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Leinster Champions 2024

Congratulations to the Kilkenny players, the panel, management and backroom team on their achievement of winning a fifth consecutive Leinster SH Championship, a 'Fab 5 for the Cats'. Having remained unbeaten in their provincial campaign, this is only the fourth time that the feat of a Leinster '5 in a row' has been achieved. Kilkenny outshone Dublin in a one sided final, leading from the start in their 3-28 to 1-18 victory. This is Kilkenny's 76th Leinster title.

Paddy Deegan lifts the Bob O'Keeffe trophy.

All Ireland Minor Hurling Championship Final 2024

Kilkenny lost to Tipperary in the Electric Ireland All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship Final on June 29th in UPMC Nowlan Park. The venue was decided following a toss for choice of venue. Niall Bergin's charges were looking to win a first Minor title for Kilkenny since 2014. However, although closely contested and level at the end of normal full time, Tipperary overcame their handicap of losing two players, through red cards during the game, to come away with the spoils.



Kilkenny Minor Squad 2024

All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship 2024

All roads lead to Croke Park next weekend for the eagerly awaited clash between Kilkenny and Clare in the first of the weekends All Ireland Senior hurling semi-final matches. For the third year in a row, the sides meet once again with this year's clash on Saturday July 6th. The other semi-final featuring Limerick and Cork will be played in the same venue on the following day. The winning teams will earn a place in the All-Ireland Senior Hurling final which will be played in Croke Park on Sunday, 21st July 2024.

Black and Amber Forum

After the very successful Black and Amber Forum back in February, patrons were invited to a Leinster Hurling Final Preview in the InterContinental Dublin on June 6th. The Networking event was hosted by Phil Hogan and featured a most enjoyable and informative Q&A, with our Chairman Niall Butler chatting with Kilkenny legend Jackie Tyrell.

There will be another Black and Amber breakfast event on October 3rd, this time in the Conrad Hotel Dublin. More details and information will be circulated in advance of this event.



Golf Classic 2024

Our Annual Golf Classic will be held on Friday 30th August 2024 at Killeen Golf Club, Kill, Co Kildare. With the welcome return of championship games, the Supporters Club will be making our contribution towards development and team expenditure.

Thank you to those who put together a team to participate in this event. The entry fee is €400 per team of four which includes the post-match meal.

Tee Times - 10.30am – 5.00pm

The day will offer the opportunity to enjoy a great day's golf and your participation will provide welcome fundraising support for Kilkenny GAA teams chasing All-Ireland championship success.

We will partner individuals wishing to play with other teams who are seeking players to make up the full compliment. Please contact one of the organising committee (listed below), who will endeavour to assist.

All are welcome.

Eddie Nolan 086 2421924
Willie Grant 087 2561569

John Nolan 086 8439590
Seanie Maher 087 632 9533



Membership Drive 2024

The Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club (Dublin Branch) has been in operation for over 25 years. The club exists primarily to generate funding to support the Kilkenny county teams and provide a social dimension to its members.

As a committee, we are extremely grateful to all our loyal members for their continued support and thanks to those who have already renewed their membership.

The membership rate for 2024 remains €25.

Revolut - The club are happy to facilitate members that wish to pay their membership via Revolut. Send directly to Seamus O'Neill (087 2234789) and please include your name when paying.

Hurling Trivia –The first written reference to a hurling match dates back to 1272 BC, the date assigned to the First Battle of Moytura Co Mayo (Cath Mag Turied Conga) where the Tuatha De Danann battled the Fir Bolg..... but before they did they had a quick game of hurling.

The First Battle of Moytura was written in the 12th century AD whereas the Boyhood deeds of Cu-Chulainn (from Tain bo Cuailnge) which also mentions a hurling match was probably written as early as the 8th century. So the first reference is in the Tain (there might be even earlier references in law texts c5th century) but however, in narrative terms, the first match was the one at Moytura in 1272BC

Poc Fada Kilkenny 2024

Kilkenny GAA and Kilkenny Camogie jointly hosted the annual Poc Fada in Gowran Park recently and with 65 competitors, across all the grades, taking part in the event.

The senior winners had the honour of representing Kilkenny in Leinster competition on The Nine Stones, Mount Leinster.

Senior Hurling Winner - Killian Phelan (Clara – 3rd year in a row)

Senior Camogie Winner - Rachael Moloney (St Martin's)

Under 16 Hurling Winner - Cathal Coogan (Shamrocks)

Under 16 Camogie Winner - Caitlin Dermody (St Lachtain's)

Camogie News



After their demolition of Derry (4-17 – 0-7) and with direct progression to the semi-finals as group winners up for grabs, Kilkenny however went on to lose 1-15 to 0-15 to Tipperary. With Peter Cleere in his first season as manager, his charges are next pitted against Dublin in a quarter final on Saturday July 6th. (Coverage 12.30 RTE TV) The Camogie quarter finals will take place as double-headers with the All-Ireland senior hurling semi-finals at Croke Park. Galway and Waterford will clash in the other quarter-final on Sunday.

Congratulations to Rachel Phelan, Ciara O'Shea and Ciara Dunne who have been rewarded for big performances by being named on the Electric Ireland Camogie Minor Star Team of the Year.

Results

For all County and Club Fixtures lists & Results visit the Kilkenny GAA Website

<https://kilkennygaa.ie/fixtures-results/>

Bereavements



Sincere condolences to the families and friends of dear departed members Michael Kelly & Edward Joseph (Joe) Butler and also to, Mary Harrison (mother of our member Brian), Peadar Walsh (Laura Dalton's uncle), Tom Brett (Hugh Brett's brother), Kathleen Carroll (John O'Rourke's sister), Donal O'Leary (Jim Staunton's Brother in Law) and Joan Lalor (John Mackey's sister). Condolences also to all those, in any way associated with our club, who had a recent bereavement.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

An Appreciation - Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh - RIP - The Bard of the Ball Game



The Supporters Club wish to join the chorus of heart felt tributes to the Kerry native on his passing. Mícheál had his first commentary gig for RTE (ás Gaeilge) at the Railway Cup Final on St Patrick's Day 1949. He went on to become RTÉ Radio 1's premier radio commentator in 1985, a role he revelled in up to his retirement as the voice of Gaelic Games after the 2010 All-Ireland football final between Cork and Down. Thank you Mícheál for all the memorable commentaries, quotes and one liners.... "The stopwatch has stopped. It's up to God and the referee now. The referee is Pat Horan. God is God."

NAME	ADDRESS	COMMENT
[Redacted]		
Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club (Dublin Branch)		the enjoyment Ceo raibh maith agat.

The Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh Condolence Book was signed in the Mansion House on behalf of the Supporters Club.

Hurlers Co-op Draw 2024

The club would like to thank all those who bought Hurlers Draw 2024 tickets. Over 200 tickets were purchased by members and those associated with the club and we are most grateful for the support, thank you all.

Congratulations to Niall Butler, Chairperson of the Supporters Club, on his win in draw No 3. Congratulations to all winners in each of the draws that have taken place to date. The remaining draws will take place on July 16th and July 30th.

Best of luck everyone.

As a follow on to the very successful Leinster Hurling Final Preview in the InterContential, this editions Q&A features Kilkenny legend Jackie Tyrrell.

Q. 1, What's your earliest All Ireland related memory?

Sitting on the barrier in Hill 16 in 1991 with my Dad, as Michael Cleary miss-hit a free that ended up in the back of the Kilkenny net and us losing the All Ireland. Along with John Power getting shouldered into the barbed wire on the side of the pitch by Bobby Ryan.



Q. 2, What was your happiest sporting memory?

Winning the 2011 All Ireland against Tipperary. A day of days . .

Q. 3, Its almost 20 years ago now but ...Where does your All Ireland win in 2005 with the Red and Green of James Stephens sit by comparison with all of your other (Black and Amber etc) honours and achievements?

At the very very top, my greatest and most prized medal.

Q. 4, The Village straddled both city and country in the clubs catchment area, did that mix bring something to the club?

Yes it did. A few very hardy and seasoned farmers, added to the mix of City Slickers. A Good dynamic.

Q. 5, Who's your favourite sports personality of all time? John Daly

Q. 6, What does it feel like as a defender to score in Croke Park (e.g.2009 v Tipp?)?

Amazing when the game wasn't used to corner backs scoring. Also it was a 'hit and hope shot' if I am honest. Great feeling

Q. 7, Any role models outside of GAA or sport?

Tom Brady, one of the few people that got everything out of his career and himself. Loved to push the boundaries and even break a few rules. Always striving for the extra %.

Q. 8, Favourite Artist? The Killers – Brandon Flowers

Q. 9, Favourite Book? (...other than *The Warriors Code* 😊) Boys will be Boys (Dallas Cowboys)

Q. 10,Croke Park on All Ireland Day.... as a pundit V as a player - Easy – player.

Q. 11, Name any 3 celebs (past or present)you'd invite to dinner?

Hitler, Michael Jackson, Margaret Robbie

Q. 12, Greatest player you shared a pitch with? JJ Delaney

Final question.**Q. 13, Is there anything you would share by way of encouragement to the Committee and membership of the Dublin Branch of the Supporters Club**

The players and squad always valued the contributions and support provided by the Dublin Branch of the Supporters Club. We always appreciated that the post-match nourishment after matches played in Dublin for example was down to contributions by the members of the club and their support of committee activities such as the Golf Classic, Piltown Draw and other fundraisers. Thank You.

HANDBALL

The origins of the game of handball point to places as far away as Egypt, where there are drawings on tombs of hand ball from around 2000 B.C. making handball one of the oldest ball games. Handball has been traced back to the baths of Rome, played later as a bare-handed game called *pelota* in Spain and France.

Hundreds of sites have been discovered over intervening millennia to show evidence of handball across many parts of the world. The key elements involved in the play - ball, wall/s, players and rules have evolved in many different countries at over different time-lines.

After the end of the Dark Ages in Europe, mentions of handball became more numerous in manuscripts but however, without any mention of a rebound game against a wall. The game played could be described as 'hand-tennis' a game that is still played in parts of Spain, France, Holland and Sweden. Handball against a wall is mentioned to have been played by King James I in Scotland in 1427 and a century later, the Town Statues of Galway of 1527 forbade the playing of ball games against the walls of the town and this is the earliest mention of rebound play in Ireland.

From 1600 onward, mention of handball became more numerous, in particular by church authorities who were becoming concerned with the custom of playing ball against the church walls. The churches in many European countries, fearful for their own stained glass windows, had notices forbidding the playing of handball in areas close to their buildings.

Many accounts of handball are given by writers of the Eighteenth Century who indicate that one-wall handball was being played in Ireland, from at least 1700 A.D. play in their one walled "alleys," often the gable end of houses and the ruins of castles and churches. The southeast of Ireland became newsworthy during the civil disturbances of 1798. Contemporary accounts list John Murphy, leader of the rebels, as a 'famous handballer' and many of the courts were venues for meetings of his followers. Almost every town and village in the country at that time had a handball alley.

Irish emigrants took the game to the USA in the 1880s, and in 1886, Phil Casey, who was born in Mountrath, built the first American walled court in New York. Kicking was permitted, and some players developed unusual skill in returning low balls with their feet. In the mid 1850's, there were challenges between Irish and American champions but different rules of play eventually closed off such competition, until Governing Bodies organised and standardised the rules. The Irish game of handball was often played on a hard clay floor, with one wall of stone at the front of the court, against which the ball was struck. The ball, the four-wall court, and a system of scoring was formalised during the 18th century.

The 1850s, also saw the regular playing of Irish town and county championships, using a hard leather-covered ball on courts that were about 80 feet (24m) long and 40 feet wide (12m). Players such as Martin Butler of Kilkenny and William Baggs of Tipperary travelled throughout the country and played

for wagers versus elite local players. Around this time, religious orders served to promote handball (as well as other Gaelic sports) and later brought the game to schools across their missions.



In 1884, Handball was included in the G.A.A. Charter as one of the sports to be promoted by the new Association. The first international match was played in 1887 between the Irish champion, John Lawlor, and the American champion, Phil Casey. Beginning in Ireland on August 4, the match ended on Casey's American court on November 29. Casey won, 11 games to 6, and then retained his title against all challengers until his retirement in 1900.



Above: A pair of freestanding handball alleys, c.1900, incorporating fabric of earlier handball alleys, pre-1841. Unpainted rendered, ruled and lined walls over yellow brick English Garden Wall bond construction with random rubble limestone walls to north and to south having dressed limestone quoins to corners, tooled cut-limestone piers, and rendered coping having iron piers supporting iron mesh panels. The alleys are set back from road and located in grounds shared with St Kieran's College.

In 1910, the School Inspectorate reported that handball was the most frequently mentioned activity in "recreation". It had become a street game widely played against any available surface and thus familiar to all the population.

The alley cracker, or hard ball that was used in Ireland consisted of a cork or wood centre covered by woollen thread and thin pieces of cork or rubber with an outer cover of thin sheepskin.

A wide variety of handballs are in play today, depending on the Alley type (1 wall, 4 wall) Alley size (40x20, 60x30) the grade of player (Beginner, Juvenile, Adult) gender and the tournament type (hardball, softball).



The Gaelic Athletic Association helped to set up the Irish Amateur Handball Association in 1924 and The Irish Handball Council affiliates to the International Amateur Athletic Association. In 1932, England, Scotland and Ireland take part in the Tailteann Games. Regular county, provincial, and all-Ireland championships were established. The modern game, however, began to take shape in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and in 2009, The World Handball Championships were held in Ireland, showcasing the country's prominence in the sport. In 2012: The Olympic Council of Ireland recognised handball as an Olympic sport, further elevating its status and visibility. Ireland hosted the

largest World Handball Championships ever, with 1800 players playing in a temporary, purpose built 23 court arena at the Citywest Convention Centre, Dublin. Irish players have secured numerous medals over the years at the World Handball Championships in both singles and doubles competitions and have also performed well at the European Championships, earning medals and recognition for their achievements. 2017 Planning approval was granted for the now completed home of GAA Handball, the National Handball Centre at Croke Park.



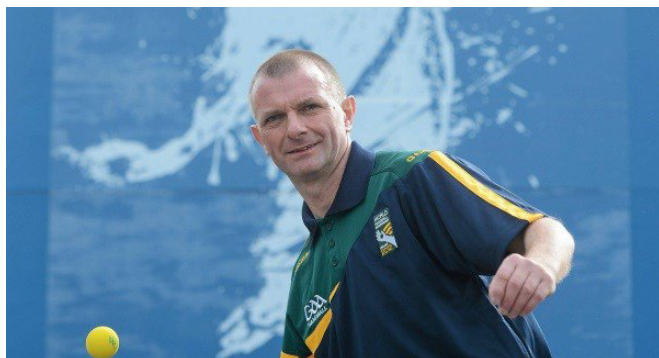
The National Handball Centre features a spectacular three glass walled 4-Wall (40x20) Show Court with amphitheatre seating for 500 spectators.

Kilkenny's association with handball goes back centuries. The game is popular today with 13 clubs 'in full swing' and spread across the county. In the city the popularity of the game was helped in no small part by the covered handball alleys provided at Talbot's Inch by Lady Desart which opened in 1928.

No article on Handball would be complete without a mention of the sport's greatest icon, Kilkennyman Michael 'Ducksie' Walsh. By the age of 44, Ducksie had won 38 All Ireland titles over a glittering career, (23 singles and 15 doubles titles). Ducksie was partnered during his 'senior doubles' wins by DJ Carey and also by Supporters Club member, Eugene Downey who partnered Ducksie at both Junior and Senior grade (60 x 30 code). Ducksie and Eugene won an All Ireland Doubles championship at Junior in 1983 and then went on to win ten All Ireland Doubles championships at the Senior Grade. Ducksie died suddenly in August 2016, a legend in his own lifetime.

To stay in touch with GAA Handball visit <https://www.gaahandball.ie>

Image from the Archives



Michael 'Ducksie' Walsh RIP.