goal in the 54th minute. Kilkenny's contribution to the second half was five points and they went twenty minutes without scoring. More concerning, the workrate and physical confrontation needed to match Limerick was absent. It was a grim prediction of a future encounter.

Kilkenny, Eoin Murphy, Mikey Butler, Tommy Walsh, Pádraig Walsh, Richie Reid (0-2), Huw Lawlor (0-1), David Blanchfield, Conor Fogarty, Billy Ryan, John Donnelly, Adrian Mullen (0-3), Paddy Deegan (0-2) Billy Drennan (0-5f), Martin Keoghán, Eoin Cody (0-2). Subs; Cian Kenny for Donnelly, Paddy Mullen for Fogarty, Timmy Clifford for A Mullen, Gearóid Dunne for Drennan, Alan Murphy for Ryan.

Allianz NHL Rd. 1 UPMC Corrigan Park 4 February 2023 Kilkenny 1-18, Antrim 0-15

Derek Lyng's first Allianz League game in charge of Kilkenny yielded two points as they came through difficult conditions and a stern Antrim challenge at Corrigan Park. There were some very positive aspects to the Kilkenny approach with a crisp, short-passing game utilised well, but when the wind and rain made life difficult for both teams in the second period, they dug in and fended off the hosts, who were just two behind with five to go.

Billy Drennan's early goal proved vital as it gave the Noresiders a cushion

they managed to defend and tagged on late points to put a bit of a gloss on their trip to Belfast. Antrim got to within two on a couple of occasions and that was the main with five to play, but Kilkenny just managed to find the answers and they finished well with Keoghán (two), Drennan and Billy Ryan sealing the win.

Kilkenny; A Tallis (0-1f), M Butler, H Lawlor, N Rowe, C Buckley, P Walsh, D Blanchfield, P Deegan (0-1), J Donnelly (0-1), W Walsh (0-1), C Kenny, P Cody (0-2), B Drennan (1-8, 7f), M Keoghán (0-3), B Ryan (0-1). Subs; S Murphy for P Cody, T Phelan for C Kenny, A Murphy for W Walsh, G Dunne for J Donnelly.

Allianz NHL rd. 2 UPMC Nowlan Park, 12 February 2023 Kilkenny 1-21, Tipperary 2-24

It is not often that a Kilkenny management make three substitutions before half time in any game, much less against Tipperary. Such was the gulf that Tipp opened in a storming first half that Kilkenny's prospects of recovery were dim. Tipp shot 2-13 and ten wides to a meagre 0-7 from a hapless Kilkenny effort. Over 10,000 spectators saw a Tipp masterclass as Kilkenny were never able to match their pace and teamwork.

It was a harsh lesson in inter-county demands for a relatively young team showing four Nowlan Park debutants and it took some sterling work from the substitutes to reduce the deficit to reasonable proportions. Throughout the game Kilkenny players seemed confused about their need to mark space or men and many did neither effectively. It was as well that they gained such a lesson early in the league.

Kilkenny; A. Tallis, M. Butler, H. Lawlor, C. Heary, C. Buckley, P. Walsh (0-1), D. Corcoran, P. Deegan, K. Doyle, W. Walsh (0-1), B. Ryan (0-1), C. Kenny, B. Drennan (0-10, 7f), M. Keoghán (1-2), S. Walsh (0-1). Subs; J. Donnelly (0-4) for C. Kenny, D. Blanchfield for C. Heary, C. Fogarty (-1) for K. Doyle, A. Murphy for M. Butler.

Allianz NHL Laois Hire O'Moore Park 26 February 2023 Kilkenny 0-34, Laois 1-18

Billy Drennan helped himself to 11 points as Kilkenny were very comfortable winners over Laois in O'Moore Park. The result sees Derek Lyng's side get back to winning ways following their big loss to Tipperary. The half-time score in this mis-match was 0-21 to 0-7, as Kilkenny strung a run of seven unanswered points together before half-time.

Laois got the second half off to the best possible start when Martin Phelan goaled but Kilkenny matched them point for point for the next ten minutes. Then they continued to shoot points and ran out easy winners. As with three other league games, nothing to be learned here.

Kilkenny; E Murphy (0-1), S Murphy, C Delaney, P Walsh (0-1), T Walsh (0-1), R Reid, C Buckley (0-1), P Deegan (0-2), P Mullen (0-2) B Ryan, J Donnelly, E Cody (0-4), B Drennan (0-11, 8f), M Keoghán (0-4), G Dunne (0-1). Subs; S Murphy for T Walsh, A Murphy (0-1) for Mullen, T Clifford for G Dunne, W Walsh for Drennan (56), C Kenny for Donnelly

Allianz NHL UPMC Nowlan Park 19 March 2023 Kilkenny 0-18, Waterford 0-16

Ten pointed frees from Billy Drennan helped Kilkenny overcome Waterford in a tightly fought but dreary League game in UPMC Nowlan Park. The result enable Kilkenny to gain a semi-final place against Cork. In a free-ridden game, Drennan proved to be the most accurate. Waterford tried three different free-takers with limited success and missed several goal chances in the game too.

The victory sees the Cats advance to the league semi-finals where Cork will be the opposition for a second year running. Kilkenny struggled for long periods but with Drennan proving super accurate on the frees, the Cats found a way to come through. Waterford had their own free-taking problems which saw Patrick Curran replaced by Paudie Fitzgerald and like Drennan, Fitzgerald had his eye in. Kilkenny led by 0-8 to 0-7 at the break but Waterford improved greatly in the third quarter. However the Cats finished stronger and gained some satisfaction from a forgettable encounter.

Kilkenny; Darren Brennan, Tommy Walsh, Conor Delaney, Pádraig Walsh, David Blanchfield, Paddy Deegan, Darragh Corcoran (0-1) Conor Fogarty (0-1), Cian Kenny, Billy Ryan, John Donnelly (0-1), Eoin Cody (-1) Billy Drennan (0-10, 9f), Martin Keoghán (0-1), Gearoid Dunne (0-1). Subs; Alan Murphy (0-1) for Kenny, Timmy

Allianz NHL Rd 4 12 March 2023, UPMC Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 2-25, Dublin 1-17

Clifford for Ryan, Shane Walsh (0-1) for Dunne, Tom Phelan for Keoghan, Ronan Corcoran for Cody.

Kilkenny encountered minimal resistance against a feeble Dublin team who had nothing to play for in this dreadful Rd. 4 NHL game. From first to last whistle Kilkenny led and never looked like losing. The score was 0-17 to 0-8 at half time, Dublin relying on the free-taking of Donal Burke, while Billy Drennan shot the lights out for Kilkenny.

Two second half goals from Eoin Cody who waltzed through the Dublin defence on both occasions made this game look like an exhibition match, in truth Kilkenny gained nothing from the game.

Kilkenny; Eoin Murphy, Tommy Walsh, Conor Delaney, Pdraig Walsh (0-2) Cian Kenny (0-1), Richie Reid, Cillian Buckley, Conor Fogarty, Paddy Mullen (0-1), Billy Ryan (0-2), John Donnelly (0-1), Paddy Deegan (0-3), Billy Drennan (0-13,8f), Martin Keoghan, Eoin Cody (2-2). Subs; Darren Brennan for Murphy, Walter Walsh for Keoghan, Timmy Clifford for Mullen, Ronan Corcoran for Fogarty, David Blanchfield for Buckley.



Billy Ryan of Kilkenny in action against Adam Hogan (Clare)



Mikey Butler breaks out of defense.



TJ gets his shot in v Tony Kelly



Tom Phelan heading for goal tackled by Dan Morrissey and Barry Nash

Another remarkable journey for Shamrocks

All Ireland Senior Club campaign by Tommy

Photos: Willie Dempsey & SPORTSFILE



SHAMROCKS BALLYHALE - ALL IRELAND SH CLUB CHAMPIONS 2023
Back: Sean Reade, Conor Phelan, Christy Coady, Tomás Barron, Michael Cullen, Patrick Hearne, Larry Coady, Brian Coady.
Middle: Andrew Moran, John Kennedy (Treasurer), Dara Mason, Finian Shefflin, TJ Reid, Cilian Corcoran, Richie Reid, Colin Fennelly, Daragh Corcoran, Liam Barron, Edmond Fitzpatrick, Siobhán Kennedy (Secretary), Eoin Knox (Stats).
Front: Darren Mullen, Joey Cuddihy, Evan Shefflin, Mark Aylward, Sean Reid (Chairman), Ronan Corcoran, Dean Mason, Niall Shortall, Joey Holden, Eoin Coady, Stephen Barron.

It's a familiar tale but the enormity of the hurling achievement is so well worth re-telling. Ballyhale Shamrocks drove to their record ninth Tommy Moore Cup and their fourth since 2015. They achieved this latest victory with their usual mixture of supernal skill, heft and game management that no other club in the history of the GAA, hurling or football, has been able to match. In eleven finals they have lost only twice, their first foray in 1978 against Blackrock and Ballygunner's smash and grab of 2022.

This latest iteration of their team has replicated all the qualities of previous champions and added some more. That they play in essentially the same style for decades, despite many changes in the way hurling is now played, is remarkable too. The fundamentals of the game, close control, accurate striking, power, the ability to deliver a telling pass to the man best placed to do maximum damage to the opposition, have never changed or diminished. Perhaps their ability to find scores to win games at the death is their greatest team talent. They are masters of 'Fergie-time' GAA style.

All Ireland Senior Hurling Club Final Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-22, Dunloy Cúchullains 1-15

Ulster champions Dunloy Cúchullains provided a very stern test for Ballyhale, but ultimately

didn't have the firepower or strength in depth to prevent the 'Shamrocks landing their ninth All Ireland title. This was a triumph in classic Ballyhale style, staying with and absorbing everything their excellent opponents could throw at them and then powering on to a comprehensive win.

Despite the absence of the injured Adrian Mullen, Shamrocks still had sufficient craft to deal with a determined Dunloy outfit. Ultimately, though, Dunloy just couldn't land enough scores with Shamrocks nailing eight of the last 10 points in the game, with eleven players contributing to the scoreboard over the hour. If TJ Reid was star of the semi-final, this time Colin Fennelly and Eoin Cody in attack and full-back Joey Holden were the stand-out players of the game. Most teams would grievously miss the presence of Adrian Mullen, but Shamrocks players have a habit of stepping up their game to compensate for such a loss. A special mention is due to the performance of full-back Joey Holden, the spiritual leader of this great team.

The first half was closely contested, Dunloy getting off to a perfect start with a well worked goal. They were unlucky enough to trail Shamrocks by 1-9 to 1-7 at the interval, though Shamrocks missed several easy chances. Colin Fennelly's strength was proving a huge nuisance in attack and his distribution enabled

Shamrocks to pull ahead in the third quarter with Eoin Cody contributing handsomely to the scoreboard.

As the game progressed Dunloy depended on the outstanding free-taking of Conal Cunning and the sides were level at the end of the third quarter. With nine minutes remaining, Shamrocks were ahead by one point and the game was there for either team. A string of points from Eoin Cody, Ronan Corcoran, Brian Cody, and Darragh Corcoran drove Shamrocks to victory. Kilkenny, Leinster, and All-Ireland champions again.

Ballyhale Shamrocks; Dean Mason, Killian Corcoran (0-1), Joey Holden, Brian Butler, Evan Shefflin (0-1), 6. Richie Reid, Darragh Corcoran (0-1), Ronan Corcoran (c)(0-1), Paddy Mullen (0-1), Eoin Cody (1-5), TJ Reid (0-7, 3 '65, 3f), Joey Cuddihy (0-1), Eoin Kenneally (0-1), Colin Fennelly (0-2), Niall Shortall. Subs; Brian Cody (0-1) for Shortall (5f), Darren Mullen for Killian Corcoran (5f).

All Ireland Senior Club Semi-final - 18 Dec 2022 Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-16, Ballygunner 0-16

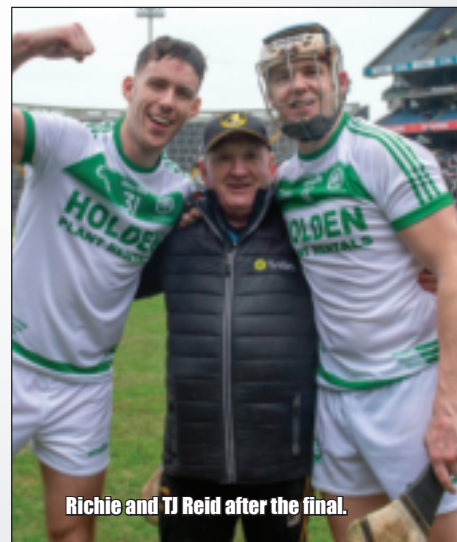
Revenge ran deep in this gripping contest between two truly outstanding club teams. Ballygunner had caught Shamrocks cold with a last second Harry Ruddle goal in last year's equally wonderful contest. The Waterford men



Ronan Corcoran lifts The Club Championship Trophy



Niall Lacey is lifted shoulder high after the game



Richie and TJ Reid after the final.

had come into this semi-final with similar form and matched Ballyhale physically and in the finer skills of the game.

It was a truly exceptional club game, filled with skill, toughness, superb scores, brilliant saves and embodied everything about the two great clubs. But on days like this it takes a great man to rise above the endeavour and class of others. Step forward TJ Reid, perhaps the greatest hurler of all. This was one of his finest performances. He was everywhere, winning possession when surrounded by opponents, measuring his distribution laser-like to better placed colleagues, composure in the face of huge adversity, power when needed, silken touch always.

Missing a penalty at a crucial time the second half didn't faze him as, moments later, he slammed home a goal past a heroic Stephen O'Keeffe. Credit where it is due, O'Keeffe gave a stellar performance in goal for 'Gunner as did their forwards Pauric Mahoney and Dessie Hutchinson. In the face of such excellence, Shamrocks achievements stand more boldly. The sides were level at half time 0-11 each, Shamrocks having to re-shuffle their defence when Darren Mullen was injured within minutes of the start. The third quarter tends to be moving time for Shamrocks and there they laid the foundations for victory. Reid's penalty strike and a few crucial points enable them to build a five point lead that Ballygunner were never going to be allowed overcome.

Ballyhale Shamrocks; Dean Mason, Killian Corcoran, Joey Holden, Darren Mullen, Evan Shefflin, Richie Reid, Darragh Corcoran, Ronan Corcoran (0-1), Paddy Mullen (0-1), Eoin Cody (0-2), TJ Reid (1-Open, 7, 1 65'), Adrian Mullen (0-1), Eoin Kenneally (0-1), Colin Fennelly (0-1), Joey Cuddihy (0-1). Subs; Brian Butler for D Mullen (6), Niall Shortall for Cuddihy (13), Conor Walsh for Kenneally (63).

**AIB Leinster Senior Club Hurling final
Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-22, Kilmacud Crokes 2-19**

Ballyhale Shamrocks garnered their twelfth AIB Leinster club hurling title but not before an almighty fright from Dublin champions Kilmacud Crokes. Rarely were Shamrocks more relieved to hear a final whistle. Leading by 14 points with five minutes played in the second half, they looked certain winners.

But the Dublin champs were made of stern stuff and they embarked upon a truly brilliant comeback to cut the deficit to a single point by the 48th minute. Goals from Caolan Conway and Alex Considine helped to pull the Stillorgan side back into it but one point was as close as they got. Eoin Kenneally's 49th minute goal steadied Ballyhale though they had much work to do in defence in the last ten minutes to hold off the challenge of Kilmacud.

Ballyhale Shamrocks; Dean Mason, Killian Corcoran, Joey Holden, Darren Mullen, Evan Shefflin, Richie Reid (0-1), Darragh Corcoran, Paddy Mullen (0-1), Adrian Mullen (0-4), Eoin Kenneally (1-0), TJ Reid (0-8, 5f), Eoin Cody (0-2), Niall Shortall (0-2), Colin Fennelly(1-3), Joey Cuddihy (0-1). Evan Shefflin (0-1), Richie Reid, Darragh Corcoran, Ronan Corcoran (0-2), Killian Corcoran (0-3), Adrian Mullen (0-2), Niall Shortall (1-2), Eoin Cody (2-9, 0-7f), Eoin Kenneally (0-1), Colin Fennelly (2-3), Joey Cuddihy (0-2). Subs; Kevin Mullen for Darren Mullen, Eoin Reid for Shortall, Stephen Barron for Darragh Corcoran, Liam Barron for Cuddihy, Dara Mason for Butler.



Joey Cuddihy on the run chased by Eamon Smyth (Dunloy)



Colin Fennelly of Shamrocks Ballyhale in action against Barry Coughlan, right, and Ian Kenny of Ballygunner



Michael Roche, left, and Alex Considine of Kilmacud Crokes in action against Brian Butler, left, and Darren Mullen

THE NEPHEW ALSO RISES

Enda McEvoy

Nine minutes into the 2023 All Ireland hurling final the ball broke about 20 metres out at the Davin End, in front of the Limerick uprights. What happened next was informative and instructive and, where Kilkenny were concerned, joyous.

Sizing up the situation took Eoin Cody a fraction of a fraction of a second. He latched onto the sliotar and instead of jinking to his right, around a posse of Limerick defenders, he maintained the line of his run and arrowed through the cover. A moment later he was in the clear. He took aim off his left and let loose a low shot that bounced once, beat Nickey Quaid and whizzed into the corner of the net. It was the opening goal of the game and while it wouldn't prove decisive it did at least indicate that Kilkenny were about to make a contest of it for as long as they could.

Now consider all the component parts of the process the Ballyhale Shamrocks man got right that he could, were he a lesser player, have got wrong. In which case there would have been no goal at all.

He might have been imprecise with his pick-up, a clear and present danger on a wet day. He might have opted to turn to his right and been tackled by the last Limerick defender. He might have been hooked when attempting to unleash his shot. He might have failed to make a full, meaty connection. He might have neglected to make it hop, rendering it easier for Quaid to save. He might have put it too close to the goalkeeper or wide of the far post.

He did none of these things.

Three minutes before half-time he did do one of these things with a chance that was considerably more difficult. Martin Keoghlan's effort for a point came back off a post and fell to where Cody was waiting. But Diarmaid Byrnes was in the way, the angle was tight and tightening, the endline was getting closer and in the end he slashed the sliotar across Quaid's bows and - this time - a couple of inches wide of yonder upright. Kilkenny's interval lead would not be as big as it might have been.

As we're in the mood for contemplation, now ponder the following tallies Cody racked up during 2023. He hit 1-5 against Dunloy in the All Ireland club final; 3-1 against Wexford in the provincial qualifier; 0-3 against Galway in the Leinster final; 1-5 against Clare in the All Ireland semi-final; and a monstrous 3-5 against James Stephens in the county league in September.

Up to 2023 Eoin Cody had been a highly promising young player. In 2023, at the age of 22 going on 23, he became a star.

What will happen from here on cannot be predicted. Maybe he'll go from strength to strength, like many a Ballyhale attacker before him. Maybe he'll find it difficult to shoulder the burden

of being a marked man. Maybe the latter first and then, as his game develops and experience accumulates, the former. One of his celebrated Shamrocks predecessors – Cody's uncle, as it happens - became a top-class intercounty performer, to the manner born, almost immediately. Another of his celebrated Shamrocks predecessors took half a decade to become a top-class intercounty performer. Different strokes and different folks, even in the context of a shared background.

BORN IN THE PURPLE

Talking of backgrounds, what can be stated definitively about Cody is that he couldn't have sprung from one that better lends itself to the formation of a successful career at the top level. Nor is it merely the family aspect. Imagine having TJ Reid handily placed as one's role model, just as the latter was fortunate to have had Henry Shefflin handily placed as his. The last man to finish a training session with the club is TJ; well, those frees don't score themselves. But Cody stays, working on all aspects of his game, almost as long as the former Hurler of the Year.

The importance of doing the right thing, off the field as well as on, comes with the territory. Tom Hogan encountered a younger Cody at the 11 o'clock break one morning in St Kieran's and was struck by the sight of him "eating the right stuff. He was very much tuned in to what he should be doing."

It wasn't a case of roses all the way for him in St Kieran's. The 2018 All Ireland colleges final, a highscoring affair that they ultimately won comfortably after extra time versus Presentation College Athenry, did not well for him. The same teams collided in the decider the following season; Cody, in the words of Hogan, "proved a leader from start to finish". The boys in black and white got over the line by three points. They wouldn't have done so without Cody.

It was a similar story a few years later in the club arena. Ballyhale lost the 2022 All Ireland final to Ballygunner with the last puck of the game. Cody didn't shine. When the teams met again the following December there was no repeat. Cody was conspicuous in helping to man the pumps and chipped in with two points from play. Revenge has rarely been sweeter.

To Niall Lacey, a member of Pat Hoban's management team with the club for the past two years, Cody is not merely a richly talented player but one who is only too aware of his place in the scheme of things.

"Eoin is conscious of the legacy previous Ballyhale teams have left. That it has to be matched. That, if possible, it has to



be improved on. That his generation must leave a legacy of their own.

“He has this massive hunger both for Ballyhale to be successful and for him to improve. He can be a bit hard on himself after matches, as the best players always are. He wants to get the most out of himself and be the best version of himself he can be.”

In an intercounty context Cody is the obvious heir to Reid as the leader of the Kilkenny attack, whether it's the number 11

jersey he'll be wearing or another. That will happen if and when it happens. One weapon highly conducive to the big picture that he'll bring with him is an item of knowledge that Ballyhale forwards acquire almost by osmosis: the importance of giving the ball to the man in the best position.

In the meantime, steady as she goes.



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THAT WAS THE YEAR...

THAT ASKED MORE QUESTIONS THAN IT ANSWERED

By Enda McEvoy (Irish Examiner)

We'll start with a small history lesson, not that too many readers are likely to be in need of it.

Cork have 30 All Ireland senior hurling titles. They won four of them in succession in the 1940s. They won another three on the bounce in the 1950s and repeated the trick in the 1970s. As recently as 2006 they were 70 minutes away from yet another three in a row. For a long time Cork topped hurling's roll of honour.

It is now going on for 19 years since the county were All Ireland champions. And Cork has five times the population Kilkenny has. If Cork can be stricken with famine, as Tipperary were in the 1970s, what's to stop Kilkenny heading the same way?

Let's rephrase that last part. *Kilkenny* are heading the same way.

Now take a moment and decide which of the two following schools of thought you cleave to.

School A: Kilkenny hurling is in a reasonably good place.

Derek Lyng did a fine job in his debut season in the hot seat and losing to a generational Limerick outfit in the All Ireland final was no sin. In fact, in finishing within nine points of a team who in the second half gave the greatest exhibition of pointsoring in the history of the sport they fared better than any other team in the country would have. Bottom line, there will always be hurlers in Kilkenny.

Or School B: Far from being in a reasonably good place, Kilkenny hurling is in the midst of a quiet crisis that's patently obvious to anyone prepared to look beneath the bonnet. What's more, things will get worse before they get better. Derek Lyng did a fine job in his first year in the hot seat but that's neither here nor there. Ditto the fact that Limerick are a generational outfit.

The best-case scenario is a gap of nine years between Noreside's last MacCarthy Cup triumph and the next one. The worst-case scenario? Knock yourself out.

A GROWING BARREN SPELL

For the first time since the 1950s Kilkenny have failed to win an All Ireland in the opening half of a decade. There's no obvious indication the barren run will be snapped any time soon and to hold that there "will always be hurlers" around the place is to indulge in the worst and laziest form of platitudinising. Kilkenny have been defeated in the last four All

Ireland finals they've contested - and with an average losing margin of 8.5 points. If this doesn't constitute a crisis, what does? Or is it that supporters, possibly even unknown to themselves, are beginning to settle for provincial titles and regular respectable performances in the All Ireland series?

Perhaps there's a School C in all of this, one consisting of some of School A and some of School B - or, rather, some of School A but much, much more of School B. Whatever.

The events of 2023 are quickly disposed of. Kilkenny punched their weight and then some. They were slightly fortunate in the Leinster final and, in the context of Clare's injuries, slightly fortunate again in the All Ireland semi-final, not least in having Eoin Murphy between the sticks. Come the big day they found their level, shipping the nine-point defeat they'd avoided against Limerick 12 months earlier. And that's okay too. Sometimes the other crowd are just better than you are - in this case, miles better. Nor was there any possible way the challengers were going to win fielding the half-forward line they did. (Four Galway forwards received All Star nominations. Only two Kilkenny forwards did. There's a message there.)

No reflection on the campaign can take place without a nod to Cillian Buckley, Conor Fogarty, Padraig Walsh and Walter Walsh. Should we not see some or more of them in stripes again their contribution to the jersey over the past decade demands the utmost praise, the more so in view of the fact that since 2017 they were, metaphorically, playing against the wind.

This brings us to the strange case of Tom Phelan, whose progress during the summer threw an unflattering light on Kilkenny hurling since 2015. It wasn't that Phelan's progress was unsatisfactory. Quite the reverse. It was far more satisfactory than might reasonably have been anticipated. One of the reports the day after the All Ireland final described his performance as "excellent and erratic". This wasn't wrong, except that the excellent outweighed the erratic by a mile.

Phelan took a withering shoulder from Will O'Donoghue, the opposition's enforcer, in the opening minutes, as doubtless was part of Limerick's plan from a long way out. ("This lad looks like a mild breeze would blow him away. Let's soften him up and see what he's made of.") Far from



Use it!



Avonmore owner Tirlán re-affirms their commitment to Kilkenny GAA
Jim Bergin, CEO Tirlán and PJ Kenny, Chair Kilkenny GAA, announcing that Avonmore will continue to sponsor all Kilkenny inter-county GAA teams.
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The Save for the Ages
Eoin Murphy's amazing save from Peter Duggan in the closing moments of the All Ireland semi-final.



At the Launch of "Power A Family Memoir"
Stephanie (Daughter), Richie (Snr), Ann, Richie (Jnr), Rory (Grandson), Jamie.

being softened up, Phelan got wired in and ended the day with 0-3 to his name. All in all, given the conditions and the superiority of the enemy, he performed splendidly. But why did it take so long for him to come to hand?

If Phelan was identified ten years ago as a prospect for the future – and certainly Nicky English was a big fan of his in UCD - why wasn't he fast-tracked? Why isn't he bigger and stronger and rippling with muscles? Why is his striking not smoother? (Granted, he's been busy with the farming and Conahy's status in the intermediate grade has, unavoidably, not helped. This isn't 40 years ago when the level a player was operating at with his club was less important.) But a Kilkenny player should not be appearing in his first championship at the age of 27.

This is a systems failure, nothing less. It is a tribute to Tom Phelan that he's made so much of himself despite the obstacles and a tribute to Derek Lyng and his backroom team that they saw something in Phelan and worked hard to polish a rough diamond. The lesson, however, is clear. Greater diligence in panning for gold is called for and a better pathway to intercounty level for promising prospects, especially those not with senior clubs, has to be formulated. The county is no longer so blessed with talent that it can afford to leave anyone behind.

Back in 1979 the All Ireland was captured with what was ever afterwards damned as the county's weakest MacCarthy Cup winning XV of modern times. The front eight on that benighted combination read as follows: Joe Hennessy, Frank Cummins, Ger Fennelly, Billy Fitzpatrick, Liam O'Brien, Mick Brennan, Mick Crotty, Matt Ruth. Dreadful, huh..? Six of them would have got their places in 2023, no questions asked.

DAZZLING CHAMPIONS

At this juncture we'd better say something about Limerick. Had Kilkenny been facing any other team in the last two All Ireland finals they might have won one by a couple of points, or won both by a couple of points, or lost both by a couple of points. Whatever the outcomes there would have been ifs and buts and might-have-beens. Against John Kiely's Limerick there were none. Come the business end of the championship against John Kiely's Limerick, there never are.

By rights we ought to have been waiting half a century or so for a team to equal the feats of Brian Cody's four in a row outfit. Instead Limerick came along within ten years. And here's another thing about them: in four successive All Ireland finals they have broken the 30-point mark every time. That is not happenstance.

And another: 13 of the Limerick's starters last July had featured against Galway in the 2018 decider. That simply shouldn't be. Nine survivors and six newcomers, say, would have represented a reasonable, even necessary, evolution. Players get injured. Players lose form. Rust sets in. Continued success demands new faces, fresh legs, different backroom staff, updated thinking, perpetual churn. Ask Cody. Ask Alex Ferguson.

But not with these guys, whose rest and recovery regimen is patently astonishingly sophisticated. Limerick keep playing the same hand and it remains full of court cards, yet stasis is never allowed to intrude and the players continue to be daisy-fresh. It is the same cohort that began the run in 2018; it is an utterly different team, and not only because the 2018

iteration drove 20 wides in the All Ireland final whereas this one drove seven. Paul Kinnerk's coaching has planed, sanded, buffed and waxed them to a blinding sheen, turning competent hurlers into pillars and good ones into superstars.

Injuries are turned into advantages that promote creative tension and desirable instability. The lateral thinking never stops. Kyle Hayes is retreated at number seven one year, back to centre-forward the next, back again the other way the season after that. Barry Nash is taken into the workshop, embedded with new circuitry and unleashed as the first attacking left-corner back in the history of the sport. Declan Hannon, the captain and one of the pole stars, injured? No biggie, we'll shift Will O'Donoghue there and instruct him how to play the position.

Limerick play a superb game. They intellectualise an outstanding game. And it scarcely needs to be added that there is no sign of them stopping.

A BRIGHTER HORIZON?

Returning to domestic matters, the appointment of Michael Fennelly as performance lead, helping to coach the coaches, was a welcome move and an indication that good things are beginning to spin off from the committee put together by Conor Denieffe a couple of years ago. Mary Morgan materialised as the new PRO and cut an impressive, efficient figure overseeing matters at the All Ireland media evening. Maybe the cycle is on the upswing again across the board. On the other hand the county board still lacks a CEO and/or a financial/sponsorship manager, a lacuna that badly needs to be filled. The clue is in the term "professional administration".

October bank holiday weekend brought new county senior hurling champions and thoroughly worthy ones. The last bit ought to go without saying; the holders were not going to be dethroned by any opponents who were less than thoroughly worthy. O'Loughlins not only beat Ballyhale Shamrocks in an extremely satisfying showdown, they did so without scoring even one goal – an achievement in itself. But they had determination and they had poise and they had two All Star defenders and they had Paddy Deegan, the hero of the hour at the death, and above all they didn't spend their afternoon standing off the Ballyhale forwards admiring them. O'Loughlins, remember, are a rural club almost as much as they're a city club. It often shows. It did here.

Acknowledging that Shamrocks had been brilliant champions – has this storied club ever fielded a better iteration than the five in a row generation? - and believing that the county needed a new face at the top table were not mutually contradictory stances. Nevertheless the goodwill of neutral or neutralish spectators was not going to swing the balance for the underdogs. What happened happened because O'Loughlins made it happen. That said, a new regent on the throne is not enough in and of itself. It is now incumbent on the champions to furnish the county with some additional benefits, as Ballyhale did so lavishly over so many years – and, for readers with long memories, as Glenmore did when bursting onto the scene in 1987 and immediately bestowing Michael Phelan and the O'Connors on the county. In passing, October 29th 2023 is unlikely to be the last we'll hear of Brian Hogan the manager.

To finish more or less where we began, among the myriad lessons of



Limerick 4 - in - Row - All Ireland Champions

history is that empires fall.

Kilkenny's hurling success story can be divided into two chapters with 20 years of blank pages in between. There was the initial golden era that ran for four decades, from 1904 to the beginning of the 1940s. Two fallow decades followed before a brace of momentous events - the appointment of Fr Tommy Maher as coach and the manifestation of the three in a row All Ireland minor winners of the early 1960s – precipitated a new age of Aquarius.

Thereafter everything flowed. Three MacCarthy Cup triumphs in the 1960s where there had only been one in both the '40s and '50s; the great team of the '70s; the Double Double outfit of 1982-83; Ollie and 1992-93; Codyism. Looking back from the promontory of 2023 it may seem that all of this was inevitable. Looking forward from the promontory of, say, 1958 it was beyond unimaginable. What's more, in achieving everything they achieved, Kilkenny bucked the system in population terms and bucked it on a grand scale.

The county has resided at or close to Everest for the past 60 years. Little in sport being permanent, that occupancy is now very much under threat.



Tom Phelan ended the day with 0-3 to his name



John Donnelly v Tony Kelly



TJ v John Conlon

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THE FENIANS RETURN!

This year Kilkenny County Board welcomed to the County SH Final the surviving members of the Fenians Treble County SH Champions teams of 1972, 73 and 74. The event was kindly sponsored by the Lyrath Hotel .



Photo: Willie Dempsey

FENIANS VETERANS IN NOWLAN PARK OCTOBER 29TH 2023

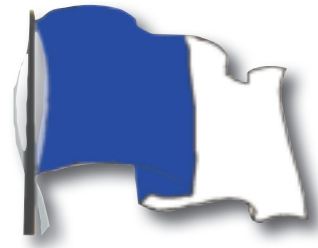
*Back: Gerry Garrett, Eugene Grehan, John Henderson, Fergus Farrell, Frankie Hawkes, Ger Henderson, Gerry Murphy, John Ryan, JJ Tobin, Thomas Dermody, Sean Foley (Lyrath, Sponsor), Michael Dowling
Front: Joe Ryan, Billy Fitzpatrick, Nicky Orr, PJ Ryan [Snr], Pat Henderson, Mick Garrett, Donall Walsh, Paddy Broderick, Laddy Ryan, PJ Kenny County Board Chairman.*



Fenians 1973 County Senior Champions

*Back: Neddy Dowling, Mick Dowling, Nicky Orr, Billy Watson, Martin Fitzpatrick, Frankie Hawkes, Pat Henderson, Tom Dermody, Mick Garrett, P.J Ryan, Paddy Fitzpatrick, Ger Henderson, Pat Delaney.
Front : Paddy Broderick, Gerry Murphy, John Ryan, Frankie Hickey, Dickie Dowling, John Moriarty, Shem Delaney, Pat Murphy, Billy Fitzpatrick*

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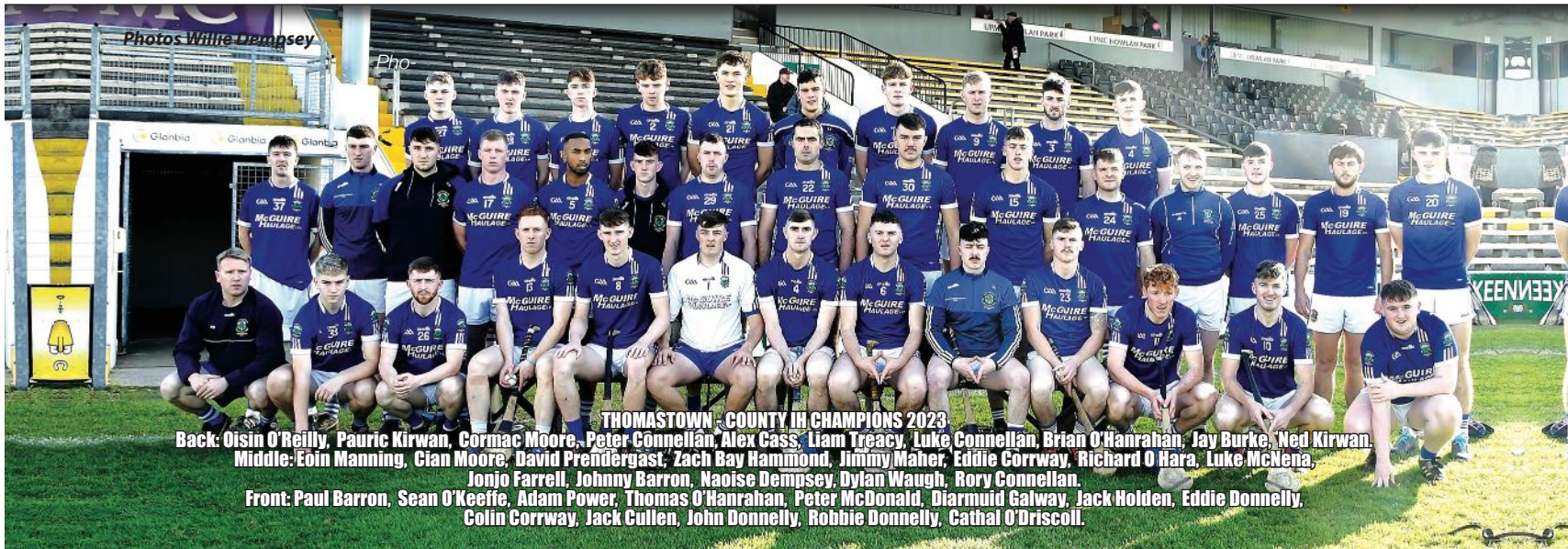
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They Never Lost Hope!

Thomastown clear the final Hurdle

County IH Championship Report by Conor



THOMASTOWN COUNTY IH CHAMPIONS 2023
 Back: Oisín O'Reilly, Pauric Kirwan, Cormac Moore, Peter Connellan, Alex Cass, Liam Treacy, Luke Connellan, Brian O'Hanrahan, Jay Burke, Ned Kirwan.
 Middle: Eoin Manning, Cian Moore, David Prendergast, Zach Bay Hammond, Jimmy Maher, Eddie Corraway, Richard O'Hara, Luke McNena,
 Jonjo Farrell, Johnny Barron, Naoise Dempsey, Dylan Waugh, Rory Connellan.
 Front: Paul Barron, Sean O'Keeffe, Adam Power, Thomas O'Hanrahan, Peter McDonald, Diarmuid Galway, Jack Holden, Eddie Donnelly,
 Colin Corraway, Jack Cullen, John Donnelly, Robbie Donnelly, Cathal O'Driscoll.

MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2023

2019 – Lost County Final to Tullaroan. 2020 – Lost County Final to Lisdowney after extra time. 2021 – Lost County semi-final to Glenmore. 2022 – Lost County Final to Danesfort after extra time. The final outcomes of the previous four years make far from pretty reading for the players and the faithful of Thomastown. Over the course of those four years, one could argue that they were certainly strong favourites for county honours in each of those years. But luck continued to elude them, and still they waited to graduate to senior grade. But hope was never lost, and now, in 2023, Thomastown have passed the final hurdle, and deservedly so. Their collective talent, particularly on display in their emphatic defeat of Mooncoin in the county final, suggests a team that multiple opponents in senior grade will not take pleasure in taking on in 2024.

Thomastown also secured league honours in the Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling League, when they defeated Lisdowney on a 0-18 to 1-11 score line. Dunnamaggin were the winners of the league shield, scoring an impressive 1-25 to 0-13 win over St. Martin's.

With attention then turning to the first round of the championship, the eventual county finalists, Mooncoin, scored a comprehensive win over last year's junior county champions, Blacks & Whites, by 3-22 to 2-12 in Thomastown. It wasn't until the final quarter that the winners managed to pull away, however, when a Kevin Crowley goal and a plethora of consecutive points saw off the plucky challenge of the Skeoughvasteen men, who were level with their opponents at half-time. Young Irelands were particularly impressive in their defeat of Rower-Inistioge in their first round game in St. John's Park. First half goals from Paul Holden and Ted Drea, both as a result of good play by Sean Carey, saw the Gowran men lead by 2-7 to 0-9 at the half way mark. A third goal from Jack Brennan, preceded by some fine point scoring from distance from Paddy Langton, saw Young Irelands dominate the second half against what was a disappointing Rower-Inistioge response. The Gowran men had thirteen points to spare in the end, winning 3-20 to 0-16.

The two first round games, doubling as relegation play-off semi-finals, saw Conahy Shamrocks face O'Loughlin Gaels in Muckalee and Fenians take on Carrickshock in St. John's Park. The Conahy men saw off the city side, but not without their struggles, by 1-17 to 0-16. A well taken goal on the cusp of half-time by James Bergin saw them lead by 1-7 to 0-8 at the break. O'Loughlin's fought back to level the scores early in the second half, but Conahy remained composed, and points from Bergin from placed balls, Tom Rice, Tom Phelan and Darren Cuddihy saw them out of the relegation dogfight. O'Loughlin's were joined in the relegation final play-off by Carrickshock, who were narrowly defeated by Fenians on a 0-16 to 0-14 scoreline. The scores were level on ten separate

occasions, but Carrickshock will certainly look back at this game as one that got away, with poor shooting in the first half costing them dear. The Johnstown men, meanwhile, performed with typical efficiency, and when the crucial minutes approached, they were the more composed. Three consecutive points from Mark Webster (free), Conor Tobin (sideline ball) and Pdraig O'Grady in injury time saw them over the line with great excitement.

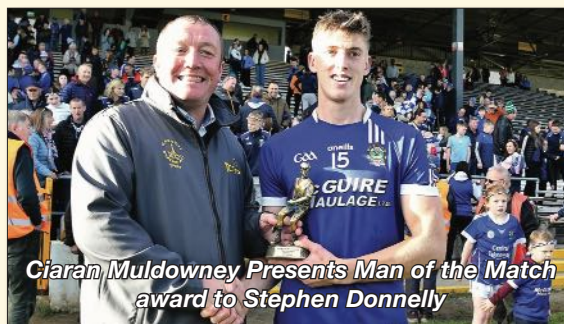
Lisdowney and Conahy Shamrocks faced off in the opening quarter-final, with last year's relegated senior team proving too strong for Conahy, winning 1-18 to 0-11. It was a comfortable win for Lisdowney in blustery conditions in Ballyragget, with an early goal from Liam Dunphy setting them up for a 1-11 to 0-4 lead at half-time, having played with the stiff breeze at their backs. Conahy needed to up their scoring rate in the second half, but they could not get the run of scores they required. Lisdowney matched them score for score, and maintained their ten point lead through to the finish.

Thomastown were also emphatic winners over Fenians in their quarter-final in Tom Ryall Park. The full nature of their 4-22 to 2-10 win was skewed somewhat, however, as three of their goals came in the final minutes of the game. Thomastown led by 1-10 to 0-4 at half-time, and increased their lead as the second half progressed. Fenians did try to fight back late on with a Pdraig O'Grady goal, but the trio of Thomastown goals from Jack Holden (2) and John Donnelly soon finished off the Johnstown men's challenge.

The two remaining quarter-finals between Dunnamaggin and Young Irelands, along with St. Martin's and Mooncoin, both played on the same day, were particularly hampered by the miserable rain on that Sunday. The first game, played in Thomastown, was especially challenging for both teams, with scores

at a minimum. The teams were level at 0-3 apiece at half-time with the rain lashing down and making any fluid play next to near impossible. The Gowran men looked primed for victory when Michael Walsh scored a great point with five minutes remaining to give them a 0-6 to 0-4 lead. But Dunnamaggin somehow found a way to salvage a dramatic one point win, as full-forward John Fitzpatrick finished to the net to snatch a 1-4 to 0-6 win. Young Irelands did have a couple of chances to level before the end, but Dunnamaggin held on for a tough win.

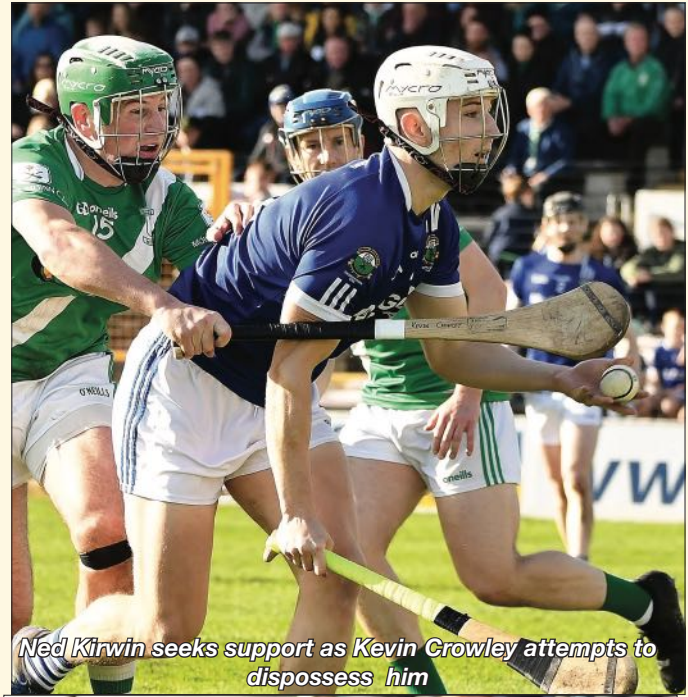
Mooncoin also snatched a late win at the hands of St. Martin's in their quarter final in Páirc Sheamúis Stiopháin. The Northerners were the better team in the early stages, as they led by 0-7 to 0-2 at the twenty minute mark. But when Killian Hogan finished to the net for Mooncoin before half-time, it saw the Southerners reduce the gap to two at the break (0-9 to 1-4). With the weather worsening in the second half, it once again was a lottery of luck for both sides. The luck favoured Mooncoin in the final quarter, however, as they scored four consecutive points from



Ciaran Muldowney Presents Man of the Match award to Stephen Donnelly



Jack Holden in control and goes around Aidan Doyle



Ned Kirwin seeks support as Kevin Crowley attempts to dispossess him

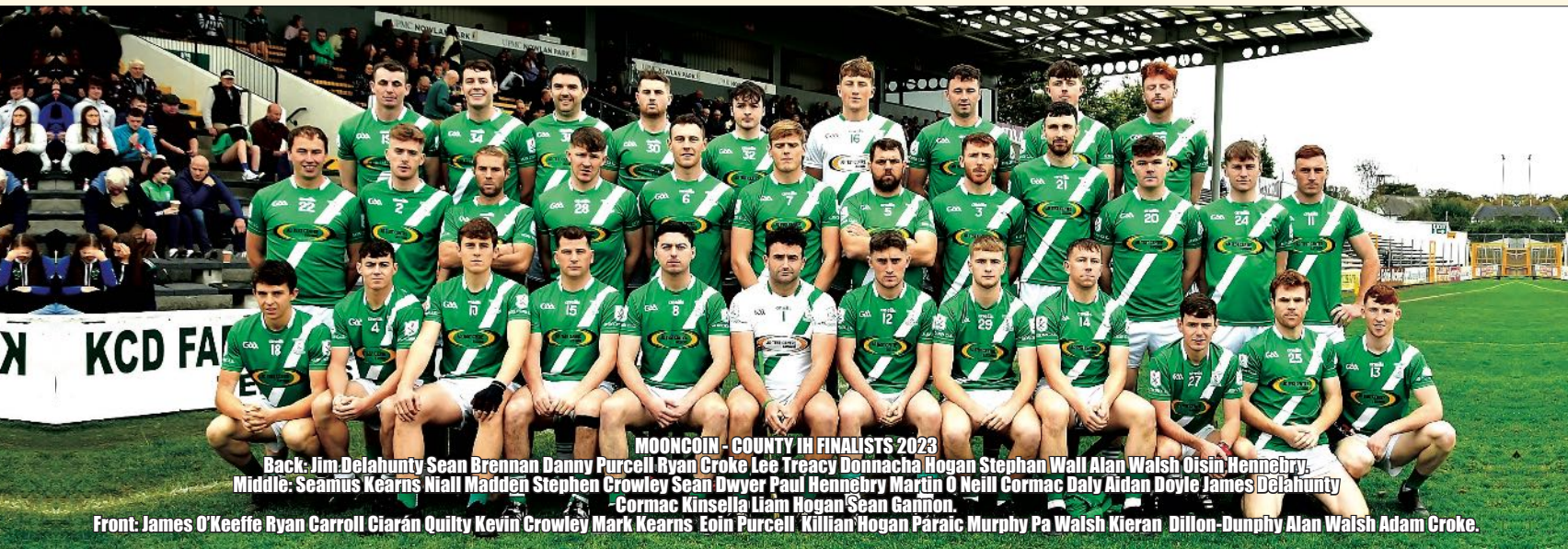


Sean Gannon drives past Stephen Donnelly

Pa Walsh, Ciaran Quilty and a free each from Paul Hennebry and Pa Walsh saw them to victory on a 1-10 to 0-11 score line.

Meanwhile, the relegation final saw Carrickshock narrowly overcome O'Loughlin Gaels by 3-13 to 2-14 in John Locke Park. As usual, given what was at stake, it was a nerve wracked game all through for both sides. The sides were level at 1-3 apiece after the opening quarter with goals from Carrickshock's Kevin Farrell and O'Loughlin's Gary Kelly. Carrickshock then scored six points on the trot, only for the city side to reply with four of their own, and three from Sammy Johnston, their main scorer, to leave the scores 1-9 to 1-7 at the break.

Carrickshock only managed to score a single point in the opening twenty minutes of the second half, while O'Loughlin's replied with four of their own to take the lead (1-11 to 1-10). It was then that Carrickshock enjoyed major good fortune when Eoin Crowley finished to the net, though there was a question of a square ball in the build-up. O'Loughlin's replied with two points to level the scores once again, but with points from Eoghan O'Neill and Damian Walsh, followed by a goal from Barry Lennon, Carrickshock looked primed for victory. Kevin Murphy did cause some



MOONCOIN - COUNTY IH FINALISTS 2023

Back: Jim Delahunty Sean Brennan Danny Purcell Ryan Croke Lee Treacy Donnacha Hogan Stephan Wall Alan Walsh Oisín Hennebry
 Middle: Seamus Kearns Niall Madden Stephen Crowley Sean Dwyer Paul Hennebry Martin O'Neill Cormac Daly Aidan Doyle James Delahunty
 -Cormac Kinsella Liam Hogan Sean Gannon

Front: James O'Keefe Ryan Carroll Ciarán Quilty Kevin Crowley Mark Kearns Eoin Purcell Killian Hogan Páraic Murphy Pa Walsh Kieran Dillon-Dunphy Alan Walsh Adam Croke.

late drama with a second O'Loughlin's goal, but time ran out for the city men as Carrickshock held on to win by 3-13 to 2-14, returning the city side to the junior ranks for 2024.

The two semi-finals each proved to be one sided affairs in the double bill in UPMC Nowlan Park. The more surprising outcome was the comprehensive defeat of Lisdowney by Mooncoin by 2-16 to 1-10. It was a near perfect performance by the Southerners, with Paul Hennebry and Pa Walsh leading the defence and attack respectively in an efficient manner. Lisdowney, for all the strength and hurling ability, could not live with the fluency of the Mooncoin men, though some missed opportunities in the opening half and a missed penalty in the second half may have made things most interesting had they been converted. Mooncoin led by 1-9 to 0-5 at the half way mark, the goal coming from Mark Kearns. They then had the ideal start to the second half when Pa Walsh netted a penalty after being fouled himself. It galvanised Mooncoin to increase their lead further, with points coming from the likes Adam Croke and Ciaran Quilty. Having missed a penalty, Lisdowney did manage to reduce the gap with a scoring burst of 1-2, with the goal coming from Eoin Kenny. But Mooncoin finished the stronger, and with a pair of points from substitute Sean O'Dwyer consolidated their eventual well deserved victory even further.

Thomastown were even more ruthless in their disposing of Dunnamaggin in the second semi-final. Dunnamaggin did start confidently to lead 0-3 to 0-1, but that was as good as it got for them. Thomastown then rattled off six consecutive points, which was soon followed by their opening goal from Stephen Donnelly. A second goal soon after from Jack Holden, together with more pointed frees from Robbie Donnelly, saw Thomastown lead 2-12 to 0-4. When Robbie Donnelly netted goal number three in first half stoppage time, Thomastown took a 3-14 to 0-7 advantage into half-time. The second half was played in a pedestrian manner, with the result more or less confirmed. Dunnamaggin continued to battle away, but the deficit was always going to be too great to overcome. Jack Holden scored his second goal, and Thomastown's fourth, late on, to see Thomastown home on a 4-24 to 0-16 score line.

One could forgive some county final nerves from Thomastown as they prepared to face Mooncoin, with recent history lying on their shoulders, against what was an up and coming team making a significant mark in intermediate hurling. Yet what transpired belied this emphatically, as Thomastown romped to victory by 1-29 to 0-17. Dominant does not even serve well as a description of the Thomastown performance, who came out of the starting blocks in blistering fashion to lift the weight of heartbreak from previous years in no uncertain terms. Thomastown led by 1-15 to 0-5 at the half way mark, with their goal coming from the scorer in chief Stephen Donnelly, who played a starring role in scoring 1-8 from play over the hour. Mooncoin will have some regrets

MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2023			
FIRST ROUND			
Mooncoin	3-22	Blacks & Whites	3-12
Young Irelands	3-20	Rower-Inistioge	0-16
Fenians	0-16	Carrickshock	0-14
Conahy Shamrocks	1-17	O'Loughlin Gaels	0-16
QUARTER-FINALS			
Thomastown	4-22	Fenians	2-10
Lisdowney	1-18	Conahy Shamrocks	0-11
Dunnamaggin	1-4	Young Irelands	0-6
Mooncoin	1-10	St. Martin's	0-11
SEMI-FINALS			
Mooncoin	2-16	Lisdowney	1-10
Thomastown	4-24	Dunnamaggin	0-16
FINAL			
Thomastown	1-29	Mooncoin	0-17
RELEGATION FINAL			
Carrickshock	3-13	O'Loughlin Gaels	2-14

from the first half that they missed the target from frees and from play far more than they would have liked, but in truth, they may not have been able to match Thomastown during that half, even at their best. It was close to a Donnelly show in the Thomastown attack throughout, with the aforementioned Stephen Donnelly, John Donnelly (0-6) and Robbie Donnelly (0-5 from frees), accounting for 1-19 of their side's final total. They did get good support from the likes of Luke Connellan, Thomas O'Hanrahan and the experienced Jonjo Farrell. Credit must go to Mooncoin for their second half performance, who despite their forgettable first half, scored 0-12 during the half, with Adam Croke and Martin O'Neill particularly to the fore.

Thomastown eventually finished out the winners by 1-29 to 0-17, emphasising once again their dominance over all other teams in the intermediate grade this year. As mentioned in the introduction, with this, and an under-21 Roinn A victory from last year to look back on, the future is undoubtedly bright for the men in blue and white!

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Congratulations to our boys in blue, and wishing them continued success.

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The Winning Team!



Thomastown Captain, Stephen Donnelly, receives the Intermediate Championship Trophy from PJ Kenny Chairman and Neil Lyng Sponsor (Photo Willie Dempsey)

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TULLOGHER TRIUMPH!

John Power (Junior Board P.R.O.)

Photos: Willie Dempsey



TULLOGHER ROSBERCON - COUNTY JH CHAMPIONS 2022

Back: Billy Ryan, Richie Aylward, Niall O'Shea, Anthony O'Connor, Ryan Murphy, Simon Kennedy, Kevin Hennessy, Marty Murphy, Tony Conway, JJ Ryan
 Middle: Niall Mooney, Donncha O'Connor, Kevin Aylward, Davy Walsh, Richie Gill, Michael Handrick, Brian Walsh, Conor Hennessy, Lar Murphy, Pat Hartley, JP Hartley (Mascot)
 Front: Fergal O'Shea, Jamie Lyng, Jason Shiely, Sean Murray, Stevie Lawlor, Colman O'Sullivan (Capt), Eoin Kennedy, Cathal Mooney, Shane Lyng, Danny Glennon, Cian O'Donoghue, Walter Walsh.

JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

This season's Junior Championship produced some highly competitive contests as usual, before Tullogher Rosbercon emerged victorious to add a sixth Junior title, the previous wins being 1957, 1989, 1992, 1997, and 2008.

The pathway to the semi-finals threw up some very interesting contest, with St. Lachtain's, Tullogher Rosbercon and Windgap emerging to the semi-finals from the Premier Junior competition, along with Dicksboro, who won the Section B Final for clubs second teams competing in the Junior grade.

In the semi-finals ultimate winners Tullogher Rosbercon comfortably disposed of the Dicksboro second team, whilst St.Lachtain's overcame last year's beaten finalists Windgap in a tense semi-final.

Quarter Finals

St. Lachtain's 2-12; St Patrick's 1-11.

Tullogher Rosbercon 3-22; Emeralds 2-15

Windgap 0-21; Piltown 1-14

Dicksboro 1-19; James Stephens 0-11 (Section B Final)

Semi Finals

Tullogher Rosbercon 4-20; Dicksboro 1-21.

St. Lachtain's 4-11; Windgap 1-18.

JJ Kavanagh & Sons Premier Junior Hurling Final

Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-19 St Lachtain's 0-17

Tullogher-Rosbercon claimed their sixth JJ Kavanagh and Sons Junior Hurling Championship title when emerging five point winners over St Lachtain's of Freshford in UPMC Nowlan Park on October 21st.

A goal in the second quarter by 19-year-old LIT student Danny Glennon, after a catch and lay off by Cian O'Donoghue proved crucial, and with excellent forwards like Senior County star Walter Walsh, Marty Murphy and the aforementioned O'Donoghue and Glennon, the South Kilkenny team were able to hold off the St Lachtain's threat all through the second half.

When Glennon goaled, there was seven points of a margin between the sides, O'Donoghue pointed shortly afterwards (1-11 to 0-6), and this was a gap that proved too much for the North Kilkenny men to overcome.

St Lachtain's got the deficit back to 1-11 to 0-9 by the interval, reduced it to a single score on a couple of occasions in the

second period, but a youthful Tullogher outfit finished the stronger and with four of the last five points, they had more in the tank to see out the victory.

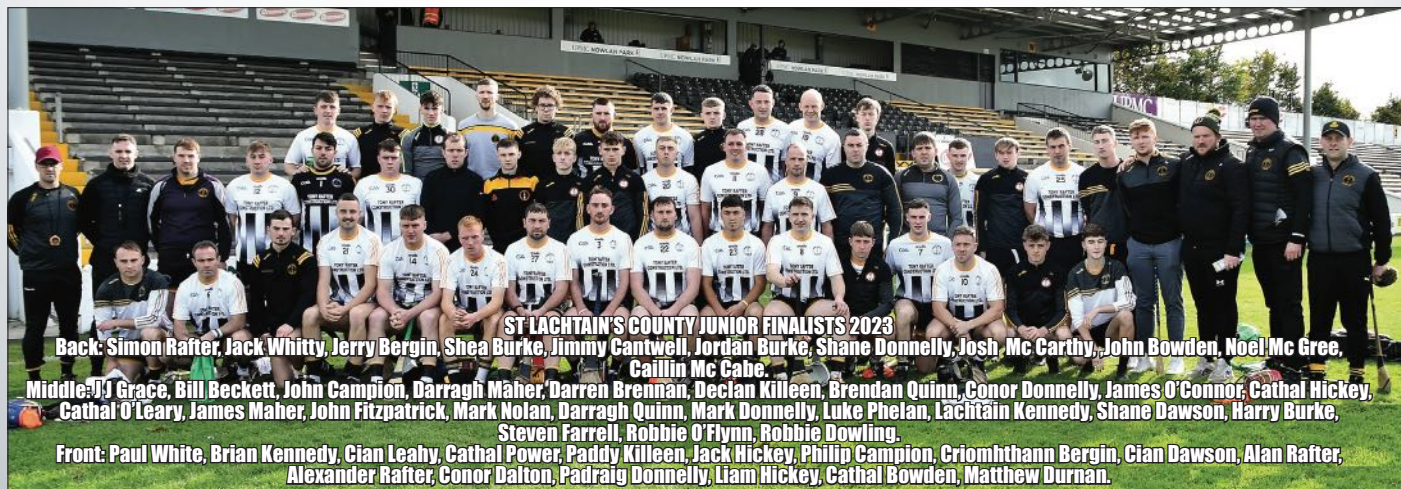
Glennon hit two superb efforts from play during this spell while Marty Murphy and Cian O'Donoghue also pointed, and while Freshford tried to work a late goal, the Tullogher defence that was excellently marshalled by veteran centre-half-back Pat Hartley, stood tall, to mark their return to the intermediate grade after a few seasons away, having been relegated in 2019.

St. Lachtain's had contested the Intermediate final, losing to Glenmore just two years ago, and were surprisingly relegated to the Junior grade last season. They must now regroup and go again in 2024.

Tullogher-Rosbercon team & scorers -

Davy Walsh; Richard Gill, Donnacha O'Connor, Sean Murray; Lar Murphy (0-1), Pat Hartley, Cathal Mooney; Jamie Lyng (0-1), Colman O'Sullivan; Marty Murphy (0-3), Walter Walsh (0-3), Jason Shiely (0-1), Danny Glennon (1-2), Conor Hennessy (0-1), Cian O'Donoghue (0-7, 6 frees)..

Substitutes - Michael Handrick for J. Shiely (45 minutes)



ST LACHTAIN'S COUNTY JUNIOR FINALISTS 2023

Back: Simon Rafter, Jack Whitty, Jerry Bergin, Shea Burke, Jimmy Cantwell, Jordan Burke, Shane Donnelly, Josh, Mc Carthy, John Bowden, Noel Mc Gree, Caillin Mc Cabe.
 Middle: JJ Grace, Bill Beckett, John Campion, Darragh Maher, Darren Brennan, Declan Killeen, Brendan Quinn, Conor Donnelly, James O'Connor, Cathal Hickey, Cathal O'Leary, James Maher, John Fitzpatrick, Mark Nolan, Darragh Quinn, Mark Donnelly, Luke Phelan, Lachtain Kennedy, Shane Dawson, Harry Burke, Steven Farrell, Robbie O'Flynn, Robbie Dowling.
 Front: Paul White, Brian Kennedy, Cian Leahy, Cathal Power, Paddy Killeen, Jack Hickey, Philip Campion, Criomhthann Bergin, Cian Dawson, Alan Rafter, Alexander Rafter, Conor Dalton, Pdraig Donnelly, Liam Hickey, Cathal Bowden, Matthew Durnan.

St Lachtain's team & scorers -

Darren Brennan; Brendan Quinn, Cíomhthann Bergin, Simon Rafter; Mark Donnelly, Brian Kennedy, Pádraig Donnelly; Alexander Rafter; Paul White (0-1); Liam Hickey, James Maher (0-1), Darragh Maher (0-3); Cathal Hickey, Cathal O'Leary (0-11, seven frees and a '65'), Shane Donnelly.

Substitutes- Paddy Killeen for A.Rafter (39 minutes), John Fitzpatrick (0-1) for C.Hickey (42 minutes), Cathal Power for L.Hickey (53 minutes), Conor Donnelly for P. White (58 minutes), Noel McGree for D.Maher (59 minutes).

Referee – Julian O'Dwyer

In the season's preliminary competitions there were wins for St. Patrick's Ballyragget in the Paddy Cahill Cup, and Kilmacow in the Kevin Fennelly Cup.

JJ Kavanagh All County Junior Hurling League Final (Paddy Cahill Cup)

St. Patrick's 2-14; Tullogher Rosbercon 0-13.

In the Paddy Cahill Cup Final in early July the St. Patrick's Ballyragget junior side overcame Tullogher-Rosbercon on a score line of 2-14 to 0-13.

JJ Kavanagh All County Junior Hurling League Final (Kevin Fennelly Cup)

Kilmacow 1-15; John Lockes 0-13.

In the Kevin Fennelly Cup Final played at Piltown on Saturday 22nd. July Kilmacow emerged victorious by five points over John Lockes (Callan).

JUNIOR BOARD CHAMPIONSHIP A-F FINALS

The Junior Board had another busy season, taking charge of running the Junior A to F grades, u-19 and u-21 competitions.

JJ Kavanagh Junior A Hurling Championship 2023.

Round Two

O'Loughlin Gaels 3-28; St Martins 2-2.

Young Irelands 2-21; Tullaroan 1-19.

Quarter Finals

O'Loughlin Gaels 3-18; Carrickshock 1-21.

Graigue Ballycallan 1-16; Young Irelands 1-15.

Dicksboro 1-19; Dunnamaggan 0-21.

St Patrick's 4-19; Mullinavat 4-19 (St. Pats on penalties).

Semi Finals

Dicksboro 1-15; St Patrick's 1-13.

O'Loughlin Gaels 2-16; Graigue Ballycallan 0-14.

JJ Kavanagh Junior A Hurling Championship Final 2023.

Dicksboro 1-18; O'Loughlins 0-18.

Dicksboro were crowned J.J. Kavanagh & Sons Kilkenny Junior 'A' Hurling Champions for 2023 following victory over O'Loughlin Gaels by 1-18 to 0-18 in a high-quality encounter played at UPMC Nowlan Park on Saturday evening. This was 'Boros second victory in this grade, the previous success was back in 1994.

Dicksboro team & scorers - Tom O'Neill,



Windgap - Niall Walsh - All County League with PJ Kenny Chairman



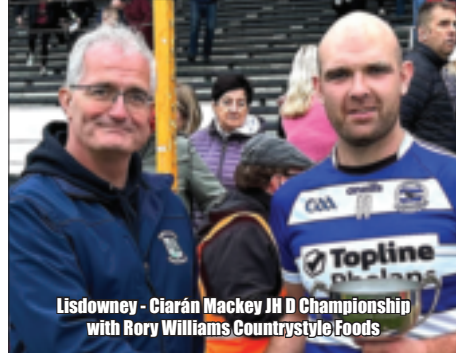
Dicksboro - Tom Carroll - JHA Championship with Jack Kavanagh Sponsor



Barrow Rangers - Mikey Doyle JH B Championship with Jack Kavanagh Sponsor



Threecastles - Darragh Walsh JH C Championship with Kate Foley Iverk Produce



Lisdowney - Ciarán Mackey JH D Championship with Rory Williams Countrystyle Foods



Erin's Own - Martin Walsh JH E Championship with Pat Cooney, Junior Board



Dunnamaggin - Paul Kirwan JH A League with Pat Cooney, Junior Board



James Stephens - Adam Butler JH B League with Pat Cooney, Junior Board



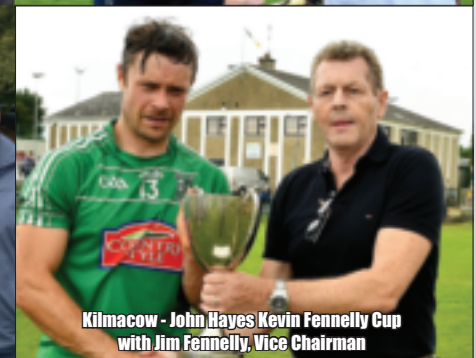
Graigue Ballycallan - Cathal Mulhall JH D League with Pat Dunphy, Junior Board



St Patrick's - Geoff Brennan Paddy Cahill Cup with Jim Fennellády, Vice Chairman



Windgap - Junior F Champions



Kilmacow - John Hayes Kevin Fennelly Cup with Jim Fennelly, Vice Chairman



WINDGAP - ALL COUNTY LEAGUE WINNERS 2023



DICKSBORO - JUNIOR A CHAMPIONS 2023



BARROW RANNERS - JUNIOR B CHAMPIONS 2023



THREecastles - JUNIOR C CHAMPIONS 2023



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*Tullagher Rosbercon Captain, Colman O Sullivan, receives the Junior Trophy from Chairman PJ Kenny and Paul Kavanagh Sponsor
(Photo Willie Dempsey)*

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Subs - Colm O'Hara for Daire Maher, Shane O'Brien for Marco Ruessman, Sean Keenan for Eoin Dalton.

O'Loughlins team & scorers - Jamie Malone, Kevin O'Brien (captain), Gary Bryan, Alex Molloy, Padraig Meany, John McNamara (0-2), Ben Kinchella, Gavin Mahony, Paddy Cantwell (0-1), Tervine Wallace (0-1), Eddie Kearns, Mark Holohan (0-3), Michael Henebry, Cathal O'Leary, Jack Sheridan (0-8, 4 frees).

Subs - Ruaidhri Galway for Ben Kinchella, Finn Hogan (0-1) for Kevin Moore, Lee Hehir for Cathal O'Leary, Kevin Murphy (0-2).

Referee - Vivienne Holmes.

JJ Kavanagh Junior B Hurling Championship 2023.

Round Two

Barrow Rangers 3-12; Danesfort 0-7.

Fenians 2-10; Emeralds 1-15.

Quarter Finals

Glenmore 0-19; James Stephens 1-14.

Barrow Rangers 2-20; St. Lachtain's 1-14.

T/Rosbercon 0-23; Bennettsbridge 1-10.

Conahy Shamrocks 2-21; Emeralds 0-13.

Semi Finals

T/Rosbercon 1-18; Conahy Shamrocks 1-11.

Barrow Rangers 3-12; Glenmore 1-17.

JJ Kavanagh Junior B Hurling Championship Final 2023.

Barrow Rangers 1-16; Tullogher Rosbercon 1-13

Barrow Rangers (Paulstown/ Goresbridge) won their second JJ Kavanagh Junior B hurling title with a three point victory over Tullogher Rosbercon in Saturday's final at UPMC Nowlan Park.

The previous Barrow Rangers win was in 2015 and this victory, thanks to those late scores, will be widely celebrated in both Paulstown and Goresbridge.

Barrow Rangers team & scorers - Richie Doyle, Paul Delaney, Evan Rudy, James Hogan, Killian Rudkins, Timmy Brennan, Noel Doheny, Cathal Purcell (0-6, 4 frees), Conor Hanlon (0-2, 1 free), Mikey Doyle (captain), Jimmy Kane (0-3), Paddy Hennessy, Keith Flavin (0-1), Brian Kelly (0-1), Noah Scully (0-2).

Subs: Tom Brennan (0-1) for Paddy Hennessy, Mikey Ryan for Killian Rudkins, Ciarán Doyle (1-0) for Mickey Doyle, Joey McEvoy for Noah Scully, Dylan Hunston for Jimmy Kane.

Tullogher Rosbercon team & scorers - Eoin Ryan, Tony Conway, Richie Gill, JJ Ryan, Jamie Lyng, Pat Hartley (0-1), Cathal Mooney, Billy Ryan, Brian O'Shea, Jason Shiely (captain, 0-2), Michael Handrick (0-1), Niall Mooney, Ryan Murphy (0-1), Davy Walsh (0-1), Brian Walsh (0-5).

Subs - Marty Murphy (1-2).

Referee - Andy Stafekis (O'Loughlin Gaels).

Iverk Produce Junior C Hurling Championship 2023.



LISDOWNEY - JUNIOR D CHAMPIONS 2023



ERIN'S OWN - JUNIOR E LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2023



WINDGAP - JUNIOR F CHAMPIONS 2023



DUNNAMAGGIN - JUNIOR A LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2023

Black and Whites w/o Slieverue conc.

Cloneen 2-14; John Lockes 1-10

Quarter Finals

Threecastles 1-20; Windgap 1-12.

Cloneen 3-12; Black and Whites 1-17.

Mooncoin 2-19; Piltown 1-15.

Galmoy 1-12; Kilmacow 1-11.

Semi Finals

Mooncoin 1-17; Kilmacow 0-17.

Threecastles 0-18; Cloneen 1-12.

Iverk Produce Junior C Hurling Championship Final 2023.

Threecastles 2-16; Mooncoin 0-15.

History was made at Nowlan Park on Saturday when Threecastles, a club that makes up one fifth of Freshford parish, won a first adult county title in 83 years.

Their supporters celebrated to a man, woman and child at headquarters following this fully deserved seven-point victory over Mooncoin, 2-16 to 0-15. This was a battle between two of the original four GAA clubs in Kilkenny, (for the record the other two were Confederation from Kilkenny City and Tullaroan).

For the Junior A, B,C and D grades it was appreciated by all eight clubs, that these finals were played at Kilkenny GAA headquarters, and the historic outcome of this game in particular, was an excellent promotion of these lesser recognised Kilkenny GAA grades.

Threecastles team & scorers - Conrad Cooper, Frank Keoghan, Cian Lyng, David Cleere, Vincent O'Donnell, Jack Cleere (0-1), Nick O'Shea, Johnny Minogue (0-1, side-line), Darragh Walsh (captain), Cormac Rafter (0-2), Jack Boland (0-2), Eamonn Hennessy (1-3, 5 frees, 1 "65"), Kyle Maher, Cian Franey (0-1), Mark Cleere (1-1).

Subs - Cian Russell for Kyle Maher, Joe Lacey for Mark Cleere, Tommy Rafter for Jack Boland.

Mooncoin team & scores - Niall O'Hanlon, Robbie Finn, Sean Wall, Jackie Ryan, Luke Ranasawmy, Pdraig Murphy, Ryan Croke (0-1), Paddy Kinsella, Liam Hogan (0-3), Ciaran Walsh (0-1, captain), Mark Fitzgerald, Stephen Wall (0-2), Kieran Dillon Dunphy (0-1), James Delahunty (0-1), Ray Wall (0-6, frees).

Subs - Alan Walsh for Ciaran Walsh, Darryl Murphy for Paddy Kinsella.

Referee - Richard Holland.

Country Style Junior D Hurling Championship 2023.

Barrow Rangers w/o St Martins conc.
 Graigue Ballycallan 3-6; Dicksboro 2-7.
 Quarter Finals
 Clara 0-14; Barrow Rangers 0-7.
 Lisdowney 2-17; Thomastown 0-7.
 G'managh 0-18; James Stephens 1-10.
 Rower Inistioge 4-11; G/Ballycallan 1-7.
 Semi Finals
 Rower Inistioge 1-17; Graignamanagh 0-8.
 Lisdowney 1-19; Clara 2-10.

Country Style Foods JH D Championship Final 2023.

Lisdowney 3-16; Rower Inistioge 3-16

Rower Inistioge and Lisdowney played out an exciting draw in Sundays Country Style Foods Junior D Hurling Final at UPMC Nowlan Park. This game was to have went to extra time, but a case of "light into darkness" prevented this, as the 6-o'clock throw in had brilliant sunshine, but an hour later visibility had become an issue. Mackey point put their side back in front, 3-14 to 3-

Lisdowney team & scorers - Niall Grogan, Jack McGree, Ray Fitzpatrick, Jack O'Sullivan, Peter O'Sullivan (0-1), Ciaran Mackey (vc), Joe Bergin, Niall Mackey, Dean Brophy, Eoin Delahunty, Eddie Hickey (0-1, VC), Niall Kenny (1-1), Darragh Mackey (0-3), Rory Hickey (1-9, 5 frees), Paddy Bowden.

Subs - Gary O'Sullivan (1-1) for Dean Brophy (24 min), Brandon Brophy for Peter O'Sullivan (28 min), Jimmy Delaney for Darragh Mackey (62 min), Jimmy Delaney for Rory Hickey (blood sub), Conor Taliss for Eoin Delahunty (62 min).

Rower Inistioge team & scorers - Dan Mulholland, David Prendergast (0-1), James Doyle (captain), Richard Ryan, Kieran Meaney, Harry Murphy (0-1), William Ashe Doyle (0-1), Joe Mulholland (1-4, 3 frees), Michael Moffat, Howard McDonald, Caomhin Perriot (0-1), David Lyng (0-1), Fiachra Farrell (0-2), Conor Lyng (1-1), Robbie Walsh.

Subs - Michael McDonald (1-0) for Michael Moffitt (37 min), Tom O'Callaghan (0-4, frees) for Howard McDonald (45 min), Ewan Gilsey for Richard Ryan (56 min), Tom Cullen for Fiachra Farrell (60 min), John Grace for Conor Lyng (62 minutes).

Referee - Anthony Barcoe.

Country Style Foods Junior D Hurling Championship Final 2023 Replay.

Lisdowney 1-27; Rower Inistioge 1-21 (after extra time).

Lisdowney emerged victorious at the second



JAMES STEPHENS - JUNIOR B LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2023



GRAIGUE BALLYCALLAN - JUNIOR D LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2023



KILMACOW - KEVIN FENNELLY CUP CHAMPIONS 2023



ST PATRICK'S - PADDY CAHILL CUP CHAMPIONS 2023

time of asking, having again finished level after 60 minutes, and it was only in extra time, that they sealed the Junior D title. Full Time Lisdowney 1-18; Rower Inistioge 1-18.

Lisdowney team & scorers - Niall Grogan, Jack McGree, Ray Fitzpatrick, Jack O'Sullivan, Brandon Brophy, Ciaran Mackey (vice-captain), Joe Bergin (0-1), Niall Mackey (0-1), Dean Brophy (0-1), Eoin Delahunty, Eddie Hickey (0-2, 1 side-line, captain), Niall Kenny, Darragh Mackey (0-1), Rory Hickey (0-16, 13 frees), Gary O'Sullivan (0-4).

Subs -, Paddy Bowden (1-0) for Dean Brophy, Peter O'Sullivan (0-1) for Niall Kenny, Jimmy Delaney for Darragh Mackey, Conor Taliss for Eoin Delahunty, Darragh Mackey for Niall Mackey (extra time), Eoin Delahunty for Brandon Brophy (extra time), Paul Murphy, Jimmy Delaney, Conor O'Gorman, Tadgh Blanchfield, Ruadhan Downey, Brian Campion Matthew Banville, Lee McCann.

Rower Inistioge team & scorers - Dan Mulholland (0-4, frees), David Prendergast (0-6, frees), James Doyle (captain), Richard Ryan, Kieran Meaney, Harry Murphy (0-1), William Ashe Doyle (0-1), Tom Cullen, Patrick

Prendergast (0-1), Howard McDonald (0-2), Caomhin Perriot (0-2), David Lyng, Fiachra Farrell (1-1), Conor Lyng Tom O'Callaghan (0-2).

Subs - John Grace for Richard Ryan, Michael Moffat for Howard McDonald, Michael McDonald (0-1) for Conor Lyng, Ciaran Keher Murtagh for Caomhin Perriot (extra time), Darragh Mackey for Niall Mackey (extra time), Eoin Delahunty for Brandon Brophy (extra time), Mark Flood, Evan Gilsey, Jack Fitzpatrick, Oisín Whelan, Tiernan Morrissey, Jack Morrissey, Cathal Langton, Liam Bolger Hynes, Michael Chapman, Jack Malone, Cian Murphy,

Referee - Eddie Crowley (Mooncoin).

JJ Kavanagh Junior E Hurling Championship 2023.

O'Loughlins 4-11; Tullogher Rosbercon 1-15.
 B Glenmore 0-15; Dunnamagann 0-7.

Quarter Finals
 Erin's Own 2-23; Piltown 3-12.
 O'Loughlin Gaels 2-15; Glenmore 1-19.
 Danesfort 3-12 Bennettsbridge 2-13.

Conahy Shamrocks 1-14; Mooncoin 1-13.

Semi Finals

Erin's Own 7-16; O'Loughlin Gaels 3-10.

Danesfort 2-14; Conahy Shamrocks 1-13.

JJ Kavanagh Junior E Hurling Championship Final 2023.

Erin's Own 3-19; Danesfort 1-10.

Erin's Own, Castlecomer have been the standout team in Junior E all year, and they completed a league and championship double, with a comprehensive 18 point victory over Danesfort at UPMC Nowlan Park.

Erin's Own team & scorers - Cathal Murphy, Darragh O'Rourke, James Kenny, Joey Ryan, Shane Rice (0-1), Damien Fogarty, Conor Mormoyle, Conor Clarke (0-1), Martin Walsh (0-1, captain), Darragh Normoyle, James Mullins (0-1), John Kenny (2-0), Michael Brennan (0-12, 6 frees, 2 "65s"), Peadar Boran (1-2), Jimmy Comerford (0-1). Subs - Eoin Nolan, Shane Holden, Ewan Connery, Aaron Fanning, Michael Whelan, Eoin Brennan,

Danesfort team & scorers - Timmy Murphy, Joe Cowhig (captain), Jim Phelan, Michael Moylan, Evan Srouji, Gavin O'Keeffe, Kieran Walsh, Mark Srouji, Mark Fitzpatrick, Stephen O'Keeffe, Jamie Phelan (0-3, frees), John Davis, Harry Lanigan (0-4, 1 free), John Doheny, Dion Fitzpatrick (0-1). Subs - Conor Byrne, Tom Sheehan, Leon Browne, Jack Doyle, Finn Drennan, Niall Farrell, Ronan Hackett, Tommy Ryan, Martin McMahon, Anthony Ireland Wall (1-2, 2 frees), Liam Phelan, Jack Tynan, Tony Woodcock, Rob O'Keeffe.

Referee Brandon Power (Mooncoin).

JJ Kavanagh Junior F Hurling Championship 2023.

Mullinavat 1-12; Mooncoin 0-8.

Rower Inistioge 4-14; Lisdowney 5-5.

Tullaroan 2-14; Young Irelands 1-14.

Blacks & Whites 3-14; Carrigeen 0-11.

Quarter Finals

Windgap 4-10; Kilmacow 0-17.

St Lachtain's 1-9; Dicksboro 0-8.

Mullinavat 3-18; Rower Inistioge 2-16.

Tullaroan 1-18; Blacks and Whites 2-11.

Semi Finals

Mullinavat 2-11; Tullaroan 1-3.

Windgap 2-10; St. Lachtain's 1-15.

JJ Kavanagh Junior F Hurling Championship Final 2023.

Windgap 1-15; Mullinavat 0-10.

Windgap won the JJ Kavanagh Junior F Hurling Championship with an eight-point victory over Mullinavat in this delayed final on Saturday last. The game was played before a tremendous crowd for such a fixture, on a splendid afternoon at Kilmacow on Saturday 7/10/2023.

Windgap team & scorers - Alan Hearne, Craig Lonergan, Darren "Dixie" Walsh, Vinny Purcell, Killian Doyle, Conor Lonergan, Adrian Landy, Tom Fleming (0-3), Stephen Purcell (0-1), Niall O'Brien (0-2), Matthew Enright (0-8, 0-7 frees), Gary Lyon's, Blade O'Gorman (1-1), Jack O'Shea, Noah O'Shea. Subs James Vaughan, Tommy Lonergan, Luke Ward, Eoin O'Brien, Karl McCoy, Jamie Joy, Pa Moore, Evan Doyle, Brendon Power, PJ Barron.

Referee Richard Holland.

Mullinavat team & scorers - James O'Keeffe, Shane Kelly, Declan Duggan, Sean Brennan, Tommy Lanigan, Luke Byrne Doyle, Daniel Holden, Jamie Dungan, Jake Morrissey (0-1, free), Jack Whelton (0-1), Pat Mulhearn, Cormac McEvoy (0-4, frees), Billy Delahunty (0-1), Jack Byrne Doyle, Brian Kenneally (0-2).

Subs used - John Reade (0-1) for Jack Byrne Doyle, James Brennan for Daniel Holden, Aaron Tynan for Billy Delahunty, Gavin Maher for Jamie Dungan, Michael Holden for Jack Whelton.

Rest of panel - Killian Dungan, John Fitzpatrick, Davy Kenneally, Mossy Jones, Eoin Maher, Eoin Maher jar, Richie Kenneally.

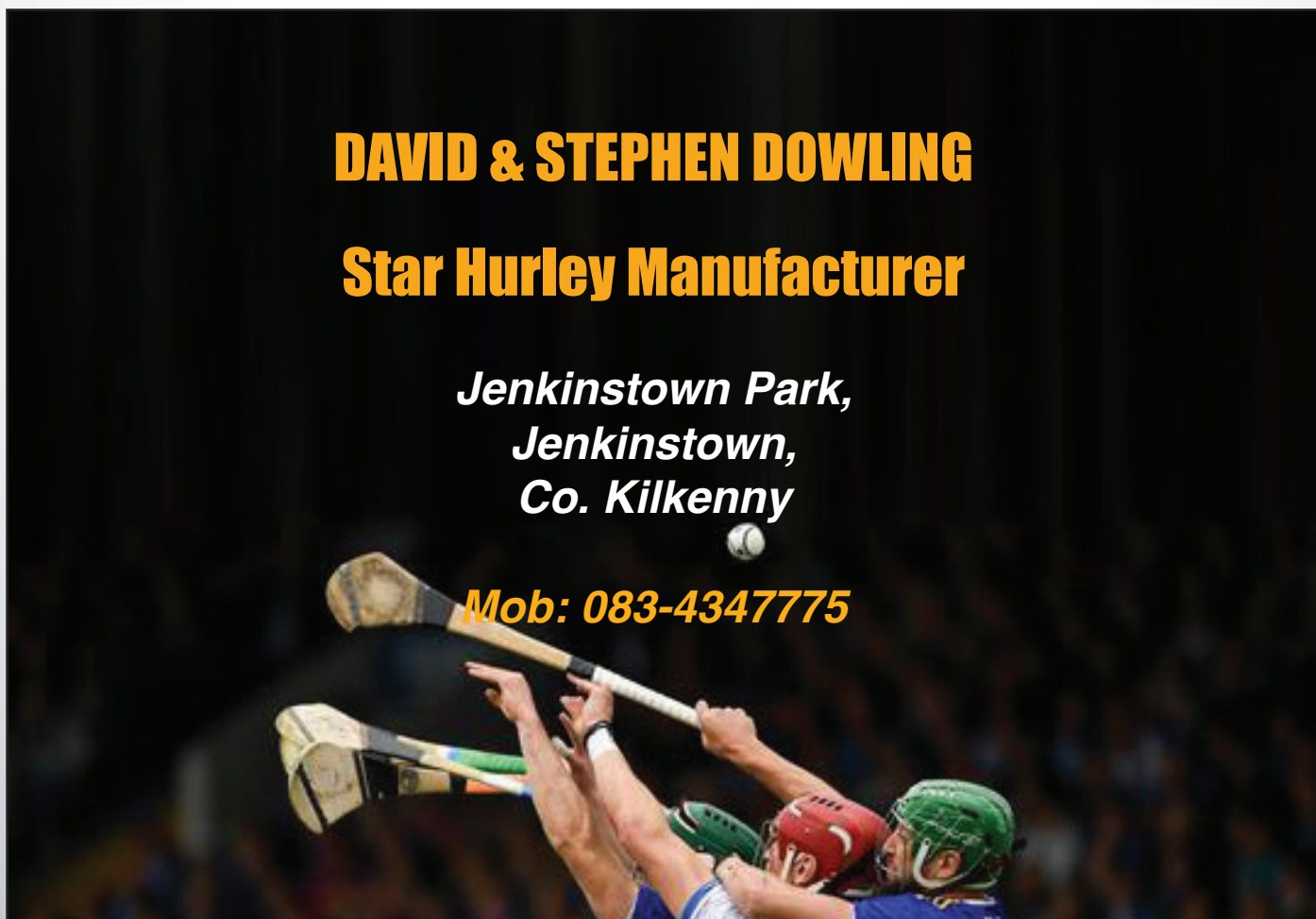
Referee- Richard Dowling (Kilmacow).

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HURLING LEAGUE FINALS

JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior A Hurling League Final 2023.

Dunnamaggin 1-20 Mullinavat 1-14.

Dunnamaggin are 2023 County Junior A League winners, after a deserved six point victory over Southern neighbours Mullinavat in the final at MW Hire, Dunmore on 2/7/2023.

Dunnamaggin squad & scorers - Andrew O'Dwyer, Cathal Walsh, Jimmy O'Neill, Kieran Buckley, Paul Kirwan (captain), Andrew Fitzpatrick, Paddy Delaney, Darren Fitzpatrick (0-1), Ruairhri Holden, Colin Herity, Peter Kenneally (0-3), John Fitzpatrick, Adam Fitzpatrick, Anthony Kearney (0-2), Seaghan O'Neill (1-9, 1-8 frees), Colin Fitzpatrick (0-1), Aaron Moore (0-1), Killian Tallon, Jason Doherty (0-1), Conor Hoban (0-2), Sean Carroll, Dylan Carroll, JJ Dunphy, Jamie McLaughlin, Jack Brett, Aidan Donovan.

Mullinavat squad & scorers - James Culleton, Eoin Dempsey, David Maher, Darren Kenneally, Robin Davis, Conor Duggan (0-2, 2 frees), Ian Mansfield, Martin Davis (0-2), Donnacha Walsh, Jack Walsh, Conor Walsh (1-1), Bill Dempsey, CJ Fitzpatrick (0-1), Shane Aylward, Mikey Jones (0-8, 0-7 frees), James O'Keeffe, Sean Brennan, Stephen Law, Fiachra Knox, Mark McNamara, Cormac McEvoy, Michael Walsh, Peter McDonald.

Referee – John Dooley.

JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior B Hurling League Final 2023.

James Stephens 2-19 Bennettsbridge 1-9

James Stephens won the JJ Kavanagh County Junior B Hurling League, with a comfortable thirteen-point victory over Bennettsbridge at MW Hire Dunmore on Sunday 2/7/2023.

James Stephens scorers - Stephen Manogue (0-9, frees), Sean Casey (1-4), Shane Guilfoyle (1-0), Oisín Bateman (0-2), Evan Buggy (0-2), John McEvoy, Jack Kelly (0-1 each).

Bennettsbridge scorers - Gearoid Kent (0-4, frees), Bill Nolan (1-0), Jack Champion (0-2), John Doyle (0-2), Sean O'Connell (0-1).

James Stephens squad - Daniel Power, Stephen Power Kelley, Adam Butler (captain), Sam McEvoy, Stephen Bateman, James Tyrell, Paddy Kehoe, Oisín Bateman, Eoin Derby, Stephen Manogue, John McEvoy, Mikey Kennedy, Jamie Byrne, Shane Guilfoyle, Sean Casey, Patrick O'Neill, Sean Ruth, Colm Dowling, Jack Kelly, Sean Comerford, Evan Buggy, Dylan O'Brien, Shane Glynn, Fiona Cody, Aaron Durney, Cathal Mulhall, Darragh Casey, Ben Cantwell, Sean Adams, Josh O'Rourke, Andy Murphy, Bill Whelan, Donagh Kearney.

Bennettsbridge squad - Ben King, Joe Hughes, Laurence Mahon, Jack Forristal, Myles McGovern, Timmy Kelly, Gearoid Kent, Koran O'Sullivan, Kyle Ryan, John Doyle, Luke Dowling, Paddy Walsh, Sean O'Connell, Barry Lennon, Bill Nolan, Jack Forristal, Oran Lavery, Patti O'Neill, Conor Nolan, Jack Champion, Stephen King, Bill Hughes, Jason Cleere, Stephen Holden, James Hughes, James Hardin, Willie Murphy, Fiachra Twohig, Dylan Wall, Edward Brennan (0-1), Darragh Dowd, Ivan Kelly, Michael Shiel, Nicky Cleere, Cillian Fennesy, Oisín Megan, Tom Bolger.

Referee – Gay Rafter.

Iverk Produce Junior C Hurling League Final / First Round of Championship 2023.

Mooncoin 2-16 Cloneen 2-10

Despite being reduced to fourteen men for forty of the sixty minutes, Mooncoin recorded a deserved six-point victory over Cloneen, in the Iverk Produce, Junior C Hurling League Final. This game also doubled up as a first round championship encounter, at MW Hire, Dunmore on Monday 17/7/2023.

Mooncoin team & scorers - Niall O'Hanlon, Robert Finn, Sean Wall (0-1), Jackie Ryan, Alan Walsh, Pdraig Murphy, Ryan Croke (0-1), Paddy Kinsella, Liam Hogan (0-2, 0-1 free), Stephen Wall, Mark Fitzgerald (0-2), Ciaran Walsh, Ray Wall (1-7, 0-4 frees, 1-0 pen), James Delahunty (1-0), Ciaran Dillon Dunphy (0-2).

Rest of Panel - Liam Walsh, Jack Conway, Pauric Delahunty, Kevin Doyle, Mark Finn, Ger Hilton, Aaron McLaughlin, Darragh Murphy, Chris Norris, Adrian O'Keeffe, Ian O'Keeffe, JP Purcell, Luke Ramasami, Mikey Ryan, Pdraig Walsh, Kevin Connolly, Kieran Falange, Chris O'Hanlon, Adam Walsh (0-1).

Cloneen team & scorers - Conor Byrne, John Kelly, Dara Delaney (0-1), Enda Gannon, Adam Buggy (0-1), Conor Delaney, Aidan Barry, Michael Doyle (0-5, 4 frees), Kieran Whelan (0-1), Pdraig Cooney,

Ciaran Cooney, Breanainn Buggy (captain, 0-1) Cathal Barry, Michael O'Keeffe (2-0), Ronan Walsh (0-1).

Rest of Panel - Paul O'Neill, Gearoid O'Neill, Chris Phelan, Tom Buggy, Malachy Flaherty, Michael Buggy, Brian Allen, Sean O'Neill, Philip Roche, Shane Buggy, Kevin Delaney, Brian McDonald, Brian Mahon.

Referee – David Hughes.

Country Style Foods Junior D Hurling League Final 2023.

Graigue Ballycallan 0-17 James Stephens 0-9

Graigue Ballycallan won the Country Style Foods Junior D Hurling League with a convincing eight-point victory over James Stephens in the final at MW Hire, Dunmore on Friday 30/6/2023. **Graigue Ballycallan squad & scorers** - Michael Hoyne, Joey Corcoran, Daniel Cahill (captain), Sean Roberts, Dean O'Brien, James Ryall, Pat Purcell, Jordan Davis (0-8), Eoin Corcoran, Jake O'Brien (0-4), Adam O'Brien (0-2), Jack Walton (0-1), Brian Sheridan, Kieran Kennedy, Ryan Cody (0-2), Sean Roberts, Eoin Egan, Dylan Teehan, Peter Murphy, Jamie Delaney, Dermott Ryall, JJ Ryan, Michael Harrison, Jamie Lawlor, John Cleere, Keith Coffey, Ciaran Dowling, Brendan Hayes, John Dermody, Aidan Cahill, John Muldowney, Martin Brennan.

James Stephens squad - Daniel Power, Jamie Peters, Shane Champion, Dylan O'Brien, Stephen Bateman, Cathal Mulhall (captain), Darragh Casey, Bill Whelan, Sam Larkin, Bill Kavanagh, Eoin McCormack, Andy Murphy, Bill Laharty, Ray O'Keeffe, Fionn Cody, Paddy Lacey, James Tyrell, Stephen Manogue, Oisín Bateman, Darragh Lawlor, Sean Casey, Aaron Durney, Cathal Redmond Brett, Josh O'Rourke, Conor Gordy, Richie Hayes, James Gladney, Johnny McEvoy, Liam Maloney, Stephen Power Kelley, Luke Bateman, James O'Shea.

Referee - Patrick O'Reilly (Barrow Rangers).

JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior E Hurling League Final 2023.

Erins Own (Castlecomer) 1-27; Piltown 1-10.

Erin's Own, Castlecomer, recorded a comfortable seventeen-point victory over Southern side Piltown, in the JJ Kavanagh & sons, Junior Hurling League E Final at MW Hire, Dunmore on Tuesday 11/7/2023.

Erin's Own squad & scorers - Cathal Murphy, Aaron Fanning, James Kenny, Joey Ryan, Michael Whelan, Damien Fogarty (0-1), Conor Normoyle, Conor Clarke (0-4), Shane Rice, Martin Walsh (captain, 0-1), James Mullins (0-2), Darragh Normoyle (0-1), Michael Brennan (1-12, 5 frees, 2 "65's"), Peadar Boran (0-3), Jimmy Comerford (0-2), Eóin Nolan. Sean Dwyer, John Kenny, Shane Nolan, Jamie Maher (0-1), Ewan Connery, Caoimhin Dunne, Darragh O'Rourke.

Piltown squad & scorers - David Burchill, Martin Kirby, Kieran Kinsella, Francis O'Brien, Conor Nugent, David Kinsella, Aidan Nugent, Philip Kenny (captain, 0-8, 6 frees), Andrew Norris, Vincent Long, Shane Kinsella (1-1), Darragh Anthony, Fiona Gleeson, Paul Kirby, Adam Murphy, Conor Power. Eóin Morgan, Emmett Flynn, Ben Moriarty, Eoin Reid, Shane Ahern, Kieran Flynn, Kevin White, Eoin Fitzgerald, Fiachra Twohig, Dylan Wall, Edward Brennan (0-1), Darragh Dowd, Luke Falconer (injured).

JJ Kavanagh and Sons Junior F Hurling League Final 2023.

St. Lachtain's 1-22 Windgap 0-11.

The county Junior F Hurling final saw St. Lachtain's and Windgap, who after five games had topped their respective league groups, and had semi-final wins over Dicksboro and Kilmacow respectively, compete in perfect conditions at the Kells Road venue on Tuesday evening 11/7/2023.

St. Lachtain's team & scorers - Robbie Dowling, Cathal Bowden, Mark Nolan, Jimmy Cantwell, Jack Hickey, John Bowden, Conor Donnelly 0-2, Jerry Bergin 0-2, Josh McCarthy 0-2, (0-2) frees, Shea Burke 0-2, Cathal Hickey 0-9 (0-7) frees Declan Killeen, Matthew Durnan 0-1, Ben Dermody 0-1, Cian Leahy 1-3.Subs; Barry Hughes, David Burke, Sean Kennedy. Mark, Kavanagh, John Gleason, Kevin Dalton, James O'Connor, Jack Whitty, Patrick Maher, Luke Phelan, Conor Dalton, Tryston Keane Caillin McCabe, and Darragh Quinn.

Windgap team & scorers - Matthew Enright, Craig Lonergan, Darren Walsh, Paidí Bacon, Killian Doyle, Peter Landy, Adrian Landy, James Purcell 0-9 (0-8) frees, Ronan O'Brien 0-2 (0-1) frees, Jack O'Shea, Conor Lonergan, Mark McCoy, Tommy Fleming, Luke Ward, Noah O'Shea.Subs James Vaughan, Alan Hearne, Tommy Lonergan, Vinny Purcell, Gary Lyons. Niall O'Brien, Ger Purcell, Shane Lomax, Eoin O'Brien. Jamie Joy, Stephen Purcell, Pa Moore and Eoin Freaney.

Referee Richard Holland.



ACTION FROM THE FINAL



DAVID BLANCHFIELD

Learning the Ropes

By John Knox

Rising Kilkenny star David Blanchfield is absolutely sure his real life career will have him involved in education, but in his high end sporting life these times he has found himself in the very different and demanding roles of both pupil and leader as he chases all the hurling honours he can with club and county.

The Bennettsbridge clubman joined the Kilkenny senior panel in 2021. Although he has seen action during two National League campaigns and a near full championship, he still regards himself as a novice; a pupil getting to know the ropes. Understandable.

However, with his famous club he is a veteran of six senior campaigns in the local league and championship, having broken into the squad as a gifted 17-year-old. He meets the demands head on. He has to be a leader.

"You have to step up and lead," he said of the tough demands he puts on himself when he dons the Bennettsbridge jersey. "That was the big thing for me this year. I felt I had to try and be a leader, not so much as in talking to players in the dressing-room and so on, but leading by example on the pitch.

"That is what I tried to do, especially with the young lads who joined the panel and broke into the team. I tried to help them any way I could. The experienced players in the Kilkenny squad help me in so, so many ways.

"I know I have a lot to learn at county level, but I try to bring the high standards from the Kilkenny camp back to the club and into every game. I am no longer classed as one of the young lads on the team in the 'Bridge, so my place within the squad is different to what it is with Kilkenny."

He turned 23 last April. He is young, and relative to some, light on experience at the highest level, but he insisted he must step up for his club.

He carried the responsibility, not as a weight, but as a challenge to be met. He insisted he cannot let his standards drop or it might be seen as a bad example in the club.

"I had to keep the standards up," David assured. "The young lads are probably looking up to me. Everything I did in training and during matches I did to the best of my ability. I tried to drive things on. I suppose you could say it is a great learning curve in life."

The season brought a number of highs, but the lows predominated. Kilkenny were beaten in the National League final. Cruelly, injury cut down Blanchfield before the All-Ireland final against defending champions Limerick.

There Kilkenny were beaten in a national final for the second time in the same year by the same county.

On top of that, the 'Bridge crashed out in the semi-finals of the senior championship when all in the club thought there might be more there for them.

The day Dicksboro's Cillian Buckley scored a late, late goal to help Kilkenny snatch a dramatic victory over Galway in the Leinster final was without doubt the outstanding high of season 2023.

"Teams in Kilkenny are judged on All-Ireland wins, not necessarily Leinster championships," David said when he reflected on that rocking day in Croke Park. "But this year's win in the Leinster final felt special because of the way we won.

"It was celebrated more by the fans, and ourselves too. The winning goal by Cillian Buckley was unbelievable. I had never experienced a win like that in my life.

"I remember when the final whistle blew I was the first person who Cillian met. I was hugging him and then we were shot to the ground when big Wally Walsh crashed in on top of us. Then the whole team was on top of us.

"It was a memory for life. It couldn't happen to a nicer lad than Cillian. He was great to me when I arrived on the scene with Kilkenny."

The next match, the All-Ireland semi-final against Clare, brought joy, and utter headache as well. Kilkenny won. David Blanchfield picked up the injury that would rob him of his first start in an All-Ireland senior final.

David recalled the moment Lady Luck turned her back on him. The match was heading into the closing 10 minutes. He went up to contest a puck-out and got a knock into the back.

"It didn't seem anything out of the ordinary," he recalled. "I was a bit winded for a minute or so, but I finished out the game. In the dressing-room afterwards I was a bit short of breath.

"I sort of knew then there was something up, but then thought maybe it was a spasm in the back or something. The following day I knew I needed help."

There was a 14 day gap before the MacCarthy Cup showdown.

On Monday, July 10 he met with the Kilkenny team chief medical officer, Dr Tadhg Crowley and was sent straight to the emergency department in St Luke's General Hospital, Kilkenny. Scans revealed there was a small puncture in the upper area of one of his lungs. There was concern, serious concern, but hopes of involvement in the All-Ireland final weren't extinguished.

Days later a second opinion was sought from a respiratory specialist in Dublin. The door was left open. Blanchfield took that week off training.

Days before the big game on July 23 the player sat down with Dr Crowley and Kilkenny manager, Derek Lyng. Not all was well. Risky was a word that fell into the conversation. It was decided Blanchfield would sit out the final.

"Had I another week or two to recover I might have made it," David explained. "It was that close. I was heartbroken because I had played all the games up to that.

"Everyone wants to be playing on All-Ireland day. That is what we play for. Unfortunately I missed out this year. Hopefully I will get another chance."

Devastated he may have been, but Derek Lyng kept Blanchfield involved. There was no moping. He had to portray a positive attitude around the camp. He did, but sitting in the Hogan Stand on match day was a tough and lonely place, despite the throng.

Blanchfield, of course, has All-Ireland day experience. He saw action in the '22 All-Ireland final against Limerick. He was sprung from the bench in the 53rd minute as a replacement for Conor Browne. Talk about a baptism of fire.

The game was in the melting pot. The 'Bridge man was thrown in against 2020 Hurler of the Year, Gearoid Hegarty, who was on fire, having shot a terrific goal early in the first half. The Limerick man finished with a cracking take of 1-5 and scooped the Man of the Match award.

Blanchfield lost nothing, and did well against the flying Hegarty. From an early involvement he provided the pass - a loose one, he joked - that Richie Hogan turned into the equalising point. Alas, the game got away from Kilkenny as Limerick pulled off a 1-31 to 2-26 victory.

What was he thinking when Brian Cody threw him into the cauldron?

Without a thought, David replied: "It was incredible. It was the stuff of a dream. There was a puck of the ball in it. We didn't get over the line, but it was a great experience to play with your county in an All-Ireland final. It's what I had dreamed of as a young boy.

"You just go in. I remember being called from the stand by Mr Cody (one joked: Mr Cody?). Yes, Brian called me down. I was mad to get in and try and make some sort of a difference. He told me to go out there and enjoy myself.

"I said to myself I would give it a go and see what happens. At the time you don't think about the 80,000 people in the grounds or anything. I was totally focussed on getting on the ball and trying to do something positive for the team.

"I didn't think about who I was going on against. It didn't matter. I just wanted to get on the pitch; get on the ball and do my best. The focus was on winning that first ball."

He remembered getting on a ball and driving it down the wing to Richie Hogan. He felt the



pass “was a bit off, but Richie produced a bit of magic, won it and put it over the bar.”

He said people see the likes of Richie Hogan doing something like that during a game, and it can look easy.

“There is nothing simple about senior inter-county hurling,” the former All-Ireland medal winner with St Kieran’s College (2018/19) assured. “It is such a high standard. You have to be on your game. One missed touch, for me as a back, could lead to a score at a crucial stage. You have to be on the ball. Thankfully that day Richie was.

“Richie was unbelievable. It was great to share a dressing-room with him. I actually sat beside him all the time in Nowlan Park for training and matches. He was a reassuring presence from the day I got into the Kilkenny dressing-room. He always looked after me.”

David Blanchfield is now where he wanted to be since he was a young lad; in the Kilkenny camp, battling for a jersey. He was never content with half measures. Life’s driving force was to learn the trade fully, and do every and any job properly.

He earned an Arts Degree from DCU, but a Masters in education is part of the future plan as he drives towards qualifying as a primary school teacher. That map of life was drawn long ago. As a young lad he always thought teaching was for him.

And so he attended GAA Cúl Camps when young, and later he coached at the Richie Hogan and Michael Rice Summer Camps to get experience of working with young people. The experiences confirmed his long held feelings.

When we spoke he was doing substitute work in his old alma mater of St Kieran’s College, and he was loving it.

David is already looking forward to getting back into training with Kilkenny in preparation for the 2024 season, and to climbing higher mountains with Bennettsbrige at club level.

“I hope to drive on next season with Kilkenny,” David said. “This game doesn’t come easy. It never came easy to me. You have to work at it. There is always work to be done. You can always improve yourself, in the gym, at the ball wall or whatever.”

On the home front, Bennettsbridge, he insisted, left the championship feeling they had more to give.

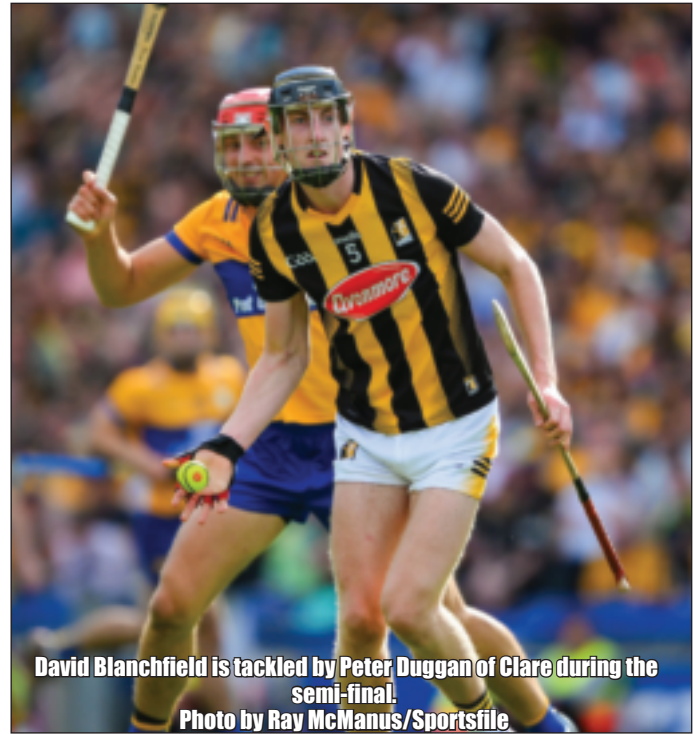
There was huge disappointment following the loss to eventual champions, O’Loughlin Gaels in the championship semi-finals. He thought they had chances to win, and they were “a bit unfortunate”.

“We hurled very well. We had a few goal chances and we needed one or two to go in, but luck was against us,” was his summary..

Manager Dan Shanahan, the former Waterford star and 2007 Hurler of the Year, had a good vibe in the club and a few young lads came through on the panel, which was a massive boost.

“We are already looking forward to next year,” David insisted. “Hopefully the young lads will kick on again. That might make the difference.

“It was a good year for Bennettsbridge in terms of progress. We were beaten in the last two quarter-finals so we wanted to go further this time. The hurt felt in the dressing-room after the O’Loughlin’s defeat was acute.



**David Blanchfield is tackled by Peter Duggan of Clare during the semi-final.
Photo by Ray McManus/Sportsfile**

“We were so close. Early on my brother Kevin went off injured. He plays a vital role in the team. If he hadn’t been injured and we had taken one or two of those goal chances, we might have got over the line.

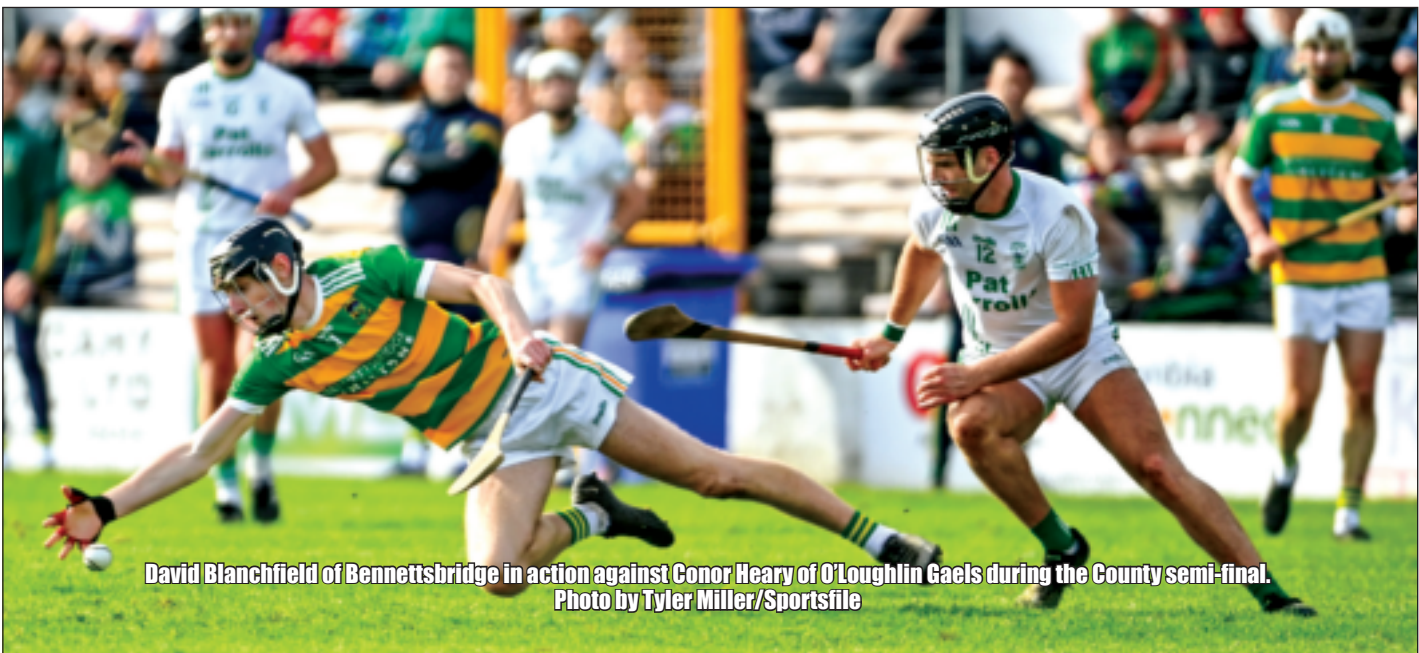
“To be fair, O’Loughlin’s hurled well on the day. The Kilkenny championship is tough, a roller-coaster ride. There are no easy options. Every game is a hard game. We have a very strong club championship here.”

Blanchfield knows all about how good deeds, winning efforts can inspire the next generation. The golden run of successive wins by Bennettsbridge in the Kilkenny, Leinster and All-Ireland junior and intermediate championships in 2014 and 2015 caught hold of his heart and never let go.

“If only I had been a few years older, I could have been part of that,” he smiled. “My two brothers (Kevin and Liam) were playing. That was wonderful for the club to have so much success in such a short period.

“We went from junior to senior in two years and won everything on the way. Those were great times. It would be nice if this generation could add a few more meaningful victories to the history of the club.”

If it does happen, expect one David Blanchfield to be in the vanguard!



**David Blanchfield of Bennettsbridge in action against Conor Heary of O’Loughlin Gaels during the County semi-final.
Photo by Tyler Miller/Sportsfile**

UNDER 19'S beat the weather!

U19 Report by John Power Junior PRO



Dicksboro - U19 Roinn A Champions 2023

Despite the poor Autumn weather and condensed season, the Junior Board completed the championship more or less on schedule, with just a few league finals still outstanding.

Revise.ie Under 19 Roinn A Hurling Championship Final 13/9/2023

Dicksboro 1-17 James Stephens 1-12 (at MW Hire, Dunmore).

Revise.ie Under 19 Roinn B Hurling Championship Final 21/10/2023

Young Irelands 2-14; St. Martins 1-10 (at Gowran).

Revise.ie Under 19 Roinn C Hurling Championship Final 13/9/2023

Glenmore 2-16 Gaignamanagh 1-16 (at Inistioge).

Revise.ie Under 19 Roinn D Hurling Championship Final 22/10/2023

Emeralds 3-14; Fenians 2-8 (at Ballyragget).

Revise.ie Under 19 Roinn A Hurling Final 13/9/2023

Dicksboro 1-17 James Stephens 1-12 (at MW Hire Dunmore).

More silverware was on the way to Palmerstown after Dicksboro overcame James Stephens to take the spoils in the under-19 Roinn A hurling championship final.

The victory is the 'Boro's third successive crown at this age grade. With the club also winning several minor and under-21 titles in that spell, they really do have a talented crop of youngsters at their disposal. The final was a repeat of last year's fixture and while the Village did start brightly, once Dicksboro got going there was no stopping them. The winners started the final without the injured Harry Shine and when Stephen Manogue and Jack Kelly knocked over early scores to give James Stephens a 0-2 to 0-1 lead, they looked like they were in for a stiff examination. Another Village score from Oisín Bateman kept the challengers in front, but Dicksboro's attack looked the more fluid and points from Cillian Hackett, Tom McPhillips and Sean Keenan came a little easier than for their opponents.

Helped by Billy Fitzpatrick's brilliance from placed balls, as well as a lovely point from play by county minor star Mikey Stynes, Dicksboro began to get on top with a flicked effort from Ed McDermott the only James Stephens response as the winners led 0-8 to 0-4 approaching half-time. Fellow free takers Manogue and Billy Fitzpatrick then added to their tallies before referee Gay Rafter called time on a half that was played in miserable conditions.

The tide looked to be turning at the start of the second period when Manogue, Jack Kelly and Sean Casey all found the range for the Village, but this seemed to be the wake-up call that Dicksboro



Young Irelands - U19 Roinn B Champions 2023



Glenmore - U19 Roinn C Championship and League Winners 2023



Emeralds - U19 Roinn D Champions 2023

required. Goal chances went amiss at both ends before the 'Boro scored 1-5 without reply between the 40th and 52nd minutes. Quick fire points from Tom McPhillips and second half substitute and noted handball star Anthony Clifford extended the lead to four points before Sean Keenan found the net for the game's opening goal

a couple of minutes later. Further points from Fitzpatrick, Mikey Stynes and Brian Moore soon followed as the 'Boro raced into a 10-point lead (1-15 to 0-8). To their credit James Stephens kept plugging away and after points from Stephen Manogue and Daniel Ring, they were then rewarded

with a penalty. Full-forward Ed McDermott stepped up to the mark, but he couldn't get the better of Tom O'Neill. The Village still had time to get their deserved goal when Noah Manogue volleyed home from a Stephen Manogue pass, but it didn't affect the outcome as Dicksboro celebrated a fully merited five-point victory.

Dicksboro; Tom O'Neill, Mick Carroll, Evan Murphy, Johnny Keane, Donncha Hennessy, Kevin Moore, James Brennan Smyth, Cillian Hackett (0-1), Tom McPhillips (0-2); Billy Fitzpatrick (0-9, 8f), Matthew Kelleher, Sean Keenan (1-1), Patrick Lacey, Mikey Stynes (0-2), Brian Moore (0-1). Subs: Anthony Clifford (0-1) for Lacey, (40).

James Stephens; Daniel Power Stephen Power Kellet, Noah Manogue (1-0), Sean Bergin, James Bergin, Sam McEvoy, Sean Deely, Oisín Bateman (0-1), Eoin Deely, Stephen Manogue (0-5, frees), Jack Kelly (0-2), Bill McDermott, Jacob Breslin, Ed McDermott (0-2), Sean Casey (0-1). Subs: Daniel Ring (0-1) for E Deely, (43).

Referee: Gay Rafter (Threecastles).

Revise.ie Under 19 Roinn B Hurling Championship Final 21/10/2023

Young Irelands 2-14; St. Martins 1-10 (at Gowran).

Young Irelands took their second Under 19 Roinn B championship with a home victory over St Martins. They had also won the same title in its inaugural year of 2018, when they beat Lisdowney. The game was switched from Nowlan Park to Gowran due to bad weather.

Young Irelands; Tim Brennan, Charlie Brennan, Bobbie Brennan, Charlie Fitzgerald, Jake Byrne, Patrick Langton, David Langton, Luke Phelan, Diarmuid Langton, Ben Phelan, Padraig Naddy, Jim Conlon, Vian Phelan, Killian Carey, Mikey Keating. Subs; Eoin O'Neill, Thomas Langton, Rory Farrell, Kieran Timmons, Shane Simpson, Sam Brennan, Richard Nolan, Eoghan Phelan, Luke O'Donnell, CJ Delaney, Daniel Manning. St Martins; Niall Shore, Ewan Buggy, Ciaran Nolan, Cormac Quirke, Colin Hayes, Cathal Keegan, Matthew Bolger, Aaron Farrell, Michael Keane, Ross Dowling (c), Jamie Morrissey, Conor Dooley, Sean Hunt, Jack Coogan, James O'Neill.

Subs; Luke Cahill, Adam Morrissey, Donal Kealy, Jack Dooley, Michael Ruane, Tadhg Power, Patrick Coughlan, Christopher Kealy, Thomas Shore, Tadhg Gill.

Referee; Paul Hunston.

Revise.ie Under 19 Roinn C Hurling Championship Final 13/9/2023

Glenmore 2-16, Graignamanagh 1-16 aet (at Inistioge)

The Under 19 C Hurling Championship Final produced a really hard-fought battle on a murky evening in Inistioge. In a very close encounter, it was Glenmore who eventually lifted the Roinn C U19 Championship. It was all square at the interval, 0-08 to 1-05.

The teams still couldn't be separated at full time as it finished 1-12 each.

Glenmore outscored the Graig boys 1-1 to 0-2 in the first extra-time period and finishing the stronger, tacked on a further 0-3 to 0-2 to clinch this championship.

The Glenmore side had to withstand sustained pressure towards the finish with an equalising goal eluding the Graig men.

Glenmore; Paul Brophy, Shane Duhig, Ciaran Vereker, Jack Dollard, Padraic Cody, Tomas Mullally (c), Darragh Vereker, Cathal Sheehan, James Reid, Patrick O'Connor, Colm Roche, Jason Cody, Oisín Mullally, David Walsh, James Connolly. Subs; Sean Atkins, Christopher Hennessy, Daniel Connolly, David Fitzgerald, Rohan Halligan, Robbie Doherty. Graignamanagh; Colm Bolger, Gavin Kielthy, Fintan Gahan, Ivan Bolger, Abhainn Flood, Martin Barton,



O'Loughlin Gaels - U19 Roinn A League Champions 2023



Fenians - U19 Roinn D League Champions 2023

Devon Kielthy, Ted Dunne (c), Nicky Ryan, Cian O'Shea, Colin Hamilton, Sean Hamilton, Stephen Kinsella, Conor Byrne, TJ Caulfield. Subs; Bill O'Shea, Conor Murphy, Zac Barron, Eoin O'Brien, Conor Houlihan, Jack Connolly, Keenan Gahan, Eddie Doyle, Stephen Cosgrave.

Referee; Eoin Hayes.

Gibbons, Cathal O'Dwyer, Nathan Barnaville, Simon Zhang.

Fenians; Billy Garrett, Niall Mackey, Jerry Henderson, Sam Murphy, Evan Ryan, Podge O'Grady (c), Rory Garrett, Darragh O'Grady, Paddy Cullen, Eoghan Sumner, Darragh McCormack, Regab Downey, Jack Walsh, Cathal Phelan, Tomas Sharkey. Subs; Craig Bowe, Donagh Maher, Cillian Purcell.

Referee; Kieran Canavan.

Revise.ie Under 19 Roinn D Hurling Championship Final 22/10/2023

Emeralds 3-14; Fenians 2-8 (at Ballyragget).

Emeralds followed up on under 19 Roinn D League victory over John Lockes last season with this Roinn D championship victory in 2023.

In the 2023 Final they started the game better versus Fenians and assisted by goals in the first and tenth minute built up an early 2-1 to 0-3 lead. Darragh McCormack pulled a goal back for Johnstown on the half hour giving a half time score of Emeralds 2-8, Fenians 1-7.

A third Emeralds goal eight minutes into the new half left them ten points clear, 3-11 to 1-7. The game was more or less decided at this stage, but to their credit Fenians kept battling and in the final minutes Regan Downey goalied from a free, but Emeralds emerged nine-point winners.

Emeralds; Brendan Cleere (c), Kacper Woloczko, Tom Cussen, Craig Barnaville, Oisín Quinlan, Kieran Cleere (vc), Michael Ahern, Killian Doyle, Oisín Deegan, Johnny Cleere, Callum Lawlor, Declan Ivers, Alex Burke, Rory Hyde, Sonny Tobin. Subs; Diarmuid Burke, Cormac Burke, Conor Kavanagh, Darragh Queally, Conor Holohan, Paddy Cussen, Cian Hickey, Conor

Three of the four Revise.ie Under 19 Hurling League Finals have now been completed, with congratulations to O'Loughlin Gaels, Glenmore, and Fenians on their League successes.

Revise.ie Under 19 Roinn A Hurling League Final (played on 5/11/2023 at Castlecomer) O'Loughlin Gaels 0-16; Erin's Own 0-13

Revise.ie Under 19 Roinn B Hurling League Final (To Be Arranged) Bennetsbridge v Young Irelands

Revise.ie Under 19 Roinn C Hurling League Final (played on 7/10/2023 at MW Hire, Dunmore) Glenmore 2-24 (30) Tullaroan 4-15 (27)

Revise.ie Under 19 Roinn D Hurling League Final (played on 4/11/2023 at Johnstown) Fenians 2-13 (19); St. Patrick's Ballyraggett 3-8 (17)

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Dicksboro - Roinn A



Young Irelands - Roinn B



Glenmore - Roinn C



Emeralds - Roinn D



O'Loughlin Gaels - Roinn A League



Fenians - Roinn D League

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12pm - 1.30pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1.30pm - 3.15pm	Maths Higher A (Algebra)	Biology	LC Maths Higher A (Algebra)	Geography
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Kevin Moore, Captain Dicksboro, receives Roinn A Trophy from Carl Lynch (Revise.ie)



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Village Are Back!

Minor Bord na nÓg Report by Pado O'Flynn

Photos: Willie Dempsey

Photos: Willie Dempsey



James Stephens - Roinn A Minor Championship Winners 2023

Minor A

The Kilkenny Vehicle Centre Minor A Hurling Championship had a peculiar look to it when all the teams went to post. On a given day all probably fancied defeating the other and along the way there were some surprising results – however at the end of it all there was a man from Larchfield hoisting the trophy.

Round 1 saw Erins Own and Thomastown play out a great tussle in Canon Kearns Park and the men from the North of the county came out on top 1-23 to 2-11. One would suspect both will have some mighty clashes in next years edition. Alex Begley was chief in trying to stop the Castlecomer men but alas they were overrun in the last few minutes. Clara and St Martins clashed in Coon. The difference between the sides was the goal getting ability of James O'Neill and 'Martins won out in the end. In the other two games a young Mooncoin and Piltown did not have enough to contend with the city sides of James Stephens and Dicksboro. A couple of good saves from Jake O'Doherty was noteworthy for the Mooncoin men.

Erins Own had too much for their near neighbours St. Patricks in the first quarter-final but it was a case of get out the popcorn for the other three ties. First up was the contest between Dicksboro and James Stephens. This game was of a very high standard where Minogue, McDermotts and Lahouff got the better of Stynes, Moore, Hennessy and co. by 3-20 to 1-15. Up in Muckalee a rip-roaring contest ensued where St Martins raced into a 5 point lead against O'Loughlin Gaels in the last quarter thanks to the fine hurling of Matthew Bolger, Michael Keane and the scoring of O'Neill but Maurice Nolan's charges pulled a rabbit from the hat when Conor Holohan bagged 2-1 from the bench. The young 15 year old's performance proved to be the difference.

Down south home advantage proved to be key for Dunnamaggin as the southern outfit nudged two ahead of Young Irelands by 4-16 to 3-17 where Kieran Timmons and Cian Phelan could not get the better of the men clad in green and yellow. James Stephens had too much class for O'Loughlin Gaels in the first semi-final whilst the winner of the second semi-final wasn't know



Dunnamaggin - Minor Roinn A Finalists 2023

until the dying moments of the game when Dunnamaggin got the better of Erins Own by 2-20 to 1-21. You would have to feel sorry for the Castlecomer men who probably had missed the better chances but Dunnamaggin shaded the play over the hour.

Minor A Final

James Stephens were the hottest of favourites heading into the Kilkenny Vehicle Centre sponsored A final in UPMC Nowlan Park and they fully justified that favouritism with a resounding twenty point victory over a hard-trying Dunnamaggin. It is 12 years since the Minor A trophy was last in Larchfield and no wonder the players and mentors were delighted at the conclusion of the game.

Goals were key in this tie and it was always likely that the physically stronger James Stephens lads would raise a few green flags during the 60 minutes. The sweet striking Tim Doherty pointed for Dunnamaggin after a minute of play, but for much of the opening half the play was towards his side's goal as James Stephens asserted control. A brace of goals in a four minute spell for the winners pushed the margin out to six points. The first of those goals came on 10 minutes from nippy corner forward Zach Scanlon who raced in on the end line to flash the sliotar to the net. That goal was to be Scanlon's last involvement in the game as he picked up an injury which saw him replaced by Conor McEvoy. Jacob Breslin bagged the second James Stephens goal four

minutes later when he was set up by full-forward Ed. McDermott. McDermott's younger brother Bill was outstanding at centre half forward and he landed a brace of points to increase the margin between the teams.

To Dunnamaggin's credit they kept battling and finished the first half very impressively landing four points without reply, all from play, through Scott McDonald, Sean Lawton, Tim Doherty and Ross O'Neill. Those scores brought the margin back to four points at half-time 2-6 to 0-8. The winners dominated the second half as Dunnamaggin struggled for possession and scores. Further goals for the city side through Sean Bergin on 43 minutes and another from Ruairi Harrison five minutes later had the contest well decided with ten minutes of normal time still left to play.

Tim Doherty pointed from a free for Dunnamaggin on 52 minutes, but it was only a matter of time before another goal would arrive such was the constant pressure from the winners. That fifth goal came six minutes from the end of normal time from Sean Bergin and by that stage the Dunnamaggin mentors had taken off a few players with the club involved in the U15A county final on the following weekend against Dicksboro.

The winners justified their favourites tag and they have an abundance of talented players in their ranks who will play a big part in the club's future. Noah Manogue excelled at full-back with Sean Deely equally prominent at centre back. The winners had a strong midfield pairing in Ed.



Glenmore - Winners of Minor Roinn B Championship 2023

Lauhoff and Diarmuid Behan, with Bill McDermott was outstanding in attack and he got plenty of assistance from his colleagues all of whom contributed handsomely to their total. Except for the closing quarter when the result was already decided, Dunnamaggin battled bravely. Pierce Costello at full-back had a great tussle with Ed McDermott and effected many fine clearances.

On a final note it was great to see a female appointed to referee a Minor A Final as Vivienne Holmes from Bennettsbridge took the honours.

James Stephens: Billy O'Sullivan, Connor Heffernan, Noah Manogue (0-2, frees), Dara Behan, James Bergin, Sean Deely, Tuan Hyland, Diarmuid Behan, Ed Lauhoff (0-1), Jacob Breslin (1-0), Bill McDermott (0-5), Ruairi Harrison (1-0), Zac Scanlon (1-0), Ed McDermott (0-2, 0-1 free), Sean Bergin (2-0).

Subs: Conor McEvoy (0-3), Daniel Ring (0-1), Larry Phelan, Allen Larkin and Matthew Kavanagh.

Dunnamaggin: Sean Rossiter, David Moore, Pierce Costello, Thomas Deegan, Ciaran Hickey, Eoin Shiel, Jamie Tallon, Conor Lawton, Sean Lawton (0-1), Tim Doherty (0-5, 0-3 frees), Ross O'Neill (0-1), Scott McDonald (0-2), Brian Hickey, Cathal Buckley, Noah Cahill.

Subs - Cathal Rossiter, John Hayes and Conor Aylward.

Referee: Vivienne Holmes (Bennettsbridge).

Minor B

The Minor B hurling championship is a minefield. Having landed the B title only a couple of years earlier many felt that Danesfort held the experience and the talent to land the spoils.

Stephen Kinsella inspired Graignamangh in their Round 1 win over John Lockes by 1-13 to 0-13 and he was ably assisted by Sean O'Grady and Cian O'Shea. Tehother first round games played out predictably. It was a case of the John Fitzpatrick show as Ballyhale Shamrocks got the best of last year's finalists Rower-Inistioge 2-18 to 1-13 with notable performances from Killian Ryan and Jake Mullen. Barrow Rangers, Emeralds and Danesfort also had victories.

In the quarter-finals there was a turn-up for the books when Glenmore won the all south



Danesfort - Minor Roinn B Finalists 2023

derby over Tullagher-Rosbercon where the performances of Jack Dollard and Jason Cody proved vital in an impressive 3-18 to 0-17 win. Two progressive clubs in the guise of Graignamangh and Barrow Rangers played out a belter with the former winning by 1-18 to 3-9. The other quarter-finals saw wins for Danesfort and Galmoy/Windgap.

The semi-finals proved to be tight affairs. Glenmore got the better of Graig who never really got going and the league finalists lost their way in the last quarter. The other semi-final saw an epic ensue. Fionn O'Mahony proved to be a star turn for the 'Fort in a 1-20 to 2-15 win over Galmoy/Windgap.

Minor B Final

Three first-half goals proved crucial as Glenmore defeated Danesfort in the Roinn B Minor Hurling Final at a wet and windy UPMC Nowlan Park.

Spectators had barely taken their seats by the time Glenmore got the first score of the game as full forward David Walsh smashed the ball past Patrick Sinnott in the Danesfort goal. Initially the response from 'Fort was an enterprising one with a pair of frees from Samuel Hayes coming either side of a Fionn Mahony effort that could have just as easily ended up in the net. Unfortunately for Danesfort though, their opponents were very much in goalscoring type mood, and the second Glenmore effort came in fortunate circumstances when a long range shot from Oisín Mullally was caught behind the line by the Danesfort goalkeeper.

Again the defeated side responded admirably with points from Hayes and Darragh Coverdale but a third sucker blow soon arrived in the 12th minute when Jason Cody scored a fine individual goal when breaking past a couple of defenders. Danesfort remained competitive with Aidan Cowley getting their goal and they did get the gap back to three between the sides at the break (3-3 to 1-6).

Danesfort really made a game of it in the second period with both Aidan Cowley and Fionn Mahony having goal-bound attempts excellently repelled by Paul Brophy in the Glenmore goal. Points from Mahony, Coverdale and Bill Clune did get Danesfort within touching distance but Glenmore were fully in command in the final few minutes as they got six of the last seven points of the game as top scorer Jason Cody, Fionn Murphy and Rowan Halligan all put the seal on a deserved victory for the Glenmore men on a scoreline of 3-11 to 1-10.

The win was Glenmore's second piece of silverware for the day after their Under 13 team claimed the C Championship title against Dunnamaggin.

Danesfort: Samuel Hayes (0-5, 0-5 frees), Aidan Cowley (1-0), Darragh Coverdale, Fionn Mahony (0-2 each), Bill Clune (0-1)

Glenmore: Paul Brophy; Sean Atkins, Shane Duhig, Daniel Connolly, Christopher Hennessy, Daragh Vereker, Luke Vereker, Jack Dollard, James Reid (1f, 1'65), Rory Atkins, Jason Cody (1-6, 0-4f), Oisín Mullally (1-0), Fionn Murphy (0-2), David Walsh (1-0),



Tullaroan - Winners of Minor Roinn C Championship 2022

Rowan Halligan (0-1).

Sub: Conor Walsh for R. Atkins, 52 mins.

Danesfort: Patrick Sinnott, Philip O'Mahony, Calum Murphy, Ronan O'Mahony, Louis Lawlor, Mark Reddy, Daniel Smith, Darragh Coverdale (0-2), Patrick Kelly, Timmy Corr, Samuel Hayes (0-5f), Charlie Sheehan, Aiden Cowley (1-0), Bill Clune (0-1), Fionn Mahony (0-2).

Minor C

St. Lachtains were hot favourites to win the Kilkenny Vehicle Centre C Championship. They had cruised to the league title win earlier in the season and with many of their players had gained valuable final experience in last years in U-15 Roinn C defeat to Emeralds.

Round 1 saw an epic break out in Pairc Sheamuis Stiophan where Conahy Shamrocks got the better of the home side 2-14 to 1-15. There were also wins for St. Lachtain's, Tullaroan, Dickboro B and Blacks & Whites.

The quarter finals saw some more even games with Blacks & Whites needing all their time to overturn St Martins 1-13 to 2-8 and St Lachtain's eventually got over Dicksboro 1-19 to 1-9. Unfortunately the semi finals were all one way traffic with Tullaroan and St Lachtain's gaining easy victories over Conahy & Blacks & Whites respectively.

St Lachtains 1-19, Tullaroan 4-14

In early October in perfect hurling conditions in MW Hire Dunmore, St. Lachtains and Tullaroan played out a very entertaining game in the Minor C County final. St. Lachtain's started well scoring some good points from play and frees led by 4 points. Tullaroan kept in touch and both sides traded scores as the half progressed and the game was level at 9 points all heading towards the break. Then Tullaroan got a good goal just before the first half concluded to leave them 3 points ahead at the break, Tullaroan 1-9, St. Lachtain's 0-9.

After the restart Tullaroan scored the first point and Lachtains replied with two of their own before Tullaroan raised another green flag to leave 5 between the sides. St. Lachtain's fought hard to get back in the game scoring some good points but Tullaroan struck again with another goal. Lachtain's got a goal of their own and continued to press and eventually reduced the deficit to two points. Going in to the closing stages Tullaroan



Emeralds - Minor Roinn B League Champions 2023



St Lachtain's - Minor Roinn C League Champions 2023



John Lockes Winners of Minor B Shield 2023

got a fourth goal to get some distance between the sides. Freshford pressed hard to close the gap but Tullaroan closed out the game winning by 4 points leaving the final score 4-14 to 1-19.

Tullaroan: Tommy Holmes, Michael O' Mahony, Richard Delaney, Rory Buckley, Johnny Leahy, Bill Coogan (jc), Daire Hogan, Cathal Russell (1-5), Charlie Bibby, Ruari O'Shea, Ciallin Brennan (1-5), Ben Leahy, Ethan Russell, Dylan Breen (0-4), Cillian Murphy.

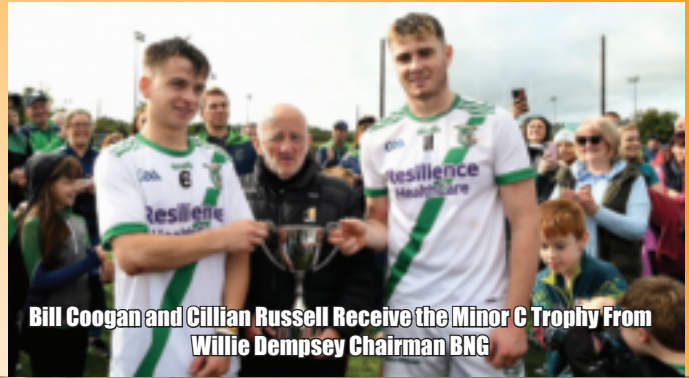
Subs: Eamon Delaney, Ryan Maher (1-0), Cian Maher (1-0), Ciabhan Maher.

St. Lachtain's: Michael Murphy, Jack Dalton, Eoin Dalton, Jamie Denieffe, Tadhg Bolger, Luke Phelan, Liam Kenny-Landers, Conor Dalton(C) (0-2), Marty Campion (0-1), Mikey Tiernan (0-1), Cian Donnelly (1-2), Bobby Darcy (0-2), Charlie Kavanagh, Sean Counihan (1-0), Colin McGree (0-1).

Subs: Jamie Walsh, Trystian Keane for Charlie Kavanagh, Conor Dowling for Tadhg Bolger, David Ryan, Cian O'Connor, James Flynn, Tristan O'Kane, Patrick Brennan, Sam Looby.



Daragh Vereker And Shane Duhig Receives the Minor Roinn B Trophy from Willie Dempsey Chairman BNG with Cathal O'Neill Kilkenny Vehicle Centre Sponsor.



Bill Coogan and Cillian Russell Receive the Minor C Trophy From Willie Dempsey Chairman BNG



MINOR A & B ACTION



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DICKSBORO win a tight fight

U15 Report by Eddie Doyle PRO

Photos: Willie Dempsey



Dicksboro - U15 Roinn A Champions 2022



Tullagher Rosbercon - U15 Roinn B Champions Winners 2022. Captains Sean Hanrahan and Ciaran Cummins

ROINN A

The Duggan Steel Roinn A Championship saw fifteen teams go to post, yes fifteen. The new grading saw many tight games. Round 1 saw 7 first round games. Recent U-13 Roinn B Champions St Patricks had a fine win over Carrickshock whilst late goals saw Dunnamaggin get the better of Clara. In John Locke Park Mooncoin had too much class for the homes side whilst Dicksboro got the better of O'Loughlin Gaels in the All city derby. Erins Own defeated Danesfort whilst James Stephens finished strongly against Young Irelands to defeat the Gowran men.

They followed this up with a strong win over a game St Martins side, whilst Dunnamaggin turned on the style against Piltown in the last four clash. There was again a strong showing from Mooncoin in their win over St Patricks whilst a game of truly epic proportions saw Dicksboro eventually defeat Erins Own. The Palmerstown outfit had an equally tough game against Mooncoin in the semi final before coming out on top where they were joined in the final by James Stephens.

U-15 Roinn A Final
Dicksboro 1:12 V 0:10 James Stephens

Dicksboro opened the scoring with a well taken free from Patrick Lacey but Larry Phelan quickly levelled as he got on the end of a long range free from James Bergin to make it a point each after only a couple of mins. Again it was Patrick lacey who put the Champions in front when he pointed from a slight angle on the 21 from a free after James Stephens man James Kelly was adjudged to have fouled Boro full forward Anthony Clifford. It was Conor McEvoy who levelled this time for James Stephens from a free. James Bergin had

started very well at centreback for James Stephens and was in dominating form. His early form was spoiling attack after attack for Dicksboro. Although James Stephens had the majority of the ball early on they never made use of the extra possession and it was in fact Dicksboro who were a little more economical with fewer chances and when Thomas Treacy goaled in typical corner forward style to make the score 1:02 v 0:02, in favour of the winners , James Stephens must have been wondering how they were behind in this game. After the goal it was again James Stephens who had the majority of the ball, Conor McEvoy pointing a free he had won himself was a good response for James Stephens, McEvoy and Ben Henderson were having a right battle in the early stages. The big goal chance that James Stephens needed and probably deserved fell to Zac Scanlon but he met his match when Ciaran Power pulled off a cracking save to keep the Boro boys in the game. For all the ball James Stephens had they just couldn't get the scoreboard moving and their only other scores in the first half came from two McEvoy frees and a Bill McDermott point which was the result of a quickly taken free. On the other hand Patrick Lacey, now moved from centre forward to wing forward, got a point from play as too did Anthony Clifford. Dicksboro got the last score of the half when corner forward Eoin Moore was fouled and Patrick Lacey put the resulting free over to leave the half time score 1:05 v 0:06. The Early goal in the opening half kept Dicksboro in the game until they got going. James Stephens with the majority of the ball failing to put it on the scoreboard.

The second half started brightly with a Zac Scanlon point straight from the throw in for James Stephens but Patrick Lacey answered in style, Lacey playing well and a lot more involved since he moved to wing forward for Dicksboro. Both teams had a

number of chances of scores from play and frees but the radar seemed to be off in what was now a blistering final with not an inch given anywhere on the field. After some more great work from Zac Scanlon he is awarded another free and this time Conor McEvoy points to put the minimum between the teams. Dicksboro respond well and a point scored by Patrick Lacey could so well have been a goal when his shot blazed just over the crossbar and then he followed this up with another pointed free to make the goal in the first half the difference between the teams. Darragh Power at full forward for James Stephens then scores a point where he showed great strength to hold off opponent Luke Kerwick while striking the ball. James Stephens still throwing everthing at the Dicksboro fullback line get another goal chance when Zac Scanlon finds Bill McDermott and his shot is again saved by Ciaran Power in the Boro goal and the scramble afterwards results in a free out. Dicksboro fullback line under great pressure now but coping ok. Again James Stephens point from a free, this time the Dicksboro back overcarring but mainly due to the pressure he was under from the Village attack. From here on in it was all Dicksboro and scoring 4 unanswered they pulled away in style. Anthony Clifford, Patrick Lacey, Luke Browne and Eoin Moore all on the scoresheet at the end in what was a very good hard fought final where the goal in the first half kept a slow starting Dicksboro in the game.

ROINN B

The underage set up of the year – Thomastown completed the U-15 & Minor double, a feat last achieved by St Martins in 2000. It takes some effort to achieve this and the men from town will be delighted to be rightfully restored to Roinn A, however this underage championship took many

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Bennettsbridge - U15 Roinn C Champions 2023 Captain Scott Hennessy

twists and turns.

There was great first round wins for emerging town teams Graignamanagh, Barrow Rangers whilst Thomastown and Glenmore joined them in the hat after respective first round wins. Tullogher Rosbercon & Graig had a humdinger of a quarter final before the men in Black & Amber won. Lisdowney put it up to Glenmore who eventually won whilst Graigue Ballycallan and Thomastown completed the last four.

The last four saw Thomastown eke out a one point win over Tullogher 2-9 to 2-8 whilst Graigue Ballycallan had 2-13 to 1-13 win over Glenmore to set up the final all the neutrals wanted to see.

Thomastown 6:12 v 3:10 Graigue Ballycallan

In a replay of the League Final where we were entertained from start to finish this was no different.

The start was blistering with scores a plenty but the big difference was that after 15 mins Thomastown had 2 goals to go with their 3 points but Graigue Ballycallan did not register a goal to add to their opening 3 points, Cillian McElwee and Oisín Farrell on target for the Thomastown goals. Frank McCluskey added a point from a free for GBC but again Thomastown added another goal from Cillian McElwee in a dream start for them and this was quickly followed by a point from Ben Nevin when he received a smartly taken free by Ciarán Coone. GBC did get the bit of luck needed when Eoghan Cahill finished to the back of the net when Tony Butlers shot came back off the crossbar. Roman Connolly then added a point for Thomastown just before GBC had another goal chance but this time the radar was off and the chance went wide from 10 yards and what did Thomastown go and do at the other end only find the net again, this time from captain Conor Barcoe after a great run from 40 yards out. GBC got the last score off the half with a free from Cormac Neary to bring the score to 1:05 v 4:05. The scoreline alone tells the story at the break, Thomastown in devastating form in front of goal.

Graigie Ballycallan started the second half very well with two early points from Cormac Neary and Ben McEvoy and a couple of half time positional changes were working quickly but a lapse in concentration from the GBC defence left Conor Barcoe alone 20 yards from goal and when he received the ball there was no doubt but it was a goal and the great early work from GBC was undone. Ciarán Coone and Cormac Neary traded pointed frees and you felt GBC needed a goal now to make a real fight of the game but from a 65' Ciarán McElwee got his hurl to the ball on the edge of the square and with an outrageous flick he put the ball in the back of the GBC goal again for Thomastown. Cormac Neary again on the



Dunnamagin- U15 Roinn A Finalists 2023



Barrow Rangers -U15 Roinn C Finalists 2023

attack points for GBC and Cian Doherty replies for Thomastown. This game now way closer than the score suggests and Graigue Ballycallan having a right good go at Thomastown who are defending well under pressure. Roman Connolly makes a great run for Thomastown right through the GBC defence and taps the ball over the bar for a classy point and again GBC respond with a point from a 65 after they threaten the Thomastown yet again. Then the hard work pays off again for GBC when this time the attack on the Thomastown goal yields a 21 yard free, up steps Cormac Neary and he blasts the ball to the back of the net to bring it to a 5 point game and maybe just maybe there is light at the end of the tunnel. Once more Graigue Ballycallan are on the attack and get another free, this time Eoghan Cahill gets the quick ball and heads for goal only to meet star defender Ciarán Coone who blocks the attempt at goal and the ball is cleared a short distance to safety.

Thomastown now under big pressure get a break as they are awarded a free out and from their own 65' and up steps Ciarán Coone to put it over the bar from the huge distance to the loud cheers of the Thomastown crowd. From the puckout Thomastown are on the attack again and a clever ball in finds Oisín Farrell in the corner who put it over the bar to add to his impressive tally for the day. GBC, now intent on goals, have two more goal chances saved and time is running out on them. Thomastown add two more points to their tally, Cillian McElwee and Cian Doherty before Graigue Ballycallan have another goal chance saved and John Walsh says time is up.

In what was a fantastic game, Thomastown's ability to get goals at the right time proved the big difference. Graigue Ballycallan added greatly to this contest and should take great pride in the display they gave.

ROINN C

The big shark in this competition from the start was the hugely improving Emeralds outfit who had a round 1 win over Fenians and similarly for Kilmacow & Bennetsbridge. The quarter finals saw Mullinavat & Blacks & Whites play out a humdinger of an affair with the Vat men on top. There was also wins for Emeralds, Conahy Shamrocks and Dicksboro B. In the semi finals late goals saw Conahy get the better of their southern opponents Mullinavat whilst Emeralds had too much class for a depleted Dicksboro B.

Conahy Shamrocks 2:06 v 2:16 Emeralds
 A very strong Emeralds side putting up a big score to win this U15 County Final. When Daniel Mooney scored the second goal for Conahy to make it 0:06 v 2:02 Conahy must have been delighted with the start they got against the wind in MW Hire Dunmore, John Kennedy was giving an awesome display at centre back for them and all the ducks were in a row. Emeralds on the other hand were tipping over the points and going about their business quietly but very efficiently with Callum Lawlor the main source for scores. Half time had arrived and the score was 0:09 v 2:02 with John Kennedy giving the display of the first half and keeping Conahy in the game. Conahy started the second half very well and an early goal chance was scuppered when Jack Rhatigan saw his chance saved by Richard Costello in the Emeralds goal. Emeralds again pointed just before a big moment in the game when corner forward Cian Hickey found the net for the champions to make it 1:10 v 2:02 in favour of the Emeralds. Conahy now needed a response but unluckily for them it didn't come and the Champions went on to get 3 more unanswered points and a lucky goal from Dylan Ivors to make a comeback look very unlikely, 2 Callum Lawlor frees and a point from Captain Oisin Quinlan. Great credit to Conahy Shamrocks who continued to battle hard for the remainder of the game and they added some great scores, 2 pointed frees from Jack Rhatigan, one from Daniel Mooney and a very stylish point from sub Rory Sheerman when he pointed over his shoulder from 30 yards out. But the day belonged to Emeralds and further points from centre forward Callum Lawlor, Darragh Hickey and Dylan Ivors saw them run out deserving winners in fantastic style.



James Stephens - U15 Roinn A Shield Winners 2023 Captain Andrew Brennan



Blacks & Whites - U15 Roinn C Shield Winners 2023 Captain Jack Doyle



Blacks & Whites - U15 Roinn C Shield Winners 2023 Captain Jack Doyle



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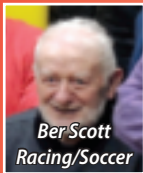
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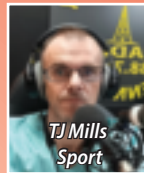
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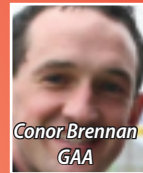
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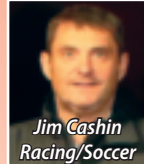
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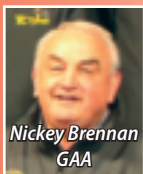
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Lockes hit the top!

U13 Report by Bord na nóg PRO Eddie Doyle

Photos Willie Dempsey



John Lockes- Roinn A U13 Championship Winners 2023

Roinn A

This years' Roinn A U13 Championship got underway on the first weekend in September as James Stephens, St Martins, Dicksboro, Graigue Ballycallan & Mooncoin all having home advantage with St Martins the only team to make good of the home turf. John Lockes starting their campaign with a 2:13 v 0:11 win over Dicksboro while fellow finalists Danesfort started off with a win against Moocoin. On to the quarter finals the following weekend with some mouth watering games in prospect. Current League Champions O' Loughlin Gaels had a three point win playing at home to Young Irelands, John Lockes had a home win against the Red & Green of St Martins, Piltown registered a four point win in The Rower playing the natives whilst Danesfort scored goals in a 7 point win over Shamrocks Ballyhale. Our semi final pairings saw Danesfort take on O' Loughlin Gaels and Piltown take on John Lockes, unfortunately for Piltown they came up against a very inform John Lockes but huge credit must go to this Piltown team for staying the course for 60 mins. The other semi final proved to be a closer encounter with Danesfort coming out on top on a scoreline of 1:17 v 1:13, a big win for Danesfort and great preparation going into a Final having beaten the League Champions on the way.

In the final Danesfort got off to a flyer going 2 points up but John Lockes to their credit did not panic pulling the two points back and in fact going one up with a cracking score from Liam Corcoran to make it 0:03 v 0:02 after 12 mins. The Callan side then added two more points, one from Sean Corcoran who pointed after a run up the field from centreback and his brother Liam pointing again, this time from a placed ball. John Lockes were now three points up in what was an excellent encounter, both side as you'd expect giving nothing away easily. Danesfort needed to respond now and did so with two points of their own, first up was a free from the hard working James Tierney and then a point from play by talisman Matty Corr. Back now to a one point game just before the halftime whistle but just seconds before the break Liam Corcoran was fouled on route to goal and pointed the resulting free himself.

Half-time score Danesfort 0:04 v 0:06 John Lockes

Danesfort start the second half as excellent as they had the first with three unanswered points, two from Matty Corr and a free from James Tierney to go one up. Up next was the first big moment of the second half as Steve Hoyne pulled off a cracker of a save from Liam Corcoran, John Lockes fought hard for the clearance and the pressure they put on the Danesfort defence yielded them another free which sharp shooter Corcoran made no mistake with to bring us level for yet another time. John Lockes now hit a purple patch and put the Danesfort back under some serious pressure, Aaron Murphy was getting more time on the ball and he was starting to create some space with his direct running, one such run finished with the next score of the game as he found Michael Jackman with a pass and Michael did the rest to put his side one up again. As the hits were going in and the pressure was on every strike of the ball there was a few wides starting to come from both sides, this was as much down to the excellent defending by both sets of backs as anything else. The Callan side would add two more points,



Bennettsbridge - Roinn B U13 Championship Winners 2023



Glenmore - Roinn C U13 Championship Winners 2023



Fraigue Ballycallan - Under 13 Roinn A Shield Winners 2023

both frees from Liam Corcoran to go three up with the finish line maybe just maybe in x. James Tierney did add one more point for the runners' up to bring their tally to 0:08 but the John Lockes boys stepped up another gear with Killian Croke tipping the scales a little more with a point before Liam Corcoran added what was maybe the point of the game to make it 0:12 v 0:08. We had time for one more score and it came the way of the Champions, a long range free from Sean Corcoran was grabbed in the air by Jack Dermody and he buried the ball to the back of the net to see off any chance of a Danesfort comeback.

John Lockes: Jake Greene, Danny Power, Paraic Tobin, Eoghan McCorry, Jack Sanderson, Sean Corcoran, Cathal Power, Hamish Carey, Sean Henriques, Jack Dermody, Aaron Murphy, Killian Croke, Michael Jackman, Liam Corcoran, Conor O'Leary, Evan Dreeling, Conor Morrissey, James Ahern, Rory O'Donovan, Cillian Coffey, Michael Fitzpatrick, Martin Fitzpatrick, Adam Sheridan, Ethan Purtill, Dan O'Neill, Sean O'Halloran, Conor Lawlor, Billy Dawson, Charley Aylward, Aidan Carey, Ryan Kennedy, Michael Kelly, Harry Kelly, Nathon Barron, Jamie Kennedy, Elliott Killian, Tadhg Delaney, Ryan Corrigan.

Danesfort: Steve Hoyne, Conor Roche, Eoin Phillpot, Tadhg Leahy, Oisín Maher, Thomas O'Donnell, Alan Ireland Sinnott, James Tierney, Fionn Doyle, Mikey Sheridan, Mattie Corr, Henry Sinnott, Cormac Phelan, Daniel Maher, Darragh McCormack, Michael Kennedy, Ben Leeson, Evan Kwong, Cormac O' Caisaide, Padraic Dolan, James Travers, Michael Hogan, Caelan Morrissey, Dan O'Keefe, Max Kealy, Harry Dillion, Liam Moore, Fionn Barry, John Bradley

Roinn B

The open fixture in the U13 Roinn B Championship saw Clara play host to Erins Own in the only fixture of the preliminary round with Clara progressing to the first round and Erins Own now going to the Shield competition. We had eight fixtures in the first round with all winners progressing to the next stage of the competition and the eight runners up joining Erins Own in the Shield competition. On now to the quarter finals where Galmoy/Windgap beat Tullaroan 2:05 v 1:02, Clara lost out to Bennettsbridge on a scoreline of 5:06 v 4:12, Carrickshockwon against near neighbours Mullinavat 4:14 v 0:06 and St Lachtains put up a big score in Urlingford beating the local's 5:17 v 4:03. Semi Final stage now and up first on October 4th in MW Hire Dunmore. St Lachtains played Bennettsbridge with the South Kilkenny side overcoming their Northern counterparts by 3 points. Two days later Galmoy/Windgap and Carrickshock played out another entertaining game with Carrickshock winning with a score of 5:07 v 3:08.

So 41 days after the preliminary round opened proceedings we were now at County Final stage with Bennettsbridge taking on Carrickshock. MW Hire Dunmore was awash with Yellow & Green as both Clubs arrived. With plenty of quality on display all around the field for 60 plus mins Bennettsbridge finally came out on top and won 1:08 v 1:05 on a day where they probably took more of their chances than their rivals did.

Bennettsbridge: Olly Kelly Doyle, Dara O'Sullivan, Darragh Ryan, Ruairi McNally, Jack Minogue, Ben Fitzgerald, Evan O'Dwyer, Robert Cullen, Mitchell Heuston, Reuben Morrissey, Robert Selmon, Elliot Morrissey, Michael Ryan, Ned Forristal, Cathal Dooley, Edward Morrissey, Fionn Hennessey, Aidan O'Sullivan, Hugh Leacy, Cian Mulcahy, Zach Hennessey, Dara O'Farrell, Sean Btrne, Glen Ryan, Danny Martin, Sean Brophy, James Roha, Conor O'Malley

Carrickshock: Tom Hoyne, Eanna Dunphy, Danny Somers, Danny Kavanagh, Barry O'Connell, Aidan Farrell, Johnny Dalton, Donie Cahill, Tom Duggan, Harry O'Brien, David Blanchfield, Liam Crowley, Rory Parley, Michael Beagan, Adam Power, Mike Fennelly, Rhys Power, Dylan Askins, Paudi Beagan, Ben O'Brien, James Aylward, Ben Hillman

Roinn C

Round 1 saw a big win for Clonee over Lisdowney, whilst Blacks & The Duggan Steel U13 Roinn C competition opened with three quarter finals. Big wins for Dunnamaggin and Tullogher Rosbercon playing two very young teams in Conahy Shamrocks and Clonee respectively while Slieverue had nine points to spare at home to



Clonee - Under 13 Roinn C Shield Winners 2023



Danesfort - Roinn B U13 13-a-side Champions 2023



Kilmacow - U13 C League Champions 2023



O'Loughlin Gaels - U13 A League Champions 2023



O'Loughlin Gaels - U13 A Football League & Championship Winners 2023

Blacks & Whites. Dunnamaggin marched on to play Slieverue in semi final and winning by 5 points in a brilliant game of hurling that could have gone either way, Dunnamaggin 1:10 v 1:05 Slieverue. In the other semi final goals played a massive part as Glenmore overcame Tullogher Rosbercon 3:11 v 0:11.

The weather didn't play its part as Eoin Hayes through the ball in for the county final, Dunnamaggin v Glenmore in MW Hire Dunmore but it has to be said both sets of players gave it their all on a day that didn't make hurling easy. James Vereker hit first for the Champions when he pointed from a placed ball and he doubled his tally mins later with an excellent point from play. Dunnamaggin and Glenmore were battling hard all over the field for every ball, every bit of space, every one to one battle throwing up a brilliant contest. Dunnamaggin's hard work did eventually yield them a score when Dan Doherty pointed to bring it back to a one point game. Glenmore responded as required and got three more points just before half time to lead 0:05 v 0:01 at the break. Their third point again coming from James Vereker but this could have been more as a goal might have resulted. Vereker added the fourth from another free just before Senan Freyne got a massive point from play.

Glenmore started the second half in blistering fashion as James Vereker made one of his now typical runs and his shot on goal brought out the best in the Dunnamaggin goalie, Cathal Lawton. Vereker was busy again mins later when he got on the ball after some brilliant teamwork and he pointed to put further distance between the teams. Dunnamaggin to their credit continued to bring the fight to Glenmore and put immense pressure on the Glenmore backs, this pressure resulted in two pointed 21 yard frees from Robbie Lodge who travelled from centreback to hit both, back to a three point game now and we were in for an exciting finish. The next score was going to be massive, it would definitely have a big say in where the trophy was going and who steps up only James Vereker again with another team score as he pointed the free that his colleagues worked so hard for with only seconds left on the clock. The final whistle was blown and Glenmore were Champions in what was a hard fought game where scores were hard come by but hard work and skill were evident on both sides. Final score Glenmore 0:07 v 0:03 Dunnamaggin

Dunnamaggin: Cathal Lawton, Danny Connolly, Sean Delahunty, Conor Lynch, Conor Fitzpatrick, Robbie Lodge, Brandon Carroll, Finn Griffin, Tommy Holden, Robbie Lyons, Dan Doherty, Sean McLoughlin, Joshua Carroll, Wiktor Syladatk, Noah Kowalik, John Holden, David Fallon, Dan Moloney, William Holden, Tomas Hickey, Ben Delahunty, Conor Byrne, Aidan Aylward, Eddie Butler, Alex Murphy, Fionn Hennessy



Danesfort Under13 Roinn B Football League Winners 2023



Galmoy/Windgap Under 13 Roinn B League Winners 2023

Glenmore: Michael O Connell, Adam Talbot, Joey Kirby, Sean Kelleher, Kevin Cody, Senan Freyne, Callum Walsh, Sam McDonald, Sean Croke, Tadhg Freyne, James

Vereker, JJ Kehoe, Noah Kirby, Christopher Bown, Kieran Boyle, Richard Claridge, Jack Coleman, Conor McNamara, Jack Harney, Richie Mullally, Alex Phelan, David Grant, Harry Grant

Captains & their cups with Willie Dempsey, Chairman Bord na nÓg



John Lockes Roinn A (James Butler, Duggan Steel)



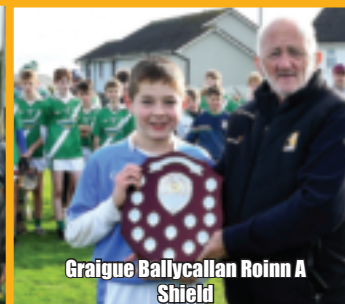
Bennettsbridge Roinn B (James Butler, Duggan Steel)



Danesfort 13-a - Side



Glenmore Roinn C



Graigie Ballycallan Roinn A Shield



O'Loughlin Gaels Roinn A League



Cloneen Roinn C Shield



O'Loughlin Gaels Roinn A Football League & Championship



Tullagher Rosbercon Roinn C League



Danesfort Roinn B Football League



Galmoy/Windgap Roinn B League



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Dicksborom - Leinster Senior Camogie Champions - Dicksboro 0-12, St Vincents (Dublin) 1-7 (Captain Jenny Clifford inset)



Windgap - County Senior Camogie Finalists 2023

CHRISTY WALSH

KILKENNY'S OWN KERRYMAN

By John Knox

There is no way it could be categorised as anything like a Godfather-like offer, that something you just couldn't refuse. Kilkenny got their man anyway and they ended up striking gold. The 'big offer' came about almost by accident. Thomastown's former Leinster Hurling Officer, Brendan O'Sullivan and Christy Walsh, who was interested in team management, were talking casually one day. The latter had left his playing days behind and he made known his intentions of pursuing an interest in management at inter-county level, possibly with one of the so-called weaker hurling counties. Mr O'Sullivan knew the Kilkenny footballers were looking for a manager, and suggested maybe, just maybe.... The seeds were sown.

There was one drawback, difficulty, call it what you will. There was no team at that time. There wasn't a panel either. There were no selectors. The competition? At that moment it was a blossoming idea by former GAA President Liam O'Neill to get Kilkenny back involved in inter-county football after they had long since left an ever punishing National Football League behind them.

The President saw that involvement through the British junior football championship*.

What the heck, Mr Walsh decided to take a punt anyway. Former County Board chairman, Ned Quinn, wrapped up the deal.

And so the unlikely story began. Kilkenny are now richer to the tune of three British junior football championship titles, plus an All-Ireland junior football championship crown, the latter won in Croke Park of all places.

"It's nice isn't it," Christy smiled politely, an exclamation shaped almost as a question.

But why, one wondered? Why take on a job that offered no real prospects?

"Because I was asked," was his simple, no frills reply.

Christy led the march on Britain with a committed group of Kilkenny football men, including Peter Dukelow, Pat O'Hanlon, Eugene Dunphy, Malachy Hogan and John O'Dowd, along with former Football Board officials Tom 'Cloney' Brennan, Pat Mulrooney and Tom O'Reilly.

Mr Walsh, a native of North Kerry, is a devoted hurling and football man. Starting from his home parish teams of Kilmoyley (hurling) and Ardfer (football) he has travelled a long and winding road that has seen him don the famous green and gold jersey, plus club colours in his native place, Kilkenny, America and beyond.

His CV as a manager is impressive. It includes guiding the Bennettsbridge hurling team (in two different championships) and the Kilkenny inter-county football team to All-Ireland glory in Croke Park, no less.

For Christy Walsh, winning All-Ireland 'B' hurling honours was the highlight of nearly a decade of dedicated service with Kerry. When he hung up his hurley, his luck was to have the Midas touch in management.

Having moved to live in Bennettsbridge, the Kilkenny hotbed of hurling, it was inevitable he would team up with the local GAA club.

For two years he played with the 'Bridge. Later he managed the club and enjoyed his best days in management - blasting unbeaten through the Kilkenny junior (2014) and intermediate (2015) leagues and championships on the way to Leinster and All-Ireland glory in the club championships in successive years.

When he took over at the helm, the 'Bridge, a powerhouse in the local game with 12 senior championship titles to their name, had fallen on hard times. They were a junior club. They had just lost the county final of 2012 against Thomastown (3-13 to 0-10).

On Walsh's watch they lost the next final too, this time against Lisdowney (2-16 to 1-18). The boss held his nerve. He knew the club was in transition, and an exciting young crop from the minor 'A' championship winning squad of 2011 was on the way.

He envisioned a future shaped largely around young bloods and under-age winners like Jason Cleere, Robert Lennon, Kevin and Liam Blanchfield, Sean Morrissey and others.

"We had nearly half a team from the minor winning championship of a few years earlier," Christy recalled when referring to the successful 2014 Kilkenny junior winning side. "They all came through together.

During the next 24 months or so we were hurling nearly all the time as we enjoyed success in the Leinster and All-Ireland club championships. They were great times; the best."

One recalled with amusement Walsh driving the ball over the bar in Croke Park during the presentation ceremony after the intermediate All-Ireland success.

"It's just something that came over me. I just did it," he said in explanation as a smile swept across his face. "I wasn't being rude, I just wasn't interested in the speeches."

Bennettsbridge had struggled beforehand, the weight of past achievements not easily carried. One night before the club played in Croke Park they brought a glittering array of former 'Bridge county stars like Johnny McGovern, Noel Skehan, Jim Treacy, Seamus Cleere, Paddy Moran, Pat Lawlor, John Kinsella, Liam Simpson, James McGarry and others to join the new generation of high fliers in a simple get together in the village.

"In that room you could feel the history. Bennettsbridge is a club with such a tradition and array of stars," Christy insisted. "We wanted all those people to feel part of the whole thing. I suppose you could say it was all about where we were going, and where we were coming from.

"To see all those great men together gave a glimpse into the huge history of hurling in Bennettsbridge."

Moving on, the Walsh/Kilkenny football story is different, very different to anything any other county or manager would have experienced. Virtually all the games in the British junior football championship - or 'Her Majesty's Championship' as Christy referred to it - were played away in England or Scotland.

The logistics around trying to assemble a squad, arranging road transport, flights and accommodation for the players and selectors were massive. At times Kilkenny were unsure of the exact panel for any game until everyone was marked present in the dressing-room after the demanding trek across the Irish Sea.

"Very few people would have been interested in managing Kilkenny bearing in mind the circumstances," admitted Railyard clubman Tom O'Reilly, the football delegate to Kilkenny County Board. "Once Christy said yes he was all in. You don't meet the likes of him too often in life.

"Christy's involvement was a big part of the attraction for the players when we went about putting a panel together," he added. "He knows his football, and he is respected. There was no financial gain for Christy Walsh with the job. He just got on with it and nothing was ever a problem."

Mr O'Reilly undertook many a long, lonely journey in the team kit van through the early morning or late at night to catch a ferry either in the North Wall, Dublin or in Belfast - depending on the match venue - to deliver the players' gear and team equipment.

"That was all part of the effort," Tom recalled.

Walsh and his selectors followed a simple formula when trying to assemble their first panel. When Mullinavat were county champions the crop was harvested more easily because of a willing spirit to be involved among the players in the club.

"What you do then is you ring 60, 70 or 80 people to try and pull



together a group,” explained Christy Walsh when he took up the story. “The first thing I used to do was to ring the fellows dropped off or left out of the county hurling panel.”

Former hurling All-Star, Paul Murphy, for example, threw in his lot with the panel in 2022, and his involvement was a great help, Walsh insisted. It helped sell the idea to others.

Of course the competition had evolved into an All-Ireland junior football championship by then after a restructuring by current GAA President Larry McCarthy. New York were added to the list of runners. The reconfigurations turned the championship into a weekend event. Games were played in Ireland with the final in Croke Park as the curtain-raiser to one of the All-Ireland senior football championship semi-final.

The British championship adventure commenced in 2015. Kilkenny won the title three times on Mr Walsh’s watch before they captured the President’s newly shaped All-Ireland junior championship in 2022, beating New York in the final.

“I will always be grateful to the Mullinavat fellows when they won the Kilkenny championship,” Mr Walsh said. “You would get half a team from that club. They were interested and they are good footballers. “I suppose it was a bit of a miracle the way it all happened. We enjoyed the challenges, the victories,” he insisted.

The dedicated backroom crew from this season have signed up again for 2024 - Mr Walsh, J.J. Grace, former Donegal player Paddy McConigley, Andy O’Brien, Philip Lonergan, with a back-up team of Theresa McGinn (physio), Lloyd McGree (medic), Pat Mulrooney and Mr O’Reilly.

Playing the 2022 final before the Dublin/Kerry All-Ireland senior semi and then this year’s semi clash between Derry and Kerry was huge for all in the Kilkenny camp, Christy insisted.

What was it like leading a Kilkenny team into an All-Ireland football final in Croke Park?

“It was better....once we won,” he laughed. “The lads played well too and produced nice football.

“It was great to be part of something like that. Had you told the boys at the start of the year when we were ringing them up that they would end up playing in Croke Park before a big senior match they would have jumped at it. There was a real buzz in the dressing-room.”

Former Football Board chairman and secretary, Pat Mulrooney (Clara) was an umpire for referee Paul Devlin at a Leinster junior championship match in Croke Park over two decades ago. He thought his time on the line in Croke as an official was long gone.

“Seeing Kilkenny win a football All-Ireland there was a near out of world experience for me,” enthused the man whose current role was to look after travel arrangements and accommodation. “I was over the moon.

Christy is a great man to bring people along with him. He doesn’t push. He cajoles the players; gets the best out of them.



8 July 2022; Kilkenny manager Christy Walsh and his players stand for the playing of the National Anthem before the GAA Football All-Ireland Junior Championship Semi-Final match between Kilkenny and London at the GAA National Games Development Centre in Abbotstown, Dublin. Photo by Stephen McCarthy/Sportsfile

The Walsh file

FULL NAME: Patrick Christopher Walsh

AGE: 60

FIRST HURLING CLUB: Kilmoyley (Kerry)

FIRST FOOTBALL TEAM: Ardfert (the same parish)

SUBSEQUENT CLUBS (played with): played with Limerick in New York and won two championships; won one championship with Limerick in Chicago; Bennettsbridge (1994 and 1996); went home to Kerry and played with Kilmoyley in 1995

INTER-COUNTY HURLING: Played with Kerry from 1983 to 2000. Won senior hurling All-Ireland ‘B’ honours in 1986. Lost Masters All-Ireland finals with Carlow and Kerry.

Played with Munster in 1986, 1990 and 1992. Won Railway Cup honours versus Ulster in the final in 1992.

INTER-COUNTY FOOTBALL: Played a number of times with the Kerry senior team; played at junior level for two years.

CLUB HURLING HONOURS WON (as player): won four Kerry senior hurling championships with Kilmoyley (2001-04).

He won a Fitzgibbon Cup with UCC in 1983.

CLUB FOOTBALL HONOURS WON: won Division 1 to 6 honours in Kerry, novice or junior; won a Kilkenny senior football championship with Dickboro (1994).

FIRST CLUB MANAGED: St Martin’s (Muckalee). Qualified for senior championship final but lost to Ballyhale Shamrocks (2007).

OTHER CLUBS MANAGED: Dunnamaggin (2 years); Emeralds (1 year); Conahy Shamrocks; Bennettsbridge (6 years) during which time the club won back-to-back junior (2014) and intermediate (2015) Kilkenny doubles of leagues and championships, plus Leinster and All-Ireland club finals.

FIRST INTER-COUNTY JOB: Kilkenny football team. Guided the county to three wins in the British junior football championships (2015, 2017, 2018) and one All-Ireland junior football championship, the final of which was played in Croke Park (2022).

“He has a great instinct about players, and he is good at sizing up the opposition. He has helped drive on the whole thing.”

Despite the highs and joys of the British and All-Ireland junior championships, Mr Walsh is adamant a return to the National Football League for Kilkenny is not on.

“That is a different ball game entirely,” he insisted. “In order to make a decent effort there, Kilkenny would need to have a squad in training for months. Being realistic there are very few teams Kilkenny might beat in the League.”

So what does the future in sport hold for Patrick Christopher Walsh?

“I have lived a fair life in sport,” he pondered with a hint of satisfaction as he gazed across the ceiling. “I never put a start time on it, and I won’t put a finishing date on it either.

“It is all about memories. They are great to have. It is always a collective effort with players, management and everyone else. Everyone has to do their bit.”

**Teams involved in the British junior football championship were London, Warwickshire, Lancashire, Herefordshire, Yorkshire, Scotland, Kilkenny, Gloucestershire.*

HEARTBREAK FOR KILKENNY AS NEW YORK RALLY LATE

Football Report by Michael O'Leary

Photos: Willie Dempsey



KILKENNY - 2023 ALL IRELAND JUNIOR FOOTBALL FINALISTS
 Back: Ben Hickey, Ger Malone, Tom Kenny, Colum Prendiville, Ciaran Farnan, Conor Hennessy, Nathan Sherry, Jamie Holohan, Jim Culleton, Michael Kenny, Nigel Stanley, Mikey Jones, Kevin Blanchfield, Ciaran Quilty, Tom Aylward, Oisín Knox, Joe Fennelly, Paul O'Neill, Michael Malone
 Front: Mark Hender, Vinny O'Grady, Sean Gannon, Shane Kelly, Jim Dermody, Ciaran Cooney, Rory Monks, Ian Duggan, James Carroll, Jack Kavanagh, Tom Roche, Kieran Whelan, Edward Moylan, Pa Walsh, Ethan Phelan, Adam Mansfield, Willie Kenny, Johnny Dunleavy

All-Ireland Junior Championship Final

Kilkenny 1-9 New York 0-13

There was heartbreak for Christy Walsh's charges as New York finished strongly to deny Kilkenny consecutive Junior All-Irelands.

Like last year, The competition was run off over a single weekend with the All-Ireland semi-finals played on Friday night, while the final was played two days later before Kerry's All-Ireland semi-final clash against Derry.

Kilkenny defeated London by a solitary point 1-13 to 0-15 following a thrilling contest, while New York defeated British champions Warwickshire 1-7 to 0-7.

The All-Ireland Final played in Croke Park saw New York lead by 0-7 to 0-3 at half-time, but Kilkenny began to turn the screw during the second-half. Shay McElligot who played a starring role for New York pointed early in the second-half to extend the lead (0-8 to 0-3), and Kilkenny were in bother.

Christy Walsh rang the changes introducing Rory Monks, Ciaran Quilty, and Joe Fennelly. The substitutions brought about a huge improvement, and Kilkenny scored 1-3 without reply between the 38th and 46th minutes. Mick Kenny began the Kilkenny comeback with a pointed free, before James Carroll with a point from play left just three points between them 0-8 to 0-5. Ciaran Quilty made his presence felt and he set-up for Mick Kenny for a brilliantly taken goal to level matters (1-5 to 0-8), before Conor Hennessy fired over a point to give Kilkenny the lead. 1-6 to 0-8.

New York responded with a point from Emmet Loughran to draw level (1-6 to 0-9), before Kilkenny with points from Ciaran Quilty and James Carroll took the lead by two 1-8 to 0-9. Shay McElligot added a brace of points to bring New York level (1-8 to 0-11) entering injury-time, and extra-time appeared to be a possibility. Four minutes of injury-time was played and New York missed a glorious chance in stoppage time to take the lead.

When Rory Monks fisted the ball over bar to give Kilkenny the lead, it appeared to have been the winner (1-9 to 0-11), but credit to New York who displayed great resilience and points from Shay McElligot and Brian Coughlan gave them the lead.

However, the drama was not finished. Kilkenny had one last chance to retrieve the situation, but unfortunately for James Carroll his effort went wide of goal and New York held on to win their first Junior All-Ireland following a titanic finish.

Scorers for Kilkenny: Mick Kenny 1-2 (0-2f), James Carroll 0-3 (0-1f), Mick Malone 0-1, Conor Hennessy 0-1, Ciaran Quilty 0-1, Rory Monks 0-1.

Scorers for New York: Shay McElligot 0-6 (0-4f), Conor Mathers 0-3, Thomas Shalvey 0-1, CJ Molloy 0-1 (0-1f), Emmet Loughran 0-1, Brian Coughlan 0-1.

Kilkenny; Ciaran Farnan (Railyard), Shane Kelly (Mullinavat), Nathan Sherry (Thomastown), James Darmody (Fenians), Kevin Blanchfield (Bennettsbridge), Tom Kenny (Dicksboro), Ger Malone (Mullinavat), Tom Aylward (Mullinavat), Jim Culleton (Mullinavat), Conor Hennessy (0-1) (Tullogher-Rosbercon), Jamie Holohan (Erins Own), Mick Kenny (1-2,2f) (Lisdowney), James Carroll (0-3,1f) (Bennettsbridge), Ian Duggan (Mullinavat), Mick Malone (0-1) (Mullinavat).
Subs; Joe Fennelly (Mullinavat) for Darmody h/t, Ciaran Quilty (0-1) (Mooncoin) for Aylward h/t, Rory Monks (0-1) (Thomastown) for Duggan 36, Adam Mansfield (Mullinavat) for Kenny 44, Mark Hender (Railyard) for Culleton 57.

New York; Ryan Corrigan, Dylan Curran, Peter Cronin, Páidí Mathers, Colm Shalvey, Kevin Rafferty, Mikey Boyle, Conor Mathers (0-3), Gearóid Kennedy, Danny Corridan, Brian Coughlan (0-1), Thomas Shalvey (0-1), Shane Slattery, CJ Molloy (0-1f), Shay McElligot (0-6,4f).
Subs; Chris Mulvihill for Molloy 39, Emmet Loughran (0-1) for T Shalvey 39, Kaelan Walsh for Slattery 46, Ian Kavanagh for C Shalvey 49, Aiden Lawler for Walsh 61.

Referee: David Murnane (Cork).



That would put you pondering! Kilkenny Manager, Christy Walsh at the All Ireland Final.



Kilkenny's Michael Malone takes on the New York defence.

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CARROLL STARS AS KILKENNY HOLD OFF LATE LONDON RALLY
All-Ireland Junior Championship Semi-Final

Kilkenny 1-13 London 0-15

James Carroll played a starring role as he scored 0-5 from play to help Kilkenny into the All-Ireland final as they fought off a late London rally to win by a solitary point. Kilkenny had 10 starters from last year's final win and at half-time they led 0-12 to 0-8 as Carroll scored 0-5 of his points in The first-half all from play, while Jim Culleton, Jamie Holohan and joint captains Mick Kenny and Mick Malone were also on the scoresheet. London, through the accuracy of Conor Spinks and Shay Rafter, stayed in contention, and by the midway point of the second-half they had narrowed the gap to just a solitary point at 0-13 to 0-12.

James Carroll struck the all-important goal with 10 minutes remaining, and despite London reducing the margin with three consecutive points, Kilkenny held on for victory by the slenderest of margins.

Kilkenny scorers: James Carroll 1-5, Jamie Holohan 0-3, Jim Culleton 0-2, Mick Kenny 0-1 (0-1f), Mick Malone 0-1, Ian Duggan 0-1.

London scorers: Connor Spinks 0-7 (0-5f), Shay Rafter 0-4 (0-2f), Ryan O'Connell 0-1, Christopher Griffin 0-1, Ryan McCready 0-1, Thomas Waters 0-1.

Kilkenny; Ciaran Farnan (Railyard), Shane Kelly (Mullinavat), Nathan Sherry (Thomastown), James Darmody, Kevin Blanchfield (Bennettsbridge), Tom Kenny (Dicksboro), Ger Malone (Mullinavat), Tom Aylward (Mullinavat), Jim Culleton (Mullinavat), Mick Malone (0-1) (Mullinavat), Jamie Holohan (0-3) (Erins Own), Mick Kenny (0-1f) (Lisdowney), James Carroll (1-5) (Bennettsbridge), Ian Duggan (0-1) (Mullinavat), Conor Hennessy (Tullogher-Rosbercon). Subs; Ciaran Quilty (Mooncoin) for Darmody 46, Adam Mansfield (Mullinavat) for Holohan 51, Rory Monks (Thomastown) for Duggan 55, Sean Gannon (Mooncoin) for Hennessy 63. Referee;

Enda McFeely (Donegal).

COUNTY COMPETITIONS



MULLINAVAT - SENIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE & CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2023

Back: Joe Fennelly, Jack Walsh, Sean Fitzpatrick, Michael Malone, Shane Aylward, Fiachra Knox.

Middle: Jamie Fennelly, Conor Power, Mark McNamara, Jim Culleton, Richie Devine, Ger Malone, Tom Aylward, Oisín Knox, Peter McDonald, Michael Aylward.

Front: Darren Kenneally, Harry McNamara, Shane Kelly, Ian Duggan, Simon Aylward, Liam Fennelly, Padraic Gahan, Adam Mansfield, Ian Mansfield, Conor Duggan, Mikey Jones, Aodhla Jones.

SENIOR

In a thrilling senior football final played in late June, Mullinavat finished strongly with a brace of goals to defeat Thomastown in a repeat of the 2021 & 2022 County Finals. It was the Vat Men's 6th Senior title in 7 years and their 7th in total as goals from Liam Fennelly & Oisín Knox secured victory.

Thomastown opened the scoring courtesy of a pointed free by Rory Monks in the third minute, before the champions replied with 1-2 without reply to lead 1-2 to 0-1 after 7 minutes. Points from Tom Aylward and Ian Duggan put the South Kilkenny men ahead before Liam Fennelly finished off a well worked move for a terrific goal.

However, Thomastown enjoyed the better of proceeding afterwards from about the 10th minute onwards for the remainder of the half as points from Adam Power, Jonjo Farrell, Rory Connellan and a Rory Monks free narrowed the gap to two points at 1-4 to 0-5. Thomastown took the lead approaching half-time when Zach Bay Hammond crashed home a rifled shot to put them a point ahead at the interval. 1-5 to 1-4.

Mullinavat restored the lead with points from Ian Duggan and Oisín Knox early in the second-half (1-6 to 1-5), before Thomastown replied with consecutive points from Rory Monks (two frees) and Adam Power to take a 1-8 to 1-6 lead entering the final quarter.

However, Mullinavat dug deep and a goal by Liam Fennelly saw them regain the lead (2-6 to 1-8), before Ian Duggan added another point from play. Rory Monks replied with another pointed free to narrow the gap to just the minimum (2-7 to 1-9), but Mullinavat had the final say Oisín Knox sealed victory with a well taken goal.

In The opening round of the Leinster Intermediate Football Championship, Mullinavat, missing some players lost by 1-14 to 0-7 to a strong Ballylinan (Laois) side.

SCORERS:

Mullinavat - Michael Malone & Oisín Knox 1-1 each, Ian Duggan 0-4 (0-1 free), Liam Fennelly 1-0, Tom Aylward 0-1

Thomastown - Rory Monks (0-5 all frees), Zach Bay Hammond 1-0, Adam

Power 0-2, Jonjo Farrell & Rory Connellan 0-1 each

TEAMS:

Mullinavat; Mark McNamara, Mikey Jones, Joe Fennelly, Ian Mansfield, Shane Kelly, Ger Malone, Simon Aylward (Joint-Captain), James Culleton, Tom Aylward (0-1), Conor Duggan, Michael Malone (1-1), Ian Duggan (0-4, 1f), Adam Mansfield, Liam Fennelly (1-0) (Joint-Captain), Pádraic Gahan. Subs; Oisín Knox (1-1) for Conor Duggan. Subs/extended panel: Killian Dunphy, Sean Fitzpatrick, Darren Kenneally, Michael Walsh, Fiachra Knox, Jonathan Cawley, Richard Devine, Conor Power, Shane Aylward, Ryan Bland, Robin David, Gavin Maher, David Maher, Jack Walsh, Conor Walsh, Peter McDonald (inj).

Thomastown; Luke McNena, Ned Kirwan, Richard O'Hara, Oisín O'Reilly, Brian Staunton, Alex Cass, Jonjo Farrell (0-1), Zach Bay Hammond (1-0), Rory Connellan, Luke Connellan (0-1), Brian O'Hanrahan, Adam Power (0-2), Davy Prendergast, Rory Monks (0-5f).

Subs; Jack Cullen for O'Hara 37 minutes, Naoise Dempsey for Power 54 minutes, Pauric Kirwan for O'Hanrahan 54 minutes, Liam Treacy for Luke Connellan 57 minutes. Subs/extended panel; Johnny Barron (Captain), Paul Barron, Eddie Donnelly, Brian Staunton, Cormac Moore, Cian Moore, Sean O'Keeffe, Diarmuid Galway.

There were 5 matches played in the preliminary round as the competition began in April.

Kilmoganny defeated Danesfort 3-6 to 0-8, Clara won 1-7 to 0-8 against O'Loughlin Gaels, James Stephens overcame Erin's Own 0-17 to 1-10, Dicksboro prevailed 1-6 to 0-4 against Railyard in a low scoring encounter, while Thomastown eased any potential relegation worries courtesy of a 2-7 to 1-6 win against Muckalee.

The first of the quarter-finals played was a thriller as Clara overcame Mooncoin 1-11 to 0-12, Thomastown's hat-trick of goals proved decisive as they won 3-7 to 0-11 against Kilmoganny, Tullogher-Rosbercon won 2-11 to 1-5 against James Stephens, while defending champions Mullinavat had a 3-7 to 0-7 win against Dicksboro.

The semi-finals saw Mullinavat ease their way back into another final following a 5-6 to 0-6 win against Tullogher-Rosbercon in a repeat of



LISDOWNEY - COUNTY INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2023

Back: Niall Mackey, Eoin Delahunty, Daragh Mackey, Vinny Fitzpatrick, Charlie Brennan, Michael Kenny, David O'Carroll, Jack Dunphy, Jack McGree, Peter Bergin, Dean Brophy, Alan Dunphy, John Brennan, Richie McEvoy.
Front: Aaron Fogarty, Eoin Kenny, Killian Dunne, Brian Kavanagh, Jimmy Delaney, Peter O'Sullivan, Niall Grogan, Liam Dunphy, Willie Kenny, Kevin O'Sullivan, Sean Phelan.

the league final, while Thomastown overcame Clara 2-13 to 0-12.

'VAT RETAIN LEAGUE TITLE

As usual, the league competitions commenced at the start of the year, and in the senior grade, there were three groups that were won by Mullinavat, Mooncoin and Tullogher-Rosbercon respectively.

Mullinavat won 1-14 to 1-9 against Mooncoin to set-up a league final showdown against Tullogher-Rosbercon, a game won by Mullinavat who prevailed 2-7 to 0-10 against their near neighbours who were appearing in their first senior league final.

The Tullogher-Rosbercon men made a positive start and they led 0-3 to 0-0, thanks to a hat-trick of points by Cian O'Donoghue (2 frees), before Mullinavat started to find their groove and a James Culleton goal brought them level in the 14th minute. Buoyed by that goal, points from Ian Duggan and Liam Fennelly put the 'Vat men ahead (1-2 to 0-3), but Tullogher-Rosbercon replied with points by Niall Mooney and Cian O'Donoghue (free) to restore parity at the interval.

The 'Vat men restored their two point lead early in the second-half with points from an Ian Duggan free and Mikey Jones, before the crucial score came when Tom Aylward surged forward to fire home a brilliant goal following great work by Liam Fennelly and Ger Malone to give them a 2-4 to 0-5 lead.

However, Tullogher-Rosbercon displayed great fighting spirit and determination throughout, and by the midway point of the second half they had narrowed the deficit to two points.

Cian O'Donoghue (free), Donnacha O'Connor with a superb long range point from play and O'Donoghue from play kept the Tullogher-Rosbercon men firmly in contention. However, Mullinavat maintained their advantage throughout that final quarter as they used their experience to good effect, as Ian Duggan pointed three further frees to close out the game and ensure victory.

Mullinavat; Mark McNamara, Mikey Jones (0-1), Joe Fennelly, Ian Mansfield; Simon Aylward (captain), Shane Kelly, Darren Kenneally, Tom Aylward (1-0), Ger Malone, Conor Duggan, James Culleton (1-0), Ian Duggan (0-5f), Fiachra Knox, Liam Fennelly (0-1), Sean Fitzpatrick. Subs; Michael Walsh for Conor Duggan, Conor Power for Sean Fitzpatrick.

Tullogher-Rosbercon; Eoin Ryan, Lar Murphy, Sean Murray, Niall O'Shea, Jamie Lyng, Jason Shiely (c), Tarek O'Connor, Pat Hartley, Donnacha O'Connor (0-1), Cian O'Donoghue (0-7,5f), Conor Hennessy, Michael Handrick, Niall Mooney (0-1), Danny Glennon (0-1), Cathal Mooney.

INTERMEDIATE

The Quarter-Finals saw Barrow Rangers win 1-7 to 0-9 against Carrickshock, Piltown prevail by a solitary point, 1-9 to 1-8 against Glenmore, Lisdowney win 0-12 to 0-8 against Rower-Inistioge, while Graigue-Ballycallan were victorious as they won 3-7 to 1-7 against Conahy Shamrocks.

Piltown eased their way into the Final following a 3-11 to 0-7 win against Barrow Rangers, while the other Semi-Final game between Lisdowney and Graigue-Ballycallan wasn't played till October, owing to Lisdowney Hurling commitments as they reached The Intermediate County Semi-Final.

Lisdowney lost to Mooncoin in the Hurling Semi-Final on 8th October, but they bounced back from that disappointment to win the Intermediate Football Championship.

The following weekend on Saturday 14th October, Lisdowney defeated Graigue-Ballycallan 2-9 to 1-3 before winning the County Final 4 days later.

On Wednesday 18th October, Lisdowney won the County Final 3-2 to 0-5 against Piltown on a deplorable night at the MW Hire Centre in Dunmore.

There was no rest for Lisdowney, though, as they played their Leinster Junior Championship game in Westmeath just three days later. However, despite their best efforts, they lost 1-15 to 2-7 to Kilbeggan Shamrocks.

Aaron Fogarty was goalscorer in the first-half, while a David O'Carroll goal early in the second-half put the North Kilkenny men 2-4 to 0-8 ahead. However, the Westmeath men began to turn it around as the exertions of three games in seven days saw Lisdowney run out of steam following a brave and valiant effort.

SHOCK WIN LEAGUE FINAL

The League Section of Intermediate saw both Piltown and Carrickshock top their respective groups to set-up a league final showdown at Easter.

Carrickshock won the contest 1-11 to 0-11 having led the whole way.

The 'Shock men led 1-8 to 0-5 at half-time, and by the 40th minute they had extended the lead further as they led 1-10 with victory very much within their sights. However, Piltown battled with great resilience and determination, and by the end of the game they had narrowed the game to just three points but the 'Shock held out for the win.

JUNIOR

LAWLESS GOLDEN BRACE HELPS ST. PATRICK'S BALLYRAGGET LAND JUNIOR SPOILS

St. Patrick's, Ballyragget won the Junior final as they prevailed 2-9 to 0-13 in a thriller to deny Bennettsbridge the league/championship double.

The 'Bridge made the brighter start with three unanswered points through Luke Dowling, Kyle Ryan and James Carroll from a free in the opening five minutes, but St. Patrick's found their groove. Jack Morrissey opened their account with a point from play, before Dillon Lawless grabbed a brace of goals as they suddenly built up a 2-1 to 0-3 lead.

Bennettsbridge replied in emphatic manner, and they outscored the Ballyragget men 0-7 to 0-2 for the remainder of the half to lead 0-10 to 2-3 at half-time. Conor Murphy, James Carroll (0-3 0-1 free), Oisín Meighan and Kevin Blanchfield (2) added to Bennettsbridge's account as they dominated the second quarter.

James Carroll added a point within seconds of the restart to double Bennettsbridge's advantage (0-11 to 2-3), but St. Patrick's dug deep and four points without reply through Jack Morrissey, Conor Foley, Bill Staunton and Ned Glennon put them 2-7 to 0-11 ahead. That purple patch proved decisive as St. Patrick's maintained their advantage, with points from Kevin Kelly and a Dillon Lawless free kept the scoreboard ticking over as they went onto claim victory.

St. Patrick's, Ballyragget; J.J. O'Sullivan, Kieran Walsh, Geoff Morrissey, Dermot Brophy, Paul Ryan, Geoff Brennan, Mark Staunton, Barry Staunton (Captain), Bill Staunton (0-1), Sean Brennan, Ned Glennon (0-1), Jack Morrissey (0-3,1f), Dillon Lawless (2-2), Conor Foley (0-1), Kevin Kelly (0-1). Sub; Donal Brennan.

Bennettsbridge; Patrick O'Neill, Shane Byrne, Nicky Cleere (C), Gearoid Kent, Cillian Fennessy, Conor Murphy (0-1), James Hughes, Kevin Blanchfield (0-3), Danny Coyne, Luke Dowling (0-1), Oisín Meighan (0-1), Laurence Mahon, Paddy Walsh, James Carroll (0-6,3f), Kyle Ryan (0-1). Subs; Jack Forristal, Stephen Holden, Joe Hughes.

Referee; Eamonn Mansfield (Railyard).

'BRIDGES SEVEN GOAL BLITZ TO LEAGUE GLORY

Bennettsbridge cruised their way to winning the Junior league final as they easily defeated Galmoy 7-6 to 1-6 in early April. However, it was completely different first-half as Bennettsbridge led 2-1 to 1-3 at half-time. The opening quarter

was tight as Galmoy led 0-2 to 0-1, before Ciaran Brennan made a scintillating solo run to rifle an unstoppable shot for a brilliant individual goal. Galmoy replied with a point from Joe Dollard, before a Nigel Stanley goal from a penalty on stroke of half-time gave them a two point lead. However, Bennettsbridge replied with a Penalty themselves as James Carroll blasted to the net to give them a solitary point lead at the interval.

The Bridge ran riot in the second-Half as they added five further goals from Paddy Walsh, James Carroll, Kevin Blanchfield (2) and Luke Dowling, as they completely overwhelmed Galmoy.

Bennettsbridge; Patrick O'Neill, Gearóid Kent, Danny Coyne, Oisín Meighan, Cillian Fennessy, Nicky Cleere (C), Luke Dowling (1-0) Conor Murphy, Kevin Blanchfield (2-1), Shane Byrne, Sean Morrissey, Kevin Brennan; Paddy Walsh (1-0), James Carroll (2-4,1f), Ciarán Brennan (1-0). Subs; Stephen Holden (0-1) for Shane Byrne, Sean O Connell, Ben King, Joe Hughes, James Hughes.

Galmoy; John Phelan, James Darcy, Eamonn Corcoran, Colm Smith, Conor Grace, Conor Drennan, Tom Corcoran, David Sherman, Brendan Phelan, Sean Phelan, Joe Dollard (C) (0-4,3f), Nigel Stanley (1-0), Calum Lonergan, Brendan Phelan (0-1), Oisín Phelan (0-1). Subs; Gearóid Phelan for Brendan Phelan, Jack Delaney for James Darcy, Tom Phelan for Eamonn Corcoran 43, Daniel Hanrahan for Oisín Phelan, John Dermody for Sean Phelan.

Referee; Conor Everard (Graigue-Ballycallan).

LEINSTER INTERMEDIATE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

MULLINAVAT LOSE LEINSTER OPENER

Disappointment for The Mullinavat Footballers who lost 1-14 to 0-7 against Ballylinan of Laois in the First Round of The Leinster Intermediate Football Championship in late October.

Their were high hopes of Mullinavat doing well in the Leinster Championship after reaching the Leinster Final in 2019, and also the Leinster Semi-Final last year, so it was disappointing for them to be well beaten in the first game of the Championship.

Ballylinan led 0-6 to 0-3 at half-time with The Mullinavat points coming from Padraig Dempsey, Michael Malone and Adam Mansfield, before points from John Walsh and a Michael Malone free narrowed the gap to the minimum early in the second half.

Ballylinan replied with three unanswered points to restore their four point lead (0-9 to 0-5) by the midway point of the second half, before a Ciaran Fennessy goal put the game out of Mullinavat's reach.

The Laois men outscored Mullinavat 0-5 to 0-2 over the closing quarter to run out 10 point winners, with former Laois Inter-County Senior Gary Walsh excelling from both play and frees as he scored 0-9 (0-4 frees).



THOMASTOWN SENIOR FOOTBALL FINALISTS 2023
 Back: Ciaran Sutton, Brian O'Hanrahan, Diarmuid Galway, Ned Kirwan, Jack Cullen, Liam Treacy, Oisín O'Reilly, Rory Connellan
 Middle: Eddie Donnelly, David Prendergast, Eddie Corrway, Peter Connellan, Richard O'Hara, Luke Connellan, Jonjo Farrell, Johnny Barron, Brian Staunton
 Front: Robbie Donnelly, David Griffin, Danny Monks, Paddy, Daithi Barron, Rory Monks, Thomas O'Hanrahan, Paul Barron, Colin Corrway



ST PATRICK'S JUNIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2023
 Back: Michael McInerney, Conor Phelan, Ned Glennon, Jack Morrissey, Conor Foley, Sean Brennan, Bill Staunton, Barry Curran.
 Middle: Jack Finnegan, Dillion Lawless, Donal Brennan, Alan Ruth, Shaun McGrath, Dermot Brophy, Geoff Brennan, Geoff Morrissey, Kevin Kelly, Mark Staunton.
 Front: Conor Delaney, Michael Brophy, Matthew Love, Barry Staunton, JJ O'Sullivan, John Butler, Paul Ryan, Robert Healy.



BENNETTSBRIDGE JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE WINNERS 2023
 Back: Cillian Fennessy, James Hughes, Lar Mahon, Danny Coyne, Jaime Harkin, Oisín Meegan, Ciaran Brennan
 Middle: Stephen Holden, Nicky Cleere, Kevin Blanchfield, Gearoid Kent, Luke Dowling, Conor Murphy, Shane Byrne, John Doyle, Kyle Ryan
 Front Row: Daniel Murphy, Ben King, Patrick O'Neill, James Carroll, Joe Hughes, Paddy Walsh, Jack Forristal



CARRICKSHOCK - INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL LEAGUE, WINNERS 2023
 Back: Aaron Roche, Edward Dwyer, James Grace, Eoghan O'Neill, Oisín Carroll, Luke Gaulie, Sean Grace, James O'Shea, John Cahill, Michael Rohan.
 Front: Michael O'Shea, Jamie Barron, Jim Rohan, Jake O'Dwyer, Kevin Farrell, Jamie Power (captain), Sean Moore, Joseph Aylward, John Power, Michael Murphy.



Captains - Liam Fennelly/Simon Aylward (Mullinavat), Peter O'Sullivan (Lisdowney), Barry Staunton (St Patrick's), Nicky Cleere/Kevin Blanchfield (Bennettsbridge), James Grace (Carrickshock).



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Damien O'Connell retires as Editor of match day programmes at Nowlan Park



On Saturday 27th May, 2023 Officials from O'Loughlin Gaels, Kilkenny County Board and elected representatives including John McGuinness TD, gathered with the family and friends of Damien O'Connell to honour his outstanding service as the Editor of Match Programmes at Nowlan Park, over the previous 23 years. Also in attendance were key members of the programme production team such as Tom Beirne and Eddie Buckley who gave the presentation speech.

Born in 1948 in Bagenalstown, it was in his hometown that Damien developed his love of sport. In Bagenalstown at that time there was a large sports area where the community had access to GAA pitches, hockey, cricket, soccer, badminton and open air swimming. As Damien says himself "while other lads were going to the pictures, I was going to watch matches".

Damien joined the Defences Forces in 1972 in Kilkenny. In 1979 he was appointed to the role of Recruitment Officer for 6 years. Many of those new recruits benefited from the sagely advice that Damien offered them as they settled into Army life.

In 1986 Damien was to the fore in helping the youth in local Kilkenny schools. With Damien a constant thread through his life is that of recruitment and "planting seeds" that will blossom in the future. He believed strongly in running good Street Leagues. His tactic was that interested players could be guaranteed to bring along their friends. Amongst the many players he nurtured and who subsequently went onto greater playing glory were Alan Geoghegan, Andy, Martin and Jimmy Comerford, Sean and Brian Dowling, Brian Hogan. These players were the backbone of the 2001 and 2003 O'Loughlin Gaels Senior County Championship winning teams and future Kilkenny teams.

It was Eamonn Doyle who first brought Damien onboard as part of the Nowlan Park Programme Team. He progressed quickly to Editor in Chief. Amongst Damien's unique talents are his encyclopaedic knowledge of the GAA and almost photographic memory.

It is these abilities along with his love of the games that made him such a success in his role as Programme Editor. He has a commitment to standards, he knew from a content perspective what would appeal to the public and he built a great team of content writers, production and distribution team around him.

Ned Quinn former Chairman KK County Board recorded on behalf of the Officers of Kilkenny County Board past and present his thanks to Damien O'Connell for his excellent work in supervising the Match day programmes. Ned felt the quality of the productions, always aimed at providing accurate information to a knowledgeable hurling public was second to none. Ned stated that "when working with Damien, Kilkenny County Board always had huge confidence in the match day programmes and that their tone would reflect the ethos of Kilkenny's sporting tradition".

Brian Cody former Manager of Kilkenny's Senior Hurling Team recorded his congratulations to Damien for his 23 great years as Programme Editor. Over those years Brian stated that "Kilkenny management and players always appreciated his calm professionalism and organisation". Brian stated "that Kilkenny hurling supporters could always count on complete and insightful hurling content in their match day programme". Brian also said that "past players and their families always appreciated articles featuring their hurling careers. The recognition and acknowledgement of their contribution to our great County over the years was very much cherished."

Outside these high words of praise, Damien involved children from the community selling programmes, giving them the opportunity to take on extra responsibility. All performed their duties diligently. This permitting them to subsequently get their first character reference from the GAA when applying for follow on work as young adults, thus allowing them to go on to build worthwhile lives and be model citizens. Often those children now adults revel in the opportunity to meet "the DOC" and tell him how well their lives are progressing. This is again proof of Damien's constant theme of planting seeds that would bloom wonderfully in the future, when carefully nurtured in their youth.

A big debt of gratitude is also due to Damien's wife Joan and his children for allowing him give so much of his time over the years. Everyone in Kilkenny GAA would like to wish Damien every happiness and good health for the future. Thank you Damien for everything you have done for the Kilkenny hurling supporters over your many years.

Eddie Buckley

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Dunmore and Johnswell GAA Clubs

Conor Denieffe

Whilst today the GAA in St. John's Parish is synonymous with the O' Loughlin Gaels club this was not always the case and many other clubs based in the parish competed in Kilkenny championships over the years, among them the John O'Leary's, The Continent, The Magdalens, St. John's, Dunmore and Johnswell. It is with the latter two that this article is concerned.

Dunmore

Dunmore has the proud boast of being one of the first areas in Kilkenny to be involved in the GAA and represented by a GAA team. A report in the Kilkenny journal of March 27th 1886 details a game between Dunmore and Garryricken which was played in Killamery. The game was a football one, not surprisingly, as the big ball game was the more popular one in Kilkenny GAA from the formation of the GAA to the turn of the century. The large attendance reported as 4,000 saw a win for the Garryricken team. Sadly, for posterity sake, no names were given of team members. Dunmore are recorded as participating in a number of football tournaments in the following years but the first team named was in 1897 in a Threecastles Tournament- T. Bergin (captain), M. Dowling (goal), J. Comerford, M. Leahy, P. Hennessy, T. Bergin, J. Stapleton, D. Tierney, D. Fitzpatrick, K. Brennan, G. Mc Evoy, M. Berry, J. Kennedy, T. Kennedy, J. Dowling. Surprisingly, considering how active the area was in these years it was to be 1919 before the club took part in the north junior football championship, losing in the first round to Blanchfieldspark (Gowran) in a game, the report in the local paper described as featuring a lot of go-for-the-man-play with the ball being a secondary consideration. No teams were given for this game.

Dunmore Hurling Club

In 1929 a hurling club was organised in Dunmore and participated in that year's north junior hurling championship defeating St. Rioch's (city) in the first round and defeating parish rivals O'Loughlin's in a replay, 2-1 to 1-2, in the second round on September 30th in Nowlan Park. Clomantagh finished Dunmore's interest in the championship in the next round winning by 7-1 to 5-2. Hurling and football teams were entered in the 1930 junior championships. The footballers recorded wins over Muckalee and then Oveg (Castlecomer) before losing to Esker in the third round. The hurlers defeated Urlingford and then repeated the previous year's success over O'Loughlin's before exiting the championship in the third round, losing to Danesfort. This game wasn't played until February 1931 and the Dunmore team was listed as J. Butler (captain), D. Hogan, J. Dowling, W. Burke, M. Tynan, T. Talbot, P. Walsh, D. Mc Evoy, T. Cleary, J. Hennessy, S. Dullard, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Walsh, M. Kealy and J. Burke.

The W. Burke listed in that team was Billy Burke, the most famous and successful hurler produced from Dunmore in that era. Born in 1912, on the night the Titanic sank, he played on the Kilkenny minor team which lost to Tipperary in 1930. Transferring to Tullaroan in 1931 he played in five senior All Ireland finals winning his only medal in the "Thunder and Lightning" final played on September 3rd 1939, the day the Second World War began, when he starred at centre back as Kilkenny defeated Cork.

Dunmore continued to compete in the north hurling and football championships from 1931 to 1934 but failed to progress further than the third round in any of those years. A gap followed from 1935 to 1938 before Dunmore competed again in the 1939 and 1940 championships. Two teams were entered in the 1940 championship and the first team defeated Conahy and Freshford before losing out to eventual county champions Threecastles. The team was J. Brennan, P. Walsh, P. Hennessy, P. Cantwell, P. Murphy, M. Kealy (captain), J. Brady, M. Gibbons, D. Murphy, T. Guilfoyle, P. Molloy, J. Dunne, T. Jordan, J. Mc Guinness and S. Brennan. A gap

ensued again before teams were entered in the championship from 1946 to 1950 but rarely progressed beyond the first round. Following this the club did not feature again with players from the area playing mainly on the St. John's team.

Dunmore's last appearance in the north junior hurling championship came on May 4th 1969 when they were defeated by Danesfort in St. John's Park. Players at the time were Sean Casey, Mick Burke, Tom Gregg, Paddy Burke, Liam Burke, Liam Butler, Pat Callanan, Dick Guilfoyle, Joe Bergin, Jim Kealy, Pat Healy, Tommy O'Brien, Seamus Callanan, Tom Ryan, Martin Brennan, Mick Rowe, Paddy Butler, Tom Mc Bride and Eamonn Guilfoyle.

Johnswell

The earliest recorded game in Johnswell is a juvenile football challenge against neighbours Castlewarren in November 1890. The game appears to have been one of a series between the two sides. A large number of spectators came to see the game which was refereed according to the newspaper report "fairly and impartially" by Mr W. Bennett. At the time in GAA games there were outposts situated outside the goals and during the game the visitors claimed a point for driving the ball inside one of those. The referee decided otherwise and the game was interrupted for some time as spectators "whose age seemed no guarantee for the equilibrium of their temper stepped in and tried to uphold the favour of their side". When play resumed both sides made desperate unsuccessful efforts to score and the result was declared a draw. Recorded as playing for Johnswell were J. Holohan (captain), E. Murphy (goalkeeper), M. Murphy, J. Farrell, M. Holohan, J. Purcell, W. Murphy, P. Purcell, M. Purcell, J. Murphy, M. Lyons, P. Meighan, T. Murphy, M. Brophy and P. Comerford.

Castle Rovers

Surprisingly, considering the activity described above, it was to be 1931 before a GAA club was formed in Johnswell and took part in a championship. Initially called Castle Pearses, on affiliation a year later it was called Castle Rovers. President of the new club was Mr. D. Hegarty NT Johnswell and Mr. P. Moore Higginstown was secretary. Mr. M. Lynch of Sandsfordcourt was elected captain and provided a field for games. The new club's first game was against O'Loughlins and ended in two goals apiece draw. Referee was Mr Tom Walsh Principal Ballyfoyle NS, former chairman of Kilkenny County Board. The teams were played onto the field by Johnswell Fife and Drum band.

The new club entered the 1932 north junior hurling and football championships. The hurlers were beaten by Freshford but the footballers reached the north final beating Moneenroe and Dicksboro en route before losing out to Sart (Tullaroan) in the final. No teams are given but Tullaroan did feature Lory Meagher, Martin Phelan, Paddy Larkin and Paddy Phelan. Castle Rovers competed only in the north football championships in subsequent years but were beaten in the second round by Mitchells (Ballyfoyle) in 1933 and by Muckalee in 1934. The club went out of existence after this.

It was to be 1951 before a team emerged in Johnswell again and this time it was a hurling one under the guidance of Dick Farrell, who along with his brothers had played with the original O'Loughlins.

The team trained in one of Bennett's fields and also at Sandsfordcourt. In the first round of the 1951 north championship Johnswell lost to Danesfort in Nowlan Park on April 24th.

The following year brought no better luck. 1953 saw a victory over Tullaroan before losing to Foulkstown in the next round while it was Foulkstown who again ended Johnswell's interest in the 1954 championship.

Unfortunately, no scores or team lists are given for these games but from



talking to some of those involved the following is a list of those who played for Johnswell in the 1950's. It is not an exhaustive list and I apologise to anyone inadvertently omitted: Paddy Lyons, Martin Coogan, Joe Mc Cullagh, Jackie Byrne, Nicholas Hogan, Dan Wall, Tom Wall, Tom Bennett, William Bennett, Luke Madden, Nicholas Comerford, Bill Comerford, Tommy Kinsella, Paddy Mc Cullagh, Tom Fitzpatrick, Raymond Brophy, Jim Brophy, Jack Brennen, Michael Butler, Pat Dwyer and Tom Purcell



In 1969 the blue and white striped Johnswell team was back in the north junior hurling championship. Having lost to Newpark Sarsfields they were beaten in the losers' group by Clara. Once again, no team list is available but a list of those involved follows with apologies to anyone omitted: Martin Hanlon, Jim Brophy, Joe Mc Cullagh, Tom Manning, Peter Long, J. Dunne,

Mick Dooley, Pakie Keane, Seamus Dowling, Tom Walsh, Michael Long, Michael Foley, M. Dowling, M. Tierney, S. Butler, R. Butler, S. Keane and P. Dowling.

Dunmore v Johnswell

With two junior teams in the parish in 1969 it was probably inevitable that a challenge would be played to see which was best. Revd. Brother Michael who was teaching in St. John's De La Salle at the time was prevailed upon to referee, against his better judgement. The game ended prematurely with a number of players on both sides injured. Br. Michael was shocked, not by the quality of the hurling, but by the heavy pulling and strong language. However, no residue of bad feeling followed the game and within a year, players from both sides lined out together for the new parish team O'Loughlin's.



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A Tough Legacy to Follow

Photos: Willie Dempsey and Sportsfile

Oneills.com Under-20 Hurling Championship 2023

Observant hurling followers can now acknowledge the 2022 version of the Kilkenny under-20 hurling panel left a tough legacy to follow for the 2023 vintage. As reigning All-Ireland champions, Kilkenny certainly had the weight of increased expectation going into this year, particularly given the age profile of last year's team and the number of key players who would once again be available to lead the team.

For new team manager Mark Dowling, and his selectors JJ Delaney, Robert Shortall and Liam Egan, together with S & C coach Tom Aylward, it was undoubtedly a huge challenge to build a settled team in rapid time ahead of the start of the Leinster Championship on Saturday, April 8th. That first outing was a particularly tough opener, travelling down to Chadwicks Wexford Park to face the home side. This would be followed in rapid succession on the two following Saturdays with the remaining games in the round robin series against Galway in Glenisk O'Connor Park and Dublin in UPMC Nowlan Park respectively.

Kilkenny enjoyed an ideal start to that opening game with Wexford, scoring the first six points of the game without reply, all the more impressive as they were forced to play without senior players Billy Drennan, Gearóid Dunne and Timmy Clifford. Wexford responded with three points of their own to halve the deficit, but Ted Dunne (2) and a fine point from a Killian Doyle sideline cut once again settled Kilkenny. But it was all Wexford from there to the end of the half, as they themselves scored six points without a Kilkenny reply to level the scores at 0-9 apiece at the half time interval.

Scores were swapped in the opening minutes of the second half as Kilkenny held a single point advantage (0-12 to 0-11). However, it was from that point that Wexford took over the lead, which they held until the end of the game. They scored two goals in a ten minute period to eventually open up a 2-17 to 0-15 lead. To their credit, Kilkenny finished strongly with five consecutive points, three of which came from substitutes James Carroll, Jeff Neary and Harry Shine. But it wasn't enough, as Wexford held on for a deserved 2-17 to 0-20 win.

Things did not look promising early on as Galway, who also lost their

Under-20 Hurling Championship 2023 by Conor Brennan

opening game to Dublin, started in blistering fashion in the opening exchanges of the second round game in Tullamore. The return of Billy Drennan, Timmy Clifford and Gearóid Dunne certainly would have given Kilkenny some advantage but Galway took little heed of that as they opened up a seven point lead in the opening minutes. Kilkenny were fortunate to remain within distance thanks to an early goal from Billy Drennan, and he later followed this with a penalty goal, following a foul on Ted Dunne.

It meant that Galway led by 1-12 to 2-6 at the half-time break, but whatever was said in the Kilkenny dressing room during the interval, it certainly had the desired effect. Ten quickfire points in as many minutes, with Billy Drennan accounting for five of those, along with Harry Shine (2), Joe Fitzpatrick and Timmy Clifford, saw Kilkenny take control. Galway responded as best they could, but with a third goal from Timmy Clifford, any hope was dented further.

Yet, remarkably, Galway managed to close the gap to three points in the final minutes of normal time, with their second goal, as a result of a rebound from a missed penalty. The game was put beyond doubt soon after, though, with two quick goals from Gearóid Dunne and Cillian Hackett. The goal scoring still wasn't finished as Galway scored a consolation third goal. Kilkenny still had six points to spare at the final whistle, as they won out by 5-20 to 3-20 after a truly thrilling game.

Dublin showed that they were to be a seriously formidable obstacle to Kilkenny's passage to the Leinster semi-finals in the first minutes of the clash between the two teams in UPMC Nowlan Park. The running style adopted by the visitors proved a difficult one for Kilkenny to come to terms with, and Dublin led by 1-8 to 0-6 by the twentieth minute as Kilkenny struggled to get hold of possession.

Kilkenny then had a real chunk of good fortune when after Cillian Hackett hit the crossbar with a shot, it deflected from Ted Dunne and he forced it in to give Kilkenny some confidence. It helped as they brought the scores level by half-time (1-9 apiece) thanks to two good points from Joe Fitzpatrick and Killian Doyle.

The two sides swapped scores throughout the third quarter with



Killian Doyle getting in his strike despite the tackle from David Lucy (Dublin)



Kilkenny manager Mark Dowling during the Leinster Semi-Final.

the likes of Billy Reid, Luke Connellan, Paddy Langton and Cathal Beirne finding the range for Kilkenny. Dublin were proving more than a stubborn opponent to shake off, and the scores continued to be level on four occasions throughout that period. It was Kilkenny who then found the extra gear, with Denis Walsh, Gearóid Dunne and Joe Fitzpatrick accounting for a five point burst to give Kilkenny a 1-19 to 1-14 lead.

With five minutes remaining, it looked like Kilkenny were primed for victory. That was until Dublin scored their second goal followed by a point to close the gap to the minimum, leaving Kilkenny supporters very nervous. Gearóid Dunne eased those nerves with an immediate pointed free, but when a Dublin defender broke forward and managed to strike the woodwork with a snap shot, it frayed those nerves once again. Time was then called on the game soon after, with Kilkenny fortunate victors by 1-21 to 2-16.

The Leinster semi-final with Wexford in UPMC Nowlan Park on May 10th saw Kilkenny's reign as Leinster and All-Ireland champions ended, with Wexford emerging deserved winners. Kilkenny were certainly hampered by the absence of Billy Drennan due to injury, but Wexford's superiority could not be denied.

Wexford started the brighter and opened up a 0-4 to 0-1 lead early on, though Gearóid Dunne in particular, supported by Timmy Clifford, Eoghan Lyng and Luke Connellan were prominent in the response from Kilkenny. Wexford still managed to lead by four points at the half time break, but Kilkenny would enjoy the benefit of the wind at their backs for the second half.

The deficit was soon reduced in the opening minutes of the second half with points from Gearóid Dunne, Timmy Clifford and Killian Doyle. A penalty goal from Dunne after a foul on Cillian Hackett gave Kilkenny the lead midway through the second half. Although Wexford hit back, a second goal courtesy of Eoin O'Brien a couple of minutes later had Kilkenny in the driving seat.

The Kilkenny optimism didn't last long, however, as an opportunist Wexford goal saw them take a two point lead as the clock edged towards injury time. They did regroup, however, with three consecutive points from Gearóid Dunne (2) and Timmy Clifford to lead by a single point. But Wexford wouldn't be denied, and three points without reply saw them win out by 1-18 to 2-13. It was a disappointing end to Kilkenny's reign as Leinster and All-Ireland champions, and the work must continue positively to return to past glories in 2024.

The full and extended Kilkenny panel was:
 Stephen Manogue (James Stephens), Padraig Lennon (Carrickshock), Sean Purcell (Windgap), Jeff Neary (Graigue-



Ted Dunne showing great control as he gets away from Conol O'Rian



Billy Reid of Kilkenny in action against Michael Dundon of Wexford.

Ballycallan), Joe Fitzpatrick (Dunnamaggin), Eoghan Lyng (Rower-Inistioge), Paddy Langton (Young Irelands), Billy Reid (Glenmore), Killian Doyle (Emeralds), Luke Connellan (Thomastown), Timmy Clifford (Dicksboro), Cathal Beirne (Glenmore), Cillian Hackett (Dicksboro), Gearoid Dunne (Tullaroan), Harry Shine (Dicksboro), Niall Holland (Tullaroan), Zach Bay Hammond (Thomastown), Ivan Bolger (Graignamanagh), James Carroll (Dicksboro), Ted Dunne (Graignamanagh), Richard McEvoy (Lisdowney), Eoin O'Brien (Rower-Inistioge), Niall Rowe (Dicksboro), James Walsh (Kilmacow), Conor Cody (Clara), Shane Coogan (Erin's Own), Mark Donnelly (St. Lachtain's), Billy Drennan (Galmoy), Bill Hughes (Bennettsbridge), Brian Manogue (Dicksboro), Padraig O'Grady (Fenians), Adam O'Sullivan (John Lockes), Tommy Phelan (Young Irelands), Darragh Queally (Emeralds), Denis Walsh (Dunnamaggin), Ben Whitty (Danesfort).

MINORS GO OUT ON THEIR SHIELD

Inter County Minor Hurling Report by Pado O'Flynn



KILKENNY LEINSTER MH PANEL 2023 (Photo taken at Leinster Final)
 Back: Billy O'Sullivan, Bill McDermott, Greg Kelly, Conor Brophy, Rory Garrett, Niall O'Brien, Eoghan Cahill, Patrick Lacey, Ed Lauhoff, Micheál Keane
 Middle: Daniel McCormack, Cian Phelan, Robbie Doherty, Evan Murphy, Andrew Phelan, Jerry Henderson, David Barcoe, Darragh Vereker, James O'Neill,
 Seán Deely, Patrick Purcell, Ed McDermott
 Front: Ciallín Brennan, Mikey Stynes, Steven Kinsella, Seán Bergin, Nicky Ryan, Conor Doyle, Brian Moore, Noah Manogue, Micheál Ahern, Bobby Brennan
 Willie Dempsey

The 2023 Kilkenny Minor hurlers experienced a case of what might have been as luck largely deserted them at key stages throughout the year. Down to 14 men they were to lose to the eventual champions in the All Ireland semi-final but more about that anon. Game day one saw them revisit Portlaoise versus the locals where the 2022 season had come a cropper. Even a straight red card to James Stephens clubman Sean Bergin in the 23rd minute couldn't stop the winners with goals from Ed Lauhoff, Mikey Stynes and Brian Moore putting the seal on the victory. The game's opening goal then arrived when a Doyle sideline dropped around the Laois square and full forward Mikey Stynes scooped the ball into the net. The Noresiders looked relatively comfortable at that stage but they were soon rocked by a red card.

Despite the indiscretion, Kilkenny soon resumed their flow with points from Doyle, Ed Lauhoff and Greg Kelly. Laois replied via frees from Eoghan Murphy and Justin Duggan as well as a Mark Downey score from play but Kilkenny still led 1-10 to 0-7 at the break. The opening stages of the second half were dominated by Kilkenny where a Ed McDermott score was followed by a well taken goal from former Irish underage soccer international Brian Moore that probably ended the game as a contest. Laois remained in contention when top scorer Eoghan Murphy netted a penalty after Kilkenny goalkeeper Billy O'Sullivan brought down Justin Duggan but it only served to put respectability on the scoreboard. Kilkenny ended the game in style with points from Doyle, Greg Kelly and sub. Eoghan Cahill arriving before Ed Lauhoff got the Cats third goal in stoppage time that saw them run out 11 point winners by 3-17 to 1-12.

The next game against Antrim in Abbotstown where Greg Kelly ran riot with 1-5 which resulted in a routine win.

The third round proved vastly different when Galway produced a superb display in Nowlan Park. A powerful performance saw the Galway minor hurlers go West with two Leinster league points and a place in the championship semi-finals as they blitzed Kilkenny by 1-23 to 0-13. The Cats were left shell-shocked as the Aaron Niland-inspired Tribesmen secured a comprehensive win at UPMC Nowlan Park on Good Friday. In a tight first half there was little to choose between the sides. Niland did most of the scoring for Galway, helping himself to seven points (six frees), but four from Windgap's Conor Doyle (0-2 frees, 0-1 65) ensured Niall Bergin's side would be in close contention for a wind-assisted second half (Galway 0-9, Kilkenny 0-6).

A slow start upon the resumption - they leaked six points to Galway and scored just two - saw Kilkenny fall further behind. The gap grew even further when Niland hit the net from a close range free in the 44th minute. When Jason Rabbitte added a point a few minutes later the gap was out to 10 points (1-16 to 0-9) and with that the points were heading west. Kilkenny picked up the victory that they were widely expected to deliver in quarter-final clash with Offaly at the Faithful Fields in Kilcormac. The home side came in relatively under the radar after some mixed performances in the round robin stages. But they were very competitive early on in this tie, with long-range scores from Gearóid Maher and Liam O'Riordan helping them to move into an 0-5 to 0-3 lead. The contest shifted decisively in favour of Niall Bergin's young cats when a shot from Ed McDermott dropped on the corner of the small parallelogram, and corner forward Conor Doyle was sharpest in his reaction, prodding the ball past Éanna Mulhare for the opening goal after 18 minutes. McDermott, starting for the first time this year after injury issues, had a wonderful connection with his younger brother Bill throughout, and



Great Catches by Evan Murphy and Greg Kelly in the game v Antrim.



Willie Dempsey



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it was a clever pass from Bill that set up Ed for Kilkenny's second goal, ensuring a 2-5 to 0-8 interval lead. The battle between the older McDermott brother and Offaly full-back Richie Bracken was a real highlight of this contest, with both young players emerging with immense credit. The pressure greatly increased on Bracken and the Offaly full-back-line in the third quarter, and only an uncharacteristic series of wides (five of Kilkenny's nine wides came in this 15-minute spell) prevented them from pushing clear. Mark Mulrooney continued to carry the fight for Offaly, firing over three fine points to help leave just two points between the sides going into the last ten minutes, but Kilkenny found their stride late on to ensure they will go into next weekend's semi-final clash with Wexford with real momentum.

Kilkenny 2-15 Offaly 0-14.

Kilkenny sealed their place in the Leinster Minor Hurling Championship Final when running out four point winners over Wexford in a competitive provincial last four affair at UPMC Nowlan Park. The Leinster semi-final saw an opening half where Brian Moore's goal gave the Cats a decisive advantage and Niall Bergin's team maintained that control till the end even if they had to fight off a late Wexford rally. Wexford began the better and opened up an early two point lead through points from Colin Carley and Sean Hyland. Kilkenny battled back with a pair of frees from Conor Doyle but Wexford still held a 0-4 to 0-2 initiative after further efforts from Hyland and Jack Dunne. The Cats dominated the rest of the first half outscoring the visitors 1-6 to 0-1 with Moore's goal arriving in stoppage time after Doyle, Greg Kelly and Ed McDermott already accounted for points. Kilkenny looked in firm control when leading 1-8 to 0-5 at the break and they pushed the margin out to seven when the impressive Greg Kelly knocked over one of his five points from play. The home side then lost their way somewhat with Wexford scoring six on the spin to get back to within a point by the 40th minute. Crucially though, the Model County never got level and Kilkenny kept themselves in front with subs. James O'Neill and Robbie Doherty getting vital points off the bench.

Leinster Final

Galway 2-20 Kilkenny 0-14

In their first year in the competition, Galway minor hurlers scooped the main prize as they claimed a 12-point victory over Kilkenny in the Leinster decider in Portlaoise. Galway led for the whole game and Niall Bergin's Kilkenny outfit could have no complaints as goals from Brian Callanan and Jason Rabbitte as well as an eleven point total from Aaron Niland gave the Tribesmen a fully merited success. Galway were rampant in the early stages as they led 0-4 to 0-0 after less than 10 minutes play and while Kilkenny did find their groove, a 22nd minute Jason Rabbitte goal had the winners seven points to the good. Points from Ed Lauhoff, Greg Kelly and Sean Bergin did get Kilkenny back within range by the half-time interval but a comeback never seemed likely as Niland and Co tormented a Kilkenny team that lost crucial players Ed McDermott and Evan Murphy to second half injuries. The closest the Cats would get was five points.

All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship semi-final

Clare 0-23 Kilkenny 0-15

Clare advanced to a first All-Ireland final since 2010 as they picked apart a Kilkenny side reduced to 14 players for the final 52 minutes. The Munster champions won the second half by 0-12 to 0-5 as their opponents, where Kilkenny's economy in front of goal kept them in the contest. The game was defined by that red card for full-forward Ed McDermott in the eighth minute. By that stage, Kilkenny were 0-3 to 0-2 ahead thanks to three points on the trot from Conor Doyle (free), Ed's brother Bill McDermott, and Ciallín Brennan, after a brave Micheál Ahern block. Even when Clare levelled, they battled back to lead by two through a brace from Doyle and Greg Kelly, who fist-pumped to energise the Cats among the crowd. But Clare were robbing the sliotar in the middle third and turning it into points. Ronan Kilroy was all over the park, assisting six Banner points and scoring his first of two after a Matthew O'Halloran turnover. Further scores from Jack Mescal, Evan Price, Seán Arthur, and James Hegarty, after a stylish interception, moved them two ahead. Clare captain Gunning manned the free role and although Kilkenny worked the wings, he was central in back-to-back points. He clipped the first after intercepting the sliotar and charging forward before providing the second for Mescal. Kilkenny, however, did not miss once they got their shot off. They didn't hit a wide all half and narrowed the gap to one at the break with a Brennan point and a Doyle free. That left it 0-11 to 0-10 and Kilkenny moved into the lead on the restart. The young kittens raced into the lead at the start of the new half with Doyle and Kelly split the posts. More fine defensive work from Gunning set up a 39th-minute goal chance for Ógie Fanning but Billy O'Sullivan made the save. By then, Clare were already midway through a five-point streak, including three long-range placed balls from centre-back Hegarty. Again Kilkenny stood up and were counted with a Kelly free breaking that run, Hegarty landed the next

one from inside his own half. Harry Doherty had a shot on goal saved by O'Sullivan, while Mark Sheedy blocked a Kelly free at the other end, but Clare subs Doherty and Emmet Mulcahy, with his first touch, helped them stretch away to victory. For Kilkenny it was a case of going out on their shield and the wonderment of what might have been.

Kilkenny Minor Hurling Panel 2023

Bobby Brennan (Erin's Own), Patrick Purcell (Barrow Rangers), Billy O'Sullivan (James Stephens), Donnchadh Hennessy (Dicksboro), Sean Bergin (James Stephens), Rory Garrett (Fenians), Sean Deely (James Stephens), Patrick Lacey (Dicksboro), Noah Manogue (James Stephens), Bill McDermott (James Stephens), Greg Kelly (O'Loughlin Gaels), Brian Moore (Dicksboro), Ciallín Brennan (Tullaroan), Steven Kinsella (Graiguenamanagh), Conor Doyle (Windgap), Conor Brophy (Erin's Own), Jerry Henderson (Fenians), Evan Murphy (Dicksboro), Andrew Phelan (Piltown), Darragh Vereker (Glenmore), Michéal Keane (St. Martins), Ed Lauhoff (James Stephens), Eoghan Cahill (Graigue Ballycallan), Niall O'Brien (Piltown), Mikey Stynes (Dicksboro), Micheál Ahern (Emeralds), Robbie Doherty (Mooncoin), Nicky Ryan (Graiguenamanagh), Ed McDermott (James Stephens), David Barcoe (Clara), Daniel McCormack (O'Loughlin Gaels), Cian Phelan (Young Irelands), James O'Neill (St. Martins).



Mikey Stynes and Ben O'Kane battle for possession



Conor Doyle of Kilkenny in action against Ronan Keane of Clare during the All-Ireland Semi-Final.



First Senior Title for Kilkenny since 2001

Handball Report

It was another hugely successful year for Kilkenny handballers at both Juvenile and an Adult level with successes across Provincial, National, and International competition. A first Senior title was brought back to Kilkenny since Michael "Ducksy" Walsh's last win 22 years ago in the Softball Singles in 2001 when Shane Dunne (Clogh)

won the Senior Hardball Singles crown in new handball centre in Croke Park where he defeated fellow Kilkenny man Ciarán Neary (Talbots Inch). This was also the first Senior Title for the Clogh Handball Club since 1981 where Peadar Hughes partnered Anthony Greene (Talbots Inch) to win the Senior Softball Doubles title.

4 Wall

First up in the early months of the year were the 4 Wall Championships, including the Irish Nationals. In the 4 Wall Juvenile Irish Nationals played in Kilkenny, Carlow, and Laois venues Anthony Clifford (Talbots Inch) had a thrilling 15-13, 15-8 win over Galway in the Boys 15 and Under Singles. In Boys 19 and Under Final Kyle Jordan had an emphatic win over his Sligo rival 15-7, 15-7. Amy Brennan (Clogh) had to battle hard to overcome Clare in a tie breaker of the Girls 19 and Under Final to win 11-3. There was no joy for Jake O'Neill (Kells) in the Boys 13 and Under Final losing out to Galway 15-6, 15-11. Niamh Drennan lost the Girls Under 13 and Under Final to Cork 15-2, 15-2, and Una Duggan (Galmoy) lost out in the Girls 17 and Under Final to Wexford 15-10, 15-5. Kilkenny winners in the B and Plate competitions were in the Girls 17 and Under B Aoibhe Ryan (Kilfane), Emer Barron (Windgap) Girls 17 and Under Plate, Girls 19 and Under Plate Aine Duggan (Galmoy) and Boys 17 and Under Plate John Hayes (Kells).

In the All-Ireland series, there was a new format trialled this year where the semi-finals and finals were played on the same weekend. The county was successful in winning five titles. There was victory for the O'Keeffe sisters bringing back the Ladies Junior C and Ladies Junior B Singles titles to Kilfane. In the Ladies Junior C Final Dearbhail defeated Sile Spain (Tipperary) 21-6, 21-10. In the Junior B Singles final Roisin played excellent handball against the experienced Sabrina Hughes (Dublin) to win in two straight games 21-15, 21-12. In the elite Minor Doubles championships played in Croke Park, Kilkenny pairings were victorious in both the Men's and Ladies finals. There was a tremendous victory for Emer Barron (Windgap) and Una Duggan (Galmoy) in the Ladies decider as they overcame the challenge of Tipperary 21-15, 21-6. The (O'Loughlin's/Windgap) partnership of Noah Manogue/Conor Doyle were comfortable winners of the Men's grade as they defeated Clare 21-10, 21-9. In the Under 21 Doubles final the formidable partnership of Kyle Jordan/Conor Holden (Kilfane) fresh from their minor win last year added the under 21 title beating Cork 21-16, 21-9. In the Silver Master's B Doubles final there was an excellent win for Willie Murphy (Kilfane) and Eoin Brannigan (O'Loughlin's) defeating Tyrone (Tyrone) 21-11, 21-11. In the Ruby Master's Doubles final Johnny Brennan (Mothel)/Joe Hennessy (O'Loughlin's) defeated Antrim 21-3, 21-1.

The Uncle and Nephew pairing of Clogh's Brendan Hosey and Ciarán Cooney lost out in the Junior B Doubles Final in the tie breaker 11-2 after a terrific battle with Tipperary. Eamonn Purcell (Windgap)/Paul Dowling (Mothel) lost out in the Emerald Master's A final to Tyrone 21-10, 21-7. There were defeats for Aoife Holden (Kilfane) in the Intermediate Singles and Doubles finals where the Kilfane player was partnered by Noelle Dowling (Mothel) in the Doubles.

In the Juvenile championships, Kilkenny had less success than previous years winning just two titles but were still knocking on the door and competing at the highest level. In the Boys Under 16 Singles Final Anthony Clifford (Talbots Inch) beat Clare comprehensively in what was one of the standout performances of the weekend. This was followed by a brilliant success in the Under 17 Girls Doubles final where the Glenmore pairing of Emma Kelly and Laura Doherty were in full control all through defeating Tipperary 21-13, 21-5 to record a famous win.

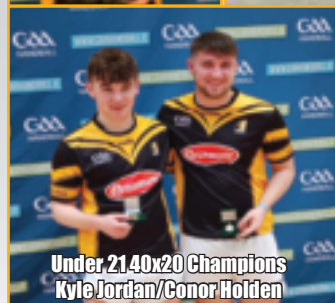
In the Girls Under 14 Singles Niamh Drennan (Galmoy) lost out in two straight games to Cork while in the Under Singles 14 Doubles the Windgap pairing of Kate O'Brien/Moya Egan lost out to a very strong Clare pair also in two straight games. Kate Ryan (Kilfane) and Orla Duggan (Galmoy) lost the under 15 final to a formidable Clare pairing in two straight games. In the Girls Under 16 Singles final Katie Jordan (Kilfane) fought back brilliantly to force a tie breaker but eventually lost out to her Cork rival. In the Girls Under 16 Doubles Final Mia O'Connell (Kells) and Jenny Saunders (Windgap) lost out in two straight games after a brave battle to Tyrone.



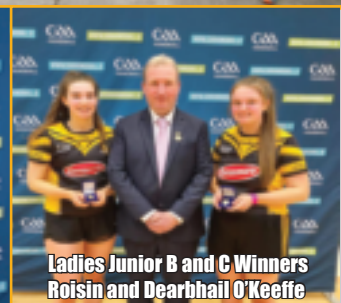
Senior Hardball Singles Winner Shane Dunne



Talbots Inch 40x20 Felle Winners



Under 21 40x20 Champions Kyle Jordan/Conor Holden



Ladies Junior B and C Winners Roisin and Dearbhail O'Keeffe



Mens and Ladies Minor 40x20 Doubles Champions



All Ireland Under 16 40x20 Champion



SMDB Winners Willie Murphy and Eoin Brannigan



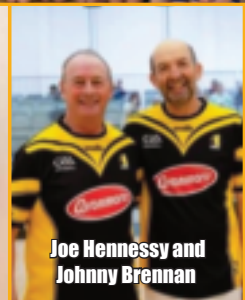
Girls 4 Wall Felle Participants



Girls 4 Wall Felle Participants



Galmoy 4 Wall Felle Winners



Joe Hennessy and Johnny Brennan

USHA Juvenile 4 Wall Championships

The 66th Annual USHA National Junior 4 Wall Championships were held at the Bay Club Pleasanton, California featured over 50 players from US, Canada, Mexico, and Ireland. Representing team Ireland were two Kilkenny players who had to win their way through trials back in November to qualify. Kyle Jordan (Kilfane) won the Boys 19 and Under Singles and Doubles while Anthony Clifford (Talbots Inch) won the Boys 15 and Under Singles and partnered Rory Carthy (Roscommon) to win the Boys 17 and Under Doubles. Katie Jordan (Kilfane) also made the journey where she lost out the Girls 15 and Under Final to Cork but made amends winning the Girls 17 and Under Big Ball Singles.

Softball

On the adult front, the County had had a very successful summer with All Ireland titles returning home. In the Minor grade there was mixed emotions for Noah Manogue (O'Loughlins). In the Singles final he was narrowly defeated by Armagh in a tie breaker, while, in the Doubles, Noah and Conor Doyle (Windgap) travelled to Cullen, Cork where they defeated Cork in two straight games to complete the double of 40x20 and 60x30 Minor Doubles titles. In the Ladies Minor Doubles the partnership of Emer Barron (Windgap) and Aoibhe Ryan (Kilfane) brought home the crown with a dominant performance over Tipperary. In the Ladies Junior Singles there was a brilliant win for Clogh's Amy Brennan defeating Wexford in the final 21-12, 21-9. In the over 35B Singles final Brendan Burke (Kells) was the standout player during the campaign and in the final, he was too strong for Tipperary winning 21-4, 21-6. Brendan followed up this win by completing the Over 35B All Ireland Double with his brother Diarmuid as they defeated Waterford opposition in the final. There was a great success for Kilfane's Willie Holden winning the Golden Masters A Final where he overcame the challenge of a strong Limerick player 21-9, 21-7. There was victory and defeat for Kyle Jordan (Kilfane) in the Intermediate Grades. In the Singles Kyle lost out in a tie breaker to Limerick but made amends in the Doubles when partnered by fellow clubman Jack Holden they defeated Cavan in the final to gain Senior status. In the Under 21 Singles Jack Doyle lost out in a tie breaker after a titanic battle against Cork but followed up with a brilliant win in the Doubles with clubman Sean Barron to take the under 21 Doubles title back to Windgap. There was no joy for Johnny Brennan (Mothel) in the Ruby Masters Singles or Doubles Finals. In the Singles Johnny lost out to Tipperary and in the Doubles partnered by Joe Hennessy (O'Loughlins) lost out again to Tipperary. There was also defeat for Ciara Mahon (Clogh) in the Ladies Intermediate Singles Final.

Kilkenny Juvenile's enjoyed better success in the 60x30 championships. The Galmoy pairing of Niamh Drennan and Mairead Duggan were in fine form when they overcame Tyrone in the Girls Under 14 Doubles final. In the Boys Under 14 Doubles Final Jake O'Neill & Conor Manogue (Kells) defeated Tipperary. In the Boys Under 15 Singles Andrew Brennan (Talbots Inch) after a tough Leinster campaign beat Cork in the final. There was also victory in the Boys Under 15 Doubles where Daniel Darwich Hayes/Hugh Healy (Kells) beat Tyrone after a hard-fought tie breaker. In the Boys Under 16 Singles Anthony Clifford (Talbots Inch) added the 60x30 to his 40x20 title with a victory over Cork to top off a hugely successful year. There was defeat for Shauna Hayes (Kells) in the Girls Under 14 Singles Final, Katie Jordan (Kilfane) in the Girls Under 16 Final and defeat in the Girls Under 16 Doubles final for Blathnaid Mullins/Marie Farrell (Kilfane).

Hardball

The Hardball championship returned to action for the first time in several years. This year with some promotion and live streaming behind the traditional game participants returned to the 60x30 courts around the Country. As always there was a great Kilkenny representation. Both the Singles and Doubles All Irelands were played in the new Handball Centre in Croke Park. In the Junior Singles John Hayes (Kells) lost out to Limerick's Evan Murphy in two straight games after winning through a round robin to qualify for the final. The Senior Final was an All Kilkenny final where Shane Dunne (Clogh) got the better of Ciarán Neary (Talbots Inch) in two straight games to bring a first Senior title in any code for 21 years. In the Senior Doubles Final Shane Dunne (Clogh)/Ciarán Neary (Talbots Inch) lost out to Cork in a tie breaker.

Feile Na Gael

The Talbots Inch teams for the second year in a row were the dominant force in both codes as they won Division 1 titles in the 4 Wall and Softball Feile events.

In the 4 Wall tournament held in Moycullen, Galway, Talbots Inch were victorious in the final against a very strong Michael Breatnachs' side from Galway. The game came down to the last 15 minutes of the day where the partnership of Andrew Brennan/Joe Dowling pulled out all the stops to bring back the title to Talbots Inch for a second year in a row. Andrew Brennan was named the Division 1 Skills Champion. Kells won the Boys Division 3 title and Nicky Healy was named the Division 3 Skills Champion. The winning Kells team were Nicky Healy, Hugh Healy, Conor Dillion, Darragh Lyons and Sean Sheridan.

In the Girls competition Galmoy were successful in the Girls Division 2 All Kilkenny Final defeating Kells after a well contested game. Niamh Drennan was named the Division 2 Skills Champion to cap off the day in style for Galmoy.



The Galmoy team were Niamh Drennan, Mairead Duggan, Isobel Murphy and Niamh Heffernan. In Division 3 Clogh lost out in the final to a very strong Moycullen. The Clogh team were - Caoilinn Dowling, Abbie Flanagan, Ellie Roche, and Sarah Phelan.

Following the success in the 4 Wall event, Talbots Inch claimed the honours in the Division 1 Softball event when defeating Tyrone opposition in the decider in Collooney Sligo. This is the first time in Feile Na Gael handball history that a club won back-to-back titles in the 40x20 and 60x30 codes. Andrew Brennan was named the Division 1 Skills Champion in both the 4 Wall and Softball events an achievement never accomplished previously by any player in the same year. The Talbots Inch winning teams were Rian Dowling, Andrew Brennan, Joe Dowling, Conor Deegan, and Dan Carroll.

Kells girls claimed runners up spot in the Division 1 grade where Shauna Hayes won the Division 1 Skills competition. In the Division 2 Clogh had a great win over Kilfane. The young Clogh team used their experiences of losing out the 40x20 to turn the 60x30 championship into success. Caoilinn Dowling was also named the Division Skills 2 winner. The Clogh winning team were Caoilinn Dowling, Abbie Flanagan, Ellie Roche, and Sarah Phelan.

Softball Nationals

The softball Nationals took place in North Leinster and Dublin venues. In what was a very successful tournament there was no National success this time around for Kilkenny players. Kyle Jordan competing

in his first adult competition reached the Open Singles Semi Final after two big wins over seasoned campaigners where he faced Robert McCarthy (Wexford) in the semi-final. Kyle put in a performance he could be proud of losing out in two straight games. Ciarán Neary (Talbots Inch) also reached the semi-final but lost out by the narrowest of margins 11-10 to Meath's Gary McConnell.

In the Silver Masters Doubles Final John Ryan/Ollie Ryan (Carlow) defeated Edward Bourke (O'Loughlins)/Philip O'Carroll (Cork) 15-9, 15-6. In the Girls 17 and Under Final Hannah Grace (Tipperary)/Jodie Keeling (Wexford) defeated Holly Byrne/Katie Brennan (Clogh) 15-11, 15-1.

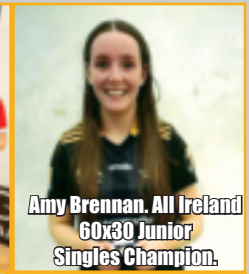
There was no joy in the Girls 15 and Under Final as Lucy McCullagh/Laura Duff (Tyrone) defeated Caislin Tracey (Tyrone)/Katie Jordan (Kilfane) 15-13, 13-15, 11-4.

Wallball All Ireland Championships

Niamh Drennan (Galmoy) showed her versatility across all three codes of handball when she won the under 14 All Ireland Wallball title defeating Tyrone



Senior Hardball Doubles Runners Up Ciarán Neary and Shane Dunne



Amy Brennan. All Ireland 60x30 Junior Singles Champion.



All Ireland Junior Hardball Singles Runner



Girls Under 14 All Ireland Wallball Champions

in the final 15-5, 15-12. Katie Jordan (Kilfane) lost out in the final of the Girls Under 16 to Cork in a tie breaker.

Wallball Nationals

The Wallball Nationals, held in Roscommon, was a successful weekend for Kilkenny. In Girls 13 and Under Niamh Drennan (Galmoy) was the winner for a second year in a row, Katie Jordan (Kilfane) won the Girls 17 and Under Grade and in the Boys 15 and under Anthony Clifford was a deserving champion.

Around the Clubs

GALMOY



Photo 1: Galmoy U-8 Handballers receive Easter Eggs from Billy Drennan Photo 2: Ladies Minor Handball Doubles All Ireland Champions in Croke Park. Una Duggan and Emer Barron(Windgap), Photo 3: Galmoy Girls Mairéad Duggan and Niamh Drennan won the All Ireland Girls U-14 Doubles 60 x 30 Handball Final in Sligo, Photo 4: Niall Drennan, Winner of Leinster One Wall 2023 Photo 5: The Galmoy Girls celebrate their Féile na nGael win in Galway in April with their respective fathers, Jarlath Duggan, Liam Drennan and Stephen Murphy.

KILFANE



Kilfane Handball Club had another successful year in 2023 both at adult & Juvenile level. On the Juvenile scene our Feile na nGael teams competed very well in the 40x20 and 60x30 competitions. The seven Girls Kate Ryan, Sophie McCabe, Aoife Ravenhall, Katie Mulcahy, Katie Begley, Hannah O'Reilly & Shauna Doherty trained very hard with coaches Noel Doherty, Brigid Cassin Begley, Ray Ryan and really enjoyed their year. Our U16 Girls Katie Jordan, Blathnaid Mullins & Marie Farrell all won Leinster gold and were runners up in their 60x30 Ireland finals. Katie Jordan also won the wall ball nationals.

On the Adult front Aoibhe Ryan had a great year in all codes and finished off the year winning the Minor All Ireland 60x30 doubles title with Eimear Barron from Windgap H.B.C

Dearbhail & Róisín O'Keefe also had a great season when both of them won 40x20 junior singles All Ireland titles and to cap off a great year they won the junior b doubles title together. Dearbhail & Róisín were the first ever doubles All Ireland winners in the new handball centre in Croke Park.

Jack Holden & Kyle Jordan had a terrific win to be crowned All Ireland Intermediate Doubles 60x30 champions. The lads move up to the senior ranks for the 2024 season. Willie Holden also had a superb 60x30 season when he was crowned Golden Masters singles Leinster & All Ireland champion. Willie had a fantastic win over his Limerick opponent in Talbots Inch.

Kilfane Handball Club continues to promote all codes wall ball, 40x20 & 60x30 handball.

CLOGH

Clogh Handball Club hold a presentation night every December with presentations made to club All Ireland winners and to players in the Florrie Mc Carthy tournament. The Florrie McCarthy tournament is for all Juveniles in our club and play one another in two teams. Florrie McCarthy was trainer to many of the players who were successful in the 50's 60' and with his son Billy won the under 14 doubles All Ireland title in 1969. Last year The Presentations were made by his great grand-daughter's Amy & Katie Brennan.

The club cater for boys and girls from under 6 up to minor and adult men and ladies.

Club Players compete in all codes which include softball, handball, 40x20 and wall ball, Cumann na mBunscoile, 2nd level Schools & Colleges in County Provincial and National competitions

Other Club Trophies are Fr Purcell Cup, Cobbler Cup, Eddie Sommers Cup . Fr Jerry Joyce Cup which is presented to the winner of the County.under 14 40x20 singles winner.

A split the pot Club Fundraiser is held every 2 weeks. Funds from this was used to put new stare of the art



WINDGAP



2023 was a successful year at juvenile level in Windgap with numerous county titles being won and whilst The highlight was the National titles won at both under twenty one and minor level. They saw Jack Doyle and Séan Barron win the under twenty one doubles and at minor level Emer Barron partnered Una Duggan of Galmoy to win the 40 x 20 minor doubles with and Ava Ryan of Kiltane to win the 60 x 30 doubles whilst Conor Doyle won the minor doubles with Neil Manogue of O'Loughlins.

During the year the Club hosted the u13 Girls Nationals competition and held the Kilkenny trials for the County one-wall juvenile representatives for Leinster.

Plans are in place for indoor One Wall Handball training and

O'LOUGHLIN GAELS



O'Loughlin's Adult Handball Tournament



Cumman Na Mbunscoil Competition

TALBOT'S INCH



Under 10 County Championship Winner and Representatives.



Kilkenny Under 12 County Winner



60x30 Under 12/13 Representatives



40x20 Leinster Winners and Runners Up



-Leinster Under 16 Singles Winner and Under 16 Doubles Runners Up



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HUGE EFFORT MADE

Development
Squads Report
by Pado O'Flynn



Celtic Challenge Team

A huge effort was made over the last number months by the coaching & games committee, feed back from clubs, parents & schools whilst the addition of Michael Fennelly as talent lead has greatly boosted the preparations of the squads. The addition of an U-19 tournament for 2024, Summer Programmes, additional resourcing of management teams, football squads, coaching work shops led by Michael will hopefully see a rise on all fronts – something which should excite all going forward.

Celtic Challenge:

This in effect is the Minor B Competition. Played off in quick succession. In the group stages there was good wins over Cork away and Wexford in UPMC Nowlan Pk. The quarter final against Clare was an epic before they suffered defeat against a strong Galway side in Offaly.

Eoin O'Shea (Windgap) Seán McGrath (Graigue Ballycallan), Eanna O'keeffe (Thomastown), Shane Morrissey (Kilmacow), Alex Begley (Thomastown), Colin Hayes (St Martin's), Matt Bolger (St Martin's), Colman Moloney (Galmoy), David Kennedy (Tullogher Rosbercon), Jack Comerford (Erin's Own), Conor Dalton (St Lachtain's Freshford), Chris Delaney (St Patrick's, Ballyragget), Michael Lynch (John Lockes), Conor Hoyne (Clara), Christian Connick (St Patrick's, Ballyragget), Colm Tracey (Thomastown), John Fitzpatrick (Shamrocks Ballyhale), Ross O'Neill (Dunamaggin), Cathal Buckley (Dunamaggin), James Coogan (Erin's Own), Niall Drennan (Galmoy), Andrew Murphy (Tullogher Rosbercon), Jamie Thornton (Lisdowney), Patrick Coughlan (St Martin's), Niall Carpenter (Barrow Rangers), Sam Hayes (Danesfort), Mark Bergin (St Patrick's, Ballyragget), Cian Farrell (Thomastown), Ryan Donovan Cooke (John Lockes)

Management: Tom Hogan (Graigue Ballycallan), Kieran Joyce (Rower Inistioge), Tom Hanlon (Mooncoin) Ronan Tierney (Graignamangh)

The U-16 A's headed to Wexford where they took on Cork in game 1. Kilkenny were in the front from the get go and easily won on a scoreline of 1-19 to 2-8. Game 2 which in effect was the final against Wexford proved to be a very tight affair. Early goals from Kilkenny proved to be crucial and they landed up winning on the day 3-12 to 2-12 where one or two home town decisions probably made it tighter than it was.

U-16 A v Cork All Ireland Semi Final

Bill McDermott James Stephens, Bill O'Shea Dicksboro, Bobby Brennan Erin's Own, Callum Lawlor Emeralds, Cian Donnelly St Lachtains, Conor Heffernan James Stephens, Conor McEvoy James Stephens, Daniel McCormack O'Loughlins, David Barcoe Clara, Donnchadh Hennessy Dicksbor, Eoghan Cahill Graigue Ballycallan, Jack Coogan St. Martins, Jack Dollard Glenmore, Jake Connery Erin's Own, James Bergin James Stephens, Jason Cody

Glenmore, Jeff Tyrrell O'Loughlins, Louis Ragggett Dicksboro, Luke Lawlor Clara, Mark Doherty St. Patricks, Mikey Rohan Carrickshock, Padraig Joyce James Stephens, Patrick Lacey Dicksboro, Robbie Doherty Mooncoin.

Bainisteoir: Mark Aylward Shamrocks Ballyhale, Roghnoiri: Ian Duggan Mullinavat, Michael Farrell St Lachtains, Cillian Hughes St Lachtains.

U-16 B All Ireland Semi Final v Galway

Aidan Carroll Mooncoin, Alec Kerr Erin's Own, Anthony Clifford Dicksboro, Billy Delahunty Mooncoin, Callum Murphy Danesfort, Charlie Orpen Blacks/Whites, Cian Doherty Thomastown, Cian O'Shea Graignamanagh, Ciaran Coone Thomastown, Ciaran Hickey Dunnamaggin, Conor Barcoe Thomastown, Conor Farrell Carrickshock, Dean Kinsella Tullogher Rosbercon, DJ Knox Piltown, Fionn Mahony Danesfort, Jamie Tallon Dunnamaggin, Kieran Timmons Young Irelands, Luke Cahill St. Martins, Luke Kerwick Dicksboro, Michael Ruane St. Martins, Philip Carrigan Clara, Robert Coogan Erin's Own, Robert Jackman John Lockes, Thomas Langton Young Irelands, Tim Doherty Dunnamaggin, Tom Shore St. Martin, Zak O'Halloran John Lockes,

Bainisteoir: Fergal Brennan O'Loughlin Gaels, Roghnoiri: John O'Grady Blacks & Whites, Aidan Lawlor St Martins.

U-15 A All Ireland Semi v Galway

Andrew Brennan James Stephens, Ben McEvoy Graigue Ballycallan, Brian Hickey Dunnamaggin, Cian Dermody James Stephens, Conor Holohan O'Loughlin Gaels, Darragh Hickey Emeralds, Diarmuid Behan James Stephens, Eoin Brennan Erin's Own, Jack Rhattigan Conahy Shamrocks, Jake Mullen Shamrocks Ballyhale, Jake O'Doherty Mooncoin, Josh Dowling Erin's Own, Kevin Buggy Erin's Own, Killian Ryan Shamrocks Ballyhale, Larry Phelan James Stephens, Michael Barron Shamrocks Ballyhale, Oisin Henderson Dicksboro, Ollie O'Donovan John Lockes, Paddy O'Brien John Lockes, PJ Mackey Rower Inistioge, Rian MacDonald Kilmacow, Rory Glynn James Stephens, Sean Hanrahan Tullogher Rosbercon, Tristan Daly Erin's Own.

Bainisteoir Liam Smith James Stephens, Roghnoiri Robert Jackman John Lockes, Stephen Morgan James Stephens, Billy Quinn Mooncoin, Richard Kelly Rower Inistioge, Conor Bolger Clara.

U-15 B All Ireland Semi v Dublin

Adam Maher O'Loughlin/Gaels, Aidan Keating Young Irelands, Ben Henderson Dicksboro, Ben Nevin Thomastown, Cian Byrne O'Loughlin Gaels, Ciaran Cummins Tullogher Rosbercon,

Cillian Dunphy Lisdowney, Conor Buggy Erins Own, Cormac Neary Graigue Ballycallan, Dan Carroll Dicksboro, Daniel Hayes Dunnamaggin, Darragh Lyons Dunnamaggin, David McGee O'Loughlin/Gaels, David Peppard John Lockes, Eoin Moore Dicksboro, Jack Keating Barrow Rangers, Jack Roche The Rower Inistioge, Keelan Barcoe Barrow Rangers, Kieran Carter Young Irelands, Luke McDonald St Martins, Matty Murphy Carrickshock, Michael Tynan Graigue Ballycallan, Robert McEvoy Lisdowney, Ronan Mahony Danesfort, Samuel John O'Shea Dicksboro, Scott McDonald Dunnamaggin, Timmy Corr Danesfort, Tommy Hoyne John Lockes

Bainisteoir: Gordan Byrne Erins Own, Roghnóiri: Padraig Keegan St Martins, Pat Nolan Blacks & Whites, Pat Robinson Graigue Ballycallan.

Sonny Walsh

Aaron McCormack Dunnamaggin, Adam Fitzpatrick Mullinavat, Aidan O'Shea Windgap, Billy Rowe Conahy Shamrocks, Charlie Mackey Mooncoin, Charlie Ryan St Martins, Cian Franks Carrickshock, Conor Walsh Mooncoin, Darragh Corcoran Young Irelands, Donnacha Grant Shamrocks Ballyhale, Eoin O'Gorman Carrickshock, Fionn Murphy Glenmore, Glen O'Sullivan John Lockes, Jack Carroll Cloneen, Jack Power Emeralds, James Kavanagh Dicksboro, James Ryan Shamrocks Ballyhale, Kyle Bolger Tullogher Rosbercon, Liam O'Grady Carrickshock, Lorcan Cummins St Martins, Noah Langrell Blacks and Whites, Oisin Roche The Rower Inistioge, Paddy Grace John Lockes, Padraig Hayden Graignamaghnagh, Rory Foot Kilmacow, Sam Mansfield Carrickshock, Seamus Murphy Carrickshock, Sean Morrissey John Lockes, Shane Downey Piltown, Tadhg Walsh The Rower Inistioge, Theo Drennan Shamrocks,

Bainisteoir: Paddy Farrell Carrickshock, Roghnóiri: Jim Norriss Piltown, Ciaran Breen Barrow Rangers, Dave Williams Kilmacow,

Tony Forristal

Andrew Holohan O'Loughlin Gaels, Charlie Kavanagh St Lachtains, Daniel Lawlor Barrow Rangers, Danny O'Neill Thomastown, Dara Enright Windgap, Dylan Brennan Young Irelands, Enda Cunningham Danesfort, Felix Fwamba O'Loughlin Gaels, Jack Bolger Barrow Rangers, Jack Egan Windgap, Jack Mulcahy James Stephens, Jack Stapleton St Martins, Jack Treacy Dicksboro, Jake Barcoe Barrow Rangers, Jake O'Neill Dunnamaggin, Jamie Walsh Bennettsbridge, Joe Dowling Dicksboro, Kyril Mtinsi O'Loughlin Gaels, Lorcan Mahony Danesfort, Odhran Prendergast Barrow Rangers, Oisin O'Neill John Lockes, Oliver Phelan James Stephens, Paddy Purcell James Stephens, Padraig Meany Clara, Patrick Aylward Mullinavat, Robert Lacey Dicksboro, Ronan Treacy O'Loughlin Gaels, Rory Rhattigan Conahy Shamrocks, Ruairi Power James Stephens, Sean Kavanagh Dicksboro, William Moriarty James Stephens,

Bainisteoir: Dessie Walsh Thomastown, Roghnóiri: Eddie Doyle Blacks & Whites, Aaron Butler John Lockes, Padraig Cooney Cloneen.



U16 A Team



U16 B Team



U15 A Team



U15 B Team



U14 Tony Forristal Team



U14 Sonny Walsh Team



*Development Squads Coaches 2023 launch evening March 23.
 Back: Ronan Tierney, Mark Aylward, Kieran Joyce, Padraig Keegan, Paddy Farrell.
 Middle: Eddie Doyle, Pat Nolan, Pat Robertson, Aaron Butler, Dessie Walsh, Dave Williams, Jim Norriss, Tom Hanlon,
 Brian Ryan (Games Manager Kilkenny GAA), Robert Jackman.
 Front: Tom Hogan, Padraig Cooney, Pado Flynn, David Denieffe (Chairman Coaching & Games), PJ Kenny (Chairman),
 Joe Pyke, Gordon Byrne, Richard Kelly, Stephen Morgan.*

All Irelands All Round!

2nd Level Report by Michael O'Leary



St Kierans - All Ireland Senior Colleges Hurling Champions



Loreto, Kilkenny - All Ireland Senior Colleges Camoige Champions



Colaiste Abhrainn Ri, Callan, won the Senior C All-Ireland Schools Title when defeating Gort CS 2-9 to 2-7

LORETO KILKENNY

DOUBLE ALL-IRELAND GLORY FOR LORETO GIRLS

Loreto Kilkenny were celebrating earlier in the year as they completed The Leinster and All-Ireland double in both Senior and Junior.

SENIOR

The Leinster Senior Final was an all Kilkenny City contest between Loreto Kilkenny and Presentation Kilkenny with The Loreto girls winning 4-10 to 1-9.

They led 3-3 to 1-6 at half-time with Ciara Dunne scoring a hat-trick of goals, while Amy Clifford added a goal from a free in The Second-Half as they ran out 10 point winners.

Their All-Ireland Semi-Final match against Ursuline Thurles was one of the great Schools matches played.

It was an epic contest as Loreto Kilkenny led 1-7 to 0-7 at half-time with the goal coming from Julie Lennon.

However, a strong third quarter from The Thurles School put them 2-11 to 1-10 entering the final quarter, but The Loreto girls displayed strength of character in abundance to fight back and pull off a famous victory.

The final 10 minutes produced a welter of whirlwind excitement.

After pointing a brace of frees to half the deficit (2-11 to 1-12), Amy Clifford added a goal to put The Loreto girls ahead (2-12 to 2-11) before Ursuline Thurles replied with a goal almost immediately to regain the lead. 3-11 to 2-12.

Amy Clifford added another as Loreto Kilkenny took the lead once again. 3-12 to 3-11, before The Thurles School fought back to level proceedings. 3-12 each.

It was all set-up for one final act, and Julie Lennon was the match winning hero as she struck over a superb point to point The Loreto girls into an All-Ireland Final following a memorable encounter.

Loreto Kilkenny's All-Ireland Final match against St. Pats Maghera -played in Blanchardstown - was much more straightforward as they were in control throughout.

Playing with a strong wind advantage, Loreto Kilkenny led 0-13 to 0-1 at half-time, before an Amy Clifford goal in the 38th minute confirmed their overall superior dominance as they ran out 1-16 to 1-2 winners with 10 different players on the scoresheet.

JUNIOR

The Loreto Kilkenny Junior Team had an easy win in The Leinster Final as they won 6-19 to 0-2 against Loreto Wexford.

Team Captain Ciara Dunne scored 3-1, while Louise Boyd (1-9 0-4 frees), Aoife Shealy (1-3) and Louise Gilmore (1-2)



Loreto, Kilkenny - All Ireland Junior Colleges Camoige Champions



St Kieran's, Kilkenny - All Ireland Junior Colleges Hurling Champions



Loreto, Kilkenny - All Ireland Sevens Camoige Champions
Loreto Kilkenny 8-8, St. Brigid's Loughrea 7-6 a.e.t.



Loreto, Kilkenny - All Ireland Super 9's Camoige Champions

were the other goalscorers in a comprehensive victory. They completed the All-Ireland double, with St. Pats Maghera providing the opposition also in the Junior decider. Loreto Kilkenny led 2-5 to 0-5 at half-time with goals from Aoife Shealy and Sarah Kehoe, before further goals in the second-half from Eleanor Doheny and Ciara Dunne put them on their way to a very impressive victory. Anna Doheny was named Player of The Match.

ST KIERAN'S KILKENNY

KIERANS CRUISE TO ALL-IRELAND GLORY ON ST. PATRICKS DAY

It was a St. Patrick's Day to remember for Kilkenny Sports, as at the same time that Willie Mullins was training Galopin Des Champs to win his Third Cheltenham Gold Cup, St. Kierans College were cruising their way to a 24th Senior All-Ireland and a first since 2019.

LEINSTER SEMI-FINAL

St. Kierans College 3-18 Colaiste Eoin (Dublin) 2-10

LEINSTER FINAL

Offaly Schools 1-16 St. Kierans College 1-14

ALL-IRELAND QUARTER FINAL

St. Kierans College 2-28 St. Raphaels Loughrea 0-13

ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL

St. Kierans College 3-13 Cashel Community School 2-9

ALL-IRELAND FINAL

St. Kierans College 3-13
Presentation Athenry 0-12

The St. Kierans Boys secured their 24th Senior All-Ireland triumph on St. Patricks Day with a 10 point win against Presentation Athenry in Croke Park.

Appearing in their 8th consecutive All-Ireland Final, St. Kierans led 1-7 to 0-8 at half-time following a closely fought opening-half.

The goal was a superb individual effort by Anthony Ireland Wall in the 24th minute, as he struck an unstoppable shot to the net following a wonderful solo run, while Man of the Match Rory Glynn was outstanding and he scored 0-4 from play.

Galway County Minor Aaron Niland was on target for The Tribesmen with 0-4 - all from placed balls - throughout the opening-half.

Further goals in The Second-Half from Donagh Murphy in The 38th minute and Ted Dunne in injury-time confirmed St. Kierans overall superior dominance, as their defence was watertight only conceding 0-6 from play.

It was a Second All-Ireland win in two months for Killian Corcoran and Niall Shortall who were also part of The Ballyhale Shamrocks Team that won The Club All-Ireland Final in January.

St Kieran's College scorers: Anthony Ireland Wall 1-2, Ted Dunne 1-1, Rory Glynn 0-4, Donagh Murphy 1-0, Harry Shine 0-2 (0-1f), Ben Whitty 0-1 (0-1 65), Bobby Murphy 0-1, Padraig Naddy 0-1, Killian Doyle 0-1.

St Kieran's College: Stephen Manogue (James Stephens); Bill Hughes (Bennettsbridge), Killian Corcoran (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Jeff Neary (Graigue-Ballycallan); Timmy Kelly (Bennettsbridge), Tom McPhillips (Dicksboro), Padraig Naddy (Young Irelands, Gowran); Aaron McEvoy (Graigue-Ballycallan), Donagh Murphy (Mount Leinster Rangers), Ben Whitty (Danesfort), Ted Dunne (Graiguenamanagh), Killian Doyle (Emeralds); Rory Glynn (Clara), Anthony Ireland Wall (Danesfort), Harry Shine (Dicksboro),. Subs: Niall Shortall (Ballyhale Shamrocks), for McEvoy 39, Bobby Murphy (The Harps Darrow) for Kelly 39, Sean Hunt (St. Martins) for Wall 58, Sean Keenan (Dicksboro) for Whitty 63.



Colaiste Abhainn Rí v Gorey CS- U16 South Leinster Final
Joint Captains Alex Culleton and Ned O'Meara



Gearóid O'Shea (SKC) and David McGee (CBS) - 2nd Year A Final



Rachel Brennan - Loreto Senior Captain



Colaiste Abhainn Rí All Ireland Senior C Captain Nathania Jackson



**2nd Year Hurling Leinster A Final
Kilkenny CBS Team winners of 2nd Yr Hurling A final defeating St Kieran's by 5.16 to 0.11 in the final
Joe Pyke presents trophy to the winning capt**



Coláiste Mhuire Team Runners Up to St Kieran's in Junior Hurling Final



Duiske College/Colaiste Pobal Osrai Junior Hurling team 2023/24



Colaiste Abhainn Rí v Gorey CS - Nov 13th '23. U16 South Leinster final.

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McAuley on the Double!

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Report
by Dermot Dunphy PRO
Photos - Willie Dempsey



Bunscoil McAuley Rice - Winners of the Roinn A and Corn de Bhaldrathie Finals 2023

A NEW CHAPTER – OUR THANKS TO JIM AND DICK!

We all see the start of each new year as a new start and indeed it is. However, this year the Schools' Board didn't just start a new year, we began a new chapter in our story. Why so? You may ask. Well, as a Board, we are known for the longevity of our officers. The chairperson changes regularly, often annually but the positions of secretary and treasurer change so less frequently and not being tied to the five-year rule for these offices, our officers often give many extra years of service. And so it was, for over 14 years where two men gave freely of their time to ensure the continued smooth running of the primary schools' competitions. When Paul Kinsella and John Knox stepped down in 2009, after 35 years-service each, there were big shoes to be filled.

Filled they were and very ably so. John's role as treasurer was taken over by his teaching colleague from Gowran NS, Dick O'Neill while Churchill NS Principal, Jim Fennelly stepped into the daunting role of secretary, which could be titled more aptly as organiser in chief! When they took over the roles, these two men knew the roles ahead of them and promised to keep our long-established board on the right track. How long for? No promises were made beyond they didn't envisage another 35-year stint! Fourteen years later they stepped aside, leaving an organisation behind that was in the same rude health it has been for many years and furthermore an organisation that had moved steadily with modern times and adapted to all the challenges that came along the way.

More than that, they continued the great work of past generations and enhanced Cumann na mBunscol, Cill Chainnigh at every turn. Jim stretched his wings beyond the county and during his time as secretary served ten years on the Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta

Executive Committee, five of those representing the organisation on the Central Council of the GAA. His passion for schools' games is second to none and having personally attended a number of national AGMs, I was left in no doubt of the esteem Jim was held in all over the country. Jim also oversaw innovations in our board such as the introduction of the new Under 11 competitions and the beginning of a south Leinster Schools' Football competition with our neighbouring

counties to help improve football in the county and hopefully to lead on to Kilkenny re-entering football at Leinster under age levels. We won the first three editions and as the competition didn't happen this year, Kilkenny are still the holders of this title having won the competition the last time it was played!

Dick continued his role as treasurer for all this time, even though he retired from teaching for many of those years. Our board has always been financially on a good footing and Dick's work ensured

this. Together with Jim, they ensured money was well invested and most grounds in the county are well equipped with juvenile posts which were subsidised by the board. Next time you are in MW Hire Dunmore, check the scoreboard, which was sponsored by the board, a thank you from us to the County Board for their continuing support of the schools' games in the county. Both men know and understand that we may be a separate board but that we are part of the Kilkenny GAA family and as such we are valued and we value our relationship with Kilkenny GAA.

Dick didn't abandon us on stepping down. He talked his son-in-law, Kieran Byrne, to take over the books and we know he is only a phone call away for advice and help. Indeed, during the month of June, he was manning the gate again on county finals' evenings and

ALLIANZ CUMANN NA MBUNSCOILEANNA SCOREBOARD 2023

Crotty's Pharmacy Roinn A: Joe Dunphy Cup	Scoil McAuley Rice	5-7	Gowran	2-7
TOP Oil Roinn B: Paddy Hennessy Cup	Kilmanagh	3-12	Clara	0-9
Crotty's Pharmacy Roinn C: Georgie Leahy Cup	CBS Kilkenny	1-5	Freshford	0-7
Crotty's Pharmacy Roinn C Shield:	St. John's	6-12	Glenmore	1-6
TOP Oil Roinn D:	Windgap	2-9	Tullaroan	1-7
Allianz Corn de Bhaldrathie	Scoil McAuley Rice	3-7	Gowran	2-5
Allianz Tommy O'Brien Cup	Freshford	3-7	St John's	1-4
Allianz Under 11 Roinn A:	St Canice's	4-6	Ballyhale	1-1
Allianz Under 11 Roinn B:	Mooncoin		Danesfort	
Allianz Under 11 Roinn C:	Tullaroan	3-5	Freshford	2-2
Football Scoreboard 2022	Gowran	2-6	Scoil McAuley Rice	1-2
Crotty's Pharmacy Roinn A:	Kilmacow	2-7	Lisdowney	1-7
TOP Oil Roinn B:	Freshford	5-4	Tullaroan	1-1
Crotty's Pharmacy Roinn C:	Gowran	6-4	Scoil McAuley Rice	2-3
Allianz Corn na Tuaithe				

INTO Cumann na mBunscol Sevens
Hurling: St Canice's
Camogie: Graigueanamanagh-Skeoughvosteen
Boys' Football: St Canice's
Girls' Football: Clagh-Moneenroe

enjoying every bit of it.

Jim has moved onto a new role as vice chairperson of Kilkenny County Board. Our loss is very much Kilkenny's gain as Jim will bring his enthusiasm and love of Gaelic Games to his new role, and is always available when advice is needed. We will strive to keep the ship afloat and moving forward.

Jim Fennelly and Dick O'Neill, two great Gaels, two great Schools' Board people. Nár laga Dia sibh!

Under 13

After the unusual situation in 2022 of just two teams contesting Roinn A, a reforming of the divisions was put in place using last year's Under 11 competitions added to the results from the football competitions in autumn 2022. The Crotty's Pharmacy Roinn A expanded to six teams with Danesfort (Roinn B champions 2022), Piltown (Under 11 Roinn A winners 2022) Gowran and Scoil McAuley Rice Callan (Football finalists of 2022) joining St. Canice's and Gaelscoil Osraí. A very competitive competition followed and the football competitions from the previous autumn proved most indicative. In the football Gowran and Callan had contested not only the Roinn A final but the Corn na Tuaithe final as well. Gowran proved to be masters of the big ball winning both titles. A great rivalry developed between the two teams. It was no surprise that after five rounds of the league the two sides found themselves topping the table and after the semi-finals they were back on course to clash again. Add into the mix that both sides also progressed through the rounds of the Allianz Corn de Bhaldraithe and as June arrived, the dominant sides in autumn's football were the boys of summer hurling!

Trying to get the finals arranged proved to be a test in itself but eventually fixed they were and first up was the Corn de Bhaldraithe. A burst of goals early in the second half put the Scoil McAuley boys in control and they ran out winners on a scoreline of Bunscoil McAuley Rice 5-7 Gowran 2-7. Nine nights later on midsummer's evening the two teams faced off again. Gowran started well in what was a cracking game, but the young Callan lads just had an extra gear and another strong finish saw them win the Joe Dunphy Cup on a scoreline of 3-7 to 2-5 and thus, completed the hurling double. It was 45 years since Callan had last held the Roinn A title and they celebrated it well. You had to feel a little for Gowran losing out twice, but they will have good football memories to look back on in years to come.

TOP Oil Roinn B reverted to two divisions of six which played on a north and south basis. Eight teams progressed to the knockout stages and following the league stages, favourites emerged. Two familiar names worked their way to the final as old rivals Clara and Kilmanagh faced off. Clara had edged their league meeting and the final meeting was highly anticipated. A Kilmanagh blitz in the first half saw them take a commanding position and though



Clara fought to the end, it was the St Aidan's boys who prevailed on a scoreline of 3-12 to Clara's 0-9.

In the Crotty's Pharmacy Roinn C, sixteen teams started out and with the large number of teams it was agreed to play two competitions, the Roinn C for the Georgie Leahy Cup and the Roinn C Shield. After the league stages, this idea seemed to have been well planned as we got two very competitive competitions in both Cup and Shield. The end results became a story of two City teams returning to the winner's circle for the first time in a while. In the Georgie Leahy Cup final CBS Kilkenny and Freshford faced off. The teams had met in the Tommy O'Brien Cup quarter final where they shared 46 scores after extra time!! Freshford came out on top in that classic encounter. The Roinn C final proved to be a much lower scoring affair, but it too was a classic of its own. Scores were at a premium in a game where every ball was contested fervently. Only one goal was scored in a fascinating game and it proved vital as the boys from CBS Kilkenny won by the smallest of margins 1-5 to 0-7.

In the Shield competition another City team returned to the winners' circle. St John's Senior School proved strongest in this competition and though Glenmore fought valiantly it was the Ballybough St boys who won the Shield on a scoreline of 6-12 to Glenmore's 1-6.

The Allianz Corn Uí Bhriain brought together two of these four teams. Freshford, finalists in the Roinn C Cup met St John's, winners of the Shield, a nice subplot from the league campaign. The boys from St Lachtain's NS were in their third final of the summer and having lost the first two were desperate for a win! St John's were fresh from their Shield win and buoyed by this success they fought tooth and nail with most people's favourites, Freshford, and early in the second half there was only two points between the teams. However, the young Freshford boys struck for goals at the right time and in the end, they found joy in Nowlan Park in 2023. Freshford 3-7 St John's 1-4

In the 11-a-side TOP Oil Roinn D league for schools with smaller numbers, the league was again very competitive, and for thesecond year in a row, Tullaroan and Windgap, duly reached the final, the first to be played in the summer. An excellent final ensued between two well drilled and skilful teams. The old adage that goals win games was so true as Windgap scored two in the first two minutes and these proved so vital as the final margin was just five points in a super game. Frustration for the young Scoil Rhuadháin boys for another year as Windgap proved too hard a nut to crack and retained their title on a final scoreline of Windgap 2-9 Tullaroan 1-7.

Under 11

The Under 11 competitions are played in smaller groups over three divisions. The smaller groups allow for quick league stages and this year many of the groups



opted for blitz days, mini festivals of hurling which allowed teams play off their groups in a single day. The blitzes proved popular and the possibility is there that they will become the norm going forward.

Last year saw the city teams enter this competition and Gaelsoil Osraí reached the final before losing out to Piltown. This year the boys from the Granges Road, St Canice's were the ones flying the city flag. The school have dominated the Under 13 competition in recent years but in a year where they were out of contention in the older competition, they blazed a trail to the Under 11 final. There to meet them, Ballyhale. The young boys from Scoil Phádraig qualified from the same group as St Canice's and knew they would have to play their best to overcome the undoubted favourites. However, St Canice's struck early for goals and though Ballyhale did everything they could they had could not recover and St Canice's claimed their first ever Under 11 title, 4-6 to 1-1

In the Allianz Roinn C extra entries saw three groups, two groups of three and one group of four leading directly to the semi-finals. Incredibly, after by final time the same two teams, neighbours Freshford and Tullaroan, were back to duel again for this title. There were similarities to last year in that Tullaroan were coming off the disappointment of losing the Under 13 Roinn D final (to the same opposition!). An added twist was that Freshford had also lost their Under 13 league final at Roinn C so there would be redemption for one school, double disappointment for the other. As last year, these two served up a great game with lots of scores. There were chances a plenty on both sides, but for the second year running, it was the young lads from Tullaroan who took more of their chances and the title was heading back to Scoil Ruadháin for the second year running. Tullaroan 3-5 Freshford 2-2. (On a happier note for Freshford, they did capture the Corn Uí Bhriain title in their final game of the year! Third time lucky!)

The Allianz Roinn B Under 11 was the competition that fell to the fixtures crunch and Mooncoin, first team in the final, had to wait the entire summer before they found out their opponents. Danesfort overcame Rower-Inistioge in September and between football fixtures and the Kilkenny Senior and Intermediate championships, the teams finally faced off on October 7th. Goals win games and so it proved in this final. Played on a lively say in early October, Danesfort proved very accurate I their shoot but it was the young Mooncoin lads who grabbed three goals, one early in each half and right at the end to claim the title on the slimmest of margins. Mooncoin 3-3 Danesfort 0-11

And again, the hurling season drew to a close but the Football season is in full flow with a greater number of teams than ever involved. A welcome back to Slieverue who rejoin football after a few years out and a special welcome to the pupils of St Michael's NS, Galmoy who entered the football leagues for the first time!



Skeoughvosteen - Mini 7's Camogie Champions 2023

We had four primary games this year where 40 different boys got to play in Nowlan Park and Croke Park. The photos are from the days Kilkenny played Westmeath, Galway and Dublin in Nowlan Park and from the Leinster Final vs Galway again.



Dublin Match - Nowlan Park



Westmeath Match - Nowlan Park



Galway Match - Nowlan Park



At Leinster Final - Croke Park

5 of our Players in Croke Park



Jake Norris, Piltown NS, in Dublin colours vs Monaghan; Iarlaith Ó Raghallaigh, Gaelscoil Osraí, in Kerry colours; Amy Walsh, St Canice's NS in Galway colours vs Limerick; Leyla Ahern, Scoil an Chroí Ró-Naofa Urlingford, on a solo run vs Clare; Freya Coogan Moneenroe NS in Dublin colours on All-Ireland Final day vs Kerry.



St Canice's Mini 7's Hurling



Skeoughvosteen - Mini 7's Camogie C



Roinn A Champs



Corn de Bhaldraithe Champs



Roinn B Champs



Roinn C Champs



Roinn D Champs

CAPTAINS



Corn de Uí Bhríain Champs



U11 Roinn A Champs



U11 Roinn C Champs



U11 Roinn B Champs



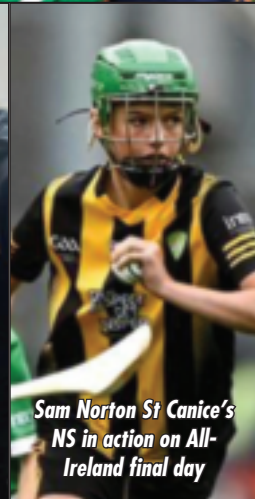
The Kilkenny Primary School Team that represented the county at the Carlow Lift and Strike competition. It's a one day blitz where players cannot handle or kick the sliotar!



Emily Cleere Skeoughvosteen NS on All-Ireland final day where she wore the Limerick Colours!



Olivia Power Clara NS at semi final versus Clare meeting her school coach Claire Phelan who had played for Kilkenny Camogie versus Cork on the same day.



Sam Norton St Canice's NS in action on All-Ireland final day

INTO Cumann na mBunscol Mini Sevens

The INTO Cumann na mBunscol Mini Sevens returned fully this year with hurling and football competitions. All in all, eight Kilkenny children turned out in Croke Park, three of them lucky enough to wear their own county colours. Emily Cleere had the odd experience of playing on All-Ireland final day in the Limerick colours! The full list of lucky children is:

**Hurling: Sam Norton St Canice's NS
Kilkenny vs Limerick, All-Ireland Final**

**Camogie: Emily Cleere Graig-Skeough
Kilkenny vs Limerick, All-Ireland Final**

**Amy Walsh St Canice's NS
Galway vs Limerick, All-Ireland Semi-Final**

**Olivia Power Clara NS
Kilkenny vs Clare, All-Ireland Semi-Final**

**Leyla Ahern, Urlingford NS
Kilkenny vs Clare, All-Ireland Semi-Final**

**Boys' Football: Jake Norris Piltown
Dublin vs Monaghan, All-Ireland Semi-Final**

**Iarlaith Ó Raghallaigh Gaelscoil Osraí Kerry vs
Derry, All-Ireland Semi-Final**

**Girls' Football: Freya Coogan Clogh-Moneenroe
Kerry vs Dublin, All-Ireland Final**

Primary Games:

During the Leinster Championship, Kilkenny Schools' Board fielded teams for the half-time Primary Games. Overall, 40 plus children got to don Black and Amber as we competed against Galway, Dublin Westmeath and Galway again (Leinster Final). UPMC Nowlan Park and Croke Park were the venues as every school team in the county had one of their players represent their county. The boys who headed out into Croke Park had the added thrill of receiving their full playing kit courtesy of Cumann na mBunscol Laighin! (They also had the joy of seeing Cillian Buckley score that goal!!) Added to this we had a lovely North KK versus South KK football game during the Kilkenny versus Waterford League game to show off the quality of our school footballers!

Sad Goodbyes

We finish on a sad note. This year we lost a number of former members of the board who passed on 'ar shlí na fírinne'! Former Clogh N.S. Principal Aodhán Fullam; five-time Chairperson, Ballyhale N.S. Principal and recorder of the first fifty years of our history, Joe Dunphy; the man at the helm of Tullaroan N.S. for many years, Jim Maher; and another former Tullaroan Principal and stalwart of Freshford, Ned Kennedy. As a board, we lost four great souls and a wealth of



experience. Guímíd leaba i measc na naomh ar a n'anamacha uaisle uilig.

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Mossie Keoghan

Trevor Spillane

Spirit and will to win are key factors as Kilkenny look to the future - Keoghan

Playing styles and tactics may come and go, but the tradition of living up the levels set by the teams who went before you never changes if you're a Kilkenny hurler - just ask Tullaroan's Mossy Keoghan.

"You always want to drive on and be more like the older players - you want to live up to the standards they've set," he said. "It's part of the cycle of being involved with this team and always will be."

It was refreshing to hear the young man speak with pride about what it means to wear the black and amber, of the tradition that seeps from the stripes on the jersey - but does it add pressure? Nothing, he said, the players haven't already put on themselves.

"It's been really enjoyable," he said of his time with the Cats. "It's what you wanted to do, ever since you started hurling as a young lad, when we had an unbelievable Kilkenny team to look up to."

"We all wanted to be like them," he said of the era when Kilkenny, under Brian Cody, dominated the hurling scene, winning 11 All-Irelands in a golden age for the county. "They were the best hurling team that ever was, and to get the chance to play with some of those lads is unbelievable."

"Hopefully we can be as successful as they were in the next few years," he said. "I know it hasn't gone as well as we would have hoped, but we aspire to be as good as them - that's what we're trying to do the whole time."

Such is the nature of sport there will always be ups and downs, highs and lows. It might seem a little unfortunate that Keoghan and his team-mates are enduring a fallow period with Kilkenny, but he is part of a squad who believe they are on the right path to bringing back the good times.

"We're learning from the successes of the older players, while some of the under-20s who won the All-Ireland a few years ago are coming through on to the panel," he said. "Success leads to more success; we want to get that habit of winning, so the mix of what's gone before with what's coming through will be good for us in the next few years."

Keoghan has been part of the senior setup since 2018. The call-up came at a pivotal time in the young man's career, as it coincided with Tullaroan winning a club All-Ireland and regaining their place in the county's senior club ranks. So what was that call up like?

"At the start it was a bit of a shock as I wasn't expecting it," he said, thinking back to when he was first asked to join the senior squad. "In the beginning there were trials, and I was just happy to make those. Then, once you make the squad you want to make it to the team - you're always looking for more."

"It was unexpected," he added, "but it was so enjoyable to go in. I had looked up to so many of these players, so to be training with them or marking them was unbelievable. I was mad to learn from them and would watch how they trained on and off the pitch. Even now you still watch them to see what else you can learn."

Just talking to Keoghan you can hear the hunger he has and

desire to progress and achieve success - it's the same message as came from previous black and amber generations. They want more all the time.

"It's a natural thing, isn't it," he said. "Lads would always be modest about what they want, but you know they're going to fight like a dog to get that jersey, to keep it and then leave it in a better place for the next man. Deep down Kilkenny people are hungry and want more all the time."

From that point of view you could pick out similarities between Kilkenny and the current Limerick side, now at the summit of the senior game.

"They brought a lot of their under-age success through, a lot of guys are of the same age and came from great minor and under-21 teams - they beat us in an under-21 final (Keoghan was a sub in that 2017 final, which Limerick won by 0-17 to 0-11 in Semple Stadium) - and they've brought that success through to senior level. You have to admire their tactical work and their physical ability. Their levels are the best in the country and that's why they've won four in a row, but hopefully we'll have our turn."

"I think we're getting closer to them," he said of the Treaty men. "They're not an easy team to beat, but no team is unbeatable."

A lot of similarities are drawn between the Kilkenny four-in-a-row side and the current Limerick crop. Even though he's in the opposing camp, Keoghan is full of respect for the current champions.

"It's almost a habit," he said of winning. "When you have that belief in your system like they do it's very hard to turn a side over. You have to respect that - they are a top team and they have that winning habit. There have been games where they've looked to be under pressure and just at the right time players have stood up and turned the game

in their favour - it's the same mentality, the winning know-how that Kilkenny teams would have had."

Given the way they've met in the last two All-Ireland finals the sides have the potential to develop a long-running rivalry. With the spirit and belief that's in the squad, Kilkenny will be hoping it will be their turn to celebrate sooner rather than later.

"It's been different with Derek (Lyng) coming in," he said. "There have been changes in the way we've done things, but the belief we have has always been there - that's the way it should be for every Kilkenny team: no matter who you're playing, once you go out in that jersey you fear no-one."

"It's an unreal feeling to have," he said. "You grow 10 feet tall once you put on the jersey and believe you can beat everyone. While that hasn't been the case we are getting closer to Limerick. We have the belief we can beat them, we just have to work on a few small things and get them right - we're not far off it."

Mention of managers old and new highlighted how many felt Kilkenny would need time to settle once their new man was in place following the departure of Brian Cody. Reaching back-to-back All-Irelands was hardly spoken about outside the county, but yet...



“Derek made a lot of personnel changes and that brought more competition among the panel,” said Keoghan. “The spirit has improved and there’s been a massive improvement across the board, which you could see in our performances.”

And for spirit, look at the Leinster final - the celebrations among the players after that dramatic win over Galway showed what a bond this team has.

“The will to win was unreal that day,” he said, thinking back to the game where Cillian Buckley’s last gasp goal swung the silverware in Kilkenny’s direction.

“The last minute goal made for the excitement, but the celebrations showed the bond that’s there,” he said. “It meant so much for us to win with each other, to win as a team, as there is huge competition in Leinster.

“To win that title, our fourth in a row, is no mean feat. It showed how much we’ve been building as a team. To continue that success in Leinster was very important for us.”

While the year ended in disappointment with that All-Ireland loss, it wasn’t a write-off. As the old sporting saying goes, win or learn...

“It’s all about progression, and learning from your mistakes,” he said. “I thought we brought our game on that bit more this year and I’ve no doubt Derek has ideas on how we can improve for 2024, things which hopefully will get us over the line next year.”

Keoghan is already looking forward to what the new year will bring, and not just on an intercounty level. Having established themselves in the senior ranks, he and his Tullaroan clubmates are looking to make progress in the county.

“It took us a while to get going, to break the hoodoo of coming up from intermediate - it’s not an easy grade to get out of - but we took off from there,” he said. “We had a great time over the winter in the club championship, finishing with the All-Ireland.”

That 3-19 to 5-12 win over Cork’s Fr O’Neills in January 2020 was a time to remember for Keoghan.

“It was a special day, so special,” said Keoghan, who scored 2-1 in the final. “To win an All-Ireland with your friends, guys you started hurling with at the age of four and five was something else. To play on the biggest stage in the country, and to come out the right side of the result in such a special way was unreal.

“Then, when we got to the senior grade we took off again,” he added. “We’ve been progressing well over the last few years. This year was disappointing for us but it’s only a bump in the road. We have a lot of young lads coming through who will help us progress over the years. Hopefully we have a county final in us.”

That expectation might bring pressure but, like with the county side, the players expect it of themselves to deliver.

“The pressure comes from ourselves rather than an external source,” he said. “The will to win within the team is so strong we don’t need anyone else to drive us on. I know there’s a great tradition there and that’s bred into us - everyone on the team has had family members who have won with Tullaroan over the years. We want to win with the club for everyone in the parish.” It hasn’t even started, but Keoghan is already buzzing with optimism about what 2024 can deliver, and what he hopes he can bring to the table.

“It would be great to step up to the plate and become a leader in the team, to live up to the standards of the players who have gone before us and start setting the example for the younger players.

“We want the year to be a success for us,” he finished. “And to come out with Liam MacCarthy? That would top it all off.”



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HOWZATI!




In a novelty fund-raising exercise Kilkenny GAA All Star selection of hurlers and camogie players in the grounds of Castle Blunden on Sunday August 27.

The GAA players involved were -

Back Row from left: Liam Fennelly, Adrian Mullen, Denise Gaulle, David Herity (7th), Eddie Brennan (10th), Patrick Blunden (13th) Aidan Fogarty (18th).

Miriam Walsh (extreme right front row).

Photo: Anil Joseph Ramapur



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A SEASON OF SUNDAYS 2023

Now in its twenty seventh year of publication, A Season of Sundays 2023, supported by Mazars, embraces the very heart and soul of Ireland's national games as captured by the award winning team of photographers at Sportsfile. With text by Alan Milton, it is a treasured record of the 2023 GAA season to be savoured and enjoyed by players, spectators and enthusiasts everywhere.

A Job for Santy!

Scór Cill Chainnigh 2023



Thlac clubanna Chill Cheannaigh páirt i gComórtas Scór i mbliana don chéad uair le tamaillín anuas. Bhí Scór na nÓg ar siúl i mí Márta agus Scór Sinsear níos déanaí sa bhliain i mí Dheireadh Fómhair. Bhí roinnt comórtas éagsúil agus san iomlán ghlac beagnach 20 club ó gach cearn den chontae páirt ann.

I Scór na nÓg ar dtús, i mí Márta ba iad na hIathghlasaí a bhuaigh Tráth na gCeisteanna (Conchur MacGiobúin, Oisín Ó Duígin, Cormac de Búrca, Rachel Ní Fhaoláin) agus Jamie Lonergan ó Bhaile an Phoill a thug an lá leis san Amhránaíocht Aonair. Lean siad ar aghaidh go dtí craobhchomórtas Laighean tar éis agus bhain siad sár-taitneamh as an lá.

I Scór sinsear i mí Dheireadh Fómhair d'éirigh go maith leis na hIathghlasaí arís i dTráth na gCeisteanna (Fiona Seoighe, Diarmuid Ó Donnchadha, Carol Uí Icí, Monica Ní Mhaoileoin) ag leibhéal Chill Chainnigh agus Laighean, áit a tháinig sa cheathrú háit. Toradh den scoth. Bhí an-rath ar Chumann Camógaíochta Naomh Bríd freisin, a fuair an ceann is fearr sa chomórtas Amhránaíocht Aonair (Therese Muldowney), Ceol Uirlise (Gary Bourke, Lorraine Kenny, Leslie Sweeney Evelyn Byrne), Aithriseoireacht (John Dunphy) agus Bailéad Grúpa (Gary Bourke, Lorraine Kenny, Leslie Sweeney, Evelyn Byrne, Therese Muldowney) ar oíche álainn in Amharchlann an Set. Lean siad orthu sa Cheol Uirlise sna babhtá leathcheannais nuair a bhain siad áit amach i gCraobhchomórtas Laighean, arís toradh den scoth don chlub agus don chontae.

Mar sin san iomlán i mbliana bhí iomaitheoirí ó Chill Cheannaigh le feiceáil ar an stáitse ag léibhéal idirchontae i seacht gcomórtas difriúil, idir óg agus ... ní chomh hóg sin. Is dul chun cinn iontach é seo do Scór i gCill Chainnigh ach caithfidimid coinneáil orainn in 2024!

Kilkenny clubs took part in the Scór Competition this year for the first time in a short while. Scór na nÓg took place in March and Scór Sinsear followed later in the year in October. We had many different competitions and in total almost 20 clubs from all over the county took part.

To Scór na nÓg first, it was the Emeralds who took the Table Quiz Title (Conchur MacGiobúin, Oisín Ó Duígin, Cormac de Búrca, Rachel Ní Fhaoláin) and Jamie Lonergan from Piltown who came out on top in the Solo Singing. Both groups went on to the Leinster Final round where represented the county brilliantly and enjoyed the day.

In Scór Sinsear in October the Emeralds again performed well in the quiz at County Level (Fiona Seoighe, Diarmuid Ó Donnchadha, Carol Uí Icí, Monica Ní Mhaoileoin) and went on to represent the Kilkenny where they took 4th place in the Leinster Final. An excellent result. St Brigids Camogie also out-did themselves, winning the categories of Solo Singing (Therese Muldowney), Music Group (Gary Bourke, Lorraine Kenny, Leslie Sweeney Evelyn Byrne), Recitation (John Dunphy) and Ballad Group (Gary Bourke, Lorraine Kenny, Leslie Sweeney, Evelyn Byrne, Therese Muldowney) in a highly entertaining night of music and culture in the Set Theatre. The Music group continued their run through the Leinster Semi-Final round and represented Kilkenny at the Provincial Final. A huge result for club and county.

All in all this year, competitors from Kilkenny, young and adult, featured on stage at provincial level in seven different competitions. This makes for brilliant progress for Scór in the county. Onwards and upwards for 2024!



AROUND THE CLUBS



BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS

Shamrocks U13s had a good year getting to a county quarter final against Danesfort. The U13s were coached by Jim Cullen, Louis O'Neill, John D'arcy, Willie Dempsey and Martin Dunphy. The panel consisted of: Adam Cullen, Jack D'arcy, Kealin Devlin, Glen Ryan, Con O'Neill, Jake Dunphy, Jack Dempsey, Eoin O'Farrell, Ruarc Shefflin, Simon Kolodziej, Bobby Aylward, Fiach O'Neill, Cormac Reynolds, Paddy O'Keefe, Jimmy Grant, Eoin Grant, Sam Dempsey, Seán Rooney, James Kennedy, Shay Fitzgerald and Brion Ryan.

Shamrocks U15s 13-a-side had a great year reaching the final. Coached by Pat Corbett and Seamus Ryan, the panel consists of: Tiarnan Shefflin, Jim Connelly, Max Corbett, Eric Murphy, Jamie Murphy, Paddy O'Keefe, Reece Drennan, Simon Kolodziej, Conor Cody, Niall Coffey, Shay Fitzgerald, Fiach O'Neill, Jack Dempsey, Eoin O'Farrell, Glenn Ryan, Adam Cullen, Cormac Reynolds, Kealin Devlin, Jake Dunphy, Jack D'arcy, Jaden Fitzpatrick and Henry Shefflin Jr.

Shamrocks U15s were coached by Thomas Coogan, Patrick Drennan and Dermot Ryan this year. The panel was made up of: Theo Drennan, Brion Ryan, Killian Ryan, Seán O'Mahony, James Ryan, David Kolodziej, Michael Barron, Luke Cummins, Jake Mullen, Donnacha Grant, Conor Holohan, Cathal Coogan and Seán Rooney.

Shamrocks U17s were coached by Eoin Knox, John Drennan and Seamus Ryan. The panel was made up of: Tiarnan Shefflin, Cathal Coogan, Seán Shefflin, Killian Ryan, Tommy Walsh, Michael Kennelly, Cian Walsh, Aidan Grummell, Michael Barron, Jim Connelly, Max Corbett, Luke Cummins, Reece Drennan, Theo Drennan, Jaden Fitzpatrick, John Fitzpatrick, Joe Gallagher, Logan Goodread, Donnacha Grant, Jack Holden, Conor Holohan, David Kolodziej, Charlie Lennon, Rory McMahon, Jake Mullen, Eric Murphy, Jamie Murphy, Thomas Murphy, Seán Óg O'Farrell, Seán O'Mahony, James Ryan, Henry Shefflin Jr, Rian Shefflin, Brian Wilson.

Congratulations to the Shamrocks U10s who had played wonderful hurling to win the Aylward Cup in September 2023.



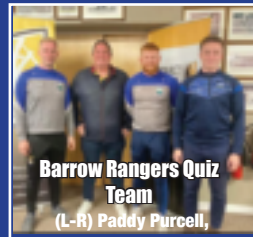
BARROW RANGERS



Thanks to our Junior B hurlers we had some silverware to celebrate this season when a late goal in the Final saw them snatch the Cup from Tullagher Rosbercon. Tullagher Rosbercon led 0-07 to 0-05 at halftime and with full time fast approaching it looked as if the Cup was heading South until that goal. Barrow Rangers 1-16 Tullagher Rosbercon 1-13. Our Junior hurlers had a decent run in the League. We drew Piltown in the Championship, sixteen minutes into the second half we were two points up but three goals in four minutes saw our hopes dashed for this season. Our Under 15's had a busy season where they represented Kilkenny in both the hurling and football Féile competitions and culminated in the Roinn B hurling Final in which we just came up short against Tullagher Rosbercon losing by two points. Our numbers were good at Under 13 and we fielded two teams, our 15 a-side team competing in Roinn A and finishing midtable, and a thirteen a-side team. We had Jake Barcoe, Jack Bolger, Daniel Lawler and Orhan Prendergast with the Kilkenny Under 14's, Jack Keating with the Under 15's and Patrick Purcell with the Minors. Away from the hurling pitch Jack McShane won the All Ireland Under 16 Pitch and Putt at Seafield Co. Louth and went on to represent Ireland at the European Championship in Barcelona. He's the first player from Kilkenny to make the team. Congratulations also to Gary McHugh who won Under 13 Leinster Handball titles at 40x20 and 60x30. Our Under 5 to Under 11 teams played challenge matches and took part in several blitzes/tournaments. The Club is once again indebted and grateful to all the coaches for their time and effort.

Barrow Rangers New Pitch Development made great progress in 2023 which saw the completion of the full size pitch and training pitch in June. The Run for Rangers Battle of the Townland's fundraising event hosted by Barrow Rangers in late November 2022 proved to be a fantastic success, with €47,000 raised for goal posts and nets for the two new pitches. The Club hopes to be in a position to erect all goalposts, nets and line marking in the Spring with the 1st match to be played in the summer of 2024.

Club Chairperson Jim Flavin said "Barrow Rangers continued to deliver great progress on the new pitch development over the last year. 2024 will see both new pitches ready for action which is a fantastic achievement to everyone involved. Subject to further funding we would hope to commence the ball walls in 2024 with further tree planting and fencing also. Great credit must go to, everyone who has supported this development from the outset and the support of the people of Paulstown / Goresbridge parish and beyond is greatly appreciated!" Well done to Barrow Rangers who came 2nd while representing their Club in the Official Kilkenny GAA (Scor Trath na gCesif) Table Quiz held in UPMC Nowlan Park, Kilkenny, on a scoreline of 53/60; just being tipped at the final post by Emeralds Club, Urlingford by 2 marks.



Barrow Rangers Quiz Team
(L-R) Paddy Purcell,



Barrow Rangers U13 Team

BENNETTSBRIDGE



Our senior team began the year brightly recording wins over Dicksboro, O'Loughlin Gaels, James Stephens, Glenmore and Graigue Ballycallan in the league. We then played Tullaroan in the league final but lost out in our first defeat of the year. With the championship quarter final being played a week later, we didn't recover from that defeat and lost out to James Stephens by five points.

Our junior B team made it to the semi final of the championship but we conceded a late goal to Conahy Shamrocks to lose out by 3 points. Once again we fielded a third adult team in the junior E championship and although not coming close to silverware, we introduced some young hurlers to adult hurling for the first time. Thanks to all the players and mentors for their efforts during the year.

Juvenile Hurling: Our minors played in the A championship this year and had trouble fielding a settled team due to injuries to key players at different times. They were competitive in most games but lost out to a fine James Stephens team in the quarter final. Our under 15 teams had a great first round win in Slieverue but lost out to Conahy in the next round. Our under 13 team had a good league campaign and won the championship shield with a great win over Glenmore in the final. The under 11 team had a great year, playing lot of games. They won the St Mullins tournament and lost out to Lisdowney in the under 11 league final in a great game. Our under 10 team reached the semifinals of the Alyward tournament in Ballyhale while the under 9 team won the third place playoff in the Thomas O Shea tournament in Dunammaggin. We also hosted our own Mickey Kelly tournament which was a great success again this year. Our under 7 hurlers showed great promise this year, playing neighbouring teams and learning the ropes really well. Thanks to all who helped out in Bord na nÓg this year.

Other Club news: We were delighted to welcome Bennettsbridge Limestone as our new club sponsor this year who also very generously sponsored a new electronic score board which is a great addition to the club. New fundraising events this year included a very successful tractor run in January and a hurling tournament in the summer named after the great Johnny McGovern. We also ran a golf classic and held our Split the Pot competition during the year along with the annual field day. New kerbing was completed this year and all the seating around the pitch was replaced. The club also joined the healthy club programme this year.

Condolences: We offer our deepest condolences to all members and friends who lost loved ones during the year. We particularly remember Johnny McGovern, Peter Dooley, Jim Hynes, Tom Lineen, Richard Walsh and Eamonn Hanrahan this year all who made significant contributions to our club over the years. May they rest in peace.



Bennettsbridge under 7 team, stars of the future



BLACKS & WHITES

This year marked a significant milestone for the club as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of our first junior championship win. This anniversary serves as a reminder of our rich history and the legacy we aim to build upon in the years to come. After winning the County Final in 2022 our junior team journeyed into the Leinster Club Junior Hurling Championship. Although they ultimately fell short in the semi-final against Commercials of Dublin, their journey to that stage was a testament to the dedication of our players and coaching staff. We celebrated with great enthusiasm after securing the Junior County Final By holding our Dinner Dance in Gowran Park. The event, the first of its kind in numerous years, was a resounding success and set a precedent for more such gatherings in the future. The transition from Junior to Intermediate Level presented our players with a challenging step up, demanding a higher level of skill, dedication, and determination. One of the highlights of our season on the pitch came when our Intermediate team secured a crucial win against Carrickshock, ensuring our place in the Intermediate Championship for the next year. It was a testament to the heart and hard work of our players.

In a significant stride towards modernising our facilities we proudly unveiled our new digital scoreboard at the club grounds. This addition not only adds a touch of sophistication but also makes each game a more enjoyable experience.

We also remember the sombre moment when our club faced a profound loss with the sudden passing of our beloved member and mentor, Cathal Moran. His presence, guidance, and dedication to the club left an unforgettable mark.

The youth of our club continued to impress throughout the year. The U11s, participating in the Slieverue tournament, demonstrated their potential by finishing in an impressive second place. Their summer matches against other formidable teams, including Mullinavat, Thomastown, Dunnamaggin, Slieverue, Carrickshock, Kilmacow, and Glenmore, showcased their talent and skill.

The U15s also had a season to remember, clinching the Shield Final and showcasing their skills and determination. The Minor team made an impressive run to the semi-final of the championship, while the U13s secured a place in their Shield Final, further highlighting the depth and talent within our ranks.

As we wrap up an eventful year, we look forward to the future with great optimism. The successes, challenges, and memorable moments have only fuelled our commitment to the sport and the growth of our club.



Duggan Steel U15 C Hurling Championship Shield Semi Final Winners



Blacks & Whites U11's



CARRICKSHOCK

'Our juvenile teams provided us with some of our most positive highlights again this year. Our minor squad had a very challenging year in Roinn B. Under the stewardship of Richie Power Snr, Neil Conway and David Franks they battled hard and were never found wanting for hard work and effort. Our 15's had an excellent season. Anthony Aylward and his selectors saw their team finish 3rd in their league group and narrowly lose out in their championship quarter-final.

Our U13's went even further as they also finished 3rd in their league to reach a county final for the second year in a row. They narrowly lost out to Bennetsbridge. Super work from all the player and mentors Edward Power, Paul O'Brien, Darragh Beagan & Ronan Blanchfield. The future is bright for our juvenile players.

After reaching the Intermediate Championship semi-final and a Junior A final in 2022, hopes were raised for the adult teams in 2023. Unfortunately we were unable to build on the last few years' progress made by Richie Power and his management team.

The Junior A League form gave early cause for concern, four losses from four. But a Championship 1st round win over Tullaroan gave grounds for optimism, and Carrickshock did more than enough in a quarter-final against O'Loughlin's to progress, only to lose out 3-18 to 1-21. Similarly, the Intermediate league form was inconsistent and showed a return of just one win from five. Not the best run-in to a Championship First Round. While the boys produced one of their better performances against the Fenians, wastefulness in front of goal, in total 19 wides, was our undoing, losing out to two injury time points, 0-16 to 0-14. This left two weeks to prepare for a Relegation final against O'Loughlin's, possibly the biggest game of Richie's management tenure. The first quarter demonstrated our potential, racing into a 1-9 to 1-3 lead. But from there we lost our way, and it went down to the wire, late goals helping us to a 3-13 to 2-14 win. Not the season hoped for after last year's heights, but nonetheless a positive end to the season, and a final win of sorts.

Congrats to all the Carrickshock players involved with development squads and to Patrick Farrell who was involved with the coaching.

We are delighted to have started on our journey in the much needed development of an all weather pitch, walking track and associated ground works in Carrickshock GAA. We would like to thank all those who have donated and volunteered so far.

The club extends condolences to all associated with the club who suffered bereavements this year, especially the families of St. John Donovan, Margaret Walsh Boolyglass, Martin Cleary, Joan Foran, Catherine Barron, Wazzie Kenneally and George Lee.



Carrickshock U13's 2023



CARRIGEEN

Carrigeen GAA in its 69th year since its founding and its 32nd year at its impressive Asper Park facilities had a relatively quiet and uneventful year both on and off the field.

Our Hurlers shipped a couple of heavy defeats as our playing numbers are small, being such a rural club. The highlight was our postponed Round 2 clash against Parish Rivals Mooncoin where the men from the Glens of Carrigeen put in a mighty effort and came up just short by a point in what could have easily been a victory for our battling team. Our Championship exit came at the hands of Blacks & Whites in Skeough.

On behalf of Carrigeen GAA we want to thank the players and mentors for their efforts in keeping the black and amber flying in the parish and look forward to celebrating our 70th anniversary in 2024. Carrigeen Abu!



Carrigeen Stalwarts Rex Quinn, Paddy Walsh, Pat O'Keefe & John Quinn

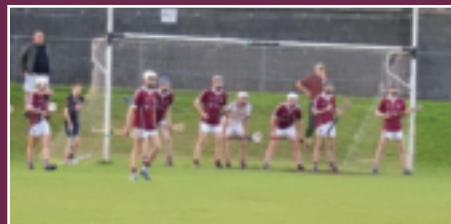




CLARA

Clara GAA was in the unique position of having two representatives in this year's Senior All-Ireland Poc Fada Final with Killian Phelan and Matt Kenny finishing 4th and 5th respectively. Earlier in the year, Shane Staunton won his second Fitzgibbon Cup medal with University of Limerick and Rory Glynn starred in St. Kieran's College's All-Ireland Senior Colleges Final victory. Clara was well-represented at inter-county level with

Paul Cody, Conor Cody, David Barcoe, Conor Hoyne, Luke Lawlor, Philip Carrigan and Padraig Meany all donning the Black and Amber jersey this year. Thanks to all who volunteered and supported the club throughout the year. Clárach Abú.



CLONEEN

The club's GPO Nathen Culleton and group of coaches ran a very successful Summer Camp. There was

three days of fun filled games and activities and special visit from Rackard Cody with the Bob O Keffe Cup. Cian Kenny spent one day doing skills, signing autographs and photos with all the age groups. There was also a visit from some of the Kilkenny Camogie girls.

The Juveniles from u5 to u13 were treated to a morning in Nowlan Park where they got to tour the dressing rooms, gym and meeting rooms and each age group got to run out onto Nowlan Park where they had a training session with their coaches.

The u17 team joined with Fenians. The U13 & U15 teams gave a great account of themselves during the year and both teams reached their respective Shield Finals where unfortunately the U15's lost out to Blacks & Whites in a great game of hurling and while going to press the U13's still have to play their Shiel final against Blacks & Whites.

In terrible conditions our Junior team fell short against Galmoy in Prem round of championship with the game there for the taking. Junior C team had a great league campaign but were unfortunate to loose out in the league final to Mooncoin, they were unfortunate to be defeated in the championship semi final by eventual winners Threecastles. Great effort was put in by all our Juvenile and Adult players with the great training from all our mentors. Thank you goes to all our mentors who put in great effort with our teams during the year.

Our Junior team were presented with an away set of jerseys by The Village Bar, Clogh and our U15's were presented with a set of Jerseys by Country Style Food. Big thank you to The Village bar and Country Style Food for their generous sponsorship.



U15 Shield Finalists



Junior C League Finalists

CONAHY SHAMROCKS

Adult Hurling & Football

Once again, the club was able to have three adult teams in action. In their first year at Junior E level, the locals had some decent performances with some young and not so young players producing good performances. They were eventually defeated by Danesfort in the championship semi-final. The Junior B team also lost out at the semi-final stage of the championship, in this case to Tullogher-Rosbercon. The intermediate team recovered from some early season losses to avoid a relegation battle, but found Lisdowney too good in the championship quarter-final. The club was again proudly represented by Tom Phelan on the Kilkenny senior hurling panel, with him performing well in the All-Ireland Final. In football, the intermediate footballers were defeated by Graigue-Ballycallan at the quarter-final stage.



Bórd na nÓg

The under-15 hurlers provided the main highlight of the year when they won the County Féile Division 3 Final. They also did very well in the Regional Féile na nGael, losing to Mount Leinster Rangers in the semi-final. The under-17 hurlers also made some great progress, in qualifying for the Kilkenny Honda Centre Roinn C semi-final. The club was also proudly represented by Jack Rhatigan on the Kilkenny Under-15 squad and Rory Rhatigan and Billy Rowe on the Kilkenny Under-14 Squads.

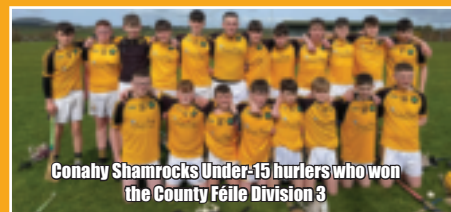
Polo Grounds Development Fundraiser

This year saw the launch of a major club fundraiser to meet the costs involved in a redevelopment of the playing and parking facilities in the Polo Grounds in Jenkinstown. Club members have been encouraged to promote the selling of tickets for a draw to be held in early 2024. The first prize is a brand new Hyundai Tuscon car or a significant cash prize. The proceeds of the draw will go towards increasing the car park area and developing the second playing pitch along with a hurling wall. It is hoped that this will be of great benefit to all members when completed.

Summer Camp & Under-age blitzes

The club's annual "Hurling Stars" Summer Camp was once again held in August. It proved to be a great success, with fun and enjoyment had by all. Many thanks to all the coaches who helped out throughout the week of the camp, and to Kilkenny star David Blanchfield who came to visit on the last day.

The club also held our annual under-age blitzes during September. The Kevin Bergin Memorial Blitz brought under-9 teams from Carrickshock, Clara and St. Patrick's to Jenkinstown, while the Jim Comerford Memorial Blitz saw under-11 teams from Fenians, St. Patrick's and Galmoy take part. For the first time ever, the club also hosted an under-7 blitz with teams from Windgap, Blacks & Whites, Emeralds and Lisdowney taking part. Many thanks to all the club coaches who assisted with the smooth running of these blitzes.



Conahy Shamrocks Under-15 hurlers who won the County Féile Division 3



Kilkenny Star Tom Phelan launching the club development draw with Club Chairman Kevin Healy. More information is available on www.winahyundaituscon.ie.



DANESFORT



Danesfort U7 Hurling



Danesfort U13 - 13a side



Danesfort U9 Hurling



Danesfort U13F Roinn A



DICKSBORO



U9 Go Games



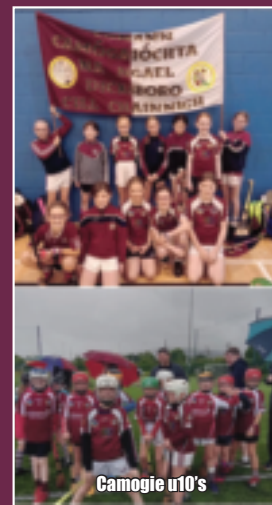
Dicksboro Golf Classis 2023



Summer Camp 2023
2 very successful Weeks enjoyed by the kids



Denis Philpott Tournament



Camogie u10's



DUNNAMAGGIN/KILMOGANNY

2023 saw continued growth and development of Dunnamaggin GAA on and off the field. The Construction of our new Gym and ball wall in Dunnamaggin are now completed with the later proving very popular with all age groups. The Gym is on course to be fully kitted out in coming weeks. The additional land beside the ball wall we purchased for additional parking has been proven a huge asset on match days. In our Kilmoganny pitch the walkway was fully lit and surface upgraded. All these developments are made possible with the support of our members and supporters through the Development lotto syndicate, support of other fundraising activities and grants.

On the playing field our intermediates had a very good run in the League/Championship and finished second in their group to secure a Shield Final spot against St.Martin's. Played in Nowlan Park we were too strong on the day for St. Martins and Captain Victor Costello lifted the silverware for St. Martins.

Dunnamaggin. We were drawn Young Irelands in the Championship Quarter Final. In a game played in terrible conditions we secured victory by the slimmest of margins to set up a Semifinal in Nowlan park against the hot favorites Thomastown. Thomastown proved too strong for us on the day and progressed onto the final.

Our Junior A hurlers had very good league campaign defeating Mullinavat in the final to lift early silverware. They overcame Mullinavat again in the first round but drew eventually champions Dicksboro in the 1/4 final with the city side winning out by the minimum in a very tight battle. Our Junior E's continued to be competitive in the league. Victories did not go their way in the championship, but they kept their best performance till last to maintain their status when beating Tullogher.

Our Juvenile section of the club had a very successful year. Our Minors, playing in Roinn A progressed to the League final after 11 league games against James Stephens with the city side too strong on the day. They Defeated Young Irelands, Erins Own to reach the Co. Final for the first time in 25 years. There they met James Stephens who again proved too strong on the day. The U15's also in Roinn A were very competitive in the league but it was the championship where their run started, beating Thomastown, Danesfort and Young Ireland to set up a Final against Dicksboro with the town team that bit stronger on the day but a super achievement to reach the final for the first time in 35 years. Our U13's playing in Roinn C just missed out on a league final spot when they lost out to Glenmore in a play off. In the Championship they bet Conahy, Slieverue to set up a rematch against Glenmore in the Final. In a very close game Glenmore won out. Our younger juvenile teams continue to impress and we fielded teams in all age groups with good numbers. We hosted many games and blitzes including our annual Thomas O'Shea blitz and U7 Football blitz. We also hosted a Walkaton & Field Day which are great occasions. We would like to remember also at this time those who are no longer with us and extend our sympathies to their families and friends. May they rest in Peace.

Kilmoganny GAA Grounds had extensive works carried out during the year. The walkway was fully lit and surface upgraded. All these developments are made possible with the support of our members and supporters through support of fundraising activities and grants. The grounds were officially opened, hosted a 24hr memorial Walkaton and held a Family Field day over the August bank holiday weekend as well as continuing to provide vital pitch space.



Dunnamaggin GAA New Gym & Ball Wall



Fr Fergus Farrell Blessing Kilmoganny GAA Grounds at its official opening August Bank



EMERALDS

2023 was the 51st year of our club and one with huge development on and off the pitch. This would not have been achieved only for the fantastic volunteers within our club. Our fantastic new Astro and community walkway sure signs of great work being done. Fundraisers such as our weekly drive in Bingo, the Road to Croker and Church Concerts being a huge success!

On the pitch – we had trojan work done by our underage teams. We teams at U5, U6, U7, U9, U11, U13, U15 and U17 ages, all possible due to all the trainers and coaches willing to give up their time and energy for the better of the younger players in our club. From U5s to U11s, our teams competed in various blitz's and GoGame competitions putting in strong performances across all levels. Making friends and learning the fundamental skills of the game is front and centre for all players and credit to the coaches for doing that. Our older underage team: U13, U15 and Minor also had another strong year of development. Strength and Conditioning was introduced in the Bord na nOg for the first time. In 2022, all teams competed in Rionn C and this year all three teams made the jump to Rionn B. Our U13s and Minors making it to the quarter final stages and the U15s making it to the semi finals of the championship. Our Minors finished the league group undefeated with the league title defeating Graiguenamanagh in a classic in Dunmore - our first minor title since 2000.

Our U21 team secured a historic championship 2 in row last November after defeating Blacks and Whites in a cracking game in Freshford. Our U19 team also made the 2022 and 2023 Championship County finals.

On our adult front – both our Juniors and Junior B teams out in a huge amount of work in 2023. Like many country clubs, players going travelling has seen numbers reduced. Our new management of Kevin Joyce, Ger Sweetman, Fergie Queally and David Kelly along with hurling coach Ciaran Comerford and S&C Shane Kenny got to work. Placing second in the league group after a solid campaign saw us go straight through to a first round avoiding the preliminary stages. Our first round versus Galmoy had a late change to Urlingford and a real arm wrestle unfolded seeing Emeralds come out on top of local rivals by 6 points to proceed to the quarter final – a step forward from 2022's defeat to Blacks and Whites in the first round. Tullogher proved too strong in the quarter final but great foundations have been built for 2024. Our Junior B team made it to the quarter finals also, the highlight of the year coming in a cracking win versus Fenians in the first round where either team could have come out on top.

A huge thank you to all players who gave up their time for the Emeralds Jersey – see everyone in 2024!



ERIN'S OWN

With the sun is setting on the 2023 GAA season with that it is time to reflect.

Junior E Champions: The highlight of the year was the Junior E team winning their league and championship double. There was great celebration in UPMC Nowlan Park in September as a rampant Comer outfit beat Danesfort comfortably on a scoreline of 3-19 to 1-10. Earlier in the summer they accounted for Piltown in a one sided league final with the final score 1-26 to 1-10. However, the success is not just the winning of silverware, the real success was the approach adopted by manager Keith Normoyle. From the outset the objective of this third adult team was to enable young men

to experience adult hurling. These young players were keenly supported and advised by a smattering of battled hardened men not long out of senior themselves – Damien Fogarty, James Mullins and Peadar Boran.

Going forward if this strategy is maintained it will enable our up and coming young hurlers to dip their toes in adult championship hurling. After their success, this third team will be promoted to Junior D and a number of fresh faced 18 year olds will be chomping at the bit to get involved in 2024.

Senior Safety: It was a testing campaign at senior level as it always is in Kilkenny. A number of high scoring drawn games against both Ballyhale Shamrocks and Graigue Ballycallan were dotted between below par performances. Consistency proved hard to find. Injury to Conor Fogarty curtailed his appearances, however, when it mattered most he put in a man of the match performance against Danesfort in the relegation final as senior status was secured. The encouraging performances of a number of young players at senior level and a number of others at junior level give ground for real optimism in 2024.

Bórd na nóg: At underage our minors gave a good account of themselves all year before losing a closely fought Roinn A semi final to Dunamaggin. The under 15's won a Roinn B Football Féile and in hurling won the Roinn A league but found the championship a different beast as O'Loughlin's put them out in the quarter final. The under 13's reached their football final and won a number of hurling league games before bowing out to Clara in the championship. In Black & Amber On the Kilkenny scene congrats goes to both Conor Fogarty and Conor Delaney won their eight and fifth Leinster titles respectively. Conor Fogarty's amazing block in the All Ireland semi final against Clare brought much deserved praise from hurling pundits across the country. That one moment epitomizes the positive attitude which has made Conor a stalwart of Kilkenny teams for over 15 years. It is his dedication which all aspiring Erin's Own hurlers and camóige players should aspire to. At minor level, Conor Brophy was an ever present for the Cats at right corner back with Bobby Brennan on the extended panel. The minors reached a Leinster Final before bowing out of the Championship against Clare. Shane Coogan was part of the U21 panel. Erin's Own were well represented on development squads at under 15 and 16. Jamie Holohan donned the black & amber at centre forward as Kilkenny who lost the Junior All Ireland Final to New York in Croke Park.

Thanks for supporting Erin's Own. Happy New Year and Best wishes for 2024.



FENIANS

The Club would like to take this opportunity to thank our members, supporters, club officers, club coaches, club selectors, and the support staff at all levels within the club for their excellent ongoing work this year. We would also like to thank our main sponsors MW Hire Services and Ray McCarthy Electrical for their continued generous support.

Fundraising: The Fenians Bingo continued this year moving to the new venue in St. Mary's Hall, with the club welcoming people from the surrounding areas raising much needed funds for the club. It also saw the addition of the Split-the-Pot Draw with the winner being announced at the Bingo. These fundraisers could not happen without the Trojan work of Marguerite Dermody and her helpers. A big thank you also to Billy Fitzpatrick and helpers for the continued success of the Fenians Golf Classic.

On their 50th anniversary of The Fenians victorious 1973 team will be honoured on Senior County Final day in UPMC Nowlan Park, a fitting tribute to some of the legends of our club.

Intermediates: At intermediate level we welcomed a new manager Noel McElvey with Mick Maher, Matty Walsh, Paul Phelan and Gerry Drennan. We battled well during the league and great effort was put in by all. Many thanks must go to Noel McElvey and his management team for their tireless effort throughout the year.

Juniors: Fenians Junior B's looked to improve on last year but unfortunately, it turned out to be a tough year with many players missing through injury and travel. In spite of these setbacks the management and players tried hard in every game and gave all they could. Many thanks must go to Ger Henderson, Neil Tynan and JP Grehan for their work with the juniors over the year.

Under 19: Despite being made-up of mostly our U17 panel the team didn't let this be a disadvantage and started the League well with victories over St. Lachtain's and James Stephens. Championship saw wins over St. Lachtain's and John Lockes. As we write the team are preparing for the County Final this weekend where we take on Emeralds and we also have a League Final against St. Patrick's to come. A special thank you to Kieran Grehan, Conor Tobin, Eddie Hughes, Seán Tobin, Seán Brennan and Gerry Drennan for their help with the team.

Juvenile: With many of our minor panel taking part in the Intermediate training sessions they brought this experience to the fore when competing in the U-17 campaign. They fought hard in all games remaining competitive throughout. Thanks to manager Fintan Garrett, and selectors Matty Walsh and Jason Ryan.

This year saw us amalgamate with St. Patrick's at U-15's and U-13's as both clubs are limited with numbers. This has proved to be successful when we saw success with our U-13's reaching a Shield Final in their first year together. There continues to be great excitement for the primary school children with the continuation of Nathan Culleton as our Games Promotion Officer. A special thanks to John Hogan, Ann Marie Renehan and Paul Phelan at U-13, JJ O'Donovan at U-11, Ger Henderson Jr., Shane Neary, Tony Cleary and Michael Quaney at U-9 and JJ O'Donovan again at U-5/U-7 and all the coaches and mentors who helped out throughout the year.

Condolences: This year saw the sad passing of some of The Fenians stalwarts notably Johnny Moriarty, a prominent player on the 1970's teams, Jimmy "Cooks" Tobin, Club President V. Rev. Fr. Frank (Canon) Maher, Michael Glendon and Martin Sheil. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anam dilis.





GALMOY

At the start of 2023 Galmoy GAA made the decision to enter a Gaelic Football team in the Kilkenny Junior League and Championship and also to take part in the Leinster Club League. Both ventures proved to be very successful moves. In the Junior Football League, Galmoy did very well with wins over Muckalee, Fenians and Railyard to qualify for the League Final v Bennettsbridge on April 1st. After putting up a very strong showing, it was the Bridge who took the honours. In the championship, Galmoy made it as far as the semi final stage where they lost out to eventual champions St Patricks. In the Leinster League, Galmoy progressed from a group including Kinnitty and The Harps to overcome Blackwater away in Wexford and qualify for a semi final v Kilmacow which Galmoy won, at home, on penalties. The Final in Nowlan Park on Saturday May 20th saw Galmoy turn in a fine performance to overcome Slieverue and win the title for the first time ever. The Galmoy/Windgap Minors and U-13s did very well throughout the year, both bowing out of the Championship at the semi final stage after some very creditable performances. The U-13s went one better however, when they won the Roinn B League with an impressive performance against Mullinavat on July 6th.

2023 saw the first Leinster Senior Hurling medal come to Galmoy in 50 years when Billy Drennan was part of the Kilkenny panel which overcame Galway, scoring a point when introduced in the final. Billy Harte was the last Galmoy man to win a medal when he lined out with Kilkenny in 1973. Congratulations to Noel Doherty who managed Thomastown to Kilkenny Intermediate success in October. Colman Moloney and Niall Drennan were playing members of the Kilkenny Celtic Challenge team which lost out to Galway in this year's semi final while both lads also played in the Shinty Challenge against Scotland in UPMC Nowlan Park. Well done to Nigel Stanley who was a member of the Kilkenny Junior Football panel which lost out to New York in Croke Park.

Off the Field of play, Galmoy GAA hosted their first ever outdoor concert on November 5th last when local band "Sweet Freedom" played for four hours non-stop. The annual Club Auction, Race Night and Our third annual Golf Classic at Rathdowney Golf Club also proved extremely successful and we are indebted to all who took part once again. Galmoy GAA Club are very grateful to Inver Fuel Station Johnstown for the very generous donation of €1000 as part of Inver's 'Leading Lights' initiative. Our club handballers had a very busy year also with the highlight being the success of the Galmoy Girls team in the Féile na nGael Final in Galway in April, Niamh Duggan, Orla Duggan, Mairéad Duggan and Isabelle Murphy.



Galmoy Girls Féile Handball Winners



Galmoy Team in Leinster Lge Final



Celtic Challenge (Niall & Colman 2023)



Galmoy Football Team in Junior Lge Final



GLENMORE

Glenmore had a very successful year on the playing front, winning the U13C Hurling Championship, U17B Hurling Championship, and U19C Hurling C'hip & League Double. Our Seniors had a very good year, having big wins & excellent performances in beating Ballyhale, the Village, Comer & the Bridge while losing to Graigue-Ballycallan in the League stages. This saw us topping the group, qualifying for the league final & the

Championship Quarter Final. We lost the league final to the Boro and lost to Bennettsbridge by 6 points in the Championship. New players were introduced this year & others have gained vital experience which we hope will see us build on this year's momentum in 2024.

Our Junior B's started promisingly, winning 4 out of 5 league games. We beat James Stephens in the Championship quarter final but lost narrowly to eventual Champions Barrow Rangers in the semi final. The junior E's won 2 drew 1 & lost 1 league game. They beat Mooncoin in the Quarter final but lost to O'Loughlins in the Semi Final. It is great to see such Adult numbers playing games in the parish.

The Intermediate footballers won 2 of 3 league games but lost to Piltown in the Championship by a point. Not having any of our County players allowed be involved certainly hindered progress here.

The U19C Hurlers had a great year. After winning 2 of 3 league games, they won the League final beating a gallant Tullaroan in the final - 2-24 to 4-15. In the championship quarter & semi finals they conquered Tullaroan & Barrow Rangers. In the final they overcame Graigueanagh in a serious battle in wild conditions in Inistioge after Extra Time on a scoreline of 2-16 to 1-16.

Our U17 were hampered by injuries & county player unavailability in the league but still ground out 4 wins from 8 in the league. They gathered momentum in the Championship - beating Graige-Ballycallan, Tullogher, Graigueanagh & hot favourites Danesfort in the final on a wet day in Nowlan Park on a scoreline of 3-11 to 1-10.

The U15C hurlers had a solid league campaign, winning 5 out of 9 League Matches. We had a very good run in the championship, beating Clonee & Slieverue to reach the final. However an impressive Bennettsbridge were too strong on the day in Dunmore.

Our U13C footballers won 3 out of 5 league matches. We beat Blacks & Whites & Slieverue in the football Championship but lost to Dunnamaggin in the Semi final. The u13C hurlers won 10 out of 12 games in the League, qualifying for the league final against our neighbours Tullogher, who beat us by 2 points. Revenge was gained however a few weeks later in the Hurling Championship when we toppled the same opposition in the Semi Final. In terrible conditions in the Championship final in Dunmore we beat a strong Dunnamaggin outfit 0-7 to 0-3 in a titanic battle.

Our U11's won the Slieverue Kearney Cup tournament and participated in several blitzes during the year. Our U9's finished out a super year for the club with victory over the Rower in the Go Games Regional final.



Glenmore U9's 2023



GRAIGNAMANAGH

After coming so close in 2022 to registering meaningful progress with the Juniors 2023 was eagerly awaited with an expectation of achieving advances with James Hickey managing.

However this aspiration evaporated as after an indifferent league the road ran out for Graignamanagh being well beaten by a tough, eventual finalists Tullogher

Rosbercon outfit

in the 1st Round of the Championship.

The Junior D team got off to a good start with five points to spare over James Stephens but went down to neighbours Rower Inistioge in the championship semi-final.

The U19's had a goal to spare over the Rower-Inistioge in the ¼ final and went on to pip Piltown in the semi-final with an eight points margin in the Roinn C Championship. This good run by a band of up and coming talented hurlers came to grief in the final at the hands of gritty Glenmore in rain soaked Inistioge.

Away from the pitch planning continued apace to finalise the Clubhouse extension project which is due to commence in April 2024. The club has been admitted to the Club Cill Chainnigh club planning and development pilot program. We hosted several Senior and Intermediate games ensuring that each ran off flawlessly. In August the club ran a "Give Respect" referee seminar moderated by David Hughes which was well received. Graignamanagh hosted a minor challenge game between Graig and James Stephens to commemorate the late Fran Doyle who died in 1993 having played minor with the County the previous season. Thanks to those who attended including members of the Roinn A 1992 final all of which made it a big day for both Club and Community and a really special day for the Doyle family.

Meanwhile in the juvenile branch 2023 wasn't a year for amassing Silverware, still solid progress was evident across all age groups. The U7 nursery continues to be the first introduction to playing activities. The U9s & U11s played a busy program of matches throughout the season and participated fully in the Go-Games competitions. For the 1st time, a Graignamanagh Tournament/Blitz for each of these 3 younger age groups was held towards the end of the playing season all of which proved quite successful. Our U13s held their own in the league and following a 1st round Championship loss to the eventual winners Bennettsbridge went on a strong run in the Shield competition being finalists/ eventual winners. The u15s produced some very solid performances in the league and had a great 1st round win in the championship. Our U17s were a very balanced team this year & went unbeaten in the group stages of the league but lost in the league Final to a game Emeralds side. They exited the Championship at the semi-final stage to eventual winners Glenmore. The Club ran buses to the Leinster Final & All Ireland Semi-final with our U13s & U15s playing Challenge Matches against St Jude's and Commercials enroute to Croke Park.

Once again The Club wishes to thank all sponsors, coaches, Parents, members and all who supported us during 2023.



Clubhouse Extension Plans

GRAIGUE BALLYCALLAN



The 2023 season is one, we as a club can look back on as a very positive one. There were great achievements on and off the field.

Underage: In June, the U11s won the Paddy Sheridan Tournament in Mount Sion GAA in Waterford. Then in September, they travelled up to the Kilmacud Crokes Festival, where two teams of our U11s won their finals. The U13s won the Fennelly Tournament that we hosted in Tom Ryall Park in August. A big thank you to Marble City Motors for sponsoring the U13s with their new jerseys this year.

The Minors played John Lockes in the Minor B Shield Final on 14th October, but just fell short against a strong John Lockes team.

A great year was had for our younger groups. The U7s and U9s participated in various tournaments and matches around the county.

Adults: In June, the Junior D's won the Country Style Foods Junior D Hurling League against James Stephens in MW Hire Dunmore on a score line of 0-17 to 0-9. The Junior A's made it to the JJ Kavanagh and Sons Championship Semi Final but missed out on advancing against a very strong O'Loughlin Gaels team. Our Senior team produced one of their best seasons in years. The dedication and drive for the game really showed through in the St. Canice's Credit Union Senior League, as they placed third in their group. Two wins against Bennettsbridge and Glenmore and a draw against Erin's Own put us straight through to the first round of Championship against Clara. After a tough battle with Clara, we came out on top and advanced into the Quarter Final against The Village, where we then bowed out of the Championship after that defeat. The team and management have given the club and parish a great lift this year and we cannot be any prouder. Onwards and upwards for the lads.

Schools & County: Aaron McEvoy, Jeff Neary and Billy Dowling were on the St. Kieran's College team that won the All Ireland Senior A Colleges Final for the 24th time in March. In June, we saw the St. Aidan's NS boys win the Allianz Cumann Na mBunscol Roinn B Final after a great win against Clara NS. The score was 3-13 to 0-10.

Billy Ryan represented the club brilliantly with the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team. Leinster Final 2023 winners and finalists in the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final 2023. In August, Eoghan Cahill was on the U16A development squad that won the Michael Foley Tournament in Wexford. Ben McEvoy was on the U15A development squad that won the Arrabawn A Shield Final on the same day also. Cormac Neary and Michael Tynan were on the U15B development squad.

We would like to thank everyone that supported our Match Forecast Competition 2023 and we look forward to next year's.

We remember those who we lost during the past year that had a special place within the club: Vice President Johnny Marnell, Club Patron Fr. Buckley and ex player Matty Brennan. RIP.



2023 was a good year in terms of club development. We opened a new ball wall and extended the club rooms to include a shop, toilets, meeting room/public area that improved the visitor experience. It enabled the club to cater to up to eight visiting teams at any time. Needless to say the wall ball area is getting lots of use!

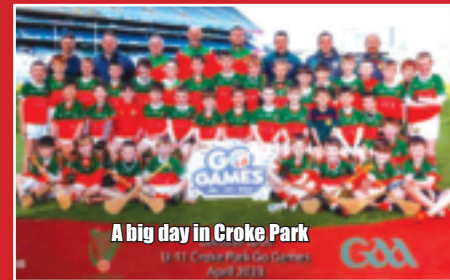
It has been a very busy year across all elements of the club, none more so than our club shop. Re-organised in 2013 it has proved to be a great success over the past decade, supplying every type of quality and stylish club gear. Great credit is due to the ladies who look after business on a weekly basis, Breda Manogue and Niamh Kenny, while Angela Russell played a big part in its development for many years too.

We must thank a very busy juvenile section for their year's work, led by Martin Phelan and Richie Cody. Over the course of 2023 our juvenile teams played against a huge number of teams. Among them were Cuala, Kilmacud Crokes, St. Brigid's, Cuala, Westmanstown Gaels, Ballyboden (Dublin), St. Martins, Naomh Eanna, Oulart (Wexford), Kevin Lynch's (Derry), Durlas Yg, Moycarkey-Borris (Tipp), Glen Rovers, Blackrock (Cork), Ahane, Mungret (Limerick), Shamrocks (Offaly), Sixmilebridge, Ballygunner and a host of Kilkenny clubs. Well done to all our mentors and players.

JAMES STEPHENS



It's not all about the hurling...
We need some refreshments



A big day in Croke Park

U11 Croke Park Go Games
April 2023



A new place to play!

JOHN LOCKES



John Lockes had a very positive year at Juvenile Level with all groups competing successfully with 2 County Finals a Shield Final and a League Final win.

Our 7-9 group played regular matches blitzes and Go games which were enjoyed by all. Great to see new faces continuing to join and enjoy games

with some promising young talent on show.

Under 11's had some great days out this year including trips to Gorey in Wexford and a great day where they had the chance to play on the hallowed grounds of Nowlan Park!

At Under 13 we had 2 teams a 13 A Side group going all the way to the League Final just losing out to Danesfort. John Lockes also fielded a team at Roinn A U13 level who had a very strong league campaign finishing at league final coming up short on the day against O Loughlins. This team went on to win the County Final against Danesfort in October - first Roinn A title in many years so huge congratulations to them for this fantastic result.

U15s had two teams competing one at Roinn A and a 13 A side Roinn C team. The 13 A side had a clean sweep taking both League and Championship honours this year with very strong performances in both finals which was a fantastic achievement. Our Roinn A side showed some great talent in the squad with a very strong league campaign losing only one match in the league. Our U15 group also made it through to the Feile Peil National Finals held in Carrick on Shannon in July well done to all!

Our Minors competed this year in Roinn B and Roinn C and have enjoyed many great performances during the year. Our Roinn C squad made it to the League Final and despite a very strong performance they were defeated by St Lachtains on the night. Our Roinn B team were very competitive again this year losing only one match in their league campaign. This group went on to win the Shield Final against Graigue Ballycallan in October so finished their year on a very positive note. A great group of lads and well done to everyone involved.

U19s competed in Roinn D this year and had some good wins in the Championship and reached the Semi-Final Stage.

We are very proud of the commitment and performances of all age groups at John Lockes and would like to thank all mentors, trainers, parents and players for another successful year. We are looking forward to the 2024 season in anticipation of some more great matches and performances.



John Lockes U13's 2023



KILMACOW

2023 brought some on field success both at underage and adult level, this is a credit to the hard work and deciation that is being shown by both players and management.

The first success of the year came on the football front in April, our u13 team showed fantastic charater to win the Roinn B county final as they overcame Erins Own by the narrowest of margins, with 1-1 in injury time. The football success on the football front continued with the u15 team, they won the Feile Division 3 final and went on to represent the club in the Regional Feile in Kildare where they reached the Cup Semi Final.

On the adult front although there was a disappointing end to the year with defeat in the Championship the team should great commitment during the year. There was some success on the field, the team won the Kevin Fennelly Cup defeating John Lockes in the final on a scoreline of 1-15 to 0-13. The team also reached the semi final of the Leinster League as well, beaten by Galmoy in a penalty shootout.

A special thank you to all our sponsors for their continuing support and to all club members who have supported fundraising efforts, in particular in the Hurlers Co-op draw and our Development Fund Syndicate. This support allows the club to proceed with the next phase of developments

Unfortunately the club lost some fantastic servants in the last year namely Eva Kelly, Ned Reddy and Denis Scully. All 3 have been great servants to the club in different capacities through the years, as players, supporters, committee members, volunteers and coaches. The club will be forever grateful for the time and effort they have put in to Kilmacow over the years. The club extends its symanties to their families and all club members who suffered bereavement during the year.



LISDOWNEY

2023 was a busy year for Lisdowney, fielding 4 adult teams, excelling at underage level and restarting our handball club.

The Junior D team became county champions when they beat Rower Insitioge 1-27 to 1-21 in a gripping county final. The lads certainly worked for their title as they drew on the first day and went to a replay, and then the replay was also a draw at full time and had to go to extra time! Extra-time ended in our favour after an exceptional performance from the lads.

The Intermediates had a clean sweep in the league, making it to the league county final where they came short to Thomastown. They then beat Conahy in the quarter final to make it to the championship semi-final but were unfortunately stopped

in their tracks by Mooncoin. Regardless, of the disappointing end, the lads had an excellent season and exhibited some outstanding performances.

Our Junior team also made a strong appearance this year, coming second in the Junior Section B league only dropping 3 points of a maximum 16. The team made it to the semi-final stages on the Junior Section B championship where they lost out to a strong Dicksboro side in tough conditions. Hard luck to the lads who showed great dedication throughout the year.

A big thank you to the handball committee, headed up by Vincent Dunphy & Ronan Costello, who got our handball club back up and running this year! After a long dry spell, the handball alley is finally back in use and attracted great numbers at underage level. They held competitions amongst themselves to get into the swing of it before branching out into the wider handball community. The club was privileged to host the finals of the U-15 B county championships on our home grounds, and even seen one of our own, Jayme Thornton, win runner up in the U-17 B championship. We hope to see the handball community in the club continue to grow for many years to come.

The camogie club had a successful year and fought hard to maintain their Intermediate status with a good win in the relegation semi-final against St. Claires. Claire Phelan once again made us proud, receiving a PWC All-Star nomination for her stellar performance with the Kilkenny Senior team.

The club hosted the 41st Annual Lisdowney 7's, sponsored by Greencoat Renewables. The popular competition was a huge success thanks to the organising committee and volunteers who were out in force over the 3 weekends in July. The annual parish 7's followed suit shortly after in October and were just as successful.

Off the field, our Bord na nOg committee were extremely busy, as well as the GAA committee, with fundraisers such as the Dog Night in Kilkenny Greyhound Stadium and the annual Golf Classic in Rathdowney Golf Club going down a big hit with our supporters.



Our New Handball Club



Our Junior D Captain accepting the cup



MOONCOIN

2023 was another busy year for the club, both on and off the field. In January, the club took part in the 'Ireland Lights Up' event in association with Operation Transformation. Every Wednesday night, groups of people walked or ran around the floodlit walkway at the GAA complex. Also in January, Conor Harris gave a talk at the club. The former Kildare footballer bravely spoke about his mental health struggles and overcoming drug addiction, which was inspirational to all present.

In February, in their first outing of the year, the Intermediate hurlers travelled to Dublin to take part in the Ray McKenna Tournament. Mooncoin won the final against Ballyboden-St Enda's on a score-line of 3-13 to 2-08. Mooncoin captain, Pa Walsh, was presented with the trophy by Ray's mother, Kitty McKenna (née Walsh), who originally hails from Clogga. On the 31 March, the 'Mooncoin GAA Club Party Night' took place at the Rhu Glenn, Glenmore. All generations of the club gathered to let their hair down. A fantastic night was had by all.

Mooncoin GAA was represented on the Kilkenny minor hurling team this year by Robbie Doherty, who contributed greatly to the cause and who was a credit to his club. Also representing the parish on Kilkenny teams this year were; Charlie Mackey & Conor Walsh (U14), Jake O'Doherty (U15), and Billy Delahunty & Aidan Carroll (U16).

The first day of July witnessed one of the busiest days in the clubs recent history when the 'Gala Summer Family Sports Day' took place. The biggest event on the day was The Ultimate Challenge, where teams representing the hurling and camogie teams took part in an obstacle course. In the end, the bragging rights went to Chris O'Hanlon, Cormac Kinsella, Laura Dillon-Dunphy and Jake Moore, who were victorious and claimed the inaugural URimate Challenge title. Pa Walsh, Seán Gannon and Ciarán Quilty, acquitted themselves brilliantly as part of the Kilkenny Football team who played in the All-Ireland Junior Final.

Nearly 200 boys and girls took part in the very successful 'Camán Summer Camp' took place in August, where visitors were senior hurlers Pádraig Walsh and John Donnelly, and senior camogie team members Aoife Norris and local star player, Mairéad Corcoran. Also in August an U6 blitz was held which saw an incredible 500 boys and girls visiting Mooncoin from 38 clubs across six counties. The U12 team capped off a brilliant summer by winning the Callan tournament.

In November, a night of reminiscing and chatting took place with the surviving members of the 1965 Mooncoin team who won the senior county final, alongside the 1959 camogie team who were also county champs.

On the field of play, the club fielded five adult teams, which is rare for a rural club (Intermediate, Junior, Junior C, F and E. Our Junior C hurlers won the League and were just pipped in the championship final against Threecastles. This was a great achievement by the team who only came up a division last year. Our Intermediate hurlers had an incredible year, going all the way to the county final. Thanks to the talents of Fergal O'Hanlon, Liam Sutton and Tom O'Hanlon, our Intermediate games were live streamed on our Facebook page, allowing hundreds of viewers to tune in from all across the world.



Under 12 Camogie



Under 10 Camogie



Under 12 Camogie



Under 11 Boys



Winning Team the URimate Challenge Michael Blanchfield, Cormac Kinsella, Chris Hanlon, Jake Moore.



MUCKALEE GFC

Muckalee bowed out of the Senior Championship at the quarter final stage against Thomastown. The Juniors bowed out against St. Patricks , A number of the young fellows were introduced this year and the experience gained should stand to them in next years games.



Coon Muckalee U13 Footballers 2023



A Happy Group From Muckalee With The Sam Maguire Trophy At the Minor A Football Final in Muckalee

Congratulations to the Ladies on winning the three in a row.
 Congratulations, also to Jack Stapleton, David Tallis and Geoff Dooley on representing the club on the Kilkenny U15 Football panel.



MULLINAVAT

On the playing pitch it was title number seven in Senior Football, which we add to 2007, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2022. In Senior Hurling we will line out in the 2024 Senior championship for a club record tenth successive year, and we also won the start of season MLM Senior Intermediate HL Div 2 Final versus Dunnamaggin.

Off the pitch, the walkway and second pitch development is nearing completion, and we will launch the club history in the New Year. At youth level we continue to work with our future players as outlined below :-Nursery and U7's

These new hurlers had a busy introductory year of hurling. Junior and senior infant boys and girls were put through their paces every Saturday morning for training and blitzes throughout the season. Coaches were Willie Coogan, Alan Wall, Damien Aylward, Declan Wall, Eoin Maher, Mark Kenneally, Liz McNamara, Shane Frisby, Tom Maher, Zoe Delahunty, Ciara Aylward, Dinny Kennedy, June Grennan, Seamus Farrell, Sinead Grace Mansfield.

U9: These boys are improving all year, throughout a busy season of training and Blitzes. Coaches were; Mark O'Brien, Brian Kenneally, Richie Delahunty, Damien Reid

U11: Thanks again to Dinny Butler and selectors for all their hard work with this group of ever improving players. Dinny was assisted by John Dunphy, Breda Maddock, Joseph Kearns, John Maher.

U13: This group had a good year of competitive action, they started the year early, with Gaelic Football and reached the league final, where they were narrowly beaten by St Lactains. They again met St Lactains in the Championship semi-final where they were beaten by a wider margin this time. Onwards and upwards to the league where they had a great run of games all the way to the league final in Dunmore where they were narrowly beaten by Galmo/Windgap. They recorded only 2 league defeats all season, the final and a league R2 versusLisdowney. While this will be a year to forget, onwards and upward for next year now in Roinn A where with the added year in age this young group will be more competitive. Mentors this season for this group were Pat Rohan, PJ Aylward & Brian Conway.

U17: This group again struggled with small numbers of eligible players. They were competitive in every game at Ronn C level in both league and championship. All in all it was an enjoyable year for the lads even if we were unlucky with results. Mentors were PJ Aylward, Mark McNamara & Willie Kelly The Club would like to thank each and everybody who helped out in anyway, big or small, throughout the year as without this continued support we would be nothing. Thank you.



Mullinavat U11 Hurling Team
© Photo by Charles 25-04-2023



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS

O'Loughlin Gaels GAA, located on the Hebron Rd in Kilkenny City, serves John's Parish comprising of Dunmore, Johnswell and Kilkenny City. Formed in 1969 the club boasts four Senior County Titles, 2 Leinster Club Championships and numerous titles through all grades. Currently there are four adult hurling teams - Senior, Intermediate, Junior A and Junior E. The club also boasts a vibrant and successful Handball section with two Handball alleys included in the club's extensive pavilion at St. John's Park.

This year our Club Development Committee have successfully installed new floodlights to our second pitch adding to the great facilities provided at St. John's Park for our members. Plans are in place to develop facilities further to include new dressing rooms, an astro turf training area and storage as we constantly strive to facilitate our team's development.

On the field of play O'Loughlin Gaels Senior team compete at the top tier. Our intermediate status has been reduced to Junior Status

for 2024 and we submit two more adult teams into competition giving us much to build on going forward. Juvenile teams saw a steady repeat of healthy numbers with all competing towards the latter end of their respective competitions. We are very proud to have numerous players involved with Kilkenny teams and we are especially proud to have Paddy Deegan, Huw Lawlor, Conor Heary and Mikey Butler on the Kilkenny Senior panel in 2023.

We thank all our members, players and coaches for their continued commitment to O'Loughlin Gaels GAA. We encourage all members

and supporters of O'Loughlin Gaels GAA to log on and Play our Club lotto so our club can continue to improve facilities for its young players. Log on to www.oloughlingaels.com/lotto.
 Mol an Óige agus tiocfaidh siad



PILTOWN



Piltown GAA grounds were buzzing with activity from very early spring. Immense much work goes on both front of house and behind the scenes to allow a club to function, so a huge acknowledgement and thank you to all our club coaches, officers and many volunteers.

For the past year, Piltown GAA have had the benefit of a GAA Games Promotion Officer operating in our three schools. This gives every school going child in the parish the opportunity to participate in GAA games weekly. We thank the schools for facilitating this project. The GPO is partly funded by the clubs All Star 15 fundraiser draw which is continuing from strength to strength. This draw is a combined effort between Piltown GAA, Piltown Camogie and Piltown LGFA Clubs. We thank everybody for the support.

On the playing pitches:

In April, 40 U11 boys from Piltown GAA had the opportunity to play in Croke Park. This was a fantastic experience for them, and we hope that some boys may make it back to play again in the future. Our U6, U7, and U8 groups put in trojan work all year - lots of fun was had and they took part in numerous blitzes. Our U9 and U11's participated very well in their respective Go Games as well as various blitzes, with great progression to be seen. Well done all.

Our U13's had a tough time in a very competitive Roinn A League, but rallied well come championship time where they made it to semi-final stage, but unfortunately lost out to the eventual winners John Lockes. U15's struggled to gain momentum in their league campaign due to various player injuries and lost out in a hard-fought championship quarter final to Mooncoin after extra time. Similarly, our Minor's were up against it in the Roinn A league, and exited the Championship against James Stephens who went on to win out the competition. Well done to all our underage players who represented Kilkenny throughout the year.

We fielded three teams at adult level as well as an U19 team, with over 60 players donning the Piltown jersey. Unfortunately, the year ended without any silverware.

Our annual Bill Costello Summer Camp was a huge success again this year and a highlight of the summer for our younger members. Congratulations to Jack Farrell who won the overall Player of the Week Award for 2023. Thanks to James Norris and his team of coaches from our juvenile & camogie clubs.

In July, the Piltown GAA community were deeply saddened by the sudden passing of our agroundsman, Kevin Brennan. Kevin kept our grounds in pristine condition for the last number of years and is deeply missed. We express our sincere condolences to all his family and friends.

We also remember those who were laid to rest over the past 12 months, and we extend our condolences to their families: Bridget Kinsella, Noel Kenny, Danny O' Brien, Shem Farrell, Kevin O' Driscoll, Jacinta Malone, John Walsh.



Piltown U13 in Roinn A Semi-final team



Piltown at U6 Mooncoin Tournament



Piltown U10 at Ballyhale Tournament



Piltown U11 Croke Park 2023

RALLYARD



Although no major honours were won in 2023, Rallyard can still look back on 2023 with some satisfaction.

We fielded football teams in every age group from U-7 right up to Junior and Senior adult teams as well as a Masters team.

Our U7s, U9s and U11s took part in Carlow's GoGames programme, our U13s played in the Kilkenny League and Championship and also took part in the Carlow U13 League.

A combined U11/U12 team also took part in a tournament in Naas where they came home with the Shield after a penalty shootout with Lamh Dearg of Antrim.

The U-15 showed great progress in 2023 winning all but one of their league games in Carlow and contesting the Feile Final in Kilkenny.

Our minors were denied the chance to retain the U17 Kilkenny Championship due to a decision to play the entire Roinn C championship over 3 weekends. In the end only one game took place in the entire championship, Rallyard did compete in the Carlow league where they acquitted themselves well.

Our Junior and Senior had no luck in the Kilkenny League and Championship but both teams qualified for the play-offs in Carlow but that was as good as it got for them.

The masters team won the Joe McNally All-Ireland 7s which is run by the St. Anne's Club in Boherabrenna in Dublin. Having been beaten on penalties in the semi-final in 2022 Rallyard made amends on a wet and windy day, playing some great football to win out the tournament.



U11/U12 Naas Tournament Shield winners



Over 40s

ROWER INISTIOGE



x

CLUB DEVELOPMENT WORK 2023

Rower Inistioge GAA Club embarked on another ambitious programme of Club development in 2023. Construction was completed on a state of the art all weather sports facility which includes a floodlit 65m 28.5m astro turf pitch, with a 5m high hurling wall. The Club secured Sports Capital grant funding of €85,000 with the balance of funding coming from the proceeds of Lip Sync and Buy a Square fundraisers.

Development work was also undertaken on the Rower GAA grounds car park and a new ralling and seating was installed at the Inistioge GAA grounds. We are extremely grateful for the financial support we receive within the parish.

JUNIOR D'S REACH COUNTY FINAL

Our Junior D panel were extremely consistent throughout the year and were very unlucky not to end up with some silverware for their efforts. They topped their league group before losing out narrowly in a league semi-final to James Stephens. They regrouped to get to a County Final by recording victories against Graigue Ballycallan and Graignamanagh. Lisdowney were their opponents in the decider. Both teams were extremely well matched and the final finished 3-16 apiece.

Rivalries were resumed six days later and an hour's hurling still couldn't separate the teams, with the scores level at 1-18 each. As can happen in extra time, Lisdowney got a fast start and were able to hold on to win on a scoreline of 1-27 to 1-21. Our lads lost nothing in defeat after two epic games of hurling, enjoyed by a large crowd in Nowlan Park.

MEMORIAL TOURNAMENTS

Each year, Rower Inistioge GAA Club runs a number of memorial tournaments, namely the Luke Roche Tournament, The Michael Meaney Tournament and the Phil Cushen Tournament.

In August, we held our annual Luke Roche Memorial Tournament. Twelve teams, representing eleven clubs, enjoyed a great morning's hurling.

Congratulations to our U13 panel and management on winning our Michael Meaney Memorial Tournament. We overcame Carrickshock in the semi-final after topping our group. We met Barrow Rangers in the final. The final was a tight affair with our lads leading at the break on a score-line of 0-3 to 0-1. They maintained their two point advantage to the finish, winning out 0-5 to 0-3.

The Club wishes to thank Bord na nOg for organising these tournaments.



New Hurling Wall



Rower Inistioge Michael Meaney Memorial Tournament Panel



Rower Inistioge Luke Roche Memorial Tournament Panel

SLIEVERUE



2023 was another busy year for the juvenile section of the club, with almost 200 children registered and teams fielded from nursery level up to under 17.

We fielded an u13 football team for the first time in many years, and the lads performed very creditably with some fine performances and results. On the hurling front our younger teams took part in countless matches, tournaments and blitzes all over the county and beyond.

We ran our own parish league again and it was a great success and now a central part of the Club calendar. We also hosted the Eamonn O'Donovan tournament again, which is an important day to help mark Eamonn's huge contribution to the club, made all the more memorable by Slieverue coming out on top for the first time in a number of years.

Our under 13, 15 and 17 teams took part in the county league and championships with the under 13 team coming up narrowly short against Dunnamaggin in the county semifinal. While the minor team reached the shield final.

We had a successful year in the Camogie club this year entering teams in every grade from u6 right up to u14. It was the first year competing in Gaelic football and had teams playing in both u12 and u14 grade, this was a fantastic experience for the girls to get the opportunity to play and to learn the new skills that come with it. The U8 Camogie team had an excellent year. They played 16 matches throughout and the girls did really well in all of them. The under 10s camogie team also had a great year. All the girls put in a huge effort this year, which could be seen in the performances - the level of commitment and willingness to work hard and learn is a credit to them.

Our u12 girls had a great season and started strong with plenty of matches in both camogie and football, we gained new players as the season went on and now have a panel of over 20 girls which is a win in itself at any age. We finished the season strong with a few fantastic results in the mini league and look forward to playing in the finals day in the coming weeks.

This was only our 2nd year at u14 level which was challenging in itself and huge thanks to the u12 players that helped us out fielding a team. The girls improved immensely despite the weather impacting ability to train and juggling of matches. Great to get some scores on the board and a win in the last match that was so well deserved. Great to see the girl committed to playing at an age where drop off is an issue.

ST LACHTAIN'S



Junior: Our Junior team reached the County Final where they narrowly succumbed to Tullagher Rosbercon in a thriller. (See Junior Report)

Junior B: After an good league campaign our junior b team came up to the semi final stage where they faced a tough Bennettsbridge team and sadly for this young team the Bridge men were the victors on the day. Attention soon turned to championship where we entered at the quarter final stage but sadly we faced a strong Barrow Rangers team in Paulstown losing 2.220 to 1.14 ending the year for this team after it starting off so well for them

Junior F: Our Junior F team had a good start to the year winning 4 out of 5 league games bringing them to a league semi final vs Dicksboro when they won a close game by 1.14 to 0.11 which qualified them to a league final vs Windgap which a convincing win seen our team come out on top by 1.22 to 0.11 in the end to gain the first silverware of the year for the club. Sadly after a good win in their opening two rounds of the championship Windgap were once again our opponents but sadly on this occasion our men came out on the wrong side of the result.

Minor: Our minor team had a very successful league campaign winning 6 out of 7 games and reaching the league final where they went on to beat John Lockes 1.14 to 2.6. Championship soon started for this team. An opening round victory to Slieverue then seen our team beat Dicksboro in the 1/4 final then face Blacks and Whites in the semi final where they ran out winners. Neighbours Tullaroan were the opponents in the final where the Tullaroan team ran out victors on the day in a very close game throughout. This team can be very proud of their league and championship efforts throughout the year.

School /U13: Silverware was brought back to Freshford in late June courtesy of our young u13 St Lachtains NS team winning the Corn Ui Bhrioin final in Nowlan Park. A great way for this team of young players to round off the school year and time in St Lachtains NS for some of them but this wasn't the last of silverware for this age group for the year. Onwards this team went onto the annual Lisdowney 7s where after an opening round defeat our team went unbeaten for the rest of the games to claim the Kilkenny Supporters Club shield. A great win for this young team.

Special thanks to mentors Kevin Dalton, Kevin McCarthy and Michael Kavanagh for looking after this team



U13 Lisdowney 7s Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield



Capt Shea Burke Junior F League

ST MARTIN'S



St Martins have continued to progress as a club in 2023. Our Intermediate team under new manager Seamus "Chedder" Plunket performed well in the league and qualified for the league shield final where they lost to a good Dunamaggin team. The team exited the Intermediate championship against Mooncoin at the quarter final stage in a very tight game that could have gone either way. A lot of young players made their Intermediate debuts this year and will continue to develop going forward. Having lost a number of adult players from 2022, our Junior teams primarily felt the impact of this and struggled to get results during the year. Our U19 hurlers have qualified for the Rionn B Championship final that is still to be played as of early October.

At Bord na nOg level our minor U17 team were very competitive in Rionn A losing by the bare minimum to O'Loughlin Gaels in the championship quarter final. They also got to the Rionn A football final early in the year losing to a strong Thomastown team. Our U15's and U13's also had good years competing in Rionn B and Rionn A respectively. Our U13 B team have qualified for the Rionn C 13 a side championship final that is due to be played by end of October. All our underage teams continued to show good development and the fact that we have fielded 2 teams at U17, U15 and U13 in 2023 shows that numbers are good and the work that is happening on the ground by our coaching teams.

Off the field the club made great progress in developing an Astro pitch facility in Coon that will be a huge benefit to all teams in the parish particularly during the winter months. Thanks to the St Martins field committee for managing this project. The club again ran its main fundraiser our Golf Classic in late August and again the event was a great success. Thanks to the organising committee who put in a huge effort to make this happen, to all our sponsors, Castlecomer Golf Club and to those who played on the day. Our summer camp again took place for 2 weeks in 2023 organised again by John Mull. This was again a great success and enjoyed by all the youngsters who participated. Thanks to John and his team of helpers who ran the camp and to anyone who assisted in any way.

Thanks to all our Players, Managers, Mentors, Officers, Field volunteers, Sponsors, Members and Supporters for their efforts throughout the year. Condolences to all families in the community who have lost loved ones during the year.



Our new Astro pitch facility in Coon



ST PATRICK'S

The 2024 year was a progressive year for the club on the field of play with the step up to Roinn A for many of the juvenile sides. The Junior side under the management of Gerry Byrne, John Byrne, Tom Phelan, Shane Phelan, and with strength and conditioning by Laurence King, recorded a good strong year, winning four out of the 6 league games, they were also successful in the Paddy Cahill cup they reached the quarter final stage of the championship and in a thrilling local derby lead until the later stages of the fourth quarter to narrowly lose to St Lachtains. The club made a welcome return to the football scene this year, and proved to be a good move, managed by JJ O Sullivan, Kieran Delaney, Paddy Cahill, Brendan Dooley and Ger Staunton reached the county final against Bennettsbrigde and on a sunny May evening the claimed the title and will next year compete at Intermediate next year. The Junior A side was managed by Kieran Deleany, Paddy Cahill, Brendan Dooley and Ger Staunton, reached the championship Semi final and were narrowly defeated. The Under 19 side under the management of Jimmy Ruth, Jimmy Glennon, Alan Cullen, Shane Dowling and Brian "Brook" Phelan reached the league final and this game is still to be played. The under 17 side with same management competed at Roinn A for the first time, the had a very strong league campaign and reached the j final stage of the championship. The Under 15 side under John Tim Phelan, Paddy Coogan, John Stapleton, Kevin Kelly, Rob Healy, and James Gannon, reaching the shield semi final, and league final. The Under 13 team amalgamated with Fenians Johnstown with the St Patricks management was Ciaran Diver, Tomas Healy, their campaign is still active and will play in the Shield final shortly. The 23rd Phelan Stone Tournament was once again a massive success with teams from all over Ireland travelling to play over the three days. The end of year Street League ran by the Bord na nYG committee was once again a great end to the year with medal presentation by Martin Keoghlan. Outside of our own club playing activities we hosted the regional under 15 football Féile, with 8 teams from a number of counties and the UK competing. Works to the Facilities continue to improve with new dugouts and seating to both pitches and a new scoreboard on the second pitch, and the addition of bike racks. The lotto reached €20,000 for sometime before being claimed the next jackpot started at €15,250 and was won a short while later. Many thanks to all who run and support this vital club finding source. To those who purchase and help sell Kilkenny Co - op tickets many thanks to all. The local bingo which the GAA club took over when the parish was unable to continue to run continues to provide an important outlet to people and many thanks to the committee who help with this. As the club enters its 70th year the continued progress shows a bright future for the club



Development around the Club



THOMASTOWN

Another hectic year for Thomastown GAA Club and all those involved from Juvenile to adult level. Fielding 3 adult teams this year again keeps everyone busy, we have had plenty of brilliant matches to attend and host in Thomastown.

Junior D: A great panel of players were involved this year. They showed huge dedication and pride in the team. The Junior D's had many tough battles this year and look forward to giving it another go next year!!

Junior: This year our Junior A team made the step up to playing Junior Hurling. This is a great achievement for all involved. We are delighted that our 2nd team is hurling at such a high standard. There is no doubt that we have a huge selection of fantastic hurlers and it is a great opportunity to be where we are. We had a great league run and were extremely competitive in all our matches. We made it to our group semi-final and narrowly missed out to James

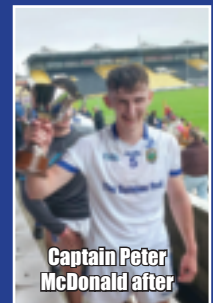
Stephens! We look forward to competing again in 2024. The club would like to thank all those involved with this Junior team this year!

Intermediate: After a brilliant league campaign where our intermediates went on beaten and topped the group, we were into yet another league final. Playing our old rivals Lisdowney. A quiet game saw us come out on top and we were straight into a quarter final against Fenians. James Ryall Park was the venue for the affair. The team put on a great display in far from ideal positions, we awaited the draw for this year's Semi - Finals. Ourselves and Dunnammagin were to meet again in Nowlan Park. The lads put on a breathtaking performance in the Park. They showed huge hunger and desire to win, as well as showing off some skills. The scoreline of 4:24 to 16 points meant that we were in the 2023 County Final, getting another chance to make a break at hurling in the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Championship. We have been knocking at the door the last 5 seasons, the Intermediate team have been a huge source of joy for all in our community over the last couple of years. We thank those involved in management as well as the players for the pride they have shown in the blue and white jersey and the entertainment that they have provided us with.

Thomastown was also represented at county level this year. After our victory at under 20 level last year, we have Luke Connellan and Zac Bay Hammond becoming captain and Vice Captain of the Under 20's team. Aswell as that, we had John Donnelly and Peter McDonald representing us at Senior level. These four are very valuable members of the intermediate team and everyone in the club is very proud of them!



Junior D's pictured in their New Jerseys



Captain Peter McDonald after



THREECASTLES

This year was truly an historic year for Threecastles GAA.

After a season where there was plenty of promising performances from the players, this year our Junior C Hurling squad won the club's very first county final win in the Iverk Produce Junior C Championship. The atmosphere was truly electric that fateful day, and for many days afterwards!

This win was truly a testament for the hard work and dedication that locals saw all year. Our hope is that we can only go onwards and upwards in the years to come! We wish to thank all the players and management for their hard work throughout the year. We may be a small club, but the effort put in this year would compare to the bigger clubs in the county.

Aside from hurling, we had a busy year socially. Our biggest event without a shadow of a doubt was our annual tractor run, Plough Thru the City. Once again, Down Syndrome Kilkenny were our charity partners. It was another successful year, where massive numbers of tractors, trucks and vintage vehicles came out in force to show their support. Huge crowds turned up, not only along High Street and Rose Inn Street, but along the route on the way into the city centre. We are going ahead this year, so we are hoping to get the same support and crowds that we have seen in previous years. We wish to thank all those who help ensure the event's success. Particularly we wish to thank the volunteers, An Garda Síochána, Dalton's Mills, Eardley Agricultural Services and Total Highway Maintenance. This is a huge event locally; it would not be the success it is today without the support of all the groups we have mentioned. Again, it goes to show what a small community can achieve.



Picture from last years Plough thru the City.



Threecastles team receiving the cup after their County Final win.



Johnny Minogue scoring a point from the sideline.



TULLAROAN

The senior hurling team had mixed results and performances in 2023. The league opener was against O'Loughlin's and that ended in defeat. This was followed up by 3 wins against Mullinavat, Clara and Danesfort. The final round of the league resulted in a defeat to Dicksboro. Finishing the league with 6 points meant that Tullaroan played Bennettsbridge in the 1st round of the championship. The outcome was disappointing from a Tullaroan point of view and Bennettsbridge won by 5-12 to 3-10.

The Junior A team had 4 league matches in 2022 winning one match and losing three. We beat Crrickshock and lost to Young Irelands, St. Patricks and Graigue Ballycallan. In the Junior A Championship, we were defeated by Young Irelands. This left us in a relegation play-off against this left us in a relegation play off versus Saint Martin's. The outcome of this was that was a well-deserved Tullaroan victory on the scoreline of 2-26 to 0-10

The Junior F team was again competitive in 2023. In the league, they played 5 matches, winning 2, drawing 2 and losing 1. They beat the Blacks and Whites and Lisdowney, drew with the Rower Inistioge and Kilmacow and were beaten by St. Lachtains. In the Championship, Tullaroan had a good win over Blacks and Whites in the Quarter final before being beaten by Mullinavat in the semi-final.

At u-19 Level, Tullaroan competed in Roinn C. In the league we played 3 matches, winning all 3. We beat Piltown, The Rower Inistioge and Mullinavat. That put us in a league final vs. Glenmore and Glenmore won by 2-24 to 4-15. In the championship we also played Glenmore and again Glenmore had the upper hand winning on a scoreline of 2-12 to 1-13. It was a case of what might have been for Tullaroan at u-19 level as Glenmore did the league and championship double.

The u-21 championship for 2023 has yet to commence but in 2022, Tullaroan competed in the D Championship. In that they beat Clara in the first round before going down to the eventual champions Graignamanagh in the semi final.

At underage level, the club is fielding teams from under 5 to under 17 level and great work is being done to develop the players of the future. At minor (u-17) level, Tullaroan had a great win over St. Lachtain's in an exciting Roinn C championship final on a scoreline of 4-14 to 1-19 in a game that was the highlight of the year for Tullaroan supporters. Congratulations to all involved in representing Kilkenny during 2023.



Tullaroan Minor Team and Mgt 2023

- Padraig Walsh, Martin Keoghan, Tommy Walsh, Gearoid Dunne and Shane Walsh who were on the Kilkenny senior hurling panel during 2023
- Grace Walsh and Miriam Walsh who are key players in the Kilkenny senior camogie team. We wish Miriam the best as she returns from injury in 2024
- Gearoid Dunne and Niall Holland were on the Kilkenny hurling u-20 panel.
- Ciallan Brennan was on the Kilkenny minor hurling panel in 2023
- Rachel Brennan was on the Kilkenny Intermediate camogie panel
- Anna Doheny, Ciara Dunne and Jessica Cuddy were on the Kilkenny minor camogie panel.
- Congratulations to all those that were part of Kilkenny hurling and camogie underage squads.



TULLAGHAN ROSBERCON

Juvenile Section: Minor Team had a good season winning 7 out of 9 games in the Roinn B league. In the championship they defeated Kilmacow in the 1st round but lost out to eventual champions Glenmore in the quarter final.

The U15's had a fantastic year winning the Roinn B League & Championship double. In April they got to the Feile B final but lost out to Barrow Rangers. In the league they went undefeated to top their group and qualify for the league final where they won the league title with a fantastic performance v Mooncoin. In the championship they had fine performances throughout the campaign to qualify for the final in Nowlan Park on October 7th v Barrow Rangers. After an enthralling game our players showed great heart and skill to secure victory and lift the Cup. Well done to the players and management.

The U13's competed in the Roinn C grade this season. The lads won the league final v Glenmore in August. In the championship the tables were turned as Glenmore defeated us in the semi-final.

The U11's had a very busy year competing in Go Games and numerous blitzes. We hosted the Richie Young Tournament in September and had a great trip to Croke Park Museum at the end of the year.

The U9's also had a very busy year competing in Go Games and blitzes. Again, they were part of a great trip Croke Park Museum at the end of the year.

The U7's were kept busy with a host of blitzes and organized mini games. We were delighted to get upwards of 35 boys participating between the U5, U6 and U7 age grades, with great participation, skill development and fun had by all on Monday & Friday evenings on our new pitch. A particular highlight was the BBQ and fun evening in September. County Representation: U14 Kyle Bolger, U15 Sean Hanrahan and Ciarán Cummins, U16 Dean Kinsella, U17 Andrew Murphy and David Kennedy

Junior football: Conor Hennessy and Jamie Lyng.

In Senior hurling Wally Walsh added another Leinster medal and played in the All-Ireland Final. Well done to all the lads!

Adult Teams:

U19 were defeated by Young Irelands in the Semi-final.

Once again, we fielded 3 hurling teams in 3 different grades. Our junior B team had a good year reaching the county final. It was a tense tight game up to the final couple of minutes where a late Barrow Rangers goal proved to be decisive score. Our Senior Footballers reached the League Final and Championship Semi-final.

Pitch Development: We are delighted to announce that works have been completed our new all-weather second pitch. We will hopefully have an official opening in 2024. Thanks to all involved, with a special thanks to development committee. The club would like to express huge gratitude to all those who donated towards this development through our fundraising avenues (Development Draw, Golf Classic, Piltown Draw, County Final Fundraiser, Club Memberships) and those who assisted in these efforts.



New pitch completed in July 2023



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WINDGAP



2023 was a year to remember for Windgap GAA. Both on and off the field Windgap GAA have made great progress in 2023. Our hurlers brought home their first adult hurling county title in some years overcoming Mullinavat in Kilmacow in the Junior F final on the 7th of October. Supported by a huge local crowd Vincent Purcell captained a team of young and old to a 1-15 to 10 point victory. The F team also reached the league Final after winning 4 out of 5 of their group games. After a good league run, our Junior C side came up short against a strong Threecastles outfit in the championship and bowed out at the quarter-final stage.

The Junior team then kept up their good string of performances from 2022. Windgap won the All County League in Ballyhale with a 3 point margin over Piltown on the 4th of July (3-14 to 0-20). Overcoming Emeralds, Barrow Rangers, Galmoy, Slieverue and John Lockes, they topped the table in the League-Championship, earning them a League Final spot against St. Lachtains on September 26th in Ballyragget, but unfortunately were second best on the day with 2 goals the difference (2-16 to 0-16). The end-of-league table topping position also guaranteed a quarter-final place in the Junior Championship where Windgap overcame Piltown (0-21 to 1-14) in Mooncoin on October 7th, the same day as the Junior F county final win, a great day for the parish. One week later and for the second year running Windgap's Junior side reached the hallowed turf of Nowlan Park for the County Semi-Final, to meet St Lachtain's for the third time this year. It was heartbreak again however as the ever battling Junior team fell short by just two points (4-11 to 1-18).

It was not just the adult teams that provided brilliant days out for the Windgap support. Most notable was the u13 Galmoy/Windgap team who won the Roinn B Hurling league final by a single point in a thriller against Mullinavat in Dunmore (3-11 to 3-10). They also had a brilliant run in the Championship but came out on the wrong side of a semi-final meeting with Carrickshock. The minor team made it to the county semi-final where they narrowly lost out to Danesfort (2-15 to 1-20) while St. Martin's got the best of the U19's also in the semi-final (3-20 to 1-12).

Notable as well on the juvenile scene was the addition of Conor Doyle to the Kilkenny Minor Panel who made the All-Ireland Semi-Final but were beaten by Clare.

In Gaelic football Windgap's adult team bowed out to Bennetsbridge in the Junior Championship, the Minors suffered a one point defeat Emeralds, and the u13s were beaten by Kilmacow, with all three teams bowing out at the semi-final stage.

Off the competitive field

Fundraising has been ongoing, including the second iteration of Windgap's 'Hurlathon' just before Christmas of 2022 which saw the Camogie and Hurling clubs join forces to keep the sliotar up on the hurling wall for 24-hours straight. A final tip of the hat to our Scór entries for 2023. Representing Windgap for the first time in over 5 years were Josh Pryce, Pat Grace, Sean Purcell and Sean Foley in the table quiz and Kieran Purcell who got 3rd place in Solo Singing in the Set Theatre in October.



Windgap Juniors 2023

YOUNG IRELANDS



INTERMEDIATE: Young Irelands Intermediates produced a highly impressive performance against Rower-Inistioge in the opening round of The Championship as they won 3-20 to 0-16. Unfortunately, they suffered heartbreak in The Quarter-Final as they lost out to a last minute goal against Dunnamaggin losing 1-4 to 0-6 on a most horrible day for Hurling in Thomastown.

JUNIOR : The Junior A & Junior F Teams performed very well again this year. The Junior A Team reached The Quarter-Final of The Championship, before they were unfortunate to come up point short against Graigue-Ballycallan, while The Juniors lost out to Tullaroan having lost to

Mullinavat in the 1st round of The Championship after extra-time.

U-19: At time of writing, The U-19s have a County Final to look forward to against St. Martins having defeated Danesfort after extra-time and a highly fancie Tullogher-Rosbercon outfit in The Semi-Final to reach the decider.

MINOR : The Minors had a good year winning most of their matches, but were unfortunate to lose out to eventual finalists Dunnamaggin by two points following an epic 7 goal thriller. 4-16 to 3-17.

U-15: The U-15s had a very successful year reaching The Semi-Finals before losing out to Dunnamaggin by three points. They had a landslide win against Mullinavat in The First Round, before prevailing by two points away to Ballyhale Shamrocks in a thrilling Quarter-Final.

U-13 Both U-13s Teams performed very well throughout the year as they both reached The Quarter-Final stages.

INTER-COUNTY: The following represented The Club at Inter-County this year. Michael Carey (Senior), Paddy Langton(U-20) & Cian Phelan (Minor), while Pdraig Naddy played a starring role in St. Kierans All-Ireland Senior Colleges All-Ireland final win on St. Patricks Day. Ben Phelan was also part of The St. Kierans panel.

CLUB NEWS: Young Irelands once staged their annual Dog night on a glorious Summer's night in front of a packed attendance in James Park.

On 9th July, The annual Kilkenny Country Music Festival took place in Gowran Park once again headlined by Mike Denver that also featured Trudi Lalor, Jimmy & Claudia Buckley, Brendan Shine and Olivia Douglas, while the Golf Classic took place in Gowran Park in late June.

The Young Irelands Family Fun Day in late August was a great success and that included The Rounders Competition that was won by Clashwilliam.

Also, The Juveniles were busy throughout the year as they performed in various blitzes and travelled around the Country.

Two of the major highlights were The U11s travelling to Gowran Park on Good Friday, while in May Young Irelands won The U-12 Hurling Tournament that was held in honour of Club stalwart Beatrice Treacy who passed away in 2017. The Young Irelands Team were captained by Patrick Treacy who is a Grandson of Beatrice. Beatrice's Husband Paddy Treacy presented The Cup to Patrick in a very special moment, while her Son Brian "Beano" Treacy came home from New Zealand especially for the occasion.



YOUNG IRELAND'S GAA CLUB
12 Hurling Tournament

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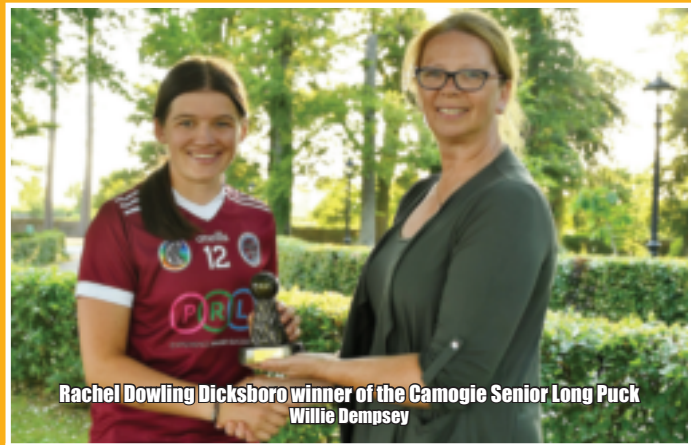
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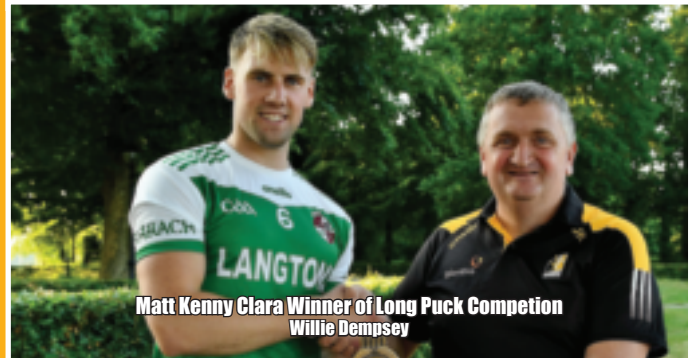




10 November 2023: Former Kilkenny camogie player Ann Downey is presented with her Camogie Hall of Fame award by Gaelic Writers Association secretary Pat Nolan, left, at the 2023 Gaelic Writers Association Awards, supported by EirGrid, at the Iveagh Garden Hotel in Dublin. Photo by Brendan Moran/Sportsfile



Rachel Dowling Dicksboro winner of the Camogie Senior Long Puck
Willie Dempsey



Matt Kenny Clara Winner of Long Puck Competition
Willie Dempsey



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New chapter as Australia beckons for Gaule

Trevor Spillane

It's not 'goodbye' - more of a 'see you later'...

After years at the coalface of the Kilkenny senior camogie scene, Denise Gaule is poised to hang up her black and amber shirt - for now - and head Down Under.

One of the county's most decorated stars is leaving Irish shores for an Australian break. While that's something many other Irish people do at a younger stage in their lives, a career which has garnered three senior All-Irelands and seven All-Stars has kept Gaule focused on home shores for the last decade.

"I'm not going to say I'm retiring, but I'm taking the year to go travelling," she said. "I said if I didn't go now I never would; that was something you might regret in later years. I was happy enough with everything we'd achieved as a team with Kilkenny and the club had a good year too, so it was a good time to step away for the year."

In terms of going away presents, a place on the 2023 All-Star camogie team of the year, her seventh such honour, was a nice parting gift.

"It's a nice way to finish the year," she said. "It didn't go the way we wanted - you'd prefer to have won something with the team - but it's nice for my family and the club."

The All-Star put a nice touch on what was a tough year on the county front, Windgap's final loss to Dicksboro coming after the Cats surrendered their All-Ireland title with a quarter-final defeat to Cork.

"With the county the year never really got going for us," she said, looking back on the campaign. "It was something you could feel throughout the championship - we were waiting for things to happen but they never came right."

"Looking at it from an honest perspective we probably didn't deserve to get to the final going on our performances throughout the year, but we were still only a point off Cork in the quarter-final (the Rebels won by 2-14 to 2-13 in a game where Gaule scored 1-10 and was named Player of the Match). Cork went on to win the final so we weren't miles away either, but coming off the back of winning the All-Ireland a year earlier made the defeat a little harder to take. Not reaching the semi-final or final again was disappointing, but that's the way the draw worked out, especially with the top three teams from the last 10 years all on the one side."

While Gaule's club Windgap did make the big stage and reach the county final, there was more disappointment as Dicksboro took the spoils.

"As much as losing the final was disappointing, making that game with my club was probably the best achievement out of everything," she said. "Bringing the club to a county final was

special. It's a brilliant parish and community and the support we got was something else. The final was somewhere we'd never been before so we were able to enjoy the build-up, going training together at that time of year.

"As you get older you learn to enjoy these things more," she added, "to take the pressure with you. I think everyone involved with the club enjoyed the experience too. We had a few fundraisers leading up to the game so there was a great atmosphere in the village. You have to enjoy that, the build-up to big games, because you never know if you'll get back there again."

Making the final was another milestone in what has been a long and varied sporting career for Gaule. While camogie may take most of the attention, she has graced the field on Gaelic football and soccer fronts and helped St Brigid's College Callan (now Coláiste Abhainn Rí) to volleyball glory back in her school days. She seems to live and breathe sport.

"Growing up, sport was always part of my life," she said. "Like a lot of young people you get thrown into every sport, before commitments mean you have to choose the one you love the most and camogie was always the one for me."

"Going to school in Callan, Noelle O'Driscoll played a big part in our development as players - we won two All-Irelands with the school, which was a massive achievement - but I've been immersed in sport all my life."

O'Driscoll was one of many who had a huge influence on the sporting fortunes of a young Gaule. Her parents are in that circle too, first and foremost, alongside a black and amber legend of the game.

"I remember Ann Downey was over the Kilkenny intermediate team when I first went in back in 2008," she said. "We won the All-Ireland that year, so she was there from the start of my whole intercounty career. I've been lucky that there have always been great people there to learn from, people like Ann, right to Brian (Dowling), Tommy (Shefflin) and Pat (O'Neill) this year."

It's hard to believe the adventure started back in 2008. What's even harder to believe is that Gaule was having second thoughts about getting involved with the Cats back then!

"I remember I was playing with the minors when I got a call to go into the intermediates for training," she recalled. "I also remember thinking I didn't really want to go in as I was happy with the minors. I was called in before the final, so I didn't think I'd be playing or anything, but they started me in midfield for the game!"

"Thinking back to the match (Gaule scored a free in the game, in which Kilkenny beat Cork by 5-5 to 1-14 in Nenagh) I remember Colette Dormer got the winning goal when she played at full-forward. She ended up at full-back at the end of her career while I was moved into the forwards so there were a lot of changes!" Was she ever tempted to follow Dormer and move back into defence?



"I think I only ever played one game at centre-back, and that was for the club," she said. "I can't remember who I was marking but they must have scored six or seven points off me so I think that was the end of that!"

The defensive loss was the offensive gain. Throughout her career Gaule has stepped up to the mark for the Cats and been a leader for the side when a clear head and focus was needed most - her ice-cool penalty finish in the 2020 All-Ireland final against Galway, not to mention the free that helped swing the 2022 final her side's way - vital assets to a team in a sport which has changed so much over the years.

"The biggest change in the last few years has been the strength and conditioning element which has come into the game," she said. "In my college days, when we would have won four Ashbourne Cups with WIT, I don't think we would ever have done a gym session - it wasn't something any team would have done back then. To see young girls coming in now and they're so into the gym shows how much the game has changed. It's become a bit more physical, so you need that element to your preparation." It's not only the game that has changed - so too has the team, with a younger crew of players ready to challenge for honours.

"When you're getting older your dynamic in the team might change," said Gaule. "The last couple of years have felt a bit different in that the players I would have come in with, the likes of Colette (Dormer), Davina (Tobin) and the Farrells, have gone while this new group of players who have grown up together have come in. It's brilliant to see that as they're a group like we were.

"For us older players it's our job to welcome them in, make them feel part of the squad and give them a bit of confidence because it can be a daunting experience," she added. "I was lucky to have people who did that for me when I started, so you want to make sure you do the same for others, make them feel welcome and a part of the team."

"It's going to be a different challenge next year but from what I've heard most of the players are going back next year, which is great as you need to have a balance of experience and youth. There are a lot of good young players who will get their chance and they will be able to step up.

"There are other players who have been there a few years now, so this is their time to grow into that leadership role," she added. "I've no fear they'll be able to do that and bring the younger players on. The club game is very healthy here so you'd hope Chap (new manager Peter Cleere) and his selectors can find some players there who will bring something to the county scene. I've no doubt there'll be fire in the bellies for the season ahead." And while she'll be away from home, the hurleys aren't staying behind.

"You'd have to, just to keep the eye in," she said with a smile. "There's a big Kilkenny contingent in Australia, with the likes of Meg and Shelly (Farrell) and Mary O'Connell out there, so I might get a game!"



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SO CLOSE!

Seniors come short by Solitary Point

Camogie Report by Aoife Lanigan



INTERCOUNTY YEAR REVIEW

SENIOR

League

The first league match, Kilkeny played Clare in Cusack Park, Ennis, unfortunately there were defeated 0-11 to 2-7. Second game, Kilkeny played Galway in UPMC Nowlan. Galway were the better team on the day, winning 1-17 to 1-13. Their third match was against Dublin in Parnell Park and Kilkeny were 6 point winners. The fourth game was against their old rivals Cork played in UPMC Nowlan Park. Cork were much stronger that day, winning 0-23 to 1-10. The final game of the League was against Tipperary played in Piltown. The game was tight throughout, heading towards full time, Eimear McGrath put Tipperary ahead with a pointed free, but Denise Gaule spoiled it for them with two greats from frees to give Kilkeny the narrowest of wins, 0-14 to 0-13

Leinster

First Match – Semi Final – Kilkeny played Westmeath in Cusack Park, Mullingar and they had a comprehensive win 4-21 to 0-6. Aoife Prendergast (2), Jenny Clifford and Danielle Morrissey with the goals

The Final against Dublin was part of a Double header with the Intermediate Leinster Semi Final in UPMC Nowlan Park. Kilkeny winning 1-14 to 0-13, goal coming from Julianne Malone, Kilkeny were Leinster Senior Champions for the 25th time

All Ireland Series

In the first match of the Glen Dimplex Senior All Ireland Championship, Kilkeny played Wexford in UPMC Nowlan Park. Kilkeny led 0-12 to 1-5 at the interval. Kilkeny added another 1-3 after the start of the second half to go 10 points ahead, but Wexford fought back and equalised with a point from Ciara O'Connor in injury time to leave the score 1-17 to 3-11 at full time

Second match they played Dublin in Parnell Park. They led 2-10 to 0-7 at half time. Kilkeny ran out winners 3-14 to 0-11

The final match of the group was at home to Tipperary in UPMC Nowlan Park. Kilkeny were ahead 2-4 (KK) to 1-6 at the interval and the match finished level 2-8 to 1-11

The Quarter Final draw was carried out after that match and Kilkeny were drawn against their old rivals Cork. This was to be part of a double header with the GAA semi final in Croke Park

It was a very tight match. Cork were ahead 1-8 to 1-6 at the interval. Katrina Mackey scored Cork's second goal and they went five points ahead. Kilkeny did narrow the gap, to a point, but Cork went back five points ahead again. In the final five minutes, Kilkeny did everything to try and get back into the match. Katie Power fielded the sliotar and headed towards the Cork goal. She was held up on the edge of the square. Katie passed the sliotar to Denise Gaule. Three defenders surrounded





Kilkenny Minor Panel 2023

her and the Cork goalie came off her line as well. Denise tapped the sliotar over the goalies head into the net. Denise then converted a free over the bar to bring the game to the minimum. Kilkenny tried everything to get the equaliser but time ran out and unfortunately came out on the wrong side of a one point defeat again 2-13 to 2-14

Aoife Norris, Niamh Deely, Grace Walsh, Tiffanie Fitzgerald, Steffi Fitzgerald, Claire Phelan, Laura Murphy, Aoife Doyle, Kellyann Doyle, Aoife Prendergast, Katie Power, Denise Gaule, Katie Nolan, Michaela Kenneally, Julianne Malone
Subs – Emma Kavanagh, Michelle Teehan, Jenny Clifford, Ciara Phelan, Miriam Bambrick, Asha McHardy, Sophie O'Dwyer, Sinead O'Keeffe (Capt), Aideen O'Connor, Aisling Curtis, Carlise Comerford, Ciara O'Keeffe, Roisin Breen, Mairead Corcoran, Laura Greene, Sarah Barcoe, Danielle Quigley, Niamh Phelan, Emma Manogue, Jane Cass.

Kilkenny received 3 Senior All Star Nominations – Grace Walsh, Claire Phelan & Denise Gaule

All Star Awards on the 4th November in Croke Park

INTERMEDIATE

League

The first league match, Kilkenny played Galway in Clara GAA winning 3-16 to 0-7, keeping the opposition scoreless in the second half. Second game, Kilkenny played Tipperary in the The Ragg, Thurles winning 3-10 to 1-8. The third match was against Wexford in St Mary's GAA, Rosslare and Kilkenny won by a point 0-15 to 3-5. The last group game was against Cork played in Piltown. Cork were very strong that day and they won 2-9 to 0-7. Kilkenny had won three games and lost one game, so qualified straight for the League Final, which was against Cork. It was played in Clonmel Commercials GAA. It ended in a draw 1-7 a piece. The Replay was played in The Ragg, Thurles and Cork won 2-15 to 0-13

Leinster

First match – Quarter Final – Kilkenny played Dublin in Canon Kearns Park, Castlecomer and they had a comprehensive win 4-24 to 1-1, Afton Grace (2), Therese Donnelly and Claire Doheny with the goals

Semi Final was against Wexford in UPMC Nowlan Park as part of a double header with the Senior Leinster Final. Kilkenny won 0-19 to 0-5

Leinster Final was against Carlow played



U16A team – Leinster A Cup Final
Back: Ciara O'Shea, Grace Brennan (Joint Captain), Kate Dowling, Jill O'Brien, Ciara Delaney, Emily Cooney, Niamh Davis, Shona Ruane, Ella O'Reilly, Orla Phelan, Michelle Killeen, Siofra O'Leary, Kenny Saunders, Katelyn O'Connor, Eimear O'Neill, Grainne O'Loughlin (Joint Captain), Eabha Mullally.
Front: Rachel Phelan, Alex Brennan, Roisin Burns, Aisling O'Sullivan, Aisling O'Shea, Lucy Boyd, Emily Phelan, Jessica Smith, Molly Conroy, Ena Lawlor, Roisin Leahy, May Cummins, Siofraidh Kennedy.



U16B team – Leinster B Shield Final
Back: Mary Dowd, Niamh Meagher, Iveta Vasilauskaiten, Emer Gladney, Sarah Jane Morrissey, Lucy Fitzgerald, Emma O'Shea, Kate Larkin, Aoibhin Deegan/Abby Whitty, Rebecca Hayden, Molly Cummins, Siobhan Kenny (Vice Captain), Aoife Dooley, Mary Dowd, Shannon Comerford
Front: Kate Kelly, Katelyn Phelan, Rhianna Scott, Ella Ryan, Maire Farrell, Aileen Gleeson, Emily Shortall, Eabha Kehoe, Sadhbh Blanchfield, Ava Medlar, Doireann Farrell, Caoimhe Power, Ella Hoyne (Captain), Pia Langton (missing from photo)



U15 Amber

in SETU Carlow. It was a tight first half with Kilkenny leading 0-8 to 1-3 at the interval. Within the first 2 minutes of the restart, Sarah Barcoe scored a great for Kilkenny and they didn't look back, winning 1-19 to 1-8. Kilkenny were Leinster Intermediate Champions

All Ireland Series

In the first match of the Glen Dimplex Intermediate All Ireland Championship, Kilkenny played Dublin in TU Blanchardstown. Dublin scored 1-1 before Kilkenny went 1-2 to 1-1. It was tit for tat for the rest of the half before Sarah Barcoe pointed to put Kilkenny 1-4 to 1-3 ahead at the Interval. Dublin equalised in the first minute of the second half, but this was their last score of the game and Kilkenny scored 3-9 without reply to win 4-13 to 1-4. Sarah Barcoe, Afton Grace and Ellen Gunner getting the goals in the second half

Second match, Kilkenny played Cork in John Locke Park, Callan. This was the fourth meeting of the sides this year. Cork led 1-6 to 0-6 at the interval. Lauren Homan added a pointed free for Cork just after the restart, but they didn't score again for 30 minutes, during this time Kilkenny scored 2-5, the goals coming through Ellen Gunner & Emma Manogue. Kilkenny ran out winners 2-13 to 1-8

Third game was against Galway in Kenny Park, Athenry. It was a very tight first half with Kilkenny leading 0-7 to 0-6 at the interval. Galway scored the first two points of the second half to go ahead by a point but Kilkenny hit back and ran out winners 0-19 to 0-11. This put them top of their group. There was a draw for the Quarter Finals and Kilkenny were drawn against Wexford. This was played in Semple Stadium as part of a double header with the other Quarter Final. This match was a much tighter affair than when they met in the Leinster Semi Final. It was 0-4 a piece at the Interval. Heading into injury time in the second half, Wexford were a point ahead 0-9 to 0-8. But Kilkenny equalised through Laura Greene. Ellen Gunner then scored a pointed free for Kilkenny to put them ahead. From the puckout, Sarah Barcoe played the sliotar forward, a Wexford defender tried to clear but she was blocked down by Laura Greene. Laura passed the sliotar to Therese Donnelly, who played it to Danielle Quigley. Danielle passed the sliotar out to Ellen Gunner who slotted it over the bar to put Kilkenny two ahead. Shortly after the referee blew the full time whistle, Kilkenny winning 0-11 to 0-9

Semi Final was against Derry in Semple Stadium, part of a double header with other Semi Final

Kilkenny got the scoring underway in the opening minute through Laura Green. Derry took the lead in the 10th minute 0-3 to 0-2 when Aine McAllister slotted over a free from distance after Aoife Shaw (free) and Mairead McNichol had also registered points. Sarah Barcoe, Emma Manogue and Laura Greene added points for Kilkenny to put them ahead before Derry then scored three unanswered points through Mary Hegarty and two from Aine McAllister. Heading towards half time, Emma Manogue slotted over a free to leave the interval score 0-6 to 0-5 in favour of the Oak Leaf County. Mary Hegarty and Eimear McGuigan duly added points on the restart to push Derry further ahead. In the 38th minute Derry were awarded a Penalty as result of the controversial 'charging' rule that earned Kilkenny goalie Cliona Murphy a yellow card. She redeemed herself, however by saving Aoife Shaw's effort. Shaw then converted two frees to put her side in control at 0-10 to 0-5 with 45 minutes gone on the clock



U15 Black



Kilkenny U14 Amber Leinster Division 1 Cup Winners1



Kilkenny U14 Blacks Leinster Division 2 Shield Winners



Kilkenny U14 Stripes Leinster Division 3 Cup Winners

Kilkenny though sparked a revival, started by an Ellen Gunner pointed free. Kilkenny started to push forward and Derry looked in trouble. Derry's physical power in the tackle and fast runs forward suddenly started to wane and the gap started to close going into added time, Kilkenny pointed through Claire Doheny, Niamh Phelan, Emma Manogue and Ellen Gunner (free).

With the teams now level, the Derry goalie Gribben reached to prevent a lead point from Emma Mulhall but could not stop an Emma Manogue effort to put Kilkenny ahead. Just a minute later Shaw converted a 45' after Cliona Murphy saved a shot to send the game to extra time. From the start of extra time Derry rediscovered their earlier drive and made it 0-16 to 0-11 by half time with points through McGill, Shaw (2), Mairead McNicholl and Aine

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McAllisterShaw added another point at the start of the second period of extra time Ellen Gunner pointed two frees for Kilkenny but the Oak Leaf County tagged on another three points through Aine McAllister (2) and Mary HegartyKeara Ryan and Allister McAllister traded points to leave the final score 0-21 to 0-14 in favour of the Ulster side.

Cliona Murphy, Niamh Leahy, Jenni O'Dea, Jane Cass, Niamh Phelan, Roisin Phelan, Hannah Scott (Capt), Laura Greene, Mairead Kennedy, Danielle Quigley, Emma Manogue, Aoife Cantwell, Therese Donnelly, Sarah Barcoe, Afton Grace

Subs – Sinead Farrell, Katie Byrne, Ellen Gunner, Emma Mulhall, Keara Ryan, Aine Doyle, Kate McCluskey, Eimear Leahy, Vivienne Holmes, Ava Shefflin, Hannah Larkin, Rachel Brennan, Claire Doheny, Aideen O'Connor, Anna Doheny, Rachel Whelan, Laoise Nolan.

MINOR

Leinster was played before the All-Ireland Series this year

Minor A

Semi Final was against Offaly, played in Thomastown. Kilkenny won 1-19 to 0-8. The Leinster Final was played in Abbotstown, Dublin against Dublin. Kilkenny won 3-15 to 1-2, with the goals coming from Lauren Ronan (2) and Katie Brennan and Rachel Dowling scoring 0-7 (5f).

Minor B

Quarter Final was against Wicklow, played in Thomastown. Kilkenny had a comprehensive win 7-11 to 0-2. Laura Doherty scored a hat trick. Semi-final was against a very strong Meath side. Meath won 1-16 to 1-6.

First game of the Electric Ireland Minor All Ireland Championship. Kilkenny played Tipperary in Thomastown, it was a very tight game throughout with Kilkenny winning by a point 1-11 to 2-7. Second game was against Galway in Ballinasloe and Galway won by a point 2-3 to 0-8.

The third game was against Waterford in Clearboy, Waterford. Kilkenny won 2-9 to 1-9. The fourth game was against Cork in Pairc Lachtain, Freshford, this ended in a draw 1-11 a piece. The fifth game was against Dublin in Pairc Lachtain, Freshford. Kilkenny winning 4-15 to 2-7. This set up a semi-final against Waterford in Nenagh. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be their day and Waterford won 2-8 to 1-7.

Rachel Dowling was named on the Minor Electric Ireland Team of the Year

Ali Kennedy, Cliodhna Murphy, Angela Carroll, Sofia Kerr, Tara McGrath, Laura Phelan (Vice Captain), Anna Doheny, Ava Brett, Caoimhe Keher Murtagh, Lauren Ronan, Julie Lennon, Louise Hickey, Rose Kelly, Rachel Dowling, Ciara Dunne, Ruth Phelan (Captain), Aine Aylward, Lucy Walsh, Muireann Gannon, Jenna Larkin, Niamh Galway, Katie Brennan, Leah Cooney, Emily Smith, Orlaith Kirwan, Bronagh Barragry, Jess Cuddy, Laura Doherty, Cady Boyle, Aoife Kavanagh, Cara Clune, Molly Burke, Aisling Fitzpatrick, Rachel Phelan, Ciara Bryan, Grace Buggy, Aoife O'Shea, Louise Hearne, Eimear Phelan, Aoife Shealy, Sonya Stanley, Tara Roche, Rachel Moloney, Eva Sumner, Sophie Meagher, Holly Begley, Amy Cody inj, Una Duggan inj, Marie O'Keeffe inj

U16

Leinster

A – First match – Kilkenny played Wexford in Bunclody and Kilkenny won 2-9 to 0-12. The second game was against Laois in Pairc Lachtain, Freshford, they won 2-20 to 1-10. The third game, Kilkenny played Offaly in Birr and they won 4-9 to 1-6. The fourth match was against Dublin in John Locke Park and Kilkenny won 5-11 to 1-5. This set up a Cup Final against Wexford in Pairc Sheamus Stiophain, Kells Road and Kilkenny won 3-10 to 0-9

B – First match – Kilkenny played Meath in Canon Kearns Park, Castlecomer and won 2-12 to 2-6. Second game was against Laois in Ballacolla GAA. Kilkenny winning 4-11 to 0-3. The third match, Kilkenny played Dublin in John Locke Park, Callan, winning 2-11 to 1-6. This set up a Quarter Final against Carlow in Tullaroan, but Kilkenny lost 2-6 to 2-10. They were then in a Shield Final against Dublin in Netwatch Training Centre, Fenagh but lost 1-6 to 1-7

First match in the All-Ireland Championship was against Tipperary in The Ragg, Thurles. Tipperary won 2-18 to 3-7. The second game was against Limerick in Pairc Lachtain, Freshford, Limerick won 2-6 to 1-8. The third match was against Cork in Mayfield Sports Complex, Cork. Cork winning 2-11 to 2-8. The fourth game was against Wexford in Pairc Lachtain, Freshford. Kilkenny won 0-9 to 0-5. Their final game was against Galway in St Johns Park, (O'Loughlin Gaels GAA). Galway winning 1-11 to 3-4



Kilkenny U17 Blacks team (names not as in photo)
Laura Doherty, Glenmore; Joanne Comerford, Clara; Clodagh O'Neill, Carrickshock; Orlaith Kirwan, Thomastown; Katie Brennan, Conahy; Sophie Meagher, James Stephens; Anna Doheny, Tullaroan; Sophie Chapman, Rower Inistige; Ciara Gleeson, Danesfort; Aisling O'Loughlin, St Anne's; Grace Buggy, Erin's Own; Ava O'Grady, O'Loughlin Gaels



Kilkenny U17 Whites Team (names not as in photo)
Oonagh Malone, Glenmore; Angela Carroll, Dicksboro; Eimear Phelan, Erins Own; Julie Lennon, Young Irelands; Roisin McAlwee, Thomastown; Caoimhe Phelan, Kilmacow; Aoife O'Shea, Carrickshock; Rachel Moloney, St Martin's; Aoife Shealy, O'Loughlin Gaels; Ciara Dunne, Tullaroan; Louise Hearne, Baillyhale; Aoife Kavanagh, Emeralds

Jenny Saunders, Ella O'Reilly, Orla Phelan, Grace Brennan (Joint Captain), Rachel Phelan, Molly Conroy, Shona Ruane, Ena Lawlor, Jessica Smith, Ciara Delaney, Lucy Boyd, Michelle Killeen, Aisling O'Shea, Emily Cooney, Emily Phelan, Katelyn O'Connor, Aisling O'Sullivan, Kate Dowling, Eabha Mullally, Siofra O'Leary, Eimear O'Neill, May Cummins, Grainne O'Loughlin (Joint Captain), Roisin Leahy, Niamh Davis, Roisin Burns, Siofraidh Kennedy, Alex Brennan, Jill O'Brien, Ciara O'Shea

Ella Hoynes (Captain), Aoife Dooley, Katelyn Phelan, Kate Kelly, Maire Farrell, Caoimhe Power, Aileen Gleeson, Lucy Fitzgerald, Rebecca Hayden, Eabha Kehoe, Molly Cummins, Siobhan Kenny (Vice Captain), Sarah Jane Morrissey, Emily Shortall, Ava Medlar, Shannon Comerford, Rhianna Scott, Abby Whitty, Clara Walsh, Doireann Farrell, Emer Gladney, Kate Larkin, Iveta Vasilianskaite, Aoibhinn Deegan, Mary Dowd, Faye Reynolds, Niamh Meagher, Emma O'Shea, Sadhbh Blanchfield, Ella Ryan

U17 Leinster Intercounty Challenge Tournament

Dublin, Kilkenny Whites, Kildare, Ath Cliath, Kilkenny Black & Ambers and Cill Dara participated in this U17 Leinster Intercounty Challenge Tournament played in Celbridge, Co Kildare. Kilkenny Whites played Kilkenny Black & Ambers in the final. Kilkenny Black & Ambers won the Tournament. TU Dublin won the Ashbourne Cup (3rd level) for the first time in their history with two Kilkenny players on their panel – Emma Manogue (James Stephens) and Sarah Barcoe (Thomastown) Emma Manogue also won a rising star and named on Ashbourne Team of the Year. Tiffanie Fitzgerald (Young Irelands) named on the Purcell Team of the Year. Sinead Lanigan (Graigueanamanagh) won Senior Camogie Player of the Year with UCD Intermediate team

Katie Ryan (Clara) won Fresher Camogie Player of the Year with UCD Intermediate team

Fr Meaghair Winners – UCD with 6 Kilkenny players – Anna Purcell (Barrow Rangers), Annie Kirwan (Glenmore), Eadaoin Coady (St Martin's), Katie Ryan (Clara), Ellen Purcell (Barrow Rangers), Sinead Lanigan (Graigueanamanagh)

Ui Mhalagain Winners – TUD with 4 Kilkenny players – Niamh McCormack (St Anne's), Orla O'Keeffe (Thomastown), Rachel Leahy (James Stephens) and Ruth Ryan (Thomastown).

U15 Amber Squad

Kate Meighan Dicksboro, Olivia Dunphy Carrickshock, Maria Ryan John Lockes, Ruth Crowley O'Loughlin Gaels, Aoife Dillon O'Loughlin Gaels, Ella Walton Tullaroan, Shannon Doheny Tullaroan, Eleanor Doheny Tullaroan, Ella Maher Barrow Rangers, Ona Kennedy Windgap, Aoife O Grady St.Annes, Kadhla Croke Glenmore, Sinead Jones Glenmore, Shauna Mahony Danesfort, Ciara Hickey St. Lachtains, Keelin Henebery Mooncoin, Katelyn

Moore Piltown, Lily Ryan Tullogher Rosbercon, Anna Morrissey Thomastown, Chloe Teehan St. Brigids, Tara Coady St. Brigids, Megan Trait Dicksboro, Meadhbh Doherty Dicksboro, Ayesha Belalaoui Dicksboro, Lucy Coomey Young Irelands, Sadhbh Shefflin Ballyhale, Aoibhe Rees Kilmacow.

U15 Black Squad

Ciara Nolan Tullogher Rosbercon, Taylor Aylward Ballyhale, Aisling Coverdale Thomastown, Ruth Purcell St Brigids, Kate Purcell St Brigids, Sophie Roberts Dicksboro, Kate Chambers Dicksboro, Leah O'Donovan John Lockes, Ava Butler O'Loughlin Gaels, Orlaith Donnelly O'Loughlin Gaels, Ali Greaney Dicksboro, Lily Cleere Emeralds, Lauren Kelly Rower-Inistioge, Cliona O'Connor Conahy Shamrocks, Eimear Brennan Young Irelands, Sinead Henderson St. Annes, Ava Sutton Mooncoin, Orla Duggan St. Annes, Emma O'Connor St Lactains, Aoibheann McCarthy St Lactains, Lisa Fitzpatrick Danesfort, Laura Leahy James Stephens, Aoibh Lawlor James Stephens, Mia Dunne James Stephens, Maeve White James Stephens, Keelin Byrne Glenmore, Ella Sheehan Glenmore,

U14 Amber panel

Erin Morrissey Bennettsbridge, Holly Ryan Bennettsbridge, Muireann Kenny Rower/ Inistioge, Gwen Wade Blacks and Whites, Moya O'Shea Carrickshock, Amy O'Shea Carrickshock, Katie O'Shea Carrickshock, Emma Hogan Dicksboro, Aishleann Mullally Glenmore, Mairead Duggan St. Annes, Ellen Treacy Thomastown, Grace Farrell Piltown, Rachel Tennyson Piltown, Caoimhe Corcoran Mullinavat, Sian Bolger St. Martins, Lily Ryan Murray Dicksboro, Katie Dunphy Tullaroan, Eilish Keating Young Irelands, Ada Bambrick Barrow Rangers, Sophie O'Riordan Dicksboro, Aoibhe Bourke Emeralds, Eva Tynan Dicksboro, Millie Ireland Wall Danesfort.

U14 Black Panel

Onagh Fitzgerald Clara, Molly Cunniffe Danesfort, Niamh Moore James Stephens, Caragh Brennan Clara, Hannah Tennyson Carrickshock, Eva Roche John Lockes, Niamh Drennan St. Annes, Katie Comerford Young Irelands, Ailbhe Ni Chasaide Danesfort, Lauren Skehan Bennettsbridge, Lucy O'Gorman Erins Own,

Clodagh Galway Thomastown, Laoise Kehoe Rower/ inistioge, Heidi Culleton Rower/ inistioge, Ruby Doyle St. Martin's, Faye Sutton Mooncoin, Hillary Muldowney Rower/ Inistioge, Saoirse Hickey St. Lachtain's, Molly Murphy Mooncoin, Amber Hogan O' Loughlins, Ciara Joyce Emeralds, Rebecca Smith Barrow Rangers, Holly Clifford Rower/ Inistioge.

U14 Stripes Panel

Abie Egan John Lockes, Grainne O'Shea Carrickshock, Ruby Norris Piltown, Rachel Murphy Tullogher/Rosbercon, Dearbhla Ryan Tullogher/Rosbercon, Maeve Kenny Rower/ Inistioge, Noa Bambrick Barrow Rangers, Saoirse Barry Piltown, Abby Bryan John Lockes, Rachel Duff Blacks and Whites, Kate Mulcahy Bennettsbridge, Laura Treacy Dicksboro, Ellie Rowntree John Lockes, Ellen Hanafin Danesfort, Sophie McCabe Thomastown, Moya Kelly Clara, Ellie Beth Murphy Barrow Rangers, Nessa Teehan Dicksboro, Moya Egan Windgap, Amy Bergin Clara, Mia Phelan St. Lachtain's, Aimee Byrne Young Irelands, Lucy Lennon James Stephen's.

Camogie Club Season Review

SENIOR

Last year's Champions, Thomastown played St Vincents, Dublin in the Leinster Semi Final, but were defeated 5-11 to 0-11

All County League Final – Dicksboro defeated Thomastown 3-20 to 0-6 in the final

League Final – Dicksboro defeated Piltown 1-13 to 1-11 in the final

Championship First Round – St Brigid's defeated Young Irelands 1-14 to 1-10; Clara defeated Conahy 8-8 to 1-4; Barrow Rangers defeated St Martin's 4-8 to 2-6; Tullaroan defeated Thomastown 2-7 to 1-8

Championship Quarter Finals – Dicksboro defeated St Brigid's 1-17 to 0-4; Barrow Rangers defeated James Stephens 0-14 to 1-9; Piltown defeated Clara 3-15 to 0-7; Windgap defeated Tullaroan 1-14 to 2-9

Championship Semi Finals – Windgap defeated Barrow Rangers 1-16 to 0-11; Dicksboro defeated Piltown 0-12 to 1-7

Final – Dicksboro are Michael Lyng Motors Hyundai Senior Champions for 2023 after defeating Windgap in Mooncoin GAA

This was Dicksboro's fourth final appearance in five years and Windgap's first ever final appearance

Amy Clifford opened the scoring with a point from play for Dicksboro in the 2nd minute. Denise Gaule equalised for Windgap with a pointed free two minutes later. Nathania Jackson then put Windgap ahead when she slotted over a lovely point on the run. But Dicksboro then hit 4 points without reply through Asha McHardy (2), Rachel Dowling and Aobha O'Gorman. Denise Gaule pointed a free for Windgap. Asha McHardy added a point for Dicksboro before Boro captain Jenny Clifford hit a rasper past Ali Kennedy in the Windgap goal. Ciara O'Shea (W) & Amy Clifford traded points. Aoife Prendergast then added another two points from placed balls for the Boro. Heading towards half time Aoife Prendergast passed to Asha McHardy who ran towards the Windgap goal and Asha rattled the top corner of the net. This left the interval score Dicksboro 2-11 Windgap 0-5

On the resumption of play, Dicksboro continued

where they left off in the first half. Aoife Prendergast added two points before Orla Hanrick found the back of the net to put them 17 points ahead. Denise Gaule slotted over two points for Windgap. Rachel Dowling and Aoife Prendergast scored a point a piece for the Boro. Denise Gaule converted two points from frees for Windgap

Dicksboro then scored three unanswered points through Asha McHardy, Aoife Prendergast and Amy Clifford. Denise Gaule added two points for Windgap. Heading towards full time, Windgap were awarded a 21m free. Denise Gaule stood over the sliotar and with even a full compliment of Dicksboro defenders on the goal line, Denise blasted the sliotar to the back of the net. The Referee blew the full time whistle a short time later

The final score Dicksboro 3-18 Windgap 1-11

Dicksboro beat St Martin's, Wexford in the Leinster Senior Club Semi Final.

INTERMEDIATE

Last Year's Champions James Stephens played St Brigid's (Laois) in the Leinster Semi Final winning 0-9 to 0-8. They faced Myshall in the Leinster Final, winning 1-7 to 0-5. They qualified for the All-Ireland Semi Final against Castlegar (Galway) and they won 1-10 to 0-8. They played Clonduff (Down) in the All-Ireland Final on a cold & chilly afternoon in Croke Park. Unfortunately losing out 1-6 to 0-12

All County League Final – Danesfort defeated Mooncoin 1-7 to 0-9 in the final

League Final – O'Loughlin Gaels defeated Rower Inistioge 3-10 to 1-7 in the final

Championship First Round – Danesfort defeated St Claire's 3-13 to 1-12; Glenmore defeated Mullinavat 4-12 to 2-13; Emeralds/ St Anne's defeated Carrickshock 3-12 to 0-3; Ballyhale defeated Lisdowney 4-9 to 3-11

Championship Quarter Finals – Danesfort defeated St Lachtain's 1-13 to 1-7; O'Loughlin Gaels defeated Glenmore 1-15 to 0-10; Rower Inistioge defeated Emeralds/St Anne's 4-7 to 1-7; Mooncoin defeated Ballyhale 2-11 to 2-3

Championship Semi Final – Rower Inistioge defeated Danesfort 6-6 to 0-11; Mooncoin defeated O'Loughlin Gaels 2-8 to 1-6

Final – Rower Inistioge are Shaws Department Stores Intermediate Champions for 2023 after a hard fought encounter against Mooncoin that went to extra time

Deirdre Walsh opened the scoring with a pointed free for Mooncoin. Niamh Crowley added another point for Mooncoin before Caoimhe Keher Murtagh & Cria Langton (f) pointed for Rower Inistioge to equalise the match 0-2 a piece after 14 minutes. Neither teams added to their tallies over the next 16 minutes until heading into 1st half injury time, Rower Inistioge were awarded a 30m free and Cria Langton converted the resulting free to leave the interval score 0-3 to 0-2 in favour of Rower Inistioge. On the resumption of play, Caoimhe Keher Murtagh extended the Rower's lead with a fine point. Sarah Crowley slotted over a point for Mooncoin from play after bursting out from defence. Cria Langton (R) and Deirdre Walsh swapped pointed frees before Langton put the Rower ahead by two points. Then Deirdre Walsh converted two frees to equalise the game again. Walsh then put Mooncoin ahead with a pointed free, Cria Langton equalised also from a free to leave the score 0-7 a piece. The Referee blew the full time whistle shortly after, so we headed for extra time

From the throw in, Mooncoin played the sliotar towards the Rower Inistioge goal and Niamh Crowley slotted over a lovely point. Sarah Ryan equalised after a neat had pass from Cria Langton. The latter then slotted over a point of her own to leave the score 0-9 to 0-8 in favour of Rower Inistioge after six minutes of extra time. The match had been very tight all the way through, until in the eight minute, Caoimhe Keher Murtagh was waiting for the breaking ball from a Ruck, she ran at speed towards goal and hit a rasper of a shot to the back of the net to put the Rower 4 points ahead. Heading towards the half time of extra time, Niamh Crowley slotted over the bar to leave the score 1-9 to 0-9 at the break

Cria Langton and Deirdre Walsh traded points before Caoimhe Keher Murtagh scored a great point for the Rower. Deirdre Walsh slotted over a pointed free for Mooncoin to leave three points in it. Heading towards full time, Mooncoin's Sarah Crowley who had moved up from defence to the forwards at the start of extra time, ran onto a clearance from the Rower defence and as she ran towards the goal, she



Dicksboro Senior League and Championship Winners



Intermediate Champions - Rower Inistioge



Junior Champions - John Lockes Bennettsbridge



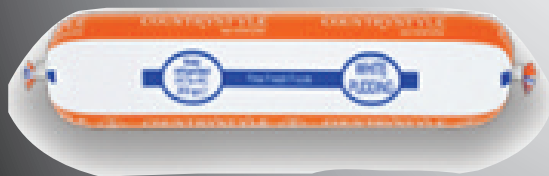
Danesfort Intermediate All County League Champions



John Lockes/Bennettsbridge Junior League Champions



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hit a bullet, but it flew over the bar to leave the score 1-11 to 0-12

The Referee blew the full-time whistle shortly after.

Rower Inistioge played Buffers Alley, Wexford in the Leinster Intermediate Club Quarter Final and won 1-13 to 1-11 after extra time, they now play O'Moore's (Laois) in the Leinster Intermediate Club Semi Final

JUNIOR

All County League Final - Tullogher 0-13, Piltown 2-6

League Final - John Lockes/Bennettsbridge defeated Graiguenamanagh 2-13 to 1-3

Junior – 1st Round – Piltown defeated Blacks & Whites 3-10 to 2-6

Quarter Finals – Dicksboro defeated Piltown 2-6 to 0-4; Tullogher defeated Rower Inistioge 4-20 to 1-2

Semi Finals John Lockes/Bennettsbridge defeated Tullogher 2-21 to 2-7; Graiguenamanagh defeated Dicksboro 1-7 to 0-8

Final – John Lockes/Bennettsbridge are Kilkenny Rivercourt Hotel Premier Junior Champions after defeating Graiguenamanagh at MW Hire Centre, Dunmore

After being defeated in last years final, John Lockes/Bennettsbridge set out to make amends this year, despite a slow start, they got into their stride with Aisling O'Sullivan opening the scoring with a point. This was followed by points from sisters Laura and Rachel Phelan, Megan Walsh, Orlaith O'Connell and a Aisling O'Sullivan free to leave John Lockes/Bennettsbridge 0-6 to 0-0 after 17 minutes. Aisling Prendergast scored Graiguenamanagh's first point from a 35m free. Rachel Phelan then scored great points for John Lockes/Bennettsbridge, one of them while losing her footing on the slippery sod. Aisling O'Sullivan added another point from play for the combined team. Then in the 26th minute, Graiguenamanagh got a life line, when Aisling Prendergast took a speculative shot from outfield, it deceived the goalie and went in under the crossbar. Aisling O'Sullivan closed out the first half scoring with a point from play for John Lockes/Bennettsbridge to leave the interval score 0-10 to 1-1 in favour of John Lockes/Bennettsbridge

On the resumption of play, Aisling Prendergast scored a point for Graiguenamanagh. In the 37th minute, Graiguenamanagh were awarded a Penalty. Aisling Prendergast stood over the sliotar and she drilled it low past the goalie into the bottom corner of the net. This was Graiguenamanagh's last score of the match. While John Lockes/Bennettsbridge added 6 points to their tally through Orlaith O'Connell, Rachel Phelan (2), Laura Phelan, Aisling O'Sullivan and Vivienne Holmes over the remainder of the half to leave the final score John Lockes/Bennettsbridge 0-16 Graiguenamanagh 2-2

Junior B - Championship not finished at time of going to print

Junior C – Championship not finished at time of going to print

U22 - Not played at time of going to print

KILKENNY CAMOGIE U14 DEVELOPMENT SQUADS 2023

After a series of trials in March the 2023 development squads were formed and 3 squads were put in place. The Ambers, Blacks



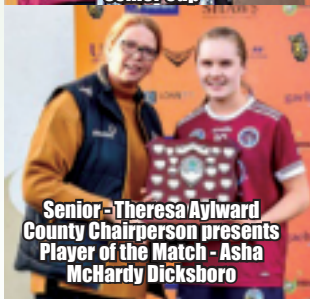
Senior - Neil Lyng Michael Lyng Motors Hyundai presents Jenny Clifford Dicksboro Capt with Senior Cup



Intermediate - Theresa Aylward County Chairperson presents Aisling Kelly Rower Inistioge Capt with Intermediate Cup



Junior - Anthony Smith Kilkenny River Court Hotel presents Meg Ryan John Lockes Bennettsbridge Capt



Senior - Theresa Aylward County Chairperson presents Player of the Match - Asha McHardy Dicksboro



Intermediate - Ann Downey presents Player of the match - Criag Langton Rower Inistioge



Junior - Theresa Aylward County Chairperson presents Player of the Match - Rachel Phelan



O'Loughlin Gaels Intermediate League Champions



John Lockes U16 League Champions



Emeralds U16 Roinn D League Champions

and Stripes. 24 players in each squad. The first matches came about on the 21st and 22nd April when our Ambers and Stripes played away to Wexford on the 21st winning both games and our Blacks took on Waterford A's on the 22nd and narrowly lost. On Sunday the 7th Waterford A's and B's travelled up to Kilkenny where a mix

of our Ambers and Blacks took on Waterford As and our Stripes took on Waterford Bs. Kilkenny winning both matches. On May 14th our Ambers and Blacks took part in the Clare Blitz where our Ambers went to extra time v Tipperary and eventually winning by 6 points and presented with the Bernie Hogan Memorial Cup. Our Blacks

won 2 from 3 group games and eventually winning the Shield Final.

The Stripes took part in the Carlow National Blitz on the same day and our girls won all 4 matches v Kerry, Carlow, Waterford and Westmeath. Dublin travelled down to Kilkenny on the 27th of May to take on all 3 of our squads and the matches were held in Thomastown. Kilkenny winning all 3 matches.

Next up were the Lenisters on June 17th. Our Ambers reached the final where they took on a very strong Offaly team and the Kilkenny girls held out to win the final by a single point. The Blacks just loosing out on qualifying for the cup final but eventually went on to win the Shield Final. The mighty Stripes went on to win the Cup Final. On July 15th Kilkenny hosted the next national blitz and our Amber girls played Tipperary, Galway and Cork and winning all 3 matches and qualifying for the semi final where they went on to beat Limerick and eventually beating Wexford in the Final.

Our Blacks and Stripes attended the Cork National Blitz on the same day and with some great performances from both squads. Both squads topping their group on the day and no final was held. The Stripes played Meath on July 22nd in Galmoy in a friendly before the Meath squads went on to Thurles to support their Intermediate team. Another excellent performance from the Stripes. The blitz was next up and this is the All-Ireland National Blitz held in various venues across Dublin. The Ambers and Stripes headed to Abbottstown and the Blacks went to St Annes. The Ambers won all group matches and reached the All-Ireland Final where they met a very good Galway side. The Galway side got a early lead and the Kilkenny girls closed the gap to a single point but with only 8 minutes aside the Kilkenny side could not find the equaliser and eventually loosing out. The Blacks only lost one match in their group fixtures and went on to win the shield with a brilliant performance. The Stripes also only lost one match in their group fixtures which was to Tipperary 2 but the Kilkenny girls went on to win the Shield in another great performance.

In summary it was a great year for all the Kilkenny U14 Development Squads. The 72 girls trained most Saturdays and made a huge effort throughout the year. Each and everyone one of them are a great credit to the parents, clubs and their county.

The U14 Management would like to thank the following:

Kilkenny Camogie County Board and Development Committee for all their support throughout the year.

Loanit for the sponsored tops and which all the girls and mentors greatly appreciate.

Jimmy McGarry and Dicksboro for the use of St James Park for most of our training sessions. This was a huge help for training and very much appreciated. Callan CBS for the use of their pitch for training when required. The parents of all the girls for all the support throughout the year in both getting the girls to training and also the support for all the matches. The mentors for all 3 Squads. Your time and devotion to Kilkenny underage camogie is very much appreciated and valued.

Ambers – Alan Morrissey, Jimmy O’ Shea, Nicky Kenny, Adrian Wade and Lorraine Burke. Blacks – Paric Brennan, Catherine Cunniffe, Shirley Dowd, Michael Muldowney and Stephen Hogan. Stripes – JP Corcoran, Raimie Cahil and Joan Murphy.

And finally to the girls themselves. Each one of you should be so proud of yourselves for the way ye committed to the U14 squads for 2023. The huge efforts ye put in showed when you played and your performances were outstanding. Ye were a pleasure to coach and mentor for the year, well done and the very best of luck in the future.

U15 Camogie

Saturday 9th of September saw the final day out for the U15 Camogie Development Squads in absolutely glorious sunshine around the country.

The Black Squad were in The National Sports Campus, Abbottstown, Dublin, beating Waterford and Antrim’s first teams in their group and were very unlucky to be beaten by Cork 2 in the Final by 3 points. The Ambers blitz took place in Kilworth GAA Club, near Fermoy in Co Cork, where they beat Cork 1, Tipperary 1 and Galway 1 in their group and beat a strong and determined Dublin team by 6 points to be crowned All Ireland U15 A Champions for 2023. This wrapped up a satisfying and successful season for the U15 ladies, starting with trials involving 120 players beginning in February with some notable victories along the way, including double Kilkenny wins in the Kilkenny blitz in June and in the Leinster blitz in Portlaoise in August. U15 Management would like to thank the County Board for their help throughout the year and the support of sponsors Loanitt, Glanbia and Deegan’s.

Thanks also to the many GAA clubs who made their pitches available and particular thanks to the players and their parents for their effort and commitment throughout the year.



Carrickshock U14A Champions



Dicksboro U14 League Champions



Graiguenamanagh U14E team



Barrow Rangers U14D Champions



Emeralds U14C Champions



Bennettsbridge U14B County Champions

ADULT CAMOGIE RESULTS 2023

MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS HYUNDAI SENIOR CAMOGIE		KILKENNY RIVER COURT JUNIOR CAMOGIE	
COUNTY SC FINAL	Dicksboro 3-18 Windgap 1-11	JUNIOR FINAL	Graigenamanagh 2-2 John Lockes/Bennettsbridge 0-16
ALL COUNTY LEAGUE FINAL	Dicksboro 3-20 Thomastown 0-6	JUNIOR B FINAL	Not played at time of going to print
LEAGUE FINAL	Dicksboro 1-13 Piltown 1-11	ALL COUNTY JUNIOR LEAGUE FINA	Piltown 2-6 Tullogher 0-13
RELEGATION FINAL	St Martin's 1-12 Conahy 1-10	LEAGUE FINAL	Graigenamanagh 1-3 John Lockes/Bennettsbridge 2-1
SHAWS DEPARTMENT STORE INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE		JUNIOR C FINAL	Not played at time of going to print
COUNTY IC FINAL	Mooncoin 0-12 Rower Inistioge 1-11 AET	ALL COUNTY JUNIOR C LEAGUE FINAL	Danesfort 1-8 St Martin's 2-10
ALL COUNTY LEAGUE FINAL	Mooncoin 0-9 Danesfort 1-7	U22 Camogie	
LEAGUE FINAL	O'Loughlin Gaels 3-10 Rower Inistioge 1-7	Not played at time of going to print	

JUVENILE CAMOGIE RESULTS 2023

<p>MINOR GAELTEC</p> <p>Minor D League Final – Barrow Rangers 5-2, Tullogher 3-4</p> <p>Minor A League Final – Not Played</p> <p>Minor B Lge Final – Mooncoin Glenmore 4-13 to 4-12 a.e.t.</p> <p>Minor C League Final – Not Played</p> <p>Minor D Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>Minor D County Final –To Be played</p> <p>Minor C Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>Minor C County Final –To Be played</p> <p>Minor B Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>Minor B County Final –To Be played</p> <p>Minor A Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>Minor A County Final –To Be played</p>	<p>U16 GAELTEC</p> <p>U16A League Final – J Lockes 5-15, Dicksboro 0-4</p> <p>U16A Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>U16A County Final –To Be played</p> <p>U16B Lge Final – Ballyhale 4-10 O'Loughlin Gaels 0-14</p> <p>U16B Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>U16B County Final –To Be played</p> <p>U16C League Final – not played</p> <p>U16C Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>U16C County Final – not played at time of going</p> <p>U16D Lge Final – Emeralds 4-12 G'managh 3-8</p> <p>U16D Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>Gaeltec U16D County Final –To Be played</p>	<p>U14 GAELTEC</p> <p>U14D Lge Final – Erins Own 4-11, Barrow Rangers 3-6</p> <p>U14D Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>U14D County Final – Barrow Rangers 3-9, Windgap 2-1</p> <p>U14C League Final – Bennettsbridge 8-14, Emeralds 1-1</p> <p>U14C Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>U14C County Final – Emeralds 4-14, St Lachtain's 3-1</p> <p>U14E League Final – Mullinavat 6-8, Graigenamanagh 0-3</p> <p>U14E Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>U14E County Final – Graigenamanagh 4-7, Conahy 2-3</p> <p>U14 Foila League Final – Young Irelands 2-8, Erins Own 2-3</p> <p>U14 Foila Shield Final – not played at time of going to print</p> <p>U14 Foila County Final – Mooncoin White 9-2 O'Loughlin Gaels Green 1-0</p> <p>U14B League Final – Young Irelands 4-12, Tullogher 3-5</p> <p>U14B Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>U14B County Final – Bennettsbridge 4-12, Mooncoin 0-1</p> <p>U14A League Final – Dicksboro 2-8, Rower Inistioge 2-5</p> <p>U14A Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>U14A County Final – Carrickshock 0-10, Rower Inistioge 0-7</p>
<p>U14 GAELTEC</p> <p>U14D Lge Final – Erins Own 4-11, Barrow Rangers 3-6</p> <p>U14D Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>U14D County Final – Barrow Rangers 3-9, Windgap 2-1</p> <p>U14C League Final – Bennettsbridge 8-14, Emeralds 1-1</p> <p>U14C Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>U14C County Final – Emeralds 4-14, St Lachtain's 3-1</p> <p>U14E League Final – Mullinavat 6-8, Graigenamanagh 0-3</p> <p>U14E Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>U14E County Final – Graigenamanagh 4-7, Conahy 2-3</p> <p>U14 Foila League Final – Young Irelands 2-8, Erins Own 2-3</p> <p>U14 Foila Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>U14 Foila County Final – Mooncoin White 9-2 O'Loughlin Gaels Green 1-0</p> <p>U14B League Final – Young Irelands 4-12, Tullogher 3-5</p> <p>U14B Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>U14B County Final – Bennettsbridge 4-12, Mooncoin 0-1</p> <p>U14A League Final – Dicksboro 2-8, Rower Inistioge 2-5</p> <p>U14A Shield Final –To Be played</p> <p>U14A County Final – Carrickshock 0-10, Rower Inistioge 0-7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">KCLR96FM CUMANN NA MBUNSCOIL</p> <p>Roinn F Shield Final – Presentation Kilkenny 3-1 Slieverue 1-0</p> <p>Roinn F Final – Moneenroe 9-6 Conahy 0-4</p> <p>Roinn E Shield Final – Kilmacow 3-1 Dunamaggin 1-1</p> <p>Roinn E Final – Bennettsbridge defeated Danesfort</p> <p>Roinn D Shield Final – Graig Skeough 9-2 Lisdowney 5-2</p> <p>Roinn D Final – Paulstown 3-6 Tullaroan 3-4 AET</p> <p>Roinn C Shield Final – Urlingford 2-10 Ballyfacey/ Glenmore NS 2-2</p> <p>Roinn C Final – St Aidan's Kilmanagh defeated Freshford</p> <p>Roinn B Shield Final – Rower Inistioge 5-6 Thomastown 2-7</p> <p>Roinn B Final – Coon/Muckalee 6-12 Tullogher Rosbercon 1-3</p> <p>Roinn A Shield Final – St Canice's A 4-8 Gaelscoil Osrai 5-3</p> <p>Roinn A Final – Clara 7-5 Bunscoil McAuley Ris Callan 3-4</p>	<p>U12</p> <p>Bui Finale Day – Glenmore, Windgap, Blacks & Whites, Kilmacow, Mooncoin, Tullogher</p> <p>Corcra Finale Day – Young Irelands Red, Tullaroan, Emeralds, Thomastown Blue, Graigenamanagh, Piltown</p> <p>Dearg Finale Day – Danesfort, Bennettsbridge, John Lockes, O'Loughlin Gaels, James Stephens, Erins Own</p> <p>Glas Finale Day – St Anne's, Barrow Rangers Blue, Dicksboro Maroon, St Lachtain's, St Martin's</p> <p>Gorm Finale Day – Ballyhale, Rower Inistioge Green,</p> <p>Dicksboro White, Carrickshock, Mullinavat, St Brigid's</p> <p>Liath Finale Day - John Lockes Yellow, O'Loughlin Gaels White,</p> <p>James Stephens Red, Rower Inistioge Red, Young Irelands White,</p> <p>Erin's Own White, Barrow Rangers White, Thomastown White</p> <p>Gaeltec Oraiste Finale Day – Lisdowney, Naomh Brid, Clara, Blacks & Whites, Conahy, Slieverue</p>



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AROUND THE CAMOGIE CLUBS



BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS



Ballyhale Under 16's



Ballyhale Under 10's



Ballyhale Under 8's



Ballyhale Under 6's



Ballyhale Under 12's

BARROW RANGERS



Barrow Rangers Camogie Club is dedicated to the development of the club. This would not be possible without our hard-working committee, volunteers who train and coach all the teams from under 6 right up to senior and of course the dedication put in weekly by our enthusiastic players. We are honoured to have our club represented at county level from senior all the way to under 14 so a big well done to all those who done so in 2023. At senior level, for the second year running the team is through to the quarter final stages once again. After some tough challenges in the group stages playing Thomastown, Young Irelands and Piltown we are eager to see how the season pans out which is set to be an exciting time. Minor girls started the year on high as a young and energetic team, they proved too strong for Tullogher on a wet and windy evening in St. Kieran's College to become Roinn C League Champions and we cannot wait to see how they championship goes. At under 16 there was some thrilling encounters as we came third in league. As it stands, we have drawn with St Martins and beat Tullogher Rosbercon so far in the championship, with the hard work and commitment that has been shown by the girls it is no

surprise on the results so far so we will be eager to see how the remainder of the year pans out. 2023 will be looked back as a very successful year for our under 14's. With a panel of 30+ girls we were extremely lucky to be able to field 2 teams. With a very busy, exciting year for the girls, we were able to establish an u14 tournament throughout the year which we hope will continue for many more. The dedication paid off as the team became Roinn D county champions on a very rainy day in September. With another exceptional bunch of girls at under 12 and another 30+ on the panel we again had the luxury of entering 2 under 12 teams who got to play 15 league games with last one to take place in late October. A great opportunity was given to these girls when they got a chance to play during a half time encounter between Kilkenny and Cork senior camogie match in Nowlan Park, a day they won't forget. U6/8/10 - What a fantastic group of girls, they showed hard work and dedication whatever the weather throughout the year, every Wednesday they were in the field training, laughing, and having fun. There was smiles all around as Ice cream and treats went down a treat at our last training session for 2023.

BENNETTSBRIDGE



Bennettsbridge Camogie Club, based 5 miles from Kilkenny city on the banks of the river Nore,

was re-established 7 years ago after a break of 15+ years without fielding any underage or adult teams. Initially we fielded teams up to the age of U14 but since then we have grown significantly year on year. We now have underage teams at all levels (U6- U22) and currently join with nearby Callan (John Locks) at adult level. We have 137 playing members, over 30 enthusiastic coaches and an active committee managing the club and running events for the benefit of the wider Bennettsbridge community. We pride ourselves on being an inclusive club and actively encourage all girls in the parish to join the club, learn new skills and make lasting friendships.

2023 so far has brought some great success to our club with the U15's winning the county Divisional 3 Feile and going on to represent the county at National Level only to lose the Final by one point. The U14s won the Roinn C League and went on to win the Roinn B Championship for the first time in over 40 years. The Schools team won the final and our Junior ladies team won the Junior League Final. Our Junior team move on to the County Semi Final and our U16s await the county qtr Finals.



U6 Team



U8 Team



U10 Team



U12 team



U16 Team



BLACKS & WHITES



U8's & 10's
(missing Gabriela Vitartaite)



U12 girls at Camáint in Croker



U14's & 16's
(missing Rósie McGilligan & Kaylee Conroy)



Junior & Minor teams*

*missing junior Clíodhna Murphy, Kate Drennan, Natalie Clinton, Aisling Cullen, Zoe Foley, Sophie Barcoe & Shannon Foley.

CARRICKSHOCK



Carrickshock Under 6



Carrickshock Under 8



Carrickshock Under 10



Carrickshock Under 12 in Creke Park



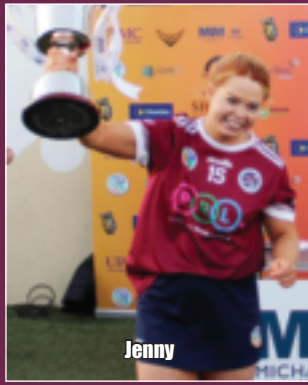
CLARA

Mol an Óige agus Tíocfaidh Siad





DICKSBORO



Jenny



Dicksboro Camogie U10s



Dicksboro Camogie U10s



Dicksboro U16s



Dicksboro U8s.



DANESFORT



Danesfort U6 team



Danesfort U10 team who won the Rita O'Shea tournament



U12 2023

EMERALDS



U16 Roinn D League Champions



U12s competed in the Corcra Group Mini League

U10s played in lots of blitzes and enjoyed every game they played



ERIN'S OWN



Newly formed Junior Team



U12 Blue White Teams.jpg



U10 Team



U14 League Champions



GLENMORE



Thank you to all our players, parents, our committee, and especially to all our coaches for another hard working and successful 2023. Thanks to everyone for your support & commitment, lots more camogie to go in 2023 and we look forward to 2024.



GRAIGNAMANAGH



Graignamanagh Camogie Club U6 Team



Graignamanagh Camogie Club U12 U10 and U8 Teams



Graignamanagh Camogie Club U16 and U14 Teams



Graignamanagh Camogie Club Junior Team



JOHN LOCKES



John Lockes Teams 2023

MOONCOIN



Mooncoin U8s U10s



Mooncoin U16 U18 panels



Mooncoin U12's U14's



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS



A selection of photographs from a vibrant O'Loughlin Gaels Juvenile Section.





ROWER INISTIOGE

This season was proof that our Camogie Club continues to grow from strength to strength. With a new group of enthusiastic under 6's signing up, training commenced back in March for them, along with our under 8's and 10's. Pitches were full every Wednesday evening and Saturday morning of young and eager camogie players. Many games and blitzes were played and while at these ages' games are non-competitive, it was clear to see that the future of the club is in safe hands.

Our Under 12s enjoyed a strong League and Championship campaign, having enough players to enter 2 teams. Both teams reached their finale day in James Stephens and Ballyhale. The girls performed admirably throughout the season and dedicated themselves to their training sessions.

Our under 14's had a very successful season the club's first time competing in Roinn A. They achieved great success reaching both league and championship county finals. While narrowly defeated the girls played as always with great spirit and determination. The club's future is bright with this bunch of fantastic girls.

The Under 16's displayed fantastic skills during their league and look forward to their championship starting shortly. While there has been a wait for their championship, they have been consistent in their preparation, and we know they will do our club proud in their competition.

Along with our under 14 County Finalists, our Intermediate team is currently at the semifinal stages in the championship. Our newly formed Junior team are at the quarter final stage in the championship and wish both teams the best of luck in the championship.

Our Minor panel put on a great display of determination throughout their league and reached the league final (awaiting completion). They look forward to starting the championship soon.

Our Intermediate Team thrived this year and reached Shaw's Department Stores Intermediate League final against O Loughlin Gaels in a thrilling competition but came up short on the day. They continued to grow, both in skill and in numbers, and hooked, blocked and scored their way through the championship so far and we know they will continue in their semifinal game VS Danesfort.

Several players brought additional pride to the club by representing us at Inter-County level on Senior, under 14, 15 and minor panels.

The Rower Inistioge Camogie Club is delighted to report on a hugely successful season. Entering a second adult team, getting younger children to join and to commit to a full season. It is important to acknowledge the dedication of the players, parents, managers, coaches, selectors and all within the camogie community. The volume of supporters was noticed and hugely appreciated by our players and hopefully this will continue to grow in an even more exciting season to come in 2024!



U14 Roinn A County Finalists



ST ANNE'S

Our Club has been busy since early March with Camogie this year.

We had a good day at the Féile this year losing out in the semi final after winning two games.

Our U8s have done well in all their blitzes and enjoyed playing with all their teammates. Our U10s and U12s are still playing their league games and are doing great. U14s unfortunately missed out in Quarter Final stages of the Championship but fought a tough battle. Our U16s are currently doing well in the Championship so far, Our Minors, joined with Tullaroan have yet to play games but have great hopes for winning Roinn A and Our Intermediates are doing well in the 3rd Round stage of the Championship. Our Club is growing from strength to strength and we are proud of all our upcoming stars at our younger ages. We wish all our teams best of luck in the rest of their Championship games.



U15 Féile Team



ST BRIGID'S

St. Brigid's Camogie Club began the 2023 season winning the U22 Championship with a win over St. Martins.

We have had a busy year at the Club since winning the U22 Championship. The Senior team played in the All County League and reached the quarter final but were beaten by local rivals Tullaroan. The team also got to the

quarter final of the Senior Championship but lost out on a place in the semi final to Dicksboro.

The U16's had a similar fate losing to Dicksboro in the League Semi Final, in extra time. The U16's are now through to the Semi Final of the Roinn A Championship and will play Windgap.

The U14's have also had a busy season, getting to the quarter final in the Roinn D Championship.

U6 to U12 have been busy with training, blitzes, challenge matches and were invited to take part in the Festival of Camogie and travelled as far away as Dublin.

We held our first Festival of Camogie for U10's and U8's at Tom Ryall Park in October 2023. We had teams travel from Waterford, Tipperary and Kilkenny. A great day was had by all who attended.

A number of players represented the club at County level, at U15, U16, Minor and Intermediate level. We set up a Mamogie team in the Summer which turned out to be a great success for the mothers of

the parishes of Killaloe, Kilmnagh and Ballycallan to return to camogie after a number of years. We even had a number of All Ireland winners take part!

We took part in Scor Sinsear, and went onto represent Kilkenny at Lenister's with an instrumental group - an added dimension for the the club to involve members with other talents other than Camogie!

We still have a number of championship fixtures to play at U16, Minor, U22 and Junior C to end a busy year at St. Brigid's Camogie Club



U10's team that played in the Danesfort Field Day blitz in August.



U12 team that competed in the Kilmacud Crokes U12 Camogie Festival



U8's Camogie 2023.



U6's last training session of 2023.

ST LACHTAIN'S



U14Team



U10 Team



Féile Team



U12 team



U16 Bogathon



Michelle Killeen POC Fada

U16 Camogie:

2023 has been a good year so far for St. Lachtain's u16 camogie team, kicking off with a fun-filled team building day in bogathon.

With a very young squad, SLCC U16s were competitive in the Roinn B league competition, and topped their group in the Roinn B Championship group stages. They will play their Quarter final in October.

Michelle Killeen won the Kilkenny Poc Fada competition, and our u16 squad was also well represented in the Kilkenny Development squads at u13, u14, u15 and u16.

U15 Féile Team: St. Lachtain's competed very strongly this year, in the Division 2 Féile, only losing out to narrowly to Tullagher, who went on to win the Féile All Ireland. Well done to all our squad and management.

U10 Camogie Notes: St. Lachtain's had a great year at u10s this season, with a very eager squad putting in a big effort every week at training and playing for each other in every blitz and game throughout the season. Their skills have improved immensely. They enjoyed hosting 2 blitzes in our wonderful Páirc Lachtain, in addition to travelling to blitzes and games locally. Thank you to all the parents and guardians who support the efforts of players and coaches.

Our U14 girls had a very successful season this year, in reaching the Final of the U14 'C' Championship, where they came up against a very strong Emeralds side, who came out winners on the day.

THOMASTOWN



Walshs Centra Sponsors Juveniles



Central Takeaway Sponsors Senior Team



Thomastown Juveniles U8 U10 U12

TULLAROAN



Members of the Tullaroan club who play County Camogie.



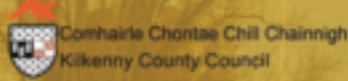
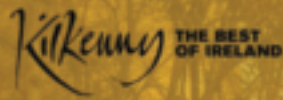
Members Of Tullaroan Juvenile Clubs



Tullaroan Senior Team



Tullaroan U12's in Croke Park in August



Pobal agus Áiteanna Inbhuanaithe a Chruthú Creating Sustainable Communities and Places

Comhairle Contae Chill Chainnigh
Sráid Eoin, Cathair Chill Chainnigh,
R95 A39T
Kilkenny County Council.
County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny,
R95 A39T

FOLLOW US





WINDGAP

Windgap camogie had a great year across the board from juvenile right up to our senior adult team.

Our U8 Camogie played 6 blitzes and challenge games during the year. The Girls showed great promise and improved greatly as the year went on. We had a great day when we hosted our own blitz, winning out all of our games that day and all the girls received gold medals for their efforts.

Our U10 Camogie girls took part in Go Games blitzes in Tullaroan, O'Loughlin's, Young Irelands and hosted two in our own club. We competed in the St Kieran's U9 blitz in May and enjoyed challenge matches with Piltown, John Lockes and Mullinahone.

Our U12 team had a very busy year with blitzes in Windgap, Tullagher, Dicksboro, Thomastown and Callan. In the Mini League Championship, the girls played Glenmore, Kilmacow and Tullagher. The girls competed well in all games and showed excellent work rate and skill.

Our U14 team had a great year reaching the county final where they were narrowly beaten for the spoils.

Our U16 and U18 teams competed in both league and championship throughout the year with many girls progressing immensely in their skill and there was great challenging for places on the teams throughout the year, with many also progressing onto our senior panel.

Our Senior team had a great start to the year winning out the Linda O'Connor 7 a side memorial blitz in Borrisoleigh with Captain Catherine Foley winning the player of the tournament award. Our seniors also competed in the Leinster league competition and the Kilmacud 7's. Our senior team won all of their league matches and were beaten by Dicksboro in the league semi-final. Our senior team at the time of print are busy preparing for the championship quarter final vs Tullaroan.

The club also ran the hugely successful Windgap Camogie & Hurling Summer Camp in August where senior players coached our up-and-coming budding stars. A great week was had by all and thanks to our sponsors, all our budding stars received a goodie bag at the end of the week.

Many thanks to our committee for all their hard work throughout the year and to all our trainers and mentors who selflessly gave up their time to help out within the club.



KILKENNY GO NATIONAL!



Ladies Football Report by Elena Griffin PRO

COUNTY NEWS

It became official in November 2022 that Kilkenny would have an adult Ladies Gaelic Football team compete in the 2023 Lidl National Football League. The decision was reached after it was agreed by the county board that the timing was right to reform the junior county squad. An experienced management were put in place in the form of John Gorey, Eoin Hennessy, Nickey Purcell and specialist coach Tom Cousins. They are confident that with the full support of the clubs and players that this team, in time, can do great things once again. Gorey elaborates, 'We know the quality of players needed for a good county adult team are present here in Kilkenny. . . in fact if this team is supported by all. . . then the ingredients are there for not just a good team but a great one.' Training for the squad commenced and that step signified the resurgence of an adult ladies squad in Kilkenny that will hopefully endure for years to come. One thing was clear, backing from clubs, players and the county as a whole would be key to the team's success and if fully supported these coming years could be the building blocks to a Kilkenny Ladies Gaelic Football team once again winning an All-Ireland Title.

The panel included players from a range of clubs in the county including many players from Muckalee who reached the 2022 Leinster Junior Final. Kilkenny's first captain Kelley Comerford was one such player and was proud to be part of this squad that saw Kilkenny back on the LGFA national map. Kelley commented, 'It has to start back somewhere and I am proud to be leading the team that is paving the way back into competitions for Kilkenny Ladies Gaelic.'

On Sunday January 22nd Kilkenny fielded an adult Ladies Gaelic Football team in the National League. This match had been three years in the making. The Ladies took on Limerick at 2pm in MW Hire Training Centre Dunmore. Kilkenny only managed 2 points to Limerick's 4-13 but this match was never about the scoreboard for the cats. This match was a marker that Kilkenny are back and ready to rebuild. Limerick reached the Division 4 league final in 2023 but were bested by Offaly so they had their sights set on going one step further this year. Kilkenny had been slowly building a panel over the past few months and with only three training sessions behind them, manager John Gorey knew the road ahead was bumpy, 'No one is under the illusion that this is going to be easy. Rome wasn't built in a day and this is only the start of the building blocks for Kilkenny's adult squad.'

In that inaugural match for Kilkenny the Limerick side set down a lightning pace tempo from the start. Only 7 minutes after referee Maggie Farrelly's throw in and they had 4 scores on the board and led the home side by 1-3 to no score. Kilkenny then began to shake off the nerves, that a three year absence from county adult competition will create, and started to put together some nice passages of play. One such passage led them to force a Limerick foul and Kate Purcell was given the chance to score Kilkenny's first score, not only in this match but Kilkenny's first score in three years. She made no mistake and put it straight over the bar. Limerick answered very quickly with a well taken goal. There were two more superbly worked points for Limerick before it was Kate Purcell of Muckalee who once again put the ball over the bar for Kilkenny to leave a half time scoreline of Limerick 2-5 and Kilkenny 0-2.

It was clear from the start of the second half that Limerick were looking to make up for the 10 wides they shot in the first half. At the full time whistle the scoreline of 4:13 to 0:2 saw Limerick as clear and worthy winners. However, despite Kilkenny's low scoring there were glimmers of brilliance from the team and skills and passion were there in abundance.

January 29th our adult team were away to Leitrim in round 2 of the Lidl NFL Division 4.

A tough match but the developing squad could be proud of their involvement with their county panel and of representing Kilkenny despite knowing the challenging games they faced. On a positive note Kilkenny scored more than double the points scored in round 1 scoring 5 points to Leitrim's 7-21.

Our adult squad played Derry next on the 12th February in the third round of the National Football League, Division 4. Not a win but a very positive performance and a very competitive game. Success for this team in the league was about improving each game and the squad can certainly say that in the case. Scoring 1:8 to Derry's 1:18 was certainly big progression after suffering two heavy defeats in the first two rounds to Limerick and Leitrim..

Kilkenny were unable to build on their promising showing v Derry in the fourth round against Wicklow. The garden county were in no mood for mercy as they laid relentless siege against a battling but tormented defense. It was



Adult Squad before first National League fixture v Limerick



Adult Squad and management huddle at half time of their inaugural game



Kilkenny's first adult captain Kelley Comerford



Kilkenny Management Panel



Adult Squad in John Lockes Park before Junior Final

clear from the early stages of this game that the Cats would not come close to matching or bettering their 1-8 tally scored against the Oakleifers given that they were experiencing chronic difficulties in winning their own kick-outs which gave Wicklow the platform to seek their inside attackers with quick ball. The final whistle brought an end to a very difficult afternoon for Kilkenny who, while not found wanting for effort or courage, met a Wicklow side who were abrasive, hungry and eager to impress ahead of their must-win battle with league leaders Leitrim next time out.

TG4 LEINSTER JUNIOR LEINSTER FINAL

This was the first final to take place at this grade since 2019, when Louth got the better of Carlow at Netwatch Cullen Park. Another tough battle for our newly formed squad against neighbouring county Carlow. Final score, Carlow 5-20 Kilkenny 0-6.

TG4 JUNIOR ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP

On Sunday the 18th June, for the first time in years, Kilkenny fielded a team in the TG4 Championship. The round 1 result of Limerick 7:21 to Kilkenny's 1:5 certainly wasn't in our favour and a tough match for the ladies. More losses in Round 2 (Kilkenny V Down) on Sunday 2nd July and Round 3 (Kilkenny V Sligo) on Saturday 8th July but honourable performances. Heads held high



Kilkenny Captain Ellen Lawlor

and a non defeatist attitude throughout.

JUVENILE SQUADS

Early season county squad trials saw over 200 teenage girls in Kilkenny show up to be considered for the U14, U16 and Minor panels. In an age where keeping teenage girls in sport has never been more emphasized it's fantastic to know one of our national sports is key in keeping a significant cohort of this age group active in a county that is often only recognized for its small ball prowess. Ladies Gaelic in Kilkenny may be perceived as the underdog sport in the county but it is in fact the number one sport of choice for many teenage girls. Ladies Gaelic Football in Kilkenny has seen significant strides in recent years and membership numbers steadily increase each year and this has translated to more and more girls eager to represent their county in the sport.

MINOR COUNTY SQUAD

Trials began in December under the new management of Alan Condon and Mark Flynn. The Minor Squad had their first championship outing v Carlow on April 4th. It wasn't a win for the young side but they certainly looked the part. They wore new custom hoodies that were very generously sponsored by UPMC, who also sponsored the girls shorts, socks, training tops and gear bags. The girls also proudly wore the new kilkenny jersey design with their kit kindly sponsored by DNG Ella Dunphy. What an amazing show of support to teenage girls in team sport here in Kilkenny.

U16 COUNTY SQUAD

The 2023 U16 Management team comprised of Keith Goff (Manager), Anne Queally, Catherin Tervit-Kruger (FLO), Catherine Moore, Gervase O'Connell and Owen O'Leary.

The U16 squad had a busy pre season with plenty trainings, challenges and strength and conditioning sessions. They enjoyed a team building session in Jenkinstown woods, run by Shane Whelan and Stephen O'Keefe from Shedfit Callan. It was a brilliant day and the group bonded and grew as a team. The comradery was amazing. They worked really hard but smiled all the way!! This group had generous support this season. They were presented with Kilkenny LGFA bobble hats, kindly donated by Falconer Hurleys. Brennan Agri Repairs Castlecomer have shown huge support to our county U16 squad in sponsoring their full set of county gear for the season. It's so appreciated by all and it's wonderful to see a business showing such support to teenage girls in sport.

Huge thanks to Joe Fox and his daughter Emma of Fox Holistic Healing Centre who sponsored a set of Kilkenny County jerseys this year. What a fantastic gesture and our U16s had the honour of being the first county squad to wear the newly designed kit in their Roinn C Round 1 fixture against Carlow in early March. It wasn't a win for our girls in their first round v Carlow but a spirited performance. Round 2 of Leinster Championship was away to Offaly on March 18th. We didn't get the win but a huge performance and massive improvement on our previous game. Our U16s had a tough battle in Louth Easter Sunday in round 3. The Kilkenny girls fought hard all the way to the end. Their spirit and determination was fantastic with some great passages of play, despite the heavy wind blowing on the Cooley peninsula. Girls were now in the Leinster semi-final in 2 weeks which unfortunately ended in defeat. The group ended their busy season on April 23rd in Kiltoran Raceway, a super fun time had by all.

U14 COUNTY SQUAD

Trials began in January with over 80 girls vying for a position on the squad. The Kilkenny U14 Management of Emer Tynan, Eléna Byrne, Paul Maguire and John Dunphy named their 2023 panel in February and all of our 10 clubs in the county were represented.

U14s LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP DAY 1 April 8th

Our U14s played 3 matches against Laois, Kildare and Westmeath, respectively. It was a day of building and learning for the group as they faced challenging games.

First up were Laois. The Kilkenny girls took a while to warm into the game and Laois had the upper hand at half time. Kilkenny had some lovely passages of play and produced some great scores, however enough damage had been done in the first half to secure the win for Laois.

Kildare was always going to be a strong opposition. Kilkenny battled hard throughout the whole match and never gave up and showed fantastic perseverance under pressure.

The squad then showed such character to rally themselves together for the last match against Westmeath and started the game with an impressive determination. Only a point in it at half time. The second half was equally as competitive, however the spoils went to the opposition.

DAY 2 April 15th

Our U14s had a win, a loss and a draw in Stage 2 of the Leinster Ladies Gaelic Football Association Championship. First up were Meath who proved to be the day's toughest opponents. It was a good game and both sides took some great scores with Meath coming out on top. Wexford were next for our squad. Kilkenny had a superb first half performance leaving us in a lead position at half time. Wexford came out strong after half time with 2 quick goals severely narrowing the gap. However Kilkenny continued to play with composure and took the win by 3 points. Last match of the day was Wicklow. The match ended in a draw after a good battle between the sides.

U14 LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP DAY 3 22nd April

Our U14s had their final day of the Leinster Championship stage 1 on Saturday in Portlaoise.

The squad had a very wet day Saturday but they didn't let that affect their attitude or work rate. The girls had two great wins on the day against Louth and Carlow. It was a very close encounter with Longford and they were unlucky not to convert more scores leaving Longford the victors by 2 points. Dublin showed why they are undefeated in the league with a comprehensive win and Offaly also took the spoils. All in all a solid day out with so many positives to take home, despite the muddy faces and clothes.

After results from all three days were tallied Kilkenny faced Wicklow in the Leinster Ladies Gaelic Football division 6 final. The girls put in some serious heart and were unlucky not to have more scores to show for their effort. Final score of 6:7 to 2:7 was in Wicklow's favour.



Minor County Squad



U16 County Squad



U14 County Squad

May 13th Our U14s bowed out of the National Series on Saturday in their quarter final v Donegal. It wasn't their day but what a team performance. With a half time score of 1:5 to 1:3 it was all to fight for in the 2nd half. However, Donegal took the spoils in the end taking advantage of all their scoring opportunities. The girls can hold their heads high knowing they did themselves and their county proud.

This group were so well supported by their parents and many businesses. The following all contributed in some part making sure the squad were well kitted out for the season. Thank you so much to all. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Clancy Construction, Butler Construction Services, Clubhouse Hotel Kilkenny, KBowl Kilkenny, Langtons Hotel Kilkenny, Daltons Chancellors Mills, Tyreland, Marble city paving, The Springhill Clinic, kinderland Creche, Ayrfield Pharmacy, AP Systems Ltd.

STRONG SUPPORT

Huge positive news for the adult team as Tirlán CountryLife and Clunetech have committed to backing this squad going forward. With such a fantastic support behind them now the path ahead for rebuilding this squad is that bit smoother.

A huge thank you also to St. Canice's Credit Union and Intosport on their continued support of Ladies Gaelic Football in Kilkenny in 2023. St. Canice's have been so generous to the sport for many years and we can't stress enough how important their relationship is to the success of Ladies Football in Kilkenny. We may in some respects be viewed as the underdog sport for women in Kilkenny but due to support we continue to overachieve in many ways.

Intermediate Cup Muckalee V Railyard

The 2023 Adult competition saw 7 clubs participate, namely Railyard, Dunnamaggin, Thomastown, John Lockes, Clara, Kilkenny City and Muckalee. The St. Canice's Credit Union Intermediate County Final was contested between Muckalee and Railyard on October 8th in Dunmore. A repeat of the 2022 Junior final encounter in which Muckalee were the victors. This meant a new Intermediate competition was held in Kilkenny this year for the first time in over ten years alongside the junior competition. The atmosphere was superb at the match and spirits were high on both sides as the finalists paraded onto the pitch with their proud club mascots minutes before throw in. The crowd, which was the argest seen at an LGFA match in Kilkenny in a long time, really added to the occasion and they were treated to some fantastic passages of football. Railyard, having the junior title already claimed, were really up for the match. This talented side had made noticeable strides since the previous years similar encounter and proved worthy competition for Muckalee. However, it was to be Muckalee's day and the strong, determined side came away outright winners making it their 3rd county title in a row, two junior and one intermediate. This means they are now to represent Kilkenny in the Leinster Junior club championship. They reached the Leinster final last year and hopes are high one step further can be made this time round by claiming the title.

Junior Cup Railyard V John Lockes

After the disappointment of losing the 2022 final Railyard were back and made no mistake of claiming the title this year. Congratulations to the squad and management team. Fantastic achievement. Well done also to John Lockes who made for some stiff competition and never gave up throughout the whole game making it a great spectacle of football to behold.



**Muckalee Intermediate County Champions
2023**

Junior Shield Dunnamaggin v Muckalee Green

Muckalee Green are the 2023 adult junior shield champions. Well done to all involved on a great win against Dunnamaggin. With very little separating the teams at half time it was Muckalee who upped it a gear in the second half to convert the scores and claim the title!

KILKENNY LGFA FÉILE 2023

CUP CHAMPS: Kilkenny City

SHIELD CHAMPS: Dunnamaggin

PLATE CHAMPS: Railyard

Our Kilkenny 2023 Féile competition day event had to be called off this year due to the referees' strike. The competition got played over 3 evenings the following week after a date extension was granted by Croke Park. Group 1 included teams from Tullagher, Kilkenny City, Thomastown and Muckalee. Group 2 was Dunnamaggin, Piltown, Clara and John Lockes.

Kilkenny City and John Lockes topped the groups and so met in the Cup final, final score 2-8 to 0-3. Second in each group were Dunnamaggin and Thomastown and that match finished on a scoreline of 3-9 to 2-6 in favour of Dunnamaggin. Group 3 saw Erin's own, Railyard and a second squad from Dunnamaggin contest for the Plate and with 2 wins from 2 Railyard were the champs. Thanks to the fixtures committee and county executive for all the hard work put in to making sure the 2023 Kilkenny Féile was a success this year despite many challenges.

Kilkenny City then went forward to the national Féile in July while Dunnamaggin and Railyard are off to the regional Féile. Unfortunately they came up short in the Division 2 Cup Final against St Lomans from Mullingar. The extra-time in the semi-final didn't do the girls any favours for the final. The girls were slow out of the blocks and it was 2-3 to no score at half time. However the girls didn't lie down and came out fighting in the second half and got back to within 2 points with two minutes to go but St Lomans got the last 2 pts to leave the final score 2-2 to 2-6. A great effort but a third Division 2 title in 10 years wasn't to be.

Fabulous memories were made by Railyard at their clubs first Féile. Railyard finished 2nd in their group with teams from Meath, Dublin & Louth. The girls got through to the cup semi final and as they did all day, gave another great performance against a strong Meath team. They went into the second half level but unfortunately the Meath side secured a few well taken points to book their place in the cup final. Well done to the side who represented club and county and did us all proud.

What a Féile experience Dunnamaggin had to come home Division 5 Féile Shield Champions.

The first opponents were Navan O Mahoneys of Meath. The girls played their best against this strong opposition but no win against this side who ended up cup finalists on the day. Final score 2:8 to 0:4. Next up was a well fought win against Shamrock Gaels of Sligo. A win by one kick of the ball with a scoreline of 3:3 to 2:3. Their third match saw them meet Dunmore MChales of Galway. The girls held their own in the first half but the win was not to be with the Galway side upping the ante in the second half. St. Mary's of Meath were the Shield Semi Final opponents. It was no easy feat for the girls to overcome this side in a low scoring game. The Shield Final saw the squad once again meet Shamrock Gaels of Sligo. This match was completely different to the encounter earlier in the day with the Sligo team firing on all cylinders. It was close enough at half time but with only 4 minutes to go Dunnamaggin were down by 4 points and Shamrock Gaels looked to be in a comfortable position. However you can never write off this determined squad. After an almighty solo run all the way up the pitch from their wing back and a super pass into the full forward line the ball



**Muckalee Captain Kelley Comerford
Presentation by Kilkenny LGFA Chairperson John Leamy.**



Railyard Captain Ailish O'Neill Presentation by Kilkenny LGFA Secretary Cath Tervit Kruger.



**Railyard Junior County Champions
2023**



Muckalee Junior Shield Winners 2023



Kilkenny City Cup Winners

found the back of the net. Now it was 1 point down and 2 minutes to go. The kick out was contested well and the ball turned over to Dunnamaggin. The ball was kicked into the goal area and on a wish and a prayer bounced perfectly over the keepers head and under the bar. . . 2 points up now with seconds to go. An almighty comeback and win of 3:01 to 1:05 for this Féile squad and well deserved after such honest effort all day long. Congratulation to the squad and mentors and thank you for the wonderful support from parents, the community and sponsors Motte and Bailey kells bar lounge and Treacy's Carpets And Furniture

Fabulous memories were made by Railyard at their clubs first Féile. Railyard finished 2nd in their Division 7 group with teams from Meath, Dublin & Louth. The girls got through to the cup semi final and as they did all day, gave another great performance against a strong Meath team. They went into the second half level but unfortunately the Meath side secured a few well taken points to book their place in the cup final. Well done to the side who represented club and county and did us all proud.

GAELIC4MOTHERS&OTHERS

The Gaelic4Mothers&Others is an innovative way to introduce women to playing Ladies Gaelic Football in a fun, non-competitive, social environment. It provides an opportunity for women to exercise in a fun way while meeting other women in the area. The initiative has proved very popular here in Kilkenny and the year 2023 has been an action packed year for this group in Kilkenny.

Two new Gaelic4Mothers&Others groups kicked off this year, namely Mullinavat and while our most recent, namely Muckalee, Slieverue, Rower Inistioge, Freshford, Glenmore and Tullogher-Rosbercon continued to prosper this year. Established clubs Piltown, Dunnamaggin, Thomastown and Tullaroan continued to cater for their Mothers&Others squads all this season and all teams enjoyed fun challenge games with each other. The Leinster Blitz in July was a very well run event and enjoyed by three Kilkenny clubs. September saw 3 lucky Kilkenny squads off to the National Blitz in Portmarnock along with thousands of Gaelic4Mothers&Others players from across the nation.

If you'd like further information just check out our Gaelic4Mothers&Others section on our website kilkennyladiesgaelic.ie or our Twitter, Facebook or Instagram pages.

Tullaroan Gaelic4Mothers&Others

Tullaroan Gaelic 4 mothers and others is established since 2018. We have had many great outings since and this year in May we held our own blitz in Tullaroan with 5 other teams participating. Great day of football and fun was had by all.

Muckalee Gaelic4Mothers&Others

Muckalee GM&O started in August 2022 and we have only gone from strength to strength! We have a hugely dedicated team of over 40 women who always show up for trainings, matches and blitzes no matter what the weather! We have made new lifelong friendships with each other within the community and really look forward to meeting up every week!

Dunnamaggin Gaelic4Mothers&Others

Dunnamaggin have catered for this group now going on 8 years and each year we have fresh faces join our squad from the community but also the neighbouring parishes around us. Sessions are fun and there is absolutely no previous experience required. This season we attended both the Leinster and National Blitz days and if you check out the Dunnamaggin Facebook or Instagram you can see just how much fun this group has all season long.

The Rower Inistioge Gaelic4Mothers&Others

As we pass our second anniversary since we held our first training session in The Rower / Inistioge we are still going strong. We meet every Sunday morning and now with the addition of our new all weather astro pitch in The Rower we won't even stop for Winter! We welcome ladies of all abilities and it's a fun way to get together for some Sunday morning exercise while meeting other ladies from our local area.



Dunnamaggin Féile Shield Winners



Railyard Féile Plate Winners



Dunnamaggin Regional Féile Plate Champions



Railyard at Regional Féile

GAELIC4MOTHERS&OTHERS



Piltown Gaelic4Mothers&Others



Tullaroan Gaelic4Mothers&Others



Muckalee Gaelic4Mothers&Others



Dunnamaggin Gaelic4Mothers&Others



The Rower Instioge Gaelic4Mothers&Others

KILKENNY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Kilkenny's three-year plan continued this year being implemented across the county by the clubs. The plan is a roadmap which will hopefully lead to increased participation in the sport, greater connection between clubs and the County Board and the provision of competitive county teams. The plan has a few different sections. It involves team development, coaching development and finance and fixtures, communications strategies and participation rates.

One very positive development this year was the setting up of two new LGFA clubs in Kilkenny, namely Slieverue and St. Lachtains. Another major achievement in development last year was the rolling out of the Player Development Programme for all U13 players in the county. This year we saw this programme also being rolled out to the U15 and U17 age group. Coaches from a variety of clubs came together to create fun sessions for the girls of these age groups, welcome from all clubs in the county.

Our U13 Player Development Programme players then enjoyed a fantastic fun festival of football in Portlaoise. The 30 girls represented Kilkenny so well playing Wexford, Laois and Offaly in 7 aside games as well as Dublin & Westmeath in 15 a side games.

The U15 PDP kilkenny girls did brilliantly in August in the U15 Player Development Programme just for fun blitz. It was a small group of girls that

was of huge assistance to Kilkenny this year as they made their reappearance in the Lidl NFL after a three year absence. Kate also lined out this year for University College Dublin. Leinster LGFA President, Trina Murray, presented Kate with her award before Convention.

In February it was announced that our county PRO Eléna Byrne was a 2023 GAA Presidents Award recipient for her volunteer work with club and county. This is a reflection on this wonderful LGFA community of ours as a whole here in Kilkenny and highlights just how much the image of ladies football in Kilkenny has developed over the past number of years.

The awards are a cross-section of people who have shared the common theme of making an inspirational impact on their code and also their club and community and were broadcast live on TG4.

John Murphy, a native of Crettyard Co. Laois, has been ratified as the new Kilkenny Adult Ladies Gaelic Football Manager. John has a vast and diverse coaching experience background in ladies football. This year alone he coached the Crettyard Junior county title winning team, the SETU Carlow LGFA team and not to mention the U7s.. However his most

valuable experience for the role probably comes from his coaching journey with the Laois LGFA adult team from 2019-2023. In his role there he was instrumental in the incredible growth and development of the squad. They went from a position as a lower division 3 team to winning a division 3

.John commends the previous management and county board for getting Kilkenny back to competition which he acknowledges as a great but difficult first step. He also added that he is extremely pleased by professionalism of the county board. Support is also coming in strong for this team in sponsorship from Tirlán and Clunetech which will help tremendously in getting all the correct supports in place. The background team is currently being finalised and there will be some familiar Kilkenny names included.

John states that the approach is going to be very player and club centred. He emphasises that clubs are crucial to success and points out that without the clubs there would be nothing to build on. John will be looking to build good relations with the adult managers and players from the get go and is looking forward to settling into his role as the Kilkenny Ladies Gaelic Football Adult County Manager.

U10-Nursery

The U10, U8 and U6 age grades have seen significant development in clubs in recent years. Most clubs now cater for all these groups. The U10s and U8s enjoyed numerous fun blitzes in 2023. Many clubs hosted these fun blitzes that were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Great skills and competitive spirit were shown by all players with all parents respective of the Go-Games ethos. Encouragement was the main focus of the many blitzes which made the blitzes a very positive experience for all players and our young referees. There was major excitement for the Dunnamaggin U10 girls that were selected to



U15 Player Development Programme Players



U13 Player Development Programme Players



U13 Player Development Programme



Kate is presented her Leinster LGFA Scholarship



Eléna Byrne and family with GAA President Larry



Kilkenny 2024 Adult Manager John Murphy

did very well and played great football. They applied all the techniques that were focussed on in sessions and the mentors couldn't have been happier or prouder of the players.

All the girls showed great skill and enthusiasm and worked really well together.

They thoroughly enjoyed this participation focussed programme and their development throughout the season has been notable. A big thank you to all the coaches who have given their time to support the running of these beneficial sessions for the players.

Kilkenny Ladies Gaelic Football star Kate Purcell who was the first recipient of the 2023 Leinster LGFA Scholarship in January. Kate played a crucial role as Muckalee qualified for the 2022 Leinster LGFA Junior Club Final and she

title in 2021. They also went from being an intermediate team well off the reckoning for titles, to winning an All Ireland Intermediate title in 2022 and then maintaining senior status in 2023.

John is eager to get started in his role as Kilkenny Adult Manager and says there's a lot to look forward to. He states, 'With great challenges comes great opportunities. I have experienced first hand how development can happen if everyone strives together towards a common goal.'

John says there must be no stone left unturned. If everyone is determined to leave no stone unturned it will help the players and the team development. He will be pushing for this in all respects of preparing this team for the 2024 season and says, 'If all the correct support is in place then there is absolutely no reason going forward that Kilkenny can't be competitive.'

play in the National U10s blitz in Croke Park on the 15th of August and the Railway U12s who were invited to play in Croke park at the exhibition games during the league finals on April 15th.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS FINALS

Over 30 schools took part in the 2022 Kilkenny LGFA schools football competition. The 2022 primary schools finals took place in November and the matches were very well supported. There was a great buzz in Dicksboro GAA grounds where 4 of the finals took place on one morning. Huge credit has to go to the teachers who give up their time to take on their school girls' football team. It is clear how much the girls and their parents



Dunnamaggin U8s



Railyard Selection of U10s-U6s



Muckalee Selection of U10s-U6s



Thomastown U8s



John Lockes Selection of U10s-U6s



Railyard U12s in Croke Park



John Lockes U8s

thoroughly enjoyed the occasion of reaching a final and the matches were a great spectacle on the day. Many thanks also to the county board members who arranged the school's competition so successfully, namely Brendan Healy, Regina Moran and Joe Foxe and of course the other members who helped out along the way too. Thanks to Dicksboro for the grounds and to the referees and lines people on the day. Huge well done to all the girls for their honest effort and determination in their respective matches. Time to join a club girls if you haven't already!!!

As well as running the primary school competition the county board ran fun blitzes for the local girls' secondary schools which were extremely well received.



ROINN A Champions Moneenroe NS



ROINN B Champions St. Aidans NS, Kilmanagh



ROINN C Champions Bunscoil McCauley Rice,



ROINN D Champions Presentation, Castlecomer



ROINN E Champions Ballyhale NS

U12 FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL 2023



Dunnamaggin U12 Roinn A Champs



Railyard U12 Roinn A Finalists



Kilkenny City U12 Roinn B Champs



Muckalee U12 Roinn B Finalists



Erins Own U12 Roinn C Champs



U12 Piltown Roinn C Finalists

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Kilkenny City U12 Roinn D Champs



Tullagher U12 Roinn D Finalists



John Lockes U12 Roinn E Champs



Slieverue U12 Roinn E Finalists



Piltown U12 Roinn F U12 Champs.jpg



Thomastown U12 Roinn F Finalists

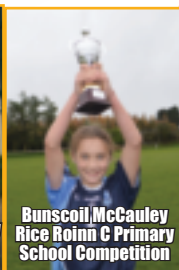
HAPPY CAPTAINS 2023



Moneenroe Roinn A Primary School Competition



Kilmanagh Roinn B Primary School Competition



Bunscoil McCauley Rice Roinn C Primary School Competition



4. Presentation Castlecomer Roinn D Primary School Competition



Ballyhale NS Roinn E Primary School Competition



Intermediate winning captains from Muckalee



Junior Cup Winning Captain celebrates with Railyard team



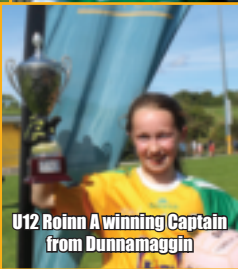
Junior Shield Winning captains from Muckalee



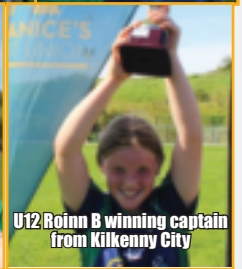
Minor A Championship Winning Captain from Kilkenny City



Minor A League Winning Captain from Dunnamaggin



U12 Roinn A winning Captain from Dunnamaggin



U12 Roinn B winning captain from Kilkenny City



U12 Roinn C winning captains from Erins Own



U12 Roinn D winning captain from Kilkenny City



U12 Roinn E winning captain from John Lockes



U12 Roinn F winning captain from Piltown



U16 B League Winning Captains from Dunnamaggin.jpg

CLUB NEWS



CLARA LGFC

Clara LGFC had 7 teams and 132 players, in 2023 from the Clara, Gowran & Paulstown area. We had a wonderful 2023 season with our teams participating in various challenge matches, U15 Féile, U12 League and U14 to Minor League & Championship.

Clara fielded a full minor team for the first time in 2023. We played some great football in our league matches culminating in Clara winning the Minor League B Shield final against a good Piltown team. As always it a pleasure training these great football girls. They are an inspiration to our juvenile players!!

Over 2023 our U8's improved all their skills, progressing well in kicking, hand passing and soloing. Above all it was a great year of lots of fun. U10s had a successful year, focusing on skills development and team spirit. Playing in the 5 club North Kilkenny blitz programme and the All-Kilkenny County blitz. Their session ended in a hard-fought challenge match against Old Leighlin, with our fantastic squad. Clara held very successful home blitzes in June for the U8's & U10's, which coincide with Clara's walkathon fundraiser, adding greatly to the festive atmosphere!

U12's had a very enjoyable year, marked by great attendance and fantastic progress in developing their football skills. Their League started at home against Erin's Own, followed by Dunnamaggin, Kilkenny City, Piltown and Muckalee, finishing out with a great challenge match against Thomastown. The future looks exciting for these players.

We had great numbers in our U14 panel, with over 30 girls playing throughout the League, so 2 teams were entered in Championship in Roinn B & C. In very competitive matches the Roinn B team, narrowly lost out to Kilkenny City and Muckalee, heading to the B-shield final. The Roinn C competition provided great opportunity for all girls to get game time, although they played older, stronger teams, their skills level and game awareness developed greatly over 2023.

U16's had a busy 5 months of matches over 2023, playing in the league against Muckalee, Railyard, John Lockes; Thomastown, with the highlight being a terrific team performance to beat last year's Roinn A champions Dunnamaggin. In Roinn B, we faced John Lockes and Muckalee, which placed us in the Roinn B shield final against Piltown in Dunmore. Clara proved too strong on the night, with some great performances and team play, winning the shield. A great night!

A big thank you to our coaches and executive for your dedications to our Clara girls! The dedication, determination, skills improvement, fun & friendships across the club in 2023, bodes well for an exciting future of football in Clara!





THOMASTOWN LGFC

Thomastown would like to say a huge congrats to all our players, coaches and parents, another year of great work went into developing our teams and they never give up, they enjoy their training, their blitzes and matches, looking forward to next season already.



MUCKALEE LGFC

Muckalee LGFA have had a very busy and successful year. The club have teams from U6's all the way up to Minor and Intermediate level. Our U14's team won the league final recently, while our intermediate team also won the league final and are now through to the Championship Final. Our Junior team also won the shield final. Well done to all.

There were lots of events organised in the One Good Club Initiative. We were delighted to have so many people in our local community offering their expertise in different areas.

Some of the initiatives we participated in were

1. "Team up to Clean Up" which was held in Castlecomer Discovery Park.
2. Tea party for our Senior Citizens was very well received by all that attended.
3. A Teach Tom Fundraiser was organised. This organisation is vital to our community and offers invaluable services.
4. The Acorn project facilitated an event for our young children which comprised of them investigating and exploring their local forests.

We sincerely thank Maire Ni Bhrannaoin, Audrey and her family for organising this. A special thanks to Geraldine Hanlon who did a lot of work in putting our club forward for this initiative. A special thanks to Geraldine Hanlon who did a lot of work in putting our club forward for this initiative. There were so many events and all were to benefit the community. We sincerely thank everyone who got involved.

We would like to thank Lidl and Jigsaw for giving our club this opportunity.



TULLOGHER-ROSBERCON LGFC

We had a very busy, enjoyable and encouraging season in our LGFA club this year. We had trainings from Under 6 right up to Minor along with a great season for our Mothers and Others group and played many underage matches from U8 through to Minor. Other highlights for our club this year were our "Mr and Mrs" Fundraiser during Valentine's week, providing a super night's entertainment and did very well for our club, and our online raffle of 2 All Ireland hurling final tickets which was also a welcome success for us! Many thanks to all club members who played important roles in these events and to all parishioners and many beyond the locality who supported us so generously.

Our club is truly grateful to all our coaches, mentors and club officials for all their time, dedication and enthusiasm they provided to our ladies football efforts. Our U6 girls had a really enjoyable season of training. Our U8s had a progressive and fun season and they played very impressively in their club blitzes, as did our U10s, for whom the real highlight of the year was getting to play at half time in the Leinster Junior LGFA Final in Portlaoise where they played extremely well and enjoyed supporting and meeting the adult Kilkenny players! Our U12s showed great dedication to their training and competed well in their League. A real highlight was representing the county in Leinster Community Games up in Graiguecullen where we competed admirably against a super home team and they enjoyed generous refreshments from Graiguecullen afterwards and a trip to McDonalds. Our U14s had a really busy season in football, camogie and soccer with some great successes along the way, producing some notable LGFA performances to show the undoubted potential in this group. Our U16s also had a very busy sporting season and it was a huge challenge in Roinn A of the championship but they enjoyed their season and played really impressive football in some of their games. Likewise our Minors who had some fine wins and battled stoically even against some particularly strong opponents.



DUNNAMAGGIN LGFC

Dunnamaggin LGFC continued in 2023 to boast the title of Kilkenny's largest ladies football club and we are proud of the retention of players that keep coming back to the club every year. Dunnamaggin had a very successful 2023 season, participating in competitions at all age levels from U12 right up to adult. Our U12s were Roinn A champions, our U14 Yellow squad reached both the Roinn A League and Championship final, our U14 Yellow squad contested the Roinn C championship final, our U16s claimed the Roinn C league title and at time of print are through to the Roinn B Championship final. Our Minor squad won the Roinn A League and reached the Roinn A championship final. Our adult squad reached the Junior Shield final against Muckalee. The club also caters for a non-competitive fun Mothers&Others squad, U10, U8 and U6 groups. Our U10s had a great day out in Croke Park early in the season and at Passage West in Cork at the end with our U8s. Two fantastic days out on top of their many kilkenny blitzes. Our U6s enjoyed teddy bear picnics and dress up sessions. Our fantastic U15 group won the county shield Féile title and progressed to the John West Regional finals day where they won the Division 5 Shield. Check out our Facebook, Instagram or Twitter page for more information. Well done to all our squads and management teams making the club and parish very proud this season.



JOHN LOCKES LGFC

John Lockes were delighted to be able field a team at every level this year and compete at a high standard. Our u10s and 12s took part in a fabulous end of year blitz held in Passage West Cork and came away with lots of memories and some brilliant football played. The u12 team also won the League Final. The adult team had an excellent year and made it to the junior final but sadly this year it wasn't to be and Railyard took the trophy. This adult team has grown over the past few years and we look forward to what the future holds. The u16 team fought there way to a Roinn B Final and came out the champions over Muckalee. Our minor panel also made it to a final and this time took the win in a mighty game against Tullagher. The u14 team played magnificent football this year and the standard of girls coming up through the ages is fantastic for our club.





PILTOWN LGFC

2023 has been a very productive year so far, for Piltown Ladies Gaelic Football. We are fielding teams from under-8 all the way up to Gaelic 4 Mothers and Others. We have 128 registered players in our club, and 15 registered coaches/officers. It is great to have these numbers within the club. Our under-8s and under-10s have really enjoyed travelling to other areas of the county for their blitzes, while also welcoming other teams to our home grounds. The under 12s have already won themselves a trophy during the U12 Festival of Football Day. We had 28 of our players involved in this final's day, which is a fantastic number to see. Congratulations to all the players and management. For many under-14s it was their first time playing on a full field, this did not scare them, only drove them to work harder. All teams from under-14 – minor are in the middle of playing out their championship rounds. We wish all those teams the best of luck for the rest of the year. The Gaelic 4 Mothers and Others always have a great time at training and matches, our G4M+Os have played many matches this year versus teams inside and outside the county. The club would like to thank all volunteers who work so hard throughout the year to organise matches, trainings and various other things. We would also like to thank parents/guardians who are always travelling up and down the county for matches and getting the girls to trainings. New players and coaches are always welcome to the club. For more information visit Piltown LGFC on Facebook or Instagram!



Piltown Nursery



RAILYARD LGFC

2023 was a great year for Railyard Ladies Football Club, our club grew and had a record number of registrations which allowed us to field teams in all age groups. Huge improvements were seen across our U8, U10 and U12 teams. There was great attendance and participation at trainings and in the organised blitz's for the U8s and U10s. Our U12s played exceptional football all season which saw them undefeated in their league games and secured them a spot in the Roinn A league final V Dunnamaggin. Our U14s also worked hard all year and were looking forward to contesting the U14 C Championship final in October. Féile was a new event on our calendar as our U15s qualified for the very first time and the team reached the cup semi-final stage of their group in Louth. Both our U16 and Minor teams were in Roinn A this year a first for our club with both teams contesting league finals mid-summer. Our Minor girls were thrilled to enjoy success over Muckalee in the Roinn A Championship Shield Final in September. Our u16s are through to the A Cup final in October. 2023 was a huge year for our adult ladies team, the ladies entered the Carlow League along-side the Kilkenny League and the Kilkenny Junior and Intermediate championships where they enjoyed many matches. They also entered the All Ireland 7s and had a fantastic time. The highlight of the year for our ladies team was being crowned Kilkenny LGFAs Junior champions and in addition to that they lifted the Roinn B League Final Cup. Railyard Ladies with a win over John Lockes in the Intermediate Semi Final are through to the Intermediate final on October 8th. Huge thanks to our committee, coaches, players, parents, Railyard GFC and our local community for their dedication to supporting us to build and grow our club.



Railyard B league Champions 2023



Railyard Minor A Shield Champions



ERIN'S OWN LGFC

The girls and ladies of Castlecómer made a delighted return to the Erins Own training grounds on March 27th from U6 girls through to U16s where they returned in large numbers. The club was delighted to continue with the tradition of ladies' football that has become an inherent part of the club scene in Erin's Own since 2011. Our U6s, U8s and U10s attended games in their age groups throughout the season. On August 27th our U14s won their league final closely followed by our U16s team on the 29th of August who also won their league final. In September our U12s gave us a hat trick winning their league final. Overall a prosperous season along all ages. Anyone enquiring about joining for the 2024 season can contact the club at erinsown.kilkenny@lgfa.ie



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DOUBLE DOUBLE REUNION

Nickey Brennan



FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY REUNION DINNER IN LANGTON'S ON SAT. 16TH SEPT.

Back: Maurice Power (Carrickshock); Sean Fennelly (Shamrocks Ballyhale); Matt Ruth (St. Patrick's, Ballyragget); Ger Fennelly (Shamrocks Ballyhale); Dinny McCormack (James Stephens); Frank Holohan (Shamrocks Ballyhale); Ger Henderson (Fenians); Billy Fitzpatrick (Fenians); Dick O'Hara (Thomastown); Richie Power (Carrickshock); Frank Cummins (Blackrock, Cork); Michael Kelly (Shamrocks Ballyhale).

Centre: Brendan O'Sullivan (Thomastown – Selector); P.J. Delaney (Son of Pat Delaney RIP - Fenians – Selector); Joe Hennessy (James Stephens); Paddy Neary (James Stephens); John Henderson (Fenians); Paddy Neary (James Stephens); Paudie Lannon (Thomastown); Mick Brennan (Erin's Own); Brian Cody (James Stephens – Captain 1982); Liam Fennelly (Shamrocks Ballyhale – Captain 1983); Noel Skehan (Bennettsbridge); Nuala Walton (Wife of Billy Walton RIP – James Stephens); Paddy Prendergast (Clara); Mary Ryan (Wife of Harry Ryan RIP – Clara);

Front: Tom McCormack (James Stephens); Christy Heffernan (Glenmore); Nickey Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks); John Ryan (Son of Tom Ryan – Dunnamaggin Selector); Kieran Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks); Tom O'Neill (Son of Michael O'Neill – Kilmacow – County Board Chairman & Selector).

It is forty years since Kilkenny won back to back All-Ireland and National Hurling League titles in 1982 and 1983 and a reunion of the panel of players from both years along with the team mentors will take place in the Langton House Hotel on Saturday 16th September.

In April 1982, Kilkenny scored a 2-14 to 1-11 victory over Wexford in the National Hurling League Final which was played in Croke Park. Ironically, Kilkenny played that year in Division 1B, winning promotion to Division 1A the following year. That result created expectations of championship success and Kilkenny started impressively in the Leinster Semi-Final defeating Westmeath 7-31 to 0-13. Offaly, who defeated Wexford in the Leinster Quarter-Final that year were Kilkenny's opponents in the Leinster Final. They were also the reigning All-Ireland and Leinster champions.

The closeness of the exchanges and the tightness of the marking meant that the game was always going to be low scoring. Offaly were leading 0-12 to 0-9 with six minutes remaining when a Dick O'Hara delivery towards the Offaly goal appeared to be going wide. The Offaly goalie Damien Martin was shepherding the ball over the line when Liam Fennelly flicked it across the square to Matt Ruth who finished it to the Offaly net. Damien Martin and Offaly were adamant that the ball had gone wide. TV pictures were inconclusive, but Kilkenny were not complaining. That goal tied the game and Kilkenny summoned up two final big efforts with points from Ger Fennelly and Billy Fitzpatrick to win the game 1-11 to 0-12. In the All-Ireland semi-final Kilkenny overcame Galway on a score of 2-20 to 2-10 to qualify for the All-Ireland Final.

Cork were Kilkenny's opponents in that final which was played in Croke Park on the 5th September. The Rebels comprehensively defeated Waterford 5-31 to 3-6 in the Munster Final and were warm favourites for the All-Ireland title. The teams were evenly matched in the first half, but Kilkenny would have been grateful to goalie Noel Skehan who saved a goal-bound shot from Seanie O'Leary. During the opening quarter the Cork full-back Martin Doherty was out-playing the Kilkenny full-forward Christy Heffernan, but the big Glenmore man roared into the game in the second quarter scoring two goals. Cork was now reeling and were struggling to handle a Kilkenny side that was playing its best hurling, possibly ever. Ger Fennelly scored a third Kilkenny goal nine minutes into the second half to push his side into a 3-14 to 0-9 lead. Cork continued to press forward, but Noel Skehan was playing a blinder and deservedly won the Man of the Match award later that evening on RTE. Eamonn

O'Donoghue did manage to get a Cork goal, but it made little difference to the final score line as Kilkenny won 3-18 to 1-13.

Kilkenny successfully defended their National Hurling League title the following year defeating Limerick 2-14 to 2-12 in a final that was played in Semple Stadium, Thurles. Now the pressure was on Kilkenny to complete the double of league and championship, two years in a row.

Old foes Wexford awaited Kilkenny in the Leinster semi-final The Noresiders won on a score of 5-13 to 3-15 after Wexford had led 1-10 to 1-3 at the interval. Wexford were dominating and it took a goal close to half time from Christy Heffernan to awaken Kilkenny. The Cats looked in real trouble when Seanie Kinsella scored another Wexford goal early in the second half to see them lead 2-10 to 1-3. Astute moves by the Kilkenny selectors had a big bearing on the result of the game. In a glorious seven-minute spell Kilkenny scored a brace of goals through Kieran Brennan and Billy Fitzpatrick to tie the game. A decision by referee Jimmy Rankins (Laois) to send off Christy Heffernan and Tony Walsh had a profound impact on the remainder of the game. The extra space around the Wexford goal gave Liam Fennelly a couple of chances and he bagged two goals with Billy Fitzpatrick adding a point. Kilkenny now led by seven points and although Seanie Kinsella scored another Wexford goal, Kilkenny ran out deserving 5-13 to 3-15 winners.

Offaly, who scored a twelve point victory over Dublin in the other semi-final were Kilkenny opponents in the Provincial decider. The closeness of the exchanges in the first half saw scores at a premium with Kilkenny leading 0-7 to 0-5 at the interval. The key moment of the second half was a Christy Heffernan goal which initially started with a great run from Joe Hennessy who off-loaded the ball to Liam Fennelly. The Ballyhale clubman waited for a challenge from Offaly full-back Eugene Coughlan before off-loading the ball to Christy Heffernan who pulled first time on the sliothar into the Offaly net. That goal was instrumental in forging Kilkenny ahead and they went on to win the game 1-17 to 0-13.

Cork comfortably saw off Waterford in the 1993 Munster Hurling Final, 3-22 to 0-12. The Rebels were keen to atone for what they saw as a below par display in the previous year's All-Ireland Final. A howling gale blew down the Croke Park pitch towards the Railway End. Cork won the toss and decided to play against the elements. It appeared to be a good decision as Kilkenny only led by six points, 1-10 to 0-7 at the interval,

the goal coming from Billy Fitzpatrick. Knowing that they had a battle on their hands, Kilkenny started the second half in whirlwind fashion with Richie Power scoring a goal in the first minute after being set up by Harry Ryan. When Billy Fitzpatrick pointed a free, Kilkenny led by ten points. A brace of goals for Cork from Seanie O'Leary and Tomás Mulcahy made for a tight finish, but Kilkenny managed to keep their heads in front to win 2-14 to 2-12, incidentally, it was the same score as in the league final some months earlier which Kilkenny also won. Noel Skehan won his ninth All-Ireland medal that afternoon. Liam Fennelly was the team captain and with his brother Ger having captained Kilkenny to an All-Ireland title in 1979, they became the first set of brothers to captain an All-Ireland winning senior team in either Hurling or Gaelic Football.

Kilkenny 1982

Noel Skehan, John Henderson, Brian Cody (Capt.), Dick O'Hara, Nickey Brennan, Ger Henderson, Paddy Prendergast, Joe Hennessy, Frank Cummins, Richie Power, Ger Fennelly, Kieran Brennan, Billy Fitzpatrick, Christy Heffernan, Liam Fennelly, Kevin Fennelly, Paddy Neary, Tom McCormack, Matt Ruth, Mick Brennan, Billy Purcell (RIP), Dinny McCormack, Billy Walton (RIP), Frank

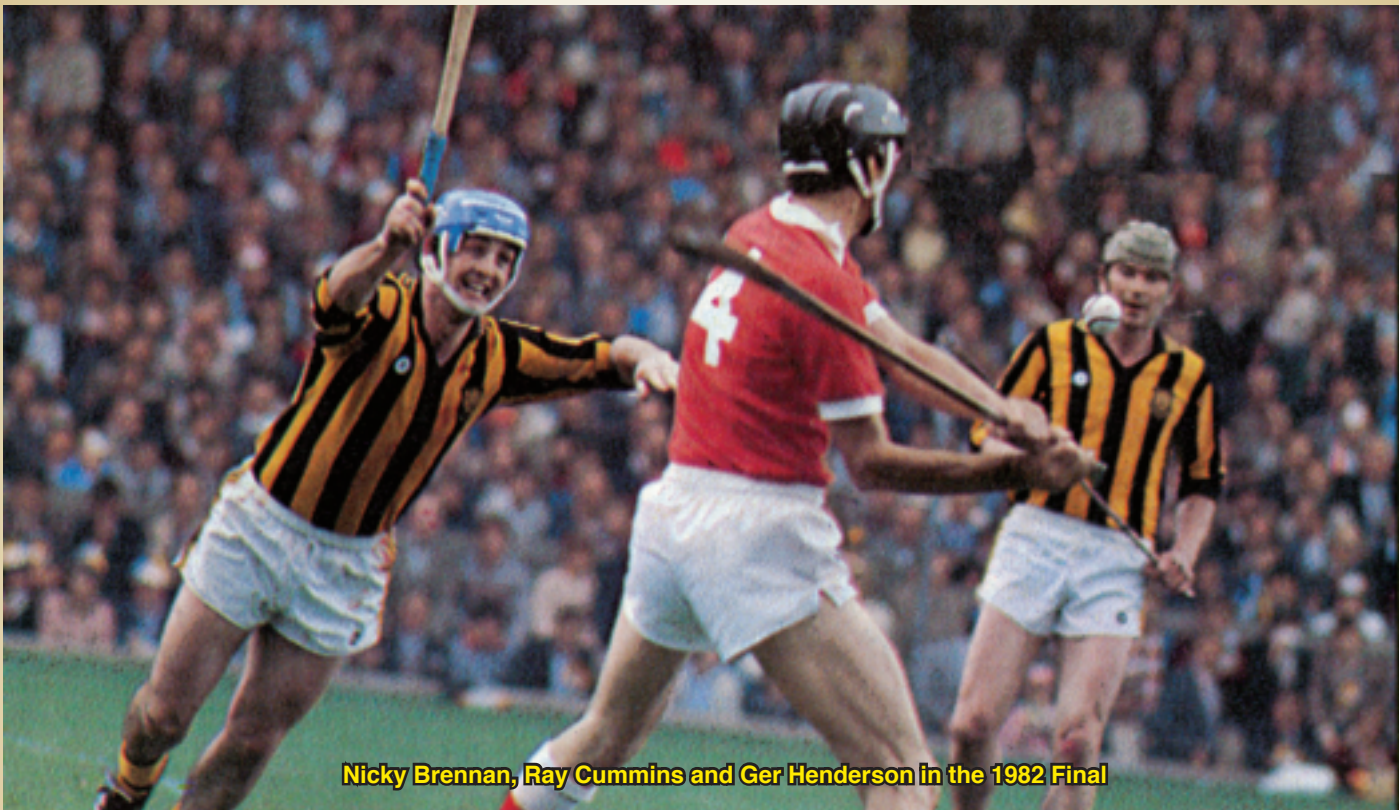
Holohan; Eamonn Wallace (RIP), Maurice Power. Selectors – Michael O'Neill (RIP), Fan Larkin, Pat Delaney (RIP), Kieran Meally (RIP), Brendan O'Sullivan and Pat Henderson (Coach/Trainer).

Kilkenny 1983

Noel, Skehan, John Henderson, Brian Cody, Dick O'Hara, Joe Hennessy, Ger Henderson, Paddy Prendergast, Frank Cummins, Ger Fennelly, Richie Power, Kieran Brennan, Liam Fennelly (Capt.), Billy Fitzpatrick, Christy Heffernan, Harry Ryan (RIP), Kevin Fennelly, Nickey Brennan, Paddy Neary, Tom McCormack, Sean Fennelly, Paudie Lennon, Billy Purcell (RIP), Eamonn Wallace (RIP), Gordon Ryan, Michael Kelly.

Selectors – Michael O'Neill (RIP), Tom Ryan (RIP), Pat Delaney (RIP), Mick Crotty, Brendan O'Sullivan and Pat Henderson (Coach/Trainer).

Noel O'Donoghue (Dublin) refereed both the 1982 and 1983 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Finals.



Nicky Brennan, Ray Cummins and Ger Henderson in the 1982 Final



Kilkenny - All Ireland SH Champions 1983

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

2002

CLASSY CATS CREAM CLARE

Kilkenny Kings as Banner gets ripped to shreds

KILKENNY 2-20, CLARE 0-19

MARTIN BREHENY

THE clouds have lifted and Kilkenny can see the sun again. After two tortured years of finding the final barrier a shade too high for them, they soared to stratospheric levels in Croke Park yesterday and plucked their 26th Guinness All-Ireland title with the utmost ease.

KILKENNY are in 27th heaven this morning after moving to within one title of Cork on the Guinness All-Ireland honours table while the rest of the hurling world are still wondering how such a massively hyped final could collapse so badly.

As referee, Aodan MacSuibhne, who gave an excellent performance, blew the final whistle, a rainbow shimmered away in the distance as if pointing towards another Kilkenny crock of gold. Once again, they had exerted their substantial influence over Croke Park on All-Ireland final day, winning the senior and minor finals by a combined total of 21 points.

They had also completed the League-Championship double for the first time since 1983 and finished the season with ten wins from eleven competitive games, with their only loss coming against Galway in a League game last spring.

It was all very impressive by Kilkenny, in contrast to Clare who will be bitterly

disappointed by the anaemic nature of their performance. The colour had long since drained from Clare cheeks after a painful collision with the stark reality that Kilkenny were a vastly superior side who looked well capable of raising their game if the circumstances required it. Kilkenny simply bowled along at a pace which was sufficient to keep clear of Clare who, apart from a spell at the start of the second half, were out-hurled, out-thought and out-scored.

Clare's pre-match comments stressed the imperative not to dither in the starting stalls as they had done against Galway and Waterford. "If we do that against Kilkenny it's good night, Irene," remarked James O'Connor on press night.

Six minutes into yesterday's game, Irene was on her way out as Clare had committed the very sin they promised to avoid. While they were still packing their gear in the foothills, Kilkenny were half way up the mountain and

beginning to dream of Andy Comerford's victory speech at the summit.

DJ Carey's third minute goal, finished with typical touch and timing when he got to a Henry Shefflin lob ahead of his pursuers, wounded Clare so badly that even at that early stage, their fans must have felt an ominous chill sweeping into the massive stadium which, incidentally, didn't quite fill for the first All-Ireland in its redeveloped state. At 1-2 to 0-0 after six minutes, Kilkenny were in comfort mode, a condition they enjoyed for most of the day. They attacked Clare down straight down the middle, with Shefflin and Martin Comerford finding that their 'in-your-face' approach left Seanie McMahon and Brian Lohan so preoccupied with personal problems that they were unable to act as minders for troubled colleagues.

Despite Colin Lynch's industry, Andy Comerford and Derek Lyng ruled the key



Back: Aidan Cummins, Alan Geoghegan, Tommy Walsh, John Power, P.J. Ryan, Walter Burke, Diarmuid Mackey.
 Middle: James Ryall, Brian McEvoy, Martin Comerford, Noel Hickey, Henry Shefflin, John Hoyne, Derek Lyng, Jimmy Coogan, Peter Barry, Philly Larkin, Sean Dowling, Paul Cahill.
 Front: Charlie Carter, Steven Grehan, Andy Comerford (Capt.), Eddie Brennan, Michael Kavanagh, James McGarry, DJ Carey, JJ Delaney, Richie Mullally, Brian Dowling, Pat Tennyson.

battle grounds around midfield, forcing Clare to send Ollie Baker in for John Reddan after just 20 minutes. They didn't expect to be forced into such an early adjustment but it underlined the extent of their problems on a day which started well when Gerry Quinn's remarkable recovery from a hand injury enabled him to line out at left half-back.

He played quite well too, as did goalkeeper, Davy Fitzgerald, who showcased his value when he turned a Shefflin drive from close range over the bar in the 15th minute. In fairness to McMahon and Lohan, they played their way into the game but could never fully impose themselves against Kilkenny's busy and inventive attack.

Still, McMahon ended up as Clare's top scorer on 0-6 (3 '65's, 2 frees and one from play), which puts their severe attacking problems into perspective. McMahon is a wonderful long range striker but he should be part of the auxiliary strike force, not the main weapon.

Facts don't lie and a breakdown of Clare's 0-19 provides the perfect illustration of their attacking deficiencies. Six points came from their centre-back; four came from James O'Connor frees; midfielders, Lynch and Baker landed three between as did subs Gearoid Considine and Andrew Quinn.

That leaves just 0-3 from play between the six starting forwards, a truly miserable return on any day but even more grim yesterday as it compared so unfavourably

with Kilkenny, whose original forward line landed 2-9 from play. Shefflin and Carey scored 1-3 each from play, while they also were also in punishing mood from placed balls, adding another 0-7 between them.

Carey's return to the Kilkenny squad prior to the semi-final was unquestionably the final piece in Brian Cody's cleverly constructed jigsaw. Not only did Carey return a high yield

yesterday, he also created several openings for colleagues and decorated a memorable day with a beautiful point after rolling the ball on his hurley in the 52nd minute.

Shefflin also scored and created at will, while Martin Comerford's sheer persistence was a constant source of menace for Brian Lohan. Comerford crowned his debut All-Ireland with a blockdown on Lohan on the Cusack Stand side in the 64th minute, followed by a cross which Shefflin steered to the corner of the net.

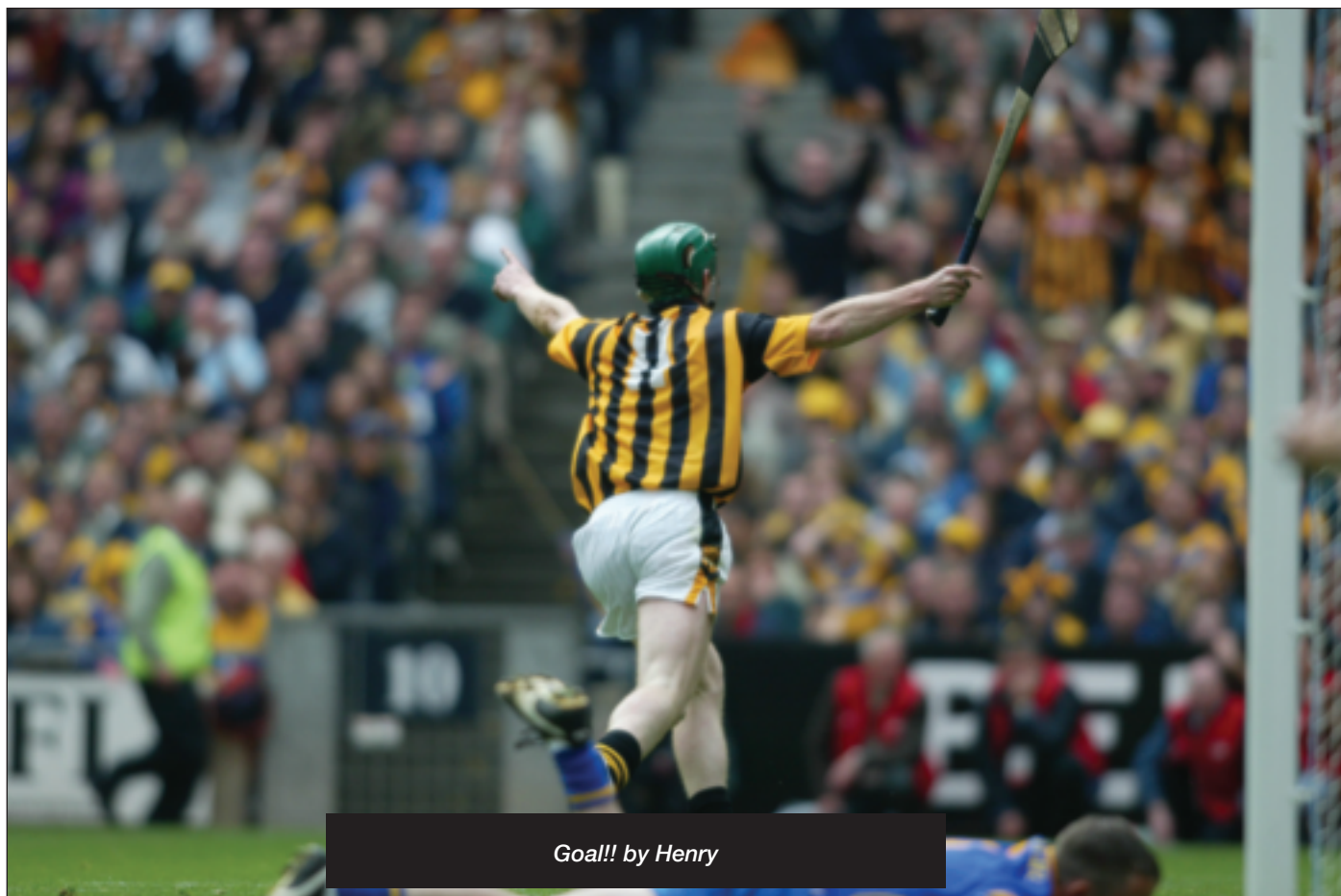
The artistry which Carey and Shefflin displayed for their goals contrasted with the marked absence of craft at the other end. Clare majored in effort but had neither the subtlety nor the poise to dislodge a Kilkenny defence where full-backs, Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey and Philip Larkin were immense.

All three stood proud and strong with Larkin, in particular, having a wonderful game, which matched anything his father, 'Fan' ever delivered in an All-Ireland final. That's some compliment but it's the least Philip deserves.

The only period when the Kilkenny defence looked troubled was immediately after half-time when Clare set about paring back an interval deficit of 1-11 to 0-8. They out-scored Kilkenny by 0-4 to 0-1 in the first 13 minute to trail by 1-12 to 0-12 and would have been closer were it not for misses from Markham and Lynch.

KILKENNY			
	1st Half	2nd Half	Total
Goals	3	2	5
Points	8	7	15
Wides	3	7	10
Frees For	5	7	12
Frees Against	6	8	14
65s	0	0	0
Yellow Cards	1	2	3

OFFALY			
	1st Half	2nd Half	Total
Goals	0	1	1
Points	7	7	14
Wides	7	2	9
Frees For	6	8	14
Frees Against	5	7	12
65s	1	0	1
Yellow Cards	0	2	2



Goal!!! by Henry

It was the only time that Kilkenny were asked the hard questions and they didn't take long to find the answers. They calmly re-asserted themselves and fired over six points between the 50th and 59th minutes to crush Clare's resistance.

Kilkenny sent on Charlie Carter and Brian McEvoy, who quickly added a point each and, right at the end, they gave that great warrior, John Power a chance to contribute to another All-Ireland final success in what is probably his final season. It was that type of occasion for Kilkenny, an occasion when they saw out the final 15 minutes on auto-pilot while Clare's hopes of winning a 4th All-Ireland title had crashed under the heavy weight of forward failure.

SCORERS Kilkenny: H Shefflin 1-7 (4f), DJ Carey 1-6 (3f), M Comerford, E Brennan, A Comerford, J Coogan, D Lyng, B McEvoy, C Carter 0-1 each. Clare: S McMahon 0-6 (3'65's, 2 f), J O'Connor 0-4 (4f), C Lynch, N Gilligan, G Considine 0-2 each, T Griffin, A Quinn, O Baker 0-1 each.

KILKENNY J McGarry M Kavanagh N Hickey P Larkin R Mullally, P Barry, JJ Delane, A Comerford, D Lyng, J Hoyne, H Shefflin, J Coogan, E Brennan, M Comerford, DJ Carey. Subs: C Carter for Coogan (53), B McEvo for Hoyne (56), J Power for Brennan (71).

Booked: P Barry (42)

CLARE D Fitzgerald, B Quinn, B Lohan, F Lohan, D Hoey, S McMahon, G Quinn, J Reddan, C Lynch, J O'Connor, T Griffin, A Markham, T Carmody, N Gilligan, D Forde. Subs: O Baker for Reddan (20), G Considine for Forde (56), A Quinn for Markham (61), C Plunkett for Baker (69). **Booked:** T Griffin (45), B Quinn (51).

REF A MacSuibhne (Dublin)

Attendance: 76,254



Derek Lyng



Man of the Match - DJ Carey.



Captain Andy Comerford lifts the McCarthy Cup.

2003

Kilkenny stand firm under Cork onslaught

JIM O'SULLIVAN

Kilkenny 1-14 Cork 1-11

THE clouds have lifted and Kilkenny can see the sun again. After two tortured years of finding the final barrier a shade too high for them, they soared to stratospheric levels in Croke Park yesterday and plucked their 26th Guinness All-Ireland title with the utmost ease.

Brian Cody's team sparkled in the first half when the Munster champions were haunted by some terrible finishing and stuttered in the face of an admirable recovery that was given huge impetus by Setanta O hAilpin's 53rd minute goal. But Kilkenny had the character and the strength in defence to survive and then triumph through Martin Comerford's goal five minutes from the end of normal time.

A win in which man-of-the-match Noel Hickey at full-back and Martin Comerford (mainly at full-forward) made key contributions, brought Kilkenny level with Cork in the roll of honour with their 28th title. And, other than recording the double-double of League and championship for 2002 and 2003, it saw D.J. Carey lift the Liam McCarthy Cup at the end of a week in which he was shabbily treated by sections of the media over his personal life.

But for some terrific hurling from Kilkenny featuring three points by teenage star Tommy Walsh the first half was largely forgettable as a contest. Cork mounted a strong challenge from the start, which was seriously undermined by wasteful shooting which

produced 11 wides by the break (and 18 by the end).

Following a Joe Deane pointed free in the 4th minute, they didn't get another score for 27 minutes and just one from play, in injury time. The irony was that they created three goal chances, in contrast to just one for the champions.

In the initial stages, Cork coped reasonably well with the known threat from the Kilkenny forwards. Notably, however, Martin Comerford was to enjoy a definite advantage over Diarmuid O'Sullivan. Walsh exposed Cork on the left flank with strong and skilful play, which was all the more to his credit after missing so much training after injuring his hip.

Kilkenny also gained a high return from Henry Shefflin (moved to the right wing at the start), while John Hoyne wasn't involved very much in the centre against Ronan Curran.

In Shefflin's case, there were periods when he was beaten by a highly motivated Sean Óg O hAilpin, but, on balance he achieved much more. Measured against the overall

return from the attack, it was to prove highly significant. His accuracy from free-taking was excellent at a time when Cork's backs were prone to foul under pressure and the unfortunate John Gardiner missed several shots from varying distances.

In general play, Cork achieved a lot up to the point of capitalising on their chances and this weakness was to cost them dearly in the long run. Timmy McCarthy, who had some good spells at left half-forward, might have had a goal in the 19th minute. That was when he made a strong run down the centre, only to be forced to run the ball over the end line after a crucial tackle from Noel Hickey.

Learn more
A free from Shefflin a minute later gave Kilkenny their eighth score, at a time when Cork had accumulated eight wides.

Then in the 22nd minute Cork missed a great chance of putting the ball in the net. Deane got away from Hickey but opted to pass (after a foot-trip nearly knocked him) to Setanta O hAilpin.



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 2003 Photo Dylan Vaughan
Back: Noel Hickey, James Ryall, Ken Coogan, Andy Comerford, Diarmuid Mackey, Richie Mullally, Jackie Tyrrell, Eddie Mackey, Stephen Grehan, Martin Comerford, Eddie Brennan.
Middle: Tommy Walsh, Willie O'Dwyer, Walter Burke, Philip Larkin, John Hoyne, Conor Phelan, Jimmy Coogan, Derek Lyng, Peter Barry, Sean Dowling, Aidan Cummins.
Front: JJ Delaney, Paddy Mullally, Brian Dowling, Aidan Fogarty, James McGarry, DJ Carey (Capt), PJ Ryan, Michael Kavanagh, Pat Tennyson, John Maher, Henry Shefflin

His attempt to touch the ball on was foiled by the alert James McGarry. Cork captain Alan Browne was fighting hard in the left corner, but was outplayed by the magnificent Michael Kavanagh. On the other side, while James Ryall was never really comfortable against Ó hAilpín, he still managed to limit the amount of clean possession he got. Midfield was largely inconsequential, but in Cork's case it was noteworthy that John Gardiner was to play much more effectively after moving to right half-back. And, in time, Tom Kenny was to start contributing in his place.

Cork were again out of luck in the 34th minute, when Hickey managed to win a ball while he was on the ground and clear, before a Timmy McCarthy point (the only one from play) left the interval score at 0-9 to 0-3.

Resuming in confident fashion scoring two points to Kilkenny's one in the opening minutes Cork again promised a goal after a Ryall mistake left Ó hAilpín through. But, he blazed wide from a difficult angle. Cork were again frustrated by wasted opportunities, but Diarmuid O'Sullivan thundered into the game at full-back, lifting the team, while Sherlock, too, was dominant, Pat Mulcahy was comfortable against Carey and further up Niall McCarthy began to penetrate at centre-forward, along with Ben O'Connor. Deane, too, saw more of the ball.

However, Ó hAilpín was the one who really caused major problems, earning two frees from which Deane scored, setting him up for a good point from play and then goaling in the 53rd minute to level the scores.

When Niall McCarthy pointed to put give Cork the lead for the first time a minute later there was every prospect of them taking

control. The same player was unfortunate to hit another ball off an upright and another wide before Comerford levelled scores in the 58th minute and Shefflin regained the lead from a play a minute later.

The game had now reached its most critical stage and while Kilkenny looked quite nervous, they tightened up in defence.

Shefflin linked up with Comerford for the match winning goal his shot hit the ground

and gave Cusack no chance and while there was still time for Cork to recover, the psychological advantage was with Kilkenny. And, they had former captain Andy Comerford in helping to make a few vital catches.

Jerry O'Connor might have had a goal chance in the closing minutes until Delaney made a crucial tackle to dispossess him. After that it was just a question of the champions holding on for the final whistle.

*Pat O'Connor - achieving the rare distinction of a third final appointment did a very good job of refereeing.

Scorers for Kilkenny M. Comerford 1-4; H. Shefflin 0-6 (0-4 frees); T. Walsh 0-3; D. Lyng 0-1.

Cork: J. Deane 0-5 (0-4 frees); S. O hAilpín 1-0; N. McCarthy 0-2; T. McCarthy, B. O'Connor, J. O'Connor and S. McGrath 0-1 each.

KILKENNY: J. McGarry; M. Kavanagh, N. Hickey, J. Ryall; S. Dowling, P. Barry, J.J. Delaney; D. Lyng, P. Mullally; H. Shefflin, J. Hoyne, T. Walsh; D.J. Carey (capt.), M. Comerford, E. Brennan. Subs: C. Phelan for Walsh (45th minute); A. Comerford for Ryall and R. Mullally for P. Mullally (60th); J. Coogan for Brennan (69th).

CORK: D. Og Cusack; W. Sherlock, D. O'Sullivan, P. Mulcahy; T. Kenny, R. Curran, S. Og O hAilpín; J. Gardiner, M. O'Connell; B. O'Connor, N. McCarthy, T. McCarthy; S. O hAilpín, J. Deane, A. Browne (capt.). Subs: J. O'Connor for O'Connell (injured, 38th minute); S. McGrath for B. O'Connor (66th).

*Attendance: 79,383.

KILKENNY			
	1st Half	2nd Half	Total
Goals	3	2	5
Points	8	7	15
Wides	3	7	10
Frees For	5	7	12
Frees Against	6	8	14
GSs	0	0	0
Yellow Cards	1	2	3

OFFALY			
	1st Half	2nd Half	Total
Goals	0	1	1
Points	7	7	14
Wides	7	2	9
Frees For	6	8	14
Frees Against	5	7	12
GSs	1	0	1
Yellow Cards	0	2	2



The Hill at the Final



Manager Brian Cody celebrates at the end of the game with Peter Barry



John Hoyne in action against Cork's Ronan Curran.



Noel Hickey - rock solid



Captain DJ Carey lifts the McCarthy Cup..

2006

KILKENNY SQUEEZE LIFE OUT OF REBEL AMBITION

A glorious 29th for Kilkenny

Kilkenny 1-16 Cork 1-13

EVERY All-Ireland win is special, but this one really was dipped in gold for Kilkenny, who imposed such an overwhelming sense of obsession on Cork that even the powerful three-in-a-row ambition wasn't enough to sustain the defending champions.

Cork took their claim to be regarded as one of the truly great teams all the way to the last fence in the treble chase, only to find it higher and harder than anything they had encountered since embarking on an unbeaten run that started back in July 2004. This was an occasion when Kilkenny's determination to reclaim the No 1 spot and prevent Cork winning the three-in-a-row was so awesome as to recognise no boundaries.

Cork tried to apply their trademark method and organisation but were like a boxer who threw his heaviest hits only to find the opponent smiling while he continued to drive forward. And while Cork came up just three points short at the end, they were beaten more comprehensively than the margin suggests.

They trailed by six points after 65 minutes and although Ben O'Connor's goal after a patient build-up two minutes later offered them a lifeline, Kilkenny's response was typical of the steely defiance they had employed all day.

Noel Hickey, John Tennyson and Tommy Walsh fixed a new alarm code to the defence, one which Cork simply couldn't figure out. But then that had been the situation all day

as Kilkenny set about making life unbearably awkward for the champions.

Menacing

There were times when Kilkenny resembled Tyrone or Armagh footballers at their swarming best as they surrounded the Cork player in possession with menacing intent. Space and time were at such a premium that Cork could never crank up the rhythmic beat that undermined so many teams over the past two years.

That included Kilkenny in the 2004 final, a game that haunted Brian Cody and his squad far more than they publicly acknowledged. That defeat prevented them landing the three-in-a-row so it was inevitable that it would provide an extra layer of motivation yesterday.

Kilkenny regarded this as a test of themselves as individuals and as a county and had worked so hard at getting things right that nothing was left to chance. The injury which ruled JJ Delaney out of the game looked as if it might undermine them but the defence responded so well that goalkeeper JJ McGarry was rarely exposed.

James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick and Derek Lyng won the midfield battle against Tom Kenny and Jerry O'Connor while the attack took the Cork defence into dark corners before stealing their torches.

The vaunted Cork half-back line had their

worst day for quite some time against a variety of Kilkenny opponents. Centre-back Ronan Curran was the best of the trio but John Gardiner and Seán Ó hAilpin were several notches below their usual performance levels.

Henry Shefflin, Richie Power and Martin Comerford grafted and hustled all day but the real match-winner was left full-forward Aidan Fogarty, who chose All-Ireland day to deliver his best performance in a Kilkenny jersey.

He scored 1-3 from play and also won a few frees in a delightfully enterprising performance that left Cork captain Pat Mulcahy pondering on how fickle the fates can be. He went into the game with high hopes of leading the team to a historic treble, only to be well beaten by Fogarty before being replaced by Wayne Sherlock in the 47th minute.

It was surprising that the Cork management didn't move much earlier in an attempt to sort out that particular problem as it was evident from very early on that Mulcahy was having serious problems with Fogarty.

Reacted

The biggest of all arose in the 29th minute when Fogarty reacted quickest when the ball popped out of Diarmuid O'Sullivan's hand. It was the first real good goal chance of the day and Fogarty despatched it with clinical efficiency.



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 2006 Photo Eoin Hennessy

Back: Eoin Reid, Steven Maher, Austin Murphy, Michael Rice, PJ Delaney, Sean Cummins, Willie O'Dwyer.

Third Row: Richie Mullally, Eoin Me Cormack, Tommy Walsh, JJ Delaney, Derek Lyng, Brian Hogan, James Ryall, Seoghan O'Neill.

Second Row: John Dalton, Peter Cleere, Donnacha Cody, Martin Comerford, Richie O'Neill, Henry Shefflin, Noel Hickey, Michael Fennelly, John Tennyson.

Front: Aidan Fogarty, Michael Kavanagh, Eoin Larkin, PJ Ryan, Jackie Tyrrell (capt), James Me Carry, Eddie Brennan, James Cha Fitzpatrick, Richie Power.

It turned out to be the match-defining score as it gave Kilkenny a three-point lead which would sustain them all the way to the finish line. Earlier, the sides had been level on five occasions.

Kilkenny led by 1-8 to 0-8 at half-time and while Cork twice pared the lead to two points early in the second half, they just couldn't raise enough momentum to complete the recovery. Cork's error rate was higher than usual, as exemplified by a missed free by Joe Deane in the 41st minute.

However, it was Kilkenny's relentless hard work that upset Cork most of all. Kilkenny's willingness to put their bodies on the line restricted Cork's space to such a degree that they must have thought the Croke Park dimensions had been reduced.

One example springs to mind. Jerry O'Connor, whose running game has been so successful over the past few years, scythed through from midfield in the 42rd minute in a burst that looked to have opened up all sorts of possibilities but the pursuing James Ryall leaned in to knock the ball away. O'Connor has more pace than Ryall but the resolute Kilkenny man still managed to get to him and break up a very dangerous attack.

Intensity

It was typical of the manner in which Kilkenny hustled and harried all day. Cork failed to reach the same level of intensity, relying instead on their short passing game to provide the openings.

They did well from Donal Óg Cusack's puck-outs too as he successfully delivered several of them into colleagues' hands.

However, with Kilkenny constantly marauding, the Cork midfield/attack found it very difficult to get shots in on goal. Ben O'Connor did best, scoring 1-3 from play while Niall McCarthy got in some good runs too but it was not a day that Timmy McCarthy, Neil Ronan, Brian Corcoran or even Joe Deane will recall with any affection.

In contrast, it was an afternoon that will remain forever etched on Kilkenny memories. And while the players deserve enormous credit for turning in such a wonderfully effective performance, it was also a triumph for Brian Cody, who had them primed to perfection.

It was his finest managerial triumph and one which he will have enjoyed immensely. His delight was evident 90 minutes after the game as he strode across a near-deserted Croke Park, clutching the McCarthy Cup after carrying out a TV interview.

Brilliant

A few small knots of Kilkenny supporters were still hanging around and, as they waved and acknowledged Cody, he held up the Cup and shouted "brilliant".

It summed up Kilkenny's day and indeed their season, one which saw them remain unbeaten as they marched to All-Ireland, National League and Walsh Cup successes.

ONE word best explains it: pride. It was what made underdogs Kilkenny such a driven team going into yesterday's excellent Guinness All-Ireland hurling final in Croke Park and ultimately inspired a memorable victory.

And what was arguably Brian Cody's greatest achievement as a manager was embellished by the captaincy of Jackie Tyrrell — the first James Stephens man to lift the Liam MacCarthy Cup since Cody himself enjoyed the distinction 24 years ago.

Cork were devastated, their dreams of the three-in-a-row in tatters at the end of a match they never looked likely to win, the disappointment all the greater for the 11 players who participated in the last four finals as well as a dedicated management team headed by John Allen. But, as was very much the case with Kilkenny when they had their treble ambitions shattered by the Rebels two years ago, they could have no excuses.

For a team which had more than its share of narrow escapes — 12 months ago against Clare and several times this season — it was a case of their luck running out. All because the League and Leinster champions came up with a game plan to limit the influence of key Cork players and lessen the effectiveness of the team overall.

And, how brilliantly they succeeded, overcoming adversity in terms of J.J. Delaney's loss, the doubt about John Tennyson's fitness, gaining outstanding leadership from Henry Shefflin and winning vital battles, which 24 year-old relative newcomer Aidan Fogarty from the Emeralds club best personified with a superb display.

Scorers for Kilkenny: H. Shefflin 0-8 (0-5 frees); A. Fogarty 1-3; M. Comerford, D. Lyng, J. Fitzpatrick, R. Power and E. Brennan 0-1 each.

Scorers for Cork: B. O'Connor 1-4 (0-1 free); J. Deane 0-6 (0-5 frees); N. McCarthy, J. O'Connor and J. Gardiner 0-1 each.

KILKENNY: J. McGarry; M. Kavanagh, N. Hickey, J. Tyrrell (capt.); T. Walsh, J. Tennyson, J. Ryall; J. Fitzpatrick, D. Lyng; E. Brennan, M. Comerford, E. Larkin; R. Power, H. Shefflin, A. Fogarty.

Subs: E. McCormack for Larkin (46); R. Mullally for Lyng (69).

CORK: D. Óg Cusack; P. Mulcahy (capt.), D. O'Sullivan, B. Murphy; J. Gardiner, R. Curran, S. Óg Ó hAilpín; J. O'Connor, T. Kenny; T. McCarthy, N. McCarthy, N. Ronan; B. O'Connor, B. Corcoran, J. Deane. Subs: K. Murphy (Sarsfields) for Ronan (39); W. Sherlock for Mulcahy (47); C. Naughton for T. McCarthy (59); C. O'Connor for K. Murphy (64); C. Cusack for Kenny (70).

Referee: B. Kelly (Westmeath).



James Ryall and Niall McCarthy come to grips.



Aidan Fogharty



Cha Fitzpatrick



Captain Jackie Tyrrell lifts the McCarthy Cup.

2007

KILKENNY HANDED FINAL GLORY ON A PLATE

Kilkenny Join Cork on 30 Titles

Kilkenny 2-19 Limerick 1-15

KILKENNY banked a large early deposit and lived comfortably off the interest for the remainder of a Guinness All-Ireland hurling final that didn't deviate from the script by even a single line in Croke Park yesterday.

It looked pre-ordained for quite some time that Kilkenny would join Cork at the top of the All-Ireland honours table with 30 titles and it was all but sealed after just 10 minutes, by which time they had raced into a 2-3 to 0-0 lead, leaving Limerick wishing that they could start all over again.

If they had the chance, they would surely have made some adjustments to their tactical approach in an effort to provide extra defensive security. Instead, they lined up in a traditional formation when they would have been better advised to play five forwards, switch an attacker to midfield and drop a midfielder into defence.

Instead, they engaged Kilkenny in a straight shoot-out and were so comprehensively out-gunned in the opening 10 minutes that it looked as if they were heading for a total embarrassment.

To their credit, they managed to dig their way back into the game but were always chasing Kilkenny from a distance that increased to nine points early in the second-half, was cut to five on the hour mark and which finally settled at seven.

That the comfortable victory was achieved without Noel Hickey, who went off with a hamstring pull after 17 minutes and Henry

Shefflin, who had to retire at half-time with a knee injury, says it all about the range of options available to manager, Brian Cody when he looks back at his subs' bench.

John Tennyson replaced Hickey with Brian Hogan switching to full-back while Michael Fennelly came in for Shefflin.

It was a seamless transition and with another sub, Richie Power, slotting in comfortably as Shefflin's replacement on the free-taking duties, Kilkenny remained on full power.

Limerick plugged on gallantly and gave their supporters a brief flicker of hope when an Ollie Moran goal after 47 minutes launched their best spell, which saw them cut the margin to five points with 10 minutes remaining.

They had further chances to cut even deeper into Kilkenny advantage but were let down by poor finishing.

Kilkenny retained their shape and their composure as points by Power and Eddie Brennan (2) steered them safely over the winning line, presenting them with their fifth All-Ireland title this decade.

Mesmerised

Brennan will certainly look back on this final with the fondest of memories after scoring 1-5 from play in a man-of-the match performance where his pace, positioning and touch mesmerised the Limerick defence and Seamus Hickey in particular.

Brennan was quickest to react to a loose

ball in the ninth minute, which he quickly converted into a well-finished goal and even before Limerick could absorb the serious implications of that early leak, they were another goal down as Shefflin wriggled clear of Stephen Lucey and batted the ball to the net.

It was a double-hit of disastrous proportions for Limerick, who found themselves faced with a dreaded situation which many feared might develop. Question was -- would Limerick fade or fight? In fairness, they chose the latter.

They won the last hour by 1-15 to 0-16 but with Kilkenny always well clear, there was never a sense that they would be stretched to the limit.

Indeed, one always had the impression that Kilkenny had a lot more in reserve if required.

Eoin Larkin, who hit four points in the first half-hour, sub Richie Power, Tommy Walsh, JJ Delaney and Jackie Tyrrell supplemented Brennan's wonderful contribution to such a degree that Martin Comerford and Aidan Fogarty, who had an outstanding final a year earlier, could afford to have relatively quiet afternoon.

If Limerick's early defensive problems were very damaging, the failure of the attack to make any real inroads was equally problematical.

Well beaten

With the exception of Ollie Moran, who



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 2007 Photo Eoin Hennessy

Third Row: James Ryall, Peter Cleere, Michael Fennelly, Richie Power, John Dalton, James McGarry, Richie Mullally, John Tennyson, Martin Comerford, TJ Reid.

Second Row: Canice Hickey, Noel Hickey, Jackie Tyrrell, Derek Lyng, Brian Hogan, Henry Shefflin (Captain), Michael Rice, Eddie Brennan, P.J. Delaney, Donnacha Cody, Sean Cummins, Richie O'Neill.

Front Row: Eoin Larkin, Michael Kavanagh, Tommy Walsh, Darragh McGarry, James Cha Fitzpatrick, P.J. Ryan, JJ Delaney, P.J. Delaney, Willie O'Dwyer, Aidan Fogarty, Eoin Reid,

scored 1-3 from play, the rest were well beaten. Sean O'Connor, Michael Fitzgerald and Donie Ryan were all replaced by the 58th minute and it certainly wasn't an occasion that Brian Begley or Andrew O'Shaughnessy will look back on with any satisfaction.

Begley's height and strength would have been regarded as central to Limerick's attacking strategy but he made no impression, not even after Hickey's departure.

O'Shaughnessy was Limerick's top scorer on 0-7, but they all came from placed balls.

Limerick would have expected him to provide a menacing presence from general play, too, but it didn't happen, while his early miss from a 40-metre free, which he hit too low, was a terrible waste of a precious scoring opportunity at a time when his side badly needed a settling score.

Kilkenny led by 2-10 to 0-8 at half-time and while Limerick pared two points back early in the second half, they quickly leaked another three.

Moran's goal, expertly finished in the 47th minute, provided Limerick with a much-needed lift but there wasn't even a flicker of panic from Kilkenny who looked very much like a side that knew their opponents' limitations would continue to undermine them.

If Moran was, by a distance, Limerick's best forward Mark Foley was their top defender.

The only survivor from the team that lost the 1996 All-Ireland final to Wexford, the 32 year-old used head and heart to propel him through a fine performance but unfortunately for him his colleagues were unable to respond.

Out-foxed

Peter Lawlor was well beaten by Eoin Larkin in the first-half, but improved from there on; Brian Geary was solid rather than spectacular at centre-back; Stephen Lucey will be disappointed by the manner in which he was out-foxed by Shefflin for Kilkenny's second

goal while Damien Reale didn't exert the level of influence Limerick supporters have come to expect over time.

But then Limerick were forced to hurl to Kilkenny's agenda from the opening minutes and as Offaly, Wexford and Galway had discovered earlier, that's quite a task which calls for special measures, such as closing the defensive channels for the first 20 minutes with as many bodies as it takes. Limerick opted to slug it out toe-to-toe with Kilkenny, a risky approach which simply didn't work. Limerick came closer to Kilkenny than anybody else in this year's championship but that's scant consolation.

It's still a lot higher than it was at the start of the season but is still some way below Kilkenny's.

So is everybody else's, too.

Scorers -- Kilkenny: E Brennan 1-5, H Shefflin 1-2 (0-1f), E Larkin, R Power (3f) 0-4 each, J T Walsh 0-2 each, A Fogarty, J Fitzpatrick 0-1 each.

Limerick: A O'Shaughnessy 0-7 (6f, 1'65), O Moran 1-3, D O'Grady 0-2, S O'Connor, M Fitzgerald, N Moran 0-1 each.

Kilkenny -- PJ Ryan; M Kavanagh, N Hickey, J Tyrrell; T Walsh, B Hogan, JJ Delaney; D Lyng, J Fitzpatrick; W O'Dwyer, M Comerford, E Larkin; E Brennan, H Shefflin, A Fogarty.
Subs: J Tennyson for Hickey (23), R Power for O'Dwyer (26), M Fennelly for Shefflin (ht).

Limerick -- B Murray; D Reale, S Lucey, S Hickey; P Lawlor, B Geary, M Foley; D O'Grady, M O'Brien; M Fitzgerald, O Moran, S O'Connor; A O'Shaughnessy, B Begley, D Ryan.
Subs: N Moran for M O'Brien (ht), J O'Brien for O'Connor, P Tobin for Fitzgerald, K Tobin for Ryan (58), M O'Riordan for Lawlor (68).

Referee -- D Kirwan (Cork).



RTE REPORT By Shane Murray
Defending champions Kilkenny claimed their 30th Guinness All-Ireland Hurling title to draw level with Cork in the all-time standings with a comprehensive seven-point victory over a gallant Limerick in wet conditions in front of 82,127 at Croke Park today.

Having lead from the second minute, the defending champions played with authority and style to emerge as convincing and deserved winners.

After the match, Kilkenny manager Brian Cody dedicated the victory to goalkeeper James McGarry and his family. McGarry's wife Vanessa died in a road accident earlier this year.

Cody's men were not to be denied another crown as they went for the jugular from the off, storming into a 2-02 to 0-00 lead within ten minutes.

The impressive Eddie Brennan opened the Cats' goal account with a superb turn and strike in the ninth minute, while Henry Shefflin added a second a minute later when he held off Stephen Lucey to tap the sliotar home from the edge of the square. James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick supplied the ball in both times.

Limerick fought gallantly and kept chipping away at the Cats' lead; three points from Ollie Moran, pointed frees from Andrew O'Shaughnessy, and a few other contributions left them trailing by 2-10 to 0-08 at the break. But with the lively Eoin Larkin impressing for the Cats - he stuck over four points from play in the first half - Kilkenny kept the margin wide.

Kilkenny faced into the second half under something of a cloud in fact with Shefflin joining Noel Hickey - who hobbled off with a pulled hamstring after 20 minutes - on the sidelines for the second half with suspected cruciate ligament damage, but despite an early brace of points, Limerick couldn't take full advantage.



Sean Lucey and Seamus Hickey with Henry in the sandwich.



Eddie Brennan goals for Kilkenny



John Tennyson in the thick of things



Captain Henry Shefflin lifts the McCarthy Cup,.

2008

KILKENNY RUTHLESS IN HISTORIC WIN

Kilkenny 3-30 Waterford 1-13

IAN O'RIORDAN at Croke Park

Kilkenny produced one of the most devastating performances in championship history in capturing their third successive All-Ireland hurling title in Croke Park this afternoon - the first time they'd managed such a feat since 1911-1913.

The winning margin of 23 points was every bit as devastating as it sounds, as Kilkenny simply out-classed and out-played Waterford in every sector of the field, inflicting the sort of defeat no team could have deserved, let alone expected.

As if to underline their dominance, it was Kilkenny's 31st senior title in total - thus putting them top of the all-time list, one more than Cork. So team captain James Cha Fitzpatrick collected the Liam McCarthy Cup the year after his club mate Henry Shefflin, and he simply described it as a "monumental feat for Kilkenny hurling".

Although the occasion electrified Croke Park from the moment the two teams ran on the pitch, in front of a capacity crowd of 82,186, the game as a contest was effectively over after 20 minutes. Waterford, who were contesting their first final since 1963, and seeking a first All-Ireland since 1959 - and only their third ever - never got a look in as Kilkenny went about winning their third All-

Ireland with terrifying intention.

Kilkenny's last championship loss now goes back to the 2005 semi-final defeat to Galway, and this was a game they never once looked like losing. Shefflin and Eoin Kelly exchanged frees early on, but then Kilkenny immediately started to turn the screw, swiftly enforcing their dominance in every area of the field.

Fitzpatrick first put them in front, and from there until half time Kilkenny were simply killing Waterford, softly. Eoin Larkin and Aidan Fogarty came into the scoring act, to push them 0-6 to 0-2 in front, before another Kelly free gave Waterford a slight grip on the thing.

Soon that was all but lost. Kilkenny hit three unanswered points, one of which, ominously, came from Eddie Brennan. Again Kelly's free was the only response from Waterford, but by then it merely suspended the inevitable as Kilkenny's goal threat went into overdrive. The first came on 20 minutes when Brennan took a superb pass from Larkin to put Kilkenny

1-10 to 0-4 in front. A minute later, Brennan had his second goal, this one even more devastating for Waterford, as Fogarty's initial shot was well saved by Clinton Hennessy - only for Brennan to blast in the rebound.

When Kelly missed his next free, it was as if the Waterford heads were already gone. Richie Power and Brennan again inflicted further damage on the scoreboard. Kelly's fifth free was Waterford's sole response before the break, and instead it was Kilkenny who ended it with another four unanswered points from Fitzpatrick, Brennan, Power and Larkin to establish an incredible 17 point advantage at the break - 2-16 to 0-5.

Waterford hadn't scored from play in the first half, and so were left waiting on a miracle. It was 10 minutes into the half, 45 minutes into the game, before they got their first point from play, an overhead shot from John Mullane. If that was meant to give Waterford some hope, instead it only lifted Kilkenny again, with substitute TJ Reid scoring with his first touch,



KILKENNY- ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 2008 - (Three in a Row)

Back: Eoin Reid, James Ryall, John Tennyson, Donncha Cody, Canice Hickey, PJ Delaney, Sean Cummins, Michael Fennelly.

Third Row: Richie Hogan, JJ Delaney, Eddie Brennan, John Dalton, Eoin McGrath, Michael Rice, Richie Power, Willie O'Dwyer, Tommy Walsh.

Second Row: TJ Reid, Derek Lyng, Jackie Tyrrell, David Herity, PJ Ryan, James McGarry, Martin Comerford, Henry Shefflin, Aidan Fogarty.

Front: Richie Mullally, Michael Kavanagh, Brian Hogan, Cha Fitzpatrick (Captain), Darragh McGarry, Eoin Larkin, Noel Hickey, Damien Fogarty. (Eoin Hennessy)

before Larkin burst through for goal number three - thus leaving the extraordinary score line of 3-20 to 0-7, with only 47 minutes still on the clock.

The last 15 minutes was played out in practically stunned silence and Waterford painfully succumbed to the inevitable. Reid would add another three points from play, and there was little let up in Kilkenny's total and utter control.

The only small consolation in the end was a last goal for Kelly, as Kilkenny sub goalkeeper James McGarry misjudged the shot, and let it drift into the net. Still, a couple more scores from Kilkenny brought their total to the crushing 3-30 - the sort of victory margin that suggests three in a row is still only the start of things.

KILKENNY: PJ Ryan; M Kavanagh, N Hickey, J Tyrrell; T Walsh, B Hogan, JJ Delaney; J "Cha" Fitzpatrick, D Lyng; M Comerford, R Power, E Larkin; E Brennan, H Shefflin, A Fogarty.

Subs: TJ Reid for Comerford (43 mins), J McGarry for Ryan (61 mins).

WATERFORD: C Hennessy; E Murphy, D Prendergast, A Kearney; T Browne, K McGrath, K Moran; M Walsh, J Nagle; D Shanahan, S Prendergast, S Molumphy; E McGrath, E Kelly, J Mullane.

Subs: J Kennedy for S Prendergast, S O'Sullivan for Nagle (half time), P Flynn for E McGrath (51 mins), D Bennett for Shanahan, T Feeney for D Prendergast (both 63 mins).

Referee: B Kelly (Westmeath)

RTE REPORT



Waterford endured a nightmare afternoon at Croke Park as arguably the greatest Kilkenny team of all-time secured the Cats' first All-Ireland three-in-a-row since 1913.

In a disappointingly one-sided final, Brian Cody's side produced a near perfect 70 minutes to confirm themselves as hurling's kingpins once again.

The statistics speak for themselves. A 23-point winning margin, 3-24 from play, only two wides in the entire match and eight scorers in all with Eddie Brennan (2-04) and Henry Shefflin (0-08) leading the way.

During a fast-paced first half, a shell-shocked Waterford could only muster five frees from Eoin Kelly.

Kilkenny's half-back line succeeded in sucking the life out of the Déise's attack, starving them of possession with the Cats' forwards scoring at almost every opportunity.

Indeed, Kilkenny failed to register a wide until Martin Comerford, ironically their only starting forward not to score today, missed the target in the third minute of first half injury-time.

Brennan, at his clinical best, scored two goals in the 20th and 22nd minutes to push Kilkenny 12 points ahead.

With their manager Davy Fitzgerald looking on forlornly, Waterford were 2-16 to 0-05 adrift at half-time and only managed their first point from play in the 46th minute.

Four points from impressive substitute TJ Reid and Eoin Larkin's well-taken 47th-minute goal stretched Kilkenny's lead further.

And although John Mullane and free-taker Kelly, who nabbed a late goal, kept plugging away, this was an utter cakewalk and a demonstration that at this present time, Kilkenny are in a class of their own.

Kilkenny and Waterford selected unchanged teams, albeit with some positional switches forecast.

With four straight wins culminating in last month's shock semi-final defeat of Munster champions Tipperary, Fitzgerald had built up a fair deal of momentum in his first summer at the helm.

However Kilkenny, who had nine points to spare over Cork last time out, had a historic carrot dangling in front of them for this first final meeting between the neighbouring counties since 1963.

They were seeking to become only the second Kilkenny side in history to complete that much sought after three-in-a-row.

Indeed, before today, it had only been achieved on seven separate occasions with Cork (four times) and Tipperary (twice) doing it the most.

A Kilkenny win would net them their sixth All-Ireland title this decade and 31st in all, moving them one ahead of Cork on the all-time honours list.

Waterford, of course, were within reach of their own slice of history as they attempted to become the first team from the county to lift the Liam McCarthy Cup since 1959.

But any hopes they had of doing that were



Michael Kavanagh and Noel Hickey tie up Dan Shanahan.

quickly diminished as Kilkenny started like a steam train and simply showed no mercy against a team that never got out of first gear.

Too many of Waterford's marquee names were marked absent as the Cats simply devoured their opponents in a stunning first half display.

Any question marks over their desire and hunger were quickly dispelled as they raced 0-10 to 0-04 ahead midway through the opening period.

Henry Shefflin pointed a free after 52 seconds to send them on their way, and while Eoin Kelly did likewise in the next phase, it soon became clear that Waterford would get no change in open play.

Kilkenny's defence, marshalled by the likes of Tommy Walsh and JJ Delaney, was watertight and in their meanest mood for some time.

Mullane, Dan Shanahan and Stephen Molumphy were kept out of the game as the Déise struggled and Shefflin exposed the defensive frailties of his marker Kevin Moran, the youngest player on the pitch.

Kilkenny's midfield duo of James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick and Derek Lyng, who roamed forward at will, dominated that sector and put their immediate opponents under serious pressure.

Eoin McGrath had a wide from a tight angle and that proved to be Waterford's only shot from play for some time as Kilkenny motored clear.

Team captain Fitzpatrick landed a

fifth-minute point and with metronome precision, efforts from Eoin Larkin, Aidan Fogarty, Shefflin, Brennan and Lyng followed over the next quarter-of-an-hour.

Cody's charges were scoring with every shot, while Waterford lived off Kelly's frees. As well as the admirable shooting, there were some excellent fetches and catches from Lyng and Delaney to enthuse about.

Larkin, already a candidate for Hurler of the Year, was being allowed far too much space and in one such incident, the James Stephens clubman ripped

match stats		
	Kilkenny	Waterford
Goals	3	1
Points	30	13
Wides	2	10
Frees for	10	20
65s	1	0
Yellow Cards	1	4
Red Cards	0	0
Attendance	82,184	
Referee	B Kelly (Westmeath)	

through the Waterford defence before finding the unmarked Brennan who tapped home his first goal after 20 minutes.

Before Waterford could recover from that blow, Brennan had the sliotar nestled in the net once more. Barely seventy seconds after his first strike,



Eoin Larkin cause endless torment for Waterford.



JJ Delaney makes one of his many clearances.



Captain Cha Fitzpatrick lifts the McCarthy Cup.

2009

FOUR IN A ROW!

Kilkenny leave it late in an epic battle as Premier County push them to the limit

Kilkenny 2-22 Tipperary 0-23

HURLING got the All-Ireland final it needed yesterday, an epic that held the audience captive from the first second till the last. And Kilkenny got the prize they surely craved above all others while publicly claiming it was never part of the agenda. Now they can say it out loud: four in a row is “outrageous” reality for Brian Cody and his team of champions.

Frank Roche writes:

The truth, of course, is that they could so easily have lost this game. Even in victory, hurling's 21st century immortals have lost their air of invincibility this season. But they have rediscovered something else in the process -- an unbending refusal to accept looming defeat as their lot.

In the end, Kilkenny's successful quest for four in a row could be distilled down to 40 seconds. As the clock ticked fatefully towards 63 minutes, they trailed by two points. Even before the 64th minute was over, they led by four. And with an extra man on the pitch to repel any late grandstand finish from the gallant challengers.

In a game of high-wire tension, where goal chances had been squandered with unusual abandon at either end, Kilkenny had suddenly unearthed two goals in barely 40 seconds.

Cody's men have a long history of going for the jugular in short ruthless bursts, but yesterday's double whammy from the sticks

of Henry Shefflin and Martin Comerford was perhaps the most stunning example of all. Cometh the moment, cometh the iceman. By his own stellar standards, Shefflin had endured a relatively subdued All-Ireland in open play, but now he was being asked to goal a penalty under the most intense pressure imaginable.

It had the air of a sudden-death shootout, and Shefflin's howitzer execution to the roof of Brendan Cummins' net revealed levels of composure that left Cody waxing lyrical in his post-match interviews.

Kavanagh cleared up the left wing, the ball broke favourably into Eoin Larkin's path, his perfectly weighted handpass found Martin Comerford charging goalward and a trusted Cody servant who had been dropped for this final delivered the coup de grâce of Kilkenny's second goal.

Suddenly, the champions led by four points and, in the context of this nip-and-tuck classic, this was a bridge too far for Tipp to

cross. Even more so in the context of their numerical disadvantage: there's a world of difference between defiantly protecting a lead with 14 men and coming from behind in that scenario.

Liam Sheedy's men had been a man down from the 54th minute, when Benny Dunne's seven-minute cameo ended with a moment of madness that he will surely regret for the rest of his career and beyond.

When Shefflin nailed the resultant monster free, from over 80m out on the right flank, the sides were level and you waited for Kilkenny to press home their advantage.

Instead, for a while, we had the familiar stereotype of 14 men raising their game to heroic levels.

Tipp hit the next three points and victory, rather than Black and Amber history, beckoned. Eoin Kelly showed nerves of steel to convert a 65, having gone for a goal from a 20m free only to see PJ Ryan produce the latest in a string of elastic saves.



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND FOUR-IN-A-ROW SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2009 (Photo Eoin Hennessy)

Back Row: Eoin Reid, Sean Cummins, Eoin McGrath, Canice Hickey, James Ryall, Noel Hickey, JJ Delaney.

Third Row: John Dalton, Aidan Fogarty, Damien Fogarty, Michael Grace, TJ Reid, Michael Kavanagh, Richie Hogan.

Second Row: PJ Delaney, Brian Hogan, John Tennyson, Richie O'Neill, PJ Ryan, David Herity, Derek Lyng, Eoin Larkin, Willie O'Dwyer.

Front Row: Michael Rice, Richie Power, Henry Shefflin, Jackie Tyrrell, Michael Fennelly (Captain), James "Cha" Fitzpatrick, Tommy Walsh, Martin Comerford, Eddie Brennan.

Then Kelly followed up with some exquisite play under pressure, turning away from JJ Delaney to point from the right wing. When Seamus Callanan pounced on a Michael Kavanagh fumble, and saw his angled shot squeeze over via the far upright, it seemed that the breaks and momentum were all going Tipp's way.

Instead, we had several more twists in this epic tale: a brilliant brace from TJ Reid and Shefflin, countered by Noel McGrath's first point, then Kilkenny's two-goal salvo -- and still Tipperary refused to buckle.

They hit two of the next three points -- and one of those could have been a goal, except that Noel McGrath became the latest Tipp player denied by Ryan's razor-sharp reflexes. Two minutes of additional time contained two more scores -- a brace of Eoin Larkin points. And so, Kilkenny had contrived to win a game they could so easily have lost by a flattering five points -- which happens to exactly mirror their average victory margin this summer.

This is a considerable dip from the high-water mark of 2008 when Kilkenny were coasting home with 17 points to spare. From the above we can deduce that either the holders are faltering somewhat or their nearest challengers (led by Tipperary) are fast gaining ground.

All this 'marginal' talk won't bother Cody in the slightest, however. They may have completed three in a row with a performance that bordered on perfection 12 months ago, but lots of Kilkenny people will derive even greater satisfaction from yesterday -- because it was backs-to-the-wall stuff and because it came against the old enemy, Tipperary.

It remains to be seen whether yesterday's traumatic defeat makes this young Tipp team even stronger next year, but they will know deep in their gut that here was a title there

for the taking.

But sport can be a cruel business and you don't always win All-Irelands for 60 minutes of brilliance. Kilkenny hung tough for an hour, then went for the kill in the last 10 minutes -- and their reward is immortality.

Martin Breheny writes:-

How fitting that in the GAA's 125th year and with Kilkenny bidding for a place in history as the first county to win seven All-Ireland titles in a decade -- not to mention becoming the first to win four-in-a-row for 65 years -- the game didn't just live up to expectations but exceeded them with a spectacular flourish which illuminated a dark afternoon in Croke Park.

Now -- as in 2007 and 2008 -- it ended with Kilkenny as All-Ireland champions, only this time after being driven to the limits of their remarkable endurance by an outstanding Tipperary effort. If Limerick and Waterford lacked the necessary substance to seriously test Kilkenny in the last two finals, Tipperary matched the champions in just about every department, except experience, as they drove themselves through new frontiers.

Ultimately, they came up short as Kilkenny took their total to 28 points which has been their consistent championship average over recent years. However, unlike so many other days where they harvested their bountiful yields in a fairly even spread over the full game, they packed the match-winning salvo into the final seven minutes.

They outgunned Tipperary by 2-3 to 0-2 over that closing stretch with the launch pad arriving in rather controversial circumstances at a time when it looked as if Tipperary's

relentless effort might have put them in a winning position.

Noel McGrath's 62nd-minute point gave Tipperary a two-point lead (21-19) which was more than satisfactory for the challengers, who had coped superbly with being a man down after sub Benny Dunne was dismissed on a straight red card for a pull on Tommy Walsh in the 54th minute.

It was a serious error of judgement by such an experienced player and when Henry Shefflin pointed the resultant free to bring the sides level for the 11th time, the initiative appeared to have nudged in Kilkenny's direction. But, not for the first time in the course of an afternoon when Tipperary underlined in the most emphatic terms just how a formidable force they now are, the reaction was overwhelmingly positive.

Tipperary hadn't shirked their responsibilities all day and now dug in for another session of heavy lifting during which they opened a three-point lead on the hour mark and were still two clear when Richie Power began a surge towards goal three minutes later.

He looked to have been fouled outside the square but referee Diarmuid Kirwan didn't blow and as the Kilkenny poacher drove into the square he was adjudged to have been impeded illegally by Paul Curran.

The call was tough on Tipperary as Kirwan awarded a penalty which Shefflin powered to the net. It was a superb strike in highly-pressurised circumstances but then Shefflin has specialised in delivering under the most intense scrutiny right through this decade.

His goal put Kilkenny a point ahead and, typical of their instinctive ability to exploit a



Henry's vital penalty strike.

new-found advantage, they struck for a crucial second goal a minute later when sub Martin Comerford underlined his predatory nature by beating Brendan Cummins with a low drive.

Tipperary twice cut the gap to three points in the closing minutes but two late points by Eoin Larkin gave Kilkenny a cushion as they motored on to their 32nd All-Ireland title, taking them two clear of Cork.

The sides were level seven times in the first half before Kilkenny scored two points in stoppage time to lead 0-13 to 0-11 at the interval. It was the most marginal of swings but Tipperary would have been happy with their first-half performance as it proved they really were up to the challenge.

Declan Fanning and Conor O'Mahony had hurled superbly in the half-back line; Shane McGrath and James Woodlock were productive off midfield breaks; Lar Corbett's outfield adventures enabled him to pick off three points in half an hour while Eoin Kelly, who finished on 0-13, was threatening to revisit his very best days at full-forward.

Kilkenny, as is their wont, prospered in high-powered bursts, scoring four points between the 16th and 19th minutes and another five in the last seven minutes of the half.

Nevertheless, the first half would have reinforced Tipperary's view that they were onto something. They had a clear chance of a goal two minutes after the restart when Seamus Callanan cut in on goal but his drive was brilliantly turned out for a '65 by PJ Ryan. It was a crucial moment and Ryan delivered again in the 45th minute, turning Kelly's low drive out for another '65.

Significantly, Tipperary had begun to create the goal openings but unlike the rest of the campaign where they yielded rich pickings, Ryan's excellence denied them this time.

Brian Cody began unloading his impressive subs' bench in the 50th minute, sending on TJ Reid, Michael Fennelly and Comerford in quick succession. All three made a significant impact, scoring 1-2 between them, whereas Tipperary's first sub was back on the bench on a red card after just seven minutes and Liam Sheedy didn't despatch any others into action until the 66th minute.

If Kilkenny's subs made a big impact in the final quarter, Tommy Walsh

did it for the full 70 minutes. Truly a wonderful talent, his capacity to deliver at the peak of his magical powers every time he plays is quite remarkable.

John Tennyson also resisted well while Jackie Tyrrell embellished his defensive efforts with an inspiring long-range point late on. Eddie Brennan made most impact in the first half; Larkin reserved his best for the last quarter while Shefflin kept the score-board ticking over from frees.

And when the chance to make a match-turning intervention presented itself with the penalty, he was man enough to respond. That's hardly a surprise but then the same applies to all of this Kilkenny squad in their many and varied ways as they asserted themselves as the greatest of all time.



Martin Comerford clinches the game with Kilkenny's second goal.



PJ Ryan makes one of his miraculous saves.



Captain Michael Fennelly lifts the McCarthy Cup.

2011

CATS BARE CLAWS TO RECLAIM CROWN

Tipperary have no answer to Kilkenny's perfect blend of steel and silver

Kilkenny 2-17 Tipperary 1-16

HUNGER's a great sauce and there's nothing to whet the appetite of a Kilkenny hurler like a beating. They had been written off as a side who were getting older – and whose best days were behind them.

But The Cats have made their comeback. The team picked themselves up after Tipperary crushed their five-in-a-row dreams last year.

Frank Roche writes:

THE old order has been restored – Kilkenny are back on the hurling summit, gleefully looking down on collapsed empires scattered below them.

Among the crushed forces are Tipperary, who started as favourites to retain the All-Ireland title for the first time in 46 years and ended it as so many have done over the last 11 years, feeling the pain of a collision with the immovable object that was a Kilkenny team which simply wouldn't take no for an answer.

It was all so reminiscent of the 2006 final when Kilkenny, who were the outsiders then too, subjected Cork to a dreadful ordeal of non-stop intensity from which there was no escape. It was the same yesterday for Tipperary, who must have felt that Kilkenny had somehow managed to remove all the oxygen from the air, leaving the reigning champions gasping desperately for breath.

It was a most uncomfortable environment for Tipperary, who were never allowed to get any real structure into their game. Instead, they were chasing it from the second minute when a Henry Shefflin free put Kilkenny ahead and, while the gap between the teams varied from eight to three points over the course of the game, Tipperary were always in the disadvantaged zone.

They were driven there by relentless pressure which Kilkenny whipped up from the start. They needed a good launch and they got it, picking the blue and gold defence for five points in the first 15 minutes, while serving restraining orders on the vaunted Tipperary attack.

Jackie Tyrrell switched sides to deal with the Lar Corbett threat and, with half-backs Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan and JJ Delaney imposing their power and aggression on a struggling Tipperary half-forward line, the agenda was altogether different from a year earlier.

By the end, Tipperary's starting six forwards had managed just three points from open play between them, whereas their Kilkenny counterparts had returned 1-12. The rest of Tipperary scores came from seven placed balls (Eoin Kelly), midfielder Ger Ryan, centre-back Conor O'Mahony, subs Benny Dunne and Pa Bourke and two sideline cut by Noel McGrath.

Corbett, who scored three goals in last year's final, drew a blank against Tyrrell, while McGrath and Kelly, who also did well in 2010, got lost amid the heavy traffic.

Indeed, one incident involving Corbett typified the extent to which Kilkenny's zeal for hard work made such a crucial difference.

With the Tipperary supply lines to their inside forwards under constant attack, Corbett moved outfield on occasions in search of action and, a few minutes before half-time, he found himself back in his own halfback



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 2011

Back: Lester Ryan, James Fitzpatrick, Paddy Hogan, John Tennyson, Conor Fogarty, Eoin Murphy, Richie Doyle, John Dalton, Kieran Joyce.

Middle: J. Reid, Jackie Tyrrell, Richie Hogan, Eoin Larkin, Michael Rice, David Herity, P.J. Ryan, Aidan Fogarty, J.J. Delaney, Colin Fennelly, Michael Fennelly, Matthew Ruth.

Front: Richie Power, Eoin Murphy, Noel Hickey, Michael Kavanagh, Brian Hogan, Eddie Brennan, Henry Shefflin, John Mulhall, Tommy Walsh.

Photo Eoin Hennessy

line. As he tried to get in a delivery, Colin Fennelly sped in, got in a block, but took the force of Corbett's hurley which left him with a nasty cut.

It was one of the defining moments in terms of emphasising how driven Kilkenny were for a battle which they won more comprehensively than the margin suggests. They had far more possession than Tipperary, but wasted more than usual.

Indeed, when Tipperary managed to pare an eight-point deficit after 49 minutes back to three points with six minutes remaining, it looked as if Kilkenny's failure to capitalise on their all-round superiority earlier on, might undermine them on the home run.

However, they held their nerve, twice edging four points clear, only to have it cut to three before Eoin Larkin ensured victory with the last score of the day in the 72nd minute.

Kilkenny's post-match celebrations were, if anything, more jubilant than after their four-in-a-row success two years ago, but then the stakes were enormous. Another defeat would have left Tipperary as the unquestioned No 1, a possibility that filled Kilkenny with a heavy sense of dread.

Their response to the enormous challenge was to return to first principles, where hard work and team ethic dominated all else. Kilkenny felt last year that they made life for too easy for Tipperary, conceding relatively easy goals after failing to close down space.

Yesterday, they expanded themselves as much as was humanly possible to submission. A flick here, a touch there a block anywhere – this was Kilkenny at their united best, squeezing

the life out of frustrated opposition.

Tipperary didn't land their first score until the 16th minute, but when they added two more to reduce the margin to two after 23 minutes, they would have felt that, despite the slow start, they had played their way back into contention.

However, they were reminded that there would be no easy solutions this time when Kilkenny midfielder Michael Fennelly powered onto a pass from Richie Hogan in the 35th minute and fired the ball past Brendan Cum-mins. It helped Kilkenny to an inter-vallado of 1-8 to 0-6 after a half in which four of Tipperary's scores had come from frees.

They had begun their repair work on the half-hour, sending Brendan Maher in for John O'Keefe and continued it at half-time, replacing midfielder Shane McGrath, who had taken a heavy knock in the first-half, and wing-forward Seamus Callanan with Benny Dunne and Pa Bourke respectively. It meant that Tipperary had used three of the five subs at the start of the second half, pointing to difficulties which would increase throughout the third quarter. Indeed, it was that period which cemented Kilkenny's dominance, enabling them to bank enough scores so that they could bank enough scores against the inevitable backlash. Leading by 1-12 to 0-8 after 45 minutes and by 1-12 to 0-10 shortly afterwards, the game lurched heavily in Kilkenny's direction in the 49th minute when a driving run by Eddie Brennan split the Tipperary defence. He off-loaded the ball to Richie Hogan who balanced it beautifully on his hurley before lopping a spectacular shot past Cum-mins high into the net. It left Kilkenny eight points clear and in direct eye line of another title.

Pa Bourke's goal in the 55th minute gave Tipp hope, but they needed all of their game in full flow to have a real chance of completing the recovery. Instead, they continued to misfire, despite the energetic efforts of 'Bonnar' Maher and with the Kilkenny defence back on Triple 'A' security alert, Tipperary ran out of openings. Meanwhile, at the other end Shefflin, Colin Fennelly and Eoin Larkin continued, as they had done all day, to test the Tipperary defence, while midfielder Fennelly maintained his tempo. Kilkenny had the ideal blend throughout all sectors, unlike Tipperary who lost most of the key battles and ultimately the game and their All-Ireland crown.

SCORERS – Kilkenny: H Shefflin 0-7 (5f), R Hogan 1-1, M Fennelly 1-0, C Fennelly, E Larkin, R Power 0-2 each, E Brennan, M Rice, TJ Reid 0-1 each. Tipperary: E Kelly 0-8 (7f, 1 '65'), N McGrath 0-3 (1 s/l), P Bourke 1-0, G Ryan 0-2, B Dunne, C O'Mahony, J O'Brien 0-1 each.

KILKENNY – D Herity; J Tyrrell, N Hickey, P Murphy; T Walsh, B Hogan, JJ Delaney; M Fennelly, M Rice; E Brennan, R Power, H Shefflin; C Fennelly, E Larkin, R Hogan. Subs: TJ Reid for Brennan (60), J Mulhall for R Hogan (65).

TIPPERARY – B Cummins; P Stapleton, P Curran, M Cahill; J O'Keefe, C O'Mahony, Padraic Maher; G Ryan, S McGrath; S Callanan, N McGrath, Patrick Maher; E Kelly, J O'Brien, L Corbett. Subs: B Maher for O'Keefe (29), B Dunne for S McGrath (h-t), P Bourke for Callanan (h-t), D Young for O'Mahony (57), J O'Neill for O'Brien (66).

REF – B Gavin (Offaly).



The Brian Gavin Nose Job

GAME AT A GLANCE

MAN OF THE MATCH

Tommy Walsh (Kilkenny)

Kilkenny's awesome intensity was evident from the throw-in and nobody typified it more than Walsh. He reached a high tempo early on and maintained it right through. 'Bonner' Maher tested him in the second half but he continued to get in most of the valuable work.

TURNING POINT

Richie Hogan's goal in the 49th minute after a flowing move that started with a Tommy Walsh clearance on his own endline. It put Kilkenny eight points ahead and provided them with enough in hand to cope with Tipperary's inevitable fightback.

TALKING POINT

The degree to which the vaunted Tipperary attack was locked away with nobody able to find the key. The starting six managed only three points from open play between them.

REF WATCH

Bloodied after taking a knock to the nose from Tommy Walsh's hurley 20th minute, Brian Gavin didn't let it upset him. He refereed the game in the modern style where play is let flow as much as at all possible even if the odd rule gets broken along the way. Footballers would love to have as much leeway as the hurlers, but they don't get it.

WHAT THEY SAID

Brian Cody (Kilkenny manager) "We were in the very opposite place last year. We had just lost it and there is just a complete world of difference between things and it's a genuinely terrific achievement to have won, a supreme feeling for us."

Declan Ryan (Tipperary manager) "It's disappointing when you don't turn up with you're A game on the day. Hats off to Kilkenny, they were the hungrier team. That's the way it looked from the sideline."

MATCH STATISTICS

Wides: Kilkenny 7 (3); Tipperary 3 (2) Frees: Kilkenny 10 (6); Tipperary 14 (10) Yellow Cards: Kilkenny 0; Tipperary 1 (D Young 66). Attendance: 81,214

WHAT NEXT?

Kilkenny start planning for their third two-in-a-row bid in less than a decade; Tipperary are no longer market leaders and will have to plan accordingly for next year.

MARTIN BREHENY



Tommy Walsh goes highest



Michael Fennelly scores a goal for Kilkenny



Captain Brian Hogan lifts the McCarthy Cup.

2012
Drawn Game

Joe show keeps Galway in hunt

Canning holds nerve with last-gasp free to ensure first stalemate in decider since 1959

Kilkenny 0-19 Galway 2-13

Hunger's a great sauce and there's nothing to whet the appetite of a Kilkenny hurler like a beating. They had been written off as a side who were getting older – and whose best days were behind them.

But The Cats have made their comeback. The team picked themselves up after Tipperary crushed their five-in-a-row dreams last year.

MARTIN BREHENY

IT had to happen and it finally did. After 52 successive All-Ireland hurling finals producing winners at the first attempt, Galway and Kilkenny couldn't be separated and will return to Croke Park on September 30 to settle a contest that has become one of the most enriching experiences of championship 2012.

Galway's easy win over Kilkenny in the Leinster final provided a very interesting backdrop to yesterday's All-Ireland final which, in turn, added a new layer of fascination which will ensure another full house at Croke Park for the replay.

Relief was etched on the faces of the Galway players as they left the pitch after a stoppage-time point from a free by Joe Canning earned them a second chance in a game they dominated in the first half, only to be reined in as Kilkenny's survival instincts became the dominant feature of the second half.

INCENSED

Kilkenny were incensed that referee Barry Kelly awarded the match-saving free in the 73rd minute after Jackie Tyrrell was adjudged to have fouled Galway sub Davy Glennon as he tried to make progress down the left wing. In truth, it was a borderline case but the break went Galway's way and to add to Kilkenny's frustration, Tyrrell was booked.

Whatever about the awarding of the free, the booking was certainly harsh.

Kelly's decision presented Joe Canning with a chance to level it up from 45 metres, out near the Hogan Stand sideline, and while it would normally be a routine strike for one of hurling's deadliest snipers, he had missed a similar chance three minutes earlier as Galway grappled desperately for survival.

Canning made no mistake second time around, firing the ball over the bar to complete the first draw since 1959 and send both camps into session in an attempt to

figure out how best to approach the replay. Both Anthony Cunningham and Brian Cody have plenty to address before sending their troops back on to the battle field.

Cunningham will assess how Galway dominated the first half, yet were only five points ahead at half-time. Normally, that would have been a satisfying situation to take into the break but not on this occasion. Having led by seven points just past the half-hour mark, Galway conceded three frees, which Henry Shefflin pointed, before Canning closed the scoring with a pointed free to leave Galway ahead by 1-9 to 0-7.

They would have expected a Kilkenny surge on the re-start and the defending champions certainly didn't disappoint them. After the sides exchanged early points, Kilkenny reeled off six unanswered points between the 39th and 54th minute.

It was Kilkenny in high-momentum mode, winning primary ball all over the field, working it cleverly into shooting positions and popping over a series of points from



Parade 9th September 2012

open play and frees.

Leading 0-14 to 1-10 heading into the final quarter, Kilkenny looked poised to accelerate to success but Galway clung on grimly, helped enormously by a 55th-minute goal from Niall Burke, who capitalised on a defensive mix-up and galloped in before beating David Herity.

The goal was against the run of play at a time when Galway's game had become loose and ragged. The precision which underpinned so much of what they did in the first half had given way to an error-strewn mess, where possession was regularly handed over to Kilkenny through poorly directed clearances to an undermanned attack.

In their determination to congest the channels further back, Galway left large tracts of unmaned ground in their attacking half, resulting in Kilkenny securing the approach routes quite easily.

Brian Hogan, who struggled against Niall Burke in the first half, Tommy Walsh and Paul Murphy grew increasingly influential while at the other end, Shefflin was conducting the offensive strategy with trademark smartness.

Kilkenny's response to Burke's goal was to fire over three points, which meant that between the 39th and 61st minutes they had out-gunned Galway by 0-9 to 1-0. That would usually be title-winning form but since Galway had built up solid deposits in the first half, Kilkenny's enterprise was used mainly in undoing the damage of the opening 35 minutes.

Kilkenny had a great chance to go two points clear on the hour mark when Shefflin put Colin Fennelly clear on goal but the corner-forward's drive was brilliantly stopped by James Skehill. The keeper conceded a free

as he lay on the ball after making the stop and while Shefflin pointed, it was still a huge psychological lift for Galway.

They were boosted further when Canning pointed two frees to restore a one-point advantage for Galway before Shefflin levelled it up with a pointed free from inside his own half in the 66th minute.

A minute later, he had a chance to put Kilkenny three clear when they were awarded a penalty for a foul on Eoin Larkin, but after shaping as if he would blast for goal he hoisted the ball high over the bar.

Iarla Tannian, who had been a commanding figure around midfield all day, and Canning shot wide while Shefflin missed the target too in those tense closing minutes before Galway grabbed the precious equaliser.

They really would have been devastated if they had lost a game where they enjoyed so much dominance in the first half. They made an early break when Canning powered through, leaving JJ Delaney, his assigned marker, in his wake before whipping the ball to the Kilkenny net.

Canning looked throughout much of the first half as if he was on his way to a Man of the Match performance but had a much leaner time in the second half. In fairness, he was working off far fewer options as the supply lines had dried up.

He wasn't getting the required support, with only Niall Burke – who scored 1-2 from play – causing real problems. Canning, who scored 1-9, and Burke were the only Galway forwards to score. That, plus the fact that Galway shot eight wides in the second half, are other issues which will merit attention from Cunningham in the detailed debrief which will take place this week.

Cody's examination of events will centre mainly on the first half where, after opening their account in the fifth minute, Kilkenny were out-scored 1-8 to 0-3 over the next 28 minutes.

Kilkenny were well rattled in that period, finding it very difficult to cope with Galway's direct thrusts down the middle. And when Kilkenny did create chances, their finishing was poor, with even the usually reliable Shefflin and Richie Power off target from placed balls.

It all contributed to leaving Kilkenny with a huge challenge entering the second half, one which they embraced enthusiastically and with no little efficiency. It looked as if it would be enough to win a ninth title in 13 seasons but Galway's battling qualities sustained them through some bad times and eventually produced an equaliser to set up a rematch which promises to be just as competitive as yesterday's game.

SCORERS – Galway: J Canning 1-9 (0-8 f), N Burke 1-2, A Smith, N Donohue 0-1 each. Kilkenny: H Shefflin 0-12 (10f, 1 pen), TJ Reid, E Larkin 0-2 each, R Power, A Fogarty, R Hogan 0-1 each.

GALWAY – J Skehill; J Coen, K Hynes, F Moore; N Donoghue, T Og Regan, D Collins; I Tannian, A Smith; J Regan, N Burke, D Hayes; J Canning, C Donnellan, D Burke. Subs: C Cooney for Regan (52), J Glynn for C Cooney (61), J Cooney for N Burke (62), D Glennon for Hayes (68).

KILKENNY – D Herity; P Murphy, JJ Delaney, J Tyrrell; T Walsh, B Hogan, K Joyce; M Fennelly, R Hogan; C Fennelly, R Power, A Fogarty; TJ Reid, E Larkin, H Shefflin.

Subs: M Ruth for C Fennelly (62).

REF – B Kelly (Westmeath).



Colin Fennelly, left, and Henry Shefflin, appeal to the referee for a free as Galway goalkeeper James Skehill lies on the ball after making a save.

And while Galway will feel that they were in with every chance of winning until Donnellan was sent off, the underlying trend suggests otherwise. Granted, Galway had enjoyed a progressive spell immediately prior to Donnellan's departure, having scored two points and being desperately unlucky not to land two goals.

Donnellan scored a goal in the 44th minute but referee James McGrath whistled back play and awarded a free in to Galway, a decision which effectively rewarded the offender rather than the victim.

Quite why referees refuse to adopt a more liberal approach to bestowing the advantage on the fouled player in that type of situation remains one of the sorrowful mysteries of officiating.

It's an affront to common sense that a forward who scores a goal just after being fouled is punished, while the offender gains two points for his side as the free is usually struck over the bar.

Galway's ill-luck struck again in the 48th minute when Joe Canning's rasping shot cannoned back off an upright and from the ensuing play, Kilkenny broke downfield and Cillian Buckley pointed. If Canning's shot had hit the net, it would have brought the sides level but instead Buckley's point left Galway with a four-point deficit.

They were still very much in contention but that ended a minute later when Donnellan's act of folly left them short-handed and facing a long, lonely road home.

It had all looked so different at the end of the first quarter after David Burke had struck for two goals in two minutes to leave Galway leading by 2-2 to 0-5 after 17 minutes.

His first goal came off a deft flick from an Iarla Tannian delivery while the second was

the result of an enterprising build-up. Galway's three-point lead was against the run of play as Kilkenny had been the better side through the opening exchanges. In those circumstances, it was no surprise that their response to Galway's double-blast was quick and effective.

Richie Power whipped home Kilkenny's first goal in the 19th minute and Kilkenny then proceeded to shoot six unanswered points.

It left them with a 1-6 to 0-0 return over seven minutes and while Canning pared two points off the lead, Galway were still facing a five point deficit – 1-11 to 2-4 – at the interval.

They had led by 14 and five points respectively at half-time in their previous two clashes with Kilkenny but were now in new, dangerous territory with little experience of how to find an exit.

Still, they were working diligently in pursuit of salvation until Donnellan's dismissal switched off the lights.

Galway had started the second half without goalkeeper James Shehill who was feeling the ill-effects of the shoulder injury sustained in training on Friday night.

He was replaced by Fergal Flannery, who acquitted himself well, having got an early test when Richie Hogan bore down on goal straight from the throw-in.

Donnellan's departure was certainly a key moment but Galway's debrief will need to focus on a whole lot more than that. Under Shefflin's inspiring leadership, Kilkenny had scoring fluidity coming off every angle whereas Galway were all too predictable.

Canning did his best to provide a focal point but, with much less possession emerging from the middle third than in previous

games, he was forced way out from the Kilkenny goal, which removed him as a goal threat.

The scoring stats underline the extent of Galway's problems. Canning's 70th-minute point was their first from open play by a starting forward.

He added a second just before the finish, bringing Galway's total return from play by the starting six forwards to 2-2.

The rest came from centre-back Tony Og Regan, midfielder Andy Smith, sub Jonathon Glynn and from Canning placed balls.

It was all so different to Kilkenny, whose scoring capacity was immense. They exploited it to the full on a day when they won their ninth All-Ireland title in 13 seasons.

Truly, a remarkable record and, on the basis of yesterday's performance, there may be a whole lot more to come.

SCORERS – Kilkenny: H Shefflin 0-9 (5f, 2 '65s'), W Walsh 1-3, R Power 1-2, C Fennelly 1-0, R Hogan 0-3, TJ Reid, E Larkin, C Buckley, M Fennelly, K Joyce (f) 0-1 each. Galway: J Canning 0-9 (5f, 1 '65', 1 s-l), D Burke 2-0, J Glynn 1-0, A Smith, T Og Regan 0-1 each.

KILKENNY – D Herity; P Murphy, JJ Delaney, J Tyrrell; T Walsh, B Hogan, K Joyce; M Fennelly, C Buckley; E Larkin, H Shefflin, TJ Reid; W Walsh, R Hogan, R Power. Subs: C Fennelly for W Walsh (59), N Hickey for Joyce (65), A Fogarty for Reid (66). **GALWAY** – J Shehill; F Moore, K Hynes, J Coen; D Collins, T Og Regan, N Donohue; I Tannian, A Smith; N Burke, D Burke, J Canning; J Regan, C Donnellan, D Hayes. Subs: J Cooney for Donohue (28), J Glynn for J Regan (34), F Flannery for Shehill (h-t), C Cooney for N Burke (52), D Glennon for Smith (64). **REF** – J McGrath (Westmeath)



2012
Replay

TOP CATS PEERLESS LEADERS OF PACK

Cody's warriors retain All-Ireland crown in style

Kilkenny 3-22 Galway 3-11

Hunger's a great sauce and there's nothing to whet the appetite of a Kilkenny hurler like a beating. They had been written off as a side who were getting older – and whose best days were behind them.

But The Cats have made their comeback. The team picked themselves up after Tipperary crushed their five-in-a-row dreams last year.

MARTIN BREHENY

DIFFERENT time of the month, different circumstances but the same familiar conclusion to the hurling season as Kilkenny re-stamped their brand on an All-Ireland championship which they marked with two additions to the history books.

Henry Shefflin took his imperious career into new territory by becoming the first player in GAA history to win nine All-Ireland medals, having started in them all and, on the broader front, Kilkenny won the title via the qualifiers for the first time after losing the Leinster final to Galway.

The symbolism of their victory was unmistakable as it meant they not only avenged the 10-point Leinster final setback against Galway but inflicted a heavier defeat than they themselves had suffered in July.

For Galway, it was a stark re-unification with reality after a campaign which presented them with every opportunity to end the 24-year wait for a fifth All-Ireland win.

That opening came in the drawn game when they led by seven points late in the first half but, having failed to take it, they left themselves exposed to the force of nature which is Kilkenny on full power.

The early scoring deposits enabled Galway to survive in the drawn games but there was no escape yesterday as Kilkenny herded them into the torture chamber for a severe beating.

PUNISHING

And even when they weren't being whipped by Kilkenny, they took to punishing themselves. Cyril Donnellan brought the wrath of referee James McGrath down on himself in the 49th minute for a strike on JJ Delaney, prompting dismissal on a straight red card.

It came at a time when Galway had re-established a level of momentum but it quickly evaporated after Donnellan's departure, leaving Kilkenny to see the game out to an inevitable conclusion.

They outscored Galway by 2-8 to 1-4 over the final 20 minutes, the goals coming from Walter Walsh (58) and sub Colin Fennelly (62).

It brought Walsh's total to 1-3, a superb return for an U-21 player making his senior debut.

Drafted in as part of Brian Cody's realigned attack, Walsh made an early impression when he popped over Kilkenny's third point in the 12th minute and continued to present the Galway full-back line with a range of problems they hadn't encountered in either of their two previous championship clashes with Kilkenny.

Walsh left the pitch to a grateful ovation from the Kilkenny supporters a minute after scoring his goal, having been replaced by Colin Fennelly who later became the 10th black-and-amber sniper to hit the target. All six starting forwards, both midfielders and left half-back Kieran Joyce also scored in a strike-fest which Galway came nowhere close to matching.



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SH & NHL CHAMPIONS 2012

Back: Paddy Hogan, JJ Delaney, Walter Walsh, Thomas Breen, Aidan Fogarty, Mark Kelly, Michael Fennelly, Colin Fennelly.
Third Row: William Phelan, Joe Brennan, Lester Ryan, John Tennyson, Mark Bergon, Michael Rice, Richie Hogan, Richie Doyle.
Second Row: TJ Reid, Richie Power, David Herity, Paul Murphy, Cillian Buckley, Eoin Murphy, Kieran Joyce, Conor Fogarty.
Front: Matthew Ruth, Jackie Tyrrell, Henry Shefflin, Eoin Larkin (Captain), Noel Hickey, Brian Hogan, Tommy Walsh.
(Eoin Hennessy)

GAME AT A GLANCE

ATTENDANCE: 82,274

MAN OF THE MATCH

Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny)

His influence was immense, especially in the first half when Kilkenny set about raising the tough questions that Galway hadn't encountered in earlier games. Apart from his leadership skills, Shefflin's finishing expertise saw him score 0-9, comprising five frees, two '65s' and two from open play.

TURNING POINT

Cyril Donnellan's dismissal in the 49th minute ended the game as a contest. Galway were four points down at the time but had gained considerable momentum over the previous five minutes. However, there was no way back once they went a man down and Kilkenny won the remainder of the game by 2-8 to 1-4.

TALKING POINT

Is it obligatory for referees to lock common sense in the dressing-room? Cyril Donnellan scored a perfectly good goal for Galway in the 44th minute but the referee opted to award a free in, which Joe Canning pointed. Effectively, Kilkenny got a two-point reward for fouling. Where's the justice in that?

MAGIC MOMENT

The history-making moment at the final whistle as Henry Shefflin became the first player in GAA history to win nine All-Ireland medals as a starting player. What odds against him winning a 10th next year?

REF WATCH

Galway could have no complaints over Donnellan's dismissal but are entitled to be unhappy with James McGrath's version of events in the opening 25 minutes, when all the marginal calls went Kilkenny's way. Also, surely the referee should have allowed Donnellan's goal to stand in the 44th minute.

WHAT THEY SAID

Brian Cody (Kilkenny manager): "He hasn't just played for Kilkenny; he has done everything for Kilkenny; he's led for Kilkenny; he's scrapped for Kilkenny and that's the difference in Henry Shefflin and players who just go out to get on the scoreboard and be the top scorer or whatever." Anthony Cunningham (Galway manager): "We fought tremendously hard, we're extremely proud of our players and, I suppose, it's one piece of consolation, to be the second-best team in Ireland to this super team."



Henry Shefflin wins a record 9th medal



Eoin Larkin, Kilkenny Captain raises the McCarthy Cup



Walter Walsh scores his side's second goal.

GAME AT A GLANCE

ATTENDANCE: 81,932

MAN OF THE MATCH

Iarla Tannian (Galway) Henry Shefflin was Kilkenny's main man but for sheer endeavour, most especially when things were going against Galway in the second half, Tannian deserves the top accolade for a driving midfield performance.

TURNING POINT

James Skehill's save from Colin Fennelly in the 60th minute may well have rescued Galway. A goal at that stage would have put Kilkenny two points clear and might just have given them the impetus to kick on and win.

TALKING POINT

Should the late free which earned Galway a draw been awarded? It was the tightest of calls but they couldn't have complained if the referee had waved play on after Davy Glennon was challenged by Jackie Tyrrell.

MAGIC MOMENT

James Skehill's save from Colin Fennelly in the 60th minute was truly brilliant. He conceded a free by laying on the ball after pulling off the save but it was a small concession to make when it looked certain that Kilkenny would score a goal and go two points clear.

REF WATCH

Barry Kelly did a good job overall. He was stricter than has been the case in All-Ireland finals in recent years but after the Kilkenny-Tipperary semi-final fall-out that was always going to be the case. The booking on Jackie Tyrrell late on was harsh.

WHAT THEY SAID

Anthony Cunningham (Galway manager) "We showed a slight lack of composure in the finish with three bad wides in a couple of minutes." Brian Cody (Kilkenny manager) "Surely to God the two managers are entitled to be excited. If that's a strange thing to see then you haven't been at too many hurling matches."

WHAT NEXT

The replay will be on Sunday, September 30.



Henry Shefflin in action against Kevin Hynes, Galway.



Brian Cody and Galway manager Anthony Cunningham dispute the late Galway free



T. J. Reid is tackled by Galway corner back Johnny Coen and full back Kevin Hynes

2014
Drawn Game

Tipp's closing burst squares epic contest

Three late points ensures third successive final replay

Kilkenny 3-22 Tipperary 1-28

Hurling is alive and well. Yesterday's final was the greatest I have ever seen. (Cyril Farrell)

MARTIN BREHENY

JUST when we thought the drama of last year's hurling final could not be surpassed, along comes this incredible blockbuster. Not only did it take excitement levels to places the Clare-Cork dash last September never explored, it also launched a persuasive application for being regarded as the best final of all time.

Granted, there's a tendency to be disproportionately impressed by an event which is fresh in the memory but, even allowing for that, there's compelling evidence to support the view that this remarkable game will always retain a special status in the All-Ireland final roll of honour. Firstly, there's its place in history as the highest-scoring 70-minute final, delivering a return of 4-50. There's also the unusual fact that a total of 31 points wasn't enough to win.

INTENSITY

Add in the breathtaking pace of the scoring, the fierce intensity and the relentless

competitiveness and it all comes together as an epic encounter, which, fittingly, ended with an agonising wait as Hawk-Eye decided whether, for the third successive year, a replay would be required to decide on the destination of the Liam MacCarthy Cup. John O'Dwyer, one of the day's big stars, thought he had posted the winning point for Tipperary from a long range point in the first minute of stoppage time and, with the umpires uncertain, it all came down to technology.

In what must have appeared like an age to both skies, Hawk-Eye deliberated before showing that the ball had drifted just wide of the post.

As the Kilkenny team and supporters sighed in relief, it was as if the air had been sucked out of Croke Park, before referee Barry Kelly sounded the final whistle. If O'Dwyer's radar had been on track, the point would have sparked off a major controversy as Kilkenny were furious that the free had been awarded in the first place.

Centre-back Brian Hogan was penalised for

charging as he surged forward in search of the lead point, offering O'Dwyer the chance to score

his eighth point. It was a very harsh decision against Hogan so Kilkenny would feel that justice was done when the free was struck wide.

They were also unhappy — and with equal justification — over an incident in the first half when Eoin Larkin was not awarded a free when clearly fouled. Tipperary broke downfield and Noe) McGrath pointed.

It was, in effect, a two-point turnaround, a massive swing in a game where the sides were level on 12 occasions.

But then, we should not have been surprised by the closeness of the game. Both sides had returned precisely the same totals in their previous five games while there was only a single point between their re-'spettive concession rates. It suggested the tightest of contests, a pattern which developed into a reality quite early on. It was level six times in a first quarter, which set a furious pace that never relented.



Richie Power, Kilkenny, runs in to score his team's first goal.

Tipperary had wasted two goal chances in that period. before making what looked like the first really significant drive of the day when scoring an unanswered 1-3 between the 18th and 25th minutes. The goal (21 mins) was finished by 'Bonner' Maher and, a minute later, he created another goal opportunity after being hauled down as he raced in on the Kilkenny goal.

The referee awarded a penalty, which Seamus Callanan blasted at the three-man wall, only to see it saved and cleared. A goal would have put Tipperary eight points clear and while Lar Corbett pointed shortly afterwards to open up a six-point gap, it wasn't nearly as damaging psychologically for Kilkenny as a second goal.

The Cats' response was typically direct and effective, striking back with 1-2, the goal coming from Richie Power in the 26th minute.

Tipperary led by 1-13 to 1-11 at the interval but found themselves trailing within seconds of the 1 restart when T IJ Reid's rocket flew past Darren Gleeson Kilkenny's second goal. And so began a half where the quality of the play defied logic. Kilkenny didn't shoot a single wide in the second half, during which they added 2-11 and while Tipperary had three wides, their impressive strike rate yielded 0-15.

It was level after 48 minutes, before Rjwer struck for a third Kilkenny goal. Richie Hogan, now very much in his impressive pomp, put Kilkenny four points clear shortly afterwards and, for the first time, it looked as though their well-documented capacity to hit the front at a crucial stage might emerge as the tiebreaker.

WORRIED

Tipperary were facing the ultimate test and, given their poor record against Kilkenny since beating them in the 2010 All-Ireland final, their supporters were growing increasingly apprehensive. They needn't have worried. Tipperary underpinned their efforts with a stubborn streak.

Still, they were trailing by three points heading into the final five minutes before sub Jason Forde and O'Dwyer brought them level. There was still time for more drama when O'Dwyer came close to winning it but, in the end, even Tipperary would have to concede that a draw was a fair result. Now the focus will switch to Saturday evening action at the end of the month. Whether it will live up to yesterday's standards remains to be seen. 1-19 between them for Tipperary. No fewer than 11 Tipperary' men got on the scoreboard while Kilkenny had nine marksmen. Interestingly, Henry Shefflin wasn't summoned for duty until the 66th minute, a significant statement in itself. Aidan Fogarty had been used 18 minutes earlier as real chance but Tipperary still found a way to level it all up, thus producing the first ever championship draw between the counties.

Tipperary	Stats	Kilkenny
1	Goals	3
28	Points	22
11	Blocks	14
2	Saves	2
1	Shots dropping short	1
4	Wides	6
16	Tipperary puck-outs won	15
16	Kilkenny puck-outs won	15
15	Tackles	9
10	Frees	10
0	Red cards	0
2	Yellow cards	3
18	Contested clean catches	21
84%	Pass completion rate	85%

GAME AT A GLANCE

ATTENDANCE: 82.178

MAN OF THE MATCH
Richie Hogan (Kilkenny)

There are so many genuine contenders but the nod goes to Richie Hogan. High or low in attack or midfield, he was superb, especially in the second-half. Top scorer from open play on 0-6.

TURNING POINT

None. There were moments that looked as if they would prove decisive but they were quickly cancelled out by yet another piece of drama.

TALKING POINT

Was this the best All Ireland final ever? Apart from producing so many great scores in a combined total of 54, there were only 10 wides.

MAGIC MOMENT

More like a magic 70 minutes as excitement and drama rippled through the exchanges from start to finish.

REF WATCH

Kilkenny would have felt justifiably aggrieved if Tipperary won the game from the last minute free as Barry Kelly call against Brian Hogan was very harsh.

WHAT'S NEXT?

They replay on Saturday. September 27"



Tipperary and Kilkenny players watch the final free go wide.



Cyril Carrell Writes

HURLING is alive and well. Yesterday's final was the greatest I have ever seen - it had everything. It was thrill a minute stuff and the intensity and skill levels that both sides showed has to be applauded. From a neutral's point of view, a replay was the best possible result and the prospect of seeing these two great teams go head to head again in three weeks time is fantastic.*

Tipperary fell behind and they struggled for goals all game but they showed great character to hang in there and they very nearly won it right at the death.

People might say that Tipp were wasteful with the goal chances that came their way but huge credit must be given to Loin Murphy who pulled off some top- class saves. Missing two penalties doesn't look great whatever way you look at it and that will have frustrated Tipp.

HARSH

John O'Dwyer struck the late free to win the game very well and having Hawk-Eye to make the decision just added to the drama. In fairness to the umpire, he had waved it wide and that shouldn't be forgotten. It's a game that will probably always be remembered now as the 'Hawk- Eye final'.

It was a very harsh free to begin with so, for the game to have been won in that fashion might, have been a bit unfair. If O'Dwyer had put it over, you can be sure that Barry Kelly won't have been on anyone from Kilkenny's Christmas card lists.



Richie Hogan fetches from the sky against Kieran Bergin, Tipperary



Cathal Barrett, Tipperary, in action against Walter Walsh



Hawkeye says No!

2014
Replay

Kilkenny take historic day in familiar stride

Shefflin and Cody set records in 35th All-Ireland win

Kilkenny 2-17 Tipperary 2-14

IT was 45 minutes after the final whistle before the last of the Kilkenny players left the Croke Park pitch under a golden autumn sky that hovered like a warm blanket high above the beaming floodlights.

It's their 35th All-Ireland title and they are now five clear of Cork on the overall roll of honour. It's the 10th senior All-Ireland of Brian Cody's managerial career and most incredibly of all, it's the 10th All-Ireland of Henry Shefflin's career – the Ballyhale Shamrocks man earning a unique place in GAA history.

Kilkenny are All-Ireland champions again after two second-half goals from the Brothers Power – Richie and John – saw them beat Tipperary by three points in the final replay on Saturday evening at Croke Park. In another very tight game, Tipperary led by two points at the break but Kilkenny were by a distance the better side in the second half and the goals from the Powers – from Richie in the 59th minute and from John in the 63rd – put them into an unassailable position.

A late goal from Séamus Callanan gave Tipperary some late hope but Kilkenny weren't to be undone, and their defence completed a magnificent collective display as they kept the door firmly shut on their

opponents in the closing minutes.

The numbers of this latest Kilkenny win are significant. It's their 35th All-Ireland title and they are now five clear of Cork on the overall roll of honour. It's the 10th senior All-Ireland of Brian Cody's managerial career and most incredibly of all, it's the 10th All-Ireland of Henry Shefflin's career – the Ballyhale Shamrocks man earning a unique place in GAA history. Shefflin has played in all 10 of Kilkenny's All-Ireland victories, starting the previous nine and coming on in this one as a substitute in the 58th minute.

Tipperary, who came so close to winning the All-Ireland three weeks ago when John O'Dwyer's last gasp free went wide, can have no complaints after a second half in which Kilkenny got on top of them quickly and ground them down with goals at the key moments.

There was only a point in it after 58 minutes, but Richie Power's brilliant goal sent the trophy irrevocably towards Kilkenny hands. When it was followed four minutes later by a goal from his brother John, there looked to

be no way back for Tipperary, but typical of an era in which high-octane drama seems to be a pre-requisite for every hurling game, Callanan's late strike set Croke Park abuzz in anticipation of another dramatic conclusion. It didn't materialise though, despite three minutes of added time, and Kilkenny, Cody and Shefflin were left to celebrate something for today, and something for all history to remember.

Tipperary led by two at the break, with Callanan's 29th minute goal the decisive score of the opening 35 minutes. Lar Corbett was the architect of the goal, latching onto a break from Patrick Maher around the middle and showing superb speed and fluidity of movement to race clean through on goal away from some trailing Kilkenny defenders. It looked as though he would shoot himself for the goal but instead he laid a clever handpass off to his left to Callanan, whose finish past Eoin Murphy was sharp, deft and pure.

That made it 1-5 to 0-6, and put Tipperary back in front, with Kilkenny having led since



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 2014

Back: Jackie Tyrrell, Colin Fennelly, Michael Walsh, Joe Lyng, Richie Power, John Power, William Phelan, Joey Holden, Shane Prendergast, Joe Brennan.

3rd row: Paul Murphy, Mark Kelly, Geoff Brennan, T.J.Reid, Brian Kennedy, Aidan Fogarty, Tomás Keogh, Matt Ruth, Johnjo Farrell.

2nd. row: Richie Hogan, Kieran Joyce, Conor Fogarty, David Herity, Eoin Murphy, Richie Reid, Walter Walsh, Cillian Buckley, Ger Aylward.

Front: Pádraig Walsh, Brian Hogan, J.J.Delaney, Eoin Larkin, Lester Ryan (capt), Michael Fennelly, Henry Shefflin, Tommy Walsh, Michael Rice.

Photo Eoin Hennessy

the 11th minute when four points in a row – from Richie Hogan (2), Eoin Larkin and TJ Reid – cancelled out the two opening scores of the game from Tipperary duo Shane and Noel McGrath.

A relatively low-scoring half, when compared with the first game anyway, saw the sides trade few scores up until the goal, with John O'Dwyer scoring the pick of them with a magnificent effort from out on the right wing. Tipperary could have found the net before Callanan's strike, the Drom & Inch man having had a great chance on 18 minutes, only to be hooked brilliantly at the vital moment by JJ Delaney, who incidentally went off injured in first-half stoppage time with what looked like a dislocated finger, only to return for the start of the second half. When Callanan's goal did arrive, it put Tipp two clear, and that remained the deficit at the break as Reid, Callanan, Michael Fennelly and Shane McGrath completed the first half scoring, McGrath with his third point from play in a highly productive first half from the Ballinahinch man. But Kilkenny started the second half brilliantly, and had five scores on the board without reply by the 43rd minute. The half started with Darren Gleeson brilliantly denying Colin Fennelly, but Fennelly made up for that miss with two excellent points, which along with efforts from Richie Power ('65') and TJ Reid (2 frees) had Kilkenny 0-13 to 1-7 ahead with 44 minutes on the clock. Noel McGrath got Tipperary off the mark for the second half on 46 minutes, and a Callanan free then cut the deficit to one. However, John Power swept over an inspirational score on 50 minutes, firing over beautifully on the turn after the ball had come to him following a series of battling

blocks in the Kilkenny defence. The sides traded scores back and forth, but Kilkenny were getting in for goal chances, and only a heroic block, via the helmet of James Barry, denied John Power a goal at the dawn of the final quarter.

A stirring point from Eoin Larkin combined with the entrance of Shefflin on 58 minutes brought with it a sense of an inevitable Kilkenny victory, and that sense was confirmed when Richie Power scored a brilliant goal on 59 minutes, shortly after Callanan had tapped a penalty over the bar for a Tipperary point.

Michael Fennelly cut in a perfect sideline ball from the left and Power rose high to catch it before rifling a superb finish from 20 yards past Gleeson and into the net. That put Kilkenny four clear at 1-15 to 1-11, and although Tipp responded with a free after an inspirational run from captain Brendan Maher, Kilkenny had the ball in the net again on 63 minutes.

Darren Gleeson, who had an outstanding game between the posts for Tipperary, made a string of superb saves as the sliotar bounced around his goalmouth, but he could do nothing to deny John Power, who tapped home to the net after Gleeson had blocked one into his path.

That made it 2-15 to 1-12, and when a John O'Dwyer '65' was answered by a wonder-score from Pádraig Walsh with less than five minutes to go, there looked to be no way back for Tipperary. However, on 69 minutes a Patrick Maher shot was blocked and fell into the path of Callanan, who swept home to the net to take his tally to 2-5 for the evening. The goal stirred Croke Park, and with five minutes (including injury-time) for Tipperary to claw back the two points, a comeback

that had looked unlikely moments earlier suddenly looked on.

However, Kilkenny took control in the dying stages and confirmed their victory when Colin Fennelly pinged over a superb score to send them three clear. The final whistle sounds moments later, and Kilkenny are champions again. Cool for Cats indeed.

Scorers for Kilkenny: TJ Reid 0-5(5f), R Power 1-1 (1 '65'), J Power 1-1, C Fennelly 0-3, R Hogan 0-2, M Fennelly 0-2, E Larkin 0-2, P Walsh 0-1

Scorers for Tipperary: S Callanan 2-5 (4f, 0-1 pen), J O'Dwyer 0-3 (1 '65'), S McGrath 0-3, N McGrath 0-2, B Maher 0-1

KILKENNY: Eoin Murphy; Paul Murphy, JJ Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell; Pádraig Walsh, Kieran Joyce, Cillian Buckley; Richie Hogan, Conor Fogarty; Michael Fennelly, Colin Fennelly, Eoin Larkin; Richie Power, TJ Reid, John Power

Subs: Joey Holden for J Tyrrell (Blood Sub, 16-18), J Holden for JJ Delaney (Blood Sub, 36-HT), Henry Shefflin for R Hogan (58), Lester Ryan for M Fennelly (67).

TIPPERARY: Darren Gleeson; Cathal Barrett, Pádraic Maher, Paddy Stapleton; Brendan Maher, James Barry, Kieran Bergin; Shane McGrath, James Woodlock; Gearóid Ryan, Patrick Maher, John O'Dwyer; Noel McGrath, Seamus Callanan, Lar Corbett

Subs: Michael Cahill for S McGrath (56), Conor O'Mahony for G Ryan (64), Shane Bourke for L Corbett (65), Jason Forde for N McGrath (67), John O'Brien for J O'Dwyer (70)

Referee: Brian Gavin (Offaly)

Attendance: 81,753



No way through! Tipperary's Bonner Maher is swallowed up by the Kilkenny defence.

GAME AT A GLANCE

ATTENDANCE: 81,753

■ GAME CHANGER

John Power's 63rd minute goal put the game effectively out of Tipperary's reach. Darren Gleeson had done well to snuff out the earlier danger but then Power pounced on a deflected shot

■ TALK OF THE TOWN

The stripey men doing it again.

■ DID THAT JUST HAPPEN?

A ninth All Ireland live for Henry Shefflin. He mightn't have done much when he came on but he stands apart in history now.

■ BEST ON SHOW

Cillian Buckley and Michael Fennelly weren't too far behind him but we tip the hat to Kieran Joyce. A splendid performance on Patrick 'Bonner' Maher in what was his first game for Kilkenny since June.

■ SIDELINE SUPERIOR

It wasn't so much that Brian Cody got his match-ups right, which he did, nor his personnel switches (he made just two changes) but that his team simply showed more controlled aggression and a higher work-rate.

■ THE MAN IN BLACK

Both sides would have a righteous sense of injustice about a few calls against them, Kilkenny namely, with Tipperary's second half penalty. Brian Gavin negotiated a tricky encounter otherwise.



Conor Fogaty clears his lines



Kieran Joyce in action against Patrick Maher, Tipperary.



Lester Ryan, captain, lifts the McCarthy Cup

AWARDS 2023



Denise Gaule, Kilkenny's only 2023 All Star, receives her seventh award from Uachtarán, Hilda Breslin.

2023 ALL-STARS CAMOGIE TEAM

1. Amy Lee (Cork)
2. Vikki Falconer (Waterford)
3. Libby Coppinger (Cork)
4. Róisín Black (Galway)
5. Karen Kennedy (Tipperary)
6. Laura Treacy (Cork)
7. Meabh Cahalane (Cork)
8. Saoirse McCarthy (Cork)
9. Lorraine Bray (Waterford)
10. Hannah Looney (Cork)
11. Beth Carton (Waterford)
12. Denise Gaule (Kilkenny)
13. Amy O'Connor (Cork)
14. Katrina Mackey (Cork)
15. Cáit Devane (Tipperary)

2023 ALL-STARS HURLING TEAM

- 1 Eoin Murphy (Kilkenny)
- 2 Mikey Butler (Kilkenny)
- 3 Huw Lawlor (Kilkenny)
- 4 Dan Morrissey (Limerick)
- 5 Diarmaid Byrnes (Limerick)
- 6 John Conlon (Clare)
- 7 Kyle Hayes (Limerick)
- 8 Darragh O'Donovan (Limerick)
- 9 William O'Donoghue (Limerick)
- 10 Shane O'Donnell (Clare)
- 11 TJ Reid (Kilkenny)
- 12 Tom Morrissey (Limerick)
- 13 Conor Whelan (Galway)
- 14 Aaron Gillane (Limerick)
- 15 Eoin Cody (Kilkenny)



17 November 2023; Kilkenny award winners, left to right, Eoin Murphy, Sean Reid, representing his son TJ Reid, Huw Lawlor, Larry Cody, representing his son Eoin Cody, and Mikey Butler, with their PwC GAA/GPA All-Star Awards. Photo by David Fitzgerald/Sportsfile



13 October 2023 - Three Kilkennymen receive GAA MacNamee Awards 2021 & 2022, from Uachtarán Larry McCarthy at Cusack Suite in Croke Park. Senan Cooke (2022 Best GAA Club Publication – “A History of Dunhill”), Derek Dooley (2022 Best GAA Related Radio Programme – “The First Puck”), and Enda McEvoy (Hall Of Fame Award). Also in picture, Liam Ryan, Conor Denieffe and Ned Quinn. Photo by David Fitzgerald/Sportsfile

James Nolan RIP

The darkest of dark clouds descended on the parish of Clara on January 27th of this year. News of the death of James, following a tragic accident the night before brought an outpouring of grief and heartbreak to every corner of our tightly knit community. James was cherished by his parents Gerry and Brigid and his siblings Dermot, Margaret, Elaine, Catherine, Peter and Claire, his adored nephews and nieces, his extended family and relations.

The following days were a testament to the love and respect in which the Clara community, the farming community and the wider GAA community hold James and the Nolan family. Huge numbers called to the house to express their sympathy, lines of silence, tears and sadness waiting to say goodbye to a wonderful young man.

Among others, his Clara GAA team mates who simply revered him, devastated by his passing, comforted the Nolan family and themselves as best they could, by recalling every memory and story that encapsulated James. Many of those stories told of James's primary school days, his days as a St. Kieran's College student and his incredible contribution to Clara GAA club.

James began primary school in 1993. He travelled to and from primary school for the following eight years with his siblings and neighbours on the 'Dunbell' bus. Many of those neighbours were to become his closest and most loyal of friends – the Ryans, Langtons, McDonalds and Hogans amongst them. James brought four belongings to school each and every day – his infectious smile, his hurley and helmet and his schoolbag. Each played a major part in those formative years. His smile was who he was. Departing the bus every morning, as he entered the school grounds his smile was already evident, a sign of the camaraderie those bus journeys were forming.

Clara National School suited James. Like himself, many of the sons and daughters of the 1986 Senior County hurling champions were attending the school. His good humoured temperament, kindness and willingness to participate in all classroom activities allowed James to be a favourite with teachers and classmates alike. His witty responses brought many a lesson to life. However, it was at lunchtimes, every lunchtime, with hurley and helmet assembled that James began to write his primary school story.

The quality of many a primary school hurler can, through human bias, be exaggerated. However, James Nolan was special, really special. Coaching James at that tender age would have been a mistake, encouraging him was all that was required. His first touch, speed, athleticism and eye for goal marked him as an outstanding talent from an early age – those lunchtime 'All Ireland Finals' preparing and paving the way for playing for the school team. Winning or losing at lunchtime can cause upset for many a young player but James always seemed at ease with either situation, preferring to concentrate on enjoying every minute of 'freedom' with his friends.

James made his debut for the school hurling team in 1998, playing in the Roinn C championship. Although only in 3rd class (aged 9), he lined out at left half forward in the County Final, scoring a fine goal in defeat to Gaelscoil Osraí. The team was very young and no one could have predicted that eight of this Roinn C panel would start the 2013 senior county final win against Carrickshock together – James, Lester and Liam Ryan, David Langton, Sean O'Shea, Austin Murphy, Shane and Neal Prendergast.

James' potential continued to flourish and success in the school colours wasn't far away. By 2000, still in 5th class and aged 11, James was now centre forward. At this stage he was very well known by opponents who were also plying their trade in the Roinn C grade. Another County Final was reached. Our opponents, Mullinavat, had already won the Country Cup and provided a real examination of character. Seven points down at halftime suggested another defeat but an incredible performance from James (scoring 2-6) and his team mates ensured victory, a very welcomed Roinn C schools' title. With only 3 of the team in 6th class the decision was made to apply to Cumann na mBunscol to skip Roinn B and to play in Roinn A in 2001 for the first time in the school's history.

James was chosen as captain of the school's very first Roinn A team. He led by example and inspiration. An incredible year of hurling for the school followed as Clara NS completed the treble of Roinn A, Country Cup and Mini Sevens hurling. The Country Cup and Roinn A title part of the treble were achieved in devastating fashion in a period of five days. On the last Monday in June the boys defeated Urlingford in the Country Cup winning 4-15 to 1-6 to take the title for the very first time. James gave a great display of score taking, finishing with a personal tally of 1-12. Two days later the boys defeated St. Patrick's De La Salle 5-10 to 2-2 to reach their first ever Roinn A final. On the Friday evening in Nowlan Park history was made. A tremendous team performance saw the boys defeat Kilkenny CBS on a scoreline of 4-13 to 1-5. As captain, James gave an outstanding display scoring 1-9. He was ably assisted by all his team mates. Along with Liam Ryan, David Langton and Sean O'Shea who were mentioned earlier, this team also provided Tom Ryan, Keith Hogan, Brian O'Shea, Kevin Nolan, Michael McDonald, Stephen Quinlan, Patrick Galvin and James Dowling for the 2013 senior hurling county final team and panel.

Many a time in encouraging those school teams, James's teachers would plead with the rest of the team 'Lads, we can't always be depending on James'. The boys just nodded silently. They knew better. ... they could always depend on James. Comparisons are very difficult to make across the generations but no one would argue with the assertion that no better primary schools' hurler ever attended Clara NS. ... And there have been many very good ones.

St. Kieran's College was the natural next step for James, given his hurling prowess. His reputation well and truly preceded him, thanks to his outstanding performances at primary school level. However, at Kieran's, it was his cross country running that captured the attention of both his teachers and fellow students.

James, not a member of any running club and never owning a pair of spikes opting for the traditional pair of Asics instead, managed to secure victories in his first five Leinster cross country events. This achievement was especially remarkable considering the competition, which featured over 100 entries from across Leinster. James developed a fierce running rivalry with John Coughlan (son of Eamon Coughlan), who later became one of Ireland's leading cross country athletes winning a European Championship. In 2002, James, together with

Clara teammate, Eoin O'Shea, were key members of the St. Kieran's cross country team which won the Junior All Ireland in Tinryland and the 2004 team which finished 3rd in the Intermediate All Ireland in Belfast. It was widely acknowledged that James could have pursued this path; however, his first love, hurling, was never to be ousted. He went on to win Leinster Juvenile hurling and football championships for the school.

James was immensely popular in the school, admired and well-liked by both pupils and teachers. He made great contributions to the life of the school during his six years there.

The talent and excellence that James developed and fostered from a young age were always evident whenever he lined out with his beloved Clara GAA club. James loved everything associated with hurling. While still in primary school, he knew the directions to most GAA grounds in Kilkenny. James would be the front seat passenger going to all underage matches as he was the man for the directions.

As James's underage career took off, Clara also became successful in the various tournaments that they played in, hardly being a coincidence with a player like James on the team. In all the underage games James played, he was always to the forefront for Clara. A prime example was the Denis Molloy under 12 tournament in 2000 when Clara were 1-6 to 0-0 down at halftime. Clara gave a battling display in the 2nd half and a goal by James in the dying moments earned Clara victory. James being the Clara hero was a common headline throughout his career.

James was one of the main driving forces behind every success that Clara achieved in which he was involved. In 2001, the year James led Clara school to its first ever Roinn A title, he also captained Castlewarren to All-Ireland glory in the Community Games in Mosney. The team was joined with players from Muckalee and James was exceptional throughout the campaign. In 2002, Clara won the prestigious Under 13 Lisdowney Sevens tournament for the first time ever, providing James with another accolade to add to his ever growing mantelpiece.

James achieved the ultimate prize that his underage career deserved when Clara lifted their first Minor A title in 2007. Whenever Clara needed someone to inspire them, James always had an answer. Clara also won the Kilkenny intermediate title in 2007 and James at 18 years old was one of the main players for Clara. His performances in the competition earned him a place on the Intermediate Team of the Year at corner forward.

Something special was on the radar for Clara. In 2012, Clara won the Kilkenny Intermediate Hurling Championship and victories in the Leinster and All-Ireland Intermediate Club Championship for the first time in their history followed. In that All-Ireland final in Croke Park James received the man of the match award for his performance.

The definitive prize of his hurling career arrived in 2013 when Clara won the Kilkenny senior hurling title. The crucial goal scored by James in the closing minutes of the 2013 semi-final would propel Clara to the county final, where they were crowned Kilkenny senior hurling champions for the first time since 1986. Sharing that success with his two brothers Dermot and Peter and his cousin Kevin, was something that he always cherished and valued. Clara repeated the feat in 2015 and James collected his 2nd Kilkenny senior hurling title.

James represented Kilkenny throughout the underage ranks and was a member of the Kilkenny U21 panel for 3 years winning a Leinster and an All-Ireland title in 2008 and a Leinster title in 2009. He scored 2 points in the 2009 All-Ireland final when Kilkenny narrowly lost to Clare by one point. James also collected an All-Ireland Intermediate medal in 2008 when Kilkenny defeated Limerick.

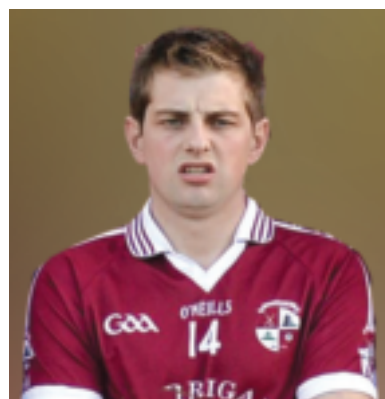
In 2014 James brought his hurling overseas to America and once again his talents and skills provided another addition to his mantelpiece. He won the New York Senior Hurling Championship representing Galway. James was joined on the panel by his close friend and Clara teammate Jack Langton and they defeated a Long Island Gaels team who had another Clara teammate and good friend Keith Hogan in their ranks. Galway had not won the title in 25 years and this was a marvellous achievement and result for the team.

It would be wrong not to mention football when we talk about James Nolan. The attributes James had on the hurling field were duplicated onto the football field. His talents at football were recognised each year and James represented Kilkenny GAA on numerous occasions and won two British Junior football championship titles in 2017 and 2018. James made football and hurling look easy and he always played both with immense enjoyment and that infectious smile.

James was one of the most skilful, talented and natural hurlers to represent Clara. His trickery with the ball bewildered many opponents and team mates down through years. James had a dummy hand pass that would deceive you even if you expected it. He was a versatile hurler, in one particular game he played in goal and gave an outstanding display. James's biggest quality was his hurling brain and he could see passes that no one else would even anticipate. His knowledge of the game, the right place to be at the right time and the correct decision to make with each ball allowed him to stand out amongst the rest. His team mates often remarked that if there was an exam in hurling James would always get full marks.

James was the go to man when Clara were in trouble and each time he answered the call coming up with plays or scores to keep Clara on top. It is extremely difficult to fully put into words the impact James had on Clara GAA Club but it is very easy to say that if it wasn't for James Nolan, Clara would not be as successful as it has been.

His beloved family and friends will have other treasured memories of James. Thinking of James continues to bring tears, remembering him allows us to smile. That's exactly as he would want.



Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

Tommy Phelan RIP



The parish of Ballyhale lost another fine man and fine hurler when Tommy Phelan passed away, following a lengthy illness borne with great dignity and stoicism, on September 2.

The immense turnout for his removal in Kilkenny and his funeral in Ballyhale attested to Tommy's popularity and the high esteem in which he was held all over the county. Through work, the GAA and golf, Tommy knew a striking range of people. Ever affable and rarely without a smile on his face, he made friends with ease and was excellent company. He often spoke with affection about the eight years or so he spent living in Kilkenny before moving back to Coolmeen, his home townland, in the early 2000s.

Tommy Phelan was born on July 14, 1964, second eldest in a family of five boys and a girl. His exceptional hurling talent quickly got noticed at St Patrick's NS and he progressed in standard country fashion, playing three or four seasons at a juvenile grade because his ability ran so far in advance of his years. Tommy was an absolutely natural stickman in classic Kilkenny fashion, wristy and economical, righthanded but equally adept off both sides, skilful out.

He emerged as a hurler of real quality with Shamrocks during the 1982 season. He was picked, just gone 18, at wing forward for 1982's Senior Final, when James Stephens were defeated by nine points, 3-10 to 2-4. That season, Tommy won a remarkable five County Championships: Senior hurling, Senior football, Junior A hurling, Minor B hurling and Minor B football.

He was launched as a significant player. Kilkenny's U21 selectors recognized his worth and picked him at midfield in 1984 and 1985. Both seasons culminated in an All Ireland Final against Tipperary, with victory achieved at first time of asking.

Tommy won five further Senior titles with Shamrocks (1983, 1985, 1988-89, 1991) and two Club All Irelands (1984, 1990). The win in 1985, with younger brother Paul on the team, stood out as a highlight. Tommy most often hurled at midfield, quick to see best option or strike a point, but was equally comfortable at wing forward and could capably fill in, when needed, at wing back.

His club contribution followed the classic arc. Following retirement as a player in the mid 1990s, he served on the executive committee for many years and was most recently Vice Chairman. Tommy devoted countless hours to working as part of the team that organized the Annual Golf Classic, a key fundraiser. He enjoyed serious success as a selector and was part of Ballyhale Shamrocks management for four Senior titles (2006-08, 2014) and two Club All Irelands (2007, 2015). No job seemed too little for him and Tommy likewise deserves much credit for managing the Junior B panel, a third adult team, during the late 2010s.

Ballyhale Shamrocks GAA Club and the whole parish offers its deepest sympathy to his loving wife Claire, his son Mark, his mother Alice, his brothers Michael, Seán, Paul and Patrick, and his sister Noeleen. Tommy was one of the right good ones.

Tim Wilson RIP



Kilkenny can justifiably be proud of the achievements of our hurling and camogie teams who between them have garnered 51 Senior All Ireland titles and the names of the players that adorned these teams will rightly be remembered forever in song and story.

In contrast, while one Junior football All Ireland and three Leinster senior football titles have been won, including the very first one that was played, there isn't similar ease of access to the names of those who have represented our county in the big ball game down through the years, but should such a list be compiled, it is certain that the name Tim Wilson, former outstanding player with the Railyard Club and Kilkenny, would feature prominently on it.

From the first time that he pulled on the club jersey it was obvious to all that Tim was going to be something special. Equally proficient kicking off either foot he was invariably the leading scorer in every game he played. Having helped the club to two county minor championship successes (he also won one in another county but that's a story for another day) he graduated to the Club senior team, and in a career that would span three decades he went on to win no less than fourteen County senior Championships medals, the first one in 1957 and his last in 1978, an achievement that included completing the five in a row on two occasions.

Tournament games, the precursors to the current Provincial and All Ireland club championships, were huge crowd pullers in that era and Tim and his Railyard teammates regularly travelled outside the county to compete in these, often recording notable successes against the best club teams in counties Laois, Kildare and Carlow.

For more than fifteen years Tim was a regular on the Kilkenny team that competed in both the National Football League and the Leinster Junior championship and while no titles accrued, opponents were regularly heard to comment that the level of skill that he displayed would have adorned the game in any county.

Shy and retiring by nature Tim was always quick to acknowledge the contribution of the players that he played with. Amongst the Railyard players that he lined out with at club and county level were Martin, Kieran and Michael Meally, Pat and John Nash, Murt, Tom and Mick Brennan, Michael Sonny Brown Seamus Kennedy, Mick Kelly Bill Walsh while All Ireland winning hurlers Fan Larkin, Kieran Purcell, Claus Dunne, Pat Henderson and Frank Cummins were amongst the many that wore the Black and Amber alongside him.

Tim was also to the fore in the establishment of the Cloneen Hurling club and in the development their splendid facilities in Clogh, serving as club treasurer, club trustee and as club delegate to both the Northern and Kilkenny Co Boards for many years

Devotion to the game, fitness, technique, game intelligence allied to his loyalty to both club and county were some of the attributes that made Timmy Wilson the special player that he was. We may never see his likes again.

He could have played with better, but he choose his own
Playing with his county, he would never carry home
the trophy all aspire to, but that's not why he played
If he played with another county, he'd feel he had betrayed
himself, his art, his people, so he played out his career
Away from the glare of headlines, and yet sometimes you will hear
from followers of football the mention of his name
It's enough that they believe in him his way, his truth, his game.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam naofa.

Ned Quinn

1 líonca dé



Peter Dooley

Peter Dooley of Newhouse, Bennettsbridge, died on May 12th 2022. News of Peters passing was met with great sadness in Bennettsbridge and surrounding areas. Peter was a staunch Bennettsbridge club man and he and his family did Trojan work over many years on behalf of the club. A farmer by profession and a great machinery man he was involved in the field committee for many years. He gave freely of his time working on the present Gaa grounds in the early eighties helping to make the pitch into what we have today. Peter was also heavily involved in installing the seating and railing around the pitch in the early 2000s. He was a member of the finance committee in the club also during that time. Peter served as a selector on the Bridge intermediate teams under the management of Paddy Johnston and also under Fan Larkin during the late eighties and also on the junior B championship winning team of 1991, the clubs first piece of silverware in a few years. He was involved in managing under age teams, winning a u 16 championship in 1994. At his funeral many former players spoke of great memories of Peters car crammed with hurlers heading to games all over the county. Peter also loved playing cards and played regularly in Bennettsbridge and Dungarvan. Peter's family continue to be involved in Bennettsbridge Gaa club with all his grand children playing underage hurling and camogie. His son Tim was involved with our senior team management over the last three years while Peadar was the clubs main sponsor for the last six years. A large guard of honour attended Peters funeral which was a fitting tribute to him. We offer our deepest sympathies to Lucy, Conor, Brian, Tim and Peadar, to his sister Nellie, Grandchildren, daughters in law and extended family.
Ar dheis de go raibh a anam.

(Inadvertantly omitted from 2022 Yearbook)



Bertie Norris

Bertie Norris, Lamogue Windgap, played at midfield on the very first Windgap Hurling team in 1954. Bertie settled in Clonmel in County Tipperary and was always a proud Windgap and Kilkenny supporter.

The Club would like to extend its sympathies to his sons James, Pat, Thomas, daughter Elaine and their extended family

(Inadvertantly omitted from 2022 Yearbook)



Bobby Jackman

The death took place on 22nd November 2022 of Bobby Jackman of Blackstaff, Callan and formerly of Windgap following a long brave battle with illness.

Bobby was a Windgap stalwart lining out in the red jersey until his late 40's. He was a key player for both of their Junior Championship successes, firstly as a goalkeeper lining out with his brother Paddy in 1970 and later as a full back in 1986. Bobby kept goal through Windgaps Senior Championship journey in the 70's and was rewarded with a call up to the Kilkenny senior team earning a start in goal in 1974 v Clare the day after his wedding. He later was a key member of the first ever Kilkenny Masters All Ireland winning side in 1995.

Whilst a player, Bobby also filled the role of Chairman and Secretary of the club at different stages and managed Windgaps junior team on a number of occasions winning a South Championship in 2001. He managed the clubs U-21's to a famous Championship success in 1994.

Alongside Brian Ryan, Bobby became the counties first full time GAA coach in 1994 travelling to all clubs and schools in South Kilkenny.

He coached numerous clubs and loved nothing more than being out on the pitch helping to develop young hurlers. Junior Championship success at county and provincial level came with John Lockes in 2010 and he was a regular at John Lockes juvenile matches in more recent years to keep a watchful eye on his three Grandsons.

At inter county level Bobby managed the Kilkenny Senior Camogie team on two occasions and also took the helm with the county minor and U-21 team.

He was a fanatical Kilkenny supporter and had an exceptional memory of past games recounting critical incidents and debating team selections for upcoming games.

A plasterer by trade and an entrepreneur across many areas his most recent venture was social dancing.

His funeral was attended by huge numbers of friends and members of the GAA community from across the country and featured guards of honour from Windgap GAA, John Lockes GAA, Mount Carmel care home and Windgap NS. Bobby is remembered fondly by sons Robert and Trevor, daughter Lynda and their mother Ann, his grandchildren, Carrie, Shay, Robbie and Michéal, daughter-in-law Jackie, brother Paddy, sister-in-law Sheila and a wide network of friends.



Cathal Moran

The 28th February this year was a dark day for the Blacks and Whites GAA club and the wider community of Skeaghvasteen, it was the day we lost a true Blacks & Whites clubman Cathal Moran. Cathal passed away after a very short illness at the young age of 51. Cathal was a pillar of our GAA community, known for his unwavering commitment to all aspects of our GAA club. Cathal was our current Bord na nOg chairperson and was also Vice chairman of our hurling club.

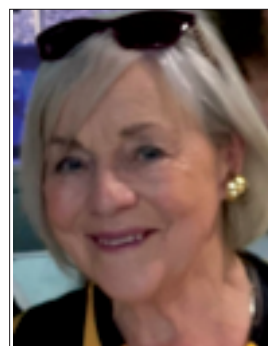
This year, 25 years ago, Cathal was on the Blacks & Whites Junior hurling panel when we won our first Junior Co Final, he was also on the panel that won the County Final in 2002 and played all his under age hurling with the Blacks & Whites.

Cathal was a selfless giver of his time, not only in the administration side of the club, he also dedicated countless hours to coaching and mentoring our young players, instilling in them the values of teamwork and sportsmanship. His leadership and guidance left an indelible mark on the next generation of players to whom Cathal is held in such high esteem today and always.

Cathal had a very successful and thriving dairy farm and, typical of Cathal, he was also a leading figure in the IF A, Tirlan and was involved in all aspects of progression in farming. Even with this hectic schedule Cathal still prioritised time for the Blacks & Whites club. The saying "if you want something done, ask a busy man" epitomises Cathal. Cathal leaves behind a legacy of dedication, camaraderie, love of place and family, and a love for the GAA tradition. He will be dearly missed by his family, friends, and the entire GAA community.

Our thoughts and prayers are especially with his loving wife Grainne, children Lore ha, Roisin and baire, his parents Ned and Ann and Cathal's brother & sisters during this very difficult time.

May Cathal rest in peace, knowing that his contribution to our club and community will be remembered and celebrated for generations to come. Ar dheis be go raibh a anam.



Wazzie Kenneally

Wazzie Kenneally 1945-2023

Wazzie passed away at home after a short illness on the 11th of April 2023. A Windgap native, she started out her Camogie career in the fields of Knockroe, Windgap and surrounding areas, moving the "cow muck" from the pitch before they played.

She would tell stories of cycling over the haypenny bridge with her hurl to play in the Phoenix park while working in Dublin. Wazzie played with St Paul's Camogie Club, and when she married her husband Peter and moved to Hugginstown she was involved in the establishment of the Carrickshock Camogie Club. Stories galore were told about her toughness on and off the pitch.

All her life she followed the fortunes of Carrickshock, Windgap and Kilkenny teams and took great pride in the achievements of her children and grandchildren.

Wazzie's love of Camogie travelled as far as Perth, Australia, when in 2010 she posted 24 hurls and slotars to help with the early establishment of the western swans Camogie club and was delighted to see her daughter Ailish, grandchildren Peter & Micheala, nephew David, all playing for the now western swans GAA club.

She loved the big occasions too and would travel to Dublin every September if Kilkenny were lucky enough to get to the final, and she had gotten "a good ticket for the hogan stand", this was a far cry from the stories of standing on boxes from Moore street on Hill 16 with Peter in the 1960's.

Wazzie is sadly missed by all her family and friends. The Kenneally and Power family were very appreciative of the guard of honour which was provided by the Carrickshock Camogie Club.

Ar Dheis De go raibh a hanam dlis.



Mary Rockett

On the 14th September we lost a friend and colleague that had been the backbone of our club for the last 30 plus years.

Mary Rockett was Mrs Slieverue GAA. She served as Secretary and gave a lifetime of service to our club. Mary never missed a match or a meeting and was proud of her club and proud to be our representative.

She always had the club's best interests at heart and despite several men coming and going as chairman, she remained the steady anchor as our secretary. She was instrumental in getting our lotto backup and running and was a driving force behind the redevelopment of the pitch over the years. She would often be in her office at home until all hours sorting tickets and putting data into files. Her work as an office manager gave her the skills to keep exemplary records for the club over many years and there was nothing that she didn't keep on record going back over the last 30 years.

She will never be replaced as our secretary, her work will never be forgotten and for all of us who had the pleasure to call her a friend we will deeply miss her every day, we will miss her witty banter and of course her guidance and advice.

We send our sincere sympathies to her dad Dick, Brothers Eddie and Michael, sisters Helen, Bernie, Katie and Jo, sisters in law, brothers in law, nieces, nephews, extended family and many many friends

May Mary's gentle soul rest in her eternal reward with the angels. Ar Dheis De go raibh a hanam dlis.



Billy Rockett

We were deeply saddened to hear of the untimely passing of Billy Rockett in June.

Everyone in the community in Kilmacow and surrounding areas were left shocked and truly saddened at the news of Billy's passing. It was a great tribute to the wonderful young man Billy was to see such a large crowd gather in Kilmacow to pay their respects.

The club would like to pass sincere condolences to his parent Liam and Josephine, sisters Ellen, Marie and Hannah and Billy's Grandparents, aunts, uncles, extended family, many friends and neighbours.



Denis Vereker

On December 4th 2022 we lost a staunch member of Slieverue Club. Denis (Denny) Vereker was a stalwart to our great club, he served as PRO for many years as well as a selector on our junior team for many a year also. Denny was often seen stewarding in Nowlan Park as a club representative and if he wasn't doing that he was looking for lost Slotars in the ditch at training or at home drying them by the stove and even going as far as to stitch them by hand. He never missed a Slieverue game and was a club man to his core.

He always had the club's best interests at heart and his archive of material that he kept through the years is spectacular. He will always be a Slieverue man and his passion and commitment to the club will be sorely missed by all who knew him.



Frankie Ryan

Frankie Ryan of Woodlawn Bennettsbridge died on the 11th of February this year at the age of 85. A fine underage hurler Frankie won a minor county championship with Dicksboro in 1953 and hurled minor with Bennettsbridge for two years following that. He graduated onto the Bridge senior team in the following years winning county finals in the late fifties and also in 1960 and 1962, he was also on the team that lost out to Tullaroan in 1958. Frankie's brothers Noel, Ned and Michael were also valued members of the Bennettsbridge hurling teams throughout the sixties and into the seventies. Frankie emigrated to England in the early sixties settling in London for a number of years with his wife Lila. They settled back in Bennettsbridge with their daughter Caroline where he was a valued member of the community. He was involved with East End soccer club for many years and also played golf and squash. A guard of honour comprising of the Gaa club, soccer club and the local community met Frankie's cortage on its way to Bennettsbridge church. All at Bennettsbridge Gaa offer our deepest condolences to Lila and Caroline, his granddaughters Jessica and Abbie, his brothers Ned, Michael and Noel and to his extended family. May Frankie rest in peace.



Jimmy Cuddihy

Jimmy Cuddihy (1954 - 2022)

From the last house in Killamery, Windgap and in County Kilkenny Jimmy attended Grangemockler National school where he played hurling with the very first Grangemockler Ballyneale minor hurling team, with Callan CBS and then in goal for Windgap. A staunch Kilkenny man and a great supporter of the Windgap club through sponsoring Jerseys and attending all the local games, Jimmy loved his music and song particularly in the Auld House. A real life character he played the mouth organ and entertained all with his excellent Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh, big match commentaries. Jimmy who served on UN tours in the Lebanon was laid to rest in his Irish Army uniform and was known for his jovial turns of phrase and sign offs.

Jimmy is regretted by his loving family, children, Jimmy Jnr., Maryanne, Richard, Stephen, P.J, J.P, Triona, Bernie and Theresa, grandchildren, brothers Milo, Martin and Eugene, sisters Dinah, Rena, Rita and Esther, other relatives, comrades, neighbours and friends. Rest in Peace Jimmy "Over and out MacGyver".



John O'Brien

John O'Brien of Garryricken, Windgap passed away on Sept 1st this year. The news of his passing was greeted with sadness by the community in Windgap. John started his lifelong involvement with the GAA playing football with Cotterstown in the late 1950s and Lamogue in the 60s, reaching at number of county finals. Wing forward or corner forward was usually his position. He also hurled with Windgap in the 1960s, usually at half back. He served as club Chairman and Secretary and was also a selector for the Windgap team. He was involved in setting the questions for the quiz night club fundraisers in the early 80s. These were significant events and were hosted on different occasions by Liz Howard, Sam Melbourne and Micheal O' Muircheartaigh. All through his life he was a proud supporter of both the red and white and the black and amber. Until relatively recently, hail rain or snow, he travelled all over the country to matches in both codes. In over 50 years of going to All Irelands, both hurling and football, he missed only a handful of the 100 plus that were played.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam dlis.



Larry Doyle

There was total shock tinged with sadness among the Barrow Rangers fraternity with the news of Larry Doyle's sudden and unexpected death. Rangers teams will have one less pair of eyes focused on them. No matter what age team was playing from Juvenile to Adult home or away if Larry knew it was on he'd be there. Hurling was his main conversation. Larry's involvement with the Club extended to more than being a supporter. In 1989 he was a selector with the Minor team that won the Roinn C title. The following year he was a selector with the Under 21 team that won the Roinn B Championship. In 1992 he was Treasurer of the Club when they did the double of Junior Hurling and Football County Championships and

in 1994 he was Chairman of the Club. He will be sadly missed by many. John O'Brien of Garryricken, Windgap passed away on Sept 1st



Paddy Heffernan

Tullagher/Rosbercon GAA Club would like to pay tribute to the late Paddy Heffernan. From an early age he became very much involved in the GAA and figured for many years on the Tullagher hurling and football teams and represented Kilkenny with distinction on the hurling field; not surprising since his father Jimmy won an All-Ireland medal in that still famous classic final of 1947, when Kilkenny beat Cork. Paddy was only 15 when won his first county medal in 1976 at Under-16, Tullagher beating Galmoy, 2-3 to 1-0, and came under the notice of the Kilkenny Minor selectors. Picked for the Kilkenny team the following year 1977 when only 16, with his brother Jimmy, they both won All Ireland medals in Thurles when the Cats beat Cork after a replay - the sides finishing level in the first game, Kilkenny 4-8, Cork 3-11. In a tight re-run Kilkenny edged out the Leesiders with a score line of 1-8 to 0-9. Paddy secured another All-Ireland trophy in in 1984 when as a member of the Kilkenny Junior team they saw off the challenge of Galway, 0-13 to 2-5.

On the club scene he was an ever-present player on the Tullagher hurling and football teams, spanning a long number

of years. Equally at home with either the sliotar or the big ball, he was a commanding figure from his centre half back position winning numerous county titles in both codes.

Paddy was in the true sense a wonderful servant of the GAA both at club and county level.

Paddy is survived by his wife Mary for whom this was the second bereavement in recent weeks, daughters, Lizzie and Ann-Marie, brothers, Tom, Andy, Jimmy and Liam, sister, Marie, nephews, nieces and a large extended family to whom sincere sympathy is extended in their great loss, may Paddy rest in peace.

Go nDeana Dia Trocaire ar a Anam Dilis



Lar Doyle

The 25th of May 2023 marked the death of Lar Doyle, Coolroe, Graignamanagh. Originally from Newtown where he won seven senior titles with St Mullins and lined out for Carlow Lar moved to Graig' in 1953 to take over an uncles farm. Although the move meant crossing both parish and county bounds Lar left none of his hurling prowess behind him and promptly commenced playing for the newly formed Graignamanagh club. After his playing career Lar served with distinction on the club committee for several decades and held the role of treasurer. Lar farmed and undertook building work up to his retirement some years ago seldom missing a Graig match. His farming and build-

ing activities ensured contact with a wide GAA circle with Lar being quite expert on all matters hurling in Wexford, Carlow and Kilkenny. Lar was predeceased by his wife, Eileen, his daughter Carmel and is sadly missed by his children Ann, Pat, Jim, Catherine and Liam, grandchildren, great grandchildren, extended family, friends and neighbours.



Phil Cullen

The death occurred of Phil Cullen formally of Woolen-grange, Bennettsbridge in champniers-et - Reilhac , France on the 22nd of January 2023 at the age of 80. A fine hurler for club and county Phil won an All Ireland minor medal for Kilkenny in 1961 playing corner back in the defeat of Tipperary. Upon emigrating to England Phil played with Warwickshire in the mid to late sixties. On returning to Ireland Phil played for the Thomastown team before returning to Bennettsbridge in 1972. He played in two county finals in 1972 and 1974 , unfortunately the Bridge lost out in both to the Fenians who were in their prime during that period. Phil played midfield in 72 and corner back in 74 showing his versatility as a hurler. He also played inter county for Kilkenny between 1971 and 1973 coming on as a sub in 1971 against Tipperary in the All Ireland final that year. In 1973 he played corner back in the All Ireland final against Limerick in torrential rain taking the place of his injured club mate Jim Treacy on the team. Phil continued to give loyal service to Bennettsbridge hurling in the years that followed , playing on well into his forties , indeed he played centre back on the Bennettsbridge team that played The Rower Inistoige in a junior A county final in 1987. Phil's son Phillip junior played on the Kilkenny minor team in 1986 while another son Johnny captained Thomastown to an All Ireland Vocational school title a year later. Phil worked in construction and was a successful building contractor until his retirement. Deepest sympathies are offered to Phil's family on his passing.

Ar Dheis Dé Go Raibh A Anam.



Paul Doran

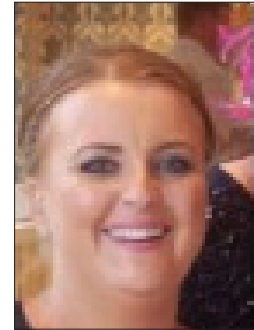
Paul Doran, 1954-2022, was synonymous with Windgap Hurling where he owned the number eight jersey for the bulk of his long hurling career. From Doran's shop in the village, Paul was a fit strong skilful player who started out with the Windgap National School team and was then part of a successful Callan CBS team. With Windgap Paul played in the senior and intermediate championships, the great tournament games and won a Junior county title in 1986. Showing great sporting diversity he also played football and as a very competitive handballer won Masters Handball County championships with the club.

From Doran's shop in the village Paul commenced as an apprentice fitter with Ferrum Fabrications in the old school and worked for them with Glanbia in Graiguecullen. Paul then set up his own Grain Equipment Maintenance and Installation company with local employees doing contract

work for Glanbia and Quinns of Baltinglass in all of their grain depots across Kildare, Carlow, Wicklow and Kilkenny. Having being through forty one Harvests, Paul was easy going and relaxed, full of life and banter and was a quietly generous and supportive member of and to the community.

Paul will be sadly missed by his sons Keith, Niall and John and their mother Anne, partner Miriam, sisters Mary and Claire, brothers Matt and Ben, daughter-in-law Suzanne, Michelle, grandchildren Oisín and Ayda, his Aunt Patricia, other, relatives, extended family neighbours workmates and friends

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam



Eva Kelly

Everyone at the club would like to pass on their condolences to Darragh and the Kelly family on the terribly sad news of Eva's passing.

Eva was a fantastic person, friend, supporter and committee member and was the first person to put her hand up to help with any job, big or small. She will be sorely missed by all in the community. To Darragh and all the Kelly family, our thoughts and prayers are with you, and we are with you as a club and community.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sí.

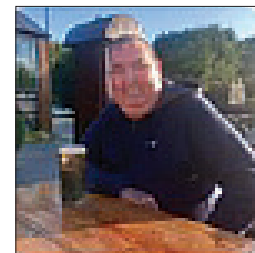


Ned Reddy

It was with great regret we learned of the passing of Ned Reddy. The Reddy family are steeped in Kilmacow GAA and Ned was always first to step forward when there was a helping hand needed.

We send our condolences to his loving wife Margaret sons and daughters Mairead, Eamonn, Tomás, Eileen, Siobhan, Máire, Michael and Brendan.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis



Denis Scully

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Denis Scully.

Denis was a Kilmacow stalwart as both a player and a mentor. Denis battled his illness in the same manner he played the game, with fierce determination and strength. He was a very proud Kilmacow man and a devoted family man, extremely proud of Dean, Alicia, Mary Kate and Lee, and of course his wife Barbara Jean. May Denis rest in peace.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Paul Hickey

The 20th of May 2023 marked the death of Paul Hickey of Mill Road Graignamanagh. A noted hurler from his teenage years with skills honed whilst attending the Salesian Fathers College in Ballinakill. Paul is best remembered for his key contribution to the emergence of Graignamanagh playing mid-field in the club's first ever Junior and Intermediate County Final wins in 1972 and '76 respectively. Paul also played basketball and was a gifted soccer player with the distinction of scoring locally based Highwiew Athletic's first ever goal in a competitive game. Paul played for Graig' in the Junior County Final football victory in 1972 over Goresbridge based Barrowmount, reputedly undertaken by Paul and some teammates on their way home after playing a Highwiew game earlier that day in Crettyard! Following his playing career Paul "treaded the boards" and was highly acclaimed for his performances in many different character roles and later as show director in the local Duiske Players Drama Group. A talented and sedulous painter-decorator by trade Paul is sadly missed by his wife Marietta and children Jonathan, James and Dawn, brother Mark, grandchildren, extended family, friends, neighbours and his many sport, GAA and theatrical connections.



Jack Walsh

Jack Walsh of Oldtown Cuffesgrange died on the 2nd of February 2023. Son a Garda Sergeant, Jack was born in Fenit Co. Kerry. On his father being transferred to Wexford Jack was educated at Ballycullane N.S. He had his early secondary education with the De La Salle Brothers in Waterford. Upon Moving to Kilkenny in 1951, he completed his secondary education in CBS James's St. After finishing his Leaving Certificate he gained employment with the P & T and worked as a clerk in the General Post Office in High St. Kilkenny for 46 years. Jack was an all-round sports enthusiast. Along with GAA, he also had great interest in golf, horse racing and coursing. Jack was a talented footballer and played for Clann Na Gael, a city club, winning two Kilkenny Senior Football titles in 1963 and 1964 along with his brother Michael. It was also during these years that Jack played inter-county football for Kilkenny

as goalkeeper.

Upon marrying his wife Ann, Jack came to live in the parish of Danesfort at Sevenhouses Cross. His arrival in the parish became a blessing as he threw himself wholeheartedly into every aspect of community life. He became a longtime worker and treasurer of Sevenhouses Coursing Club.

With Danesfort GAA club he served as Assistant Secretary and was selector and manager of the club's football team for many years.

Jack's other great gift was his singing voice. No singsong would be complete until the gathered crowd hushed to hear him give a rendition of Boolavogue or I'll Take you Back Again Kathleen.

A true Gael to the core of his being, Jack encapsulated everything that is synonymous with being a volunteer for the betterment of local sporting organizations and the community as a whole. He was a loyal family man, a gentleman and a great neighbour.

Just three months before he died, he suffered the sad loss of his beloved daughter Frances after a long illness.

To his wife Ann, his daughter Roseanne, his son Tom and his stepson Maurice Woodcock we offer our condolences and support at this time. He will be greatly missed by Danesfort GAA & Camogie Club and all the other organisations to which he gave his time and commitment.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam dhílis.



Ned Kennedy 1957-2023

On August 26th 2023 "the shutters came down" on the life of Ned Kennedy. The people of Freshford and neighbouring parishes were greatly saddened by Ned's too-early passing.

Ned was a primary-school teacher and taught in C.B.S. Carlow, Scoil Ruadháin, Tullaroan and Scoil Lachtain, Freshford. Throughout his teaching career Ned, like many of his colleagues, fostered a love of camogie and hurling amongst his pupils. He was an active member of Cumann na mBunscoileanna and helped to field many teams for Corn de Bhaldraithe and Féile na nGael competitions. During his time in Freshford and Tullaroan, Ned was instrumental in organising annual Féile trips and hurling-shinty trips to Scotland.

In 1983 Ned was one of the founding members of St. Lachtain's Camogie Club along with Tom Doheny and Brian Waldron; Sheila Dowling and Fionnuala Phelan, as Secretary and Chairperson, were "summoned" on board.

In 1993 Ned succeeded the late Jim Maher as principal of Tullaroan N.S. Building on previous successes, Ned steered Scoil Ruadháin to progress through Roinn C championship in 1993; Roinn B in 1994 and Roinn A in 1995. Tullaroan secured this unique place in Cumann na mBunscoil's history as the only school to win Roinn C, B and A three years in succession. In 1997 Tullaroan won the U14 Roinn A County Championship for the first time since 1943. This team also won the Roinn A All Ireland Féile na nGael title under Ned's guidance.

Ned's own induction into the codes, camaraderie and lore of the G.A.A. came at an early age. He, along with his brother Murty and his father Tom were welcome passengers in the Harrison brothers' car to many an All-Ireland Final. Forensic pre match diagnoses and post-match autopsies ensured the boys developed a keen eye and ear for the game.

While Murty possessed the coveted skills to wield the hurl and sliotar, Ned had to make do and wield his pen. He became Secretary of St. Lachtain's Hurling Club from 2003 – 2007: Chairperson in 2008 and Registration Officer from 2009 – 2011. These years were an exciting time of continual development for the club which is ongoing in present times. Ned passed the baton to the next generation to "mind the hurling" as the great Lory Meagher famously instructed Dick of the Church.

Following his tenure with St. Lachtain's H.C. Committee, Ned returned to his interest in local history. His many folders and files, physical, digital and oral recordings, are testament to the depth of research undertaken. He published a number of books on the history of Freshford and also of the history of his second "home" Tullaroan.

To quote James Orr from his poem The Irishman;

"The savage loves his native shore

Though rude the soil and chill the air"

Ned Kennedy was that "savage". He loved his native soil. He would be content to know that his body lies beneath the sods of Achadh Úr, over which St. Lachtain may have trod on his journey from Donoughmore, through the Pass of Barna, to settle in the "verdant green fields" of Freshford.

Ned is deeply mourned by his loving wife Eileen and his loving children, Niamh, John, Lachtain and Éadaoin, family and many friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dhílis.



Allen Larkin

Allen Larkin (1955-2023), Coote's Lane, Kilkenny Allen Larkin was a club stalwart for all of his life. Allen was a committee member for over forty years and served on many sub-committees in the club. One of our most ardent supporters, Allen rarely missed a Village game in health or sickness throughout his life. From the Larkin dynasty, he was a son of Ned who was an excellent hurler and loyal James Stephens man through the 1940s and 50s. He was very proud of his name, Allen, named after one of the Manchester Martyrs, and he always corrected any other version.

He was immensely proud of the remarkable achievements of his son Eoin, one of the greatest stars of Kilkenny hurling.

He will be sorely missed by his wife Victoria, sons, Eoin, Alan and daughter Kim and a wide circle of relatives and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dhílis.



Joe Walton

In May this year Dicksboro Club lost one of its longest and proud members when Joe Walton passed away after a long illness.

Since the early 1980's Joe and his wife Anna had been active members in the club since we moved to Palmerstown .

Joe was for many years Grounds Chairperson and oversaw many developments of our grounds and clubrooms, while Anna was Treasurer and also helped with the running of the club's initial lotto fundraiser.

Joe is survived by Anna, daughter Claire and son Simon.



Michael Devane

Michael (Mick) Devane died in October in his 96th year. Mick was a name synonymous with Dicksboro GAA Club, having been involved at all levels for over seventy years.

He played on our 1950 senior championship winning team and was very instrumental in the reforming of the 'Boro club in the late 1960s.

He managed our very successful minor teams of 1969 and 1973 who won county championships and continued to manage many other teams at various levels.

Mick served on many committees over his long years involvement with the club, including Club Chairman twice in the 1970s.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam dhílis.



Tom Rafter

Tom died in October after a long illness. Tom was a true Dicksboro man for many years. He played for Thomas McDonaghs hurling team in the late 1960s before the Dicksboro was reformed in 1970.

Tom served as Club Chairperson with real zest from 2005 to 2007. For many years prior to 2005, Tom and his wife Eileen organised and supported the Club's Saturday night social dancing.

In recent years prior to his illness, Tom also started our Thursday night 25 card games and played himself with great enthusiasm.



Anne Morrissey

Ann died in August this year after a long illness. She was 90 years young. Ann and her late husband Martin, who died in 2021, were most staunch supporters of Dicksboro and could for many years be seen together at every 'Boro game.

They both worked tirelessly for the club in every aspect of club life and passed on their love of the club and the GAA to their family.



John Freeman

Sadness was widespread when news of the passing of one of Callan's favourite sons had gone to his Eternal Reward. John Freeman, born, bred and reared within sight and sounds of the Coolagh Church was a staunch and solid member of the John Lockes and Coolagh (Football) Clubs, as were his brothers, Martin (RIP), Tommy and Pat.

John was involved with John Lockes from the first time he went through the gates of the CBS on West street. He was a member of the Lockes under-16 team which defeated Danesfort in the in the 1968 County Roinn A Final. John's adult hurling career continued as a very athletic attacker featuring in two Junior County Finals against Barrow Rangers and Graig Ballycallan respectively, both of which were defeats. His brother Tommy was a very determined attacking wing back on the same teams. John was a very popular training Chemist in the homely surrounds of the iconic gentle proprietor, Michael Bradley on Bridge Street. He endeared himself to all ages, before he took the big decision to purchase his own business in Durrow, again endearing himself to the local patrons with qualities nurtured since childhood.

John will be sadly missed by his Kilkenny Family; Tommy (Puckane, Tipp), Pat (Newbridge), his sisters his sisters Esther, and Mary RSM. He was a brother of Bishop Seamus, former Bishop of Ossory (RIP).

John's Family, wife Catherine, and children, James, Sarah, Kate, David, Michael, Kieran, Robert and Evana will certainly miss their Partner and Dad, as will his many Grandchildren, in-laws, nephews, nieces and extended Family.



Eric Roche

A veil of sadness wafted over the town of Callan on Saturday, January 7 th when news of the passing of one of its sons, Eric Roche, had engaged the customary "bush telegraph". Eric had been ill for a short time in St Luke's Hospital, and the suddenness of his demise shocked many, in particular his huge number of friends who he had embraced since returning to Callan from London with his wife Frances and three of their children circa 1972/3.

Eric was a carpenter by trade. His skills with timber were, be it with building projects, or furniture manufacturing were the envy of many who "professed" to be carpenters. On his return to Callan - like many emigrants who were forced to leave the Country in the late 50s and early 60s, but vowed to return -Eric started working in the vibrant building trade that prevailed in Kilkenny at the time. With two great friends of his, Barry Ronan and Bernard Connolly they branched out on their own and formed Meadow Homes.

Eric had a huge grá for the GAA and in particular his beloved John Lockes. He carried it with him to London; maintained a very close contact with his London Club, and returned with an immediate resolve to re-align his enthusiasm with the club of his immediate Family and their ancestors. The annals of the Club will tell the story of his role in the development of the Club from the Historic Fair Green, where the first game under the Official Clár Oifigiúil of Cumann Luthchleas Gael was played- to the enviable development it is.

When Eric retired as a builder/carpenter, he decided to adapt his undoubted skills to making hurleys. Suffice to say, he never had a moments rest as he chummed out the hurley orders from dawn to dusk. Eric has been missed by an enormous number of people. His lovely wife predeceased him by a decade of years. It practically broke the spirit of the man. Her loss for him was unfathomable, For the sake of his children and their families, Eric put a brave face of his loss and sorrow. His rock was no longer at his side . His sister Bea O'Donovan, and brother Martin have predeceased him. Whilst Frances and Eric had a truly deep loving remarkable relationship, they never spared themselves in working as a team unsparingly for their children, Fiona, Daniel, Steven, Conor and Mairead. His passing will have caused heartfelt sorrow for his sisters, Mary Walsh (Windgap) and Pat Anderson (Freshford). His many brothers -in-law, Tom Donovan (Callan), Pat Anderson (Freshford) Tom Dunne, Louis Dunne, sister-in-law Breeda will have great memories of Eric. His daughters-in-law, Eve, Eileen and Helen will mourn his passing as will his sons-in-law Ciaran, and Mike. For sure his 12 grandchildren will have great memories of the love, and kindness and fun they enjoyed whenever they were in his company out in Skeagh.

They threw away the mould after Eric Roche was crafted. Certainly, a one-off product.



RESULTS 2023

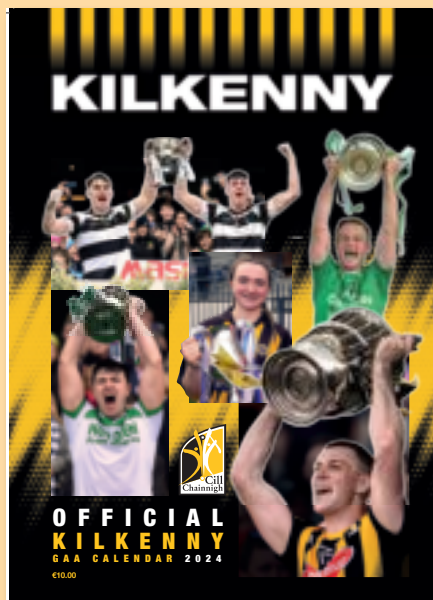


SENIOR HURLING		U19 HURLING	
COUNTY SH C'SHIP FINAL	O'Loughlin Gaels 0-20 Ballyhale Shamrocks 0-19	U19 ROINN A FINAL	Dicksboro 1-17 James Stephens 1-12
SH LEAGUE FINAL	Dicksboro 3-19 Glenmore 0-15	U19 ROINN B FINAL	Young Irelands 2-14 St Martin's 1-10
SH SHIELD FINAL	O'Loughlin Gaels 5-20 James Stephens 2-15	U19 ROINN C FINAL	Glenmore 2-16 Graignamanagh 1-16 <i>aet</i>
DIVISION 1 LEAGUE FINAL	Thomastown 1-21 Young Irelands 1-20	U19 ROINN D FINAL	Emeralds 3-14 Fenians 2-8
SH RELEGATION FINAL	Erin's Own 1-17 Danesfort 1-15		
INTERMEDIATE HURLING		U19 ROINN A LGE FINAL	O'Loughlin Gaels 0-16 Erin's Own 0-13
COUNTY IH C'SHIP FINAL	Thomastown 1-29 Mooncoin 0-15	U19 ROINN B LGE FINAL	<i>To be Concluded</i>
IH LEAGUE FINAL	Thomastown 0-18 Lisdowney 1-11	U19 ROINN C LGE FINAL	Glenmore 2-24 Tullaroan 4-15
IH SHIELD FINAL	Dunnamaggin 1-25 St Martin's 0-13	U19 ROINN D LGE FINAL	Fenians 2-13 St. Patrick's 3-8
DIVISION 2 LEAGUE FINAL	Mullinavat 0-16 Dunamaggin 0-15		
DIVISION 3 LEAGUE FINAL	<i>Not Played</i>	U17 (MINOR) HURLING	
IH RELEGATION FINAL	Carrickshock 3-13 O'Loughlin Gaels 2-14	MINOR "A" C'SHIP FINAL	James Stephens 4-14 Dunnamaggin 0-9
JUNIOR HURLING		MINOR "B" C'SHIP FINAL	Glenmore 3-11 Danesfort 1-10
COUNTY JH C'SHIP FINAL	Tullagher Rosbercon 1-19 St Lachtain's 0-17	MINOR "C" C'SHIP FINAL	Tullaroan 4-14 St Lachtain's 1-19
JH LEAGUE FINAL	St Lachtain's 2-16 Windgap 1-16	MINOR "A" LEAGUE FINAL	<i>To be Concluded</i>
JH C'SHIP SECTION B LGE FINAL	Dicksboro 1-19 James Stephens 0-11	MINOR "B" LEAGUE FINAL	Emeralds 2-17 Graignamanagh 1-10
ALL COUNTY JH LEAGUE FINAL	Windgap 3-14 Piltown 0-20	MINOR "C" LEAGUE FINAL	St Lachtain's 1-14 John Lockes 2-6
JH 'A' C'SHIP FINAL	Dicksboro 1-18 O'Loughlin 0-18	U15 HURLING	
JH 'B' C'SHIP FINAL	Barrow Rangers 1-17 Tullagher Rosbercon 1-14	U15 "A" C'SHIP FINAL	Dicksboro 5-19 Dunnamaggin 2-7
JH 'C' C'SHIP FINAL	Threecastles 2-16 Mooncoin 0-15	U15 "B" C'SHIP FINAL	Tullagher Rosbercon 1-13 Barrow Rangers 0-14
JH 'D' C'SHIP FINAL	Lisdowney 3-16 Rower Inistioge 3-16 Lisdowney 1-27 Rower Inistioge 1-21	U15 "C" C'SHIP FINAL	4-16 Glenmore 0-5
JH 'E' C'SHIP FINAL	Erin's Own 3-19 Danesfort 1-10	U15 "A" LEAGUE FINAL	Erin's Own 6-21 St Patrick's 2-7
JH 'F' C'SHIP FINAL	Windgap 1-15 Mullinavat 0-10	U15 "B" LEAGUE FINAL	Tullagher Rosbercon 2-22 Mooncoin 2-9
JH 'A' LEAGUE FINAL	Dunnamaggin 1-20 Mullinavat 1-14	U15 "C" LEAGUE FINAL	Burren Rangers 3-10 Blacks & Whites 0-10
JH 'B' LEAGUE FINAL	James Stephens 2-19 Bennettsbridge 1-9	FEILE UNDER 15 DIVISION 1 (PADDY GRACE CUP) FINAL	James Stephens 0-7 John Lockes 0-5
JH 'C' LEAGUE FINAL	Mooncoin 2-16 Cloneen 2-10	FEILE UNDER 15 DIVISION 2 FINAL	Barrow Rangers 1-6 Tullagher Rosbercon 1-4
JH 'D' LEAGUE FINAL	Graigue Ballycallan 0-17 James Stephens 0-9	FEILE UNDER 15 DIVISION 3 FINAL	Conahy Shamrocks 2-8 Bennettsbridge 1-4
JH 'E' LEAGUE FINAL	Erin's Own 1-27 Piltown 1-10	U15 13-A-SIDE CHAMPIONSHIP	John Lockes 5-15 Erin's Own 2-6
JH 'F' LEAGUE FINAL	St Lachtain's 1-22 Windgap 0-11	U13 HURLING	
ALL COUNTY JH LEAGUE <i>(Fennelly Cup)</i>	Kilmacow 1-15 John Lockes 0-13	U13 "A" C'SHIP FINAL	John Lockes 1-12 Danesfort 0-8
ALL COUNTY JH LEAGUE <i>(Cahill Cup)</i>	St Patrick's 2-14 Tullagher/Rosbercon 0-13	U13 "B" C'SHIP FINAL	Bennettsbridge 0-11 St Lachtain's 1-5
U21 HURLING 2022		U13 "C" C'SHIP FINAL	Glenmore 0-7 Dunnamaggin 0-3
U21 ROINN A FINAL	Thomastown 5-18 Mooncoin 6-12	U13 13/ASIDE C'SHIP FINAL	Danesfort 2-8 John Lockes 2-2
U21 ROINN B FINAL	Graigue Ballycallan 1-12 Lisdowney 0-14	U13 "A" LEAGUE FINAL	O'Loughlin Gaels 3-7 John Lockes 3-6
U21 ROINN C FINAL	Mullinavat 2-13 Kilmacow 1-15	U13 "B" LEAGUE FINAL	Galmoy/Windgap 3-11 Mullinavat 3-10
U21 ROINN D FINAL	Graignamanagh 3-15 Conahy Shamrocks 0-8	U13 "C" LEAGUE FINAL	Tullagher Rosbercon 2-10 Glenmore 3-5
U21 ROINN E FINAL	Emeralds 0-16 0-10	U13 13/ASIDE LEAGUE FINAL	Danesfort 3-9 John Lockes 1-4
2023 Finals not Completed			

U13 FOOTBALL		ADULT FOOTBALL	
U13F "A" FINAL	O'Loughlin Gaels 4-9 Danesfort 1-2	SF C'SHIP FINAL	Mullinavat 3-7 Thomastown 1-9
U13F "B" FINAL	Kilmacow 1-10 Erin's Own 2-5	IF C'SHIP FINAL	Lisdowney 2-9 Graigue Ballycallan 1-3
U13F "C" FINAL	St Lachtain's 6-6 Kilmoganny 0-0	JF C'SHIP FINAL	St Patrick's 2-9 Bennettsbridge 0-13
U13F "A" LEAGUE FINAL	O'Loughlin Gaels 4-9 Young Irelands 0-3	SF LEAGUE FINAL	Mullinavat 2-7 Tullagher/Rosbercon 0-10
U13 "B" LEAGUE FINAL	Danesfort 3-8 Kilmacow 2-6	IF LEAGUE FINAL	Carrickshock 1-11 Piltown 0-11
U13 "C" LEAGUE FINAL	St Lachtain's 4-4 Mullinavat 0-3	JF LEAGUE FINAL	Bennettsbridge 7-6 Galmoy 1-6
U15 FOOTBALL		MINOR FOOTBALL	
U15F "A" FINAL	Thomastown v Kilmoganny	U17F "A" FINAL	Thomastown 1-10 St Martin's 1-3
U15F "B" FINAL	Tullagher Rosbercon v St Martin's	U17F "B" FINAL	St Patrick's 4-5 Emeralds 2-4
U15F "C" FINAL	Bennettsbridge 2-6 Blacks and Whites 2-2	U17F "C" FINAL	Bennettsbridge 1-0 Railyard GFC 0-0

THE OFFICIAL KILKENNY GAA CALENDAR IS NOW ON SALE

The Official Kilkenny GAA Calendar is now on sale throughout the county in all usual outlets. It costs €10.00 and would make a wonderful gift or Christmas present for someone you know. Also a reminder that the 2024 GAA Championship will shortly commence. Now is the perfect time to join or indeed rejoin our Kilkenny supporters club. The supporters club provide a valuable income stream for our teams throughout the year and your support is needed this year more than any other. You can join online or by contacting any committee member. Membership costs €25.



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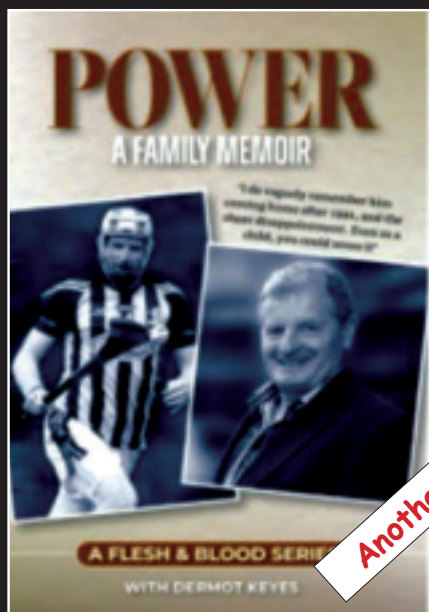
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