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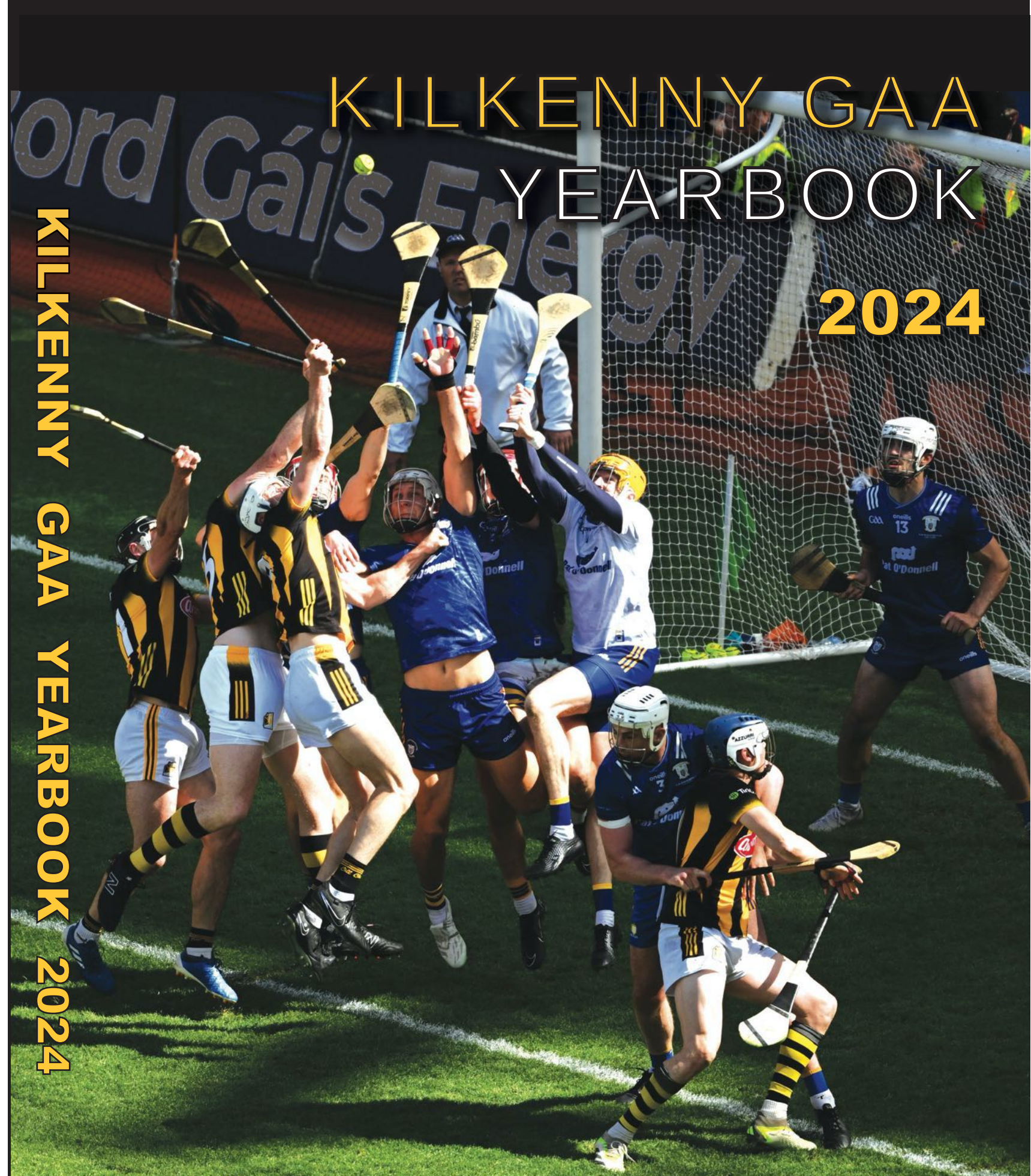
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KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2024

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Réamhfhocal



It gives me great pleasure to write this year's Yearbook address to you. I would like to acknowledge the work of fellow officers, Secretary Seamus Reade, Treasurer Barry Hickey, PRO Mary Morgan and Vice Chair Jim Fennelly all whom have done outstanding work.

Once again the seniors hurlers qualified for the League Final and All Ireland Semi Final, losing narrowly to Champions Clare in both. The highlight for the senior team was the achievement of winning 5 Leinster Titles in a row. The U20's lost by a point to All Ireland Champions Offaly in the Lions Den at Tullamore. The minors won the Leinster minor title for the first time since 2021 and lost to Tipperary in the Minor All Ireland Final. Our Junior Footballers were beaten by Warwickshire in the All Ireland Quarter Final, while our U19 Hurlers won the inaugural Leinster Development League.

A revamp of our development squads included the formation of Na Cait Óga, overseen by Michael Fennelly, Performance Lead. This has shown a noticeable improvement in performance and results of our squads, thanks to all on our coaching and games committee, our coaches, players and parents for their contribution. At the Hurling Academy National Games Finals last August, the squad teams performed to the highest standards, with the U14's winning the Tony Forristal Tournament for the first time since 2014 and the U16(2) panel winning the U16 Cup Final. A special mention also to our new sponsor Cluntech.

Kilkenny were once again successful in the Club Championship. With neighbours Thomastown and Tullagher Rosbercon bringing home the Intermediate and Junior Hurling club championships respectively, while O'Loughlin Gaels lost out narrowly in the Senior decider. St Kieran's college landed another Colleges All-Ireland title in March.

At club level, I would like to acknowledge our County Final winners at both adult and Bord na nÓg which are well documented here. I would like to acknowledge the work done by the Junior Board and Bord Na nÓg Committees. I wish the Kilkenny Champions, Thomastown, Lisdowney and St Lachtain's all the best in the Leinster and All-Ireland Club Championships. The split season and Integration are going to create new challenges. With more matches and additional teams, the need for extra floodlit facilities and training pitches is vital for the development of our games into the future. I am sure we can depend on the loyal supporters of Kilkenny to get this over the line.

I would like to acknowledge all sponsors in particular Tírlan PLC, and 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 Tommy Lanigan. I would also like to thank anyone else who supports Kilkenny GAA in anyway.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. Cill Channigh Abú
P.J. O'Coinnaith,

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



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FRONT COVER:

6 July 2024; The final ball into the Clare goalmouth is contested by players from both sides near the end of the GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship semi-final match between Kilkenny and Clare at Croke Park in Dublin.
Photo by Daire Brennan/Sportsfile

POSTER :

David Blanchfield
Photo by Seb Daly/Sportsfile

EDITORIAL



Inter-county trophies of any hue or metal compounds were conspicuous by their absences in the display cabinets at GAA headquarters on O'Loughlin Road.

At Senior level our team performed somewhere between good and not so!

Mind you the orchestration and management of the entire menu of matches engaged more discussion among support and media outlets than discussion about the actual games. Driven by the frequency of a Kalashnikov rifle, rather than with a consideration for players, management or supporters alike. Notwithstanding, the show must go on irrespective. Kilkenny had meritorious wins on their drive for the Liam Mac Carthy over Antrim, Carlow, and Wexford. They drew with Galway in Salthill in a game that merited more platitudes about non-hurling topics than anything else. They earned the right of admission to an All-Ireland semi-final but came up on the wrong side of an 0-24 to 2-16 defeat against Clare. They were in good company as Limerick - going for an unprecedented five-in-a-row record - were dumped out by a rejuvenated Cork. Clare of course getting over the winning line by the slenderest of margins in a cracking good All Ireland Final. Our minor team had us in raptures after a terrific Leinster Final win against a fancied Dublin in O'Moore Park. However, the least said the better about the All-Ireland Final against Tipperary in Nowlan Park in front of a huge attendance.

Well done to our Tony Forristall Champions who were the only under-age County winners in 2024. Congratulations to St. Kierans College who obliged (you can nearly always depend on them) and Loreto who bagged their All Ireland camogie title---- again.

Our Clubs - or at least a couple of them brought home their All Irelands. Thomastown (Intermediate) and Tullogher (Junior) made it a Southern double. Senior Champions were caught on the wire by a late, late point after a magnificent year, a year where they put paid to all challengers in style when capturing their County Title.

Camogie continues to improve and impress. Piltown won their first County Final in their History, and celebrated the effort with gusto. It was wonderful to watch the great Katie Power, Kelly-Ann Doyle and their team give a magnificent display of their brand of winning camogie. While there was a paucity of National silverware, the "in-house" product was generally good to excellent. As the man said, "don't be mean with your own people". There was plenty to cheer about.

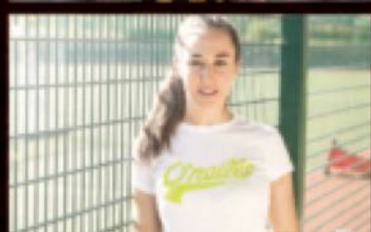
Thomastown made it a clean sweep from Intermediate to the Senior Title in successive years. Congratulations to the very impressive Lisdowney who rampaged their way to the County Title. St. Lactans too were very impressive as they stepped out of the Junior ranks with plenty of style.

This is our 35th Edition. Many thanks to all our subscribers, all our Professional journalists, to the outlets who sell our Yearbook, but more especially to you, our supporters who buy the Yearbook. Thank you too to all our Photographers, Willie Dempsey, and Ray Mc Manus and his team in Sportsfile. To all our Committee who are listed I say go raibh mile maith agaibh. As Editor since Paddy Buggy (God Rest him) asked Nickey Brennan and myself to take on the task in 1990 it has been a great privilege and honour to work with people like Gerry O'Neill (Originator), and Pat Henderson (Chairman) especially in producing our Kilkenny Yearbook. Over the years many more people added their expertise and effort. Over the years we have listed all of the people who were hugely helpful, and enthusiastic. I thank you all for your help and courtesy to me.

Wishing you all and your Families continued good Health.

Go neirí an bóthar libh go léir

Barrie Henriques
(Editor).



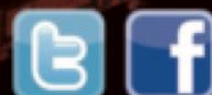
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HON THE TOWN!!!

County SH Championship Report
by Tommy Lanigan

Photos: Willie Dempsey/SPORTSFILE

Photos: Willie Dempsey & SPORTSFILE



THOMASTOWN - COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 2024

Back: Brian O'Hanrahan, Luke McNena, Alex Cass, Eanna O'Keeffe, Oisín O'Reilly, Jack Holden, Daithí Barron, Dylan Waugh.
Middle: Diarmuid Galway, Peter McDonald, Luke Connellan, Peter Connellan, Richard O'Hara, Ned Kirwan, Jonjo Farrell, David Prendergast, John Donnelly, Rory Connellan, Stephen Donnelly, Dylan Caulfield, Cian Moore.
Front: Pauric Kirwan, Thomas O'Hanrahan, Jay Burke (captain), Zach Bay Hammond, Colm Treacy, Robbie Donnelly, Eddie Donnelly, Naoise Dempsey, Brian Staunton, Paul Barron, Jack Cullen.

What a year for Thomastown United! All Ireland club Intermediate champions and now having reached the pinnacle of Kilkenny club hurling! Who better to deserve the accolades than the club that suffered beside their neighbours, Ballyhale and Bennettsbridge, successes for generations? Their journey was indeed a long and painful one. Seventy eight years is a ludicrously long time for a club like Thomastown to replicate success. Champions in 1946, hammered in county finals in 1967 and 1988 and rarely seen in senior ranks since.

What changed the narrative? Continued dedication at the coalface by a relatively small number of mentors, the arrival of an exceptionally good group of underage players who cemented their youthful status with an u21 title in 2022 and an outstanding, thinking group of mentors in the past two years. When they arrived on the senior scene in 2024, most people expected them to perform creditably, trouble most teams and perhaps, reach a semi-final.

Anybody who looked closely at their progress this year saw a team that improved in every game (though they stumbled twice in the league). They should also have seen a canny management team led by Noel Doherty and featuring the Kellys, Sean and James, Dessie Walsh and the wily John Brennan, who varied their tactics to take account of their opposition in every game. When they applied their considerable game nous to dethroning O'Loughlins, the city men simply had no answer.

We don't like to see one-sided finals but this one was thoroughly enjoyable to the neutral, most of whom were on Thomastown's side due to sentiment for the underdog. We could not understand why O'Loughlins were raging favourites and the local talk bigged them up even more. The champions had come through the league and knockout stages in good form but major concerns were noted about their inconsistent attack and midfield.

Thomastown set out to hammer the hammer. They forced the much vaunted O'Loughlin's half back line onto the back foot, dragging them all over the field with clever crossfield play and unrelenting tackling. They sent an 18 year old Colm Treacy to drag the great Huw Lawlor into the corners. Their forwards hit as hard as their backs and the champions

didn't like it one bit. O'Loughlin's seemed frozen on the pitch and sideline. They waited to see improvement but there wasn't a potential source for betterment anywhere among their struggling defence, obliterated midfield and static attack.

And Thomastown had John Donnelly. All year he was by far Kilkenny's best hurler. Tall, clever and with the silkiest of wrists, he dominated every game he played this year and when he shot the first point within seconds of the start, he set a tone that his colleagues eagerly followed. He finished with four classy points and five assists. That is some return from a total score of 0-18.

Eddie Donnelly lorded it at centre back, Peter McDonald and veteran Jonjo Farrell have rarely played better at midfield and Robbie Donnelly punished every indiscretion with superb free-taking. Zac, Staunton and the Connellans were limitless fountains of fire and power. They didn't even notice the loss of their fine 'keeper Diarmuid Galway, badly injured in the semi-final. Two points ahead at the first quarter, five at the interval and when they tacked on three superb efforts within five minutes of the resumption, they were never going to be passed. Zac's thundering shoulder on the hardy Conor Heary epitomised the sheer gap between the sides in terms of commitment and toughness.

They played the game through the lines and mixed clever diagonal play with hard running forwards and a calm determination to adhere to a forward thinking strategy. The final score reflected their supremacy on a miserable wet day and sticky surface that militated against flowing hurling. If they can add goal-scoring to their armoury, they will be around for a long time. Referee David Hughes contributed hugely to the game, understanding the conditions and sensible application of the rules.



Thomastown Captain Jay Burke And Manager Noel Doherty with the Tom Walsh Cup

Thomastown United; Paul Barron, Peter Connellan, Jay Burke (capt.), Ned Kirwan, Brian Staunton, Eddie Donnelly, Zach Bay Hammond, Peter McDonald Jonjo Farrell, Robbie Donnelly, John Donnelly, Luke Connellan, Stephen Donnelly, Colm Treacy, Rory Connellan. Subs: David Prendergast for Peter Connellan (inj), Thomas O'Hanrahan for



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*Thomastown Captain Jay Burke lifts the cup after the Kilkenny County Senior Championship final with Dr Stephen McLaughlin (St Canice's Credit Union) and PJ Kenny (Cathaoirleach).
(Photo: Michael P Ryan/SPORTSFILE)*

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Stephen Donnelly (inj), Jack Holden for Rory Connellan, Luke McNenea, Naoise Dempsey, Richard O'Hara, Dylan Waugh, Brian O'Hanrahan, Paucir Kirwan, Jack Cullen, Oisín O'Reilly, Alex Cass, Daithí Barron, Eanna O'Keeffe, Dylan Caulfield, Cian Moore, Evan Wilson, Tyler Nolan, Sean O'Keeffe, Dean Deneiffe, Cathal O'Driscoll, Conor Monks, Cormac Moore, Alex Begley, Cian Farrell, Conor Kelly, Diarmuid Galwey (inj), Eddie Corway (inj).

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

Referee; David Hughes (Barrow Rangers).

We needed to see a bit of toughness in the championship and, unfortunately we didn't get it in the semi-finals. Much fancied Bennettsbridge came to their second successive semi-final with high hopes. To say they played this most crucial of games like a league fixture says it all about them. Kerryman Fionan Mackessy's twenty-fifth minute 20 metre free caught the defence unawares and O'Loughlins cruised to the easiest of victories by 2-17 to 1-14. Their half backs were rampant as usual and they needed only to be consistent without being spectacular. That suited O'Loughlins fine. David and Kevin Blanchfield took the game to O'Loughlins but the City defence held very firm and were never seriously troubled.

The 'Bridge fell woefully short of the sum of their parts and must do considerable soul searching at this point. It seems that self-belief has become a problem in the knockout stages of recent championships. It needn't be so because they have lots of strong young hurlers but more leadership on the field is demanded.

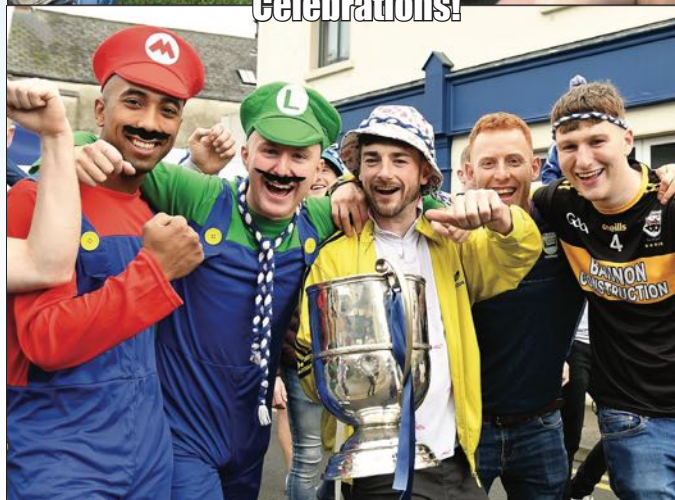
It is always problematical for a team to over reach their abilities in a championship campaign. Unfortunately for Mullinavat, they suffered badly in this respect. A mid-level team at best, they found their way to a semi-final that was far beyond their capacity, like the Village in 2023. Mullinavat had collected their first ever senior trophy a week earlier, winning the Shield. Thomastown mercilessly put them to the sword and demonstrated their ability to score points from every angle. The semi-final was no real test for them, when they needed a stern examination. In the event, it mattered little except to further build their team confidence.

The quarter-finals produced the best senior hurling this year. Fortunately the weather helped and the games were all very worthy contests.

City rivals Dicksboro overcame a stuttering campaign to put it up to O'Loughlin's. The 'Boro have a good record here but they will take a long time to recover from this loss. O'Loughlin's played most of the second half with thirteen men, Mikey Butler and Mark Bergin having been sent off within minutes of each other. At the time O'Loughlin's were cruising. The 'Boro got a grip on the game and led by 0-18 to 1-12 with five minutes remaining. Two minutes into injury time, Fionan Mackessy scored a brilliant solo goal and followed by converting a 110m free to utterly blow away Dicksboro's prospects by 2-17 to 0-20. Dicksboro again underachieved,



Celebrations!



John Donnelly, Brian Staunton, Robbie Donnelly, Stephen Donnelly, and Eddie Donnelly of Thomastown celebrate with the cup.



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS - COUNTY SENIOR HURLING FINALISTS 2024

Back: Jamie Young, Jamie Malone, Ryan Poyntz, Jamie Ryan, Ruairc Sweeney, Oisín Murphy.

Middle: Paddy Deegan, Conor Heary, Ruairdhi Galwey, Fionnan Mackessy, Ronan Buckley, Sean Bolger, Finn Hogan, John MacNamara, Barry Lawlor, Conor Kelly, Kevin Murphy, Anthony Forristal, Greg Kelly, Paddy Butler, Huw Lawlor, David Fogarty.

Front: Declan Murphy, Robbie Buckley, Stephen Murphy, Mark Bergin, Mikey Butler, Owen Wall, Jack Nolan, Luke Hogan, Eoin O'Shea, Jordan Molloy, Evan Walsh, Sammy Johnston, Alex Sheridan.

this time due to a lack of ruthlessness and leadership on and off the field against wounded opponents. They will rarely have a better chance of advancing to a county semi-final. O'Loughlin's deservedly took much solace in the victory, immediately setting themselves up as championship favourites. It was difficult to disagree.

Thomastown answered any queries about their combativity when defeating Ballyhale Shamrocks by 0-21 to 1-16, a result that flattered the former great champions. The Town dominated from the early stages with Brian Staunton, Eddie Donnelly and Zac Bay Hammond sealing the defence brilliantly. It needed a lucky goal to bring Shamrocks back but the arrival of some veterans did nothing to improve them. The men in Blue anticipated every Shamrocks move and countered brilliantly. Youth and power won the day. Shamrocks may well be entering a transition phase with the impending loss of their great veterans, but we know the phase is likely to be temporary.

Tullaroan and Bennettsbridge served up one of the most exciting games of the year and were only separated after extra time. The final score of 2-26 to 1-23 told a story of a game Tullaroan side that tired visibly in extra-time. The game featured fine scores, two spectacular goals and excellent entertainment from two hard-working teams. The Bridge had more strength and scoring power and showed lots of promise just as they did at this stage in 2023. Tullaroan had begun the league in great form but faded as the season progressed, a habit they have developed in recent years. Conceding goals has been their downfall, though they always play with fire and spirit.

Mullinavat and Erin's Own had a great battle, the Southerners winning by 2-21 to 0-19 against a young Comer side. Their biggest battle had been won unexpectedly a week earlier in the relegation territory over Glenmore and they seemed glad to be in a quarter-final. It was by far Mullinavat's best day in the championship and a goal in each half by Brian Phelan saw them out as comfortable winners. Favourites for relegation a week earlier, Erins Own could never match the physicality that Mullinavat brought to the game. Erins Own have been dicing with relegation for the past two years and must accelerate the arrival a potentially very good group of underage players.

Bennettsbridge had defeated Clara by 0-16 to 0-14 in Round One in a game noted only for its lack of talking points. Clara, as is their wont, continue to make life difficult for nay opponents and have been producing a few good players in recent years, but they continue to depend on the few elder statesmen from a decade ago. Scoring enough to win the difficult games has become a problem for them. Thomastown equalled their record of intermediate and senior victories of 2013/14.

Dicksboro strolled to first round victory over a very weak Graig-Ballycallan side. Like several other clubs Graig have some fine youngsters coming through but they will need time. Another year like '24 could see them in some bother.

Glenmore found themselves somewhat unexpectedly in relegation trouble. After a good start to the league, they faltered badly and lost a relegation semi-final to Erins own in bizarre circumstances, conceding five goals against the run of play. They have lots of good young hurlers

ST CANICE'S CREDIT UNION SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

1st ROUND

Bennettsbridge	0-16	Clara	0-14
Dicksboro	1-24	Graigue Ballycallan	1-11
Shamrocks Ballyhale	4-19	James Stephens	1-19
Erin's Own	5-24	Glenmore	1-21

QUARTER-FINALS

O'Loughlin Gaels	2-17	Dicksboro	0-20
Mullinavat	2-21	Erin's Own	0-19
Bennettsbridge	2-26	Tullaroan	1-23
Thomastown	0-21	Shamrocks Ballyhale	1-16

SEMI-FINALS

Thomastown	5-19	Mullinavat	0-12
O'Loughlin Gaels	2-17	Bennettsbridge	1-14

RELEGATION FINAL

Glenmore	3-17	James Stephens	3-12
----------	------	----------------	------

COUNTY FINAL

Thomastown	0-18	O'Loughlin Gaels	0-7
------------	------	------------------	-----

and this year's scare should galvanise them, provided emigration doesn't take its toll, as it does for so many clubs in this age.

If Thomastown were the story at the top of the pile, James Stephens provided most interest at the lower end. Their story this year was totally unsurprising. They over-reached in 2022 and '23 and this year were forced through injury and emigration to blood five (albeit very good) minors through the league. Injuries to their strong men, particularly Niall Brassil, left them physically weakened and a habit of conceding lots of goals was not rectified by a necessary change in defensive style. Ballyhale Shamrocks were the last team they needed to see in the first round. While they stayed competitive for fifty minutes they were overwhelmed in the end.

The Village defeated an off colour Glenmore in the final league game, and the Southerners were duly warned. Glenmore won the relegation battle by 3-17 to 3-12 before a huge crowd in Grennan, the Village making it easier by having a player sent off after 13 minutes. If justice suggests the poorest team in the competition should be relegated, they have no argument. Winning a few minor titles presages future brightness but the journey out of Intermediate is steep as many have found.

How is the health of our senior competition? In summary, not bad. The top teams are as good as any in Ireland, the competition is wicked and no team can afford a bad year. Ask James Stephens supporters. It would be good to see more young tyros showing up for county attention, but other than Thomastown's potential, few hidden gems have come to light.



DICKSBORO - BYRNE CUP WINNERS 2024

Back: Matthew Kelleher, Harry Shine, Johnny Keane, Evan Cody, Tom O'Neill, Kevin Moore, Seán Keenan, Jim Dollard, Shane O'Brien, Rory O'Connor, Mick Carroll, Timmy Clifford, Tom McPhillips, Billy Fitzpatrick, Ollie Walsh.

Front: Cillian Buckley, Tommy Farrell, Bill Sheehan, Cillian Hackett, Liam Brennan Smith, Darragh Holohan, Mark Nolan, Tom Carroll, James Carroll, Joe Sheehan, Niall Rowe.



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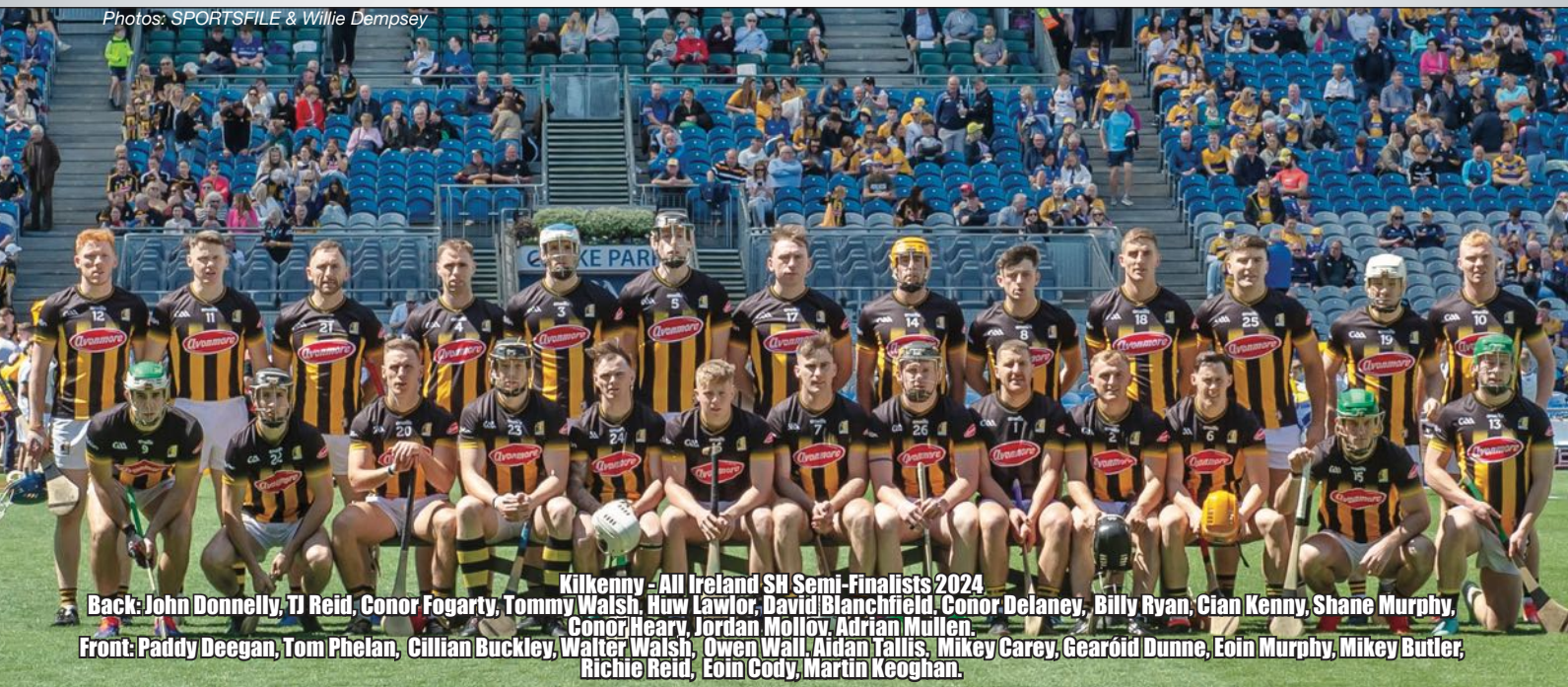
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Clare break Kilkenny semi-final hoodoo

Inter County SH Report by Tommy Lanigan

Photos: SPORTSFILE & Willie Dempsey



Kilkenny - All Ireland SH Semi-Finalists 2024

Back: John Donnelly, TJ Reid, Conor Fogarty, Tommy Walsh, Huw Lawlor, David Blanchfield, Conor Delaney, Billy Ryan, Cian Kenny, Shane Murphy, Conor Heary, Jordan Molloy, Adrian Mullen.
Front: Paddy Deegan, Tom Phelan, Cillian Buckley, Walter Walsh, Owen Wall, Aidan Tallis, Mikey Carey, Gearóid Dunne, Eoin Murphy, Mikey Butler, Richie Reid, Eoin Cody, Martin Keoghan.

All-Ireland SHC semi-final

6 July 2024, Croke Park

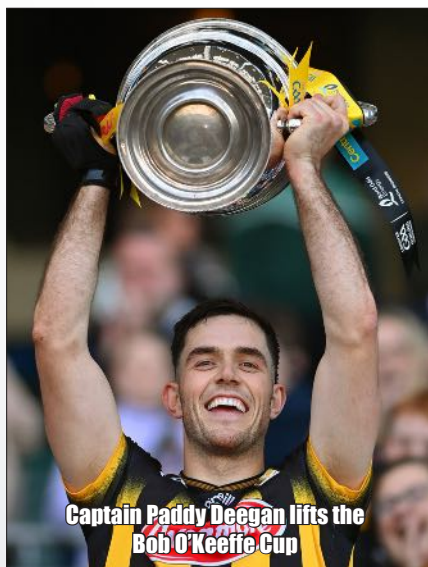
Clare 0-24 Kilkenny 2-16

After seeing off Clare at the semi-final stage in the past two years, Kilkenny came up just short in this enthralling All Ireland encounter. It was a game Clare HAD to win, it was a game Kilkenny COULD have won. Ultimately nobody could deny a hungry Clare side their victory as they proved the better team in the final stretch. Kilkenny had precious few answers to the Bannermen's self-belief and nerveless gallop to the final whistle.

At the 45th minute it all seemed to be in favour of Kilkenny as they deservedly led by 2-12 to 0-12, but to win an All-Ireland semi-final, a team needs to score far more than four points in the last quarter and they failed to hit any score in the final twelve minutes of this rousing contest.

The danger signs were abundantly clear from very early in the second period. The Clare half back line had taken control of the game and their full backs were skin-tight against any Kilkenny offensive. The Kilkenny forwards were being repeatedly pushed off the ball and unable to half the flow of good possession that Clare had begun to monopolise. In addition the great Tony Kelly had come into his own and dictated much of the play. Up front, Shane O'Donnell put on a 'hurler of the year' performance as his trickery and strong running caused havoc. His forward colleagues added points from every angle. Kilkenny fought on regardless, and a late Richie Reid free that was floated into the danger zone gave some hope but Lohan's men held firm.

It had all been so much different for three quarters of the game. Kilkenny



Captain Paddy Deegan lifts the Bob O'Keefe Cup

played with much assurance and guile and scored goals at crucial times. Their first came from Eoin Cody in the 24th minute. It was a spectacular effort, having for once, escaped the clutches of Adam Hogan. Clare 'keeper Quilligan saved them with a string of excellent stops as Kilkenny forged ahead with points. They went to the break with Kilkenny leading by five, 1-10 to 0-8 and it could have been more.

Clare thundered into the game on the restart but were rocked by Billy Ryan's opportunist goal. Then came the Banner surge as their self-belief soared, despite the sterling efforts of Huw Lawlor, Paddy Deegan, Cian Kenny and an overworked Kilkenny defence.

Clare: Eibhear Quilligan, Adam Hogan, Conor Cleary, Conor Leen, Diarmuid Ryan, John Conlon, David McInerney, Tony Kelly (0-3), Cathal Malone, David Fitzgerald (0-2), Shane O'Donnell (0-1), Peter Duggan (0-1), Mark Rodgers (0-2), Aidan McCarthy (0-11, 9f), David Reidy (0-3). **Subs:** Ian Galvin for O'Donnell (24-27, blood), Ryan Taylor for Malone (49), Ian Galvin for Fitzgerald (0-1), (57), Aron Shanagher for Reidy (61), Darragh Lohan for Duggan (70+3).

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Tommy Walsh, Huw Lawlor, Mikey Butler, David Blanchfield (0-1), Richie Reid, Mikey Carey (0-1), Cian Kenny (0-2), Paddy Deegan (0-1), Adrian Mullen, TJ Reid (0-7, 4f, 1s, 1 65), John Donnelly (0-2), Martin Keoghan, Billy Ryan (1-2), Eoin Cody. **Subs:** Walter Walsh for Keoghan (58), Tom Phelan for Mullen (63), Conor Fogarty for Ryan (67).

Referee: Liam Gordon (Galway).

Leinster Senior Hurling Final

8 June 2024, Croke Park

Kilkenny 3-28 Dublin 1-18

Kilkenny won their 76th Leinster title and their fifth consecutive one in the easiest of fashion against an abysmal Dublin side who made life easy at every turn.

Given the decidedly uneven progress of Kilkenny through this year's Leinster round robin, no black & amber supporter was expecting to see such a rout as happened in Croke Park.

Dublin had run the Cats close on two occasions during the year and were expected to deliver a tough contest. How wrong we were! Kilkenny strolled to their biggest Leinster final win since 2008 in a forgettable



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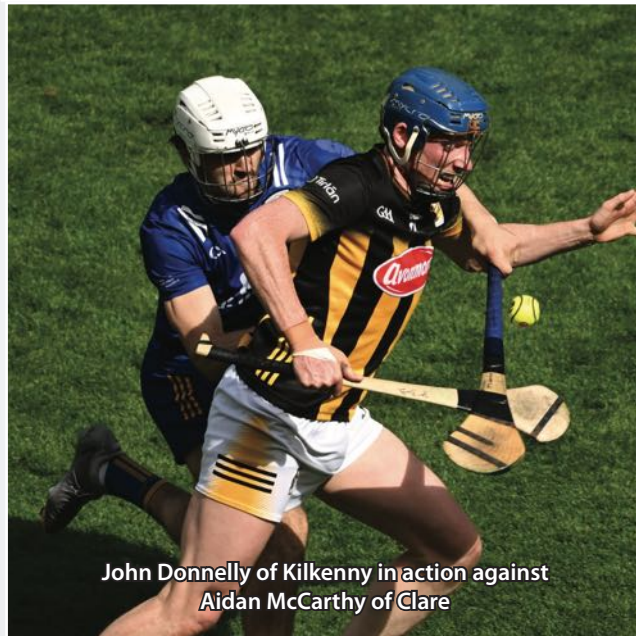
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Tommy Walsh in action against Ian Galvin.



Eoin Cody Finds it difficult to get past Conor Cleary.



John Donnelly of Kilkenny in action against Aidan McCarthy of Clare



TJ, heavily outnumbered, trying to get his pass away.



Billy Ryan shows great skill and control as he gains possession



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encounter which was little better than a challenge game, played in front of over 35,000 disappointed spectators.

Eoin Cody had rescued Kilkenny with a late goal in the round robin series a month earlier. Here he banged in a third minute goal to set Kilkenny on their way with a hapless Dublin side scrambling in their wake. The gap had become a chasm by half-time when Kilkenny led by 2-18 to 0-9 as Cian Kenny, TJ, John Donnelly and Adrian Mullen scored at will. After the Dublin 'keeper handed TJ Reid an easy goal, the game was effectively over. Despite the best efforts of Eoin O'Donnell, Chris Crummey and Conor Burke, Dublin generally played league hurling and that never wins a knockout game. The only cloud for Kilkenny supporters was seeing Mikey Carey limping off early in the game, but his injury proved to be not serious.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Mikey Butler, Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh, David Blanchfield (0-1), Richie Reid, Mikey Carey, Cian Kenny (0-4), Paddy Deegan, Adrian Mullen (0-7), TJ Reid (2-6, 3f), John Donnelly (0-3), Martin Keoghan (0-3), Billy Ryan, (0-1), Eoin Cody (1-1). **Subs:** Shane Murphy for Carey, 29 mins; Tom Phelan (0-1) for Ryan, 45 mins, Walter Walsh (0-1) for Mullen, 63 mins, Jordan Molloy for Lawlor, 63 mins, Conor Fogarty for Kenny, 64 mins.

Dublin: Sean Brennan, John Bellew (0-1), Eoghan O'Donnell, Paddy Smyth (0-1), Chris Crummey (0-1), Conor Donohoe, Paddy Doyle, Brian Hayes, Conor Burke (0-3), Danny Sutcliffe (0-1), Donal Burke (0-8, 7f), Sean Currie, Fergal Whiteley, Dara Purcell (0-2), Ronan Hayes. **Subs:** Daire Gray for Doyle, h-t, Darragh Power (0-1) for Currie, h-t, Mark Grogan (1-0) for Whiteley, h-t, Colin Currie for R. Hayes, 53 mins, James Madden for B. Hayes, 61 mins.

Referee: Thomas Walsh (Waterford)

Leinster Senior Hurling Championship Round 1

21 April 2024, UPMC Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 5-30, Antrim 0-13

Kilkenny dismissed the challenge of Antrim at their ease against a seriously understrength Northern side who were missing several of their best players. It rendered the game as worth less than a challenge match and nobody was any wiser about players form at the end. Of concern, though, were injuries to Eoin Murphy and Adrian Mullen and Eoin Cody, all of whom were withdrawn immediately. In the event, none of the injuries were significant.

On the plus side, lively attacker Owen Wall made a massive impression when sprung from the bench. The speedy O'Loughlin Gaels man bagged two smashing goals and a pair of points in an eager performance. TJ Reid strolled around the Park scoring 1-5 before retiring early. Billy Drennan (penalty) and Gearóid Dunne scored the goals in what was a facile win.

Kilkenny could afford to be wasteful and they shot 20 wides. The visitors kept playing the short passing game, and were repeatedly robbed by a pressing Kilkenny attack. Antrim finished the game with thirteen men, neither sending off was malicious.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Mike Butler, Huw Lawlor, Shane Murphy (0-1), David Blanchfield, Paddy Deegan (0-2), Mikey Carey (0-1), Cian Kenny (0-4), Richie Reid (0-1), Adrian Mullen (0-1), Eoin Cody, John Donnelly (0-3), Mossy Keoghan (0-3), TJ Reid (1-5, 0-3 f), Tom Phelan. **Subs:** Gearóid Dunne (1-1) for Mullen (inj.) 14th min., Adrian Tallis for Eoin Murphy ht. Owen Wall (2-2) for Eoin Cody (inj.) 39th min, Billy Drennan (1-6, 0-2 frees, 1 65) for TJ Reid 44th min, Billy Ryan for Tom Phelan 53rd min, Tommy Walsh for Mikey Butler 61st min.

Antrim: R. Elliott P. Duffin, R. McGarry, P. Burke S. Walsh, E. Campbell (0-01), C. Bohill (0-01), J. McNaughton (0-02), N. O'Connor, M. Bradley, N. Elliott (0-01), N. McKenna, C. Cunning (0-07, frees), C. McCann (0-01), S. Elliott. **Subs:** T. Smyth for N. McKenna 21st min, N. McKenna for R. Elliott 32nd min, J. McLaughlin for M. Bradley ht, R. McCloskey for S. Walsh 57th min, C. Boyd for N. McKenna 59th min.

Referee: S. Hayes (Galway).

Leinster Senior Hurling Championship Round 2

28 April 2024 Pearse Stadium

Galway 2-23, Kilkenny 0-29

This was the first tough contest for Kilkenny in 2024 and it proved to be a highly entertaining game. A point from Galway captain Conor Whelan in the fifth minute of added time rescued a draw for Galway, one they deserved. The Cats looked set for victory when TJ Reid put them two up going into stoppage time but after Evan Niland reduced the margin to the minimum, Whelan struck the equaliser from distance.

Kilkenny led by 0-16 to 1-9 at the break after playing with the strong breeze.

Galway got on top initially but Kilkenny, like Galway operating a two-man full-forward line, reduced the gap with efforts from Martin Keoghan and John Donnelly. But it took them until the end of the first quarter to get back on level terms when they hit three points in a row to tie the game at 0-7 apiece, before Keoghan, who hit 0-04 in the first half, edged Kilkenny in front for the first time. But then Galway struck for a goal by Gavin Lee.

Two more points from Mannion, Galway's only scores before the break after scoring the goal in the 19th minute, cut the gap to the minimum, but Kilkenny finished the half strongly with five points without reply.

Whelan tied the sides immediately afterwards for the fifth time and they were still level at 2-16 to 0-22 after 51 minutes before Kilkenny hit four in a row before Galway rallied again. Reid's eighth point of the contest seemed poised to secure victory for the Leinster champions before Galway rallied and Whelan ensured a share of the spoils in an exciting finish.

Kilkenny: Aidan Tallis, Mikey Butler (0-1), Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh, David Blanchfield (0-1), Paddy Deegan, Shane Murphy, Cian Kenny (0-3), Richie Reid (0-2), Martin Keoghan (0-4), John Donnelly (0-4), Tom Phelan (0-3) Billy Ryan (0-1), TJ Reid (0-8, 0-6f, 0-1'65), Luke Hogan. **Subs:** Owen Wall for Hogan (42), Jordan Molloy (0-2) for Ryan (48), Darragh Corcoran for R Reid (72), Gearóid Dunne for Keoghan (72).

Galway: Darach Fahy, Darren Morrissey, Fintan Burke, Padraic Mannion, Seán Linnane, Cíanan Fahy (0-2), Daithí Burke, Ronan Glennon, David Burke, Gavin Lee (1-2), Tom Monaghan, Brian Concannon (1-1), Cathal Mannion (0-5), Conor Cooney (0-3, 0-2f, 0-1'65), Conor Whelan (0-3). **Subs:** Jack Grealish for Morrissey (28), Evan Niland (0-7, 0-6f, 0-1'65) for Monaghan (42), Johnny Glynn for Concannon (58), Joseph Cooney for David Burke (58), Jason Flynn for Lee (69).

Referee: Thomas Walsh (Waterford).

Leinster Senior Hurling Championship Round 3

11 May 2024, Netwatch Dr. Cullen Park

Carlow 1-20, Kilkenny 1-20.

It was so close to being the most memorable day in Carlow hurling. Kilkenny came to Dr. Cullen Park expecting to rack up a large scoreline, given the form of the respective sides. They were ambushed and were more than fortunate to get out of Dodge with a point and reputations barely intact. Carlow proved to be a very tidy, disciplined and hard-working outfit who had targeted this game for an upset. In the end Carlow had to gain the draw through a late Marty Kavanagh free but, had they won, nobody could begrudge them a famous victory.

The pre-match favourites got off to a great start when Martin Keoghan opened the scoring with a point and Owen Wall followed up with a fine goal breaking in at speed from the left. That came about when Carlow lost the ball at midfield and Kilkenny swept forward with intent. It was a lesson learned and one rarely repeated for the remainder of the contest. It created an expectation that scoring would be easy.

Chris Nolan's seventh-minute point for the home side got them off the mark and while they trailed by six points approaching half-time. Then Killian Doyle was sent off and Kilkenny had to scramble for the remainder

of the game. Three points each from Chris Nolan and Kavanagh kept Carlow in touch though and at the interval Kilkenny led 1-11 to 0-9.

On the resumption, a Fiachra Fitzpatrick point lifted Carlow players and followers alike. While the home team struggled at times with Kilkenny's short-passing and possession game, their defence didn't panic and their belief grew. Midway through the second half, two Kilkenny forwards contrived to miss an easy goal chance and shortly afterwards Conor Kehoe forced home a goal.

It was helter skelter to the finish. In the final minute of normal time, Donagh Murphy levelled for Carlow but TJ Reid responded with two points to seemingly kill off their challenge. The home side refused to contemplate defeat. James Doyle replied for Carlow and on 75 minutes, a moment of petulance saw a free awarded to the hosts. From a tight angle Kavanagh secured a famous point for Tom Mullally's side.

Carlow: Brian Tracey, Paul Doyle, Dion Wall, Niall Bolger, Tony Lawlor, Kevin McDonald, Fiachra Fitzpatrick (0-2), Sean Joyce, Richard Coady, Jon Nolan, Chris Nolan (0-04), Marty Kavanagh (0-9, 8fs, 1 65), Jack McCullagh, John Michael Nolan (0-1), Scott Treacy. Subs: Conor Kehoe (1-0) for Treacy (ht), Paddy Boland (0-01) for John Michael Nolan (ht), Ciaran Whelan for Joyce (ht), James Doyle (0-01) for Coady (50), Donagh Murphy (0-01) for Joe Nolan (62).

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Mikey Butler, Huw Lawlor (0-01), Killian Doyle, David Blanchfield, Darragh Corcoran, Shane Murphy (0-01), Cian Kenny (0-3), Jordan Molloy, Martin Keoghan (0-3), John Donnelly, Tom Phelan (0-2), Billy Ryan (0-1), TJ Reid (0-6, 04fs), Owen Wall (1-3). Subs: Tommy Walsh for Ryan (ht), Conor Fogarty for Molloy (42), Billy Drennan for Wall (58).

Referee: Chris Mooney (Dublin).

Leinster Senior Hurling Championship Round 4

18 May 2024, Parnell Park

Kilkenny 1-28, Dublin 2-23

There was no margin for error for Kilkenny as they faced a spirited Dublin side in Parnell Park. Defeat would prevent a provincial final place while there was a sore need to improve on the performance in Carlow. It was a close run thing.

The Dubs were well worth at least a shared of the spoils as the contest entered added time but they suffered a massive body blow as Eoin Cody rattled home the game-defining score past Seán Brennan. This defeat stung Dublin given they had a great opportunity to land a huge blow on Kilkenny and allowed it to slip away.

In what was a thrilling opening-half, Dublin found themselves four points in arrears approaching the break but a Conor Burke goal ensured they trailed by the bare minimum 0-16 to 1-12 at the interval.

David Blanchfield and Donal Burke were on the mark in the early stages of the second-half and a second Burke free saw the teams deadlocked for the first time since the opening whistle. The Dubs continued to impress but spurned a glorious chance to put daylight between the teams in the 44th minute as Ronan Hayes raced through but with the goal at his mercy, he dragged wide of Murphy's upright. Cian Kenny and Blanchfield pushed Kilkenny two points clear but Burke's prowess from placed balls and an outstanding Crummey point saw Dublin back on level terms by the 54th minute.

Hopes of a famous Dublin win were raised as Eoghan O'Donnell got his handpass off set up Brian Hayes for a goal. Back came the Cats to level matters with three points on the bounce from Donnelly (2) and Cody and the ebb and flow continued until the decisive moment arrived in the 70th minute. Billy Ryan got away with 'steps' as he burst through, offloaded to Cody who finished well.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Mikey Butler, Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh, David Blanchfield (0-3), Paddy Deegan, Mikey Carey (0-1), Shane Murphy, Cian Kenny (0-2), Tom Phelan, TJ Reid (0-8, 7f), John Donnelly (0-7), Martin Keoghan (0-3), Eoin Cody (1-3), Owen Wall. Subs: Billy Ryan (0-1) for Wall (half-time), Richie Reid for Shane Murphy (42), Conor Fogarty for Phelan (59), Cillian Buckley for Carey (68).

Dublin: S Brennan, J Bellew, E O'Donnell, P Smyth, C Crummey (0-3), C Donohoe, P Doyle, B Hayes (1-0), C Burke (1-1), D Sutcliffe (0-3), D Burke (0-14, 11f), F Whitely, S Currie, C O'Sullivan (0-2), R Hayes. Subs: P Crummey for O'Sullivan (44); D Power for Whitely (49); D Gray for Doyle (63); J Malone for Currie (65); D Purcell for R Hayes (59).

Referee: Johnny Murphy (Limerick).

Leinster senior hurling championship Round 5

26 May 2024, UPMC Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 1-24 Wexford 2-20

Kilkenny needed at least a draw in UPMC Nowlan Park if they wished to contest the provincial final and they duly delivered in a fine contest played before 18,000 enthusiastic spectators. Wexford's recent championship record against the Cats has been very good and it required a sterling performance all round to gain a badly needed win over the Wexfordmen.

TJ Reid notched 1-13 including a second half penalty as he led the line brilliantly.

A Conor McDonald goal gave Wexford the first half edge but backed by a devastating third quarter, Kilkenny gained control with TJ Reid, Paddy Deegan and Mikey Carey all excelling for the winners.

Between the 30th and 52nd minutes, Kilkenny outscored the Model County 1-9 to 0-2 with TJ Reid's penalty giving the defending Leinster champions some breathing space on the scoreboard. Kilkenny got the rub of the green with a penalty award which TJ converted and when TJ and Cody both pointed afterwards, the Cats were in a great position as they led 1-20 to 1-14.

TJ knocked over three frees before the end and they were definitely needed as Wexford sprung a late comeback with effective substitutions (Kilkenny's weren't) and a Cian Byrne goal five minutes from time. Wexford sensed an opportunity and Lee Chin, Conor McDonald and Conor Hearne all pointed but Kilkenny did enough and stood tall to qualify for a seventh Leinster Final on the trot.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy: Mikey Butler, Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh, David Blanchfield, Richie Reid (0-1), Mikey Carey (0-1), Cian Kenny, Paddy Deegan (0-3), John Donnelly (0-1), TJ Reid 91-13, 12f), Tom Phelan, Martin Keoghan (0-1), Billy Ryan (0-3), Eoin Cody (0-1). Subs: Conor Fogarty for Phelan, h-t, Walter Walsh for Keoghan, 61 mins, Owen Wall for Ryan, 71 mins, Harry Shine for Kenny, 72 mins.

Wexford: Mark Fanning, Shane Reck, Conor Foley, Eoin Ryan, Liam Ryan, Damien Reck, Matthew O'Hanlon, Conor Hearne, Cathal Dunbar (0-2), Richie Lawlor, Lee Chin (0-7, 6f), Liam Og McGovern (0-1), Cian Byrne (1-3), Conor McDonald (1-2, Rory O'Connor (0-2). Subs: Kevin Foley (0-1) for Lawlor, 51 mins, Jack O'Connor (0-1) for Dunbar, 55 mins, Charlie McGuckin for Og McGovern, 59 mins.

Referee; Liam Gordon (Galway)

Allianz National Hurling League 2024

Allianz NHL Final

6 April 2024, FBD Semple Stadium

Clare 3-16 Kilkenny 1-20

Under the Saturday night Thurles lights, Clare capped a fine Allianz League campaign by hoisting silverware. They had to survive a gritty Kilkenny revival in the closing stages, driven on by the hurt of All Ireland semi-final defeats in 2022 and '23.

Aidan McCarthy, who concluded the match with a 2-10 haul, thumped a 54th minute goal to guide the Banner 3-12 to 0-14 clear. Kilkenny who were missing TJ Reid, came thundering back in the closing stages with

Eoin Cody netting a 65th minute goal to inject hope into the comeback mission. Cody subsequently had a penalty saved by Eibhear Quilligan and despite shooting three of the last four points it wasn't enough to halt Clare.

Throughout a well contested first half, Kilkenny hit far too many wides, while Clare forwards were proving quite accurate from all angles. McCarthy's first goal, following a splendid assist from Mark Rodgers, ensured Clare hit the front, 1-7 to 0-9. Shane O'Donnell announced his arrival into the game by occupying a role, alongside David Reidy in the creation of David Fitzgerald's 37th minute major. Kilkenny continued to battle with trademark defiance and were only four behind in the 54th minute. Then Fitzgerald released McCarthy, who made the Kilkenny net dance and Clare assumed a commanding position. Keoghan and John Donnelly led Kilkenny's revival but the Clare defence held firm.

Clare: Eibhear Quilligan, Adam Hogan, Conor Cleary, Conor Leen, Diarmuid Ryan (0-1), John Conlon, Cian Galvin, Cathal Malone (0-1), Darragh Lohan (0-1), David Fitzgerald (1-0), David Reidy, Peter Duggan, Aidan McCarthy (2-10, 9f), Ian Galvin (0-1), Mark Rodgers (0-2). **Subs:** Shane O'Donnell for I Galvin (HT), Aron Shanagher for Reidy (53), David McInerney for C Galvin (58), Rory Hayes for Leen (59), Seadna Morey for Lohan (67).

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Tommy Walsh, Huw Lawlor, Shane Murphy (0-1), David Blanchfield (0-1), Paddy Deegan, Richie Reid (0-1) Cian Kenny (0-2), Jordan Molloy (0-1) Adrian Mullen (0-3), John Donnelly (0-1), Billy Ryan (0-1), Luke Hogan, Billy Drennan (0-1f), Eoin Cody (1-4, 3f). **Subs:** Martin Keoghan (0-4) for Hogan (30), Timmy Clifford for Drennan (45), Kevin Blanchfield for Molloy (51), Liam Blanchfield for Ryan (60).

Referee: Johnny Murphy (Limerick).

Allianz NHL semi-final
23 March 2024, Pairc Uí Chaoimh
Kilkenny 3-17 Limerick 1-15

Kilkenny claimed a first win over Limerick since the 2019 All-Ireland semi-final and deservedly qualified for their second successive Allianz Hurling League Final.

Their energetic and all-action first half display was the platform for victory against a Limerick side who looked leaden footed and somewhat under motivated.

This result will give Kilkenny a much needed hard challenge in the League final, something they need after a few facile league games. Kilkenny were the more forceful outfit throughout the first half, though Limerick got off to a great start with 1-2 in the first four minutes. Newcomer Luke Hogan helped himself to an early goal followed by Eoin Cody and TJ

Reid all finding the net in a very encouraging first half display. Cody was sent off early in the second period but Limerick lost a man to a red card shortly afterwards.

Kilkenny should have been delighted with plenty of aspects of their play, particularly the form of TJ Reid and the overall threat of the attack. The new faces continued to impress with Luke Hogan grabbing his first senior goal as well as Shane Murphy and Jordan Molloy put in battling displays.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Shane Murphy, Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh; David Blanchfield, Paddy Deegan, Cillian Buckley (0-1), Cian Kenny, Jordan Molloy Adrian Mullen (0-3), Eoin Cody (1-0), John Donnelly, Luke Hogan (1-0), TJ Reid (1-8f), Billy Ryan (0-1). **Subs:** Richie Reid for Buckley h-t, Mossy Keoghan (0-1) for Hogan 44 mins, Owen Wall for Ryan 50 mins, Billy Drennan (0-3, 2f) for TJ Reid 59 mins, Timmy Clifford for Donnelly 68 mins, Kevin Blanchfield for Kenny 70 mins.

Limerick: Nickie Quaid; Barry Nash, Sean Finn, Aaron Costello; Diarmaid Byrnes (0-1f), Declan Hannon, Cathal O'Neill (0-2), William O'Donoghue, Cian Lynch Gearoid Hegarty, Adam English, Tom Morrissey; Aaron Gillane (1-6, 1-5f), Donnacha O'Dalaigh (0-1), Peter Casey (0-1). **Subs:** David Reidy (0-2) for English h-t, Conor Boylan for Lynch 54 mins, Seamus Flanagan (0-2f) for Gillane 58 mins, Mark Quinlan for Hannon 60 mins, Aidan O'Connor for Hegarty 67 mins.

Referee: James Owens (Wexford)

Allianz NHL Round 1
UPMC Nowlan Park 4 February 2024
Kilkenny 2-16 Wexford 2-16

Kilkenny were left frustrated after failing to take home full points from their first Allianz League Division 1A clash with Wexford. If this game set the tone for the 2024 League we have much enjoyable hurling to anticipate. The Leinster neighbours produced a thrilling contest with the result very much on the line right till the end when, unfortunately, Billy Drennan missed a late free to snatch victory.

With the aid of a strong wind, Kilkenny made the early running to lead 0-9 to 0-5 at the interval with Eoin Cody doing the majority of the scoring from placed balls.

Kilkenny's only points from play in the opening half arrived through Billy Ryan, Adrian Mullen and Martin Keoghan with Lee Chin, Seamus Casey, Damien Reck and Conor Foley leading the challenge for Wexford.

Points from Cian Kenny and Kevin Blanchfield pushed the Noreiders lead to five at the beginning of the second period but Wexford outscored

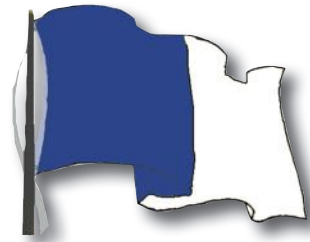


Eoin Murphy wins possession while Huw Lawlor holds off Ronan Hayes of Dublin in the Leinster Final.



Mikey Carey showing his strength and gets his clearance in.

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their opponents 1-5 to 0-1 between the 38th and 49th minutes. All four goals in the game arrived in the second half with Drennan netting two penalties and Cian Byrne and Seamus Casey finding the net for Keith Rossiter's team.

The goal came courtesy of Seamus Casey but the introduction of Billy Drennan gave Kilkenny needed impetus and back to back frees ensured the sides were level going into the final quarter. Drennan's late penalty after Billy Ryan was brought down looked to have given Kilkenny victory but Cian Byrne netting Wexford's second goal in the very next attack. Drennan's winning effort from a free fell short and the sides had to settle for a draw.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Padraic Moylan, Darragh Corcoran, Tommy Walsh, David Blanchfield, Richie Reid, Jordan Molloy; Cian Kenny (90-1), Kevin Blanchfield (0-1) Adrian Mullen (0-2), Eoin Cody (0-7, 6f), Conor Heary, Billy Ryan (0-1), Harry Shine, Martin Keoghan (0-1). **Subs:** Conor Fogarty for K. Blanchfield (47), Billy Drennan (2-3f) for Shine (48), Cillian Buckley for Kenny (65), Mikey Carey for Reid (71).

Wexford: Mark Fanning, Niall Murphy, Conor Foley (0-1), Eoin Ryan, Charlie McGuckin, Damien Reck, Conor Hearne; Corey Byrne Dunbar (0-1), Cian Molloy (0-1), Jack O'Connor, Lee Chin (0-4f), Kevin Foley (0-1) James Byrne, Richie Lawlor, Seamus Casey (1-2). **Subs:** Shane Reck for Hearne (40), Tomas Kinsella (0-1) for O'Connor (45), Cian Byrne (1-1) for Byrne Dunbar (55), Simon Donohoe for K. Foley (60), Cathal Dunbar for J. Byrne (63).

Referee: Thomas Gleeson (Dublin)

Allianz NHL Round 2

Pairc Uí Chaoimh 10 Feb 2024

Kilkenny 0-21, Cork 1-17

A stoppage time John Donnelly point was enough to give Kilkenny their first win of the Allianz League as they overcame a slow-starting Cork in Supervalu Pairc Uí Chaoimh. Why they needed the rescue was something of a mystery as they led Cork by nine points in the first half but then fell away quite badly.

Again Kilkenny started in very lively fashion and were on fire in the early minutes of the game with Adrian Mullen, Eoin Cody and Cian Kenny in particular dominating from the start as they moved into a huge lead. Approaching half time, Cork roused themselves and hit back with 1-3, Conor O'Callaghan's goal keeping the home side in touch at the change of ends (0-13 to 1-7).

There was little enough to divide them throughout the second period and a Conor Lehane score put the Rebels in front for the only time in the 58th minute.

Kilkenny dug deep in the last ten minutes and freetaker Billy Drennan contributed three good points from placed balls. Walter Walsh was denied a goal by Patrick Collins and Cork missed two good goal chances just before Donnelly sealed the result. In many ways it was a typical League game with some rust in evidence though both sides contributed well to an entertaining game.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Mikey Butler, Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh, David Blanchfield, Darragh Corcoran, Shane Murphy (1-1) Cian Kenny (0-2), Mikey Carey (0-1), Conor Heary, John Donnelly (0-2), Adrian Mullen (0-5), Billy Ryan, Luke Hogan, Eoin Cody (0-7, 5f). **Subs:** Mossy Keoghan for Ryan h-t, Billy Drennan (0-3, 2f) for Hogan 45 mins, Kevin Blanchfield for Carey 50 mins, Walter Walsh for Heary 54 mins, Peter McDonald for Kenny 63 mins.

Cork: Patrick Collins, Eoin Downey, Eoin Roche, Sean O'Donoghue, Tim O'Mahony (0-1), Niall O'Leary, Rob Downey, Tommy O'Connell (0-1), Conor O'Callaghan (1-0), Luke Meade, Conor Lehane (0-4), Sean Twomey, Robbie O'Flynn (0-1), Patrick Horgan (0-9f), Shane Kingston. **Subs:** Ger Mellerick for R. Downey 20 mins, Niall Roche for Meade h-t, Ethan Twomey for O'Callaghan 42 mins, Shane Barrett (0-1) for O'Flynn 43 mins, Mark Coleman for E. Downey 48 mins.

Referee: Johnny Murphy (Limerick)

Allianz NHL Round 3

Cusack Park, 10 March 2024

Clare 0-19, Kilkenny 0-16

Kilkenny suffered their first defeat in Division 1A of the Allianz Hurling League when losing narrowly to Clare in a scrappy yet entertaining affair in Cusack Park.

Late scores from Aidan McCarthy, Diarmuid Ryan and Peter Duggan helped the home side overcome a Kilkenny team whose accuracy in front of goal deserted them in the second half. However there can be no complaints as they led the Claremen only once over the seventy minutes. They only led on one occasion over the course of the 70 minutes.

TJ Reid and Paddy Deegan both made their first appearances of the season and scored eleven points between them. The Clare defence were in uncompromising mode and the remainder of the Kilkenny forwards were forced to live off scraps.

Kilkenny stayed in touch stayed in touch through the first half, relying mainly on TJ Reid's excellence on frees where he scored all but one attempt. Clare finished the half stronger and led by 0-11 to 0-9 at the interval.

John Donnelly's introduction improved matters as he shot three good points but, on a day when defences were on top, Clare's proved tighter. Kilkenny drew level twice but Clare always had the edge with Fitzgerald and McCarthy keeping the scoreboard ticking over. Of some concern was that Kilkenny had more-or-less a full team while Clare were missing four stalwarts. It was an omen of things to come for both teams as they were destined to meet twice more in the big finals of the year.

Kilkenny- TJ Reid (0-9, nine frees), John Donnelly (0-3), Paddy Deegan (0-2), Eoin Cody, David Blanchfield (0-1 each)

Clare: Eamonn Foudy, Paul Flanagan, Conor Cleary, Adam Hogan, Diarmuid Ryan (0-1), John Conlon, Conor Leen (0-1), Cian Galvin, Darragh Lohan David Fitzgerald (1-6), David Reidy (0-1), Peter Duggan (0-2), Mark Rodgers (0-1f), Aidan McCarthy (1-6f), Keith Smyth (0-1). **Subs:** Seadna Morey for Leen h-t, Rory Hayes for Hogan 38 mins, Sean Rynne for Conlon 45 mins, Shane Meehan for Rodgers 60 mins, Ross Hayes for Flanagan 68 mins.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Mikey Butler, Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh; David Blanchfield (0-1), Richie Reid, Shane Murphy; Darragh Corcoran, Mikey Carey, Adrian Mullen, TJ Reid (0-9f), Paddy Deegan (0-2) Cian Kenny, Eoin Cody (0-1), Harry Shine.

Subs: John Donnelly (0-3) for R. Reid h-t, Gearoid Dunne for Shine 45 mins, Timmy Clifford for Kenny 58 mins.

Referee: James Owens (Wexford)

Allianz NHL Round 4

UPMC Nowlan Park, 25 February 2024

Kilkenny 1-26, Offaly 1-19

An experimental Kilkenny side played very well, admittedly against young and light opposition to record a comprehensive victory in this third round league game. While the final outcome was a seven point win for Kilkenny, it is clear that Offaly are an improving side with several fine young hurlers in their midst. Adrian Mullen treated the sparse crowd to a fine display, scoring six points and leading the forward line exceptionally well.

Offaly took advantage of a very strong wind to open up a six point lead at the break with big displays from Dan Ravenhill, Eoghan Cahill and Charlie Mitchell but they were unable to hold off a sustained onslaught from the home side in the second period.

Kilkenny outscored Offaly 0-10 to 0-1 between the start of the second half and the 46th minute and when Eoin Cody drove home an outstanding goal in the fiftieth minute the result was well and truly conclusive. Offaly did hit back with a Charlie Mitchell goal late on but Kilkenny had done enough on the scoreboard with subs. Walter Walsh, Timmy Clifford and Kevin Blanchfield adding to Cody, Mullen and Billy Drennan who provided

the majority of the scoring.

For the first time in many years three brothers, the Blanchfields, fielded for Kilkenny on the same team, going on to join Lalors, Doyles and Fennellys in that particular hall of fame.

Kilkenny: *Daragh Brennan (0-1f), Mikey Butler, Conor Delaney, Tommy Walsh, David Blanchfield (0-1), Daragh Corcoran, Shane Murphy (0-1), Peter McDonald, Mikey Carey, Adrian Mullen (0-6), Cian Kenny, John Donnelly (0-2), Billy Drennan (0-11, 10f), Liam Blanchfield, E Cody (1-1). Subs: Walter Walsh (0-1) for McDonald (26), Martin Keoghan for W. Walsh (57), Timmy Clifford (0-1) for L. Blanchfield (60), Kevin Blanchfield (0-1) for Kenny (62), Padraic Moylan for Carey (66).*

Offaly: *M Troy, C King, B Conneely, S Bourke, J Sampson (0-1), C Kiely (0-1), K Sampson, D Ravenhill (0-2), D Nally, E Cahill (0-10, 9f), E Kelly (0-1), J Clancy (0-1), A Screeney (0-1), B Duignan, C Mitchell (1-2). Subs: D Bourke for Kiely (26), P Delaney for Clancy (43), O Kelly for Nally (55), D Maher for Ravenhill (65).*

Referee: Michael Kennedy (Tipperary).

Allianz Hurling League Division One Group A

Walsh Park, 16 March 2024

Kilkenny 0-18, Waterford 2-9

Kilkenny recovered from a five points deficit at a muddy Walsh Park to reach the last four of the NHL. In front of 2,907 spectators, TJ Reid rifled over eight frees for Derek Lyng's men while Eoin Cody struck three points from play. Patrick Curran and Dessie Hutchinson netted first half goals for Waterford, but Davy Fitzgerald's charges went down to their four straight defeat.

On a grey afternoon, Cats captain Paddy Deegan the toss and elected to play with the wind. They opened well with three unanswered points until Patrick Curran flicked a goal in the eighth minute. Shane Bennett added another goal five minutes later as both sides battled through dreadful rain and wind and a gluepot surface. By half time, with TJ Reid unerring from placed balls Kilkenny had cut the deficit to two at the break (2-5 to 0-9).

Water splashed up off the surface throughout the second half. Eoin Cody made it a one point game within two minutes of the resumption. Another flowing Waterford move was finished by Jack Prendergast. TJ Reid slotted a free before Shane Bennett nailed a beauty from the stand sideline (2-7 to 0-11). They were tit for tat until the end, but Kilkenny finished stronger with points from Billy Ryan and TJ nudging them into a well-deserved victory. On a day, if the game had been cancelled due to the conditions, nobody would have demurred.

Kilkenny: *Eoin Murphy, Mikey Butler, Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh, David Blanchfield, Paddy Deegan, Mikey Carey; Cian Kenny, Shane Murphy; Adrian Mullen, Eoin Cody (0-3), John Donnelly (0-2), TJ Reid (0-8f), Luke Hogan (0-2), Martin Keoghan (0-1).*

Subs: *Kevin Blanchfield (0-1) for Butler (11), Padraic Moylan for Carey (45), Billy Drennan for Hogan (49), Timmy Clifford for Donnelly (59), Billy Ryan (0-1) for Keoghan (66).*

Waterford: *Shaun O'Brien, Mairtin Power, Mark Fitzgerald, Kieran Bennett, Darragh Lyons, Billy Nolan, Jack Fagan, Jamie Barron (0-1), Paddy Leavey, Peter Hogan, Jack Prendergast (0-1), Calum Lyons, Dessie Hutchinson 91-1), Patrick Curran (1-0), Shane Bennett (0-4, 3f).*

Subs: *Neil Montgomery for Curran (51), Patrick Fitzgerald (0-1) for Hogan (61), Patrick Fitzgerald (0-1) for Shane Bennett (67), Iarlaith Daly for Leavey (70), Kevin Mahony for Hutchinson (72).*

Referee: Johnny Murphy (Limerick).



TERRIFIC THOMASTOWN

cruise to All Ireland glory

All Ireland Intermediate Club campaign by Michael O'Leary

Photos: Willie Dempsey & SPORTSFIRE



THOMASTOWN - ALL IRELAND-IH CLUB CHAMPIONS 2024

Back : Cian Moore, Conor Holden, Brian O Hanrahan, Pauric Kirwan, Stephen Donnelly (Capt) Oisín O'Reilly, Paul Barron, Peter McDonald, Ned Kirwan, Alex Cass, John Donnelly, Richard O'Hara, Jay Burke, Jonjo Farrell, Brian Staunton, Dylan Waugh, Rory Connellan, Peter Connellan
Front: Jack Holden, Diarmuid Galway, Robbie Donnelly, Jack Cullen, David Prendergast, Zach Bay Hammond, Thomas O'Hanrahan, Eddie Donnelly; Eddie Corrway, Adam Power, Naoise Dempsey & Luke Connellan.

Terrific Thomastown cruised their way to All-Ireland glory on a memorable Saturday night for Kilkenny Clubs in Croke Park in January. With Tullogher-Rosbercon having earlier won The Junior All-Ireland Final against St. Catherine's of Cork, Thomastown made it double demolition delight against Cork opposition as they eased to victory against Castlelyons in the All-Ireland Intermediate Club Hurling Final.

Thomastown had suffered the blues for four consecutive years prior to winning the county final last year, but all those blues have been buried and banished as they triumphed in style by winning County, Leinster and All-Irelands.

Leinster quarter-final

Thomastown 3-2,

Cloughbawn (Wexford) 1-12

Having finally got over the county final hurdle, Thomastown set out on a journey the Club Championships that would end with All-Ireland glory. That journey began in Wexford away to Wexford Intermediate Champions Cloughbawn, as they eased to a 15 point victory. Thomastown took control right from the outset as a Thomas O'Hanrahan goal in the 4th minute sent them on their way. They built-up a nine point lead (1-9 to 0-3) by the midway point of the first-half, before Thomas O'Hanrahan turned provider to set-up Robbie Donnelly for Thomastown's

second goal in the 24th minute as they moved comfortably ahead at half-time, 2-14 to 0-8.

Thomastown maintained that dominance throughout the second half as Stephen Donnelly added a third goal, and they were now looking ahead to a Leinster Semi-Final clash away to the Meath Senior Champions Kildalkey.

Scorers; Robbie Donnelly 1-7(0-5 frees), Stephen Donnelly 1-3 (0-2 frees), Luke Connellan 0-5, John Donnelly 0-4, Thomas O'Hanrahan 1-0 Peter McDonald 0-2.

Leinster semi-final

Thomastown 4-19, Kildalkey (Meath) 0-12.

Thomastown were always in control against the Meath senior champions, and they set their stall right from the outset with a Jack Holden goal within seconds of the throw-in. Luke Connellan added a second goal in the 25th minute, as they built-up a fifteen point lead at half-time, 2-14 to 0-5.

Kildalkey frustrated Thomastown throughout the majority of the second-half as they restricted them to just three points, but Noel Doherty's charges finished strongly with goals inside the final ten minutes from Jack Holden and Thomas O'Hanrahan as they qualified for a Leinster Final showdown away to Bray Emmetts of Wicklow.

Scorers; Robbie Donnelly 0-11(0-8 frees 0-1'65), Jack Holden 2-2, Thomas O'Hanrahan

1-1, Luke Connellan 1-0, Jonjo Farrell & John Donnelly 0-2 each, Peter McDonald 0-1.

Leinster final

Thomastown 2-22,

Bray Emmetts (Wicklow) 1-9.

Thomastown were always in total control in The Leinster Final played in Aughrim, as they led 2-13 to 0-2 at half-time thanks to goals from Thomas O'Hanrahan and Luke Connellan.

Bray Emmetts managed to outscore Thomastown 1-7 to 0-9 in the second-half without in any way threatening Thomastown's superiority. Robbie Donnelly once led the way on the scoreboard for Thomastown with 0-13(0-7 frees), as they now looked forward to an All-Ireland semi-final showdown against Setanta (Donegal).

Scorers; Robbie Donnelly 0-13 (0-7 frees), Thomas O'Hanrahan 1-1, Luke Connellan 1-0, John Donnelly & Dylan Waugh 0-2 each, Jonjo Farrell, Jack Holden, Jack Cullen & Brian O'Hanrahan 0-1 each.

All Ireland semi-final

Thomastown 6-26, Setanta (Donegal) 1-8.

Thomastown produced a dominant and complete performance, as they easily brushed aside Setanta of Donegal by a staggering 33 points in Newry on 17th December. They led 5-14 to 1-6 at half-time, having led 3-7 to 1-2



Thomastown captain Stephen Donnelly lifts the cup



Happiness!

after just 12 minutes with early goals from Stephen Donnelly & John Donnelly (2). John Donnelly and Luke Connellan provided further goals as they enjoyed a twenty point cushion at the interval.

Thomastown won the second-half 1-12 to 0-2 to further extend that dominance, as John Donnelly completed his hat-trick of goals. The Blues now had an All-Ireland final date to look forward to in mid-January

Scorers: John Donnelly 3-2, Stephen Donnelly 1-3, Thomas O'Hanrahan 0-5, Jack Holden 1-2, Jonjo Farrell 0-4, Luke Connellan 0-3, Alex Cass 1-0, Robbie Donnelly (0-3, 0-1f), Peter McDonald 0-2, Zach Bay Hammond and Naoise Dempsey 0-1 each.

All Ireland final

Thomastown 2-23, Castlelyons (Cork) 0-13.

With Tullogher-Rosbercon having won the Junior All-Ireland Final in the curtain raiser, it was over to Thomastown to see if they could follow suit and they duly obliged with a tremendous team performance. Thomastown led 0-11 to 0-6 at half-time with the Donnellys, Stephen, John and Robbie on the mark along with Luke Connellan, Jonjo Farrell & Peter McDonald.

However, speaking to former Cork Senior Hurler Tom Kenny at half-time on the live TG4 coverage, Thomastown selector John Brennan was not overly impressed with the first-half performance, but there was certainly no disputing the second-half performance as they were totally dominant. One of the goals of the year early in the second-half put them firmly in control.

John Donnelly tore off an scintillating solo run as he surged through the Castlelyons defence, and his pass found the in-rushing Stephen Donnelly who unleashed a powerful u shot from about 25 metres for a wonderful and memorable goal. There was no letting up by the Thomastown men afterwards.

Jonjo Farrell, Jack Holden and Stephen Donnelly kept the scoreboard ticking over with further points as Stephen added a second goal for good measure, while Robbie Donnelly was prolific from placed balls. With the game won well before the end, Thomastown emptied the bench with the subs introduced to be part of a tremendous team performance.

Defensively, they were dominant with Zach Bay Hammond in particular highly accomplished, while Peter McDonald and Jonjo Farrell ruled the roost in midfield as they constantly provided an attacking platform for their forward compatriots. The Donnelly's led the way in attack as Stephen, John and Robbie contributed 2-16 of their teams total.



John Donnelly of Thomastown in action against Barry Murphy of Castlelyons



Brian Staunton of Thomastown in action against Niall O'Leary of Castlelyons

For Stephen in particular, it was extra special and memorable, as along with captaining the Team, he scored 2-3 from play while he was also named TG4 Man of the Match.

For Thomastown though, more important than the sadness of the loss of Christmas, The Blues most importantly have now banished the Blues of previous heartbreaks that began with their long overdue county final and ended on a night to remember in Croke Park.

Thomastown: Diarmuid Galway, Peter Connellan, Jay Burke, Ned Kirwan, Brian Staunton, Eddie Donnelly (0-1), Zach Bay Hammond, Peter McDonald (0-1), Jonjo Farrell (0-2), Robbie Donnelly (0-9, 7f), Luke Connellan (0-2), John Donnelly (0-4) Thomas O'Hanrahan, Jack Holden (0-1), Stephen Donnelly (2-3).

Subs: Dylan Waugh for Holden 52, David Prendergast for O'Hanrahan 59, Richard O'Hara for Kirwan 59, Alex Cass for Luke Connellan 61, Brian O'Hanrahan for Bay Hammond 61.



A happy Thomastown group after the Final

TULLOGHER'S GREATEST DAY!

Superb Team Performance

All Ireland Junior Club campaign by Michael O'Leary

Photos: Willie Dempsey & SPORTSFIRE



TULLOGHER ROSBERCON - ALL IRELAND JH CLUB CHAMPIONS 2024

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

All-conquering Tullogher-Rosbercon powered their way to All-Ireland glory on a memorable night for Kilkenny Clubs in Croke Park in January, as they became the tenth Kilkenny Club to win the Junior All-Ireland Championship. They had previously reached the All-Ireland Junior Final in 2009 but lost to Dripsey of Cork but on Saturday 13th of January, Tullogher-Rosbercon had no such problems as they dominated from start to finish against St. Catherine's of Cork.

After winning The Junior County Final, Tullogher-Rosbercon played five matches en route to Croke Park with four of those games coming in the Leinster Championship.

Leinster preliminary round Tullogher-Rosbercon 6-19, St. Patricks (Wicklow) 1-7.

Tullogher-Rosbercon had an easy start to the Leinster Championship when they trounced St. Patricks of Wicklow by 27 points in IT Carlow having led 4-13 to 1-4 at half-time. Danny Glennon scored a hat-trick of goals, with further goals coming from Cian O'Donoghue, Marty Murphy and Walter Walsh.

Scorers: Cian O'Donoghue 1-8 (0-5 frees 0-2'65s), Danny Glennon 3-1, Marty Murphy and Walter Walsh 1-3 each, Jason Shiely 0-2, Conor Hennessy and Michael Handrick 0-1 each.

Leinster quarter-final

Tullogher-Rosbercon 5-26, Colt (Laois) 1-1.

It was even easier against Colt from Laois as they won by 37 points having led 2-12 to 0-1 at half-time. Conor Hennessy (2-7) and Walter Walsh (2-6) scored 4-13 of their teams total between them, while team captain Colman O'Sullivan also grabbed a goal.

Scorers: Conor Hennessy 2-7, Walter Walsh 2-6, Cian O'Donoghue 0-6(0-2 frees 0-1'65), Colman O'Sullivan 1-2, Jason Shiely 0-3, Lar Murphy and Michael Handrick 0-1 each.

Leinster semi-final

Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-17, Craanford Fr. O'Regans (Wexford) 0-18

Tullogher-Rosbercon's only test in the Leinster or All-Ireland Championship came in their Leinster semi-final. They finished strongly with four unanswered points to run out five point winners against Craanford Fr. O'Regans of Wexford.

In an absorbing contest, Tullogher-Rosbercon led 1-10 to 0-10 with the goal coming from a Walter Walsh penalty, and when Danny Glennon grabbed a goal early in the second-half to put them six points up (2-10 to 0-10), they appeared to be well on their way to victory. However, credit to Craanford Fr. O'Regans, who kept plugging away primarily through the free-taking of Jason Byrne who scored 0-13 (0-12

frees), and with 56 minutes gone only a solitary point separated the teams (2-13 to 0-18). It was uncertain as to whether Tullogher-Rosbercon would hang on for victory, but to their credit they responded and four consecutive points in the final few minutes secured victory with points coming from Cian O'Donoghue (3) - including a superb effort from play - and Walter Walsh.

Scorers: Cian O'Donoghue 0-12(0-7 frees 0-1'65), Walter Walsh 1-2(1-0 penalty), Danny Glennon 1-1, Jason Shiely and Conor Hennessy 0-1 each.

Leinster final

Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-14, Carrig and Riverstown (Offaly) 0-8.

On 9 December 2023, Tullogher-Rosbercon produced a strong and dominant second-half performance to ease their way to victory against Carrig and Riverstown of Offaly in the Leinster Junior Final in O'Connor Park, Tullamore. In a tight first-half, they led 1-7 to 0-7 at half-time with Walter Walsh's superb individual goal after just 15 seconds the difference between the teams at the interval. A goal from Marty Murphy early in the second-half put them in control, and it was plain sailing afterwards.

Scorers: Cian O'Donoghue 0-7 (0-5 frees, 0-1'65, 0-1 sideline cut), Marty Murphy 1-3, Walter Walsh 1-1, Conor Hennessy 0-2, Danny Glennon 0-1.



Watched by Pat Hartley, Richie Gill gets his pass away.



Colman O'Sullivan, Captain, receives the cup From Uachtarán, Larry McCarthy.

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All Ireland semi-final

Tullogher-Rosbercon 3-20,

Castleblayney (Monaghan) 1-11.

Castleblayney had previous experience of playing Kilkenny teams as they pushed hard Dunnamaggin all the way in the 2019 Junior All-Ireland Hurling Final. One wondered if the same scenario would apply against Tullogher-Rosbercon in the All-Ireland semi-final as they made a lightning quick start to lead 0-4 to 0-0 after just 5 minutes.

However, Tullogher-Rosbercon soon settled down and goals from Conor Hennessy and Cian O'Donoghue put them ahead by the midway point of the first-half. The Monaghan Club replied with a goal from Fergal Rafter, but Tullogher-Rosbercon were on course for an All-Ireland Final place as they led by five points at half-time, 2-8 to 1-6. A second goal by Cian O'Donoghue during the second-half sent them on their way, and they were on their way to Croke Park.

Scorers: Cian O'Donoghue 2-9 (0-6 frees 0-2'65s), Conor Hennessy 1-2, Walter Walsh 0-3, Jamie Lyng & Marty Murphy 0-2 each, Danny Glennon & Pat Hartley 0-1 each.

All Ireland Junior Club Final

Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-21,

St. Catherine's (Cork) 1-13.

Tullogher-Rosbercon's greatest day arrived in Croke Park on January 13th, as they took control right from the outset and strolled to All-Ireland Junior Club glory. A Marty Murphy goal in the 3rd minute put them firmly in control before a 2nd goal by Walter Walsh confirmed their overall dominance, and by the midway point of the first-half they led 2-6 to 0-3 and were well on the way to victory.

That dominance was shown on the scoreboard further, and by half-time they stretched that lead further as they led 2-14 to 0-9 with Cian O'Donoghue, Walter Walsh and Conor Hennessy scoring at will. It was damage limitation for St. Catherine's throughout the second-half, and they tried to frustrate Tullogher-Rosbercon as much as possible.

They achieved that to a certain degree as they restricted the South Kilkenny men to 0-7 in the second-half. However, they didn't even remotely threaten their opponents on the scoreboard, and their goal came in injury-time as Tullogher-Rosbercon remained in total control throughout second-half.

It was a superb team performance by Tullogher-Rosbercon on their greatest day. Pat Hartley



Colman O'Sullivan, Cathal Mooney and Pat Hartley standing firm.



Jason Shiely and Walton Walsh troubling the Catherine' defence.

who played in the 2009 All-Ireland-Final along with Walter Walsh gave a masterclass at centre-back and he was named TG4 Man of the Match, while alongside him Lar Murphy who was one of the newcomers gave an exceptional performance at right-half-back as he continued his outstanding form throughout the season. Team captain Colman O'Sullivan was highly energetic and gave a tireless display, while he also gave a superb speech afterwards. The forwards showed their class with Cian O'Donoghue, Walter Walsh, Marty Murphy and Conor Hennessy constantly posing a threat. It was such a joy for Tullogher-Rosbercon to give such a glorious performance on their greatest day as they celebrated Junior All-Ireland glory

Scorers: Cian O'Donoghue 0-10(0-6 frees

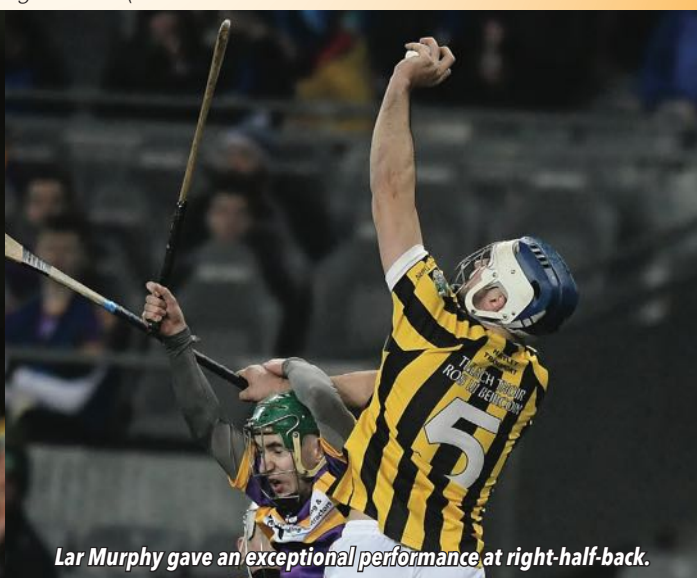
0-1'65), Walter Walsh 1-3, Marty Murphy 1-1, Conor Hennessy 0-4, Colman O'Sullivan, Jason Shiely & Danny Glennon 0-1 each

Tullogher-Rosbercon Team All-Ireland Final: Davy Walsh, Richard Gill, Donncha O'Connor, Sean Murray, Lar Murphy, Pat Hartley, Cathal Mooney, Jamie Lyng, Colman O'Sullivan (0-1), Marty Murphy (1-1), Walter Walsh (1-3), Jason Shiely (0-1), Danny Glennon (0-1), Conor Hennessy (0-4), Cian O'Donoghue (0-10, 6f, 1 65).

Subs: Michael Handrick for Shiely 42, Stephen Lawlor for Mooney 57, Niall O'Shea for Gill 59, Tony Conway for Murray 60, Brian Walsh for Murphy 62.



Pat Hartley, Man of the Match, with son JP.



Lar Murphy gave an exceptional performance at right-half-back.

O'LOUGHLINS SUFFER FINAL HEARTBREAK as clear-cut goal not given

All Ireland Senior Club campaign by Michael O'Leary



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS- ALL IRELAND SH CLUB FINALISTS 2024

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

O'Loughlin Gaels attempt at winning a first Senior Club All-Ireland ended in heartbreak, as they lost out by a solitary point to St. Thomas of Galway in the All-Ireland decider in Croke Park in January.

Mark Bergin stood up to a long range free from about halfway that would have brought the game to extra-time, but unfortunately the free went agonizingly wide and St. Thomas were All-Ireland Champions for the 2nd time having won previously in 2013.

Unfortunately for O'Loughlin Gaels, they will look back on a first-half goal by Owen Wall that wasn't given by the umpires despite the ball clearing crossing the goal line.

Leinster quarter final

O'Loughlin Gaels 2-16, Mt. Leinster Rangers 0-13.

O'Loughlin Gaels began the quest for provincial success away to the Carlow Senior Champions Mt. Leinster Rangers in Netwatch Cullen Park. The Kilkenny Champions were quick off the mark, and an early Owen Wall gave them a 1-3 to 0-1 lead, and they had stretched the advantage further at half-time to lead 1-10 to 0-4.

However, Mt. Leinster Rangers threw caution to the wind and they were dominant for the majority of the second-half. By the 50th minute they had reduced the advantage to four points - 1-13 to 0-12, but the dismissal of Diarmuid Byrne to a second yellow card was a huge blow to their prospects, and O'Loughlins finished strongly with a Luke Hogan goal in the 56th minute to seal the deal and set up a Leinster Semi-Final showdown with Kilcormac Killoughey of Offaly.

Scorers: Mark Bergin 0-8 (0-4 frees 0-1'65), Owen Wall and Luke Hogan 1-0 each, Jack Nolan 0-3, Conor Heary 0-2, Paddy Butler, Mikey Butler and Cian Loy 0-1 each.

Leinster semi-final

O'Loughlin Gaels 0-17, Kilcormac Killoughey 0-12.

Similar to The Mt. Leinster Rangers game, O'Loughlin Gaels dominated the first-half, and they led 0-10 to 0-3 at half-time. However, Kilcormac-Killoughey dominated throughout the third quarter and by the midway point of the second-half they had narrowed the deficit to just two points. 0-11 to 0-9.

O'Loughlins maintained that two point advantage throughout the final quarter, and approaching the end of normal time they led 0-14 to 0-12, but a brace of injury time points by Mark Bergin and one from Conor Heary sealed the deal as they qualified for a Leinster Finals showdown with The Dublin Champions Na Fianna. A key component of O'Loughlin's victory was the performance of county senior Mikey Butler as he kept Offaly underage star Adam Screeney scoreless from play.

Scorers: Mark Bergin 0-7 (0-6 frees), Sean Bolger and Owen Wall 0-2 each, Eoin O'Shea, Paddy Butler, Cian Loy, David

Fogarty, Jordan Molloy and Conor Heary 0-1 each,

Leinster final

O'Loughlin Gaels 0-22, Na Fianna (Dublin) 1-18.

The Leinster final played in Croke Park was a superb contest, as Mark Bergin struck over the winning point from a long distance free to shade a thriller against the Dublin champions. The two teams were evenly matched throughout, and at half-time O'Loughlin Gaels led 0-11 to 0-9 following a highly entertaining half hours hurling.

Na Fianna drew level early in the second-half - 0-11 each, thanks to a brace of points from Colin Currie who was their top scorer with 0-11 (0-9 frees). Colin turned provider to set-up his brother Sean Currie for a well taken goal in the 38th minute, and it was nip and tuck for the remainder of this titantic contest.

With only a few minutes remaining Na Fianna led 1-18 to 0-20, but Luke Hogan who made an impact coming off the bench throughout the Club Championship fired over the levelling point, before Mark Bergin struck over the winning point from a free as the O'Loughlin's Men were celebrating provincial success.

The O'Loughlin's men knew they were pushed to limit by their Dublin counterparts, but David Fogarty, Paddy Deegan and Mark Bergin led the way as they managed to get over the line. Paddy Deegan who was later named AIB Club Hurler of the year was Man of The Match in the Leinster Final for his sensational performance at centre-back as he scored 0-5 from play.

Scorers: Mark Bergin 0-11 (0-9 frees), Paddy Deegan 0-5,

David Fogarty 0-2, Jack Nolan, Cian Loy, Conor Heary & Luke Hogan 0-1 each.

All Ireland semi-final

O'Loughlin Gaels 1-17, Cushendall (Antrim) 1-16.

O'Loughlin Gaels got off to the worst possible start in Pairc Tailteann, Navan as they trailed Cushendall 1-6 to 0-1 by the midway point of the first-half, with the goal arriving from Joseph McLoughlin in the fifth minute. However, The O'Loughlin's men began to settle down and a Sean Bolger goal brought them back into contention as they trailed by just three points at the interval, 1-10 to 1-7.

During the third quarter, points from Mark Bergin and Eoin O'Shea had drawn them level (1-10 each) as they were beginning to turn the screw, and they took the lead as the match had entered the final quarter. Points from Mark Bergin and Jack Nolan put them two points up inside the final 10 minutes (1-16 to 1-14), but Cushendall displayed great fighting spirit as they refused to wilt.

A brace of points brought them level (1-16 each) as extra-time beckoned, but David Fogarty who was one of the outstanding players of the Club Championship came up trumps with a sublime long range point as it proved to be the winner. The drama was not finished yet though, as Neil McManus who was top scorer with 0-9 (0-7 frees) fired a shot towards goal. However, his attempt went wide as O'Loughlin Gaels survived following another titantic battle they were involved in.

Greater drama unfolded in the other semi-final on the previous night, as St. Thomas upset the odds 4-2 on



The goal not given.....

penalties following a 1-23 to 2-20 draw against 2022 All-Ireland Champions Ballygunner in an unforgettable epic.

Scorers; Mark Bergin 0-9 (0-5 frees), Sean Bolger 1-1, David Fogarty and Conor Heary 0-2 each, Paddy Deegan, Jack Nolan and Eoin O'Shea 0-1 each.

All Ireland final

St. Thomas (Galway) 0-18, O'Loughlin Gaels 0-17.

In a thrilling but tempestuous All-Ireland Club Final that was marred by controversy, a wonder point near the sideline by Eanna Burke gave 14-men St. Thomas victory. A minute later a Mark Bergin free that would have forced extra-time went narrowly wide of the target.

O'Loughlin Gaels led 0-10 to 0-8 at half-time with the half-back line of David Fogarty, Paddy Deegan and Jordan Molloy all firing over long range points from play, while Huw Lawlor was totally dominant at full-back.

However, the major talking point that would subsequently prove costly at O'Loughlin Gaels expense was the failure to award an Owen Wall goal in the 11th minute despite the ball having clearly crossed the goal line. The O'Loughlin's men got the first point of the second-half to stretch the advantage to three points (0-11 to 0-8), as St. Thomas were dealt a significant blow with the sending-off of James Regan for a high challenge.

O'Loughlin Gaels had the advantage both numerically and on the scoreboard, but it was St. Thomas who started to gain supremacy particularly around the middle third with Man of The Match David Burke highly dominant. Significantly, The O'Loughlin Gaels half-back line dominance was curtailed throughout the second-half, as St. Thomas scored six of the next seven points following the sending-off to turn the game on its head and lead by the end of the third quarter, 0-14 to 0-12.

They weren't in any way inconvenienced despite been at numerical disadvantage such was their possession and dominance, with the experience of David Burke, his brother Eanna and Conor Cooney proving to have a telling effect. St. Thomas continued to remain in the driving seat, and they led 0-16 to 0-13 in the 52nd minute with The O'Loughlin's men living off scraps.

However, O'Loughlin Gaels began to dig deep and points from Mark Bergin, Luke Hogan and a stunning effort by David Fogarty brought them level approaching injury-time. 0-17 each. Extra-time appeared inevitable, but Eanna Burke produced an inspirational moment of magic as he struck over an amazing point from right on the sideline with his back to goal.

It was worthy of the winning point, but the drama was not over. O'Loughlin Gaels were awarded a free from about halfway to bring the match to extra-time, but unfortunately for Mark Bergin his attempt went wide of the target. It was heartbreaking and cruel end to a memorable season for the O'Loughlin's men who contributed massively to a thrilling Club Championship campaign. Despite the controversy over the goal not being allowed, St. Thomas were worthy winners with the 14 men upping the performance levels following the sending-off, and with the opportunities missed they probably should have won by more. That's what Brian Hogan and the management team and players will look back on with most regret, that they didn't capitalize and take advantage despite having the extra man for almost all of the second-half.

Scorers for O'Loughlin Gaels: Mark Bergin 0-4 (0-2 frees), David Fogarty, Paddy Deegan, Jordan Molloy, Sean Bolger all 0-2 each, Mikey Butler, Luke Hogan, Conor Kelly, Conor Heary, Stephen Murphy (free) all 0-1 each
St Thomas's: Gerald Kelly (0-1), Cian Mahony, Fintan Burke, David Sherry, John Headd, Shane Cooney, Cathal Burke (0-1), Damien Finnerty, David Burke (0-2), Darragh Burke, Conor Cooney (0-6), Victor Manso (0-2), James Regan (0-2), Eanna Burke (0-2), Oisín Flannery. Subs: Evan Duggan for David Sherry (20), Bernard Burke for Victor Manso (50), Damien McGlynn for Oisín Flannery (59).

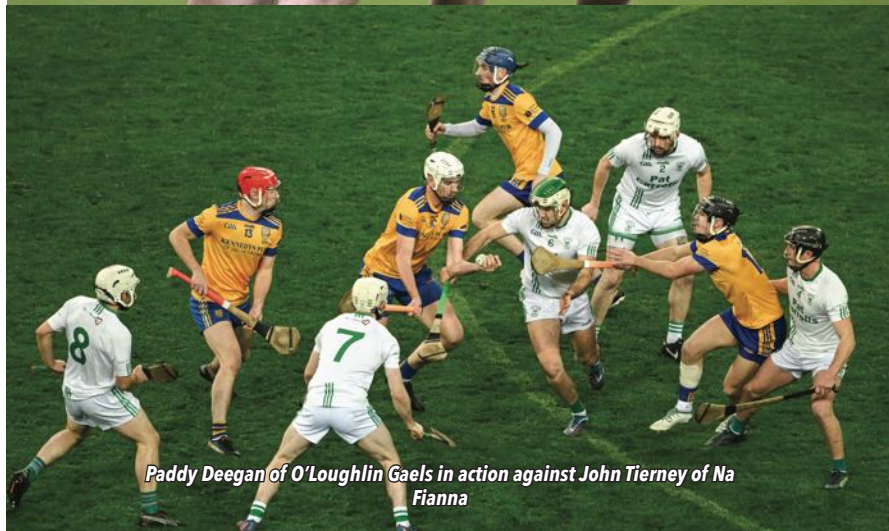
O'Loughlin Gaels: Stephen Murphy (0-1f), Tony Forristal, Huw Lawlor, Mikey Butler (0-1), David Fogarty (0-2), Paddy Deegan (0-2), Jordan Molloy (0-2), Jack Nolan, Cian Loy, Mark Bergin (0-4, 2f), Eoin O'Shea, Conor Heary (0-1), Owen Wall, Luke Hogan (0-1), Seán Bolger (0-2). Subs: Conor Kelly (0-1) for Eoin O'Shea (47), Jamie Ryan for Jack Nolan (50), Paddy Butler for Cian Loy (59).



Huw Lawlor of O'Loughlin Gaels in action against Donagh Murphy of Mount Leinster Rangers



Jordan Molloy of O'Loughlin Gaels in action against Charlie Mitchell of Kilcormac-Killoughey



Paddy Deegan of O'Loughlin Gaels in action against John Tierney of Na Fianna



Captain, Mark Bergin raises the Leinster Cup



Luke Hogan of O'Loughlin Gaels in action against Liam Gillan of Ruairi Óg Cushendall

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THAT WAS THE YEAR...

that should have been better...

By: Enda McEvoy

BE HONEST. Had you been told at the start of the year that a Kilkenny team would lose an All Ireland final against 14 men, would you in your heart of hearts have been overly surprised?

And had you been told at the start of the year that a Kilkenny team would lose an All Ireland final against 13 men, would you in your heart of hearts have scoffed at the notion?

And had you been told at the start of the year that a Kilkenny team, facing a stiff breeze in the second half an All Ireland semi-final, would – instead of being patient and working the sliotar through the lines as circumstances demanded - choose to go long in precisely the same way they'd gone long in the first half, and would consequently see their Route One approach repulsed time and again by the opposition defence, would you etc etc?

Of course you wouldn't have. The second half of Kilkenny versus Clare had the most predictable outcome imaginable and the losers have become the most predictable team imaginable.

They're the new 1980s Wexford, except instead of hitting the ball to the phantasm of Tony Doran on the edge of the opposition square they're hitting the ball to the phantasm of Henry Shefflin on the edge of the opposition square. They stopped intellectualising the game quite some time ago and have exhibited no signs of being either interested in or capable of reinstituting the practice. In short, and to repeat a point made here with increasing frequency in recent years, they've become a non-thinking hurling county.

An ordinary punter I know in Cork reckons – and he raised the topic, not me - that Kilkenny "have become bland" as a result of hanging out in the Leinster championship. Disagree as much as you wish but it can't be denied that when push came to shove in the closing quarter of the All Ireland semi-final Clare's superior tempering down south – all those Munster championship affairs of the past few years they'd won narrowly or lost narrowly or even drawn – stood to them rather more than Kilkenny's provincial five in a row did to them. Granted, the men in stripes could and should have had the game sewn up at half-time. But when the fat was in the fire and when the game became an arm wrestle

they had nothing to offer. They lost to a patently better team, or at any rate to a team trying to play patently the more enlightened hurling.

There is also the issue of Kilkenny's fitness and conditioning. It may not be a significant issue, and naturally these are the kind of things that are invariably raised in defeat, but a couple of weeks after the semi-final a Nigerian taxi driver long domiciled in town asserted to me, charmingly, that "we" are unable to last the pace in big matches, as illustrated by the second-half fadeouts against Limerick in 2023 and Clare now. Or is it simply that, as per yer man in Cork, Kilkenny are no longer used to being put to the pin of their collar provincially and thus lack the requisite edge when it comes to the business end of the championship?

A COACHING LACUNA

Nonetheless the overriding issue is not one of fitness or of battle hardiness. It is one of coaching. The events of the past summer have demonstrated yet again, in shrieking neon, that Kilkenny's intercounty coaching model is not fit for purpose. Hitting the ball hard down the field is not a viable approach. It is not even an approach.

The county's record in big matches for the guts of a decade now is enough to make strong men, and strong women, weep. Since 2015 Kilkenny have contested 13 National League and All Ireland finals (senior, minor and under-21/20) - and won *two of them*. And one of them was against a Limerick team for whom Cathal O'Neill, so effective for John Kiely in 2024 and shortlisted for the Young Hurler of the Year award, was ineligible. To say there is something terribly wrong here is to err on the side of understatement.

An argument can be made, as has been the case for the past few years, that the glass is as much half full as half empty. Kilkenny lost the All Ireland semi-final to the eventual champions. They lost the Leinster under-20 semi-final by a point, away from home, to the eventual All Ireland champions. They lost the All Ireland minor final by two points. Clearly they are not far off. But it's not all that long ago since, instead of being "not far off", they were market leaders and nothing but the best was good enough.



TJ, heavily outnumbered, trying to get his pass away
Photo: Willie Dempsey



Our Kilkenny Team: John O'Dwyer, Brian Hudson, Christine Yalnazova, Robert O'Dwyer, Ryan O'Dwyer

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And suppose, as everyone in these parts did afterwards, that Kilkenny had seen off Clare and ended up in a showdown not with Limerick but with Cork. Clearly they'd have been in with a much better shout against the latter than the former. Yet might this putative encounter have been all over after 15 minutes with Cork out of sight? Would Pat Ryan's men, who in real life led Clare by seven points at that stage, have run Kilkenny into the ground and been, say, ten points ahead and gone beyond hailing distance?

In view of the way matters unfolded 2024 may have been the best shot at a MacCarthy Cup the county will have for the next number of years. They are as near to an All Ireland as they are far from it. Schrodinger's Cats.

In his first two seasons Derek Lyng was loyal to the older members of the panel and he was right to be. No such obligations will apply in his third year in the job. If Kilkenny are to fail they must do so with a team whose best days are ahead of them, not behind.

A SUPERBLY COACHED OUTFIT

This article almost started with a match that took place in late 2023 and thus missed the cut for mention in last year's Yearbook. Rewind to the week before Christmas and Dicksboro's triumph in the All Ireland camogie final. In the process Donal Carroll's ladies produced the finest performance by a Kilkenny team in Croke Park for many a long day. They were brilliantly coached; when in possession they knew exactly what they wanted to achieve - ie transfer the sliotar safely and with precision to a well placed colleague; and when it came to the not unimportant business of shooting they were almost inhumanly accurate. (One wide from 19 efforts!) They were everything that the men would not be against Clare at the same venue seven months later.

Wait for ages for a bus and three come along at once. Where Dicksboro had ventured in December, Thomastown and Tullogher Rosbercon followed in January. Granted, unlike with Dicksboro both teams were expected to win and possibly to win in style. (Whether the Kilkenny representatives were facing Cork opponents of precisely their own echelon - Thomastown were the 13th best team in their county and Tullogher Rosbercon the 25th - is not a matter that need detain us right now.) Both came up trumps on each count. That made it three fine Noreside performances at HQ in the space of a few weeks. And that was as good as things would get.

O'Loughlins didn't quite make it a fourth fine performance and rarely have the discombobulating effects of possessing an extra man become flesh so vividly as they did on January 21st. It was like watching a minor car accident in very slow motion. St Thomas', with nothing to lose on being reduced to 14, went for it while employing the ball to intelligent effect; their opponents, with everything to lose, and overthinking matters as a consequence, lost their shape and focus. It can be hard to extract oneself from such a rut, yet O'Loughlins came within an ace of doing so and of, at worst, sending proceedings to extra time. But their failure, with an extra body on hand, to secure the last St Thomas' puckout was something they will repent at leisure. Keep ending up in one-point games, as the city club had been doing en route to Croke Park, and eventually you'll lose one. Brian Hogan's charges did. The law of averages is the law of averages. Unvarying, immutable and remorseless.

And then a Kilkenny team lost an All Ireland final against 13. From Tipperary. In Nowlan Park. For Noreside folk, especially those hailing from the western environs of the county, could it get any more painful? No, it could not.

Nonetheless here's a paragraph that may surprise the reader. Your correspondent has some sympathy for Niall Bergin and his management team, who were in a no-win situation from the moment the second red card was waved. They were obliged to laterally-think on their feet in real time; they had to get the message or series of messages through to their players; and, above all, the players in question were children. All but one of the Tipp players were on the age whereas half the Kilkenny team will be available in 2025. That makes a difference, and an even bigger difference at 16 and 17 than at 18 and 19.

They'll be singing about the evening in the homes of Tipperary a century from now and rightly so. Theirs was an astonishing display of grit, determination and focus. From a tactical point of view, mind, it was straightforward for Tipperary. Hold their positions, hang on to the

sliotar for as long as possible, then release it at the right time. Had the Kilkenny senior team lost to 13 men they'd have deserved all the opprobrium going; given that teenagers were involved, one cannot but conclude that this was a blue-moon event, a twice a century occurrence, a black swan. And, as such, a defeat that for once did not hint at or spring from an underlying malaise.

Farther afield Clare's MacCarthy Cup success was a triumph to be resoundingly acclaimed, the more so as it followed years of struggle and near-misses under Brian Lohan, a Banner hero of yore who accepted the job in the most unpropitious circumstances imaginable. They took the National League seriously, which is always good, and were rewarded, this early momentum helping see them through and past yet another setback against Limerick in the Munster final. Their day of glory in Croke Park demonstrated the importance of the marginal gains and of controlling the controllables. In the provincial decider Aidan McCarthy had a horror afternoon, missing four frees from ten; over the course of the All Ireland semi-final and final his strike rate was 100 per cent. Clare wouldn't have triumphed had it not been. In broader terms, meanwhile, it's crucial that counties like them win an All Ireland every decade. It keeps the flowers watered and invigorates a new generation.

It's no secret that Phil Hogan has been active on behalf of Kilkenny GAA this past year. He appears to have done a lot of good work pro bono in the background. The implication of this, however, is that if the big man from Tullaroan hadn't offered his services the work in question would not have been carried out. Now that the Kilkenny People can't be bothered to cover the monthly gatherings, a dereliction of duty on their part, the county board should put a report of each meeting on Kilkennygaa.ie. It would let supporters know what's going on and would give the impression of activity and progressiveness.

But that's not the Kilkenny county board way, is it? It does not have a CEO, it does not have a financial cum sponsorship manager and it is still being administered by volunteers instead of, in certain essential areas, by professionals. (For the record, about two third of county boards do have paid employees at the top.) The situation is ultimately unsustainable; the board cannot keep merely trundling along. If the appointment of Michael Fennelly as performance lead demonstrated long-overdue initiative, what's the next big idea? Only a 21st-century organisation can run a 21st century business.

A BLUE WAVE

The season ended on a note nobody saw coming and a very welcome note it was too. For a competition that was in danger of becoming wearily predictable the Kilkenny senior championship was blessed with a wildly new and immensely refreshing narrative. Ballyhale Shamrocks gone before the semi-finals; Dicksboro ditto; three country sides in the last four. And another city team not only gone before the semi-finals but gone from the grade altogether for the first time since the mid-1950s. Earth-shaking stuff.

Thomastown provided the story of the year, not so much a breath of fresh air as a typhoon and an object lesson in the benefits that momentum can bring. Champions in their first season up from intermediate, where they'd well and truly paid their dues (as Dick Walsh from Jerpoint, a Thomastown warrior of yesteryear, so perceptively put it a few days before the county final, had they won the first or second of the three intermediate deciders they lost they might well have spent one season in the top flight and promptly been relegated); a superbly coached team who sought to pass the sliotar rather than lump it forward, for which boundless credit goes to their manager Noel Doherty; and nine-point victors on a wet day - in dry underfoot conditions that's a 12- or 13-point success - against not any old opponents but O'Loughlins, merely the reigning champions. On so many counts this was nothing less than an astounding achievement.

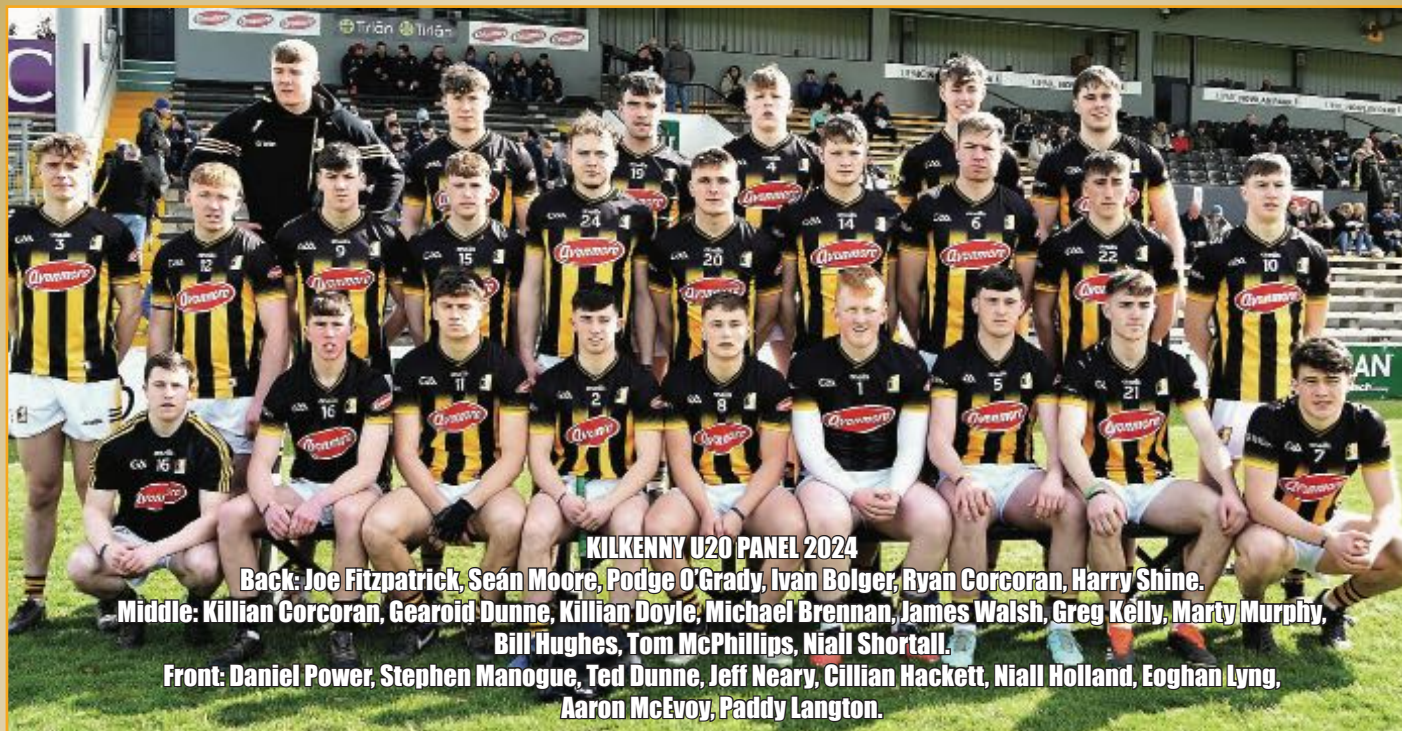
Thomastown's performance on the big day should be made compulsory viewing for anyone coaching a team in Kilkenny, even if it's an under-12 team. Especially if it's an under-12 team, come to that. The news that Doherty will be part of Derek Lyng's backroom staff in 2025 cannot be welcomed warmly enough. The county's big coaching reset may finally and belatedly be about to take place.

It cannot do so quickly enough.

A Year Full of Real Regret

Photos: Willie Dempsey and Sportsfile

Under-20 Hurling Championship 2024 by
Conor Brennan



Observant hurling followers can now acknowledge the 2022 version. With a second year in the hot seat beckoning for team manager Mark Dowling, and with a potential panel including some players with reasonable previous experience at under-20 and senior level, there was reasonable optimism brewing for the 2024 crop of Kilkenny Under-20 hurlers. Drawn in an initial round robin group with Wexford and Laois, it would be vital to get a positive start to the campaign, with Offaly, Galway and Dublin waiting on the horizon.

They managed to get that positive start in their opening game with Wexford in UPMC Nowlan Park on March 30th. Full forward Marty Murphy was the standout performer on show for Kilkenny, scoring 2-3 from play including a goal in each half. He proved to be a real target in attack and caused the Wexford rear guard huge problems.

As well as Murphy, team captain Cillian Hackett and Niall Shortall also found the net while centre-forward Harry Shine scored eight points from frees and play. Kilkenny led by 2-7 to 0-8 at half-time, and they increased their lead gradually during the second half, despite Wexford scoring a pair of consolation goals near the end. It was all academic in the end, as Kilkenny won out comprehensively by 4-21 to 2-14.

A trip to Portlaoise and to MW Hire O'Moore Park to take on Laois was next on the agenda on April 6th. The game was played in almost surreal conditions in the midst of Storm Kathleen, with the severe wind howling throughout. It was Kilkenny who had to play facing into that wind in the opening half, and it initially proved to be nigh to impossible.

Laois raced out of the traps to lead by 1-5 to 0-0 after ten minutes of play, and Kilkenny settled and managed to adapt their play to best negate the conditions facing them. It soon had the desired effect, with goals soon following from Marty Murphy and a Gearóid Dunne penalty, along with points from the likes of Harry Shine, Michael Brennan and Eoghan Lyng. It meant that Kilkenny only were a point in arrears at the half-time whistle (1-9 to 2-5), and could now play with the wind at their backs for the second thirty minutes.

It proved to be far more comfortable for Kilkenny during that time, with them scoring 4-9 in response to only 0-4 for Laois. Gearóid Dunne accounted for three of those goals, including from a second penalty, bringing his final tally to 4-2. The other goal came from an unlikely source, Dunne's Tullaroan colleague and goalkeeper Niall Holland, whose long delivery with the aid of the gale force wind deceived the Laois defence and went all the way to the net. It ensured, after a nervous start, that Kilkenny won out by 6-14 to 1-13 and guaranteed themselves a Leinster semi-final berth.

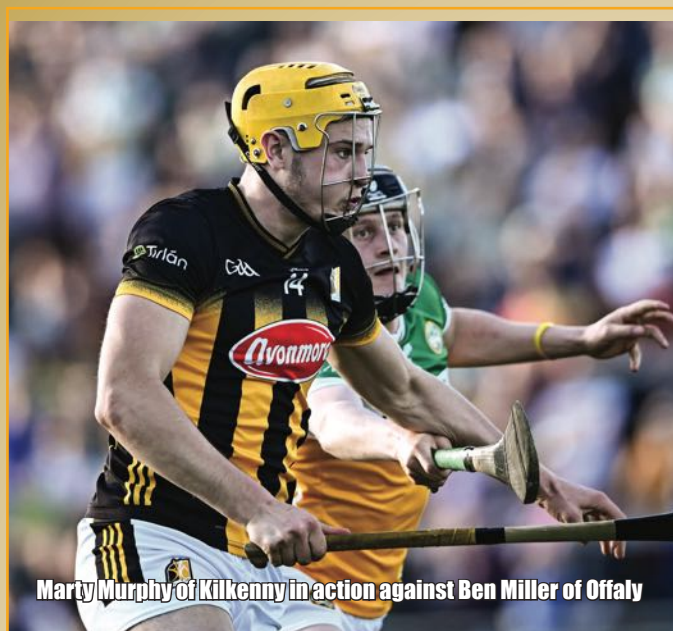
Results on the other side of the league stages and a quarter-final win over Laois saw Offaly emerge as the opposition to Kilkenny in the Leinster semi-final, played in Glenisk O'Connor Park in Tullamore on May 15th. With Offaly's recent emergence at under-age level causing a great stir, a huge home crowd descended on Tullamore for the game, creating a somewhat hostile atmosphere for the visitors from Kilkenny.

It was a rip-roaring contest from start to finish, with little between the sides initially. An Offaly goal midway through the first half did give the home side a small advantage, but Kilkenny responded well in the circumstances with some excellent points from a variety of players to leave only a single point between the sides at the interval (1-9 to 0-11).

Kilkenny also started the second half in a positive manner with the first four points of the half from Harry Shine (2), Darragh Queally and Gearóid Dunne, and so opening a three point lead. Yet Offaly soon levelled with their second goal and followed up with two further points soon after to take the lead.

Good fortune then proceeded to evade Kilkenny at a crucial stage. Following a foul on Harry Shine in front of the Offaly goal, Gearóid Dunne saw his subsequent penalty effort saved. Shine also missed a very scoreable free soon after that further compounded the Kilkenny disappointment.

Offaly increased their lead to five points as the final five minutes approached, but Kilkenny engineered a life line for themselves when



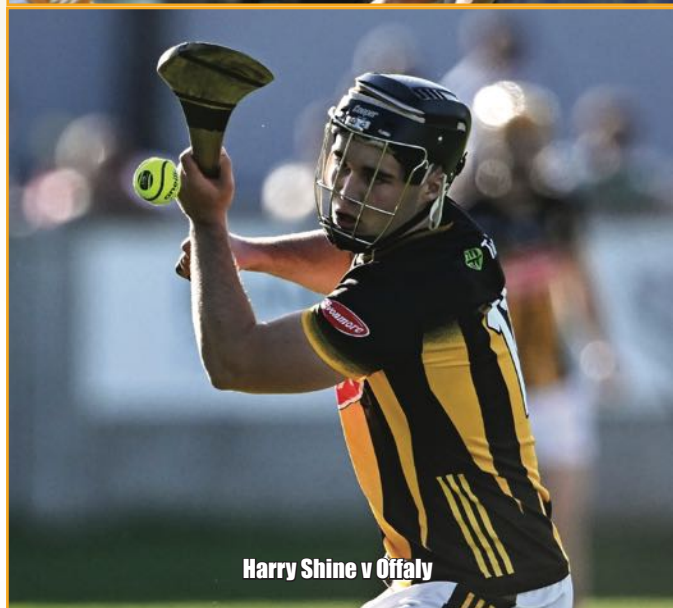
Marty Murphy of Kilkenny in action against Ben Miller of Offaly



Paddy Langton Showing his Strength as he goes past Luke Murphy (Wexford)



Niall Shortall of Kilkenny wins possession ahead of Ruairi Kelly of Offaly



Harry Shine v Offaly



Jeff Neary drives out past Darby Purcell (Wexford)

Niall Shortall goaled from close range. A second goal could have Offaly crossbar. Similarly, Harry Shine also had a chance that was brilliantly saved by the Offaly goalkeeper.

Two more Offaly points soon followed which seemed to be the winning scores, though a goal from a Harry Shine 21 yard free for Kilkenny with time almost up suddenly gave Kilkenny a glimmer of hope. But time quickly ran out on the Kilkenny men, and the home side held on for a dramatic 2-17 to 2-16 victory. It was a heart breaking loss for Kilkenny, and even more so in the time that followed as Offaly went on to eventual All-Ireland success, defeating Tipperary in the All-Ireland Final played before a record crowd in UPMC Nowlan Park. While no excuses could be given and the effort was clear to see from every player in black and amber, it nevertheless made for a year full of real regret.

The full and extended Kilkenny panel was:

Niall Holland (Tullaroan), Jeff Neary (Graigie-Ballycallan), Killian Corcoran (Shamrocks Ballyhale), Ivan Bolger (Graignamanagh), Eoghan Lyng (Rower-Inistioge), Bill Hughes (Bennettsbridge), Paddy Langton (Young Irelands), Cillian Hackett (Dicksboro), James Walsh (Kilmacow), Darragh Queally (Emeralds), Harry Shine (Dicksboro), Gearóid Dunne (Tullaroan), Rory Glynn (Clara), Marty Murphy (Tullogher-Rosbercon), Niall Shortall (Shamrocks Ballyhale), Stephen Manogue (James Stephens), Michael Brennan (Erin's Own), Ryan Corcoran (Graigie-Ballycallan), Ted Dunne (Graignamanagh), Greg Kelly (O'Loughlin Gaels), Timmy Kelly (Bennettsbridge), Aaron McEvoy (Graigie-Ballycallan), Tom McPhillips (Dicksboro), Sean Moore (Carrickshock), Sean Bergin (James Stephens), Bobbie

Brennan (Young Irelands), Killian Doyle (Emeralds), James Hughes (Bennettsbridge), Sean Hunt (St. Martin's), Ed Lauhoff (James Stephens), Evan Murphy (Dicksboro), Lar Murphy (Tullogher-Rosbercon), Padraig O'Grady (Fenians), Daniel Power (James Stephens), Ben Whitty (Danesfort), Ed McDermott (James Stephens), Billy O'Neill (Graigie-Ballycallan).

Team Management: Mark Dowling, Robert Shortall, Cian Treacy, Liam Egan, Brian Lannon, Tom Aylward.

KILKENNY CATS SOCIAL APP



2024 brought with it the launch of Kilkenny Cats Social in March.

Kilkenny Cats Social is a new and innovative community app that is a hub for all things Kilkenny GAA and is a great source of news and information for Kilkenny supporters worldwide and GAA fans in general.

Some of the great features on the app in 2024 included

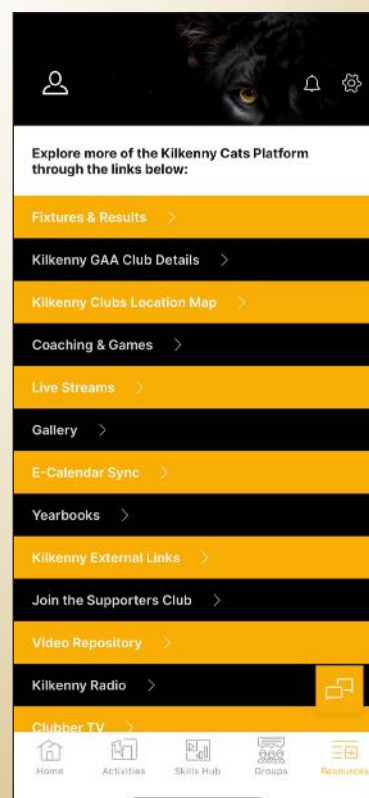
Daily news articles	Exclusive interviews with intercounty managers and players
Weekly podcast featuring Robbie Dowling and Mark Dowling	Exclusive interviews with club managers and players
In depth preview, review and analysis of club competitions & intercounty competitions	Exclusive interviews with club competition sponsors
Live stream of senior, intermediate & junior League-Championship draws	Live stream of Junior A-F League & Championship draws
Live stream of U21 Championship draws	Weekend Predictions Competition

In our first year, we featured some great interviews on the app, including Brian Hogan, Jackie Tyrell, Padraig Walsh, Niall Bergin, Mark Dowling, Na Cait Óga Development Squad managers and numerous club players.

We also exclusively live-streamed, from UPMC Nowlan Park, the U19 Development League Final between Kilkenny and Dublin.

The Kilkenny Cats Social platform is also leading the way in creating a new space for local businesses to connect with supporters and this in turn will enable us to develop new and exciting initiatives.

We have lots planned for 2025 so if you'd like to keep up-to-date with all the Kilkenny GAA news, download the Kilkenny Cats Social app by scanning the QR codes below.



Memories... and a little hurling along the way

Enda McEvoy

When former star Liam By the time the interviewer arrives, slightly late, the Crotty boys have opened the Crested Ten and are getting stuck in.

And why not?

There are stories to be told, memories to be renewed and county finals to be hurled all over again. It is what old hurlers do. It is what brothers do.

In the case of Kieran Crotty (one Kilkenny championship medal but six times mayor of the city and 20 years a TD) the final is that of 1950, when he wore the maroon of Dicksboro.

In the case of Mick Crotty

(four All-Ireland medals, two All-Ireland club medals, sensibly gave politics a wide berth when he grew up) there were umpteen finals in the red and green of James Stephens.

Kieran and 1950 first. He was 20-years-old, had been full-back on the Kilkenny team that lost the 1948 All-Ireland minor final to Waterford and was full-back again for Dicksboro. He remembers it all, he says, "like it was yesterday".

The first game on October 10th in front of 8,000 spectators. His satisfaction when Dicksboro led the favourites Éire Óg by six points with ten minutes left. His disgust when they collapsed late on and were lucky to grab a draw at the death, 3-17 to their opponents' 6-8.

"We conceded six goals? I'm stunned. Genuinely. My memory obviously isn't as good as I thought. Six goals?! Must have been a woeful bad full-back line..."

There was frost on the ground the day of the replay six weeks later. "I thought the match wouldn't be played but it was a white frost."

Dicksboro made no mistake this time, winning by 4-6 to 1-5.

The excitement afterwards "was wonderful", the more so because it was the club's first county triumph in 24 years. A non-drinker at the time, he ended up sipping orange in Walshes' of Irishtown that night and staring at "all these very venerable gentlemen", survivors of 1926.

Victory was even sweeter because, in an era prior to the introduction of the parish rule in Kilkenny, Dicksboro were no superpower. Such a status was the preserve of four clubs locally: Éire Óg, Carrickshock, Mooncoin and Tullaroan.

"If you wanted to make the Kilkenny team you had to be with one of them."

Éire Óg boasted so many luminaries that a young Nick O'Donnell, subsequently a three-time All Ireland winner with Wexford and full-back on the Team of the Century, had to get by at corner-back.

They also had Jim Langton, arguably the most stylish of all Kilkenny forwards.

"He had everything," says Kieran. "Style, ease of playing, artistry, the perfect athlete. He made it look so easy. The only problem he had was that everyone marked him."

But Dicksboro had Paddy Grace in the full-back line too, and if Grace was to eventually achieve legendary status as Kilkenny county secretary he could also hurl a bit.

"Paddy read the game better than anyone I ever saw. He hurled every ball. If it was down the other end of the field he was hurling it. You'd learn more in an hour beside him than from a lifetime of going to matches. His stick was part of him."

Mick would get to know Grace two decades later in a different capacity.

"The lifeblood of Kilkenny hurling. A very practical man. He kept his



feet on the ground and kept everyone's feet on the ground."

It's not difficult to construct a scenario in which Kieran Crotty featured in the full-back line on Kilkenny's All Ireland-winning team of 1957. What happened in real life was this. A bunch of them went playing rugby in the winter of 1950 ("we were young and able and wanted to be playing something") and six, including him, were banned. When Dicksboro asked him back after his suspension he "took the stúacán and wouldn't come back, not while everyone else – hundreds of lads – were breaking the rules too and getting away with."

"That was the end of my

hurling career. I've always regretted it."

By trade he was a baker, a career he loved. He was a reluctant politician, pushed into public life when his father PJ became ill and there was a Fine Gael seat in Carlow-Kilkenny to be defended.

"I went for the Dáil under tremendous pressure and barely got elected – something like 5,500 votes, whereas my father would have got 8,500 or 9,000 votes. After that I made sure it wouldn't happen again."

It didn't. He spent 20 years as a TD, 1969-89, and found the job most fulfilling towards the end when he spent time as chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

"It's the same as in most other countries. The government and the civil service run the country. But these days you have all these committees, which is all for the better. One thing we did during my time on the PAC was to allow the media in. "We opened the windows a bit."

In the event Mick, 16 years younger, was the Crotty who wore the black and amber, albeit as a James Stephens clubman due to the decline of Dicksboro. If he rarely did much in the way of scoring, that didn't matter. He won the ball, usually on the wing, and passed it to lads – Keher, Purcell, Delaney - who did score.

"I was always struggling to get a regular place on the team. I spent a lot of time on the bench in the early 1970s. Eventually I got a fairly regular place."

There was even a day he did score, much to Kieran's surprise. The 1972 Leinster final. Wexford leading by a point.

"The last puck of the game. Fifty yards out. About three lads around him. And he scored a point."

Mick: "The reason I put it over the bar was that I didn't get a chance to look."

Kilkenny went on to win the All-Ireland. A year later the understrength champions lost to Limerick, with Mick at the heart of it. Six minutes into the second half, with the sides level, his palmed effort from close range was turned over the bar by Seamus Horgan. The match pivoted on that moment.

"Limerick deserved it on the day. But you could be in the pub and at half-past ten you'd have lads telling you that you were great. By ten to 12 they're saying, 'Do you remember that ball against Limerick the year..?' They always wait for an hour before they bring that one up."

In 1976 Mick, a Cork county winner with UCC in 1969, won perhaps the most treasured of his many medals when James Stephens floored Blackrock in the All-Ireland club final.

"It was a breakthrough for the club and county, even for the province. It seemed the club championship was going to be a permanent fixture in Cork. We were the first to bring it across the border into Leinster. Five points down after three minutes in the spills of rain in Thurles. I didn't

think we had a hope in hell."

Among his colleagues the same day was a young Brian Cody. Did Mick suspect Cody would go on to become, well, Cody?

"He was always a leader. The Kilkenny minors in 1972, the senior team in 1982. The seeds were there from the early stages. He was a formidable competitor on the field. You'd know you were marking him. And his father before him. Bill Cody. A great hurling man as well as a great Village man."

Kieran: "A gentleman."

Mick: "Brian didn't lick it up off the side of the street."

Kieran has been attending All-Ireland finals for closer to eight decades than to seven, most recently Kilkenny versus Tipperary last year. His first final was in 1940, Kilkenny against Limerick. He went up on the train on the Saturday with his father and stayed in the Regent Hotel in Westmoreland Street. That night they went to the cinema.

"The Savoy in O'Connell Street. Ingrid Bergman. What's the name of it again? I've seen it a million times since. It was on a couple of weeks ago. With the tough guy."

Mick: "Humphrey Bogart?"

Kieran: "That's him."

Mick: "Casablanca?"

Kieran: "Yes! And we went to the match without tickets, got in at half-time in the minor match and got seats in the middle of the field on the sideline."

To tomorrow. Who are you cheering for, gentlemen?

Mick: "Ah would you go away. The Village, of course."

Kieran: "Dicksboro. And I think they'll win. They've been lucky along the way. I think they'll finish lucky. Well, not lucky. They'll finish...winners."

Let's leave them there with the Crested Ten, still replaying old games, third eldest and youngest respectively in a family of ten, all of whom are - incredibly - still alive. Plenty of hurling left in the pair of them yet. Here's looking at you, kids.

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(Kieran Crotty RIP July 2022. Mick Crotty RIP October 2024)



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The man who said “No” to Ollie!

John Knox

When former star Liam Simpson looked back and realised the possible consequences he offered a timid, almost embarrassed laugh. He recalled the day he passed on the chance to play hurling with his beloved Kilkenny. He actually said “no” to none other than the great Ollie Walsh.

Ah, but Ollie saw something in him and, like a good Mountie, he was determined to get his man. So he rang the Simpson home in Bennettsbridge a second time. On this occasion Liam’s late father, Willie took the call. Willie’s decision was instant: “He will be in.” “When I think of what I would have missed, my gosh,” the stylish corner-back laughed again as he revealed the untold story to the Yearbook. “I was young, and maybe a bit foolish. My father sorted me though, and I am glad he did.

“I will always be grateful to my father. He saw something in me as well as Ollie and he told me I was good enough to do it, so go do it. I had doubts. He gave me the push. Ollie kept it going, and I ended up winning All-Irelands.”

Modest! The sparkling haul of Liam Gerard Simpson included - 2 senior All-Irelands (1992, 1993); three Leinster titles (1991, 1992, 1993); one NHL (1994-95); 1 All-Ireland JHC (1990); 1 Leinster JHC (1990); 1 Railway Cup (1993) and two All-Star awards (1992, 1993).

“When I look back I realise how lucky I was,” Liam admitted. “A lot of lads hurled with Kilkenny and won nothing. I played in four All-Irelands in four years (one junior) and won three.”

There is a background, an interesting background, to the Bennettsbridge man’s early reluctance to engage with the county. At the time he was enjoying soccer as a commanding centre-half with East End (Bennettsbridge). Under the driven leadership of Sean ‘Foggy’ Kehoe and his assistant Michael ‘Bonetti’ Bourke the club cleaned up in the local game, winning Premier League, Shield and McCalmont Cup honours.

In the early years and in the company of his cousin, Seamie Cleere, the then promising Simpson won an under-14 league with Evergreen. As an adult he progressed to the K&DL team and played in the premier junior soccer inter-league competition, the Oscar Traynor Cup.

In the 1989/90 season, Simpson was voted the Kilkenny soccer player of the season.

His sporting life was flourishing.

“Soccer was on a high in Kilkenny then,” Liam recalled. “It was a very competitive league. The standard was good and I was enjoying it.” Then one day in mid-summer of 1990 the landline at the Simpson home rang. Mobile ‘phones were few and far between in those days. Liam admitted he hadn’t one. Anyway, it was Ollie Walsh’s voice at the other end of the line. He wanted the ‘Bridge corner-back to join the Kilkenny junior hurling squad.

Liam had doubts, serious doubts. He had no background as an under-age hurler in Kilkenny. He did get a trial for a minor hurling squad once. Seven players from the ‘Bridge were called in. Six were called back. Simpson was the odd one out.

The second time Walsh rang the Simpson house, the father answered the ‘phone. The rest, as they say, is history!

“I was sort of caught out with the father,” Liam grinned.

“I always played with the ‘Bridge and I enjoyed it. But following the experience at minor level, I never saw a career beyond the club.

“Dad gave me the push. He

loved hurling. He me. I suppose was good enough I had no history at I was comfortable Tony Byrne from Gowran and he was on the junior He offered him huge too and guided a Simpson into his first a few weeks before final. Later to be senior Carter and Mickey Simpson knew from there too and they settle.

Simpson went straight The Cats captured title weeks later All-Ireland, beating the final (4-21 to 2-11). report on the latter

People was loud of Simpson, the senior soon be

incident from that final. For one of the Tipp goals, a man rounded ‘Bridge defender. (Dicksboro) let to ever let that

“He was right, of course,” Liam said breezily. “A few years later against Galway in the senior All-Ireland it happened against Michael Coleman and I took him down. I think in my head I could hear Mickey shouting at me, and down he came.”

It worked out. Galway penalty. Simpson saved it. Kilkenny won. Lesson learned confirmed.

saw it as a huge chance for deep down I didn’t think I to be a Kilkenny hurler. under-age level and playing soccer.”

was a good friend squad at the time. encouragement nervous Liam training camp the Leinster stars, Charlie Walsh, who soccer, were helped him

into the team. the Leinster and then the Tipperary in In the match the Kilkenny in its praise suggesting selectors would knocking on his door. Liam smiled when he recalled one particular

the Goalie Mickey Walsh rip and warned him not happen again.

Ollie Walsh worked wonders with that team, and seven of the players who featured in the final went on to wear the striped jersey at senior level. When Ollie moved up to take charge of the Kilkenny senior team, Liam Simpson was given the call immediately. That was for the 1990/91 National League.

“When I started, Kilkenny hadn’t won a senior All-Ireland for eight years, and we had to wait another year for success,” the St Luke’s hospital employee reminded. “We made great progress under Ollie.”

The Cats won Leinster and qualified for the 1991 All-Ireland final. They were unlucky to lose to Tipperary. A disputed late free by Michael Cleary took a wicked turn in flight off



1 September 1991; Cormac Bonnar, Tipperary, in action against Liam Simpson, Kilkenny. All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final, Tipperary v Kilkenny, Croke Park.

Picture Credit: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILÉ

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an upraised Kilkenny hurley, and the sliotar ended up in the net. A big moment in a 1-16 to 1-15 match.

"That was probably one we should have won," Simpson reckoned.

"Then we bounced back and won in 1992 and 1993. Ollie was a gentleman. The thing was that people wanted to hurl for him. He was genuine. He had something special.

"Of course he was a hero of mine. I had heard all about him growing up. When I met him he lived up to everything I had heard about him. He was a big man in the dressing-room."

He felt that in 1992 and 1993, Kilkenny deserved what they got. They hurled well in the League and championship both years.

"No one could say we were lucky," he insisted. "The experience of '91 probably stood to us."

Liam Simpson sailed through it all and ended up an All-Star at the end of both seasons.

Simpson admitted he enjoyed the successes enormously, but he didn't fully realise the depth of the joy felt throughout the county. He could see the delight among the fans, his family; his father, his uncles Seamie and Liam Cleere and so on.

"I used to think 'what were they on about' the way they were talking excitedly about it," he revealed. "Slowly it dawned on me what it all meant to their generation and to so many others. I was finishing up when it really dawned on me what we had done, and the impact it had on people.

"Others might get those feelings straight away, but it took me years to feel it," he added.

Looking back now he wondered if he should have celebrated the victories more. If he had the time back he would have let rip.

"I never got to fully appreciate the depth of it all because I was in the

playing/training bubble. It was back to action with the club after a few days."

His inter-county career more or less came to an end in 1995 when he broke a knee-cap in the losing intermediate final against Dunnamaggin. A career that started under the tutelage of Ollie Walsh, continued subsequently under Nickey Brennan and Kevin Fennelly. There was an invitation to continue under Brian Cody when he took over in Kilkenny in 1999, but the injury had robbed the star defender of crucial pace and mobility.

He did fight his way back, and before the final chapter was written he had worn two of the most famous club jerseys in Kilkenny - that of his beloved Bennettsbridge and the famous Tullaroan shirt. Between them the clubs have won a fabulous 32 senior titles (Tullaroan 20).

Simpson was born into the first jersey. The Tullaroan connection came after he married Bill Hennessy's sister, Majella. The family built a house and moved to live in the parish. Simpson threw in his lot with the club, and actually managed the team for two seasons. Their four children are true blue Tullaroanites.

"I was proud to wear both jerseys," he said as a broad smile swept across his face. "I heard so much growing up about the great men who wore the 'Bridge jersey, and I just had to try and follow them.

"Then you go and play with a club like Tullaroan and you think of the Clohessys', Hennessys' and so on. The history of the club and commitment of people from Tullaroan to the GAA has been massive. The community loves hurling. Children walk around with their hurleys. They are striving to be the next Tommy Walsh. I was lucky and feel privileged to have been able to play with two clubs with such a rich history in the GAA."



KILKENNY'S JOHN KNOX AWARDED McNAMEE HALL OF FAME AWARD



The Mac Namee Hall of Fame Award in recognition of a lifetime of excellence in Gaelic games coverage will be presented to John Knox, a man who worked for nearly 50 years in the Kilkenny People. In that time, he lived the highs and lows of Kilkenny GAA, reflecting the feelings of fans through his writing. Now retired-ish, John Knox has a hugely respected member of the GAA media corp, a reputation enhanced by the fact that for many years, long before we had PROs, Knox was at the coalface of GAA matters in a County that was envied, lauded, and admired by GAA followers near and far. If it happened in Kilkenny John Knox knew about it before the dawn broke.

His job took him into the red-hot cauldron that was the County Board meetings under the only stand at the time in Nowlan Park. In the face of GAA Admin icons like Paddy Grace, Mick O'Neill, Ted Carroll, Kevin Fennelly (Snr), Joe Walsh, Johnny Ivory, Mick Neary, Nickey Purcell, Kieran Meally et al, a "spalpeen" journalist would have to have all his ducks in a row when the Kilkenny People hit the street or face the wrath of the aforementioned.

During his career, John reported on 26 All-Ireland senior hurling finals and two replays. He told the story of numerous camogie All-Ireland Finals and Leagues. He covered numerous Under-21 and Minor encounters, and he also told the struggles for the survival of football. He helped Gaelic games progress from the pitch to the printed word.

Over the 50 years John's stories from players and management was the daily diet of supporters who craved information. He would readily admit that the supporters, the dedicated people in the Kilkenny People and a visionary County Board was an unbreakable Co-Operative that stood the test of time.

During his tenure with the Kilkenny People, John was privileged to see his beloved Kilkenny win the famous 4 in-a-row, which went to nearly a "five timer" with minutes remaining. John too, was very much part of the club scene in Kilkenny as his coverage of years of superb club hurling by great clubs who garnished their reputations with many Provincial and All-Ireland club wins. John Knox has been a wonderful servant of the Gaelic Athletic Association, and more precisely the Association in his beloved Kilkenny.

This is a most deserved accolade for his dedication and longevity to a noble cause."

John bids Adieu to the Fellowship of the Ring

John Kinsella RIP

By John Knox

One of the high achievers from the 'golden circle' that is the famous Ring in picturesque Bennettsbridge in Kilkenny bid adieu to us all this year.

"He was one of the best. A great family man, friend, Bennettsbridge and Kilkennyman with a beaming personality that would light up a dark room," was the succinct summary from a lifelong friend.

John 'Jack' Kinsella from Ballyreddin, Bennettsbridge was one of a kind. He stood alone in terms of character and spirit; warm, friendly, loyal, exuberant, socially conscious and fun loving. They broke the mould after his creation

"He was always a lively character with a huge personality," insisted his lifelong friend and next door neighbour, Pat Lawlor, who, like John, carried the famous 'Bridge and Kilkenny colours to hurling glory. And sure that was no surprise, really. They both hailed from the rich breeding ground that was The Ring in Bennettsbridge. It was perhaps the most fertile piece of hurling territory in Ireland.

Therein lived the winners of 42 All-Ireland medals within a stone's throw of each other. The roll call of winners from The Ring is hard to credit.

"We lived in No. 1," explained Pat Lawlor, whose brother Eamon was an All-Ireland hurling winner at schools level, when he unraveled the story. From No. 2 came the 'Lovely' Johnny Dunne, who won an All-Ireland in 1935 with Kilkenny; his son played with the 'Bridge too. In No. 3 lived John Kinsella, who won All-Irelands (2) and local senior championships (3). Dan Kennedy was from No. 4, another All-Ireland winner (captain 1947) whose son Watt won county championships.

From No. 5 came Noel Skehan, winner of a magical nine All-Irelands between 1963 and 1983. Then in No 7 lived the Hayes', with Christy a championship winner with the 'Bridge. From No. 8 came Paddy Kealy, a winner of senior honours with the 'Bridge too.

On then to No. 10 from whence Dan and Dick Carroll came. Dick played for years with Kilkenny. In No. 16 lived the Cleeres', with Seamie (captain 1963) and Liam All-Ireland winners and they were joined by Larry on local championship winning sides.

Then in No. 17 were the Ryans'. Frankie played minor with Kilkenny for three years while Ned, Bowley and Nickey made huge contributions to the Bennettsbridge cause.

Jack Kinsella was a respected brother among that gang of champions.

"Jack and myself were part of the big number of winners from The Ring, and that meant a lot to us both," said Pat Lawlor, a senior All-Ireland winner in 1972, 1975 and 1975 and an All-Sar in 1972.

The two were inseparable growing up. They lived virtually side-by-side. They went to school together, first in Bennettsbridge NS and subsequently in Kilkenny vocational school, where they both earned a scholarship following the entrance exam. They battled together in the club colours. They marched together with Kilkenny. They even got married on the same day - March 3, 1973; Jack in Freshford and Pat in St Canice's in Kilkenny City.

"He was 20 days older than me," Pat (77) recalled, with the birthdays falling on October 3 and 23 (born 1947). "I will miss him big time. He was great company, a great friend.

"Oh, we had our boxing matches from time to time when we were young, but that was all part of growing up. Jack was always a lively character with a huge personality. He always wanted to be doing something. Even if he were somewhere and there was a darts match on he would be into it straight away. He was full of energy and he had a lot of interests."

Jack Kinsella was a fearless, hard running, crisp striking attacker. He captained Bennettsbridge when they won the first Kilkenny under-21 hurling championship, beating Ballyhale in the final in 1967 (7-3 to 2-3). One P. Lawlor was, of course, on the team too.

Jack was already part of the Bennettsbridge senior team. He won three championships at this level - 1966, 1967 and 1971.

He was only a teenager when he commenced his senior career with Kilkenny. He played at minor and under-21 level before driving on to win senior All-Irelands in 1967 and 1972, when he made up a formidable half-forward line along with the late Mick Crotty (10) and Pat Delaney (11). He also won two Leinster championships during his time on the panel that stretched from 1967 to 1973.

"The story with Jack as a hurler was simple," Pat Lawlor insisted. "He was skilful and brave. We practiced day and night. There wouldn't be a blade of grass in The Ring we were all hurling so much."

Jack's career with Kilkenny finished earlier than it might. He was dogged with a knee injury. Actually it was a cruciate ligament problem, although it wasn't diagnosed at the time for the simple reason the injury wasn't recognised. He took time out for over a year with the injury, but the surgery that would have been needed wasn't available. Seamie Cleere has a similar injury, apparently, and that shortened his career too.

"Jack, for all his fun loving ways, was a fierce competitor," Pat Lawlor reminded. "He had a bubbly personality and was always in lively form. But there was a fiercely competitive spirit behind that warm and friendly personality.

"He had great confidence too. He knew what he had to offer as a player and he had the confidence that he could produce that against the best. He didn't let small things get him down. He loved the game and the celebrations afterwards, but he was a serious man about his hurling.



John Kinsella shows his joy with clubmate Jim Treacy after the 1967 All Ireland victory over Tipperary

You wouldn't make the Kilkenny team at that time, or any time, unless you were serious about it.

"In our time we didn't know what perfecting the skills was all about. We just played and played. What we learned we learned in the training field. No one took you aside and coached us. You played and the skills came out.

"There was determination and grit required, and Jack had it in abundance on top of the confidence that he could compete with the best."

Jack Kinsella was no one game performer either. He was a gifted soccer player and played with both East End and Evergreen. When his playing days were over he took up the whistle and became a soccer referee. Rugby was on his radar too, and he was an enthusiastic follower of Munster.

He was a fair golfer too, playing out of the Callan and Gowran clubs. Many were the foreign trips he made and enjoyed with fellow golfers. He was a founding member of the Bennettsbridge Golf Society, a group that had endless fun because the unwritten rule was that competitiveness came with a smile.

John Kinsella was very popular and he had a great way with people. He was a mechanic by trade and when he moved on to be a car salesman with Barlo Nissan his warm and genial personality proved a real winner with customers. That same spring in your step attitude made him a hugely popular figure as a weekend presenter on KCR where his jovial catchphrase was: "It's a great day for the washing."

He grappled with Parkinson disease in the latter part of his life, but he was true to the



With Family and Friends

L/R: Damien Grimes (son-in-law - son of Eamon Grimes, former Limerick star), Jim Treacy, Pat Lalor, Alowen Grimes (Grandaughter), Daniel Kinsella

defiant message of the national body that Parkinson's should not be the end of your world. Following the early days when he was a singer in local showbands, he enlisted and was an enthusiastic member of the Kilkenny Parkinson's Choir. And when a Men's Shed group was formed in Bennettsbridge in the last year or so, Jack K signed up as one of its first members.

"When he had to deal with a serious illness near the end of his days he didn't hide away,"

Pat Lawlor said. "He fronted up. He took on the challenge. He showed the courage of a champion."

"I have lost a great friend," Pat Lawlor lamented.

John and Sheila Kinsella had four children - Jackie, Gerri, Owena and Daniel. They were his life, his blessings he used to say, but he found the space to bring cheer and happiness to many people besides.



BENNETTSBRIDGE, KILKENNY COUNTY SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS, 1966

Back: Tony Kelly, Larry Cleere, Paddy Kealy, Noel Ryan, Seamus Cleere, Tony Bennett, Michael McCarthy, Liam Cleere.
Front: Paddy Treacy, John McGovern, Martin Treacy, Paddy Moran, Noel Skehan, "Sam" Carroll, John Kinsella, Jim Treacy.

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1974/75 VETERANS AT A RECEPTION HOSTED BY LYRATH HOTEL OCT 27TH 2024

Back: Brian Cody, Ger Henderson, Tom McCormack, Frank Cummins, Eddie Keher, Billy Harte, Pat Henderson, Billy Fitzpatrick, Nickey Orr, PJ Ryan, Gene Murphy.

Front: Mick Lanigan, Matt Ruth, Pat Lawlor, Noel Skehan, PJ Kenny (Cathaoirleach), Xavier McAuliffe Lyrath Hotel & Springhill Hotel, Kieran Purcell, Jim Treacy, Nickey Brennan, Mick Brennan.



KILKENNY - 1974 ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS

Back: Mick Brennan, Tom McCormack, Eddie Keher, Frank Cummins, Mick Crotty, Pat Henderson, Billy Fitzpatrick, Phil Larkin, Pat Delaney.

Front: Pat Lalor, Liam O'Brien, Noel Skehan, Nicky Orr (Capt), Jim Treacy, Kieran Purcell, Pat Delaney.



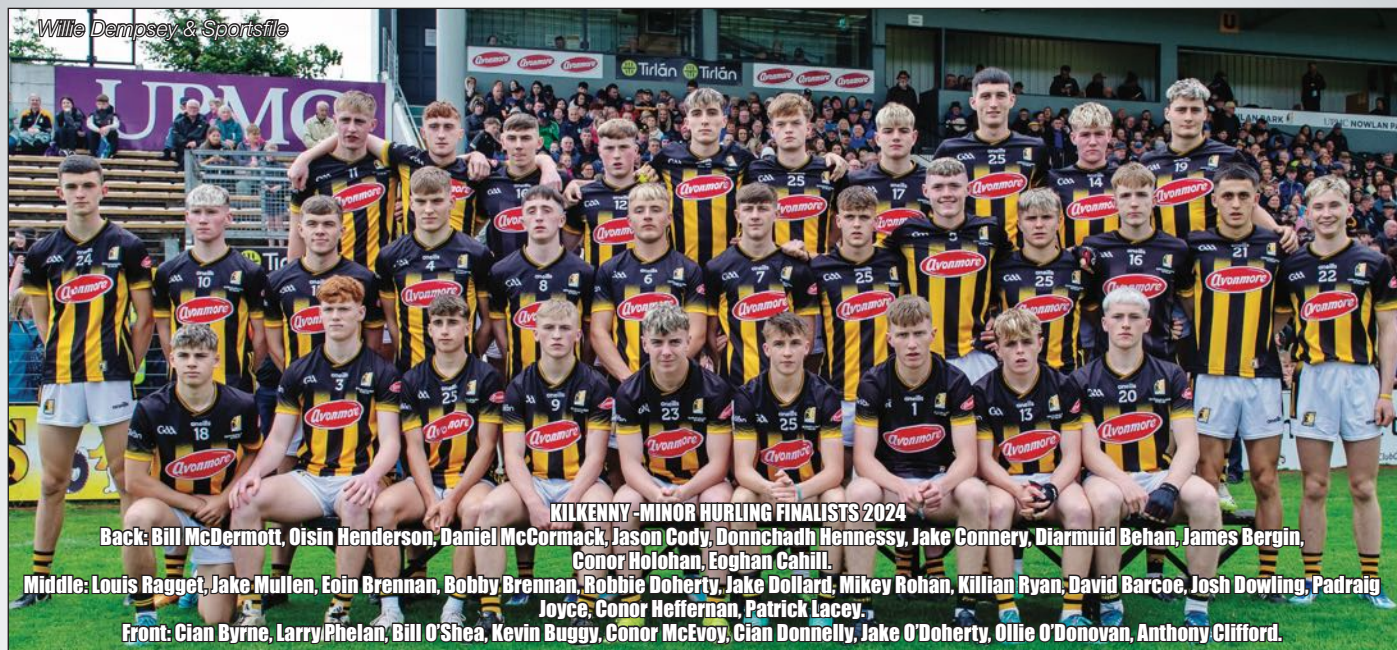
KILKENNY - 1975 ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS.

Back Row: Brian Cody, Tom McCormack, Mick Crotty, Pat Henderson, Eddie Keher, Frank Cummins, Pat Delaney, Fan Larkin.

Front Row: Liam O'Brien, Noel Skehan, Billy Fitzpatrick (Capt), Mick Brennan, Pat Lalor, Kieran Purcell, Nicky Orr.

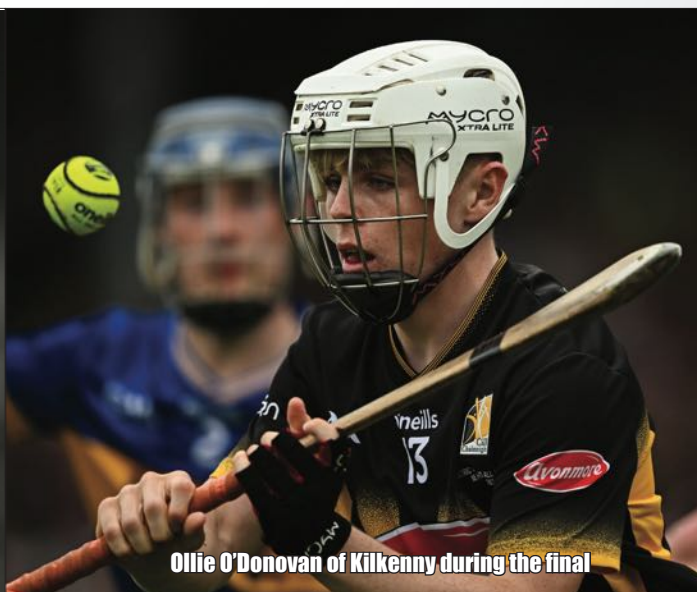
A FINAL WE SHOULD HAVE WON

Inter County Minor Hurling Report by Pado O'Flynn



The Kilkenny Minors epic journey ended where it started in UPMC Nowlan Park. The big juggernaut in Leinster was Galway who Kilkenny had failed to defeat in a number of years whilst Kilkenny had not made the Minor All Ireland since 2020 during the covid years. Trials were completed by February and a number of challenge matches ensued and one of the more tastier ones being under lights in Pairc Ui Chaoimh against a well fancied Cork minor outfit. Game day 1 arrived in mid-April with Galway as visitors. A young Kilkenny minor team started like an absolute rocket racing into 0-7 to 0-2 lead and only for some wayward shooting Niall Bergin's charges would have been further ahead. The pressure being exerted by Kilkenny led to a mistake by Galway and captain Bill McDermott sent the green flag waving. This was soon followed by a Jake Mullen goal after Conor Holohan showed excellent skill to pick out the young Shamrocks forward saw Kilkenny 2-13 to 0-7 ahead at the short whistle. Further goals in the second period arrived via Patrick Lacey and McDermott as Kilkenny closed out with a fine performance one that had been anticipated. But young players form can fluctuate. Two Darren Rossiter goals and a superb display of shooting from Seán O'Brien steered Wexford to a rousing win over Kilkenny in the second round. The first goal arrived in the 21st minute when Ryan Donohoe sent a delivery into the danger zone, and the loose ball was gathered by Rossiter, who buried to the net. With Jake Mullen doing much of the damage, the visitors clawed their way into the contest after the break, but they were rocked back on their heels in the 38th minute when O'Brien made a beeline for goal and, when his shot was saved by goalkeeper Pádraig Joyce, Rossiter was on hand to finish

to the net to make it 2-14 to 0-10. Niall Bergin's side continued to battle back, however, and they got the boost they needed in the 50th minute when Kevin Buggy burst through and buried the ball past Paddy Quigley (2-16 to 1-15). Try as they might the could never get level but showed great heart in tough conditions. Dublin were next visitors in UPMC Nowlan Park. It seemed to be a very even contest as Conor Holohan and Eoin Brennan (free) brought Kilkenny back to within a point by the 38th minute but Dublin managed to keep their noses in front thanks to successive points from Costello and Flannery (free). Despite Robbie Doherty pointing for Kilkenny, Dublin were in the ascendancy at this juncture and two further frees from Flannery extended their advantage to four points by the 49th minute. Almost inevitably, it was Flannery that pushed Dublin further ahead with a cracking strike from distance and while Brennan clipped over a brace of frees at the opposite end, Dublin's defence remained resolute. Substitute Ben O'Mahony made an instant impact when pointing within a minute of his introduction and fittingly, it was Flannery that had the final word with his 11th point sealing an encouraging win. At the end of the league stages Kilkenny had mixed the good with the bad and the ugly but one sensed that as the real games were on the horizon. They were battle hardened as they headed to Newbridge for the Leinster Quarter Final against a highly rated Kildare side. Ollie O'Donovan had created havoc all evening and goals from himself, Jake Mullen, Jason Cody and Robbie Doherty saw them book a semi-final berth against Galway.



An emphatic second half performance from Kilkenny ensured that they comprehensively avenged last year's Leinster final defeat to Galway, as they fired four second half goals to power their path through to a provincial decider against Dublin.

Two goals each from inside forwards Jake Mullen and Ollie O'Donovan will be seen as the crucial scores that put real distance between the sides, but Galway's inaccuracy was also a huge factor, as the Tribesmen racked up 18 wides over the course of the hour's action in Tullamore. The westerners started and finished the first half well, with Brian Callanan flicking the sliotar over from close range and Ronan Cahalan firing an excellent point to help them to lead by 0-3 to 0-1, but Kilkenny took over from there, with Mullen's aerial power and O'Donovan's effervescence and energy to the fore. The cats shot eight of the next nine points, before Galway again rallied before half time.

Ciarán Leen was on target three times in the half and he could have had a goal too, but at 0-10 each, the contest looked finely poised. Then Mullen plucked a high delivery from Eoin Brennan out of the sky and slammed the ball to the net with the first play of the second half, and while Galway got the next two points, it was one way traffic after that. Kilkenny outscored Galway by 3-8 to Cillian Roche's solitary goal through the remainder of the game with Oisín Henderson and David Barcoe playing key roles in setting up two of the second half goals.

Electric Ireland Leinster MHC Final

Kilkenny 1-13 Dublin 1-9

This was tough, this was hard hitting but ultimately a pure contest that saw Kilkenny end the three year wait for the Leinster Minor Hurling title. A 48th minute goal from Ollie O'Donovan proved crucial as Kilkenny saw off Dublin. Kilkenny led for long periods and helped by big displays from Jake Mullen, Robbie Doherty and Eoin Brennan, the Cats made up for defeat at the hands of the same opponents earlier in the competition.

A first half Dublin goal from Eoin Brennan looked to have side in sky blue in a good position when only trailing by two points at half-time after playing into a stiff breeze, but it was the third quarter where the young Kilkenny side really took over. Kilkenny scored four of the first five points of the second half and forced Dublin to open up their play a little and while the beaten side did get the last three points of the game, the job was already done for the Noresiders.

With the aid of a strong breeze at their back, Kilkenny started very well with points from play by defenders Oisín Henderson and David Barcoe adding to frees from Jake Mullen. Dublin kept in touch with efforts from Tommy Cullen, Rory Flannery and Killian Costello before they struck for the game's opening goal halfway through the half when after a point attempt from Flannery hung in the air and came back off the crossbar, Eoghan Brennan was the first on the scene to blast the rebound to the net. That opened up a five point Dublin lead, but the Kilkenny response was swift as they got the next five scores to retake the advantage on the scoreboard. Jake Mullen who was hugely influential all the way through really came to prominence during this spell and his six opening half points saw his team lead 0-9 to 1-4 at the interval.

Dublin narrowed that gap to the minimum within minutes of the resumption, but they wouldn't score again until the 46th minute which coincided in Kilkenny's best spell of the game. Not only did points from Mullen, Eoin Brennan, Robbie Doherty and Conor Holohan extend the Kilkenny lead, but it was their overall attitude and signal of intent that forced Dublin onto the backfoot. Dublin had been utilising Tommy Cullen as a sweeper, but that plan was abandoned as Kilkenny went clear on the scoreboard and the extra space certainly played a part in Ollie O'Donovan's cracking individual goal that essentially wrapped the game up for the Cats which saw a lot of joy on the pitch in Portlaoise.

This win allowed them a few days rest in preparation for an All-Ireland semi-final against Clare three weeks later and gain revenge for the defeat in the previous year's semi-final. It would be unfair to single out one players performance in an epic game but Jake Mullen's thirteen points were crucial on the day along with Louis Raggett's deployment as a spare man. This was all after the All-Ireland champions raced into a very early lead with a blitz that yielded 2-3. From a high Seán McNamara catch in defence they worked the sliotar to Rodgers. His shot was saved by Jake O'Doherty but Conor Ralph buried the rebound. Liam Murphy's killer pass to Rodgers provided the second goal in the sixth minute. Kilkenny's wides included a 10th-minute Mullen penalty after Ollie O'Donovan had been chopped down by McNamara. James Cullinan's long-range missile and a Harry Doherty brace made it 2-3 to 0-1.

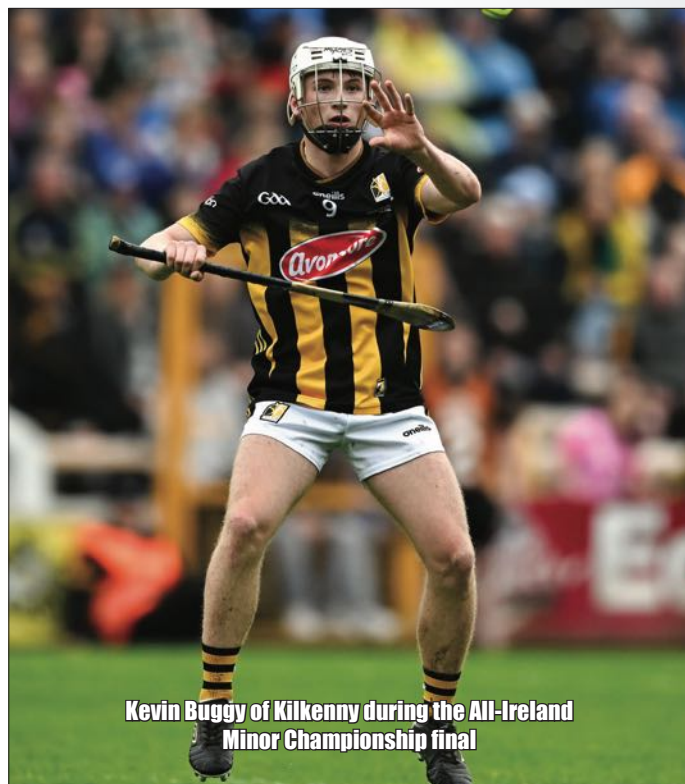
Two of Kilkenny's first three points came from overcarrying frees but they began to pose greater problems in the closing minutes of the half. Bill McDermott flicked over the bar from close range before Conor Holohan bounced the sliotar through the keeper's legs

to make it a one-score game. Matthew Crotty smothered another Holohan effort as Ralph's pair pushed Clare 2-6 to 1-4 ahead at half-time.

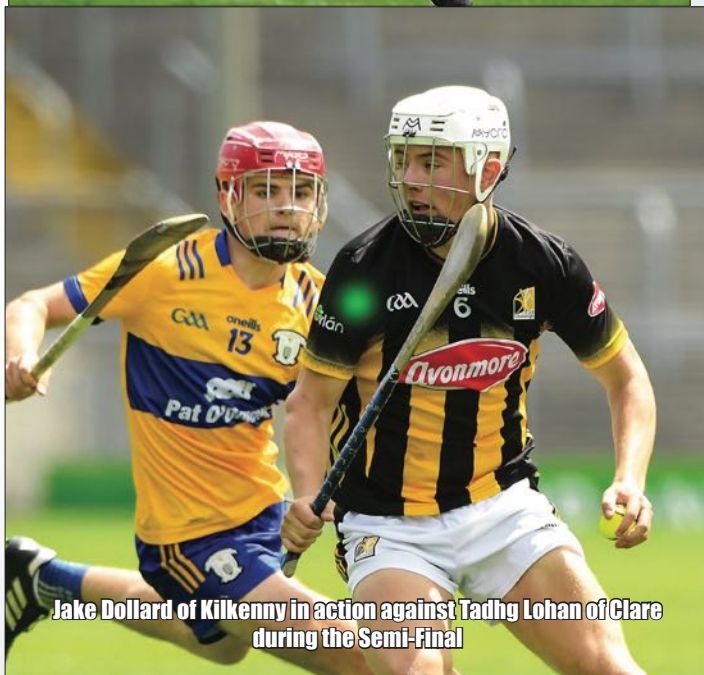
Kilkenny led by four as late as the 58th minute but Clare kept running at them and reeled off points from Darragh McNamara and Doherty (0-3) to level. Buggy looked like he had won it but Rodgers equalised again in the final seconds of the four added minutes. It would be decided in extra-time. Kilkenny rebuilt their four-point lead with scores from Mullen (0-2), Kevin Buggy, and an incredible Patrick Lacey effort. It went from bad to worse for Clare when Rodgers received a straight red card at the end of the half. 2-20 to 2-16 at the change of ends. Matthew Corbett struck three frees but Kilkenny held on with scores from Mullen, Robbie Doherty, and Lacey's second.

Electric Ireland All Ireland minor hurling final Tipperary 2-17, Kilkenny 3-12 (AET)

The All Ireland minor was played in UPMC Nowlan Park. It is a game which will be long remembered, but unfortunately it ended with a Tipp man in Ardán De Grás hoisting the Irish Press Cup. It had all begun so brightly with Bill McDermott on fire in the first half landing 1-2 and playing a real captains part. Half time came and the sides were level. Kilkenny seemed to be getting to grips with the Tipperary



Kevin Buggy of Kilkenny during the All-Ireland Minor Championship final



Jake Doldard of Kilkenny in action against Tadhg Lohan of Clare during the Semi-Final



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challenge and despite the premier men being down to 13 men (after 8 and 23 minutes respectively), they would not go away. A number of missed chances in the middle of the second half for Kilkenny meant they were never able to get into a position of dominance which saw Tipp hang in and eventually force extra.

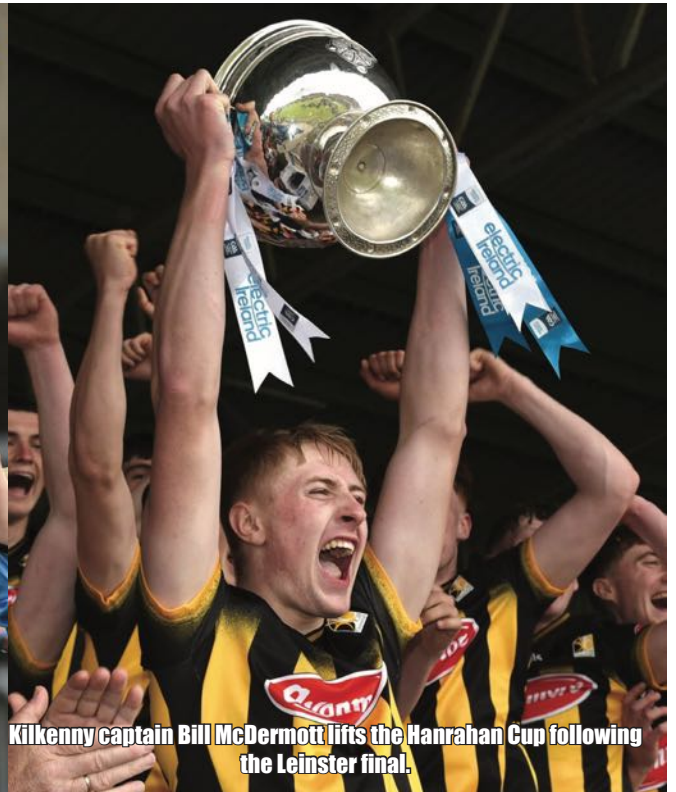
It looked like the trophy was heading Noreside when Cian Byrne popped a point with six minutes of extra time left but Billy O'Brien's break-away goal proved crucial as Kilkenny lost out in the dying embers of the game and the wait for an All-Ireland minor goes on.

Whilst losing at underage level is never welcome it has in the past helped make future Kilkenny hurlers unbreakable once they reach the Senior ranks and my hunch is something similar here as they showed tremendous fortitude throughout the campaign in fairly stark circumstances like being 8 down to Clare in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Kilkenny Minor Panel: Mikey Rohan (Carrickshock), David Barcoe (Clara), Oisín Henderson (Dicksboro), Louis Raggett (Dicksboro), Anthony Clifford Dicksboro, Patrick Lacey (Dicksboro), Conor McEvoy (Dicksboro), Donnchadh Hennessy (Dicksboro), Bill O'Shea (Dicksboro), Bobby Brennan (Erins Own), Kevin Buggy (Erins Own), Eoin Brennan (Erins Own), Jake Connery (Erins Own), Josh Dowling (Erins Own), Jason Cody (Glenmore), Jake Dollard (Glenmore), Eoghan Cahill (Graigue-Ballycallan), Larry Phelan (James Stephens), Bill McDermott (Capt.) (James Stephens), Diarmuid Behan (James Stephens), Conor Heffernan (James Stephens), James Bergin (James Stephens), Padraig Joyce (James Stephens), Ollie O'Donovan (John Lockes), Jake O'Doherty (Mooncoin), Robbie Doherty (Mooncoin), Conor Holohan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Daniel McCormack (O'Loughlin Gaels), Cian Byrne (O'Loughlin Gaels), Jake Mullen (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Management team: Niall Bergin (O'Loughlin Gaels), Paddy Hogan (Danesfort), John Dermody (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Pat Robinson (Graigue-Ballycallan).



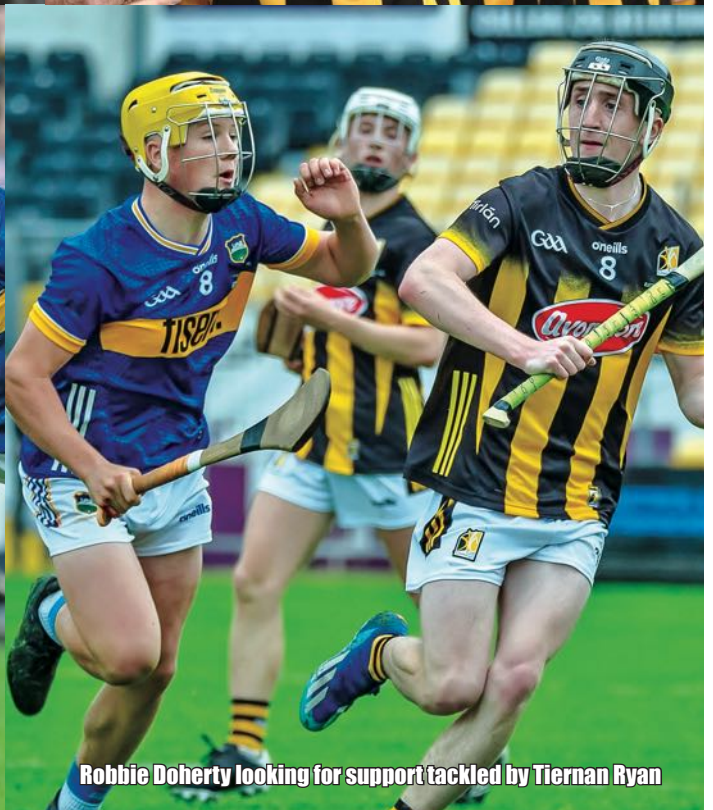
Bobby Brennan of Kilkenny catches a high ball in the last seconds of the Leinster final



Kilkenny captain Bill McDermott lifts the Hanrahan Cup following the Leinster final.



Patrick Lacey on the run chased by Billy O'Brien



Robbie Doherty looking for support tackled by Tiernan Ryan

Slán leis an Scéalaí

Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh 1930 - 2024

By John Knox



The entry and greeting were typically low key, but they were signature moments. "Hello Seamus, and how are you," was the warm opening line in a friendly Kerry accent. And then as the speaker espied a man at the counter in a sort of boxed off corner he acknowledged him too: "Agus on fear sa cúinne."

An apt turn of phrase in that instant.

It was quintessential Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh, the softly spoken man whose 'Béarla agus Gaeilge' fusion of the spoken word cast a creeping spell over the Irish nation for decades.

"It is fair to say his popularity among the masses grew and grew down the ages, to the point that he was regarded as a national treasure," suggested former Kilkenny hurling great Eddie Keher, who knew Micheál as friend and respected sports commentator. Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh worked for RTE for over 60 years and came to be known as the 'Voice of Gaelic games'. He gained entry to the Guinness Book of Records for having the longest career as a live match commentator.

He loved Gaelic games, hurling, football camogie, handball and the people who played and promoted them. His death in late June prompted a national out-pouring of grief as Ireland bid slán to a true man of the people.

In the early part of his career he commentated in Irish on matches in the minor grade. When his predecessor Michael O'Hehir retired in the mid-eighties, Ó Muircheartaigh stepped up to the role as RTE's premier radio commentator.

With a distinct Kerry accent - he was a native Irish speaker - and a gift for shaping the action he saw in front of him into pictures for his listeners via a quick firing vocabulary, he carved out a unique place of honour among the people of Ireland.

"Really, he was a storyteller," insisted former Kilkenny County Board chairman, Ned Quinn, when he recalled how Micheál could casually insert meaty stories or amusing quips into commentaries like no other.

Our opening line referred to a visit by Micheál to the pub of former Kilkenny Football Board secretary, Seamus Delaney in Patrick Street in the city the week before an All-Ireland hurling final. Micheál was working on a preview for the big match.

He opted to do a comparative piece between the big and small ball games in Kilkenny, a hurling stronghold; a football backwater. Seamus Delaney, secretary from 1969 until 1986, had a story to tell. The 'fear sa cúinne (man in the corner)' didn't in relation to the subject matter, but he was part of life that day. Micheál acknowledged him as such.

Micheál wasn't to know it, but he won J.R. (my friend who related the story) as a cara and admirer for life in that instant of recognition.

That was the man as GAA folk especially knew and remembered him - warm, open, friendly, approachable, respectful and without ego. Kilkenny folk loved him, and the Yearbook wanted the fact recorded.

As our esteemed Yearbook editor, Barrie Henriques put it: "He was the genuine article. He was what it said on the tin; personable; friendly; approachable and he didn't ever forget your name."

Barrie admired from afar in the early days when he and his friend, Pat Treacy, were commentating on big championship matches from Croke Park for Radio Kilkenny. They continue to work for Community Radio Kilkenny City, and when asked Micheál was always and ever a contributor and helpful advisor.

"Micheál would be working underneath us in his commentary position for RTE," Barrie recalled from Croker days long past. "I hoped and prayed that some day I might sound remotely like him in terms of his style and the information he imparted to his audience. If I could capture 10% of his effervescence and his passion I would do a decent job. His passion stood out."

He once asked Mr Ó Muircheartaigh what the secret was to being a good commentator. The answer - get people to turn on the knob of the radio and get them to stay with you. Then you are doing what is expected of you, he was told.

Michael Lyng, Managing Director of Michael Lyng Motors, knew Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh as commentator, golfer and friend. For over 25 years the RTE personality, who at one time was a single figure handicapper, was part of the Eddie Keher team in the Rower-Inistioge GAA club Golf Classic, which Mr Lyng helped organise and sponsor.

Mr Lyng remembered Micheál's generosity, his commitment to his word: "For one of our golf 'Classics before Covid, Micheál was in China visiting his son. He told us he wouldn't be there for the golf, but he would make the presentation. He arrived in Dublin in late afternoon, came to New Ross for the presentation and stayed until midnight and mingled with people. He drove back to Dublin on his own that night."

"He had given a commitment. His word was his bond," he added.

Mr Lyng also had Micheál as MC for the Lyng Motors club All-Star hurling awards nights held between 2004 and 2010.

"He was delighted to see club players being recognised for their great performances in the local championships," Mr Lyng recalled. "He gave that MC effort as much credence as he would the national All-Star awards. That was his way. There was never a half measure."

"To him it was people; high achievers, not big stars versus others. He liked to see high achievers being recognised. He didn't come and deliver guiding notes. He padded everything out with his own flair. He would find a nugget to dress-up the finest prep notes and he would deliver it with panache in his unique tone of voice."

Lyng felt that Ó Muircheartaigh had a rare ability to make poor or average games interesting.

"He loved effort, people trying," Mr Lyng continued. "Excellence was great but he admired people who put in an effort to help a community, be that a team, a club, their home village or whatever. And if he could help, he helped."

Ned Quinn first met Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh in 1992 when he was then South Board chairman. The venue was Nowlan Park. The occasion was the under-21 All-Ireland hurling final between Waterford (winners) and Offaly.

"The thing I noticed was how ordinary the man was," the Mooncoin official explained. "He came along to get into the dressing-room

to check on the teams and there was no sense that he was anyone special. He was an ordinary guy who chatted to everyone. He never changed.” Micheál was always welcome in Kilkenny dressing-rooms, Mr Quinn insisted. His presence was never questioned. He was trusted. He would pick up bits and pieces of information and include that in his match commentary.

“If there was a lull in a match due to an injury or whatever he would fill it the gap with a story and then pick-up the action straight away,” he added. “It was his special gift.”

There was talk that Mr Ó Muircheartaigh had a real grá for the two Ks’ (his native Kerry and Kilkenny). He loved his own place, of course, but Kilkenny didn’t want to take ownership beyond that.

“He had a love for every county,” was the way Mr Quinn put it, although he admitted the famous Kerry man was a frequent visitor to Kilkenny, even after he retired from RTE.

“He was at his very best when he was away from the microphone,” Mr Quinn felt. “He had an unbelievable amount of stories to tell, and he had the flow of words to tell a story.”

What Quinn really liked was that Mr Ó Muircheartaigh would never down a player. In his eyes, no player ever had a bad game. He would highlight when a lad did well, but he left the rest unsaid, appreciating the fact he was dealing with amateur players.

“His involvement with training the Dublin contingent of the Kerry footballers gave him a serious insight into players, their lives, their feeling, how they should be treated,” he reckoned. “He knew the effort players put in. He knew everyone couldn’t be a star every day.”

Eddie Keher, one of the most gifted players ever to take a camán in his hand, mourned “as decent a man as you could meet, someone he never heard anyone speak a bad word about.”



Eddie loved the easy mix of Irish/English during games, as his late mother did from the day she listened to Micheál making reference to her son on the radio during the 1959 Oireachtas final.

That was the year a daring, fearless youngster from the Rower-Inistioge club won the first of six senior All-Ireland medals.

“I loved the language and the

way he used it,” continued Eddie, the Kilkenny All-Ireland winning captain of 1969. “If you tried to talk in Irish to Micheál he was very encouraging and wasn’t at all intimidating. He didn’t try and force the Irish on you. He accepted the odd phrase here and there and he respected the effort.”

Again, the generosity of the man surfaced. Eddie recalled one occasion he rang Micheál house looking for him. He spoke to his daughter Niamh who explained her father wasn’t there but he would be around at 6pm. Eddie suggested maybe he shouldn’t ring him.

“Oh do,” the daughter insisted. “Ring him at six because he is leaving at 6.30pm for Tullamore to do a medal presentation.”

Keher wondered aloud if Micheál was coming from his beloved Dingle. “No,” came the reply, “he is flying in from Singapore.”

“I couldn’t get over it,” Eddie laughed. “The energy he had was extraordinary. He was a very giving man.

“He was of the people, of the games of the people. He was reared in the culture of the GAA.

His understanding of the ethos of the GAA through his life and involvement with the Kerry players was extraordinary.”



Michael Lyng, DJ Carey, Eddie Keher, Paschal Bolger, Noel Skehan and Michael O Muircheartaigh enjoy the Annual Golf Classic.



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A season of sundays

...s of the 2024 Gaelic Games year by the Sportsfile photographers

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GAA

The Boys of Summer 1984

1984 Kilkenny Minor Team
by Enda McEvoy



KILKENNY-ALL-IRELAND MINOR HURLING FINALISTS 1984

Back: Alan McCormack, Liam Dowling, James Farrell, Frankie Morgan, John Power, Billy Cleere, Gerry Drennan, Bosco Bryan.
Front: Paddy Fennelly, Declan Mullan, Liam Egan, Tom Lannon (captain), Pat McEvoy, Willie Dwyer, Larry O'Brien.

THE GALMOY MAN

As 1983 turned to 1984 and the celebrations from Kilkenny's league and championship double-double wound down, the coming season contained only one potential storyline of interest to the denizens of Noreside. Would the county do the three in a row for the first time ever? Not only that, would they do the three in a row in what was the Centenary Year of the GAA? And lift the MacCarthy Cup in Thurles? And do their utmost to ensure such an event did not pass unnoticed among Tipperary folk before bringing the trophy back to Noreside for the homecoming of all homecomings?

The dream died at Croke Park when the All Ireland champions fell to a late Tony Doran goal in the Leinster semi-final. There would be no three in a row and no triumphant return from Thurles. Yet Kilkenny's summer did not end there. Far from it. Three other teams remained active and each would get as far as their respective All Ireland decider. The under-21s and juniors won theirs. The minors came up short but theirs was the most interesting tale of all.

Among their number was Gerry Drennan, who at home in Galmoy one day when he was 14 heard that the 1984 All Ireland hurling final would be played in Semple Stadium, 100 years after the GAA had been founded around the corner in Hayes's Hotel. He'd be 18 then. Wouldn't it be great, he mused, if the Kilkenny minors got there and he was on the team? Wouldn't it be great if the Kilkenny minors and seniors got there, with him playing in the curtainraiser before taking his seat in the stand and watching Noel Skehan, Ger Henderson, Billy Fitz et al bring off the three in a row?

Drennan was in Croke Park to see Tony Doran do his thing in the provincial semi-final and returned home disappointed. He wouldn't be seeing the adults in Semple Stadium come September. Still, he reflected, he might yet get there himself. He cheered up instantly.

It was Drennan's second year as a county minor. His initial incarnation ended as soon as it began, with a loss to Dublin in the opening round in Athy on a Saturday night in 1983. As the years went by the defeat didn't look so bad, given that the Dublin team had possessed a brilliant forward called Niall Quinn. At the time, however, it was a massive upset and at Mass in Galmoy next morning Drennan's fellow parishioners refused to

believe the news. Thankfully he would fare better in his second coming with the minors, not least because he was now in UCD and exposed to the rigours of third-level hurling.

THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

If the 1984 iteration wasn't the most star studded of under-age cohorts it was no bunch of selling platers either. Kilkenny CBS were the local power at the time, having captured provincial titles in 1981, when they went on to win the All Ireland, and '83. St Kieran's had succeeded them as Leinster champions in '84. A Callan CBS outfit that featured John Power and Bosco Bryan reached successive All Ireland B finals in 1982 and '83. The pool of available talent had breadth and it had depth.

The Kilkenny trainer/coach was Rower-Inistioge clubman Fr Tom Murphy, two-time All Ireland winner in the 1960s, an enormously popular and engaging individual and instrumental in the establishment of O'Loughlin Gaels during his time as a curate in St John's. "A great man," says Billy Ayres of James Stephens, another panellist. "And you wouldn't think he was a priest on the training field. There was no turning the other cheek. He was a tough taskmaster although very approachable. But he'd let you know if you weren't doing the job."

Fr Murphy was joined by Terry Brennan (Bennettsbridge), Fr Liam Cassin (John Lockes), Seán Doherty (Galmoy), John Walsh (Mooncoin) and Georgie Leahy, the Bórd na Óg representative and chairman of selectors. Being a conscientious bunch they scoured the highways and byways of the county for talent. Among the clubs to feature on the panel were Danesfort, Carrickshock, Slieverue, Mullinavat, St Martin's, St Lachtain's, Young Irelands, Piltown, Fenians and Emeralds. James Stephens, at the time the undisputed power in the city, were well represented. Dicksboro and O'Loughlins, both of whom were labouring in the intermediate grade and exhibiting no signs of emerging any time soon, were not represented at all. Billy Ayres had his own reason for dreaming big. His grandfather Bill had been a member of the team that captured Kilkenny's first All Ireland title in the grade in 1931. His dad Joe had been on the 1960 team, also victorious. Billy was aiming to become the third generation of the family to win an All Ireland minor medal.

Seán Doherty, who's still with us and in the best of form in Galmoy, was taken by surprise by his call-up as a selector. Bennettsbridge, the 1983

minor champions, had defeated Galmoy in the northern final en route and decided to offer the latter a place on the selection committee in 1984. Doherty would be their representative.

THE ROAD TO SEMPLE STADIUM

Things began well off the pitch as well as on it. Kilkenny travelled to Mullingar for their opener and saw off Westmeath as comfortably as they were entitled to. They ate afterwards in a local hotel where there weren't enough seats for everyone. Who was among those who gave up their seats for these spotty youths? Merely Paddy Grace, the county secretary, on one of his last outings in the role. Alan McCormack, the goalkeeper, couldn't believe what it was seeing. It may have been a small thing but it was also, according to McCormack, "a huge moment". It turned out that the stories were true. Paddy Grace was indeed "the ultimate player's man". Even when that player was a teenager.

After disposing of Offaly next time out they caught Wexford at the death in the provincial decider. They were trailing by a point in the last minute when the sliotar hopped up into the hand of Walter Purcell, barely seconds on the field as a sub. (Seán Doherty was an admirer of the Windgap man, feeling his turn of pace and trickiness provided something different.) Purcell let fly and almost as soon as he connected swore silently. He hadn't hit it hard enough. The ball wasn't going to clear the crossbar. It didn't – and next thing he knew it was in the back of the neck. Did Billy Cleere get a touch along the way and might he have been in the square, Purcell wondered? Cleere hadn't and he wasn't. The green flag went up. Escape to an improbable victory.

"Walter Purcell got one puck of the ball in the Leinster minor hurling final and won the match for his native Kilkenny with a superb goal, struck off his left side, 35 yards out, and in the last minute, at Croke Park yesterday," reported Pat Roche in *The Irish Times*. "The Windgap lad was sent on for Billy Ayres with three minutes remaining and Kilkenny trailing. His shot for what would have been the equalising point dipped just under the black spot and hit the net."

Come the All Ireland semi-final in Thurles against Galway, the defending champions, Kilkenny once more rode their luck. Again they hit 2-10 following first-half goals by Cleere and Liam Egan; again it was just about enough. Galway had a last-minute free to level proceedings but hit the upright. Paddy Grace had died in the meantime, a living legend taken too young. He seemed to have been around for ages; he was only 66. The Kilkenny players wore shorts with a black stripe to honour him.

And so to Semple Stadium for the centenary final. Gerry Drennan's parents, greyhound people, went as usual to the dogs in Thurles on the Saturday night. They arrived back in Galmoy with a copy of the next day's match programme. There was their son's name in black and white. His dream of four years earlier was about to be realised. Among the maors and a member of the stewarding sub-committee was a young man from Roscrea, Seamus O'Doherty, later a resident of Ballyragget and chairman of St Patrick's GAA club there.

THE OPPOSITION

Limerick constituted doughty opponents. Trained by Phil Bennis, one of the county's heroes of 1973, they contained a hard core from Sexton Street CBS, among them Gary Kirby. From 1976 to '83 the county had contested six Munster finals in the grade and lost all of them; 1984 at last brought deliverance against Tipperary. They were big, in some cases monstrous. They were strong. They were, with the provincial monkey off their backs, confident. "The two teams left their dressing room at the same time and it nearly came to fisticuffs in the tunnel," Gerry Drennan recalls. "Limerick were really keyed up. That may have played a part in psyching us out for the first half."

There was a Wexford man sitting beside your correspondent - a recent All Ireland medallist called Nickey Brennan happened to be in front of us - in the uncovered seats on the Old Stand side. When Kilkenny took the field he declared in mournful tones that "these guys broke my heart in the

Leinster final". As the game unfolded he must have been wondering how these guys had done anything of the sort.

Limerick were laughably superior and led by 1-9 to 0-2 at half-time. Their opponents, whose scores had come from John Power after 15 minutes and Pat McEvoy (free) just before the interval, really had been that bad. Or possibly even worse, given that whereas in today's money a ten-point deficit would be substantial, in the currency of 40 years ago it was downright humongous. John Knox was covering the match for the *Kilkenny People* and received an unmerciful ribbing from his neighbours in the press box.

The second half began and nothing changed. With ten minutes left there were 11 points in it, 1-13 to 0-5. "Limerick were in almost complete control throughout the field as Kilkenny struggled to get moving as a team," Seán Kilfeather observed in *The Irish Times*. Eight minutes from time Walter Purcell, the late hero of the Leinster final, was introduced for Billy Cleere, upon which all changed utterly.

Pat McEvoy went for a goal from a 21-yard free, as he had to, and netted. The same player converted two frees. James Farrell sneaked a poacher's goal after Limerick failed to clear a long delivery. John Power made a point for Purcell. The latter then soloed in from the right with only one thing on his mind: get the ball to Tommy Lennon, the captain. It was, says Purcell, "a Hail Mary pass" but it found its intended recipient and Lennon made the rigging dance. Astoundingly Kilkenny were leading with the game in injury time. Fortunately for Limerick daylight robbery would not be enacted. They worked one last opportunity and Brian Stapleton took it with the second-last puck of the hour. Frank Murphy blew the final whistle.

Something else happened during the second half that requires mention. Val Murnane, the Limerick netminder, received a bang on the head midway through and was fitted with a bandage. On receiving Purcell's pass Tommy Lennon made sure to put it to Murnane's right-hand side on the basis that he'd noticed the bandage was thickest over the goalie's right eye and his vision would necessarily be impaired.

Did Murnane's injury and the consequent stoppage in play disrupt Limerick's rhythm, as was suggested afterwards? Gary Kirby doesn't think so. He ascribes Kilkenny's comeback to "one of those things" that happen in hurling all the time. A team that's been trailing suddenly get a run on their opponents and there's no stopping them. "As happened to us against Offaly in 1994..."

Limerick were, Kirby agrees, a hefty bunch. Pa Carey at full-back, Ger Hegarty at wing-back, Brian Stapleton up front. They'd been trying for years to win a provincial title and when at last they did so in 1984 the relief was immense. "We kind of caught the imagination of the Limerick public. We were attracting big crowds all year, particularly when we played in Bruff. Winning Munster was a massive thing too for Phil Bennis, who'd been over the minors for quite a while. He was years ahead of his time as a coach. Tactics, structure, defending. All the things you take for granted now."

THE REPLAY

The general reaction on Noreside was an interesting one. Rather than being disappointed that the team were deprived of victory, most people appeared relieved. Relieved that they hadn't in fact brought off the most improbable of triumphs. Relieved that such a poor performance hadn't received the most undeserved of rewards. Relieved that a bunch of young lads wouldn't be going around with big heads on them – and, worse, unmerited big heads.

Perhaps it was only fair, Seán Kilfeather mused at the end of his report, that both sides would get a second chance to produce a match worthy of the occasion. Seven days later they took it. A cracking encounter ensued, largely because of one downright startling event: Kilkenny hurled



Tom Lennon Kilkenny
Captain, lifts the 1984
Leinster Trophy

well. Really well. They produced what was by a mile their best performance of the campaign. Among the contributory factors was the rejigging of the team. In from the start came Paul Phelan, Billy Ayres, Walter Purcell and Michael Frisby. John Power wore 11 but was centre-back; Tommy Lennon wore six but was centre-forward. Another factor, Gerry Drennan surmises, may have been Limerick's comparative flatness. They'd used up most of their nervous energy seven days earlier.

Ayres had started every round except the drawn final. He'd broken his nose against Galway and in his first training session back shipped another slap on it. He'd been brought on before half-time against Limerick and now regained his place at wing-forward where he was marked by Ger Hegarty, better known these past few years as the father of Gearoid Hegarty.

Kilkenny's best didn't prove quite good enough. Goals by Liam Dowling and Purcell helped them lead 2-3 to 1-2 at the interval. In the process they blew themselves out and the loss of Gerry Drennan, who took a bad belt under the chin and was forced to retire, didn't help either. They would manage only a point in the second half. Proceedings concluded 2-5 to 2-4 in Limerick's favour, which was no less than justice demanded. Kilkenny hadn't won but they'd punched their weight and at the second time of asking given a true account of themselves. That was fair enough too.

Both finals can be seen on YouTube in their entirety, the drawn game as shown on RTE with Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh commentating, the replay a home movie made by someone sitting among the crowd in the Old Stand. The fare is, shall we say, of its time. Much of the striking is downright terrible, so laboured and telegraphed as to result in frequent hooking and blocking. Billy Ayres watched the replay recently. "Oh Lord. The pulling,

KILKENNY MINOR HURLERS 1984 CAMPAIGN

May 19th, Mullingar:
Kilkenny 3-9 Westmeath 1-1

June 23, Athy:
Kilkenny 4-6 Offaly 1-6

July 8th, Croke Park:
Kilkenny 2-10 Wexford 1-11

August 5th, Semple Stadium:
Kilkenny 2-10 Galway 2-9

September 2nd, Semple Stadium:
Kilkenny 3-8 Limerick 1-14

September 9th, Semple Stadium:
Limerick 2-5 Kilkenny 2-4

the slashing, the digging. Unreal. A fierce edge to it. So different to today. The quality now is unreal."

Different times, agrees Gary Kirby. "You played your position and tried to beat your man. That was it."

It was Limerick's first minor triumph since 1958, only their third ever and still their most recent. (Kirby: "Shocking, isn't it?") That particular bunch would go on to add under-21 honours in 1987 and poor Gary was still wearing the green and white for the county's Croke Park catastrophes of 1994 and '96.

John Power, in contrast, went on to win All Ireland senior medals with Kilkenny under both Ollie Walsh and Brian Cody. Eamon Morrissey, one of the subs who didn't see any action in 1984, matured late and

became an integral member of the 1992-93 team. Tommy Lennon came on in the 1987 All Ireland final. As postscripts go it was better than it might have been.

Two members of the panel are no longer with us: Bennettsbridge's Billy Cleere, who slept in the bath in Gerry Drennan's room in the Cashel Palace Hotel the night of the drawn All Ireland final, and Tony Byrne from Gowran. Both were great characters and are sadly missed.

Gerry Drennan still has lovely memories of the summer of 1984. The sunshine. The heat. The Fleadh Cheoil in Kilkenny. The visits to Langtons. Thurles twice. Less hearteningly, Billy Ayres failed to become the third generation of the family to win an All Ireland minor medal ("my father didn't let me forget about it either"). He's long over whatever disappointment there may have been, one takes it?

"No. Still not over it. You never remember the ones you win. You always remember the ones you lost. It still hurts."



LIMERICK MINOR HURLING TEAM 1984

*Back: Pat Davoren, Anthony Carmody, Gary Kirby, Brian Stapleton, Tony Byrnes, Ger Hegarty, Mike Reale, Pat Carey.
Front: Don Flynn, Andy Cuneen, Anthony O'Riordan, Vai Murnane, Gus Ryan, John O'Neill, Anthony Madden.*

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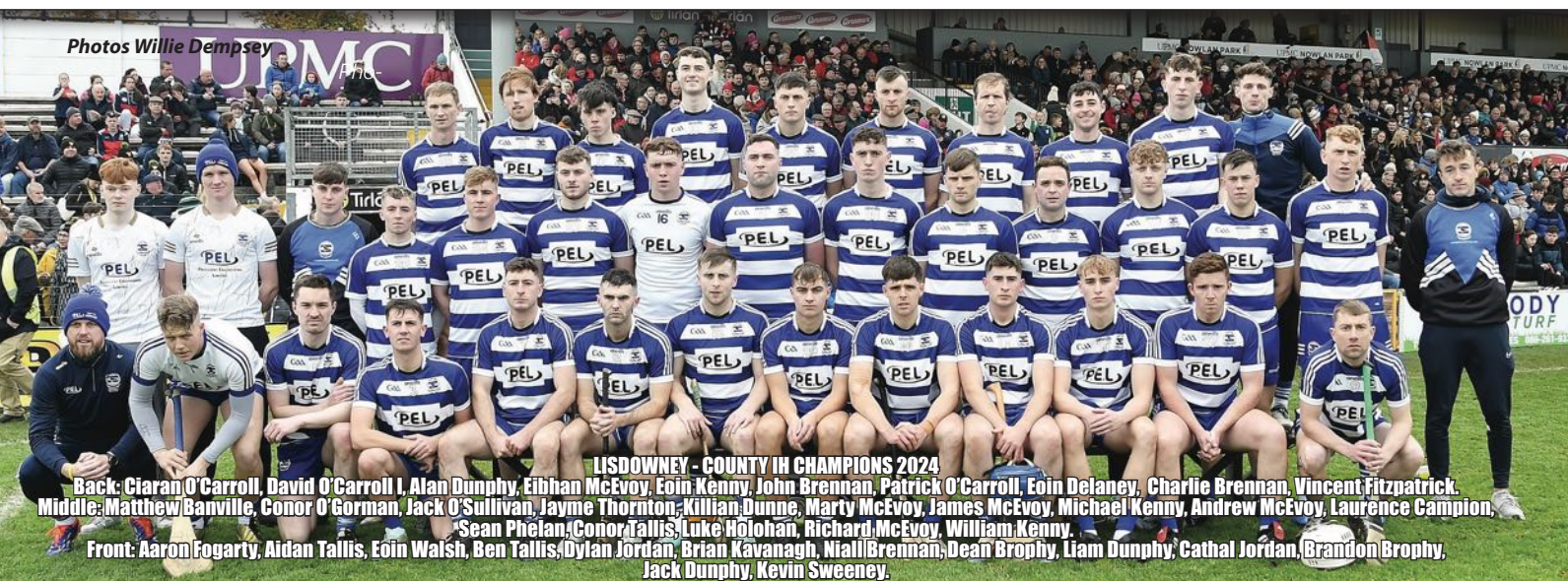


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Most deserving Winners

Lisdowney are Back!

County IH Championship Report by Conor Brennan



LISDOWNEY - COUNTY IH CHAMPIONS 2024

Back: Ciaran O'Carroll, David O'Carroll, Alan Dunphy, Eibhan McEvoy, Eoin Kenny, John Brennan, Patrick O'Carroll, Eoin Delaney, Charlie Brennan, Vincent Fitzpatrick.
Middle: Matthew Banville, Conor O'Gorman, Jack O'Sullivan, Jayme Thornton, Killian Dunne, Marty McEvoy, James McEvoy, Michael Kenny, Andrew McEvoy, Laurence Campion, Sean Phelan, Conor Tallis, Luke Holohan, Richard McEvoy, William Kenny.
Front: Aaron Fogarty, Aidan Tallis, Eoin Walsh, Ben Tallis, Dylan Jordan, Brian Kavanagh, Niall Brennan, Dean Brophy, Liam Dunphy, Cathal Jordan, Brandon Brophy, Jack Dunphy, Kevin Sweeney.

MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

The Hanrahan Cup is once again in the possession of Lisdowney after a frantic season of games, where if one were to analyse in depth the quality and scoring of each game from the opening round, one would arguably theorise that there were multiple teams who made a case for top honours at different times. However, the overall consistency of Lisdowney's performances during the year, coupled with their physical strength and sound hurling skills, ensured that they were most deserving of the county title.

This was reaffirmed from earlier in the season as Lisdowney also took the 2024 league title, following a 3-17 to 2-19 victory over Young Irelands (Gowran), also their future championship final opponents. It was Danesfort who took the league shield honours after a comprehensive victory over last year's junior county champions, Tullogher-Rosbercon, by 1-24 to 0-15.

A major surprise of the opening round clashes was the defeat of Carrickshock by Blacks & Whites in Inistioge on September 15th. The Skeough men hadn't secured a single point during the league stage, but hurled superbly in this game to deservedly take the win, albeit by a single point (0-17 to 1-13). It was an even first half with Carrickshock starting the brighter but Blacks & Whites responding before half-time to leave the scores at 0-7 apiece at the interval.

Though Carrickshock again started the second half well and were rewarded with a Kieran Conway goal, Blacks & Whites again fought back to level the game with ten minutes to go, with Niall Kennedy particularly to the fore for the Skeough men. Though Carrickshock tried to fight back, Blacks & Whites were able to get the crucial scores when they mattered most, and won their way to the quarter-finals by a single point.

A strong first quarter eventually set up for a good win for Mooncoin over Dunnamaggin, in a lively first round match played in Piltown. It was in the opening quarter that Mooncoin lay the seeds for victory, concluding a series of well taken points with a goal from Ciaran Quilty. Dunnamaggin, after a less than stirring start, fought back well with Denis Walsh from placed balls, Andy Hickey and Peter Keneally, they eventually reduced the gap to three points by the interval.

Both sides had their moments of dominance in the second half, but neither looked convincing enough to establish this in a major way. Dunnamaggin would rue a number of poor wides, and Mooncoin also had their difficulties holding possession. Paul Hennebery was strong at centre-back for Mooncoin, as he was the stand out player. In the end, Mooncoin had just about enough to hold on, winning in the end by 1-17 to 0-17.

Conahy Shamrocks and St. Martin's served up a particularly dramatic finish to their first round game in Ballyragget, with the latter snatching

victory with a late long range free from goalkeeper Colin McGrath to win by a single point. The winners also started the better, with James O'Neill at top of the right for St. Martin's playing a starring role. He eventually accounted for 0-8 of his side's total, all from play, in an excellent individual performance.

To Conahy's credit, they fought bravely during the first half, hitting some fine points via the likes of Tom Phelan, James Bergin, Eoin Cahill and Kieran Mooney. St. Martin's led by two at the halfway mark (0-14 to 0-12), but Conahy scored the first four points of the second half to take the lead. But St. Martin's found some composure, and were able to level the game coming into the final minutes.

The play became increasingly frantic as both sides searched for a winning score. It came when Colin McGrath pointed his free after some Conahy indiscipline. Conahy did have a chance to level with time almost up, but a free previously won was overturned for retaliation, and so St. Martin's held on for a 0-21 to 0-20 victory, condemning Conahy to a relegation battle with Carrickshock.



Captain Michael Kenny Lifts the Hanrahan Cup

The final first round game saw Rower-Inistioge overcome a typically dogged Fenians side in Palmerstown. The Johnstown men led by 1-9 to 0-9 at half-time, thanks to an opportunist goal from Kieran Grehan, who punished a poor clearance out of the Rower defence. Some harsh words were clearly said in the Rower dressing room at half-time because they upped their performance considerably in the second half. Michael Galavan, Eoin O'Brien and Kevin Murphy reduced their deficit to the minimum to set up a dramatic finish.

Fenians also had good scores from Willie Brennan and Conor Tobin, but the key score game with minutes to play when Jim Ryan was quick in reacting to a free to bat the ball to the Fenians net to give the Rower the lead. It gave the winners the boost they needed for victory, and they added three further points, to one in reply from the Johnstown men, to win out by 1-19 to 1-15.

Young Irelands and Blacks & Whites faced in an intriguing quarter-final clash, despite the Gowran men being strong favourites having had a big win in their previous league meeting. To their credit, the Skeough men gave as good as they got throughout, and even led by 0-10 to 0-7 at the break.

However, the momentum completely changed towards the Gowran men in the second half, starting with a Killian Carey goal from a penalty in the opening minute. Niall Kennedy with three pointed frees along with Martin Kelly did manage to keep the Skeough men in touch with the scores level (1-10 to 0-13). But while Blacks & Whites only added three pointed frees to the tally from there until the finish, the Gowran men added 1-9,



Michael Kenny and Pat Farrell clash



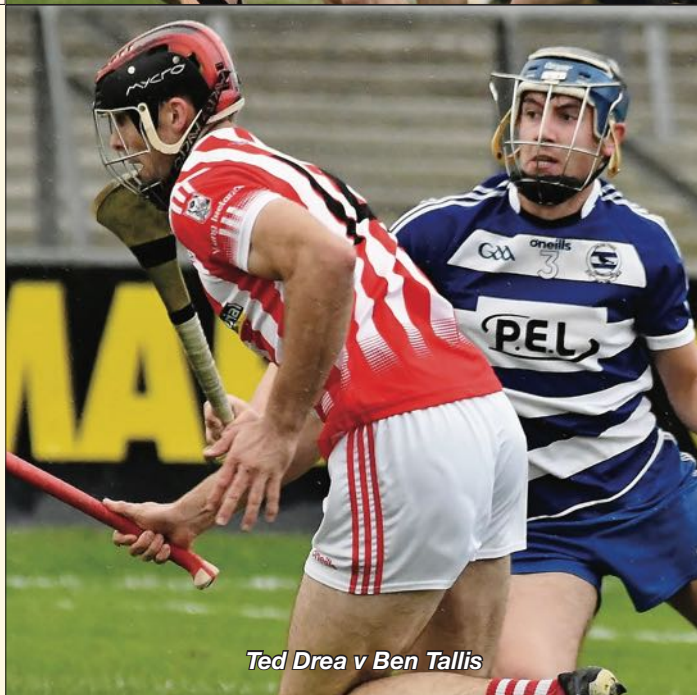
Outnumbered, a determined Padraig O'Neill drives out past Kevin Sweeney

with the goal coming from Sean Carey following a move started by his brother Mikey. Indeed, Sean finished with a fine scoring total of 1-11 (0-7 from frees), including the last four points of the game, to ensure Young Irelands advanced on a 2-19 to 0-16 score line.

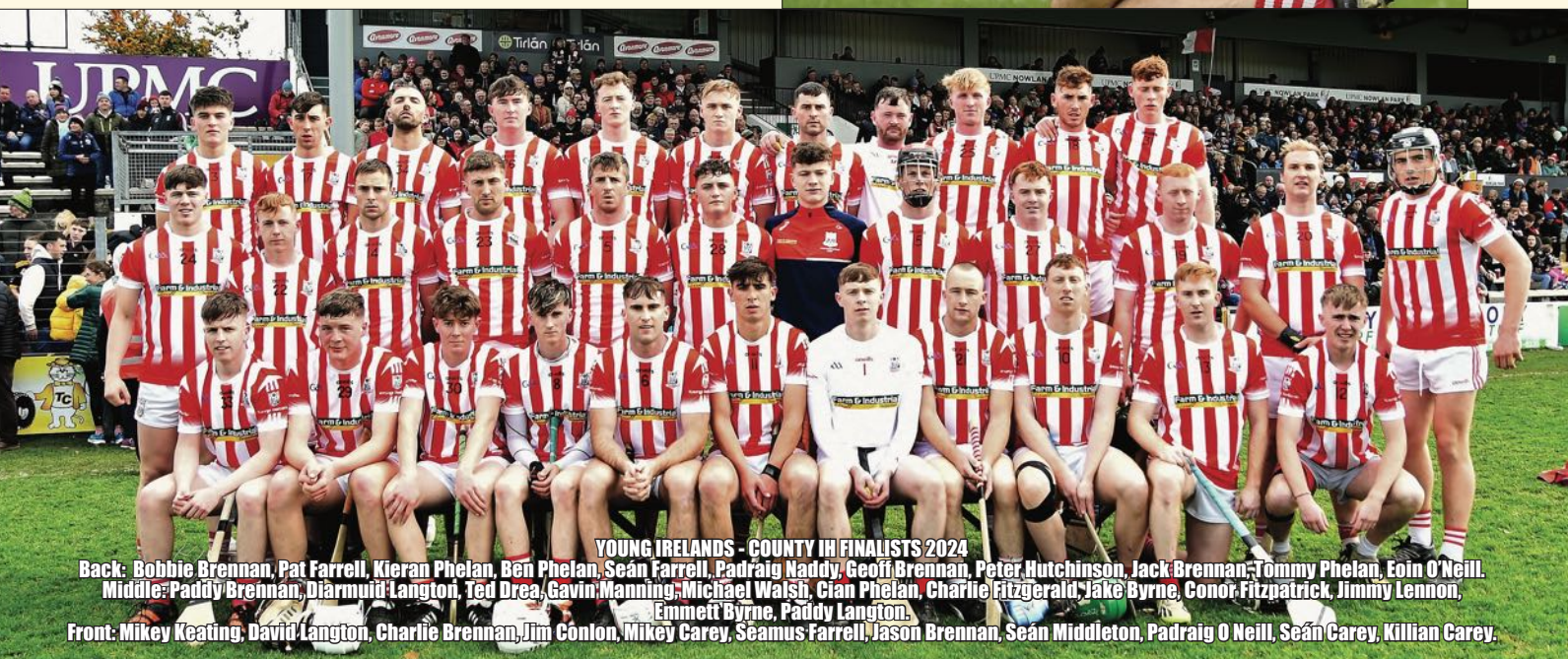
Lisdowney and St. Martin's fought a particularly close game in their quarter-final clash in Ballyragget. After an initial bright start by St. Martin's, Lisdowney responded with three consecutive points in the opening quarter. St. Martin's then scored the opening goal soon after, when Daniel Comerford blasted to the net past Aidan Tallis. Yet Lisdowney proved their mettle by taking the lead before half-time with four consecutive points, three from play from Liam Dunphy, and a point from a free from Brian Kavanagh, ensuring a 0-12 to 1-5 lead at the break.

The lead increased to seven early in the second half with further points from Brian Kavanagh and Dylan Jordan of Lisdowney. However, St. Martin's took this as their cue for a significant comeback, with Michael Keane, Shane Kinsella, Brian Cody, Sean Hunt and Aaron Farrell, along with a huge Colin McGrath free, all hitting the target to leave the minimum between the teams (0-16 to 1-12). Yet in the final minutes, it was Lisdowney who had the greater composure, with Brian Kavanagh, Liam Dunphy and Kevin Sweeney all scoring vital points before the finish to ensure Lisdowney progressed on a 0-20 to 1-14 score line.

Mooncoin also secured their passage to the semi-finals with a strong second half performance in defeating Tullagher-Rosbercon in their quarter-final in Mullinavat. Scores were swapped throughout the opening



Ted Drea v Ben Tallis



YOUNG IRELANDS - COUNTY IH FINALISTS 2024

Back: Bobbie Brennan, Pat Farrell, Kieran Phelan, Ben Phelan, Seán Farrell, Padraig Naddy, Geoff Brennan, Peter Hutchinson, Jack Brennan, Tommy Phelan, Eoin O'Neill.
Middle: Paddy Brennan, Diarmuid Langton, Ted Drea, Gavin Manning, Michael Walsh, Cian Phelan, Charlie Fitzgerald, Jake Byrne, Conor Fitzpatrick, Jimmy Lennon, Emmett Byrne, Paddy Langton.
Front: Mikey Keating, David Langton, Charlie Brennan, Jim Conlon, Mikey Carey, Seamus Farrell, Jason Brennan, Seán Middleton, Padraig O'Neill, Seán Carey, Killian Carey.

half with Cian O'Donoghue and Conor Hennessy to the fore for Tullogher, and Liam Hogan, Stephen Crowley and Killian Hogan responding in kind for Mooncoin. However, Tullogher led by 0-9 to 0-8 going into the break.

Yet, it was Mooncoin who dominated the second half, and having scored a number of points early on to take the lead, they scored the game's only goal through Oisín Hennebry. They could have had a goal previously but for a good save by Tullogher's Davy Walsh from a Paul Hennebry penalty. Danny Glennon in particular tried to rouse the Tullogher challenge, but Mooncoin continued to score points on a regular basis, and eventually won out by 1-22 to 0-16.

The most dramatic quarter-final was the clash between Danesfort and Rower-Inistioge in Thomastown, with extra-time and penalties required to separate the sides. It looked like Rower-Inistioge were destined for victory with minutes to play, leading by 0-18 to 0-11. However, Daire O'Neill (2), Jake Cullen and goalkeeper Paddy Hogan (free) scored four consecutive points in quick time for Danesfort to leave a goal between the sides. With a minute to play, Daire O'Neill was fouled as he ran towards the Rower-Inistioge goal, and goalkeeper Paddy Hogan came forward to blast the subsequent twenty metre free to the net to send the game to extra-time (1-15 to 0-18).

Rower-Inistioge again led after the first period of extra-time (0-22 to 1-18) thanks to Eoghan Lyng (2), Michael Galavan (free) and Pat Lyng. But once again Danesfort found momentum with four consecutive points from Ben Whitty (two frees), Darragh Coverdale and Sam Hayes. Yet there was another twist in the tale as a long delivery from the Rower-Inistioge defence somehow found its way to the Danesfort net via Michael Galavan, who managed to flick the ball into the net.

It set up the prospect of penalties, and in this regard, Paddy Hogan proved to be the hero for Danesfort. He scored a penalty along with his brother Richie and Darragh Coverdale, while saving a penalty from Pat Lyng, along with two further penalties from Rower-Inistioge that missed the target. The 3-0 tally of penalties ensured passage to the semi-finals for Danesfort after a marathon battle that could have gone either way.

Meanwhile, the relegation battle between Conahy Shamrocks and Carrickshock went the way of the southern side for the second year in a row. The key man for Carrickshock was their full-forward Eoghan O'Neill, whose tally of 2-7 proved to be the major difference between the sides. Conahy led by 0-9 to 0-8 at the half-way mark, which could have been more had they been more accurate in front of goal. Tom Phelan, Eoin Cahill, James Bergin (2) and Tom Rice did find the target for Conahy in the opening half, but Eoghan O'Neill scored his first goal early in the second half to give Carrickshock the lead.

Further points from Kieran Conway and the ageless Michael Rice saw Carrickshock open up a three point lead. Conahy did their level best to force their way back in contention, but the goal they likely needed to do so never materialised. In response, Carrickshock finished with 1-4 in the final minutes, including Eoghan O'Neill's second goal, to ensure their survival in intermediate grade for another year and leaving Conahy heartbroken at their demise (2-16 to 0-19).

The county semi-finals saw Lisdowney take on Mooncoin while Young Irelands faced off against Danesfort. The Lisdowney/Mooncoin tie in UPMC Nowlan Park was a repeat of the 2023 semi-final which Mooncoin won against the odds. On this occasion, it was the Lisdowney men who managed to snatch victory by a single point, 2-16 to 1-18. Aidan Tallis was one of the major heroes for Lisdowney, making crucial saves from Cormac Kinsella and Adam Croke during the game, as well as a brilliant effort to stop Ciaran Quilty from scoring an injury time winning goal at the death.

The sides were level at 1-9 apiece at half-time, with Oisín Hennebry scoring the goal for Mooncoin, and Brian Kavanagh the goalscorer for Lisdowney, after good work by Pat O'Carroll in the build up. It was genuinely difficult to guess who could be the ultimate victor, such was the narrow difference between both sides.

The scores were level on multiple occasions during the third quarter as the likes Liam Dunphy, Brian Kavanagh and substitute Eibhean McEvoy found the target for Lisdowney, while Cormac Kinsella, Liam Hogan and Adam Croke each pointed for Mooncoin. The crucial score came with a Lisdowney goal from Eibhean McEvoy with ten minutes to play, and giving Lisdowney a four point lead as a result.

However, Mooncoin began to lay siege to the Lisdowney goal in the final frantic minutes. Ciaran Quilty was denied a goal by Aidan Tallis, but Liam Hogan did point two frees in added time. But it wasn't to be for Mooncoin, as time and chances ran out on them, and Lisdowney held on for a one point win.

MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2024			
FIRST ROUND			
Blacks & Whites	0-17	Carrickshock	1-13
St. Martin's	0-21	Conahy Shamrocks	0-20
Rower-Inistioge	1-19	Fenians	1-15
Mooncoin	1-17	Dunnamaggin	0-17
QUARTER-FINALS			
Young Irelands	2-19	Blacks & Whites	0-16
Lisdowney	0-20	St. Martin's	1-14
Danesfort	1-22	Rower-Inistioge	1-22 (AET)
(Danesfort win 3-0 on penalties)			
Mooncoin	1-22	Tullogher-Rosbercon	0-16
SEMI-FINALS			
Lisdowney	2-16	Mooncoin	1-18
Young Irelands	0-20	Danesfort	0-18
FINAL			
Lisdowney	2-12	Young Irelands	0-15
RELEGATION FINAL			
Carrickshock	2-16	Conahy Shamrocks	0-19

It was their second half performance that propelled Young Irelands to victory over Danesfort in the other semi-final in UPMC Nowlan Park. Having trailed by 0-14 to 0-11 at half-time, the Gowran men came thundering into the game in the second half, and limited Danesfort to four points. Sean Carey and Ted Drea were also particularly prominent during the second half, scoring fourteen points in total between the two of them over the hour. The exchanges also got increasingly challenging as the game progressed due mainly to the stiffening wind blowing across the field in UPMC Nowlan Park.

Yet, the Gowran men closed out the game as they wished, not allowing any Danesfort score in the final ten minutes. Sean Carey was to the fore in the Gowran attack, scoring from play and frees, confirming as hoped of their county final place. Mikey Carey, like his brother Sean, was equally dominant in a strong performance in the middle of the Gowran defence. In the end, the Gowran men were able to hold for a deserved victory, winning in the end by 0-20 to 0-18.

The final was played on October 20th in UPMC Nowlan Park, with observers feeling that like the league final a few weeks previously, there would be little between Lisdowney and Young Irelands on this occasion. Getting scores at the crucial stages was what ultimately swung the winning of the game in Lisdowney's favour. The two goals they scored came courtesy of Liam Dunphy and Cathal Jordan in either half. But huge credit must also go to their defence along with goalkeeper Aidan Tallis, in particular Mick Kenny, Dylan Jordan and Niall Brennan, who played a sweeper role very efficiently in the middle of the back line.

Lisdowney led by 1-8 to 0-6 at the half-time break, with the blustery conditions in UPMC Nowlan Park making fluid play all the more difficult. Brian Kavanagh (Lisdowney) and Sean Carey (Young Irelands) were to the fore as their respective side's free takers during the half. Ted Drea and Killian Carey also found the range for the Gowran men in the opening half, while Pat and David O'Carroll, along with Dylan Jordan, were on target for Lisdowney.

The gap between the sides was eventually opened to seven points early in the second half with the second Lisdowney goal from Cathal Jordan, and one sensed that Lisdowney could not be caught. However, to their immense credit, Young Irelands continued to battle, and managed to score five consecutive points without reply through Sean Carey, Paddy Langton and Killian Carey to start the final quarter. This left two points between the sides with six minutes left to play.

However, Lisdowney were not to be denied, and they regained their composure with Dylan Jordan and Brian Kavanagh (free) on target to settle their supporters. Young Irelands did reply with a late Seamus Farrell point, but it wasn't enough as the clock ran out, and Lisdowney won out by 2-12 to 0-15. Team captain Mick Kenny received the Hanrahan Cup from his fellow clubman, Kilkenny County Board Chairman P.J. Kenny, to great celebrations from the Lisdowney faithful.



MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS HYUNDAI



The Winning Team!



*Michael Kenny, Captain Lisdowney, receives the Intermediate League Trophy from PJ Kenny Chairman with Michael Lyng and Neill Lyng - Michael Lyng Motors Sponsors
(Photo Willie Dempsey)*

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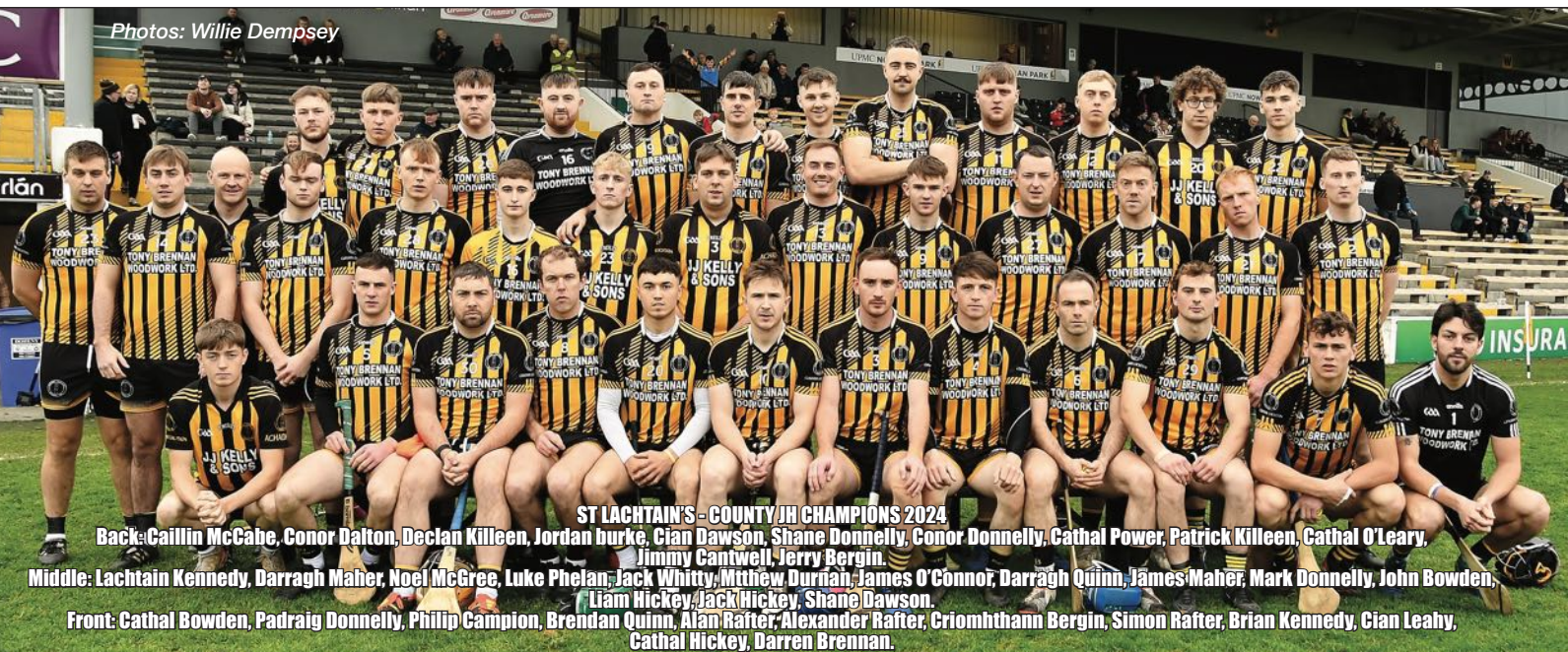
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LACHTAIN'S RETURN!

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

Photos: Willie Dempsey



ST LACHTAIN'S - COUNTY JH CHAMPIONS 2024

Back: Caillin McCabe, Conor Dalton, Declan Killeen, Jordan Burke, Cian Dawson, Shane Donnelly, Conor Donnelly, Cathal Power, Patrick Killeen, Cathal O'Leary, Jimmy Cantwell, Jerry Bergin.

Middle: Lachtain Kennedy, Darragh Maher, Noel McGree, Luke Phelan, Jack Whitty, Mitheo Durnan, James O'Connor, Darragh Quinn, James Maher, Mark Donnelly, John Bowden, Liam Hickey, Jack Hickey, Shane Dawson.

Front: Cathal Bowden, Pdraig Donnelly, Phillip Campion, Brendan Quinn, Alan Rafter, Alexander Rafter, Criomhthann Bergin, Simon Rafter, Brian Kennedy, Cian Leahy, Cathal Hickey, Darren Brennan.

2024 JJ KAVANAGH PREMIER JUNIOR HURLING FINAL.

St. Lachtain's 2-15, Windgap 1-12.

St. Lachtain's Freshford, relegated in October 2022, and beaten junior finalist to Tullogher Rosbercon in 2023, returned to the Intermediate grade for next season, with a deserved six-point victory over Windgap on 2/11/2024.

Two goals early in the second half gave the black and amber side a third Junior grade victory, adding to those of 1959 and 1993. It was a disappointing climax to the season for Windgap, having also come up short versus Blacks and Whites in the 2022 final.

St. Lachtain's led 0-4 to 0-3 after eleven minutes of the final, but a goal from a mishit Emmett Landy free and a pointed free the same player, had the Southerners ahead by the fourteenth minute. At the interval, the sides were level, 1-6 to 0-9, but Windgap had many wides in the opening period and could have easily been six points clear.

A Cathal O'Leary point from play within thirty seconds of the restart had Lachtain's ahead, but James Power (free) and Billy Power, within four further minutes, had Windgap back in the lead. This final was decided between the 38th and 40th minute. Two Freshford goals put them 2-10 to 1-8 clear, and they were never really challenged afterwards. Goal One - A distance free from goalie Darren Brennan came down off the post and the alert Paddy Killeen immediately pounced to raise a green flag. Goal Two - A St Lachtains passing move from the old stand side was finished to the net at the second attempt by Cathal O'Leary, after Eoin O'Shea in the Windgap goal

JJ KAVANAGH PREMIER JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

ROUND ONE

Barrow Rangers	0-17,	Kilmacow	1-10
Graigenamagh	3-18,	John Lockes	0-11
Emeralds	0-20,	Cloneen	1-13
Piltown	3-18,	St Patricks	2-19

ROUND TWO

Graigenamagh	2-20,	Slieverue	2-10
Galmoy	0-28,	Piltown	0-25

QUARTER FINALS

James Stephens	1-17,	O'Loughlin's	2-13
(Section B County Final)			
St. Lachtain's	4-14,	Galmoy	1-19
Emeralds	1-20,	Barrow Rangers	1-17
Windgap	3-19,	Graigenamagh	1-18

SEMI FINALS

St. Lachtain's	0-27,	James Stephens	1-14
Windgap	2-25,	Emeralds	0-22

COUNTY FINAL

St. Lachtain's	2-15,	Windgap	1-12
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WINDGAP - COUNTY JUNIOR FINALISTS & JUNIOR LEAGUE WINNERS 2024

Back: Darragh Doyle, Josh Price, Noah O'Shea, Eion Franey, Sean Foley, Killian Enright, Billy Power, Jack O'Shea, Padhraic Foley, Sean Power.
Middle: Jim Power Snr, Shane Lomax, Padi Bacon, Jim Power Jr, James Purcell, Cian O'Rourke, Ronan O'Brien, Pat Power, Zak Kennedy, Sean Purcell, James Power, Michael Power, Killian Doyle.
Front: Shane Walsh, Emmett Landy, Darragh O'Shea, Pat Grace (VC), Conor Doyle, James Culleton, Eoin O'Shea, Jack Doyle, Cian Ryan, Adam O'Shea, Niall Walsh (C), Willie Phelan. Inset: Peter Landy.

had smothered the first attempt. From here to the finish there was only going to be one winner, Lachtain's finished strongly, and the last two points of the game, by substitutes Liam Hickey and Alan Rafter, both in the added minutes, assisted St. Lachtain's path to lifting the Bob Aylward Cup.

St. Lachtain's had star performers in the previous Kilkenny senior trio of the evergreen Brian Kennedy, goalie Darren Brennan and James Maher. Others to shine in a fine team performance were captain Criomthann Bergin, Padraig Donnelly, Cathal Hickey, Brendan Quinn and Cathal O'Leary. Some of the players who performed so well for Windgap over the last two seasons didn't bring their A game on junior final day. Niall Walsh and Sean Power were amongst those who tried hard throughout.

St. Lachtain's: Darren Brennan, Shane Dawson, Criomthann Bergin (captain), Simon Rafter, Padraig Donnelly, Brian Kennedy (0-1), Cathal Hickey, Brendan Quinn, Mark Fennelly, Alexander Rafter (0-1), Paddy Killeen (1-0), Cathal O'Leary (1-7, 0-5 frees), James Maher (0-3), Darragh Maher (0-1), Shane Donnelly. Subs; Liam Hickey (0-1) for Paddy Killeen, Cian Dawson for Darragh Maher, Alan Rafter (0-1) for Shane Donnelly, Conor Donnelly for Alexander Rafter.

Windgap: Eoin O'Shea, Cian Ryan, Darragh O'Shea, Pat Power, Willie Phelan, Niall Walsh (captain), Sean Purcell (0-2, 0-1 frees), Zak Kennedy, Sean Power, Pat Grace, Emmet Landy (1-3, 1-2 frees), Jack Doyle (0-1), James Culleton, James Power (0-4, 0-4 frees), Billy Power (0-2). Subs; Adam O'Shea for Pat Grace, Sean Foley for Pat Power, Padhraic Foley for Zak Kennedy, Conor Doyle for James Culleton, Michael Power for Jack Doyle.

In the early season preliminary competitions there were wins for O'Loughlin Gaels in the Paddy Cahill Cup and Erin's Own in the Kevin Fennelly Cup.

Paddy Cahill Cup Final.

O'Loughlin Gaels 1-19, Thomastown 0-17, played on 15/6 at Danesfort.

Kevin Fennelly Cup Final.

Erin's Own 0-18, St Lachtains 0-11, played on 19/6 at James Stephens Ground, Kells Road.

Along with losing finalists Windgap, improving teams like Emeralds, Graiguenamanagh and Galmoy showed enough in 2024 to suggest we will have lots more close competition in the upcoming season.

JJ Kavanagh Junior A Hurling Championship 2024

Quarter Finals: Young Irelands 4-19, St. Patrick's 1-18

Barrow Rangers 4-13, O'Loughlin Gaels 0-22

Dunnamaggin 0-21, Graigue-Ballycallan 1-13

Tullaroan 2-25, Mullinavat 4-14

Semi-Finals: Young Irelands 1-27, Barrow Rangers 1-20

Dunnamaggin 2-19, Tullaroan 1-16.

Final: Young Irelands 2-15, Dunnamaggin 0-18.

JJ KAVANAGH KILKENNY JUNIOR A HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL.

Young Irelands 2-15(21), Dunnamaggin 0-18.

Young Irelands (Gowran) took the JJ Kavanagh County Junior A hurling championship for only the second time in their history, with victory over a gallant Dunnamaggin team at Nowlan Park on Friday 23/08/2024.

Their previous win was also against Dunnamaggin, in 1997, nine points between the sides back then, this time just three.

This was a highly competitive contest, on an evening that gave us sunshine, wind, and a shower of almost biblical proportions midway through the second half. The 2024 Irish summer on display in 60

minutes of hurling!

This final was always going down to the wire, level at the interval, still all square after 47 minutes, but down the home straight, Young Irelands outscored Dunnamaggin by five points to two.



The two-opening half Gowran goals were the decisive scores. The first one was on nine minutes by Killian Carey, scored after a fine teamwork passing movement along the new stand side of the ground (1-1 to 0-3). The second, just six minutes later, again by Carey, after a first goal bound effort was blocked clear by the Dunnamaggin defence (2-3 to 0-5). Diarmuid Langton followed this with a further point, but in fairness to the Dunnamaggin outfit, they finished the first half the stronger.

Half time - Young Irelands 2-5 (11), Dunnamaggin 0-11.

Dunnamaggin introduced Adam Fitzpatrick for the second half, and he rowed in with three points from play, but his side were chasing the game in the second period. The later points in the game, by Killian Carey (2), Jake Byrne, Diarmuid Langton and Jimmy Lennon, were vital scores, that resulted in victory for Gowran. In the same closing dozen minutes, only Adam Fitzpatrick and JJ Dunphy pointed for Dunnamaggin. In the closing couple of added time minutes, Dunnamaggin sought an equalising goal, but the Young Irelands defence held firm, to earn a place in the junior championship proper in 2025.

Young Irelands had fine performances from the likes of Emmett Byrne, scorer in chief Killian Carey and Diarmuid Langton. For the losers Aaron Doherty, JJ Dunphy, Anthony

Kearney, ex All Ireland Senior winner Seaghan O'Neill and Adam Fitzpatrick gave their all.

Young Irelands: Peter Hutchinson, Charlie Fitzgerald, Emmett Byrne, Sean Middleton (Captain), David Langton, Sean Farrell, Jim Conlon, Killian Carey (2-7, 0-6 frees), Jimmy Lennon (0-1), Paddy Brennan (0-1), Jack Brennan, Gavin Manning, Dylan Carey (0-2), Conor Fitzpatrick, Diarmuid Langton (0-3)

Subs: Ben Phelan for Conor Fitzpatrick, Jake Byrne (0-1) for Dylan Carey, Tim Brennan, Cian Phelan, Charlie Brennan, Eoin O'Neill, Luke Phelan, Mikey Keating, David Drennan, Jack Blagriff, Ciaran Kavanagh, David Holland, Kieran Phelan, Michael Lennon.

Dunnamaggin: James Logue, Paddy Delaney, Jack Brett (Captain), Cathal Walsh, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Aaron Doherty, Jimmy O'Neill, Paul Kirwan (0-1), Alex Moore, JJ Dunphy (0-2), Peter Kenneally, Ruaidhri Holden (0-1), Colin Fitzpatrick (0-1), Anthony Kearney (0-3), Seaghan O'Neill (0-7, 0-6 frees).

Subs: Adam Fitzpatrick (0-3) for Jack Brett, Ross O'Neill for Seaghan O'Neill, Sean Carroll, Mark Dowling, Colin Herity, Aaron Moore, Sean Lawton, Eoin Sheil, Jason Doherty, Killian Tallon, Cathal Buckley, Michael Costello.

Referee: Gay Rafter.

JJ Kavanagh Junior B Hurling Championship 2024

Quarter-Finals: Threecastles 2-18, Conahy Shamrocks 0-16

Fenians 3-19, Glenmore 0-16

St. Lachtains 1-15, Tullogher Rosbercon 0-15

Bennettsbridge 1-20, James Stephens 0-15

Semi-Finals: Threecastles 2-15, Fenians 3-11

St Lachtain's 0-20, Bennettsbridge 1-16

Final: Threecastles 0-16, St. Lachtains 0-15.

JJ KAVANAGH KILKENNY JUNIOR B HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL.

Threecastles 0-16, St. Lachtains 0-15.

They say of waiting for a bus, "you wait ages for one – and then two come along at the same time." This was the case for Threecastles





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*St Lachtain's Captain Criomhthann Bergin receives the Junior Cup from PJ Kenny, Chairman,
also Jimmy Tone JJ Kavanagh Sponsor
(Photo Willie Dempsey)*

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GAA Club at Nowlan Park on Sunday 25/08/2024. History was again made, as Threecastles, a club that waited 83 years for a first adult county title in 2023, followed last year's Junior C success, with a follow up Junior B victory, in a highly entertaining contest at Kilkenny GAA headquarters. This one was just as sweet for the club, who make up just one fifth of Freshford parish, as they edged neighbours St Lachtains in a thrilling encounter.

This was a quality clash, a local derby clash of the ash between neighbours, played in an excellent spirit throughout, before a crowd of 1000 or so engrossed spectators. The lead ebbed and flowed throughout, the result could easily have gone the other way, but Threecastles took the silverware on offer, having shown great resilience throughout.

Threecastles were first off, the mark with points from Eamon Hennessy (free) and Jack Cleere after an interception. Cian Dawson opened Freshford's account after nine minutes. Midway through the half Threecastles opened a lead of 0-6 to 0-3, but Lachtains were now settling, and four unanswered scores by veteran Noel McGree, Alan Rafter, Conor Donnelly from distance, and another Rafter score from a free, had them a point clear, 0-7 to 0-6. Two points from placed balls by Eamonn Hennessy gave Threecastles back the lead, but an individual score by Donnelly, along a Rafter free, had St Lachtains one clear at the interval.

Half time - St Lachtains 0-9; Threecastles 0-8.

Threecastles had the wind for the new half, but it was Cian Dawson, now working at full-forward, who opened the second half scoring for St Lachtains. Eamonn Hennessy replied from play for Threecastles. Donnelly and a Rafter (free) had Lachtains 0-12 to 0-9 clear on 39 minutes. Jack Clarke (T) and Rafter (SL) swapped points, leaving Lachtains still three clear. In the next dozen minutes Threecastles had a sequence of four unanswered points, as both sets of supporters roared on their respective sides. Jack Cleere, Johnny Manogue and two Eamonn Hennessy frees were the scorers (Threecastles 0-14 to 0-13 ahead). Lachtains regained the lead by 57 minutes, with points from Philip Campion and Alan Rafter. However, two late scores from the excellent Eamonn Hennessy, from a placed ball and a free, saw Threecastles home by a single point, 0-16 to 0-15, after an epic encounter.

Star players like Jack Cleere, Eamonn Hennessy and Cian Franey will now participate in the Junior A grade for 2025.

St. Lachtains gave their all, with goalie Robbie Dowling, Conor Donnelly, Noel McGree and Alan Rafter amongst their star players on the afternoon.

Threecastles: Conrad Cooper, Joe Lacey, Frank Keoghan, David Cleere, Nick O'Shea, Jack Cleere (0-3), John Manogue (0-1), Darragh Walsh (C), Cormac Rafter, Cian Russell, Eamonn Hennessy (0-11, 6 frees, 1 "65", VC) Kyle Maher, Eoin Dalton, Cian Franey (0-1), Mark Cleere.

Subs: Tommy Rafter for Cian Russell, Joey Dalton for Nick O'Shea, Darren Mullen for Tommy Rafter, Jack Boland for Kyle Maher, Marcus Trait, Eoin O'Donnell, Vinny O'Donnell, Ciaran Dalton, Eoin Dalton, Frank Campion, Colm O'Grady, Seamus McEvoy, Tomas Cassin, Adam Ryan, Pat Trait, Andy Campion, Bernard Mullen, Canice Pratt, Liam Russell, Liam Walsh, David Butler, Craig Kennington.

St Lachtains: Robbie Dowling, Jack Hickey (C), Lachtain Kennedy, Cian Leahy, John Bowden,



Jerry Bergin, Shane Dawson, Conor Donnelly (0-3), Conor Dalton, Cian Dawson (0-2), Noel McGree (0-1), Alan Rafter (0-8, 6 frees), Philip Campion, Jordan Burke (0-1), Matthew Duman,

Subs: John Campion for Johnny Bowden, James O'Connor for Matthews Duncan, Barry Hughes for Noel McGree, Mark Nolan, Darragh Quinn, Jimmy Cantwell, Luke Phelan, Cathal Bowden, Declan Killeen, Caillin McCabe, Shea Burke, Michael Murphy, Colin Mc Gree, Jamie Denieffe, Cathal Power (injured), Harry Burke (injured).

Referee: Julian O'Dwyer.

Iverk Produce Junior C Hurling Championship 2024

Quarter-Finals: Danesfort 1-26, Galmoy 1-10

Piltown 1-25, Blacks and Whites 1-18

Lisdowney 2-15, Cloneen 2-10

Windgap 0-17, Kilmacow 0-9

Semi-Finals: Danesfort 1-15, Piltown 0-15

Lisdowney 3-17, Windgap 2-16

Final

Danesfort 1-22 (25); Lisdowney 2-19 (25) a.e.t., Danesfort won 3-1 on penalties).

IVERK PRODUCE KILKENNY JUNIOR C HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL.

Danesfort 1-22 (25), Lisdowney 2-19 (25). (after extra time, Danesfort won 3-1 on penalties).

Danesfort 3, Lisdowney 1, is the type of scoreline more associated with other codes, but that is how it finished at Nowlan Park on Sunday 25/08/2024, as Danesfort clinched the Junior C County title on penalties. This was a high-quality hurling contest between two rural parishes, both displaying a never say die attitude, renowned in Kilkenny hurling at all grades.

In his excellent acceptance speech, Danesfort vice captain Stephen Duncan referenced the final penalty outcome being a "toss of a coin" method of deciding the Junior C trophies destination.

For a Junior C final this was high quality fare, with all participants giving their all, from throw in time of 5.45pm to almost 8pm, as dusk set in, at the local GAA headquarters. Lisdowney had the aid of the wind in the opening half and were two points to the good at the interval, 1-6 to 0-7. The goal was the result of a penalty by Rory Hickey, having been fouled himself close to the Danesfort goalmouth. The excellent Rory contributed 1-3 in the opening half from placed balls. For Lisdowney Matthew Cowley with three points from play and their accurate free taker Stephen McKenna (0-3) were the main contributors to the scoreboard.

Rory Hickey (free) and Darragh Mackey had Lisdowney three points ahead within a few minutes of the restart, but for the next twelve minutes it was all Danesfort scores. Four points from McKenna (a "65", a free, and two scores from distance) and one by full forward Conor Tallis, in a five-minute spell, leaving them 0-12 to 1-8 ahead.

A feature of the game was long range point attempts from Lisdowney goalie Aaron Fogarty, and he pointed one such effort on 41 minutes to level matters.

A Stephen McKenna free put Danesfort back in front, but then Lisdowney had their best spell of the game. Five unanswered points by Rory Hickey (3 frees), Darragh Mackey and another Aaron Fogarty distance free, left Lisdowney four points clear, 1-14 to 0-13. Danesfort were not finished, and when captain Stephen Duncan was grounded in the square, referee Brian Fox waved for a penalty, put away by James Mullally. Although Darragh Mackey put Lisdowney two clear, 1-15 to 1-13, in the 57th minute, two further Danesfort points by Dan Dowling and Ciaran Mullin meant we would require extra time

Full time - Danesfort 1-15, Lisdowney 1-15.

Five successive Danesfort points by Stephen McKenna (4 frees) and a great score from the sideline by Matthew Cowley set their side up for victory. Two Rory Hickey frees reduced the lead to three 1-17 to 1-20 at the end of the first extra period.

Players were now cramping on both sides, but throwing in the towel was not an option for Lisdowney. Two Rory Hickey frees were replied to by two 'Fort scores by Stephen McKenna (free) and the excellent Matthew Cowley.

It was still Danesfort 1-22 to 1-19, and we were now in the second added minute of the final extra period. A "hail Mary" free landed in the Danesfort goalmouth, and Lisdowney substitute Tadhg Blanchfield was credited with the goal, that would take us to the dreaded penalties to decide ultimate victors. Danesfort went first to take a penalty and scored. Lisdowney missed their opening pair, and eventually it was the club on the Waterford Road who took the spoils on a 3-1 scoreline.

Matthew Cowley, Dan Dowling, Stephen McKenna, James Cunningham, and Conor Condon were amongst the star performers for the winners. Rory Hickey, Eoin Delaney, Darragh Mackey and Aaron Fogarty were best performers for an unlucky Lisdowney.

Quite the afternoon at Nowlan Park!

Danesfort: Tim Murphy, Padraig Barraghy, Dan



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS - JUNIOR A LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2023



BENNETTSBRIDGE - JUNIOR B LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2024



WINDGAP - JUNIOR C LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2024



ST MARTIN'S - JUNIOR E LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2024



ST LACHTAIN'S - JUNIOR F LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2024

Dowling (0-1), Evan Srouji, Darragh Coverdale, James Cunningham (VC), Conor Condon, Sam Hayes, Ciaran Mullin (0-1), Cillian Norton, Stephen McKenna 0-13, 8 frees, 1 "65", Mathew Cowley (0-5), James Mullally (1-0, penalty), Eoin Brennan (0-2), Stephen Duncan.

Subs: Eugene Sinnott for Cillian Norton, Dylan Dunphy, Kevin Ireland, Stephen Duncan (Captain), Bill Smith, Mark Srouji, John Davis, Louis Jameson, Cathal Norton, Mark Fitzpatrick,

Jack Doyle, John Canny, Joe Cowhig, Cian O'Reilly, Tom Sheehan, Niall Farrell.

Lisdowney: Aaron Fogarty (0-3, frees), Jayme Thornton, Ray Fitzpatrick Jack O'Sullivan (C), Brandon Brophy, Peter Bergin, Joe Bergin, Dean Brophy (VC), Niall Mackey, Eoin Delaney (0-1), Niall Kenny, Rory Hickey (1-10, 9 frees, 1 penalty), Darragh Mackey (0-4), Mark Srouji, Paddy Bowden (0-1).

Subs: Conor Tallis for Niall Mackey, Brian Campion for Eoin Delaney, Tadhg Blanchfield (1-0), Niall Grogan, Jimmy Delaney, Eoin Delahunty, Dean McCann, Conor O'Gorman, Billy Grogan, Matthew Barville, Patrick Kennedy, Seamus Murphy, Jack McGree, Peter O'Sullivan, Ruadhan Downey, Lee McCann, Eddie Hickey (injured), Luke Moore (injured).

Referee: Brian Fox.

Country Style Foods Junior D Hurling Championship 2024

Quarter-Finals: Graignamanagh 1-18, Thomastown 2-14

Dicksboro 3-14, Slieverue 3-11

Erin's Own 5-15, Barrow Rangers 3-4

Rower Inistioge 3-18, Clara 2-7

Semi-Finals: Graignamanagh 4-26, Dicksboro 1-9

Erin's Own 3-14, Rower Inistioge 1-9

Final: Graiguenamanagh 2-15, Erins Own 1-14.

COUNTRYSTYLE FOODS KILKENNY JUNIOR D HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL.

Graiguenamanagh 2-15, Erins Own 1-14.

Graiguenamanagh made it a Junior D Hurling league and championship double for 2024 with a four-point victory over Erins Own, Castlecomer in the Countrystyle Foods final at UPMC Nowlan Park on Saturday 31/08/2024. This current season is proving to be a good year for Graignamanagh, as along with this double they have also won a County Junior Football Championship back in April.

This was a close contest throughout, Graignamanagh led by two points at the interval, but they still needed to defend manfully in the final few minutes, to record a hard-earned victory. Former senior player Peader Boran opened the scoring for the Comer men on five minutes, added to by a fine solo run and point by James Coogan three minutes later.

Graiguenamanagh eventually got going in a low scoring opening quarter, to take the lead with three pointed frees. Two from the left-handed Tommy Dreehan, sandwiching a right-handed Steven Kinsella placed ball (0-3 to 0-2). Comer's James Coogan from 60 metres levelled matters.

Conor Clarke (EO) put his side ahead before both sides exchanged goals in a one-minute spell around the 20th minute. Dylan Cahill finishing a fine team move for Graiguenamanagh, at the other end it was Peader Boran raising the green flag after a long delivery into the square by James Coogan (1-4 each). It was almost score for score throughout the rest of the first half, until two late Graiguenamanagh points by Niall Hayden from 90 metres, and a Stephen Kinsella free left them two clear at the break.

Half time Graiguenamanagh 1-8, Erins Own 1-6.

James Coogan opened the 'Comer scoring after the interval, but Graig replied with two Steven Kinsella points from play. Erins Own then had two scores from Conor Clarke and Peader Boran, to leave just two points in it (1-7 to 1-9).

It was between the 37th and 47th minute that this Junior D final was decided, as Graiguenamanagh added 1-2 without reply. A point from play by Steven Kinsella, a Jack Dunne individual goal, and a further pointed free by Kinsella (2-12 to 1-9).

Credit Erins Own for battling on however with four pointed frees from James Coogan to reduce the margin to two points (1-13 to 2-12). Points by Sean Walsh and Nicky Ryan brought the Graiguenamanagh lead back to four (2-14 to 1-13), and both sides added a further point each, as three goal efforts by Comer were well defended by a solid Graigue rearguard.

The 'green and white' jersey men deserved their victory in what was an overall solid team performance. Steven Kinsella was the standout player, with points from placed balls and a few vital second half scores from play.

Erins Own were performing in Junior D following promotion last year and were not too far away from back-to-back successes on this occasion. Conor Clarke and James Coogan were amongst their better performers in this final.

Graiguenamanagh: Colin Bolger, Sean O'Neill, Fintan Gahan, Gavin Kielthy, Martin Barron, Joe Dowling, Shane Kearney (Captain), Niall Hayden (0-1), Sean Walsh (0-1), Nicky Ryan (0-1), Jack Dunne (1-0), Terry Dreehan (0-4, 3 frees), Adrian Doyle (0-1), Steven Kinsella (0-7, 4 frees), Dylan Cahill (1-0).

Subs: TJ Caulfield, Dylan Cahill, Sean Walsh, Ian Kavanagh, Oran

Canning, Ciaran Kavanagh, Kian Murphy, Abhainn Flood, Conor Murphy, Steven Cosgrave, Jim O'Donnell, Devin Kielthy, Joe O'Neill (Injured).

Erins Own: Conor O'Sullivan, Evan Harding, Liam Wallace, Shane Rice, Tommy Coogan, Damien Fogarty, Conor Brophy, Conor Clarke (0-2), Martin Walsh (Captain), Darragh Normoyle, Jimmy Comerford, Adam Brennan, John Kenny (0-1), Peader Boran (1-3), James Coogan (0-8, 4 frees).

Subs: Jack Comerford for Liam Wallace (blood sub), Jamie Maher for Darragh Normoyle, Ross Connolly for Martin Walsh, Cathal Dunny for Shane Rice, Cathal Murphy, James Mullins, Michael Whelan, Eoin Nolan, Conor Normoyle, Jack Coogan, James Comerford, Aaron Fanning, Ciaran Meagher, James Kenny, Dermot Wallace.

Referee: Brandon Power (Mooncoin).

JJ KAVANAGH JUNIOR E HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

Quarter-Finals: O'Loughlin Gaels 3-15, St Martin's 1-16

Piltown 2-22, Windgap 2-7

Mooncoin 0-20, Danesfort 0-13

Glenmore 2-16, Conahy Shamrocks 0-11

Semi-Finals: O'Loughlin Gaels 2-23, Piltown 1-11

Mooncoin 1-17, Glenmore 1-8

Final: Mooncoin 4-12 (24), O'Loughlins 1-17(20).

JJ KAVANAGH KILKENNY JUNIOR E HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL.

Mooncoin 4-12 (24), O'Loughlins 1-17(20).

Over the years many Mooncoin men have appeared in finals on the first Sunday in September. The same happened on Sunday 01/09/2024, in a lower-level grade, and representing club rather than county, but nonetheless this was a September success for men from the banks of the Suir that flows down by Mooncoin. Goals win games, the Mooncoin men outscored their city opponents 4-1 on that front, and therefore clinched the county Junior F Championship at UPMC Nowlan Park.

Darragh Murphy pointed from Mooncoin from the throw in, replied to by Ben Tyrell (OL) inside a minute. Then Mooncoin recorded the first of three opening half goals, from former inter-county player Ray Wall. Shane Maher got a fine O'Loughlins point from midfield, but Mooncoin banged in a second goal with the game just five minutes old. Kevin Doyle the finisher after clever work by Ray Wall in the build-up (2-1 to 0-2). The next four scores were all from the city side, three pointed frees by Shane Maher followed by a point from play by Ben Tyrell. However, on 16 minutes it was goal number three for Mooncoin. Billy Delahunty the finisher after an inbound delivery from Darragh Murphy (3-1 to 0-6).

O'Loughlins replied with a pointed free from Shane Maher, answered by a fine Bill Delahunty (M) score from 50 metres, on the new stand side of UPMC Nowlan Park. On 19 minutes O'Loughlins raised their only green flag of the afternoon. A Fionn Lawlor shot was saved, but Joe Bolger netted on the follow up. Ray Wall converted a Mooncoin free on 21 minutes, replied to by two placed ball scores by Shane Maher of O'Loughlins, left the sides all square at the interval, Mooncoin 3-3, O'Loughlins 1-9.

Michael Butler put O'Loughlins ahead with a point on 32nd minute, before Mooncoin recorded their fourth goal 30 seconds later. A nippy Stephen Brennan, an excellent second half substitute for the Suirsiders scored with a ground shot. This youngster, although small in stature, was big in hurling skills, and had a considerable influence throughout the second half. Former O'Loughlins senior star Alan Geogheghan pointed from the 65-metre line on the old stand side, replied to by a Stephen Brennan point for Mooncoin (4-4 to 1-11). Fionn Lawlor pointed for O'Loughlins, but between the 38th and 53rd minute Mooncoin were to record six of the games next seven points, as they edged towards the finish line.

An Aaron McLaughlin point, two fine scores by Mikey Ryan, another Stephen Brennan individual point, along with a couple of frees by Ray Wall, were the scorers (4-10 to 1-13). O'Loughlins kept battling but the four goals conceded had made their task too challenging and Mooncoin held on for a 4-12 to 1-17 victory.

Mooncoin had star performers in goalkeeper Niall O'Hanlon, Jackie Ryan, Mikey Ryan, and particularly the forward duo of Ray Wall and 'nippy' second half substitute Stephen Brennan. For the city side veteran Alan Geogheghan was always prominent. Ben Tyrell

and the free taking ability of Shane Maher, were also driving on the O'Loughlins men.

Mooncoin: Niall O'Hanlon, Adam Walsh Kevin Connolly (Captain), JP Purcell, Paddy Kinsella, Jackie Ryan, Luke Ramaswami, Robbie Finn, Kieran Fagan, Aaron McLaughlin (0-1), Darragh Murphy (0-1, VC) Billy Delahunty (1-1), Mikey Ryan (0-3), Ray Wall (1-4, 4 frees), Kevin Doyle (1-0).

Subs: Stephen Brennan (1-2) for Kevin Doyle, Sean Wall for Billy Delahunty, Liam Walsh, Adam Conway, Sean Drennan, James Blackmore, Padraig Walsh, Eoin McGrath, David O'Shea, Adrian O'Keefe, Michael Murphy, Mikey Phelan, Martin Murphy, Lee Frayne, Jack Tyler, Mike O'Keefe, TJ Mackey, Paudie Purcell, Sean Thornton, Patrick Dermody, Aiden Dermody, Chris O'Hanlon, Mark Tolan, Chris Norris (inj).

O'Loughlins: Michael Lambert, Michael Twomey, Gavin Mahony, Jack Kearns, Peter McNamara, Alan Geoghegan (0-2, 1 free), Eoghan Bennett, Mark Croghan (Captain), CJ McChamcheu, Michael Butler (0-1), Ben Tyrrell (0-2), Kevin Rowe, Joe Bolger (1-0), Shane Maher (0-10, 9 frees), Fionn Lawlor (0-1).

Subs: Kieran Delaney for Jack Kearns, Sean Cahalane for Kevin Rowe, Frank Noukeu (0-1) for Michael Butler, Matthew Hogan for Joe Bolger, Luke Quigley, Adrian Maher, CJ Poyntz, Pacey McFarlane, Harry Roberts, Josh Owens, Nick Redmond, Lee Hehir, Conor Murphy, Luke Hanrahan, Darragh Digan, Eoghan O'Callaghan, John Comerford, Joe Murphy, Aaron Rodgers, Damien Culleton, Killian Byrnes, Vinny Wallace (injured).

Referee: Stephen Delaney.

JJ Kavanagh Junior F Hurling Championship 2024

Quarter-Finals: Young Irelands 1-22, Mooncoin 2-9

Kilmacow 3-16, Carrigeen 3-11

Mullinavat 0-13, Tullogher Rosbercon 0-11

St. Lachtain's 2-18, Lisdowney 3-12

Semi-Finals: Young Irelands 3-17, Kilmacow 1-8

Mullinavat 2-4, St Lachtains 0-7

Final: Young Irelands 0-19, Mullinavat 0-10.

JJ KAVANAGH KILKENNY JUNIOR F HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL.

Young Ireland's 0-19, Mullinavat 0-10.

They say a rising tide lifts all boats, and if that is the case, expect a serious challenge from Young Irelands, Gowran to return to the Kilkenny Senior Hurling grade in the months or years ahead. Prior to Sunday 01/09/2024, Young Irelands had already won the Junior A Hurling Final the previous weekend, and this team, (who had suffered defeat in the junior F league final to St. Lachtains), made it a double Junior championship success in this Junior F final at UPMC Nowlan Park on Sunday.

For the Junior F hurlers of Mullinavat it was misery upon misery, as they again tasted defeat in a third successive Junior F County Hurling Final, having lost to Conahy Shamrocks (2022) and Windgap (2023).

From the start Mullinavat were chasing the game. Following the opening ten minutes, they were already 0-3 to 0-0 down, and this set the pattern for the rest of the afternoon. At the interval, the more experienced Gowran outfit were 0-10 to 0-3, and while Mullinavat got the deficit back to four points by the 40th minute, a superior team beat them on Sunday.

Beaten, not just by a better side, but also by a 'man of the match' performance from former Young Irelands senior star Sean Kehoe. The big full forward lorded it for Gowran in all areas from midfield to his designated full forward position. Sean finished with 0-11, seven of these from play, a few from 100 metres or so.

The opening Gowran points came from David Holland (2) and Tommy Carroll. The Vegas men squandered chances of a goal and a couple of points in the same period, before John Reade eventually got them off the mark. The only other Mullinavat scores in the opening period was a Reade free and a Billy Delahunty score. In the same period Young Irelands added seven points, four from Sean Kehoe (2 frees), Tommy

Carroll, Christian Nolan and David Drennan.

Half time: Young Irelands 0-10, Mullinavat 0-3.

The Vegas men introduced substitute Jack Walsh at the interval, and for the first ten minutes of the new half, hurled at last with some venom, and reduced the lead to four (0-6 to 0-10). Billy Delahunty, Jamie Dungan and John Reade the Mullinavat point scorers. Young Irelands steadied the ship, and three points from play by Sean Kehoe (2) and David Holland restored the seven-point lead (0-13 to 0-7) by the 45th minute. From here to the finish Young Irelands strode to the finish line without having to reach top gear. Collecting Junior A and F championship final trophies in nine days, quite an achievement by the red and wides.

Sean Kehoe was undoubtedly the star man, aided by a Young Ireland's defence that never gave an inch. Along with all the defensive qualities shown, the likes of Chris Nolan, Tommy Carroll and David Holland stood out. For the Vegas men Tommy Lanigan, Luke Byrne Doyle and Jake Morrissey were the best performers on the afternoon.

Young Irelands: Peter Carroll (Captain), Martin Carter, Thomas Drennan, Michael Lennon, Eoin O'Neill, Jonny Dunphy Kieran Phelan, Jack Kennedy Byrne, CJ Delaney, David Drennan (0-1), Tommy Carroll (0-2), Paul Kinsella, Chris Nolan (0-2), Sean Kehoe (0-11, 4 frees), David Holland (0-3).

Substitutes: Niall Walsh, Ciarán Kavanagh, Jack Blagriff, Jody Foley, Luke O'Donnell, Peter McBride, Luke Phelan, Stephen Heffernan (injured), Ciaran Byrne (injured), Kieran Quinlan (injured).

Mullinavat: James O'Keefe, Declan Duggan Tommy Lanigan (JC) Shane Kelly, Daniel Holden, Luke Byrne Doyle Jamie Walshe, Jake Morrissey (JC), Darragh Davis, Cormac McEvoy (0-1), Pat Mulhern, Jamie Dungan (0-1), Brian Kenneally, Ryan Bland, John Reade (0-5, 3 frees).

Subs: Billy Delahunty (0-3) for Brian Kenneally, Jack Walsh for Ryan Bland, Michael Johnston for Pat Mulhern, James Brennan for Declan Duggan, Gavin Maher for Jamie Dungan, Ross Conway, Mossy Jones, Jack Byrne Doyle, Richie Kenneally, Richie Cunningham, Stephen Law (Injured), Jamie Dempsey (Injured), Jamie Davis (Injured).

Referee: Richard Dowling (Kilmacow).



HURLING LEAGUE FINALS

JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior A Hurling League Final 2024.

O'Loughlin Gaels 1-19(22), Dunnamaggin 2-13(19).

O'Loughlins Gaels recorded a deserved victory over Dunnamaggin in the Junior A Hurling league final at the Kells Road on Tuesday 18/06/2024. A consecutive run of eight unanswered points between the 18th and 28th minute of the opening half, aided by the breeze, saw the city side move seven points clear, 0-12 to 0-5, a lead they never relinquished. Two late points by former Kilkenny Senior player Seagram O'Neill left five points between the sides at the break, 0-12 to 0-7.

O'Loughlins: Michael Lambert, Kevin O'Brien, Gary Bryan, Alex Molloy, Padraig Meaney (captain), Jay Leahy, Bennetsbridge Tyrell, John McNamara (0-4), Kinsella, Mark Holohan, Tervine Wallace (0-2), Ruarc Sweeney (1-3, 0-3 frees), Ben Maher (0-4), Greg Kelly (0-3), Jack Sheridan (0-3).

Subs: Luke Quigley, Cathal O'Leary, Jack Kearns, Harry O'Grady, Tadhg O'Meara, Cathal O'Leary, Peter McNamara, Mark Croghan, Michael Butler, CJ McChamcheu, Sean Cahalane, Kevin Rowe, Shane Maher, Gavin Mahony, Joe Bolger, Billy Leyton, Frank Joel, Nic Redmond, Killian Byrne's, Josh Hynes.

Dunnamaggin: James Logue, Mark Dowling, Jack Brett (captain), Paddy Delaney, Paul Kirwan, Aaron Doherty, Jimmy O'Neill, Cathal Walsh, Colin Fitzpatrick, JJ Dunphy (0-1), Peter Kenneally, Ruaidhri Holden, Adam Fitzpatrick, Anthony Kearney, Seagram O'Neill (1-5, 0-4 frees).

Subs: Ross O'Neill (1-4), Sean Carroll, Jason Doherty, Colin Herity, Kieran Buckley, Michael Costelloe, Alex Moore, Sean Lawton, Cathal Buckley, Killian Tallon, Andrew Fitzpatrick (0-3), Eoin Shiel, Aaron Moore.

Referee: Gay Rafter.

JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior B Hurling League Final 2024.

Bennetsbridge 0-24, Fenians 2-16(22).

Bennetsbridge emerged with the honours in an always competitive Junior B League Final on Sunday 23/06/2024 at Jenkinstown. Whilst the result could have gone either way against opponents Fenians, Johnstown, it was the Bridge men who finished the stronger to emerge victorious.

Bennetsbridge: Jack Forristal, Sam O'Dwyer, Lar Mahon, Kyle Ryan, Gearoid Kent, Shane Byrne, Kevin Brennan (0-1), Willy Murphy (captain, 0-6), Stephen Holden, Aidan Cleere (0-3), Nicky Cleere (0-6, 0-4 frees), Harry Murphy (0-6), Jack Campion (0-1), Billy Nolan (0-1), Paddy Walsh.

Subs: Oran Lavery for Aidan Cleere, Tom Bolger, Ivan Kelly, Patrick O'Neill, Maurice Walsh, Conor Nolan, Johnny Doyle, Luke Dowling, Joe Hughes, Myles McGovern, Sean O'Connell, Michael Shiel, Eoin O'Connor.

Fenians: Billy Garrett, Eoin Phelan, Johnny Henderson, Addy McCormack, Gerry Henderson, Kieran Grehan (1-1, goal penalty, 0-1 free), Rory Phelan, Cormac Ryan, Rory Garrett (0-2), Niall Carroll (0-3), Cathal Phelan (0-4), Alex Lawlor, Sean Tobin (1-4, 0-4 frees), Mark Hughes (0-1), Danny Dermody (captain).

Subs: Aaron Dermody for Alex Lawlor, Adam Duggan for Gerry Henderson, Regan Downey for Danny Dermody, Thomas Sharley for Niall Carroll, Podge Sweeney, Paddy Cullen, Eddie Hughes, Dara O'Grady, Dian Quinlan, Bobby Tynan, Aaron Okorah, Damo Delaney, David Ryan, James Sweeney, Cillian Purcell, Cillian Walsh, Niall Mackey.

Referee: Paul Whelan.

Iverk Produce Junior C Hurling League Final / First Round of Championship 2024.

Windgap 3-23, Lisdowney 1-13.

The Iverk Produce Junior C Hurling League County Final saw Lisdowney make the long journey to well appointed Windgap on Tuesday 18/06/2024, following a toss for venue owing to a scarcity of pitches. The game saw both sides with injuries and Leaving Cert exam tied players, some of whom took a break to play and make a difference.

Windgap: Shane Walsh, Jim Power Jnr. James Mackey, Luke Ward, Zak Kennedy (0-3), Adam O'Shea, Peter Landy, Cillian Enright (0-2), Cian O'Rourke, Darragh Doyle (1-2), Billy Power (1-3j, Eoin O'Shea (0-2), Conor Doyle (1-8, 1-0 penalty, 0-4 frees, Jim Power Snr. (0-1), Ronan O'Brien (0-2). Subs: James Purcell, Josh Price, Blade O'Gorman, Paudie Bacon, Killian Doyle, Walter Landy, Tommy Lonergan, Eoin Freaney, Niall O'Brien, Eddie Cunningham, Noah O'Shea, Shane Lomax, Jack O'Shea, Michael Power, Mark McCoy, Tommy Fleming.

Lisdowney: Niall Grogan, Jayme Thornton, Ray Fitzpatrick, Jack O'Sullivan, Joe Bergin, Peter Bergin (0-1), Dean Brophy, Matthew Banville, Brandon Brophy (0-1), Rory Hickey (0-6, 0-5 frees), Eoin Delaney, Tadhg Blanchfield, Darragh Mackey (0-2), Niall Kenny, Jimmy Delaney (1-0). Subs: Brian Campion (0-1), Niall

Mackey, Patrick Kennedy, Ruadhan Downey, Peter O'Sullivan, Conor Tallis, Conor O'Gorman, Billy Grogan, Eddie Hickey.

Referee: Brandon Power (Mooncoin).

Country Style Foods Junior D Hurling League Final 2024.

Graignamagh 0-20, Rower Inistioge 3-9.

Graignamanagh were victorious in a close and exciting Junior D League Final on Saturday 22/6/2024 at Dr. Tierney Park.

Graignamanagh: Colin Bolger, Gavin Kielthy, Fintan Gahan, Sean O'Neill, Martin Barron, Joe Dowling, Shane Kearney (captain), Niall Hayden (0-1), Sean Walsh (0-1), Nicky Ryan (0-1), Jack Dunne, Terry Dreehan (0-12, 0-7 frees), Devon Kielthy, Steven Kinsella (0-4, 0-2 frees), Ciaran Kavanagh. Subs: Dylan Cahill for Ciaran Kavanagh. Oran Canning (0-1), Sean Cahill, Ian Kavanagh, TJ Caulfield Abhainn Flood, Steven Foley, Jim O'Donnell, Cathal Dunne, Conor Murphy, Adrian Doyle, Stephen Cosgrave, Ryan Foley, George Wakeham, Tommy Brazil, Joe O'Neill (Injured).

Rower-Inistioge: Dan Mulholland, Tommy Grace Kieran Meaney, Tom Cullen, Patrick Prendergast Harry Murphy (captain), Jack Morrissey, Caomhin Lynch, Luke Tennyson, Fiachra Farrell (0-8, 0-6 frees), Howard McDonnell, David Lyster, Robby Walsh, Sean Cummins (3-0), Michael McDonald.

Subs: Ewan Gilsenan for Michael McDonald, Donal O'Brien (0-1) for David Lyster, Conor Lyng for James Prendergast, Richard Ryan, Oisín Whelan, Michael Moffatt, David Prendergast, Michael Ch

JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior E Hurling League Final 2024.

St. Martins 1-18, Carlow Town 0-13.

Despite being reduced to fourteen men for the entire second half, St. Martins won the JJ Kavanagh Junior Hurling League E Final at Cloneen on Thursday evening 27/6/2024.

St Martins: Niall Shore, Ciarán Fitzpatrick (captain), Matthew Shortall, Darragh Coughlan, Cormac Quirke, Ross Dowling (0-1 "65"), Adam Comerford, James Callanan, Damien Tynan (0-1), Joe Reid, James Dowling (0-4), Adrian Farrell, Ronan Shore (0-5, 0-3 frees), John Maher (0-4), Robert Shore (0-1). Subs: Patrick Coughlan for Damien Tynan, Jack Murphy for Darragh Coughlan, Aaron Farrell (1-2), Ciaran Brennan, Ciaran Brennan, Shane O'Neill, Patrick Brennan, Conor Dooley, James Maher, Tom Davis, Adam Morrissey, Michael Keane, Eoin Murphy, John Joe Kelly, Ewan Buggy, Josh Dempsey.

Carlow Town: Joe Bermingham, Conall McGuire, Cathal Ryan, Stephen Lacey, Lazzie Meaney (captain), Diarmuid Murphy, Sean Buggy, Adam Nolan, Mattie English Hayden (0-1), Gearoid Lacey (0-1), Alex Delaney (0-8, 0-5 frees, 0-1 "65"), James Ingram (0-1), Brandon Farrell, Oisín Pender (0-1), Karol English. Subs: Cian Campion for Gearoid Lacey, Blake Holmes for Brandon Farrell, Ruairi Dunbar (0-1) for Mattie English Hayden, John Phirl for Oisín Pender, Jamie Ayres for Karol English, Adam Maher, Jason Kenny, Eoin Townsend, Brandon O'Reilly, Brandon Cassidy, Shaun Geoghegan, Tom Behan, Dylan McGrath, James Ingram.

Referee: Brian Fox.

JJ Kavanagh and Sons Junior F Hurling League Final 2024.

St. Lachtains 0-16, Young Irelands 0-14.

St Lachtains, Freshford emerged two-point winners over Young Irelands, Gowran in an extremely competitive Junior F Hurling League Final at Palmerston on Sunday 30/6/2024. The Freshford club were appearing in their fourth successive Junior F league final, having lost to Tullogher Rosbercon (2021) and Conahy Shamrocks (2022), before defeating Windgap in last year's final.

St. Lachtains: Mark Nolan. Cathal Bowden, Luke Phelan, Jimmy Cantwell, Cian Leahy, Fergal Tobin, Caillin McCabe, Conor Dalton (0-10, 7 frees), Shay Burke, Matthew Durnan (0-3), Barry Hughes (0-1), James O'Connor (0-2), Jack Whitty, Evan Landers, Declan Killeen (Captain). Subs: Ben Dermody, Sean Counihan, David Burke, Michael Farrell, Michael Kavanagh, Ger Dalton, Kevin Dalton, Darragh Quinn (injured).

Young Irelands: Peter Carroll (captain), Martin Carter, Thomas Drennan, CJ Delaney, David Langton, Jonny Dunphy Michael Lennon, Jim Conlon (0-2), Jack Blagriff (0-6, frees), David Drennan, Jody Foley, Paul Kinsella (0-1), Ciaran Kavanagh, Sean Kehoe (0-3, 1 free), Kieran Byrne (0-2).

Subs: Niall Walsh, David Holland, Eoin O'Neill, Jake Byrne, Tommy Carroll, Stephen Heffernan, Luke O'Donnell, Michael Keating, Vincent Byrne, Kieran Phelan, Tim Brennan, Ken Knox, Jack Kennedy, Jack Glendon, Charlie Brennan.

Referee: John McCormack.

CAPTAINS AND CUPS



O'Loughlin Gaels - Evan Walsh
Paddy Cahill Cup



Erin's Own - Larry Walsh
Kevin Fennelly Cup



Young Irelands - Sean Middleton
Junior A Championship



Threecastles - Darragh Walsh
Junior B Championship



Danesfort - Stephen Duncan & James
Cunningham Junior C Championship



Craignamanagh - Shane Kearney
Junior D Championship



Mooncoin - Kevin Kenneally
Junior E Championship



Young Irelands - Peter Carroll
Junior F Championship



UNVEILING OF BUST OF PA DILLON IN ST LACHTAIN'S CLUBROOMS BY LABHRÁS MAC CARTHAIGH UACHRARÁN CLG
Patrick Maher, Joan Dillon, James Maher, Gillian Dillon Maher, John Fitzpatrick (Chairman, St Lachtain's), Labhrás Mac Carthaigh, Darragh Maher, Teresa Dillon,
Fiona Dillon, Bobby Dillon, Noel Maher.

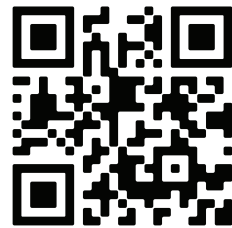
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BRING ON
TOMORROW

From an Early Age.....

John Donnelly
By Conor Denieffe

John Donnelly's talent and potential as a hurler were evident from an early age as evinced by a story told by his former Thomastown Boys Primary School Principal, Brendan O'Sullivan. Brendan, as he did every year, was casting an eye over the new pupils recently arrived into 2nd class from the Convent School as they played a game of hurling at break time and was so taken with the ability of one that he called on his teaching colleague, Enda Roberts, to come have a look. What stood out to Brendan, who had seen and coached many hurlers with his school, development squad and county teams, was the incredible ability his new pupil, John Donnelly, had in his wrists. When this ability was allied to a hurling intelligence and an excellent work rate it is easy to see how John has become a most talented and effective forward with his club and county.

John progressed through primary school playing in two Cumann na mBunscoil schools' finals before completing his secondary education in Grennan College. In speaking to him he is quick to acknowledge the contribution his teachers at each level made in coaching and looking after teams he played on, the aforementioned Brendan O'Sullivan and Enda Roberts and later Derek Dooley and Donal Dunne. Having chosen teaching as a profession John attended DCU St Patrick's College where he won an All-Ireland Freshers championship in 2017 playing at full forward in the final against University of Limerick. Having taught in in the Rower NS for the last three years Mr Donnelly was a very popular coach of the school teams in hurling, football and camogie. No doubt he will have similar involvement in his new position in Graigueenamanagh NS.

That John would be a hurler and a Thomastown hurler was always likely as his Dad, Mick, played centre back with the club in its county senior hurling final defeat in 1988. His brother Eddie currently mans the same berth at centre back on the Thomastown team while the team

is populated with cousins Stephen and Robbie. John's sister Una represents Thomastown in camogie while mother, Ann, has been a constant support to John in his hurling career. While the club has reached the pinnacle of Kilkenny hurling, winning the senior title this year, there were some bitter disappointments along the way at



intermediate level as the club lost three finals, one on penalties and another after extra time in a four-year spell before finally capturing the title. While acknowledging that doubts sometimes arose after those losses John stated that each subsequent year brought a fresh start and renewed hope. Having finally captured the Kilkenny title in 2023, Thomastown powered through the provincial and All Ireland series with John leading the way on the scoring front. Interestingly, when asked to select his most memorable game to date John nominates the All-Ireland Intermediate final victory over Castlelyons of Cork.

John's intercounty career began with the Kilkenny Under 14 Tony Forristal team in 2012 and he progressed to the Under 16 team which was defeated in the Arrabawn Cup final by Dublin in 2014. Progression to the minor level followed a year later and John represented the county at this level for two years. In his first year at minor level the Leinster title was captured but Galway proved Kilkenny's nemesis winning an All-Ireland semi-final replay by two points thanks to two goals scored in the final minutes of the game. The following year proved more disappointing as the minors went out to Dublin in the Leinster semi-final, losing out again by two points in extra time. But while Kilkenny were beaten, the performances of a young John Donnelly at minor level had caught the attention of senior manager Brian Cody and his selectors and a phone call followed in February 2017 from James McGarry inviting the young Thomastown forward to join the training panel. John played on



the Kilkenny Under 21 team for two years winning a Leinster title in 2017 before losing the All-Ireland final to Limerick and Galway finished Kilkenny's interest in the 2018 Under 21 championship.

The call up to join the Kilkenny training panel had come as a complete surprise to the young player just out of minor ranks but it was one he was delighted to receive and while he was based in Dublin the travel up and down to

training was shared with Conor Delaney and Billy Ryan. John's senior inter-county debut came in a first round Walsh Cup game against Laois under lights in Portlaoise on January 3rd 2018 when lining out in the half forward line and he struck 1-2. A National League title followed the same year. John is quick to credit Brian Cody for the impact he had on the young forward's career as he established himself on the Kilkenny senior team. In the intervening years he has won five Leinster titles. Most observers would feel that 2024 has been John's most impressive year so far, a fact borne out by his nomination for an All-Star award.

John's aim for the coming year is a simple one, to win as much as possible, while his preparation for games is similarly straightforward as he keeps himself busy in the days preceding matches. His nomination for the most difficult opponent he has encountered on the field of play is Tommy Walsh (the younger). Identifying the biggest influences on his career to date his parents are first named and after that he names the teachers already mentioned in this piece, Brian Cody and also John Brennan who coached him at underage level in Thomastown and is still involved with Thomastown seniors.

Kilkenny supporters will hope that John continues to go from strength to strength as the county looks forward to 2025 and that we will enjoy watching the man with a silken touch in his wrists adorn the black and amber for years to come.

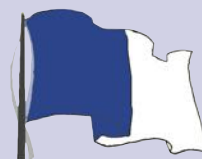
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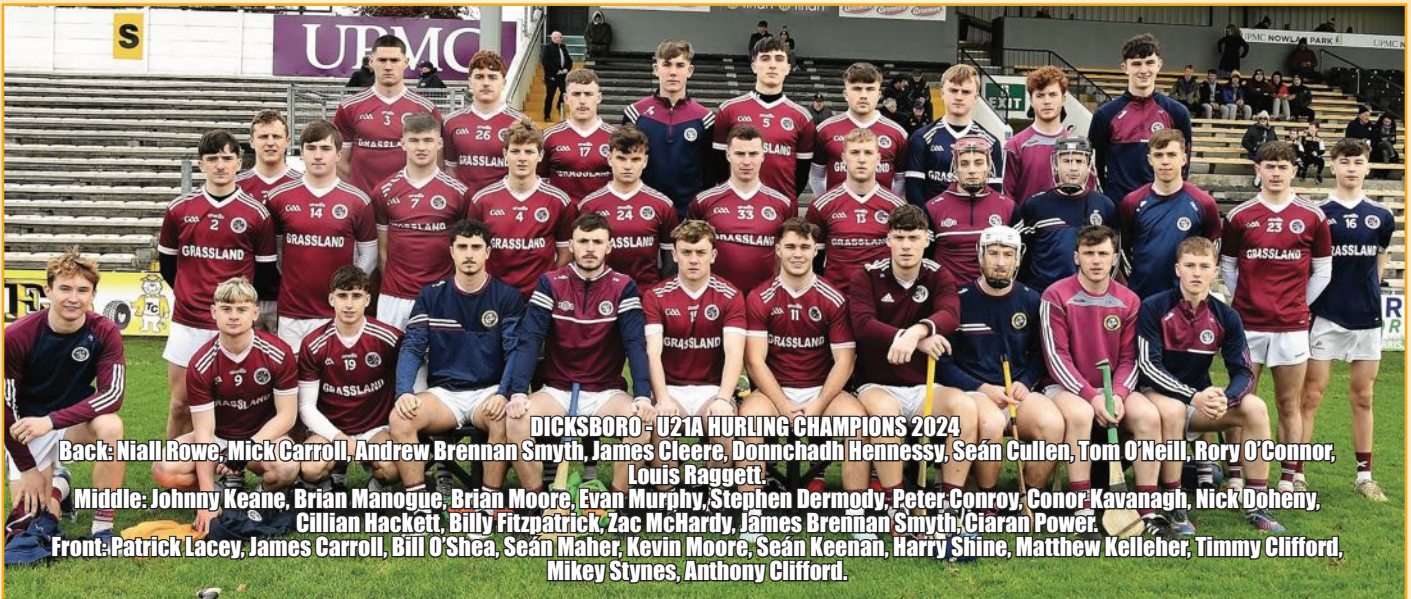


Congratulations to our boys in blue, and wishing them continued success.

Dicksboro Win their 10th

Photos: Willie Dempsey

County U21 Hurling Championship 2024
by John Power Junior PRO

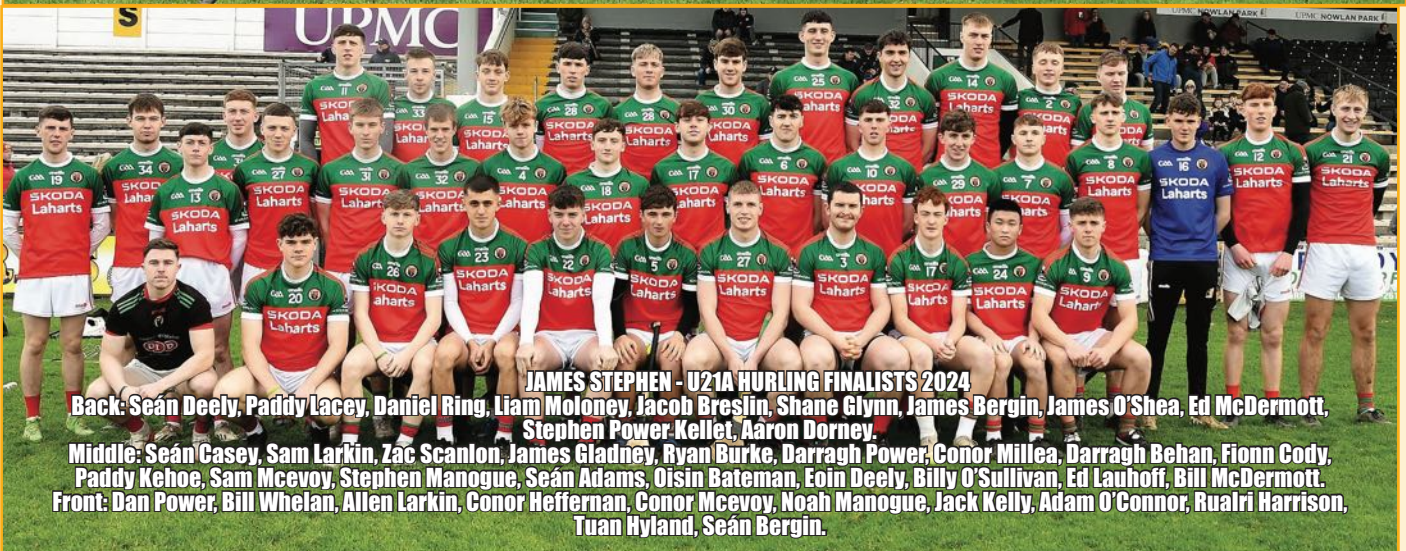


DICKSBORO - U21A HURLING CHAMPIONS 2024

Back: Niall Rowe, Mick Carroll, Andrew Brennan Smyth, James Cleere, Donnchadh Hennessy, Seán Cullen, Tom O'Neill, Rory O'Connor, Louis Raggitt.

Middle: Johnny Keane, Brian Manogue, Brian Moore, Evan Murphy, Stephen Dermody, Peter Conroy, Conor Kavanagh, Nick Doheny, Cillian Hackett, Billy Fitzpatrick, Zac McHardy, James Brennan Smyth, Ciaran Power.

Front: Patrick Lacey, James Carroll, Bill O'Shea, Seán Maher, Kevin Moore, Seán Keenan, Harry Shine, Matthew Kelleher, Timmy Clifford, Mikey Stynes, Anthony Clifford.



JAMES STEPHENS - U21A HURLING FINALISTS 2024

Back: Seán Deely, Paddy Lacey, Daniel Ring, Liam Moloney, Jacob Breslin, Shane Glynn, James Bergin, James O'Shea, Ed McDermott, Stephen Power Kellet, Aaron Dorney.

Middle: Seán Casey, Sam Larkin, Zac Scanlon, James Gladney, Ryan Burke, Darragh Power, Conor Millea, Darragh Behan, Fionn Cody, Paddy Kehoe, Sam Mcevoy, Stephen Manogue, Seán Adams, Oisín Bateman, Eoin Deely, Billy O'Sullivan, Ed Lauhoff, Bill McDermott.

Front: Dan Power, Bill Whelan, Allen Larkin, Conor Heffernan, Conor Mcevoy, Noah Manogue, Jack Kelly, Adam O'Connor, Rualrí Harrison, Tuan Hyland, Seán Bergin.

JJ KAVANAGH UNDER 21 A HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

The under 21 grades ended the Kilkenny hurling year as usual, beginning in the final weekend of October. Here we summarise the four under 21 championships to date, this summary being compiled in late November. This section also has a report on the under 21 A Final, held at UPMC Nowlan Park on Sunday 24th. November 2024.

JJ Kavanagh Under 21 A Hurling Championship

Quarter Finals

Bennetsbridge 1-17; Mooncoin 1-15

James Stephens 3-19; Young Irelands 1-14

Dicksboro 2-19; O'Loughlin Gaels 0-15

Graigue Ballycallan 4-13; Thomastown 2-17

Semi Finals

James Stephens 3-18; Graigue Ballycallan 1-9

Dicksboro 1-20; Bennetsbridge 1-6

Final

Dicksboro v James Stephens

In the under 21 A championship, James Stephens recorded impressive victories over both Young Irelands at Larchfield, and Graigue Ballycallan at St John's Park, to reach the final.

On the other side of the draw Dicksboro proved much too strong for fellow senior clubs O'Loughlin Gaels and Bennetsbridge.

JJ Kavanagh Kilkenny County Under 21 Hurling Final 2024.

Dicksboro 3-21; James Stephens 1-14.

Dicksboro won their tenth JJ Kavanagh Kilkenny under 21 hurling title with a comfortable thirteen-point victory over James Stephens at UPMC Nowlan Park on Sunday 25/11/2024.

This was Dicksboro's third Kilkenny under 21 championship victory in four years, in what turned out to be a very disappointing final, between the two City sides.

Dicksboro, aided by the strong wind, were quickly out of the blocks, 0-4 to 0-0 up after just six minutes, with four early points from Cillian Hackett (2), Mikey Stynes and a score from midfield by Matthew Kelleher.

Stephen Minogue opened the village account with a free, but by the tenth minute Dicksboro were

already 1-7 to 0-1 ahead, Brian Moore the goalscorer.

Despite having to face the wind in the second half, the game was close to being over at half time, by then, Dicksboro fourteen points to the good.

Their second goal came after 25 minutes, when Cillian Hackett grabbed a long delivery, and struck it past David Power in the Village goal.

Dicksboro had eight different scorers in the first half, while James Stephens recorded just a single point from play.

Half-time Dicksboro 2-15; James Stephens 0-7.

A free from Harry Shine got Dicksboro up and running after the break, and whilst the margin was reduced to ten points, when Stephen Manogue goalied in the 42nd minute (1-20 to 2-17), there was never a real danger of the maroon and whites being overtaken.

On the 49th minute the gap was even briefly back at eight points, 1-14 to 2-19 but Boro finished with the game's final three scores. First a Harry Shine free, a second goal from Brian Moore, and the same player with a point from 50 metres.

Full time Dicksboro 3-21; James Stephens 1-14.

Dicksboro were much the better team in this final. Tommy Clifford, Kevin Moore, James Carroll, Mathew Kelleher, Cillian Hackett, and full forward Brian Moore, with an outstanding 2-3 from play, were stars on the day.

Noah Minogue, Stephen Minogue, Sean Bergin, Sesn Deely, and Ed Lauhoff battled hard for the Villagers.

Surely, soon, Dicksboro will eventually convert all their recent underage victories into another senior success.

For James Stephens this was not the level of performance needed, but many of these players will feature at senior level for that proud club in 2025.

Dicksboro: Tom O'Neill, Johnny Keane, Niall Rowe, Stephen Dermody, Evan Murphy, Timmy Clifford; Donnacadh Hennessy (0-1), Kevin Moore (0-2), James Carroll (0-1), Matthew Kelleher (0-5), Harry Shine (0-4, frees), Mikey Stynes (0-1), Cillian Hackett (1-4), Brian Moore (2-3), Sean Keenan.

Sub: Nick Doheny for Mikey Stynes (57 minutes), Sean Maher for Sean Keenan (58 minutes).

James Stephens: Daniel Power, Stephen Power-Kellett, Adam O'Connor, Darragh Behan, Noah Manogue, Sam McEvoy, Oisín Bateman, Eoin Deely, Sean Bergin (0-2), Stephen Manogue (1-8, 0-7 frees), Sean Deely, Ed Lauhoff (0-2), Zac Scanlon, Ed McDermott (0-1), Daniel Ring (0-1).
 Subs: Bill Whelan for Stephen Power Kelley (17 minutes), Bill McDermott for Sam McEvoy (half time), Paddy Kehoe for Zac Scanlon (37 minutes).
 Referee: Stephen Delaney (Graigue Ballycallan)

JJ KAVANAGH UNDER 21 B HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Preliminary Round

Rower Inistioge 1-16; Graigueanamanagh 0-13

Galmoy/Windgap 2-17; Danesfort 2-16

Quarter Finals

Dunnamaggin 0-21; St. Martins 1-15

Lisdowney 1-19; Rower Inistioge 1-15

Tullagher Rosbercon 1-18; Glenmore 0-17

Erins Own 1-22; Galmoy/Windgap 0-20

Semi Finals

Tullagher Rosbercon 2-14; Erins Own 1-14

Dunnamaggin v Lisdowney

Progress has been slow in the under 21 B championship where after a thrilling preliminary round game between Galmoy/Windgap and Danesfort, all four quarter finals were similarly tight affairs.

JJ KAVANAGH UNDER 21 C HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Preliminary Round

Tullaroan 1-26; Piltown 0-16.

Kilmacow 2-19; Shamrocks Ballyhale 1-11

Quarter Finals

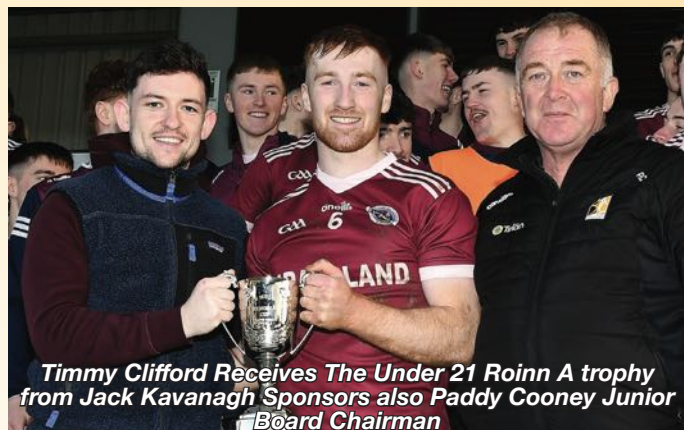
Barrow Rangers 1-21; Emeralds 1-13

Dicksboro 0-18; Mullinavat 1-14

Fenians 3-18; James Stephens 5-10

Tullaroan 3-22; Kilmacow 0-14.

Semi Finals



Timmy Clifford Receives The Under 21 Roinn A trophy from Jack Kavanagh Sponsors also Paddy Cooney Junior Board Chairman

Dicksboro 1-18; Barrow Rangers 0-15

Tullaroan 2-17; Fenians 1-9

Final

Dicksboro v Tullaroan

Tullaroan recorded victories versus Piltown, Kilmacow and Fenians to reach the under 21 C final. Their opponents will be the second team of Dicksboro, who narrowly beat Mullinavat and recorded a six-point victory over Barrow Rangers in their semi final.

JJ KAVANAGH UNDER 21 D HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Quarter Finals

John Lockes 4-18; St Patrick's 2-16

Clara 0-19; Carrickshock 1-8

St Lachtains 0-22; Conahy Shamrocks 1-14

Slieverue walk over.

Semi Finals

Clara 1-14; John Lockes 1-9

St Lachtains v Slieverue

Final

KILKENNY GAA GOLF CLASSIC 2024

Photos Willie Dempsey



Celine Egan, Marie Gannon, Siobhán McEvoy, Monica White representing Pat Gannon Auctioneers



From the Field Bar Were David Hughes, Tim Davidson, James Brennan, Jamie Power.



Representing the Nore Bar Were Des Woods, Peter Carey, Joe Teehan, Pat Cahill.



The Kilkenny App Team were Nick Gleeson, Marcus Hammond, Dave Maloney, Ben Clarke.

A Village Double!

Minor Bord na nÓg Report by Pado O'Flynn

Photos: Willie Dempsey



James Stephens - Roinn A Minor Championship Winners 2024

Minor A

A sense of intrigue surrounded the Kilkenny Vehicle Centre Minor A Hurling Championship as eight teams went to post to contest the 2024 championship. The quarter finals saw a number of very interesting ties. In Muckalee, St. Martin's shorn of James O'Neill along with a couple of others were defeated by James Stephens shorn by a similar number called up for senior duty. A late goal for Dicksboro saw them get the better of a stout O'Loughlin Gaels team that gave them a good run for their money before that bit of quality shone through. There was an old testament vibe to Erin's Own and Dunnamaggin in Canon Kearns Park where Eoin Brennan and Josh Dowling got the better of Ciaran Hickey and Scott McDonald. In actual fact by the end of the game there was some 18 county players on display where Erins Own got the win. Not a bad stat for two country teams. It took Young Irelands and Thomastown, a replay and an injury whopper of a point that saw Thomas Langton and colleagues dancing to the tune of victory against their neighbours and many friends.

Roll onto semi-final day and Young Irelands suffered a defeat, a gallant defeat to Dicksboro. One would have to tip their hat to the men in Gowran always there or thereabouts in Roinn A but in Anthony Clifford and Louis Raggett the Palmerstown outfit were that bit sharper. The second semi-final saw James Stephens gradually point their way to victory with the two Ed's Lauhoff and McDermott wreaking havoc against a young Erin's Own.

James Stephens 1-16 , Dicksboro 1-13

They say it is darkest before the dawn – and after a rough seven days for the club that adorns Red & Green and had provided many magical moments their hope for the future shone brightest in the place that matters, UPMC Nowlan Park on county final day. A polished James Stephens display saw the Village win the Roinn A minor title for the second successive year after they had three points to spare over city rivals Dicksboro in the county decider on 18th October.

With up to a third of the starting team gaining senior experience throughout the recent league and championship, the Village were always fancied to build on their 2023 success over



Dicksboro - Minor Roinn A Finalists 2024

Dunnamaggin. While it was close for long periods they eventually did enough when running out 1-16 to 1-13 winners. A second half goal from Zak Scanlon, which arrived in a spell of 1-4 without reply, helped the Village register a game winning tally after Dicksboro had originally taken the lead on the back of a goal from Anthony Clifford.

It was all one-way traffic in the early minutes as James Stephens threatened to run away with proceedings after Ruairi Harrison, Bill McDermott and Daniel Ring all scored as the champions led 0-4 to 0-0. The 'Boro eventually got off the mark with a Mikey Stynes free in the 11th minute and to their credit, they tore into their opponents with further scores from Stynes, Anthony Clifford and Patrick Lacey, levelling up matters by the midway point of the half. Things got even better for the underdogs when Thomas Treacy put his side in front for the first time before Mikey Stynes then made it a two point game. The Village ended their 16 minute scoreless spell with a Conor McEvoy free and Ed Lauhoff levelled matters with a well taken effort from distance. Sam O'Shea briefly edged the 'Boro back in front but it was still James Stephens that led at the break thanks to successive points from Sean Bergin and Conor McEvoy (0-8 to 0-7).

Ed McDermott increased the advantage with his opening score of the game in the first minute of the second half before corner-forward Daniel Ring then made it a three point game. The 'Boro then sprung to life with their best spell of the

game as they scored 1-2 without reply between the 34th and 39th minutes. Minutes after Sam O'Shea saw a goal-bound effort drift just wide, Anthony Clifford was the right man in the right place to bat the sliotar to the net after O'Shea and Thomas Treacy combined to release the Kilkenny minor star. Further points from Mikey Stynes and Brian Moore then had the 'Boro eyeing up a shock win as they went 1-9 to 0-10 ahead but James Stephens came battling back.

Points from Sean Bergin and Jacob Breslin brought the sides level once more and it was how the Village kicked on that was most impressive. Breslin's second free after coming off the bench and Bill McDermott's third point from play gave Niall Tyrrell's side a two point buffer and they then all but ended the game as a contest when Zac Scanlon buried a shot to the net in the 48th minute. Dicksboro did reply with scores from Sam O'Shea, Patrick Lacey and Mikey Stynes but the Village kept their noses in front through Ruairi Harrison and Ed McDermott. The 'Boro threw everything at it in the hope of grabbing a late goal but James Stephens stood tall to claim a 15th minor championship success.

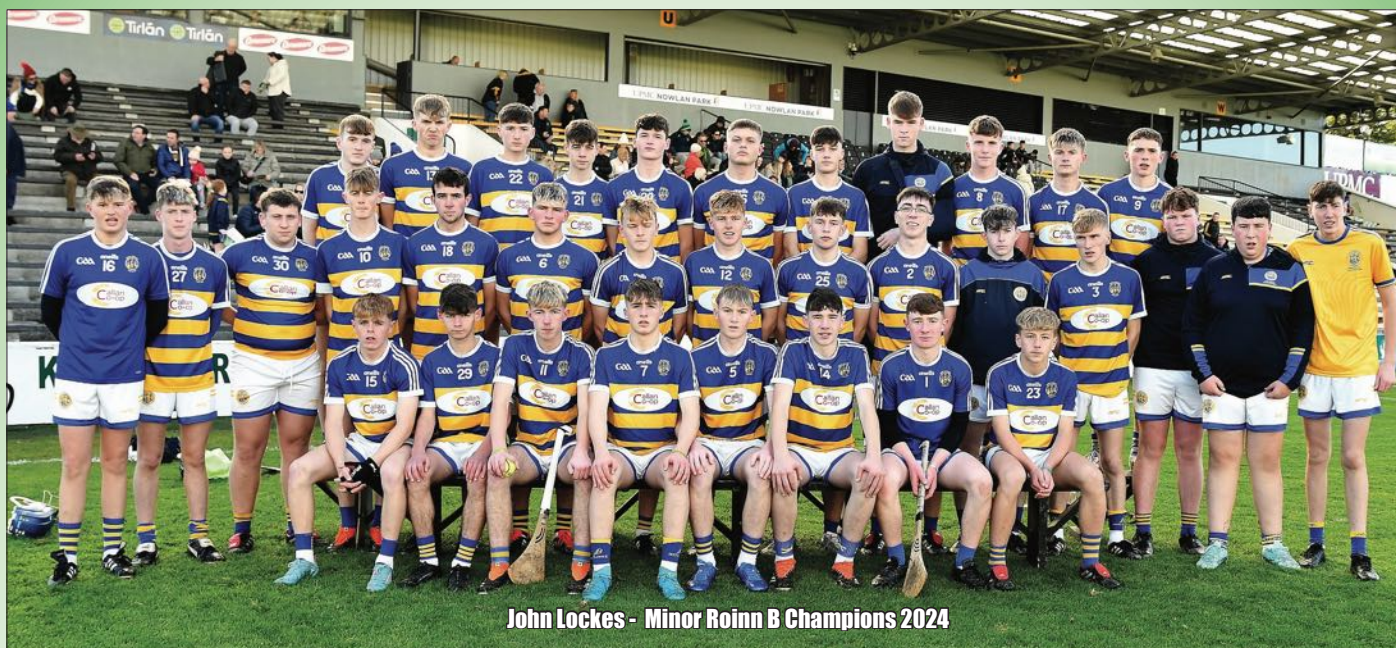
James Stephens: Billy O'Sullivan, Tuan Hyland, Noah Manogue, Darragh Behan, Larry Phelan, Sean Deely, Conor Heffernan, Sean Bergin, Ed Lauhoff, Bill McDermott, Ruairi Harrison, Conor McEvoy, Zac Scanlon, Ed McDermott, Daniel Ring. Subs: Jacob Breslin for McEvoy, 39 mins. Diarmuid Behan for Lauhoff, 58 mins.



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John Lockes - Minor Roinn B Champions 2024

Dicksboro: Ciaran Power, Bill O'Shea, James Brennan Smith, Luke Kerwick, Oisín Henderson, Evan Murphy, James Cleere, Louis Raggett, Donnacha Hennessy, Anthony Clifford, Mikey Stynes, Thomas Treacy, Patrick Lacey, Brian Moore, Sam O'Shea. Subs: Ben Henderson for Cleere, 46 mins., Dan Carroll for Treacy, 51 mins., Charlie O'Neill for Lacey, 59 mins.

Minor B

A good scribe by the name of Richie Stone used to describe Roinn B as the gem of a grade, where clubs come of age, clubs find the real stars of the future and where just maybe a player or two announces themselves to the Kilkenny hurling public as the next big thing.

Round 1 in this is a minefield always throws up games that are never forgotten for the young men that play them. The Glenmore v Graigueenamagh was one such game played down south on a beautiful pitch where the county champions came a cropper to one such defiant performance in the guise of Steven Kinsella who scored 1-21 of the winning total of 1-29 to Glenmore's 2-24 after extra time. It was not that the likes of Jake Dollard et al. had done anything amiss just magic flowed from the forward and thus ended their reign. Another cracker down south saw Michael Ahern inspire Emeralds to 0-15 to 0-14 win over Piltown whilst last year's county finalists Danesfort got over Fenians/Black & Whites.

In the quarter-finals home advantage saw Emeralds get the better of Tullogher Rosbercon whilst Graigue-Ballycallan managed to hold off a strong challenge from St. Patricks. Some magic goals got Danesfort across the line v Mooncoin, 4-15 to 1-19 whilst John Locke's put their county men experience to good use with a solid win over Graig. Again Emeralds showed some good game when putting it up to a highly fancied Danesfort in the first semi final but the men in black & amber got through.

In the other semi-final two more fancied teams clashed Graigue-Ballycallan and John Lockes who got off to the perfect start at MW Hire Dunmore as they faced near neighbours in this county semi-final. From the throw in the ball was won at midfield and sent goalward. A rasping shot by Ryan Donovan Cooke found the back of the net after a mere 30 seconds and the Lockes never looked back. The Callan attack kept up



Danesfort - Minor Roinn B Finalists 2024

the intensity right throughout the first half. Ollie O'Donovan was a treat in the corner, winning many a free, with Robbie Jackman slotting over the resulting placed balls. Sean McGrath in the Ballycallan goal pulled off a fine save from O' Donovan on the midway point of the first half. The Lockes work ethic was evident right across the field, Ryan Donovan was everywhere, fielding a Ballycallan puck out and sending it back over the bar from midfield on 15 minutes. Ballycallan got their first score of the game on 10 minutes, with a fine point from Cormac Neary. Half -time score saw the Lockes in command, on a score line of 1-8 to 4pts.

The Lockes form continued in the second half, and young Ollie O'Donovan found the net on 7 minutes with a well taken goal. Corner forward Shane Hogan had Ballycallan's first real threat on the Callan goal on 18 minutes, but goalie Patrick Gibbs was equal to the task, with a solid save. If Gibbs was solid in goal, his backs were equally solid in defence. Ben McGuire, Danny Carey, David Peppard, Michael Lynch and Paddy Grace, battled all day long. Such was their effort, they kept Ballycallan to a mere 3pts from play in the game. Midfield duo of Paddy O'Brien and Zak O Halloran gave a trojan effort, with Zak helping himself to a long rang point in the second half. Along with the aforementioned forwards, Alfie Lynch, Joseph Bulter, and captain Harry Madigan, all contributed greatly to the victory.

Callan utilised their bench to good effect in the second half, with Glen O'Sullivan coming on from Robbie Jackman, Richard Power for Joseph Bulter, and Hugh Hennessy for Alphie Lynch. In the dying minutes Glen O'Sullivan, made his

trademark darting run through the Ballycallan defence, for a well taken individual goal, wrapping up a the winning score line for the Lockes of 3-12 to 8pts. A convincing and well deserved victory for this squad and their coaches, they now look forward to a first county final for many a year for the Lockes.

John Lockes 1-21 1-13 Danesfort

A goal from substitute Richard Power in the dying embers of extra-time finally put an end to Danesfort's resistance as John Lockes claimed victory in the Minor Roinn B final on Saturday afternoon.

For a large period of a thoroughly enjoyable contest, it appeared as if Danesfort would make up for defeat in last year's final to Glenmore but a stoppage time Ollie O'Donovan score forced the game into an extra period that the Callan side dominated as they outscored their opponents 1-5 to 0-0 in the final 20 minutes. A second half goal from Aiden Cowley and vital contributions from Saeul Hayes and Fionn Mahony had put Danesfort in a winning position but John Lockes were much the better team for a lot of the second half and all of extra-time so they were more than deserving winners in the end. The 'Fort raced out of the traps and they were three points to the good within four minutes courtesy of scores from Jonathan Kennedy, Samuel Hayes and Charlie Sheehan.

John Lockes quickly extinguished that early deficit through points from free taker Robbie Jackman and Ollie O'Donovan who was as elusive as ever over the course of the contest.



Ballyhale Shamrocks - Minor Roinn C League Winners 2024

Midfielder Zak O'Halloran then edged the winners noses in front before a free from Darragh Coverdale had the sides deadlocked at 0-4 apiece at the halfway mark of the opening period. Both teams then missed a number of scoreable chances in what was a scrappy first 30 minutes overall but Danesfort hit three of the four points in the second quarter to lead by two at the break albeit they were playing with a strong enough breeze at their back.

It remained nip and tuck at the beginning of the second half with three Robbie Jackman frees for the Lockes cancelled out by efforts from Fionn Mahony, Darragh Coverdale and Samuel Hayes for Danesfort. The stalemate nature soon ended however with Robbie Jackman's John Lockes side getting the next six points on the bounce with Patrick Kerwick, Paddy O'Brien, Harry Madigan and Glen O'Sullivan all getting in on the act.

Danesfort needed a response and they got it when Aiden Cowley goaled in the 51st minute and they looked like they might snatch the game back in their favour through successive scores from Fionn Mahony. Robbie Jackman may have missed a late free for John Lockes but county minor star Ollie O'Donovan still had the last say as the game went to extra-time. The victorious side then used all the momentum from getting that equaliser as they controlled the final 20 minutes of action. Points from Jackman and Zak O'Halloran quickly helped the Lockes retake the lead as they went three clear at the break and there was to be no more late drama as the Callan club scored another 1-3 without reply in the second half with sub Richard Power's goal proving the icing on the cake for the jubilant and sizeable John Lockes as they ran out 1-21 to 1-13 winners.

John Lockes: Patrick Gibbs, Ben McGuire, Danny Carey, David Peppard, Patrick Kerwick, Michael Lynch, Paddy Grace Paddy O'Brien, Zak O'Halloran, Alfie Lynch, Robbie Jackman, Ryan Donovan-Cooke, Joseph Butler, Harry Madigan, Ollie O'Donovan. Subs: Glen O'Sullivan for Lynch, 35 mins., Sean Morrissey for Butler, 44 mins., Richard Power for Madigan, 66 mins.

Danesfort: Patrick Sinnott, Coleman Dunne, Mark Reddy, Paddy Kelly, Louis Lawlor, Calum Murphy, David Travers, Darragh Coverdale, Samuel Hayes, Timmy Corr, Bill Clune, Jonathan Kennedy, Fionn Mahony, Charlie Sheehan, Aiden Cowley. Subs: Ruairi O'Casaide for Corr, 45 mins., Conor Dillon for



Graignamanagh - Minor Roinn B League Champions 2024



Carrickshock - Minor D League Winners 2024

Clune, 57 mins., Daniel Smith for Lawlor, 60 mins.

Referee; Brian Fox (O'Loughlin Gaels).

Minor C

Shamrocks complete unique double!

The new look Roinn C was very competitive. There was only one game that was not really competitive whilst the other 5 were one score games or decided in the dying embers. First game saw Bennettsbridge and St. Lachtain's clash in what was a super game. A young man in the guise of Charlie Kavanagh had a big say in proceedings despite the best efforts of Dobbin, Walpole and Walsh.

Goals win matches and that certainly was the case as six goals saw James Stephens get ahead of Tullaroan by 1-20 to 6-8 whilst Rower-Inistioge had two points to spare over Lisdowney. In the all south clash Jake Mullen proved to be the difference as they got the better of Rower. For the other semi-final it was truly an epic St. Lachtain's 1-22 to James Stephens 2-22, handled excellently by Peter Burke. It was a game that ebbed and flowed but the introduction of Ruari Power and Andrew Brennan by the

Village was enough to get them across the line.

Shamrocks Ballyhale 2-15, James Stephens 0-16

It may be a game in years to come where one will ponder how so many future stars landed up playing in a highly entertaining Roinn C County final. Jake Mullen had two points on the board before James Kavanagh and James Long had matters level with a point a piece. A flurry of 1-3 from the men in Green and White might have had the Kell's Road outfit punch drunk but a couple of Darragh Power points managed to steady the ship despite the hurling storm being whipped in the half back line of Cathal Coogan and Killian Ryan. Shamrocks managed to get to the short whistle 1-9 to 0-7 ahead with Jake Mullen largely causing havoc up front before a large attendance.

Again the Shamrocks had a blistering start to the half gathering up four white flags which put them in a very strong position however the Village didn't lie down with Darragh Power (2), Ruairi Power, Rory O'Carroll (2) and Rory Glynn all cutting into the difference but a Shamrocks goal in the dying phases of the game saw the cup go south after a very high standard game.

Minor D

In Round 1 Conahy Shamrocks had an impressive win over Dicksboro 2 by six points. The northern outfit followed up with a fine win over Mullinavat down in the 'Vat. Kilmacow had just enough to get over John Lockes 2 whilst Carrickshock hit an impressive twenty five points with Mikey Rohan lighting up the place.

The two semi finals proved to be very close affairs with Carrickshock coming out on top against Conahy 0-15 to 1-11 whilst Slieverue

could consider themselves to be unlucky to lose out to Kilmacow 1-13 to 1-11.

Carrickshock 1-11, Kilmacow 1-8

Carrickshock and Kilmacow contested the Minor D shield final in Mullinavat. Carrickshock started strongly with Adam Franks in fine form. The ever impressive Conor Duggan, Mikey Rohan and Matthew Murphy worked tirelessly to stop the Kilmacow attacks. Both sides missed vital scores from placed balls. Kilmacow found the back of the net following some loose defending in the Carrickshock box. There was little to separate the

sides at half-time, with Kilmacow leading by 1-06 to 0-07 at the break.

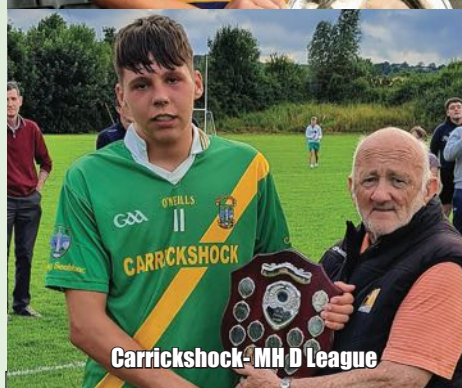
This young Carrickshock squad were without captain Conor Farrell and John Somers, who both were absent through injury. Carrickshock would go on to score 1-4 in the second half, compared to Kilmacow's return of 2 points. Adam Franks picked out Mikey Rohan with a well-timed pass and Mikey struck the back of the net to give Carrickshock the lead. Carrickshock won the game by a score of 1-11 to Kilmacow's 1-08.



John Lockes - MH B Championship



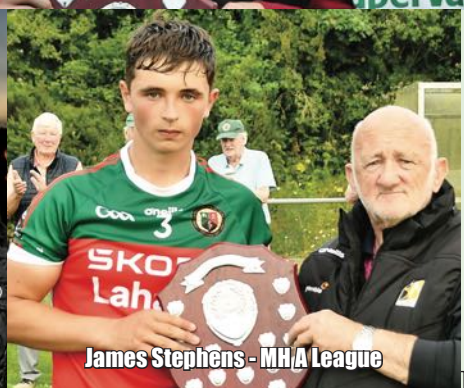
Graignamanagh - MH B League



Carrickshock - MH D League



Ballyhale Shamrocks - MH C League



James Stephens - MH A League

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Noah Manogue and Alan Larkin receive the Minor A Championship Trophy from BNG Chairman Willie Dempsey, with Cathal O'Neill, Kilkenny Vehicle Centre Sponsor



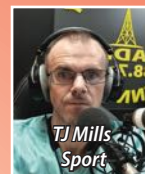
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Comer take the Blue Ribband

U16 Report by Bord na nÓg Coaching Officer Pado O'Flynn



U-16 A

The 2024 Duggan Steel U-16 Roinn A Hurling Championship was a highly competitive tournament that showcased some of Kilkenny's brightest young hurling talent. Erins Own stood out as deserving champions, with a strong team performance in the final and throughout the tournament. Their win capped off an excellent campaign that included close matches and hard-fought victories. Key players like Eoin Brennan, Josh Dowling, and the Buggy cousin, Kevin and Conor, played vital roles in the success of the team.

Other teams, such as Dicksboro, James Stephens, and John Lockes, all contributed to a thrilling tournament, highlighting the depth of young hurling talent in Kilkenny. For Dicksboro, the performances of Oisín Henderson and Samuel John O'Shea were standouts, while James Stephens relied on the leadership of Ruairi Power, Diarmuid Behan, Larry Phelan, Ollie Phelan and Cian Dermody. The final at Nowlan Park was a fitting spectacle to bring the championship to a close, leaving fans eagerly anticipating the future of these promising teams and players.

The competition began on Monday, 2nd September, with a series of compelling quarter-final fixtures that set the stage for the battles to come. In the first match, John Lockes secured a solid 3-13 to 2-6 victory over O'Loughlin Gaels at John Locke Park. Ollie Donovan lead the Johns park outfit on a merry dance. Next, James Stephens delivered a dominant performance, overwhelming Young Irelands with a resounding 2-29 to 1-10 victory at Pairc Sheamuis Stiophan. Key players in this dominant display included Ruairi Power, Diarmuid Behan, and Cian Dermody, who all contributed significantly to James Stephens' success. In the final quarter-final, Erins Own saw off Dunnamaggin winning by 1-13 to 2-21.

Onto the semi-finals on Saturday, 14th September, where the competition intensified with high stakes for the finalists. Dicksboro came through a tough battle against John Lockes, securing a 5-17 to 3-15 win at Palmerstown. In this high-scoring encounter, Oisín Henderson and Samuel John O'Shea were key for Dicksboro, each making important contributions in attack and defence. In the other semi-final, James Stephens faced Erins Own in a thrilling match that saw Erins Own narrowly win out 1-22 to 0-22 in a splendid St. Martins. Erins Own had standout performances from Eoin Brennan, Josh Dowling, and the Buggy brothers, Kevin Buggy and Conor Buggy, who all impressed throughout the competition. James Stephens' strong finish, led

by their stars Ruairi Power, Diarmuid Behan, and Cian Dermody, was not enough to gain them a place in the final.

Erins Own went into the game against highly fancied Dicksboro having suffered defeat in the league earlier this year to the city boys, but on the day every player left it all on the field of play in a deserved win. The opening two points went the way of Dicksboro only for the versatile Eoin Brennan to level with a pair of points, one from a free. Scores were shared and it was still even seven at 0-4 each after 11 minutes of an absorbing contest with Conor Buggy from play and a further Eoin Brennan free. The boys in blue then hit a purple patch with points from Kevin Buggy, Eoin Brennan two frees and a terrific long-range point from the hard-working Conor Buggy. At the end of the first quarter Eoin Brennan collected well and rattled to the net to put Erins Own six clear. The city side roared back in style with four unanswered points as the intensity reached decibel levels. Centre back Josh Dowling was a colossus breaking up attack after attack while behind him Tristan Daly was a steadying influence. From here to the half time whistle scores were again shared with Luke Connery on target from an acute angle and a third Conor Buggy point. As referee Peter Burke blew for half time the scoreboard read Erins Own 1-9; Dicksboro 0-10. The Comer boys made a great start to the new half with ace free taker Eoin Brennan successful with two and also weighed in with one from play for good measure to stretch the lead to five. Undaunted the Boro hit back only for midfield dynamo Kevin Buggy to land one of the scores of the day as the winners raced six ahead. A great individual goal rallied the city team at this stage the pressure was on Erins Own but the Brennan brothers John and Dylan steadied the ship with brilliant interceptions and clearances, while the tireless Jack Buggy worked his socks off. On the day there was simply no way of stopping Eoin Brennan who hit a brace one from a placed ball. For a second time Erins Own looked to be in command only for the Boro to score their second goal from a close in free as the sliotar somehow eluded the Comer backline. The introduction of Noah Murtagh added impetus to the winner's attack. A superb Kevin Buggy point was complimented by a beauty from Jamie Cahalan to ease the nerves. The Boro threw caution to the wind, but Comer goalie Sam Coogan was cool, calm and collective unlike the Comer supporters who were biting their nails. It was fitting Eoin Brennan should close the scoring from a free for a terrific tally on the day. Final Score Erins Own 1-20; Dicksboro 2-13.

U-16 B

The 2024 Duggan Steel U-16 Roinn B Hurling Championship showcased some exceptional talent and competitive spirit. While Shamrocks Ballyhale emerged as champions, the tournament displayed strong performances from teams such as Barrow Rangers, Rower-Inistioge, and Danesfort, all of whom made it to the later stages of the competition. The final was a fitting conclusion to a thrilling tournament, highlighting the skill, determination, and passion for hurling among Kilkenny's young stars such as Jake Mullen and Jake Bolger.

The championship kicked off on Monday, 2nd September with a series of high-scoring and competitive matches.

Round 1

Mooncoin faced Tullogher Rosbercon in a closely contested match, with Mooncoin edging out their opponents by 2-12 to 6-10.

Lisdowney secured a solid win against Carrickshock, defeating them at home by 2-12 to 1-0.

Shamrocks Ballyhale showed their strength with a dominant performance, beating Mullinavat 7-20 to 1-9.

Danesfort took on Thomastown, but the latter emerged victorious, overcoming Danesfort by 2-21 to 1-15.

St. Martin's faced Rower-Inistioge and found themselves on the backfoot, losing 1-14 to 3-18.

As the competition moved to the quarter-finals, teams started to separate themselves with standout performances. Tullogher-Rosbercon fell short again, losing 2-20 to 5-13 to Barrow Rangers. Graigue-Ballycallan were outclassed by Danesfort, with the latter winning 4-16 to 1-9. Shamrocks Ballyhale dispatched St. Patrick's 2-25 to 0-12, underlining their dominance. Rower-Inistioge edged past Lisdowney 1-12 to 1-20, setting up an exciting semi-final.

In the semi-final the Rower lost to Barrow Rangers in a game for the ages with an impressive 5-15 to 1-25.

Shamrocks had a point to spare over Danesfort.

The final, played on Saturday, 19th October at MW Hire Dunmore, was a closely fought affair. Barrow Rangers put up a strong challenge, but Shamrocks Ballyhale proved their quality and resilience, eventually winning by 2-16 to 1-14. The victory marked a fantastic end to their campaign, with their solid team performance in both attack and defence proving too much for Barrow Ranger

U-16 C

The Duggan Steel U-16 Roinn C hurling championship got underway when Graignamanagh got the better of Piltown by 3-14 to 1-14. Other notable first round games saw St. Lachtains gain revenge over Glenmore by a point 2-11 to 1-3.

The quarter-finals saw Tullaroan, Conahy Shamrocks, St. Lachtains and Galmoy/Windgap all gain victories. The semi-finals saw Conahy and St. Lachtains come through.

Conahy Shamrocks 1-13

St. Lachtain's (Freshford) 1-8

Conahy Shamrocks deservedly captured the Duggan Steel Under-16 Hurling Roinn C county title when they got the better of a young St. Lachtain's side in a hard-fought game in MW Hire Training Centre, Dunmore.

The game was played in very strong windy conditions which aided the Freshford men in the opening half. Scores were swapped in the opening quarter as both sides tried to settle into the game, with Bobby Darcy and Liam Kelly Landers finding the target for St. Lachtain's, and Jack Rhatigan and Joe Boland doing likewise for the Conahy men. The opening goal came five minutes from half-time when Jack Marnell, the St. Lachtain's corner forward, was able to beat his marker to a breaking ball and flicked to the Conahy net. A further point from Bobby Darcy saw St. Lachtain's lead by 1-7 to 0-5 at the interval. Conahy needed a big start to the second half to fight their way back into contention, and an early point from Billy Rowe certainly helped in that regard. Once they settled and found an effective way of using the strong wind to their favour, Conahy slowly but surely reduced the deficit. Points from Rory Sherman, Jack Rhatigan and Joe Boland saw Conahy level the game as the final quarter beckoned.

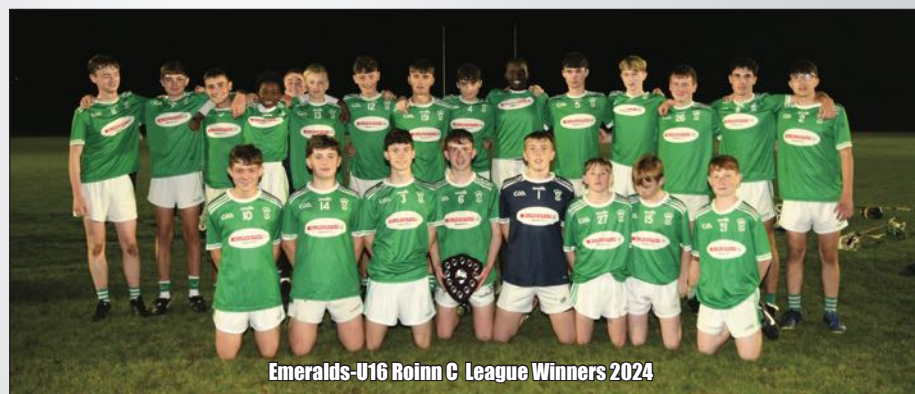
The key score came with ten minutes to play when Jack Rhatigan worked in his way in from the wing and hit a shot from a narrow angle to the St. Lachtain's net. A point from corner-forward Rory Sherman soon followed to give Conahy a four point lead (1-12 to 1-8). A Bobby Darcy pointed free was the sole response from the St. Lachtain's side. A final pointed free from Jack Rhatigan brought the scoring to a finish as Conahy took control of the



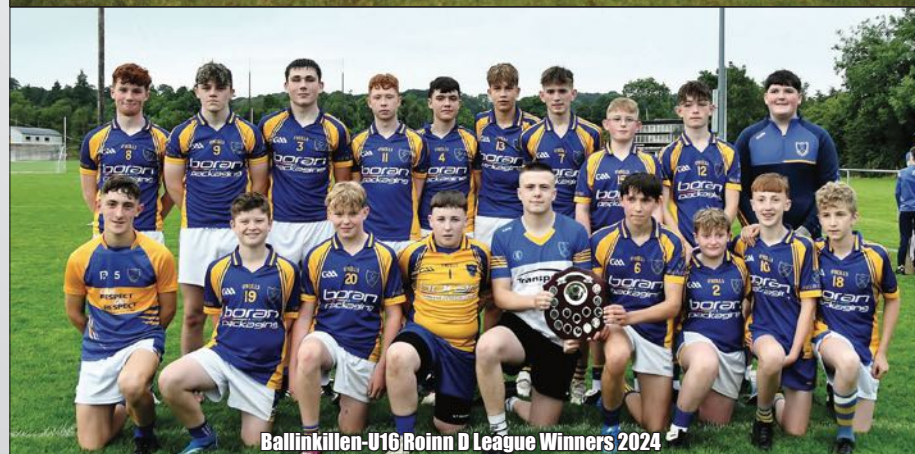
James Stephens -U16 Roinn A League Winners 2024



Danesfort-U16 Roinn B League Winners 2024



Emeralds-U16 Roinn C League Winners 2024



Ballinkillen-U16 Roinn D League Winners 2024

spoils in the end. However, huge credit must go to St. Lachtain's, whose younger side fought bravely right to the end.

Best for St. Lachtain's were Charlie Kavanagh, Hugo Carroll, David Ryan, Liam Kenny Landers and Bobby Darcy, while Patrick Kennedy, Finn Sherman, Jack Rhatigan, Joe Boland and Rory Sherman were among a number of standout players for Conahy.

U-16 D

Roinn D proved to be a typically close affair with seven teams all fancying their chances. The quarter finals proved this as Dicksboro got the better of James Stephens whilst Slieveue

had a point to spare on O'Loughlin Gaels. Cloonen's late burst saw them defeat Young Ireland. The semi finals were a little more clear-cut as Cloonen prevailed over John Lockes and Dicksboro had too much fire power for Slieveue.

DUGGAN STEEL U16 Roinn D Final 2024

Dicksboro 3-11

Cloonen 1-12.

"Boro boys have their day in the sun"

Dicksboro's second string at this underage grade enjoyed their winning day by coming from behind at half time to be crowned

Roinn D U16 hurling champions for 2024, overcoming a gallant Cloneen side in Dunmore Grounds on Sunday 6th Oct. Both sets of players gave their all in a highly competitive and exciting final played in brilliant sunshine in complete contrast to their earlier league fixture in May played on a wet dark night in Cloneen, where the northern lads enjoyed a 4-08 to 3-06 victory.

The Cloneen lads settled quicker into the game and led by four points after ten minutes with their half-forward line duo of Ryan Lawlor and Jack Carroll leading the scoring. Indeed, Cloneen were to score eleven points from play and one from a free in the first half as they were more direct in attack and willing to shoot at the posts where possible. Slowly but surely, Dicksboro led by a very hard-working Conor Power at centre-forward clawed their way back into the game as their confidence grew. Points by captain James Gannon, Noah Orr, Cian Fogarty, Jake Mullally and 1-01 by the aforementioned Conor Power brought the first half to a close on a 0-12 to 1-05 in Cloneen's favour. Cloneen's Eoin Maher, Kalem Buggy, Ryan Lawlor & Jack Carroll scores were crucial to the Northerners lead.

The Boro enthused by their half time "chat" dominated the whole of the second half holding Cloneen to one solitary score, a goal near the end by Kalem Buggy. On every line the Boro men dug deep, upped their work rate and showed their true potential to the great crowd in attendance. The switch of Conor

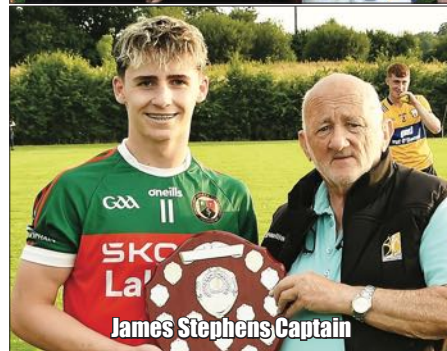
Power to mid-field and Conor Marry to half forward ignited the team. The Northerners had no answer to this hurling renaissance by the city side as sheer dogged determination and will to win propelled the Boro to a 3-11 to 1-12 final score line to wild scenes of celebration at the last blow of Colin Tobin's whistle, by the players, parents and supporters. Conor Power led the way scoring 1-02 in the second half aided by Cian Fogarty (1-01), Conor Marry (0-02) and James Gannon (0-01) to capture the U16 D crown for the city. In addition, Eoin Roberts in the goal, Sean Carroll, Andrew Browne, Joe Osborne & Philip Mullaney defended stoutly, Aaron Butler covered a lot of ground at midfield, while up front Charlie Byrne, Michael Brennan and Jake Mullally caused Cloneen most concern.

For Cloneen, JJ Buggy was unbeatable in the goal in the first half, while Kevin Brennan and Rian Brennan at the centre of the defence were solid throughout the hour. Eoin Maher at midfield caught the eye while Ryan Lawlor and Jack Carroll looked threatening on the half forward line with full forward Kalem Buggy a strong presence on the full forward line.

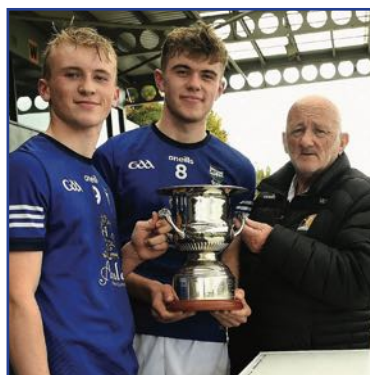
Cloneen were a well drilled team and it took the Boro side a while to get to grips in the game and eventually get the upper hand – their tactic was straight forward: hard work and determination and let the ball do the work (mentor Jim Neary's trademark).



Ballinkillen Joint Captains



James Stephens Captain



Willie Dempsey, Chairman BNG, Presents the Under 16 Duggan Steel Trophy to Erin's Own Jt Captains.




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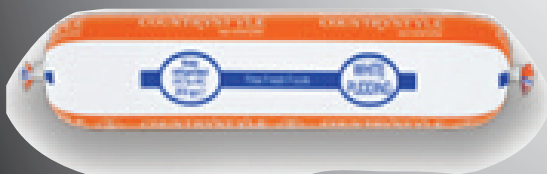
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Danesfort's First Roinn A!

U14 Report by Bord na nÓg Coaching Officer Pado O'Flynn



Danesfort- Roinn A U14 Championship Winners 2024



Ballyhale Shamrocks- Roinn B U14 Championship Winners 2024

U-14 A

There was a sense of intrigue as 7 teams went to post with the age now gone back to evens. One wondered would the exploits of country teams like Erins Own, John Lockes etc. happen again as the country teams seemed equal to their city counterparts at U-13 level?

Dicksboro had an impressive win over Graigue-Ballycallan in the quarter-final while John Lockes set tongues wagging when they swatted aside the challenge of James Stephens. Danesfort showed a touch of class as they got the better of Young Irelands completely dominating the last quarter.

In a very tight county semi-final John Lockes were beaten by a more accurate Danesfort by 0-9 to 0-11. In the other semi-final Dicksboro's ability to get goals saw them get the better of their city rivals O'Loughlin Gaels. Thoughts then turned towards UPMC Nowlan Park and to see which side would break their curse of losing tight underage finals.

U14 Roinn A Hurling County Final

Danesfort 0-12, 0-8 Dicksboro

Danesfort went into an early lead after 2 mins with a James Tierney free, Mattie Corr extending that in the 12th minute. Dicksboro hit their opening score in the 15th minute from Canice Power. Further points from Alan Ireland Sinnott and another James Tierney free extended the Danesfort lead to 3 points by the 19th minute. Dicksboro closed the gap to just 1 point by the 24th minute with points from Dara Kavanagh and a second from Canice Power. Danesfort got the last score of the half with a second point from

Alan Ireland Sinnott to lead 0-5 to 0-3.

The second half scores came much quicker, Mattie Corr got a point from play after 32 mins, Dicksboro's Conor Henderson scored a huge free from mid-field to reduce the lead again to 2 points followed by another point from Dara Kavanagh. Mattie Corr scored another point from play in the 37th minute, followed a minute later by a Dicksboro point from a Sam Norton free. Alan Ireland Sinnott scored his third point from play to leave the score at 8pts to 6 at the 39th minute. Danesfort half backs especially Thomas O'Donnell and Conor Roche Falsey were starting to dominate the Danesfort defence. Conor Roche Falsey stepping forward in the 41st minute to score an inspirational point from play. Dicksboro put great pressure on the Danesfort goal but some great saves by Steve Hoyne and his full back line kept the ball out. In the 45th minute, Danesfort's Alan Ireland Sinnott scored his fourth from play to extend the Danesfort lead again to four points. Both teams exchanged points in the 50th and 51st minutes with a Sam Norton free and a fourth Mattie Corr point. A Sam Norton free again in the 55th minute reduced the Danesfort lead to 3 points. The last score of the game came from Danesfort's Oisín Maher in the 60th minute to extend the lead to 0-12 to 0-8 which was enough to ensure a historic Danesfort win.

Overall it was a very enjoyable game with some great individual performances from both teams on the day, in particular, an exhibition of defensive play from both sides. Well done to Danesfort on winning their first ever Roinn A title at underage level.

U-14 B

The Duggan Steel U-14 Roinn B Championship is always the ultimate land mine when it comes to picking a winner. The reality is nobody knows who is on top, the form can fluctuate wildly at this

age too even a holiday or two can throw a team off.

Round 1 saw a hugely entertaining south derby as Piltown and Shamrocks clashed in a truly epic tussle. A late Shamrocks goal got them the win 2-11 to 1-11. A few miles up the road Clara and Bennettsbridge shot the lights out as the men clad in green and gold eventually got the better of their neighbours 1-17 to 2-14 and in a replay 3-12 to 3-10. Mooncoin shot seven goals that sunk the Carrickshock ambition whilst two late goals saw Galmoy/Windgap escape Paic Lachtain with the win despite the best efforts of Jamie Kavanagh.

At quarter-final stages in St. Kieran's College, Galmoy/Windgap eventually pulled away from a very fine Mullinavat side. In Paic Seomroga, Ballyhale always had too much for St. Martins and gained victory 0-13 to 0-8. Barrow Rangers and Rower-Inistioge drew before the Paulstown based outfit gained a big replay win. Mooncoin again had all the answers when they swatted aside Bennettsbridge in the quarter final.

Semi-final day saw two contrasting matches as Shamrocks Ballyhale had too much to overcome Galmoy/Windgap. In the other side Barrow Rangers and Mooncoin put on a really good game that saw the men from Rangers qualify for the final. In the final a late Shamrocks blast saw them land the spoils.

U-14 C

Round 1 saw a dominant performance by Fenians/St. Patricks, who won easily by 20 points. Their superior scoring power overwhelmed the O'Loughlin Gaels team. Dunnamaggin came out on top despite Danesfort's strong efforts, Dunnamaggin's scoring run saw them edge through with an eight point win. Lisdowney were too strong



Blacks & Whites - Roinn D U14 Championship Winners 2024



John Lockes - Roinn A U14 League Winners 2024



Kilmacow - Roinn C U14 League Winners 2024

for Tullaroan, securing a solid eight point win. Tullaroan struggled to contain Lisdowney's attack. Meanwhile in Castlecomer, Erins Own had a comfortable win over John Lockes, winning by nineteen points. Their attacking play was clinical, putting them firmly in control throughout the match.

The first quarter-final saw a thrilling, high-scoring encounter, with Kilmacow's 4-8 eventually prevailing by a single point over Glenmore's 3-7 in a hard fought contest. Erins Own secured a hard-fought victory by two points over Thomastown who put up a strong challenge, but Erins Own held on for the win. Meanwhile in a dramatic encounter where Dunnamaggin managed to come out on top despite Graignamagh's strong performance, Dunnamaggin's clinical finishing saw them edge out their opponents. The final quarter final saw a comfortable victory for St. Patricks.

The semi-finals saw the Castlecomer men win a close contest by three points. Dunnamaggin fought valiantly, but Erins Own's solid defence and attack saw them through to the final. In the other semi-final Kilmacow's attack had moments of brilliance, but Fenians/St. Patricks were the more consistent side and won out.

Fenians/St. Patricks claimed the championship with a four point win in a tense final. Despite Erins Own's strong efforts, especially in attack, Fenians/St. Patricks' consistent scoring and solid defence saw them crowned champions of the Duggan Steel U14 Roinn C Hurling Championship 2024.

U-14 D

There was a huge number of teams who entered this years competition. A number of sides entered second teams. The highlighted game from Round 1 was played between Graigue-Ballycallan B and James Stephens C which saw the Larchfield outfit gain victory.

There was quarter final victories for Blacks & Whites, Emeralds, James Stephens C and Mooncoin B. In the semi-final Emeralds had to give way to Blacks & Whites whilst Mooncoin had too much for James Stephens C.

Black & Whites 4-4

Mooncoin 0-6

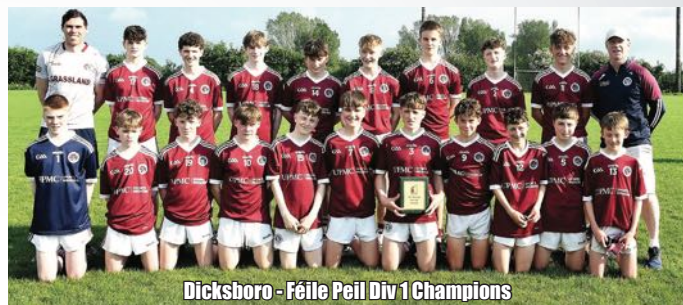
Hurlers on the ditch will often be heard to say that "goals win matches" and on the occasion of this 2024 u14 Roinn D County Final between Blacks & Whites and Mooncoin, they would certainly be correct. This was a mighty game, hard fought by both sides, who gave it their all on a lovely sunny October morning in Thomastown but at the final whistle, it was the ability of the Skeoughvosteen men to find the net that was the difference between the sides.

The match opened at a helter-skelter pace and it was clear from the outset there was going to be no quarter asked nor given. Blacks & Whites started well and immediately looked very dangerous. The Mooncoin defence was under pressure to keep them out and goalkeeper, Fionn Walsh, had already pulled off two top notch saves by the time Damien Delaney, captain and full forward, raced clear of his marker and buried the ball to the back of the net to open the scoring for the Blacks & Whites after 12 minutes. Mooncoin, to their credit, refused to buckle and hit back with two quick points, one from a free by centre forward James Hayes, the other by corner forward Ethan Owens. Eoin Kealy responded with a well taken point following some lovely team play.

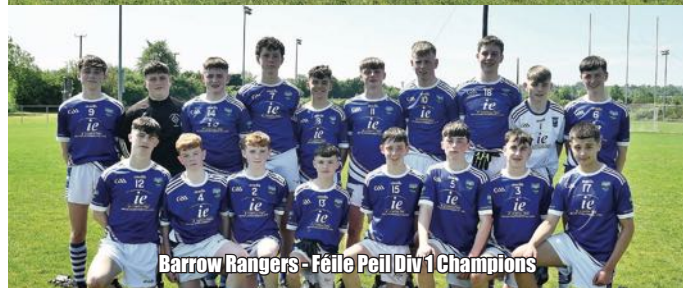
Then came another hammer blow for the Southerners when Delaney again powered through to finish the ball to the net. Mooncoin were really struggling to keep the shackles on the bustling full forward and he caused havoc every time he was near the ball. Mooncoin responded, this time with two frees from the threatening James Hayes. But it was the Blacks & Whites with the last say of the half with a pointed free from centre back Daire Nolan, who was having a storming match. The half time score was Blacks & Whites 2-2 Mooncoin 0-4.

Mooncoin knew they needed a strong start to the second half and immediately put danger man James Hayes on the edge of the square. However scoring changes were limited at during the third quarter with some excellent defending on both sides. It really was a terrific contest during this period. James Hayes narrowed the gap further with a point from a free. But enter danger man Damien Delaney again who carried powerfully and shot at goal, the ball saved well initially, but spilling to the side where the lurking Brian Maher finished to the net. This was a major score in the context of the match and the Skeough lads never looked back. Pauric Orpen tacked on a pointed free to extend the lead.

Mooncoin were now desperate to find the goal to turn the match and sacrificed some point opportunities in search of a major score, but some inspirational last ditch defending from the Black & Whites demonstrated their determination to clinch victory. Mooncoin's last big opportunity was a 21 yard free which goalkeeper Fionn Walsh struck with venom, but unfortunately high and over the bar. At the other end, scores were coming a little easier and Damien Delaney was proving too hot to handle, scoring an excellent point from play before releasing a lovely pass to corner forward Pauric Orpen who lashed the ball to the net with real conviction. It marked the end of the contest and the final score in a wonderful victory for the men from Skeoughvosteen.



Dickshoro - Féile Peil Div 1 Champions



Barrow Rangers - Féile Peil Div 1 Champions



Dickshoro Féile Peil Div 1 Champions

Clara GAA Report which missed the submission deadline:



2024 was another enjoyable and memorable season

for Clara GAA club with teams competing strongly at all grades from underage up to our three adult teams. Well done to all who donned the maroon and white of Clara this year. There were a number of players who represented the club in colleges, third-level and inter-county competitions with highlights including Rory Glynn, David Barcoe and Killian Phelan. Rory Glynn turned in a Man of the Match performance in St. Kieran's College's All-Ireland Senior Colleges Final victory alongside clubmates and panel members David Barcoe, Cian Kelly, Harry Boyle and Sean Carrigan. David Barcoe was part of the Kilkenny minor team who won the Leinster championship before narrowly losing the All-Ireland Final. Killian Phelan once again represented the club with pride in the Senior All-Ireland Poc Fada Final, finishing 4th. Clara was well-represented across multiple inter-county grades with Paul Cody, Rory Glynn, David Barcoe, Luke Lawlor, Philip Carrigan, Padraic Meany and Micheál Meany all involved in county panels this year. Thanks to all who volunteered and supported the club throughout the year. Clárach Abú.





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EARNING THEIR STRIPES!

Development
Squads Report
by Pado O'Flynn

Photos Willie Dempsey



Kilkenny Celtic Challenge Winners 2024

Na Cait Óga – Earning your stripes!

Following on the implementation of the Michael Dempsey review of Kilkenny GAA – a performance was sought and Michael Fennelly was appointed by summer 2023.

2024 was his first year in the role and it saw the rebrand of the Academy Squads to na Cait Óga in February 2024 at a launch night before 600 people in Hotel Kilkenny. This included players, parents, club officers, county board officials, coaches former players and local media. On the night Clunetech's sponsorship of na Cait Óga was launched by Terry Clune CEO. Key speakers on the night included PJ Kenny Chairman Kilkenny GAA, David Denieffee Chairman Coaching & Games and Micheal Fennelly Performance with contributions from Brian Ryan Games Manager & Sean Kelly Athletic Lead.

A number of workshops took place through out the year for the players including, skills, athletic development & nutritional which all 235 players got to experience.

Parents/Guardians were also kept up to date through out the year with webinars on effective study methods by Katie Farrell, Sean Kelly debunking the myths around athletic development whilst the option of personal development through Shane Noonan.

Players also got a lot of their athletic development programme done through the schools with satellite sessions organised for Kilkenny players in schools outside of Kilkenny.

One notable addition for 2024 was the presence of professional staff at all games for 2024 to help with injured players which was a really positive step and something that will be included in 2025 – whilst one can't forget the great undertaken by Joe Pyke in looking after injured players. Also

A strong crew of coaches volunteered for the season which included 35 sessions on the field, 3 collective workshops along with feedback sessions to players and parents. To them we say a mighty thank you.

Celtic Challenge – Kilkenny Finally triumph!

Celtic Challenge is ultimately about developing the next layer of players below county minor. This might be best reviewed by reference to the stated objectives.

1. "... continue to develop the basic fundamental skills of the game"

Over the course of the season skills became sharper, snappier and slicker and, in particular, slow lazy ball delivery faded out.

2. "...while being introduced to games based coaching"

Games Based Coaching was a stated priority and was part of every session. The increased Mgt team allowed the squad to be split into groups to ensure the sessions were focussed, effective and



Ciaran Hickey Cpt Receives The Celtic Challenge Trophy from Kilkenny Chairman PJ Kenny



Fionn Mahony Receives The Man Of the Match Award

objectives delivered.

3. "... players being introduced to the type of approaches to games players will come up against at inter county level".

This approach was timely as the use of set piece play by opponents was much more evident in 2024 than in 2023.

But in Kilkenny we always like to land a trophy or two...

Kilkenny 1-18 1-14 Tipperary

The back story to this game was fairly simple – Kilkenny picked a panel for the year and stuck with it. The easy thing would have been to bring back the county minors off Niall Bergins. It had happened in previous additions but Kilkenny chose the option of sticking with the men who had gotten them thus far to try land their first ever Celtic Challenge trophy.

A good start was more than half the battle as Kilkenny secured a four point win over Tipperary Blue in the Celtic Challenge final at UPMC Nowlan Park on Sunday afternoon.

A red card to Tipperary's Kyle O'Dowd at the start of the second period dented the Premier County's challenge and a goal in stoppage time from Larry Collins arrived too late in the day to make any material difference as Tom Hogans charges essentially bossed proceedings from start to finish.

A Fionn Mahony goal when he flyhacked the ball to the net after gaining possession on the back of a poor sideline cut pushed the Cats clear and when Luke Lawlor pointed afterwards, Kilkenny went into the break with a 1-12 to 0-8 advantage.

Frees from Jack Coogan and Aidan Carroll were added to by efforts from play from James Reid and Shane McDonald and after 10 minutes of action, Kilkenny led 0-6 to 0-1 on the scoreboard.

Maheer doubled his free tally for Tipp shortly afterwards but the Cats momentum was proving hard to stop with Reid and Cathal Russell also scoring from play.

Jack Marnell eventually got Tipperary's opening score from play in the 16th minute and they rallied before the break with further points from Maheer and Michael Collins reducing the gap to three.

Kyle O'Dowd's red card on a second bookable offence within a minute of the restart heavily dented the Tipperary challenge and despite Kilkenny only scoring six points in the second period, the result was never really in doubt.

Tipperary's subs did improve things with Darragh Dunne, Conor Grace and goalscorer Larry Collins all having an impact.

At the finish Ciaran Hickey lifted the trophy deservedly on behalf of a hardworking.

U-16 (1)

At the start of the campaign Kilkenny made a decision to use this competition as development for players who were not part of the Kilkenny minor squad. In the first game it was against Tipperary in Erins Own. In what was a rip roaring contest Kilkenny finished the contest down by a point.

They had to wait two months and to travel down to Limerick of a Friday evening for round two of the competition and managed a draw in very difficult circumstances where a number of strange decisions saw them gain the result that kept them alive in the competition. Unfortunately results elsewhere conspired against them that saw them enter a plate mini league for the finals day.

On the day in a well appointed Kells Rd Kilkenny defeated Clare and lost out in the



U16 (1) Team



U16 (2) Team



U15 (1) Team



U15 (2) Team



U14 (1) Team



U14 (2) Team



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final to Dublin to end the year.

Whilst silverware was not attained many of these players will backbone the Kilkenny minors in 2025 gained valuable development time.

U-16 (2) – National Cup

The journey that the U16 2nd squad which started in January has now reached its conclusion in Abbotstown August 24 with a semi final against Westmeath.

The first ten minutes was a cagey affair with both sides trying to get a measure off each other. After some poor shooting from both sides a well worked movement by Kilkenny resulted in a great goal being scored by Daniel Tobin which left the score 1:4 KK to two points Westmeath. From the puckout which Westmeath was dominating, floating a ball into the KK square resulting in a goal for the Westmeath men. The remainder of the half was all Kilkenny mainly due to getting the better of their puck outs with KK leading at half time 1:13 to 1:4 after playing with the wind with ten minutes gone in the second half KK with the score of 3:15 to 1:6 Kilkenny started to introduce all their subs which did not dilute the strength of the team the final score was 4:20 to Kilkenny to Westmeaths 2:8.

Onto the final which these group of player deserve as they were only defeated once in the two years. Their opponents in the final were Antrim who they had played earlier in the year. Again the start of the game was nip and tuck with Antrim taking the game to KK. Mid way through the first half KK scored two goals to leave it 2:4 to nine points with most of the scores coming from play. KK outscored Antrim 6:2 in the final 10 of the first half leaving the score 2:10 to 11. Kilkenny introduced a few subs at the start of the second half as tired legs and injuries were starting to set in with 5 minutes gone in the second half. Kk had a man sent off and Antrim on the rise with the score of 2:11 to 14 points. The kk players knuckled down with small amount of determination and skill ran out comfortably winners on a score line of Kilkenny 4:18 to Antrim 1:15. Liam Kenny Landers lifted the cup on behalf of these wonderful group of players.

U-16 Football

The under-16 inter-county football scene saw a significant resurgence in the Autumn of 2023 and Spring of 2024, marking an important milestone for Kilkenny GAA. More than 120 young athletes eagerly attended trials, reflecting a renewed energy and enthusiasm for the sport. This period also marked Kilkenny's return to competitive inter-county football, with the team participating in the O'Donovan Cup against Carlow, Tipperary, and Waterford.

The panel, which held 15 sessions, benefiting from technical training and guidance by the coaches. A notable event during this period was an informative session for both parents and players at UPMC Nowlan Park, featuring Michael Fennelly, the Performance Lead of Na Cait Óga (Kilkenny GAA Academy), and P.J. Kenny, Chairman of Kilkenny GAA. This gathering underlined the county's commitment to holistic development, ensuring that both players and families were engaged and informed.

Representing 20 different clubs from across Kilkenny, many of these young men donned the county jersey for the first time. Training sessions were marked by impressive attendance and an exceptional level of skill and commitment. Over the course of the O'Donovan Cup, the panel showed steady improvement, with notable progress from their initial match against Carlow to their final game against Waterford in Walsh Park. These efforts have laid a strong foundation for Kilkenny's minor football campaign in 2025, providing a launchpad for further success.

The management team, led by Lead Coach Eoin Hennessy, Pat Nolan, David Lyons, Mark Hender, and Paudie Bradley (Kilkenny GAA Games Development Coach), played a pivotal role in guiding the squad. They received continuous support from Kilkenny GAA County Board, schools, and clubs. The efforts of key figures like David Denieffe Coaching & Games Chairman, Brian Ryan (Games Manager), Michael Fennelly (Performance Lead), Philip Campion (Kilkenny GAA Games Development Coach) & Officers of Kilkenny County Bord further enhanced the program's success.

This reinvigorated effort not only bolstered Kilkenny's football program but also served as an important stepping stone for young players aspiring to make their mark in the county's storied GAA

Age	Name	Club	Age Group	Name	Club
U-14 Kilkenny	Dessie Walsh	Thomastown	U-16 1	Billy Quinn	Mooncoin
U-14 Kilkenny	Bill Cuddihy	Tullaroan	U-16 1	Richard Kelly	Rower Inistioge
U-14 Kilkenny	Eddie Doyle	B & W's	U-16 2	Patrick Comerford	Erin's Own
U-14 Kilkenny	Aaron Butler	John Lockes	U-16 2	Geoff Brennan	St Patricks
U-14 Kilkenny	Gearoid Cleere	G/Ballycallan	U-16 2	Shane Power	Carrickshock
U-14 Cill Chainnigh	Declan Brennan	Fenians	U-16 2	Pat Nolan	Blacks & Whites
U-14 Cill Chainnigh	Ciaran Breen	Barrow Rangers	GK - Coach U-16's	Brian Doheny	John Lockes
U-14 Cill Chainnigh	Tommy Denieffe	St Lachtain's	Celtic Challenge	Tom Hogan	G/Ballycallan
U-14 Cill Chainnigh	Dave Williams	Kilmacow	Celtic Challenge	Liam Lacey	St Patrick's
U-14 Emerging Talent	John Maher	St Martin's	Celtic Challenge	Gordon Byrne	Erins Own
U-14 Emerging Talent	Jim Norris	Piltown	Celtic Challenge	Tom O'Hanlon	Mooncoin
U-15 1	Fergal Brennan	O'Loughlin Gaels	Celtic Challenge	Ronan Tierney	Graignamanagh
U-15 1	John Ó Grady	B & W's	GDC - U14/15	Philly Campion	St Lachtain's
U-15 1	Tom Brennan	Barrow Rangers	GDC Celtic Challenge	Sean Kelly	St Martin's
U-15 1	Aidan Lawler	St Martins	GDC U-16	Nathen Culleton	James Stephens
U-15 1	Derek Brennan	Thomastown	Football	David Lyons	Dunnamaggin
U-15 2	John Costelloe	Lisdowney	GDC Football	Paudie Butler	Piltown
U-15 2	Podge Lacey	Dicksboro	Football	Mark Hender	Railyard
U-15 2	Eoin McGrath	St Martin's	Football	Pat Nolan	Blacks & Whites
U-15 2	Eoin Reid	B/Shamrocks	Football	Philly Campion	St Lachtain's
U-15 2	Tom Corcoran	Galmoy	Football	Eoin Hennessy	KK City LGFC
U-15 2	Ciaran Neary	Dicksboro	Performance Lead	Michael Fennelly	Shamrocks Ballyhale
U-16 1	Liam Smith	James Stephens	Games Manager	Brian Ryan	Fenians
U-16 1	Robert Jackman	John Lockes	Injured Players	Joe Pyke	Clara
U-16 1	Stephen Morgan	James Stephens	Logistics Manager	Pat Nolan	B & W's

history. The momentum built during these months promises to carry forward, offering a bright future for the county's minor football team and beyond.

U-15 (1) Arrawbawn Tournament

The U151 team enjoyed a successful year in 2024. The year commenced with trials in SETU Carlow on January 20th. The U151 team had challenge games throughout the year against Dublin, Wexford along with the Kilkenny U162 team. In the group stages of the Arrawbawn cup competition, the lads had a disappointing start losing to Limerick in Mooncoin before bouncing back to record wins over Tipperary 1 in Dr Morris Park and Cork 1 in Johnstown. After topping the group, the team got drawn away to Waterford in the quarter final and came out of Erin's Own GAA Club (Waterford) with a well earned victory. In the Arrawbawn Cup semi final, Kilkenny recorded a great win over an unbeaten Galway before coming up short against Tipperary 1 in the final.

Off the pitch, the team enjoyed a team building evening in Castlecomer Discovery Park along with a bus trip to Tullamore for the Leinster U20 game between Kilkenny & Offaly.

U-15 (2) – John Doyle Cup

This team improved hugely throughout the season. Game day 1 proved difficult with a defeat to a very strong Galway team. A much improved performance followed again away to Offaly 1's where they were unlucky to lose 4-11 to 2-8.

A big win against Cork in game day 3 qualified Kilkenny for the cup quarter finals. Unfortunately Kilkenny received a walkover in this game before defeating Clare with a fine semi final win 2-16 to 1-13.

The final saw a gallant effort come up short to a fine Offaly side 1-9 to 0-18.



Sean Kelly, Mick Fennelly, P.J. Kenny, David Denieffe at Squads Launch



KILKENNY UNDER 19 PANEL 2024

Back: Steve Kinsella, Noah Manogue, Sean Deely, Ed Lauhoff, Conor Power, Jack Campion, Sean Hunt, Liam Hogan, Jamie Lyng
 Middle: Anthony Ireland Wall, Niall O'Brien, Mikey Stynes, Oisín Bateman, Darragh Vereker, Rory Connellan, Micheal Keane, Sean Hamilton
 Front: Tomas Roche, James O'Neill, Cathal Hickey, Billy O'Sullivan, Conor Brophy, Rory Garrett, Colm Treacy, Cian Kelly, Micheal Ahern, Conor Doyle
 Missing from photo: Jerry Henderson, Ruaidhri Galwey, Andrew Phelan, Ciallín Brennan

Cill Chainnigh 2024 – Tony Forristal Tournament

After a great qualifying round for the Cill Chainnigh team, ending in qualification for the Tony Forristal tournament, opposition on the day proved too strong. A physically stronger Laois team made life difficult for Cill Chainnigh, who eventually lost in their quarter final. Cill Chainnigh will be disappointed with their performance, which was well below the high standards they had set for themselves during the year. This loss set them up for a game against Cork West in the shield semi final. A much improved effort from the entire squad of players saw a close fought battle which went down to the final minutes, Cill Chainnigh eventually losing out by the smallest margin. Even though results did not go to plan, it was a very enjoyable day and a fantastic achievement for the panel of players to represent Cill Chainnigh at the highest level at U14.

Kilkenny 2024 – Tony Forristal Tournament

Following a 1-12 to 0-2 win over Tipperary in the quarter final, Kilkenny progressed to the Tony Forristal semi-final against Waterford in Mount Sion Gaa grounds. Kilkenny settled early with a goal from Matthew Corr followed by two outstanding long range points from wing back Cian Kelly, this left the score of Kilkenny 1-5 to 0-1 at halftime. Further goals in the second half from Liam Corcoran, Matthew Corr again and John Brennan resulted in a commanding victory for Kilkenny by 4-8 to 1-5.

In the final Kilkenny meet Wexford, after meeting each other in a qualifying match in July in Ferns which Kilkenny won by 9 points to 7, a further titanic battle was expected once again. Kilkenny started well once more, with goals from JJ Cahill (pen) and Matthew Corr followed by two points from centre forward Brion Walsh which left the score Kilkenny 2-4 to 0-2 ahead at halftime. However, a fight back was expected from Wexford and three Wexford goals arrived, which left the score of Wexford being ahead 3-4 to 2-6 with five minutes remaining. Tremendous heart was shown by Kilkenny boys, enabling them to score the last three points from Cillian Culleton and two frees from player of the match JJ Cahill which saw Kilkenny home on a final score line of 2-9 to 3-4. Captain James Tierney raised the trophy and it will now reside in Kilkenny for the winter for the first time in ten years.

Emerging Talent Squad

A new squad for 2024 and one that will be very much here to stay. This was invaluable for helping ensure the standard of hurling was improved at levels. Half of the original squad made Tony Forristal squads. This ensured as players improved or became more comfortable, real time increments was captured.

They had a number of games throughout the year. Taking on Carlow, Galway and Wexford in very competitive outings. Much thanks must go to Jim Norriss & John Maher for driving this on throughout the year.

UNDER 19

2024 saw Kilkenny GAA launch a new competition at U-19 inter county level with a Developmental league. It saw four teams go to post with Dublin, Wexford and Offaly. The idea behind it being to bridge the gap between Minor and U-20 with players who had already played at U-20 level not eligible to participate.

Kilkenny's first match saw a very competitive game end with Kilkenny pulling away in the dying embers. Up next was Wexford in UPMC Nowlan Park which saw the young Cats love of chasing goals end with a handsome victory. In the last round robin game, a good win over Offaly saw Kilkenny gain home advantage for the final against Dublin.

Kilkenny 4-21 1-17 Dublin

The inaugural competition came to a conclusion before a decent crowd at a sunny UPMC Nowlan Park. Kilkenny came into the final as strong favourites and had shown a flair for goals. Sean Hunt had been the standout performer throughout the competition and he was excellent once again in scoring 2-4 from play.

Dicksboro's Mikey Stynes and Thomastown's Colm Treacy also got in for goals as many young players put their hands up for future involvement within the U-20 set ups.

As well as the goalscorers, Ed Lauhoff with three points, and Jamie Lyng and Darragh Vereker, all showed promise as Kilkenny ended the campaign with some much merited silverware in the windup.

While Kilkenny's opponents were on the back foot for the most part, their midfielder Gearoid Flannery still played his part as he scored 1-10 in a big individual showing.

The players on both sides will now hope they are in a position to make a mark at under 20 and senior level in the near future and if they achieve that, then this competition will have been more than worthwhile.

For 2025 the competition has already being confirmed with other teams already expressing an interest to join it.

Kilkenny Under 19 Squad- Jack Campion (Bennettsbridge), Cian Kelly (Clara), Anthony Ireland Wall (Danesfort), Mikey Stynes (Dicksboro), Michael Ahern (Emeralds), Conor Brophy (Erins Own), Rory Garrett (Fenians), Jerry Henderson (Fenians), Darragh Vereker (Glenmore), Sean Hamilton (Graignamanagh), Steven Kinsella (Graignamanagh), Oisín Bateman (James Stephens), Sean Deely (James Stephens), Ed Lauhoff (James Stephens), Noah Manogue (James Stephens), Billy O'Sullivan (James Stephens), Tomas Roche (John Lockes), Liam Hogan (Mooncoin), Conor Power (Mullinavat), Ruaidhri Galwey (O'Loughlin Gaels), Niall O'Brien (Piltown), Andrew Phelan (Piltown), Cathal Hickey (St Lachtain's), Sean Hunt (St Martin's), Michael Keane (St Martin's), James O'Neill (St Martin's), Rory Connellan (Thomastown), Colm Tracey (Thomastown), Ciallín Brennan (Tullaroan), Jamie Lyng (Tullagher Rosbercon), Conor Doyle (Windgap).

Management- Mark Aylward (Shamrocks), Michael Farrell (St Lachtain's), Brian Kennedy (St Lachtain's), Padraig Keegan (St Martins's), Shane Noonan (James Stephens), Martin Comerford (O'Loughlin Gaels), Dean Mason (Shamrocks).

STRONG EXTRA-TIME PERFORMANCE AS SUPER SAINTS RETAIN THE ALL-IRELAND TITLE.

Senior Colleges Hurling Report by Michael O'Leary



ST KIERAN'S - ALL IRELAND SH COLLEGES CHAMPIONS 2024

Back: Ed McDermott, Evan Murphy, Jake Byrne, Conor Brophy, Sean Carrigan, Ed Lauhoff, Ciallin Brennan, James Hughes, Bobby Murphy, Rory Connellan, Sean Deely, Oisín O'Reilly, Bill McDermott.
Middle: Richie Ruth (Selector), Brian Dowling (Manager), Ruairi Murphy, Harry Boyle, Paddy Walsh, Tomás Roche, Nicky Ryan, Oisín Bateman, Timmy Kelly, Cian Farrell, Charlie Cleere, Conor Doyle, James O'Neill, Cian Kelly, Cian Phelan, Michael Walsh (Selector).
Front: Diarmuid Langton, Cathal Hickey, Tom Brennan, Sean Bergin, Tom McPhillips, Stephen Manogue, Jeff Neary, Ben Phelan, Mikey Rohan, Sean Hunt, Aaron McEvoy, Rory Glynn.

For the seventh time in ten years, St. Kieran's College were crowned All-Ireland Senior Colleges champions following a 0-26 to 1-18 win against St. Raphael's College, Loughrea after extra-time.

In a compelling contest, the teams finished level at 0-18 to 1-15, but St. Kieran's began to dominate throughout extra-time with Sean Hunt and Rory Glynn leading the way as they outscored the Galway school 0-8 to 0-3 to win The Croke Cup for the 25th time.

LEINSTER FINAL

St. Kieran's College 2-21, Kilkenny CBS 0-5

St. Kieran's qualified for a Leinster Final showdown with Kilkenny CBS following a 0-14 to 0-10 win against Offaly Schools in a repeat of last year's Leinster Final. Kilkenny CBS defeated both Colasite Mhuire Johnstown (3-13 to 1-10) and Good Counsel New Ross (1-16 to 2-11) to qualify for the final.

The game was effectively over from an early stage courtesy of a Sean Hunt goal for St. Kieran's College as they led 1-5 to 0-0 after just 10 minutes. A second goal from the outstanding Aaron McEvoy confirmed their overall dominance as they led 2-8 to 0-3 at half-time, before they outscored their



Joint-captains Jeff Neary, left, and Stephen Manogue lift the Croke Cup.

opponents 0-13 to 0-2 in the second-half to run out comprehensive winners and win the Leinster title for the first time since 2019. Aaron McEvoy led the way with 1-9 (0-7 frees), while Sean Hunt scored 1-2.

Kilkenny CBS lost 3-19 to 2-11 against Harty Cup Champions Nenagh CBS in The All-Ireland Quarter-Final.

ALL IRELAND SEMI-FINAL

St. Kieran's were always in control in their semi-final clash against Ardscoil Ris of Limerick winning 1-19 to 0-14.

Sean Hunt was on the mark once again, and his goal gave them a 1-2 to 0-3 lead after twelve minutes, and with Hunt, Rory Glynn and Aaron

McEvoy keeping the scoreboard ticking over, they led 1-11 to 0-7 at half-time.

They remained in control throughout the second-half, as they ran out 8 point winners to qualify for an All-Ireland-Final showdown against St. Raphael's Loughrea in Croke Park. The Loughrea School won by a point against Nenagh CBS in the other semi-final.

St. Kieran's College; Aaron McEvoy 0-6 (frees), Sean Hunt 1-2, Rory Glynn 0-4, Stephen Manogue 0-1 (0-1 65), Tomás Roche, Ed Lauhoff, James



St Kieran's Team 2024 in their Club Jerseys

Hughes, Tom McPhillips and Tom Brennan 0-1 each.

ALL-IRELAND FINAL

St. Kieran's College 0-26, St. Raphael's Loughrea 1-18 AET

The All-Ireland Colleges Hurling Final played in Croke Park on St. Patrick's weekend Saturday March 16th saw St. Kieran's College prevail in a thrilling battle after extra-time against St. Raphael's Loughrea.

The teams finished level at 0-18 to 1-15 apiece at full-time after it was 0-10 to 1-7 at half-time. The Loughrea goal came from Vince Morgan with a superbly dispatched effort in the 20th minute.

A wonderful point by Man of The Match Rory Glynn in the 38th minute regained the lead for St. Kieran's (0-12 to 1-8). Paddy MacCarthaigh replied with the leveller, before further points from Rory Glynn and Aaron McEvoy put them two points ahead entering the final quarter, 0-14 to 1-9. St. Raphael's were dogged and resilient, and by the 53rd minute they regained the lead with points from Bobby Feeney (2 frees), wing-back Oscar O'Gorman and Paddy MacCarthaigh, 1-13 to 0-15.

St. Kieran's fought back in this thriller, with

Sean Hunt in particular coming to the fore as he added three quickfire points to regain them the initiative entering injury-time, 0-18 to 1-14. However, Bobby Feeney displayed terrific nerves of steel under intense pressure as he fired over the levelling free and forced extra-time.

Extra-time beckoned, and it was a fair outcome following the efforts of both teams in horrendous weather conditions.

St. Kieran's began to turn the screw in extra-time, and they outscored St. Raphael's 0-8 to 0-3 to retain the All-Ireland. Points from Aaron McEvoy, Rory Glynn, Ed Lauhoff and Bill McDermott put them three points up at the interval (0-22 to 1-16), and they added four further points in the second period courtesy of a brace each by the excellent Aaron McEvoy and substitute Ciallin Brennan who made a massive impact when introduced.

It was a 25th All-Ireland, and one that was most treasured and cherished following a titanic battle.

St Kieran's College; Stephen Manogue (James Stephens); Sean Bergin (James Stephens) (0-1), Evan Murphy (Dicksboro), Timmy Kelly (Bennettsbridge), Cathal Hickey (St Lachtain's), Jeff Neary (Graigue Ballycallan), Tom McPhillips (Dicksboro), Rory Connellan (Thomastown), Ed Lauhoff (James Stephens) (0-2), James Hughes



St Kieran's Coach, Brian Dowling

(Bennettsbridge) (0-3), Sean Hunt (St Martin's) (0-4), Tomas Roche (John Lockes); Rory Glynn (Clara) (0-4), Ed McDermott (James Stephens) (0-1), Aaron McEvoy (Graigue Ballycallan) (0-8, 5f).

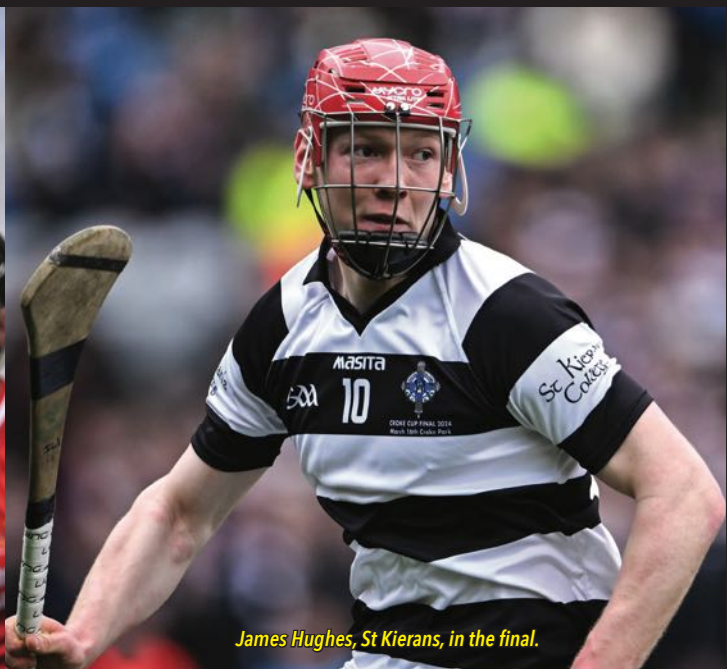
Subs; Oisín Bateman (James Stephens) for Roche 49 mins, James O'Neill (St Martin's) for Ed McDermott 50 mins, Ciallin Brennan (Tullaroan) (0-2) for Hughes 61 mins, Bill McDermott (James Stephens) (0-1) for Glynn (Blood Sub) 65 mins, Rory Glynn for B McDermott (Blood Sub Reversal) 70 mins, Bill McDermott for McPhillips 72 mins, Sean Deely (James Stephens) for Hickey 78 mins.



St Kieran's Supporters at the Final in Croke Park



Rory Connellan of St Kieran's under pressure from Jack Shaughnessy of St Raphael's



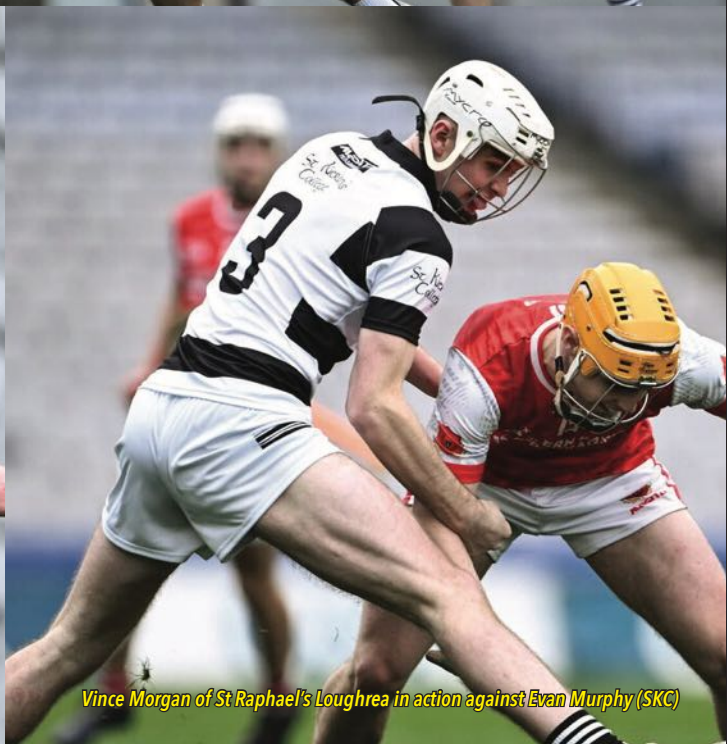
James Hughes, St Kierans, in the final.



Jeff Neary of St Kieran's in action against Donnacha Campbell of St Raphael's.



Seán Hunt of St Kieran's celebrates after scoring a point during the final.



Vince Morgan of St Raphael's Loughrea in action against Evan Murphy (SKC)

KILKENNY CBS TOURNAMENT



BENNETTSBRIDGE



CLARA



CONAHY



DANESFORT



DICKSBORO



GRAIGUE BALLYCALLAN



JAMES STEPHENS



LISDOWNEY



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS



ST LACHTAIN'S



ST MARTIN'S



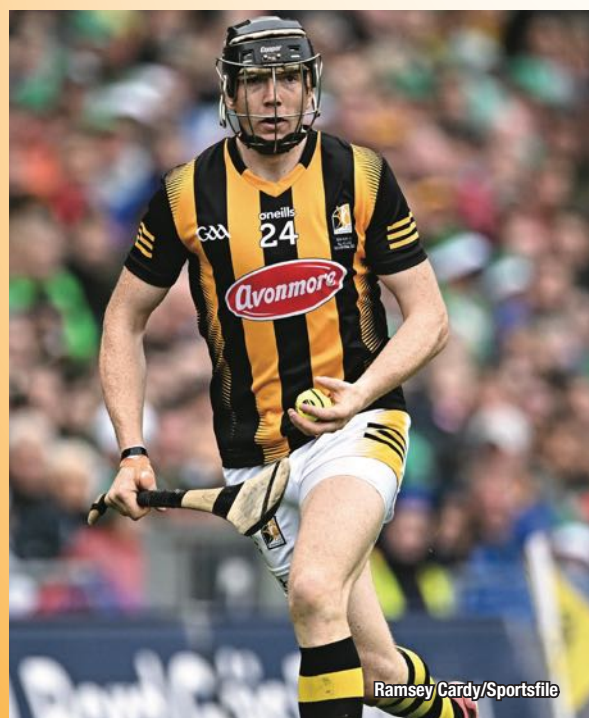
THOMASTOWN



TULLAROAN



THE CBS ORGANISING COMMITTEE



Ramsey Cardy/Sportsfile

WALTER CALLS TIME

Three-time All-Ireland winner Walter Walsh has called time on his inter-county career at the age of 33.

The Tullogher-Rosbercon clubman famously burst onto the scene in the 2012 All-Ireland final replay against Galway when he scored 1-03 on his senior championship debut.

Walsh went on to win further Liam MacCarthy Cup medals in 2014 and 2015, as well as seven Leinster titles.

Kilkenny GAA confirmed the 2016 All-Star's retirement in a statement, with manager Derek Lyng describing Walsh as a "towering presence" for the county.

"It's been an honour to have worked with Walter," said Lyng.

"His towering presence both on and off the field has inspired many young hurlers and his attitude, drive and leadership has been immense. Walter leaves us with many great memories and I wish him well in his retirement."

County board chairman PJ Kenny added: "On behalf of Kilkenny County Board and all associated with Kilkenny hurling, I would like to thank Walter for his commitment and his contributions to Kilkenny hurling over the last 13 years," he said.

"Throughout his career, Walter represented his club and county with distinction and we wish Walter the very best for the future."

Loreto girls Record Breaking 9th All Ireland title

Senior Colleges Camogie Report by Michael O'Leary



LORETO KILKENY - ALL IRELAND SENIOR COLLEGES CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 2024

Back Row: Ona Kennedy (Windgap), Eva Tynan (Dicksboro), Ali Kennedy (Windgap), Jenna Larkin (James Stephens), Ellen Murphy (Rower-Inistioge), Tara McGrath (Dicksboro), Marie O'Keeffe (Young Irelands), Sinéad Carroll (Dicksboro), Angela Carroll (Dicksboro), Lucy Boyd (Clara), Shauna Mahony (Danesfort), Ayesha Belaloui (Dicksboro), Aoife Kirby (The Harps), Grace Brennan (Tullaroan), Julie Lennon (Young Irelands), Sarah Keher (John Lockes), Jessica Smith (Barrow Rangers), Ali Gibbons (The Harps), Isabelle Fahy (Dicksboro), Aoife Murphy (Graigie-Ballycallan), Caoimhe Keher-Murtagh (Rower Inistioge), Louisa Gilmore (Danesfort).

Front Row: Sarah Kehoe (Mount Leinster Rangers), Siofraídh Kennedy (Conahy Shamrocks), Isabelle Roberts (Dicksboro), Ciara Dunne (Tullaroan), Aisling Browne (Dicksboro), Rachel Dowling (Dicksboro), Emma Corr (Clara) (Captain), Ambar Laherty (Mullinavat), Emily Smith (James Stephens), Aoife Shealy (O'Loughlin Gaels), Aoibhinn Deegan (Dicksboro), Isabelle Egan (Dicksboro), Lisa Kirby (The Harps), Orlaith Kirwan (Thomastown), Anna Doheny (Tullaroan), Eleanor Doheny (Tullaroan), Shannon Doheny (Tullaroan), Muireann Kenny (Rower-Inistioge)

Loreto Kilkeny landed a record breaking ninth senior Post Primary Camogie All-Ireland title, as they defeated Ursuline Thurles in the All-Ireland decider in Rathdowney in February.

It's a remarkable achievement for Loreto who only won their first Senior All-Ireland in 2010, and since then they have dominated the Camogie landscape with eight further All-Irelands out of the thirteen competitions played, while also winning a further ten Junior All-Irelands since making the breakthrough in 2007.



Kilkeny GAA Supp Club, Tommy Maher Treasurer & Dr Sean Dunne Assistant Secretary, presenting a cheque to the Loreto Captain, Emma Corr.

ALL IRELAND SEMI-FINAL

Loreto Kilkeny 2-14, St. Pats Maghera (Derry) 1-12 (AET)

Loreto Kilkeny had to go deep to the well in their All-Ireland Semi-Final clash against St. Pats Maghera, as extra-time was required to see off the resilience of their Ulster opponents.

The Loreto girls led 1-5 to 0-6 at half-time with Rachel Dowling scoring 0-4 (0-2 frees), as a goal from Tara McGrath had given them a 1-4 to 0-2 lead. The Derry school had narrowed the deficit to the minimum (1-8 to 0-10) by the three quarter stage, before a Carla Collins goal put

them 1-10 to 1-8 ahead. However, The Loreto girls dug deep and two late points by the outstanding Rachel Dowling including the levelling '45 forced extra-time. 1-10 each.

St. Pats Maghera battled back in this absorbing contest, and by half-time of extra-time they regained the initiative to lead 1-12 to 1-11. Rachel Dowling added three consecutive points to put Loreto Kilkeny 1-14 to 1-12 ahead in the 2nd period of extra-time, before a late goal from Ciara Dunne sealed the deal as they sealed an All-Ireland place against Ursuline Thurles following a compelling battle. Rachel was top scorer with 0-10 (0-5 frees 0-1'65).

LEINSTER FINAL

Loreto Kilkeny won their 15th Leinster Senior A Post Primary Schools Title when defeating neighbours Colaiste Abhainn Rí, Callan 1-17 to 1-6. They led 0-5 to 0-0 after ten minutes with Aoife Shealy scoring 0-3 from play. However, Colaiste Abhainn Rí began to settle down and a goal from Aisling O'Shea narrowed the gap to just two points, 0-5 to 1-0 though Loreto maintained that two point advantage at half-time, 0-8 to 1-3.

The Loreto girls gradually began to dominate the final twenty minutes. Rachel Dowling made a significant difference when introduced as a sub, and she scored 0-5 from frees as Loreto Kilkeny began to pull clear. The goal came from Caoimhe Keher Murtagh late in the game as they eased to victory.



The Team, presented to the Attendance at Nowlan Park

Missing from photo: Grace Brennan, Muireann Kenny, Ayesha Belalaoui, Ona Kennedy, Shauna Mahony, Lucy Boyd, Aoife Kirby, Eva Tynan, Lisa Kirby, Shannon Doheny, Eleanor Doheny, Brendan Williams (coach)

ALL IRELAND FINAL

Loreto Kilkeny 2-14, Ursuline Thurles (Tipperary) 2-6.

Loreto Kilkeny won a record breaking 9th Senior All-Ireland, as they defeated Ursuline Thurles in the decider in Rathdowney in February.

The Loreto girls were quick out of the blocks as they led 0-6 to 0-1 at the end of the opening quarter with Rachel Dowling scoring 0-5 from play and frees during that first 15 minutes. The Kilkeny school extended their dominance further with a goal by Tara McGrath as they led 1-8 to 0-4 at half-time.

However, Ursuline Thurles came out with all guns blazing after half-time and a brace of goals by Ava Bevens had narrowed the deficit by the 40th minute, 1-9 to 2-5. The Loreto girls steadied the ship with Caoimhe Keher Murtagh on the mark, as they led 1-11 to 2-6 heading down the home stretch.

They finished strongly in the final 10 minutes, with Rachel Dowling pointing three consecutive to stretch the lead to 5 points (1-14 to 2-6), before Ciara Dunne sealed the deal as she put the icing on the cake with a well taken goal.

Loreto Kilkeny Scorers – Rachel Dowling 0-10 (3f, 3 45'), Tara McGrath 1-1, Ciara Dunne 1-0, Sarah Kehoe, Aisling Browne, Caoimhe Keher Murtagh 0-1 each

Ursuline Thurles – Ava Bevens 2-1, Caoimhe Stakelum 0-3 (2f), Lucy Purcell, Robbyn Fitzgerald 0-1 each

Loreto Kilkeny – Ali Kennedy (Windgap), Marie O'Keeffe (Young Irelands), Angela Carroll (Dicksboro), Orlaith Kirwan (Thomastown), Emma Corr (Clara) (Capt), Anna Doheny (Tullaroan), Emily Smith (James Stephens), Ambar Laherty (Mullinavat), Sarah Kehoe (Mount Leinster Rangers), Rachel Dowling (Dicksboro), Caoimhe Keher Murtagh (Rower Inistioge), Aisling Browne (Dicksboro), Aoife Shealy (O'Loughlin Gaels), Ciara Dunne (Tullaroan), Tara McGrath (Dicksboro)

Subs – Julie Lennon (Young Irelands) for Aoife Shealy, Eleanor Doheny (Tullaroan) for Ambar Laherty, Louisa Gilmore (Danesfort) for Sarah Kehoe, inj, Isabelle Egan (Dicksboro), Isabelle Fahy (Dicksboro), Abbie Gibbons (The Harps, Durrow), Lisa Kirby (The Harps, Durrow), Jenna Larkin (James Stephens), Isabel Roberts (Dicksboro), Sinead Carroll (Dicksboro), Aoibhin Deegan (Dicksboro), Sarah Keher (John Lockes), Ellen Murphy (Rower Inistioge), Jessica Smith (Barrow Rangers), Ayesha Belalaoui (Dicksboro), Lucy Boyd (Clara), Grace Brennan (Tullaroan), Ona Kennedy (Windgap), Siofra Kennedy (Conahy Shamrocks), Aoife Kirby (The Harps, Durrow), Shauna Mahony (Danesfort), Shannon Doheny (Tullaroan), Muireann Kenny (Rower Inistioge), Eva Tynan (Dicksboro)

Ursuline Thurles – Orla Ryan (Clonoulty Rossmore), Rachel Phelan (Emeralds),

Alison Fitzgerald (Holycross Ballycahill), Caoimhe Fitzgibbon (Moycarkey Borris), Aoife Bourke (Clonoulty Rossmore) (Joint Capt), Aoife Kavanagh (Emeralds), Paula Quirke (Boherlahan Dualla), Danielle Ryan (Boherlahan Dualla), Sarah Corcoran (Moycarkey Borris), Kate Ferncombe (Clonoulty Rossmore) (Joint Captain), Robbyn Fitzgerald (Holycross Ballycahill), Lucy Purcell (Thurles Sarsfields), Caoimhe Stakelum (Thurles Sarsfields), Maria Ralph (Thurles Sarsfields), Ava Bevens (Borrisoleigh)

Subs – Clodagh Ryan (Clonoulty Rossmore) for Maria Ralph, Isabelle Carr (Holycross Ballycahill), Tara Gleeson (Emeralds), Andrea Quirke (Clonoulty Rossmore), Ella Minogue (St Brigid's), Anna Wynne (Moycarkey Borris), Sarah Quinlan (Holycross Ballycahill), Moya Brennan (St Anne's), Miah Bourke (Holycross Ballycahill), Kate Stakelum (Thurles Sarsfields), Ashling O'Loughlin (St Anne's), Laragh Griffin (Thurles Sarsfields), Roisin Duffy (Burgess), Hazel Ryan (Slieve Felim Rapparees), Margaret McGrath (Rockwell Rovers), Grainne O'Loughlin (St Anne's), Michelle Slattery (Clonoulty Rossmore), Aine Power (Gortnahoe), Kate Marnane (Knockavilla Kickhams), Niamh Lanigan (Gortnahoe), Clodagh Gleeson (Emeralds), Emma Hickey (Emeralds), Emma Ely (Clonoulty Rossmore), Aoife McCormack (St Anne's), Alisha Kearney (Moycarkey Borris), Roisin Ferncombe (Clonoulty Rossmore)

Referee – David Copps (Cork)



Emma Corr, Captain, celebrates with her team-mates.

Scór Cill Chainnigh 2024



Ghlac clubanna Chill Cheannaigh páirt i gComórtas Scór i mbliana don dara bliain as a chéile i mbliana le Scór Sinsear ar siúl mí Aibreáin agus Scór Sinsear fós le teacht i Mí na Samhna. Bhí roinnt comórtas éagsúil agus san iomlán ghlac níos mó ná 20 club ó gach cearn den chontae páirt ann.

Bhí oíche den scoth againn ag Comórtais Stáitse Scór Sinsear Chill Chainnigh ar an 27ú Márta. Bhí méadú 40% ar líon na n-iomaitheoirí agus breis is 50 duine ag baint sult as an ócáid in Amharchlann an Set. Sin ráite, ba é club buacach na bliana seo caite, Cumann Camógaíocht Naomh Bríd, ba láidre arís an uair seo. Comhghairdeas le Gary Bourke san Amhránaíocht Aonair, John Dunphy san Aithriseoireacht agus Bailéad Ghrúpa Naomh Bríd (Gary Bourke, Sharon Bourke, Leslie Sweeney, Deirdre Muldowney agus Lorraine Kenny) a chuaigh ar aghaidh chuig babhtai leathcheannais Laighean ar an 6ú lá Aibreáin san Abhallort, Loch Garman.

Bhí oíche eile lán-spraoi againn Déardaoin an 4ú lá Aibreáin i gclubtheach Ghaeil Uí Lochlainn ag Tráth na gCeist Scór Sinsear Chill Chainnigh. Ghlac 13 chlub páirt ann, méadú suntasach ar leibhéal rannpháirtíochta na bliana seo caite. Bhí iomaíocht ghéar ann le ach pointe amháin idir an chéad áit agus an trí fhoireann sa dara háit, ach ba iad Seamróga Conachaidh a thug an lá leo.

Míle buíochas as gach uile duine a ghlac páirt i mbliana. Is dul chun cinn iontach é seo do Scór i gCill Chainnigh ach caithfidh coinneáil orainn in 2025!

Kilkenny clubs took part in the Scór Competition this year for the second year in-a-row with Scór Sinsear taking place in April and Scór na nÓg still to come in November. We had many different competitions and in total over 20 clubs from all over the county took part.

A great night of entertainment was had at the Kilkenny Senior Scór Stage Competitions on March 27th. Participation was up 40% on last year and more than 50 people enjoyed the show in the Set Theatre. That said, it was last year's winning club, St Brigid's Camogie Club, that proved strongest again this year. Congratulations to Gary Burke in Solo Singing, John Dunphy in Recitation and the St. Brigid's Ballad Group (Gary Bourke, Sharon Bourke, Leslie Sweeney, Deirdre Muldowney and Lorraine Kenny) who progressed to the Leinster Semi-Final on April 6th in Oulart, Wexford. Well done to St. Brigid's Ballad Group in particular who qualified from the Semi-Final and continued on to the Leinster Final stage.

A great night was had at the Senior Scór Quiz on Thursday the 4th of April in O'Loughlin Gaels clubhouse. 13 teams showed up on the night, improving on last year's attendance. Competition was tough with only one point separating the first place team from the three teams in second place, but it was Conahy Shamrocks who came out on top in the end and represented Kilkenny in the Leinster Final.

Míle buíochas to all those who took part or helped out this years. This makes for brilliant progress for Scór in the county. Onwards and upwards for 2025!



St Bridgets Camogie Group Winners of the Group Section of Scór



Gary Bourke & John Dunphy, winners of the Solo Singer and Recitation Sections with Judge Graine Farrell.



Katie Power, Julie Breathnach, Kieran Purcell and Niamh Sheehy performing in Solo Section.



St Bridgets Camogie Group Winners of the Group Section of Scór

BORO WIN THIRD SENIOR CROWN

Football Report by Michael O'Leary



Photos: Willie Dempsey

DICKSBORO - COUNTY SF CHAMPIONS 2024

Back: Declan Lacey, Declan Gough, Ruiri McLoughlin, Mathew Kelleher, Oisín Gough, Liam Moore, Kevin Moore, Kevin Nolan, Shane Stapleton, Tom Kenny, Jesse Watters, Michael Hayes, Eoghan Moylan, Martin Gaffney
Front: Niall Rowe, Ger O'Donoghue, Darragh Holohan, Aidan Nolan, Sean Keenan, Liam Brennan Smyth, Mark Nolan, Edward Moylan, Eoin Fennelly, Joe Sheehan, Tom Carroll, James Carroll, Bill Sheehan, Aidan Maher.

SENIOR

The Football League competitions across The County commenced in late January, as 13 Teams competed in The Senior League that were divided into three Groups.

Group A was won by James Stephens on 8 points ahead of eventual County Finalists Lisdowney on 6 points, while Group B was won by Thomastown on 6 points ahead of Railyard on 4 points.

Meanwhile, Group C was closely contested with Clara and Kilmoganny finishing joint top on 4 points ahead of Mullinavat on 3 points and Danesfort on 1 point.

Clara topped the Group ahead of Kilmoganny on head to head, as they set-up a Semi-Final showdown with Thomastown.

Thomastown won 1-9 to 0-5 against Clara to set-up a League Final showdown with James Stephens.

The League Final was played on Good Friday having been switched from Mooncoin to The MW Hire Centre in Dunmore, and it was Thomastown who emerged victorious after extra-time.

LEAGUE FINAL

Thomastown 3-14 James Stephens 2-5

With The Village leading by a solitary point in stoppage-time (2-4 to 1-6), Team Captain Rory Monks stepped up to a free and he slotted over the equaliser to force extra-time that Thomastown dominated.

Thomastown made the brighter start during the opening quarter, and after 10 minutes they led 1-2 to 0-1 with the goal coming from Rory Monks after his point attempt looped over the head of James Stephens goalkeeper Anthony Corr and into the net.

Two points in quick succession by Sean Manogue halved the deficit (1-2 to 0-3) by the midway point of the first-half, and following a scoreless spell for the next 10 minutes The Village were awarded a penalty after Niall Delaney was fouled.

Fionn Cody stood up and he slotted the penalty to the net as they took the lead outright - 1-3 to 1-2 - before Sean Manogue and Rory Monks exchanged pointed frees as James Stephens led by the minimum at half-time. 1-4 to 1-3.

Scores were difficult to come by throughout the second-half with only 5 scores accruing.

A Brian Staunton point from play that levelled proceedings (1-4 each) was the only score during that third quarter, before Fionn Cody grabbed his second goal to put James Stephens three points ahead. 2-4 to 1-4.

The Village maintained their three point lead heading into the final 10 minutes, but Thomastown kept plugging away and points from Rory Monks (free), Conor Monks and a last gasp free by Rory Monks brought about extra-time.

Thomastown took complete control of extra-time, as they outscored James Stephens 2-7 to 0-1 to run out 12 point winners.

Goals from Eddie Donnelly and Eanna O'Keeffe put them firmly in the driving seat, as points from Rory Monks (3), Eddie Donnelly (2), David Prendergast and Ned Kirwan confirmed their superior dominance.

Teams and Scorers

Thomastown - Rory Monks (1-6, 0-5 frees); Eddie Donnelly (1-2); Eanna O'Keeffe (1-0); David Prendergast, Brian Staunton (0-2 each); Adam Power, Ned Kirwan (0-1 each).

James Stephens - Fionn Cody (2-1); Sean Manogue (0-4, 0-2 frees)

Thomastown - Jamie Lanigan; Ned Kirwan, Richard O'Hara, Oisín O'Reilly; Brian Staunton, Nathan Sherry, David Griffin; Diarmuid Galway, Alex Cass; Thomas O'Hanrahan, David Prendergast, Eanna O'Keeffe; Adam Power, Rory Monks, Eddie Donnelly.

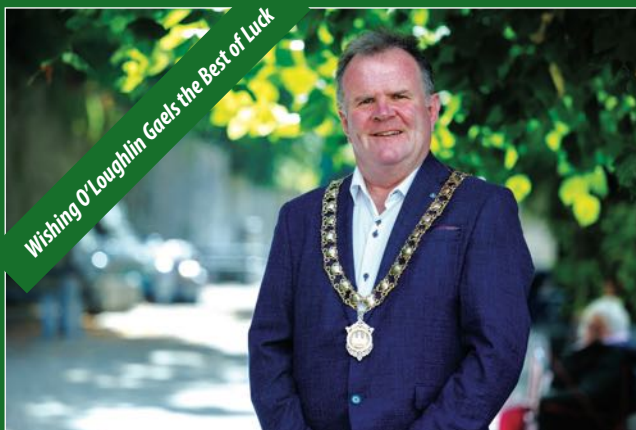
Subs: Conor Monks for Griffin, 48 mins; Sean Denneffe for Power, 48 mins; Sean O'Keeffe for Donnelly, 52 mins; Jack Cullen for Cass, 64 mins.

James Stephens - Anthony Corr; Jim Ryan, James Tyrrell, Sam McEvoy; Oisín Bateman, Niall Delaney, Luke Murphy; Niall Brassil, Eoin Deely; Sean Manogue, Allen Larkin, Jamie O'Keeffe; Fionn Cody, David McCormack, Eoin Larkin.

Subs: Ross Whelan for McCormack, 38



Oisín Gough (Dicksboro) dives to prevent Brian Kavanagh (Lisdowney) from scoring



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mins; David Walton for A Larkin, 44 mins; Josh O'Rourke for O'Keeffe, 65 mins; Jacob Breslin for McEvoy, 65 mins.

Referee - Eoin Maher (Mullinavat)

SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

1ST ROUND

The Senior Football Championship saw 5 first round matches with the first match played on Friday March 22nd, as O'Loughlin Gaels prevailed by a solitary point away to Danesfort 1-8 to 1-7.

The eventual Champions Dicksboro prevailed narrowly against Kilmoganny 1-6 to 0-7, Lisdowney eased to a 3-11 to 0-6 win against Mooncoin, Tullogher-Rosbercon won 0-10 to 0-1 against Erins Own, while on Easter Sunday Mullinavat won 4-8 to 1-9 against Railyard.

QUARTER-FINALS

In The first of the Quarter-Finals played, Tullogher-Rosbercon won 4-3 to 0-7 against O'Loughlin Gaels, Lisdowney defeated The League Champions Thomastown 2-6 to 0-5, Dicksboro were victorious 1-9 to 0-5 against their city neighbours James Stephens, while Mullinavat continued their defence of The Senior Championship as they eased to a 3-11 to 0-7 win against Clara.

SEMI-FINALS

In The Semi-Finals, Dicksboro defeated the reigning Champions Mullinavat by 1-8 to 0-5, while Lisdowney overcame Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-8 to 0-6.

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Dicksboro 1-9 Lisdowney 1-6

A totally dominant opening 20 minutes proved the catalyst for Dicksboro winning the County Senior Football Final in Canon Kearns Park, Castlecomer as they led 1-7 to 0-0 after 20 minutes.

Lisdowney to their credit fought back, but The Boro held out to win their 3rd Senior Football crown having won previously in 1994 and 1997.

The winner were quick out of the blocks with Edward Moylan opening the scoring with 0-2(0-1 free) in the opening 5 minutes, before Matty Kelleher followed up with a point.

A surging run upfield by Aidan Nolan led to a superbly taken goal by Liam Moore, before the goalscorer followed up with a well taken point as Dicksboro led by 7 points. 1-4 to 0-0.

Edward Moylan was leading the way for The Boro and he added two further points from play, before Shane Stapleton added a point from play to extend their lead to 10 points. 1-7 to 0-0.

Lisdowney had a mountain to climb but to their credit they battled away, and at half-time they had narrowed the deficit to more manageable proportions as Dicksboro led by 7 points. 1-8 to 0-4.

Mick Kenny pointed three times from frees, while David O'Carroll had a goal chance that was saved by Dicksboro goalkeeper Oisín Gough at the expense of a point.

The second-half saw only 4 scores register as both teams exchanged points from Richard McEvoy and Edward Moylan (1-9 to 0-5) with Moylan's point Dicksboro's only score in the second-half.

A Willie Kenny goal in the final quarter gave Lisdowney real hope as they narrowed the margin to just 4 points (1-9 to 1-5), before a stoppage-time point by Jack Dunphy left just three points separating the teams. 1-9 to 1-6

However, Dicksboro did enough as they held out to win their third win **Senior Football Championship.**

Teams and Scorers

Dicksboro - Edward Moylan (0-6, 0-4 frees, 0-1 45); Liam Moore (1-1); Shane Stapleton, Matty Kelleher (0-1 each).

Lisdowney - Willie Kenny (1-0); Mick Kenny (0-2, frees); Lar Campion, David O'Carroll, Richard McEvoy, Jack Dunphy (0-1 each).

Dicksboro - Oisín Gough; Eoghan Moylan, Niall Rowe, Sean Keenan; Joe Sheehan, Tom Kenny, Aidan Nolan; Kevin Moore, Eoin Fennelly; Bill Sheehan, Liam Moore, Shane Stapleton; Edward Moylan, Matty Kelleher, Mark Nolan.

Subs: Darragh Holohan, Kevin Nolan.

Lisdowney - Niall Grogan; Peter O'Sullivan, John Brennan, Lar Campion; Alan Dunphy, Peter Bergin, Dean Brophy; Richard McEvoy, Vinny Fitzpatrick; Willie Kenny, Liam Dunphy, Brian Kavanagh; Charlie Brennan, Mick Kenny, Niall Brennan.

Subs: David O'Carroll, Killian Dunne, Jack Dunphy, Joe Bergin, Jimmy Delaney.

Referee - Eamon Larkin

INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

From just about surviving the drop to relegation, Conahy Shamrocks became Intermediate Football Champions in early May following a 4 point victory over Glenmore in The Final.

It was a hard fought Championship that the Conahy men won following three one point victories on their way to the final.

The Intermediate League Final was won by Rower-Inistioge who defeated Muckalee 1-8 to 0-7 after both teams won their respective groups.

There was one first round game played that also doubled up as a relegation final, as Conahy Shamrocks prevailed by a solitary point against St. Patrick's Ballyragget. 1-7 to 1-6.

QUARTER-FINALS

Glenmore won 2-9 to 1-8 against Piltown, Muckalee won 2-9 to 2-3 against Graigue-Ballycallan, Conahy Shamrocks prevailed by a solitary point in a thriller against Rower-Inistioge - 3-8 to 1-13 - while Barrow Rangers overcame Carrickshock 2-8 to 2-5.

SEMI-FINALS

Only the minimum separated the teams in both Semi-Finals as Glenmore won 1-10 to 2-6 against Muckalee, while for the third consecutive game Conahy Shamrocks prevailed by a solitary point as they won 0-6 to 0-5 against Barrow Rangers in a low scoring encounter.

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Conahy Shamrocks 3-8 Glenmore 1-10



As mentioned, it was a hard fought Championship that the Conahy men won, and their first two victories against St. Patricks Ballyragget and Rower-Inistioge both came after extra-time.

On a glorious Summer Afternoon in Thomastown in a thrilling County Final, Conahy Shamrocks made the brighter start with early points from James Bergin and Darragh Dooley before Glenmore replied with points from Ian Byrne and Richie Hennessy to draw level by the 10th minute. 0-2 each.

However, Conahy Shamrocks goalkeeper Karl Downey produced heroics during those early stages as he pulled off a hat-trick of spectacular saves to deny Glenmore certain goals.

A brace of points from the outstanding Bill Murphy followed by a Rob Ring goal in the 18th minute put Conahy Shamrocks 5 points ahead (1-4 to 0-2), but Glenmore replied as they finished the half strongly as they outscored Conahy Shamrocks 0-4 to 0-1.

Oisín Griffin, Alan Murphy (0-2 frees), and Dean Croke were on target for The South Kilkenny men as just two points separated the teams at the interval. 1-5 to 0-6.

Both teams exchanged a brace of points during the opening 10 minutes of the second-half with James Bergin adding a brace of pointed frees, while Ian Byrne also added a brace for Glenmore - The first after a mark, and the second a brilliant effort which was wind-assisted.

By the 40th minute, Conahy Shamrocks led by two points (1-7 to 0-8), before a significant moment arrived when a Darragh Dooley point was followed moments later by a goal from Bill Murphy as the lead was now 6 points. 2-8 to 0-8.

However, Glenmore kept battling away in this thrilling contest and following an Alan Murphy free, an Oisín Griffin goal with 10 minutes remaining left just two points between the teams. 2-8 to 1-9.

A Dean Croke point narrowed the gap further to the minimum (2-8 to 1-10) to set up a grandstand finish, but Conahy Shamrocks dug deep and a well worked move led to the winning goal that was finished superbly by Bill Murphy.

It was a fitting end to a magnificent game as both teams fought it out right to the end with Conahy Shamrocks landing the spoils.

The manner of their final win was most satisfying particularly the hard fought way they battled to win in every Championship game.

SCORERS

Conahy Shamrocks - Bill Murphy (2-3, 0-1 free); James Bergin (0-3, 0-2 frees); Rob Ring (1-0); Darragh Dooley (0-2).

Glenmore - Oisín Griffin (1-1); Ian Byrne (0-3, 0-1 Mark); Alan Murphy (0-3, frees); Dean Croke (0-2).

Conahy Shamrocks: Karl Downey; John Paul Gamble; Thomas Nolan; Padraig Gunner; Ciaran Rice; Darragh Hennessy (Captain); Eoin Carroll; Eoin Cahill; James Bergin; Rob Ring; Brian Rossiter; Thomas Rice; Bill Murphy; Darragh Dooley; Billy Mulhall.

Subs (Used) – Kieran Mooney; Liam Cass; Geoffrey O'Shea; Stevie McNamee.

Glenmore: PJ Roche; Ciaran Vereker; Eoin Aylward; Shane Duhig; Darragh Vereker; Darragh Hartley (Captain); Richie Hennessy; Niall Dunne; Thomas Mullally; Oisín Griffin; Billy Reid; Dean Croke; Alan Murphy; Ian Byrne; Ethan Phelan.

Subs (Used) – Ger Aylward.

Referee – Eoin Hayes (Thomastown).

JUNIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

QUARTER-FINALS

The Junior Championship started on Saturday 9th March with two quarter-finals played.

Railyard defeated Young Irelands Gowran 1-9 to 2-4, while Windgap won 5-9 to 1-10 against Slieverue.

Graiguenamanagh won 2-5 to 1-2 against Galmoy, while Bennettsbridge received a walkover off Emeralds.

SEMI-FINALS

Graiguenamanagh won 2-6 to 0-7 against Windgap, while Bennettsbridge won 2-9 to 0-6 against Railyard on Easter Monday.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Graiguenamanagh 0-11 Bennettsbridge 1-6

Two late points from the outstanding Michael Bolger secured victory and silverware as they reversed the result of The League Final against Bennettsbridge.

Bolger landed three points in the opening 10 minutes - including two frees - as The Graigue men got off to a very good start.

Bennettsbridge replied with a hat-trick of points by Jason Cleere, Sean Morrissey (free) and Ciaran Brennan as they drew level by the 20th minute. 0-3 each.

The Bridge began to take supremacy for the remainder of the half, as a Paddy Walsh goal followed by points from Ciaran Brennan and Luke Dowling put them 5 points up. 1-5 to 0-3.

Michael Bolger finished the first half scoring in injury time to leave the interval score at Bennettsbridge 1-5, Graiguenamanagh 0-4.

Graiguenamanagh were quick out of the blocks for the second-half as points from Michael Bolger (free), Sean Holden and Richard Foley left just the minimum between the teams. 1-5 to 0-7.

Bennettsbridge's only score of the second-half came courtesy of a Sean Morrissey free from 45 metres, before Michael Bolger left the minimum between the sides with a pointed free from 40 metres. 1-6 to 0-8.

Bolger levelled proceedings from a '45 with 5 minutes remaining (1-6 to 0-9), before landing a brace of points in injury-time including a sublime point as they secured victory.

There was consolation for Bennettsbridge in The League Final who won 4-4 to 1-7 against Graiguenamanagh.

Needless to say, Graiguenamanagh's defence was far more watertight in the rematch in The County Final as they only conceded one goal and a solitary point in the second-half.

Teams and Scorers

Graiguenamanagh - Michael Bolger (0-9, 0-4 frees, 0-1 45); Sean Holden, Richard Foley (0-1) each.

Bennettsbridge - Paddy Walsh (1-0); Ciaran Brennan (0-2); Sean Morrissey (0-2 frees); Jason Cleere, Luke Dowling (0-1 each).

Graiguenamanagh - Abhainn Flood; Devon Kielthy, Jack Dunne, Sean Walsh; Pierce Blanchfield, Joe Dowling, Sean Cosgrave; James

Meaney, Richard Foley; Thomas O'Donnell, Michael Bolger, Niall Hayden; Steven Kinsella, Sean Dowling, Sean Holden.

Subs: Shane Kearney, Terry Dreelin, Nicky Ryan.

Bennettsbridge - Patrick O'Neill; Laurence Mahon, Nicky Cleere, Daniel Murphy; Jason Cleere, Conor Murphy, Luke Dowling; Stephen Holden, Enda Morrissey; Sean Morrissey, Bill Nolan, Micheál Shiel; Paddy Walsh, Shane Byrne; Ciaran Brennan.

Subs: Gearoid Kent, Kevin Brennan, Kyle Ryan.

Referee – Eamonn Mahon (Railyard).

ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Disappointment for The Kilkenny Football Team who lost out 1-17 to 2-9 away to Warwickshire in Birmingham in The Quarter-Final of The All-Ireland Junior Football Championship.

Having reached The All-Ireland Final the past two years and winning the competition, hopes were high that Kilkenny would at least get to All-Ireland Finals in July, but alas it wasn't to be as a strong second-half performance saw Warwickshire run out 5 point winners.

Kilkenny Squad v Warwickshire: Karl Downey (Conahy Shamrocks), Darragh Walsh (Piltown), Shane Kelly (Captain) (Mullinavat), Darragh Hartley (Glenmore), Ciaran Quilty (Mooncoin), Nathan Sherry (Thomastown), Kevin Hennessy (Tullogher-Rosbercon), Colum Prenderville (Graigue-Ballycallan), David O'Carroll (Lisdowney), Conor Hennessy (Tullogher-Rosbercon), Michael Malone (Mullinavat), Michael Kenny (Lisdowney), Rory Monks (Thomastown), Caleb Roche (Railyard), Ethan Phelan (Glenmore), Ciaran Farnan ((Railyard), John McNamara (O'Loughlin Gaels), Jamie Lyng (Tullogher-Rosbercon), Tomas Roche (Railyard), Liam Dunphy (Lisdowney), Mark Hender (Railyard), Evan Walsh (O'Loughlin Gaels), Harry Roche (Railyard), James Carroll (Bennettsbridge)

Manager: Christy Walsh Selectors JJ Grace, Paddy McClonigley, Andy O'Brien, Philip Lonergan



ROWER INISTOGIE - INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2024
Back: Jack Fitzpatrick, James Prendergast, Harry Murphy, Patrick Prendergast, Joe Mulholland, Edward Prendergast, Oisín Whelan, Matthew Hennessey, Richard Ryan, Liam Bolger, Hynes, Jim Murphy, David Lyng, Oisín Morrissey, Ewan Gilseán, Fiachra Farrell, George Murphy, Patrick Lyng, Cathal O'Neill, David Kelly, Michael Galavan.
Front: Tom O'Callaghan, Dan Mulholland, Michael Moffitt, Ruaidhri Delaney, Tom Doyle, Jack Walsh, Conor Joyce



GRAIGNAMAGH - JUNIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2024
Back: James Cahill, Padhraic Cahill (Mascot), Sean Holden, Tommy Brazil, Sean Walsh, Sean O'Neill, Jack Dunne, Sean Dowling, Abhainn Flood, Sean Cosgrave, Conor Murphy, Joe Dowling, Thomas O'Donnell, Terry Dreelin, Oran Canning, James Meaney, Michael Bolger, Ciarán Kavanagh.
Front: Gavin Kielthy, TJ Caulfield, Colin Bolger, Nicky Ryan, Devin Kielthy, Niall Hayden (Captain), Pierce Blanchfield, Richard Foley, Sean Hamilton, Stephen Cosgrave, Steven Kinsella, Shane Kearney, Sid Kearney (Mascot)



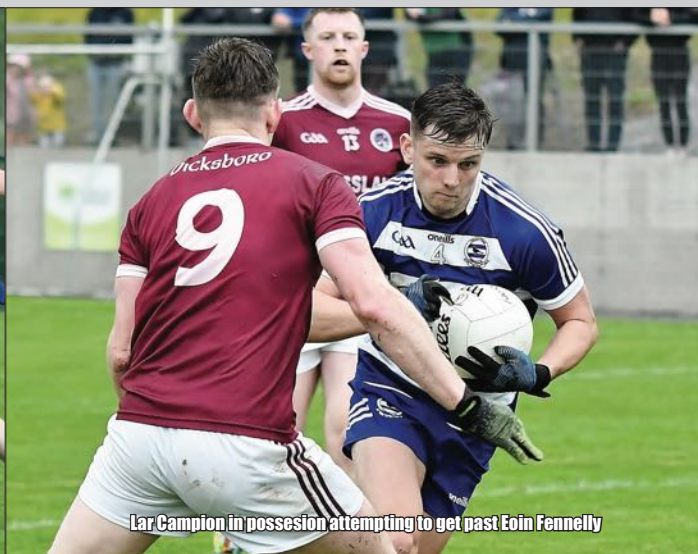
BENNETTSBRIDGE - JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2024
Back: John Brennan (Mgr), Gearoid Kent, Harry Murphy, Kyle Ryan, Daniel Murphy, Luke Dowling, John Doyle, Shane Byrne, Conor Murphy (Capt.), Paddy Walsh, Joe Hughes, Sam O'Dwyer, Stephen Holden, James Carroll, Nicky Cleere, Ciarán Brennan, Alan Hynn (Selector)
Front: Sean O'Connell, Tom Bolger, Patrick O'Neill, Enda Morrissey, Bill Nolan, Conor Nolan, Ivan Kelly, Lar Mahon, Jason Cleere, Sean Morrissey, Kevin Brennan, Micheál Shiel. (Vinny Shiel (Selector) not in picture)



**Captains -Top: Eoin Fennelly (Dicksboro), Darragh Hennessy (Conahy Shamrocks), Niall Hayden (Graignamagh)
Bottom: Rory Monks (Thomastown), Jim Murphy (Rower Inistogie), Conor Murphy (Bennettsbridge)**



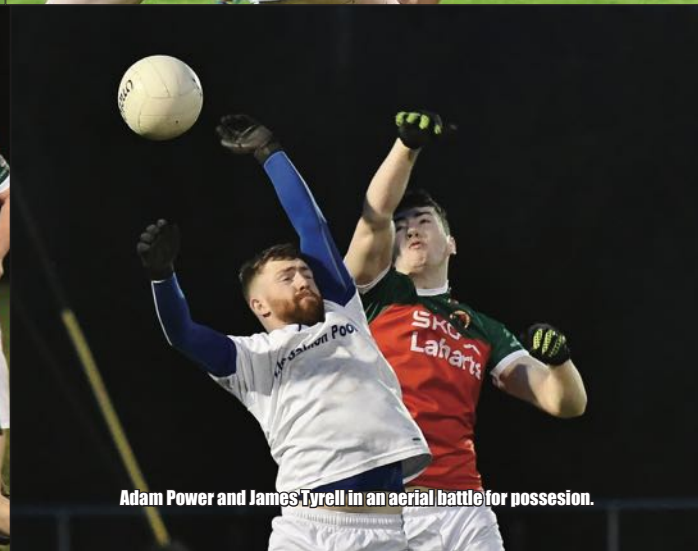
Sean Keenan gets past David O'Carroll to clear his lines.



Lar Campion in possession attempting to get past Eoin Fennelly



Oisín O'Reilly and Shane Donohoe trying to gain possession.



Adam Power and James Tyrell in an aerial battle for possession.



John Lockes- Minor Football "A" Champions 2024



Slieverue - Minor Football "C" Champions 2024

WHEN KILKENNY WERE A FORCE IN FOOTBALL

Gerry O'Neill

Remote though it may seem now, Kilkenny were serious contenders in the Leinster Senior Football Championship from the foundation of the GAA till the early decades of the 1900's, winning three titles and contesting eight.

Kilkenny won the very first Leinster Football Final held in 1888. The county was represented by Kilmacow and a report follows from the Munster Express of 29th September 1888:-

Leinster SF Final 1888 Great Match At New Ross Kilkenny 1-5 Wexford 0-2

(From our special commissioner)

The final tie for the Provincial Championship of Leinster was played at New Ross on Sunday last, and certainly, no match played during the many contests of the present year has occasioned more excitement. The match came off at Talbot Hall, about a mile from the town, and was fairly laid out by the members of the New Ross Commercial Club.

By a magistrate's order, dated the Friday previous, and signed by R.A Napper, J.P., all the owners of licensed premises were compelled to close their houses to everybody during the day, the grounds for the order being that a disturbance might take place. This absurd action on the part of the constabulary authorities occasioned the very greatest inconvenience, to thousands of people, who had travelled a long distance to witness the game, and many from Dublin, Wexford, Waterford and Kilkenny and other places, after long and fatiguing journeys, were compelled to return in the evening in a state of semi-starvation. As the document authorising the closing of the houses is rather a peculiar one I give it in extenso.

"Petty Sessions (Ireland) Act, 1851, 14 & 15 Vict.. Cap. 93- Certificate of Order. "The Queen by R.W. Gamble, D.I., R.I.C, New Ross, complainant. Petty Sessions District of New Ross, Newtown, Mountelliot, Camblin. Irishtown and Ballylane be closed during the whole day of Sunday, the 23rd September, 1888, as disturbance is apprehended during the football match, to take place on that day near New Ross, an order was made on the 21st of September, 1888, by the justices present, application of District Inspector, R.W. Gamble, to the following effect. That all licensed premises holding seven day licences be closed on next Sunday, the 23rd inst.

"Information having been sworn before us that serious riot may take place on that day, which may lead to a breach of the peace, order to extend to New Ross, Irishtown, Camblin, Ballylane and Mountelliot.

"(Signed R.A Napper, Justice of said county. This 2st day of September 1888." Instead of anything in the slightest degree approaching a riot, everything passed off with the utmost good humour, and I must congratulate the local committee on the manner in which they have been at least 15,000 spectators around the ring, the encroachments on the ground of play were of so unimportant a nature that it is hardly worth mentioning at all.

The Kilmacow team were the first to arrive by car, and soon proceeded to the field, which was a very suitable one. The Wexford men journeyed by train and reached the ground at two o'clock, when the two clubs appeared in their uniforms on the ground, the blue and white of the Wexford's showing in strong contrast with the green and orange costume of their opponents.

A long delay occurred before play was able to be commenced, as the special excursion train by which Referee, Mr. J. Kenny of Dublin, came did not arrive at Ross until near 3 o'clock.

Mr.M.J.Kenny, Dublin Metropolitan Hurling Club, acted as referee and discharged his duties in the most satisfactory and impartial manner. Mr. James Irish was field umpire for the Kilmacow, with Messrs J.P. Kennedy and James Hill as goal umpires, while for Wexford Mr.J.Keating discharged the duties of field umpire, Messrs. P.Kearney and John J. Kehoe being the goal umpires.

The match was a rattling good one throughout, both teams playing with pluck, judgement and determination, but there can be no question whatever that the best men won, and won well. Considerable disappointment was felt by the Kilmacow lads that none of the County Executive turned up with the exception of Mr. DeLoughry, as Mr. P.Hoyne, and Mr. J.Hearne the co. secretary to have been present.

Pat Deady, who seems to be invariably lucky in tossing for choice of ground, spun the coin for Kilmacow, and decided on playing with the wind, which was very strong in his back, there being no other advantage, as there was no xxx and the ground was almost dead level.

The visitors at once proceeded to act on the defensive and kept the Wexfords

very hard at work for over ten minutes when a couple of rushes by the home team - some of whom are remarkably smart - ended in first blood being scored by Wexford amidst tremendous cheering from their thousands of sympathisers who surrounded the touch line. The Kilkenny men were not long in wiping out this score, and their friends greeted the equalising the game with a rousing cheer. During the rest of the first half-hour the amount of leather hunting done was pretty heavy, but no scores were made. Both teams going into second half on level terms.

The Kilmacow boys again placed their opponents on the defensive when the leather was put in motion again, but not for long, as the Wexfordians got possession and for over a quarter of an hour kept the defenders of the Kilmacow goal as hard at work as it was possible for them, the aspect of affairs at one time looking decidedly unpleasant for the visitors.

Kilmacow then went to work and after some up and down play scored a point. Wexford again got the ball, when a desperate attempt to make a goal was well saved by Dalton, and a long dispute arose as to whether a point had been scored by Wexford or not. The goal umpires, Messrs, Kennedy and Kearney, disagreed and the referee, once being appealed to, at once decided the ball had not crossed the goal line, but had been saved by Dalton before reaching it, and the play went on. Just at five minutes before time was up the Kilkenny lads forced the play, and before the call of time added a goal and 3 points to their score, thus winning the game with a total of a goal and five points to two points.

The Kilmacow team would have made another goal had their forwards been a little closer to the goal they were fighting for, As it was, it was saved in a most miraculous manner by the Wexford captain, who fell, but recovered himself and managed to get the ball away in time. The manner in which the visitors wound up the match stamps them as being what I persistently stated, the best football team in Ireland this year, and I again predict that they will win the All Ireland Championship.

The number of excursionists who visited Ross was simply immense. The trains from Dublin to Wexford and intermediate stations were crowded, while two streamers from Waterford were crowded to excess.

The teams were as follows :-

KILMACOW – Patrick Deady (captain), Tlnlough; Michael Dalton (goal) Kilmacow; Michael Kinsella (vice-captain, Dangan; John Walsh, do; Walter Walsh, do; James Walsh, do; John Laftan, Greenville; William Kenneally, Ballykeoghane; John Fitzpatrick, Kilmacow; John Walsh, do; Michael Hanlon, Parkareid; Richard McDonnell, Miltown; Patrick Maher, Granagh; John Moore, Ullid; M.Neill, do; Peter Ryan, Gaulstown; John Cleary, Newtown; Thomas Walsh, Kilmacow; Peter Dunphy, Dunkitt; Michael Walsh, Skeaid Thomas Walsh, do.

WEXFORD – Philip Keating (captain and goal), E.Gordon (vice-captain), J.French, J.Rossiter, J.McGrath, P.Curran, P.Warren J.Connors M.Clance, A.Furlong, R.Phillips, T.Hayes, J.Keegan, P.Murphy, W.Hutchinson, M.Murphy, J.Sparrow, N.Meyler, R.Murphy.

Pat Deady won the toss for Kilkenny, and decided to play with the Sun in the backs of the team a very slight wind blowing in their faces. The ball was put in motion at 25 minutes past three o'clock and as soon as the leather was put in motion the Kilmacow lads got on the ball and ran it down to the Wexford 21 yard line. The ball remained in their ground for a few minutes, when it was rushed up to the middle of the ground and back again, when it was sent back, and then went into Kilkenny territory. it was speedily run down, and for the next five minutes remained inside the Wexford 21 yard line. A few splendid rushes being made by the Kilkennies, Neutral ground again became the scene of operations, when a good run by Wexford brought the leather into the visitors territory, and the referee gave a free kick to Wexford on account of a Kilmacow and catching an opponent from behind, and the point was made by Wexford. After kick-off the ball was again sent into Wexford ground, where a scrimmage in front of the goal resulted in nothing, and play continued in Wexford territory and was soon run in to Kilmacow ground, when Wexford nearly scored a point. John Laftan of the Kilmacow team, was seriously injured by a kick in the leg, but the Wexford Captain refused to admit a man in his room, and the visitors had consequently to play the rest of the match really a man short. Five minutes before time was up and go to rush by Wexford ended by Deady in rattling style score in the first point for the Kilkenny lads, and until time was called the leather stopped, in the home teams ground, the score at the end of the first half being one point each.

When play was resumed the Wexford boys got the leather out, but after five minutes play a point was made by Kilmacow, and after kick-off rushed into

the home ground, and a goal nearly saved by Dalton. A dispute here arose as to whether Wexford had made a point or not, which the referee very properly decided was not made, when Dalton kicked off, and the home team kept their opponents on the defensive, I made a point by a good piece of smart play. After kick-off a splendid rushing was made for the Wexford goal. Which the goalkeeper bravely saved by a piece of splendid play. Wexford got a free kick, a Kilmacow man having committed a foul; and in another moment Wexford received another freekick and still kept their opponents hard at work, and Dalton having again to kick off, Play continued in neutral ground, from whence it was run into Wexford ground, the whole man getting another free kick, and shortly after Wexford had to kick off. on a good run a splendid point was made by kill Macau, and immediately afterwards another — The first by Tom Walsh Skeard, the second was immediately followed by a slashing goal kicked for Kilmacow by Tom Walsh which Kenneally supplemented by another point just before call of time, and when the referee blew his whistle the score stood -

KILKENNY (KILMACOW) - 1 goal and 5 points
WEXFORD (BLUES & WHITES) - 2 points

(I have been informed that an objection has been lodged against the match being awarded to Kilmacow on the ground that some of the members of the team were not belonging to the team, or did not reside in the parish. The names of these men and their residences speak for themselves.)

This objection obviously came to nothing, and Kilkenny were awarded the title. Three teams then remained in the All Ireland Championship - Kilkenny, Monaghan (Ulster) and Tipperary (Munster). Sadly the GAA embarked on the "USA Invasion" at the end of the year and the championships were never completed. Thus, Kilkenny missed a chance of becoming the first All Ireland SF Champions.

It was 1893 before Kilkenny next contested the Leinster Football Final. Tom Ryall takes up the story:-

LEINSTER SF FINAL 1893
Wexford Park
Wexford 0-1 Kilkenny 0-5

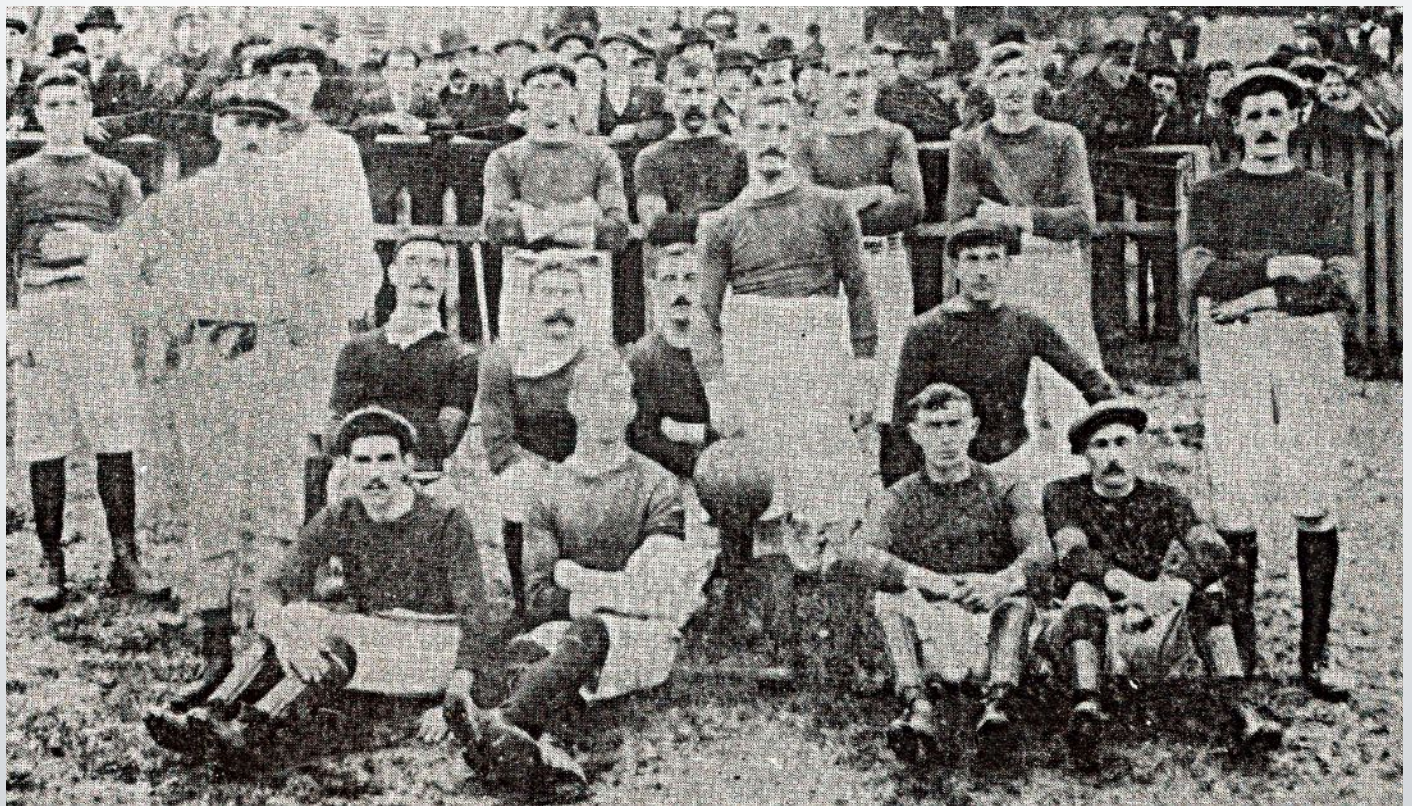
"Commercials (Kilkenny) represented the county in the 1893 Lenster final. They threw the match away by refusing to come out for the second half, protesting

at the roughness of the Wexford team. After playing against the breeze and sun, the Noresiders led by 0-5 to 0-1 at half-time, and looked like winning. The match was played in Wexford Park and the pitch was not in good condition. The hot weather had made the surface rock hard. This suited Wexford because they had trained in the field. Commercials were more familiar with a wider grass-covered pitch. The Wexford Sports Committee, who owned the field, had to guarantee the train bringing the Kilkenny supporters to the tune of £30. The fact that the train was only advertised on the Friday before the game kept Kilkenny support to a minimum. Eighty-five people availed themselves of the transport paying £14 and the guarantors lost £16, a princely sum in those days.

When they found themselves outclassed, Wexford (Young Irelands) resorted to rough tactics. Kilkenny were faster, better kickers and kept their opponents under pressure. The roughness erupted at intervals and became more pronounced in the closing stages of the half. With five players injured and unable to continue, captain Dick Kealy, took his team from the field and refused to play on. The Central Council awarded the match to Wexford, who went on to win the All-Ireland. Kealy felt Kilkenny would get a replay. Kilkenny had their points from J. Dollard, Michael Berry, Tom White, J. Barron and J. Murphy. Best players listed were Dick Kealy, J. Dollard, Matt Darcy and Michael Berry. Dick Kealy was recognised as one of the finest footballers in Ireland. He was selected on the Leinster team that played Munster in an inter-provincial match in London in 1896. Although Kealy, as captain, took the team off the field and refused to play on, the majority of the Commercials wanted to continue. It was yet another instance of the 'might have been' in Kilkenny football."

Kilkenny: Dick Kealy (capt.), J. Comerford (goal), Matt Darcy, J. Dollard, W. Doheny, P. Power, E. Moylan, J. Loughman, Tom Darcy, Michael Berry, J. Gleeson, J. Barron, J. Murphy, Tom White, W. Corrigan, W. Kealy and P. Brennan.

"The Commercials made two more attempts to win the Leinster championship, but Meath beat them on both occasions. In 1894 the score was 1-5 to 0-0. The following year, the Royal County won by 1-13 to 1-0 and they went on to contest the All-Ireland. It was Meath again who proved too good for a Sevenhouses selection in 1896. They won by 1-10 to 0-4. Dublin had easy victories over Kilkenny in 1897 and 1899 by 0-14 to 0-1 and by 0-10 to 0-2, respectively. Kilkenny did not compete in the 1898 championship. That ended the Kilkenny football story in the last century."



KILKENNY LEINSTER SF CHAMPIONS 1900

Standing: Martin Bowers, Pat Crowley (goal), Pat Conway, Tom Hyland, Jim Bourke, Ned Purcell (capt. with football), Pat Wall, Mick Tobin, Paddy Power.

Sitting: Jim Cooney, Dan Maher, John O'Shea, Jack O'Neill.

Front Row: Jim Dwyer, Bill Morrissey, Tom Whelan, Bill O'Toole.

1900 saw Kilkenny win their second title, this time represented by the Slate Quarry Miners who beat Louth easily in the final. The Drogheda Independent reports:

**LEINSTER SF FINAL
1900
Wexford Park
Kilkenny 0-12 Louth 0-0**

Monday's "Daily Independent" says:- that the Gaelic athletic Association is still as popular as ever in Wexford was evident by the huge gathering at Wexford Park on Sunday last on the occasion of the Leinster Football Championship between the representatives of Kilkenny in Louth. Never in the history of the sport has a larger and more representative gathering graced an enclosure within the county to witness a contest under the rules of G.A.A. every available point of vantage within the well in close ground was occupied, and by a remarkably orderly and enthusiastic audience, who were favoured with most delightful weather. The ground was in its very best condition for such an important match, and the arrangements were perfect in every detail. Like the majority of Gaelic clubs engaged in importing championships, both teams (against the custom of clubs engaged in other branches of the sport), travelled long journeys on the morning of the match, and consequently the game did not commence until very late. so far as the teams are concerned there was practically no change, except in the Louth with a combination. The latter solely suffered the loss of their very best forward M'Keon who is unfortunately ill.

Louth - J Harrison, P Cluskey, P M'Donnell, J Clarke, R Murray, W Sherry, J Mooney, J Hughes, J Smith, J Martin, J Gregory, J Gerrard, P L'Estrange, J Murray, C McCann, N O'Neill, and J Dempsey.
Kilkenny - E Purcell, D Crowley, T Maher, D Darney, J Shea, J Cooney, W tool, J Highland, W Mooney, MT Whelan, D Power, P Wall, M Tobin, J Dyer, J Burke, and J O'Neill.

We have to acknowledge that the match proved very disappointing and one-sided. If there was an interesting and exciting quarter of an hour in the first half, the remainder of the match was utterly uninteresting, particularly so far as the play of the Louth men were concerned. magnificent play gained Louth a victory over Wicklow some weeks ago, but even if they reproduced this they might not have won. Let us say that the members of the Kilkenny team of Sunday are the probable champions of Ireland. They completely outclassed Louth in every point of the game, and one by 12 points to nil. They were a faster and far heavier a lot. It was clearly strength and agility that won the match rather than science.

From start to finish Kilkenny had matters to themselves, and every member of their team played a brilliant game particularly P Wall and P Conway. The latter played with a most extraordinary game. He accomplished more work than any other man on the field; he was everywhere, and always had something to say to the scores. Their goalkeeper, Crowley, was seldom troubled, and when he was he acted well. The Kilkenny backs were impenetrable. Every time the Louthman made an attempt to get through their efforts were frustrated. It is impossible to sufficiently eulogise the grand all round play of the Kilkenny team. The Louth team could not possibly win under any conditions. They were fortunate in retiring with only 12 points against them. But they did not played the game that won their match against Wicklow. Their goalkeeper Clusky it is impossible to sufficiently eulogise the grand all round play of the Kilkenny team. The Louth team could not possibly win under any conditions. They were fortunate in retiring with only twelve points against them. But they did not play the game that won their match against Wicklow. Their goalkeeper Cluskey, played well, but their backs and forwards deserve to be censured by their committees for their very erratic play. They were devoid of the dash which characterised Kilkenny. The defeat ought to be a lesson to live with in the matter of cohesion. The start was made shortly after 3 o'clock. Kilkenny had register two points to nil at half-time, and the final score was:-

Kilkenny 0-12 Louth 0-0



Tom Ryall tells us what happened next:

"Kilkenny played Tipperary in the semi-final at Carrick-on-Suir. They beat them by 1-6 to 0-7 and qualified for the All-Ireland Home final. The winners wore the Slatequarries jerseys of emerald green with yellow sash and white togs. At half-time Kilkenny led by 1-3 to 0-2. They were leading by 1-5 to 0-4 when John O'Shea was sent to the line. Clonmel Shamrocks represented Tipperary. They knew about the Tipperary players kicking with Kilkenny. An objection was lodged by the Clonmel men who proved that Pat Wall, Willie O'Toole, Dan Harney, Jim Cooney and John O'Shea were illegal. The Central Council ordered a replay and ruled these players out. Kilkenny refused to play and went out of the championship."

It took three great games against Kildare before

Kilkenny exited the 1903 Championship.

The Leinster Times reports below on all three matches:-

**LEINSTER SF FINAL 1903
Three games needed to separate Kildare and Kilkenny**

Game 1

Keen and wide-spread was the interest centred in the Leinster Football Final, which was played off on Sunday in the Wexford Park, between teams representing the counties of Kildare and Kilkenny, and which had such a sensational termination, a draw! to better teams have not seen in the athletic arena this year, and the anxiety with which the results of Sunday's match was awaited by the thousands in Wexford Park is sure to be intensified when next the two famous teams need to battle for the Leinster Championship. Fully 5000 people witnessed the game, the specials from Kildare, Kilkenny, Waterford, New Ross, Gorey and intermediate stations on the Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford railway bringing each a very large contingent. Never, indeed, in recent years, has such a huge gathering been seen in the Wexford Park. The ground was in very bad condition for football, owing to the heavy rain which fell incessantly from an early hour in the morning. Coming towards noon however, the day cleared up, and the great match – one of the best, if not the very best, yet seen in Ireland during the present year – which began shortly before 3 pm, was played in glorious sunshine. The Marble City representatives were minus Comerford and Davies, whose loss they severely felt. On the other hand, Kildare put their best team they could pick on the field, and they were at once favourites. Scott, their goalkeeper got hurt during the progress of the game in the second half, but still continued to play.

Kildare - J Rafferty (captain), W Merryman, W Bracken, J Dunne, W Lasty, T Dellea, L Crevin, M Fitzgerald, T Keogh, J Murray, N Murray, J Scott, E Kennedy, M Kennedy, J Corlan and J Wright.
Kilkenny - M Landy, M Tobin, T Hyland, P Neill, M Neill, Richard Meagher, P McGrath, J Donovan, P Power, J Fitzpatrick, E Conway, Pete Conway, T Whelan, D Stapleton, M Tobin and D Hynes.

Immediately the ball was set in motion excitement at once ran high as Kildare, who were by far the heavier lot of men essayed to attack. Kilkenny successfully defended. Presently however, a foul occurred in midfield which penalised Kilkenny, and Kildare made the first score – a point – I missed a scene of great enthusiasm. The delivery was a splendid one and enabled Kilkenny to bring the leather to the mouth of their opponents goal. During the following fifteen minutes an exhibition of Gaelic football seldom seen in Ireland was witnessed. Both teams fought like Trojans, and as the ball was sent through either goal and the brilliant play and defensive tactics of either team were demonstrated, the spectators cheered their loudest. Eventually Kilkenny equalised matters

by scoring a point from a sidekick. During the remainder of the first half, play of an equally exciting nature was witnessed, Kildare missing a goal by inches five minutes before call of halftime. They, however score a point which was followed by a similar score for the representatives of the Marble City and a half-time the teams were level on the score – Kildare, 2 points; Kilkenny, 2 points.

Little time was lost in resuming play. Kilkenny attacked with vigour, and, more through ill-luck than faulty play missed several scores. Then Kildare opened an assault which was grandly defended, but still pressing on, their efforts were eventually rewarded with a major. But for this they had yet to pay dear. The Kilkenny men now worked as they never did before, and an open display of main strength and combined effort on their part had it could easily be seen, and immediate and telling affect on the Kildare men, whose goalminder was knocked down and very much hurt internally as he was saving his posts.

The results of this charge was that Kilkenny shot in three points in rapid succession, missing at least three others, through ill-directed kicking. The Marble Citymen next, in pressing, would have scored a goal and a point but for the splendid work of Scott (goal) who, though injured seriously a few minutes before, continued to play.

All over the field, excitement reached its highest point, as the end of the second half was approaching. Each slide appear to rise to the feet that the scores were equal, and tried with might and main to get a lead, but they were unable. The feverish struggle continued till the call awful time, when the referee declared the match a draw on the score –

KILDARE, 1-2; KILKENNY, 0-5

Replay 1

On Sunday at Wexford Park was witnessed the second struggle for the 1903 football final of the Leinster Championship between teams representing Kildare and Kilkenny. The teams met in Wexford on the 11th December last, and after one of the finest exhibitions of football seen for many years, the game ended in a draw, Kildare scoring 1 goal 2 points to 5 points for Kilkenny. The greatest possible interest was centred in Sunday's match which was also a magnificent exhibition of football. The match began at 3:15 pm, but long before that time the Park contained fully 18,000 spectators. Shortly after the throw-in Kildare scored a point. Kilkenny replied with a similar score of four minutes after, and keeping on the pressure registered a goal. Kildare were unable to supplement their score. The tide turned, however, in the second half, for with the aid of the wind, and Kilkenny playing against the sun, Kildare pulled up splendidly, scoring a point within a minute after resumption. Dunne as usual was in great form, and shot in a goal half a minute afterwards, Kilkenny then got possession, and made a desperate onslaught on their opponents posts, being rewarded with another minor. To equalise matters Kildare now made a great effort. They missed the point by inches, but were eventually rewarded with an equaliser. Then, with about ten minutes to spare, the struggle went without any score on either side until Bracken came to the rescue and shot in the points that won the match for Kildare.

Final score:-

KILDARE 1-6 KILKENNY 1-5

Kildare:- J.Rafferty (capt), J.Wright, J.Dunne, W.Merriman, W.Losty, W.Bracken, E.Kennedy, J.Cribbin, J.Murray, M.Murray, M.Fitzgerald, J.Fitzgerald, (goal), M.Kennedy, J.Gorman, J.Scott, M.Donnolly, and F.Conan.
Kilkenny:- M.Landy, (Capt), J.Comerford,



S.Davis, T.Hyland, B.Maher, (goal), E. and P.Conway, J.Fitzpatrick, M. and P.O'Neill, T.Phelan, D.Hynes, M.Tobin, P.Power, J.McGrath, J.McGrath, J.Donovan, D.Stapleton.

Referee - Mr F.Crowe

Kilkenny successfully disputed Kildare's last point in the above game, so the Final went to a second replay, this time at Jones' Road before a crowd of 10,000.

Second Replay

On Sunday for a third time Kildare and Kilkenny meant to decide the honour of representing Leinster in the All Ireland Football Championship, this time Jones's Road being the venue. The teams first met at Wexford on December 11th, and a grand match ended in a draw, the scores being Kilkenny 5 points Kildare, 1 goal 2 points. Replay took place at Wexford on February 26th, and the referees award was - Kildare, 1 goal and 6 points; Kilkenny 1 goal and 5 points. During the play the referee disallowed a point scored by Kilkenny, Who appealed to the Central Council, and that body upheld the appeal and declared the match a draw, and the Leinster Council fixed the present venue for the decider, with Mr M.F.Crowe, who officiated as the previous matches as a referee. There was a tremendous crowd of spectators, and the match was worthy the best traditions of Leinster football.

Kilkenny - Landy (captain), Comerford, Conway, Hyland, Davis, Tobin, Hynes, O'Neill, O'Neill, Power, Curran, Phelan, McGrath, Fitzpatrick, Donovan, Maher.

Kildare - Rafferty (captain), Merriman, Cribbin, Wright, Losty, Dunne, Bracken, Kennedy, J.Fitzgerald, J.Murray, M.Fitzgerald, J.Scott, M.Murray, Donnelly, Gorman, Gorman, Kennedy, Conlan.

It was an hour after the advertised time when the teams lined up, and Kildare winning the toss, playing against the breeze for the first half. Kilkenny went away on the throw in. Kildare kicking from goal which was received at the centre, a Kildare player driving towards his own goal, Kilkenny scoring a point after four minutes' play. Kilkenny within scoring distance, their forward sending over. The ball was then sent to centre, and several throws from the sideline were exchanged, and then a free for Kildare let them down; but the Kilkenny backs were sound, and play was quickly transferred; but the several efforts of Kilkenny were fruitless, and a kick from goal disturbed the play. So far Kilkenny had the best of the play, but the Kildare defence was faultless, and the ball was so far kept out of

danger. A free for Kilkenny let them down, but the cake was spoiled by a foul forward, and Kildare worked down, and the ball grazed the posts. Kildare kept up the pressure, and the forward, although foul, scored a goal, but the whistle had gone for the foul before the kick : but their free resulted in a point (Scott). Kilkenny received the kick out, and after a brief attack were sent back, and Kildare added their second point (Dunne). Subsequently a lifty free was well placed, but Kildare sent over, Kilkenny sending the kick down, and kept up a fierce attack; but Kildare backs were splendid, and play was sent to centre, where the whistle went for half time -

**KILDARE 0-2
KILKENNY 0-1**

On resuming Kilkenny forced forward, but were quickly driven back, and play was confined to the centre-field players for some time, Kildare eventually forcing a kick off. A free followed but the Kilkenny box defended well and play was over the field for some minutes, but always slightly in favour of Kildare. At this period of delay was occasioned by a Kilkenny player being unable to continue, and when a substitute came along the game was restarted by the referee hoping the ball about the centre, and a free for Kildare was nullified by a splendid save by a Kilkenny back, who sent to centre. Frees were interchanged, and after a weak attack by Kilkenny, Kildare sent forward, and by neat wing-play Scott again scored a point for his side. Kildare had still the best of the play, and again they scored, being fouled the ball was whistled, and Rafferty converted the three making his side three points ahead. Splendid play followed, and Kildare working down the field their forward was again fouled, but their free was in the hands of Rafferty, who added their fifth point. The play was contested in Kilkenny half, and it was evident that the pace had told on the teams, Kilkenny showing the greatest signs of distress, and Kildare working along the left wing Conlan sent it over for their sixth point. Kildare were still in the ascent, and had hard lines with a long shot, Scott striking the upright, but he followed up and scored a point, a similar score following per Conlan. Kilkenny box we are now kept busy but could not keep Kildare out, who added their ninth point, per Dunne. Kilkenny then sent forward, and a free gave them a chance but they sent wide. Kilkenny were on the ball after the kick out, but full time sounded, leaving the score:-

**KILDARE 0-9
KILKENNY 0-1**

Kilkenny reached the 1904 Final but lost to Dublin, as reported in the Irish Independent:

Fully 5000 spectators were present at Wexford Park yesterday to witness the final of the Leinster

LEINSTER SF FINAL 1904
Wexford Park
Dublin 0-5 Kilkenny 0-1

championship between Dublin and Kilkenny. The weather held up splendidly. The match was not up to the standard for such crack teams, the play at times being only mediocre; and Dublin had a pretty easy thing in qualifying to represent Leinster in the All-Ireland Championship. The chairman of the Leinster Council discharged his duties most efficiently as a referee. It was poor football during the opening stages, when all the scoring was on the Dublin side. Chadwick sent in 2 points, Lynch 2, and Brennan 1, and Dublin crossed over leading by 5-0. In the second half Stapleton, from a "hop" sent up to the point flag for Kilkenny. This ended the scoring. Quinn had replaced Keane in the Dublin goal during the second half.

DUBLIN - P.Daly, M.Kelly, J.Brennan, T.Macaulay, J.Dempsey, D.Brady, J.Grace, M.Keane, M.Barry, P.O'Callaghan, P.Casey T.Murphy, J.Madigan, J.Lynch (capt.), J.Chadwick, L.Sheehan, J.Doyle
KILKENNY - J.Fitzpatrick, S.Davis, P.Lyons, T.Phelan, M.Tobin, D.Hines, M.O'Neill, P.O'Neill, R.Maher, J.Maher, W.Byron, J.Hyland, J.McGrath, P.McGrath, D.Stapleton, E.Conway, J.Donovan.

It was not until 1909 that Kilkenny next appeared in a Leinster Final, when they lost to Louth in Jones' Road. The report from the Kilkenny people runs as follows:

LEINSTER SF FINAL 1909
Jones' Road
Louth 2-9 Kilkenny 0-4

The interest taken in the Leinster football final was well demonstrated by the large crowd that attended at Jones's Road on Sunday last, despite the uninviting weather conditions, which gave us the first real touch of winter this year, and might be deemed sufficiently severe but the most robust to remain at home. This may have deterred some local lovers of the game, but their absence was more than compensated by the large number who accompanied the contending teams, and not since the great marathon race has the Jones's Road enclosure been visited by so many people. The game was considered a good thing for Louth, whose brilliant defeat of Dublin some weeks ago made them first favourites for the All-Ireland Championship. But Louth has been a proverbially unlucky county, being always a point or two behind the best and not a few people thought that Kilkenny might have a rod in pickle for them. Merit on this occasion prevailed, and there is no doubt that the victory of Louth was one of the most popular achieved in Dublin for some years.

At 2.15 the team is lined up. Louth won the toss, and elected to play against the breeze, which blew pretty strong. Kilkenny invaded, and some smart exchanges were witnessed in the Louth ground, but the ball was gradually worked back, Louth invading; a free against them relieved the pressure, The ball going over the sideline at the centre. The wing play of Louth at this period was a pretty feature, and therefore words were put in position for Matthews to score the first point. The kick out was fielded by Kilkenny, who secured a free about the centre line, and the Louth defence was severely tested, P.O'Neill equalising from a scramble. Hard, even play followed, and again the left wing of Louth was conspicuous, but were eventually compelled to kick from goal which they followed with advantage, but were sent back from a free, another free following for Kilkenny close in, which Dalton converted, placing his side one point ahead. A free to Louth about the centre was taken by Mulligan, who placed the ball in a splendid position for Matthews to score a goal. The following play was very fast and determined, in the excitement of which a Louth man fouled and Dalton scored a point. Louth Followed the kick-out, Matthews placing the ball into Bannon's hands for the latter to add a point which was followed by a similar score per Brennan. Louth were playing distinctly better football, and the indications pointed to an easy win for them. They kept the play well forward, compelling Kilkenny to kick off several times, but did not succeed in breaking through Kilkenny defence until a free was taken by Mulligan, who placed Bannon in a position to score a point. Half-time then went, the score then being:-

Louth 1-4
Kilkenny 0-3

On resuming, Louth immediately went forward, and Kilkenny kicked from goal, and when the ball was again in play Brennan kicked a point. A free to Kilkenny was sent wide from the kick-out. Markey fielded the next kick, and sent down the field for Brennan again to score, a further point being added a moment later. Kilkenny again invaded, but their forwards sent wide, after the Louth goalkeeper had saved. The game was here after well distributed, due mainly to the fact that the wind shifted in favour of Kilkenny, and was accompanied by a sharp shower, which was also to Louth's disadvantage. Nevertheless

Louth kept their opponents at bay albeit the shooting of the latter was very faulty. A free to Louth let them down, and the ball went over the sideline. The succeeding play mostly favoured Louth, although scores came slow, the teams exchanging points per frees. Kilkenny were defending when a free censored by Carvin was sent through for a goal, and a moment later the same player added a point, from a free close in, and Louth retired winners of the Leinster Championship for the first time since 1887, the score being:-

Louth 2 -9
Kilkenny 0-4

Louth: M.Byrne (goal), J.Clark, J.Quinn, T.Donnolly, J.Mulligan, J.Clark, E.Burke, T.Morgan, P.Donegan, P.Burke, T.Matthews, J.Bannon, J.Brennan, O.Markey, J.Hanlon, M.Hand, J.Carvin.
Kilkenny: Holohan (goal), P.Dalton, R.Dalton, J.Dwyer, W.Dwyer, J.Doyle, J.Galavan, T.Butler, G.Foskin, L.O'Neill, P.O'Neill, J.Donovan, R.Cass, E.Norris, M.Drea, D.Hoyne.
Mr.M.F.Crowe refereed.

Two years later, Kilkenny won their third - and last - Leinster title when they beat Meath in Jones' Road, as the Drogheda Independent reports:

LEINSTER SF FINAL 1911
Jones' Road
Kilkenny 2-4 Meath 1-1

Sunday last was a great day in the annals of Meath football. The men of the Royal County had fought their way into the final field and had routed their opponents all along the line. After their defeat of the Dublin forces it was thought they would annihilate all opposition and represent Leinster in the final match. But it has been now declared otherwise, as their defeat at the hands of the Kilkenny representatives at Jones's Road last Sunday was clean and decisive. Not for many a year was there so much enthusiasm in Gaelic football shown by the men of Meath. For several years past they were more or less in the background as regards first class teams, but of late it was thought that their form was so good as to put them in the position they held in the nineties when they were champions of Leinster, and only went down in the All-Ireland Final before the Arravale Rovers from the Galtee slopes. Special trains by the Midland and Great Northern lines brought vast contingents from all corners of Meath to Dublin to witness what was certain to be an exciting match, while the other counties in the province were also well represented, especially Kilkenny, which supplied the opposing teams.

The game was timed to begin at 1:45 o'clock, and prompt to time the Meath men turned out on the ground, while Kilkenny representatives were absent. The reason why they were not up to time was not explained, but there is the probability of their train being late. The team came from Kilmacow and Knocktopher, on the southern side of the county, so that the fault may not have been theirs, the road being a long one. Shortly after two o'clock, Mr JJ Hogan; Chairman of the Leinster Council, awarded the match to Meath, as the Kilkenny team did not put in an appearance, and the players retired from the field, leaving the large audience in a rather disappointed state of mind. Just before 2:30 o'clock, it was announced that the Kilkenny men were on the spot and ready for action, and the Meath men being again approached, they decided to play the match, but they did so under protest. There was very little necessity for the protest, as it is not quite common with the teams to turn out at the scheduled time. By this time the weather, which had been hitherto rather threatening in its attitude, became very unfavourable, and the rain began to fall freely, and as time went on he grew worse, culminating in a regular downpour for the last twenty minutes of the play.

Mr MF Crowe had charge of the whistle, and at 2:35 he set the ball rolling.

The teams were:- Meath - S Rennix (goal), J Newman (capt), J Mullen, M Ward, M Hynes, J Daly, C Commons, P Timmons, J Coogan, B Matthews, J Shaw, P Wallace, T Ferrelly, W Donegan, J Fox and T Clarke.

Kilkenny - R Holohan, P Dalton, W Dalton, or Dalton, J Deyle, J Dwyer, W Dwyer, J Donovan, J Coady, R Purcell, W Hynes, J Fitzgerald, P Power, W Saunders, Thomas Brennan, Thomas Butler and Martin Hughes.

The Play

Meath started playing to the canal goal and had the wind with them. No sooner was the ball set going than the Meath men swarmed down the field and beating the Kilkenny backs secured a goal admits the greatest enthusiasm. No wonder. For a minute had scarcely elapsed. From the kick out Kilkenny got possession and by the aid of beautiful combination and steady kicking the ball was very soon transferred into Meath territory. Then the ball being centred beautifully the centre forward (Dalton) easily landed the ball into the net. It was Kilkenny's time

now to cheer and this their followers lustily did. After this play again went down the field and remained in Kilkenny territory for some time, but their backs defended splendidly and were more than a match for their Meath men who could not stand the points as on the previous occasion. Free kicks were quite a common feature of the game, especially against Kilkenny who seemed to have a happy knack of running counter to the spirit of the laws of the game. Anyhow at this stage the play came back to Meath ground, and a free to Kilkenny, having landed the ball in a nice position, Dalton scored a point. The kick out saw a fine rush down the field by Meath as far as their opponents goal, but a free relieved the pressure, and again the ball returned to midfield. Play was up and down a few moments when it was transferred to near the Meath goal, but there Newman got knocked out in a collision with a colleague and play was suspended. Soon he was all right again, And from a free awarded to Kilkenny another point resulted. Shortly after the kick out Meath got a free which was well followed up to the enemies goal where a kick sent wide. In a few moments after they were given another free and Newman scored a point. Up and down play succeeded for some minutes, and some frees to each side brought very little advantage. Kilkenny had a 50 yards touch but the force used was not equal to the distance, and nice play ensued in which Meath made much progress downfield, but only to be repulsed again. Then Kilkenny came on with vengeance, and Dalton, taking a free at a nice distance, sent the ball clean into the net. This was the neatest score of the match. From the kick out the game was a desultory one, and when the half time whistle sounded, the score was:-

Kilkenny - 2-2

Meath - 1-1

On resuming, the Southern men seem to get into their stride at once, and put the Meathmen on their defence. The rain was beginning to fall in a downpour, and the ground was evidently very soft, while the letter was very hard to hold, and harder still to kick with judgement. Meath was making at this time a brave defence of their posts, and soon relieved the pressure. The play then went towards the midfield and continued right up to the Kilkenny goal where a free to Meath went wide. Then Kilkenny put on a spurt, and beating the opposition scored a point, and after a brief space scored another. Thenceforward, despite the miserable state of the ground, the game was exceptionally fast, but neither side scored again. Meath had several splendid opportunities, but all their kicks went wide. Possibly the state of the ball had much to say to that. Kilkenny were playing the game of the winning team now, and seemed perfectly confident. It was hard luck on the Meathmen to suffer defeat, and they fought bravely to the finish. The final score was:-

Kilkenny - 2-4 Meath - 1-1

Tom Ryall continues the 1911 saga as follows:

"Having taken the Leinster title, it looked as if Kilkenny were going to contest an All-Ireland final at last because they were expected to beat Antrim in the semi-final. The sides had contrasting styles. Kilkenny were better fielders, while Antrim held sway on the ground. The fast pace of the first half — Kilkenny led 1-1 to 1-0 — then took its toll and Antrim took control in the second period and ran out winners by 3-1 to 1-1. Pat Power gave Kilkenny a tonic start with a goal, but Mullen equalised. Dick Dalton pointed to give the losers their interval advantage. Antrim had all their second half scores from a player called Williams, who was operating under an alias.

This was the nearest Kilkenny were to come to contesting an All-Ireland football final. While they



KILKENNY - LEINSTER FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 1911

Back Row: Tom Fitzgerald, P. J. Power, Pat O'Neill, Jim Doyle, Jim 'Dara' Donovan, Dick Cass, Tom Brennan, Willie Hoyne, Paddy Dalton, Jack McKenna.

Front Row: Dick Dalton, Jim Cody, Jim Dwyer, Bill Dalton, Dick Holohan (Capt.), Bill Dwyer, Bill Saunders, Kieran Purcell, Martin Hoyne.

This is the team that played Antrim in the All-Ireland football semi-final.



KILKENNY - LEINSTER SENIOR FOOTBALL FINALISTS 1922

Back: J. Mullins, Tom Brennan, Bill Irish, Tommy Brennan (Durrick), Andy Heffernan, Mick Connolly.

Middle: Andy Brennan, P. Hartley, Peter Hughes, Mick Brennan, Bill Lalor, Paddy Kavanagh, Peter Dunne (Mascot).

Front: Andy McEvoy, Jack McKenna, Jimmy Hanrahan, Martin Cody, Watt Landy, P. Cody, J. Fitzgerald, Tom Walsh N.T. (Chairman Co. Board).

Sitting: Jim Cooney, Dan Maher, John O'Shea, Jack O'Neill.

Front Row: Jim Dwyer, Bill Morrissey, Tom Whelan, Bill O'Toole.

remained a moderate force in Leinster for the next couple of decades, they followed a gradual but steady decline."

LEINSTER SF FINAL 1922
Jones' Road
Dublin 1-7 Kilkenny 0-2

It would be eleven more years before Kilkenny next appeared in a Leinster SF final, when in 1922, they lost to Dublin. It was to be their last appearance in the decider. As Tom Ryall recorded:

"Kilkenny did not participate in the 1921 championship. They qualified for their last Leinster senior final in 1922. Laois were beaten in the first round at James's Park by 4-4 to 1-1, after the home side led by 2-2 to 0-1 at half-time. Meath were downed in the semi-final at Croke Park. The result was 4-4 to 1-2, the winners having led by 1-4 to 0-1 at the interval. The Leinster final in Croke Park was against Dublin. Kilkenny lost by 0-2 to 1-7. The game was evenly contested in the first half,

after which Dublin trailed by 0-1 to 0-2. Kilkenny recalled the veteran Paddy Dalton to play in goal. He had won a Leinster senior medal in 1911. The losers' backs were magnificent, but the forwards were poor. Kilkenny were short M. Brennan and William Lawlor, who failed to appear. It was learned later that the car bringing them to the game had broken down.

Kilkenny - Martin Cody (capt.), Andy Heffernan, Paddy Hartley, J. Phelan, Bill Irish, P. Cody, Jimmy Hanrahan, Mick Connolly, John Fitzgerald (Glenmore), Paddy Dalton (Knocktopher), Andy Brennan, Paddy Hughes, Tom Brennan (Cloneen), Jack McKenna, Watt Landy (Cotterstown).

Following the 1922 Leinster final, Kilkenny held their own against some of the top teams in the country until 1931, when, following a heavy defeat by Westmeath, they were relegated to junior."

Acknowledgements:
Tom Ryall - Kilkenny The GAA Story 1884-1984
Irish Newspaper Archives



A Hugely Successful Year

Handball Report

A first World Championships Open Title, Back-to-back Senior Title and first Minor Singles in 40x20 for Kilkenny since 2006 in another successful year for Handball

It was another hugely successful year for Kilkenny handballers at both Juvenile and an Adult level

with successes across Provincial, National, and international competition. Ciara Mahon won Kilkenny's first ever Open World Handball title in either Ladies or Men's Handball when she partnered Roscommon's Fiona Tully to win the Ladies Open Title in the University of Limerick. Shane Dunne (Clogh) claimed back-to-back victories winning the Senior Hardball Singles crown defeating fellow Kilkenny man Ciarán Neary (Talbots Inch) in the final. Noah Manogue (O'Loughlin's) won Kilkenny's first minor Singles title in the 40x20 since 2006 when he defeated Tomás O'Connor (Cork) emulating Richie Hogan's (Kilfane) success. Noah also collected the Minor 60x30 Singles All Ireland title. Kilkenny now hold all five minor titles in 4 Wall for 2024 with John Hayes (Kells)/Anthony Clifford (Talbots Inch) 40x20 Minor Doubles Champions, Conor Doyle (Windgap)/Noah Manogue (O'Loughlin's) 60x30 Doubles Champions and John Hayes (Kells) 60x30 Hardball Singles Champion.

4 Wall

Kilkenny had to settle for two All-Ireland Singles victories in this year 40x20 championship. There was a huge win for Noah Manogue (O'Loughlins) who won the Boys Minor Singles title when he defeated Tomás O'Connor (Cork) 21-14, 21-10 after a gruelling battle between both players who have crossed paths plenty of times before in the underage ranks. This was a landmark win for Kilkenny who hadn't won a minor All Ireland 40x20 Singles title since Richie Hogan's win in 2006, and he is the 5th Kilkenny player to get his name on the Minor Singles Cup. There was also victory for Amy Brennan (Clogh) who won the Ladies Intermediate Singles Final as she defeated her old rival Leah Minogue (Clare) 21-12 21-12 to claim victory. Jack Doyle (Windgap) lost to Tipperary's Jerome Cahill in two straight games 21-19 21-10 in the Men's Junior Singles Final. Jack put up a brave fight after injuring his shoulder in the semi-final. In the Doubles Kilkenny collected three All Ireland titles. There was a great win in Minor Doubles for Anthony Clifford (Talbots Inch) and John Hayes (Kells) when they defeated Galway in two straight games 21-11 21-18 after receiving a bye in the semi-final. In the Ladies Minor Doubles Clogh's Katie Brennan and Holly Byrne defeated a well fancied Tyrone pair in two straight games 21-17 21-6 in the semi final and had a comprehensive win over Galway in the final 21-1 21-6. In the Silver Masters B Doubles there was victory for Clogh's Brendan Hosey and Daniel Love defeating Sligo 21-7 21-9. It was nice to see Brendan winning the title after losing out narrowly last year in the Junior B Doubles Final with his nephew Ciarán Cooney. There was defeat for Sean Barron (Windgap) and John Doherty (Galmoy) to Sligo in the Under 21 Doubles Final and for Kilfane's Jack Holden and Dylan Caulfield who lost out to Tipperary in two straight games.

4 Wall Juvenile

Kilkenny Juvenile players contested 9 All Ireland finals on 16th March 2024. Kilkenny came away with three victories. In the Girls Under 14 Doubles there was a victory for Kilfane's Shauna Doherty/Sophie McCabe who overcame Tyrone in two hard fought games 15-11, 15-13. In the Girls Under 15 Singles Shauna Hayes (Kells) defeated Clare in two very tight games by the narrowest of margins 15-13, 15-14 and this was followed by victory for Windgap's Kate O'Brien/Moya Egan who defeated Tyrone 15-1, 15-14.

4 Wall All Ireland Winners

Girls U14D: Kilkenny (Shauna Doherty/Sophie McCabe) dft. Tyrone (Aimee Fox/Grace Teague) 15-11, 15-13 Girls U15S: Kilkenny (Shauna Hayes) dft. Clare (Ellie Frost) 15-13, 15-14 Girls U15D: Kilkenny (Kate O'Brien/Moya Egan) dft. Tyrone (Niamh O'Gara/Katie Marley) 15-1, 15-14

4 Wall Juvenile All Ireland Runners Up

Girls U16 D: Clare (Isabelle McInerney/Tara Lucas) dft. Kilkenny (Niamh Drennan/Orla Duggan) 21-15, 21-19 Girls U17 D: Tyrone (Laura Delaney & Cara McCrory) dft. Kilkenny (Emily Tynan & Rachel Phelan) 21-9, 21-12



Boys U14 D: Cork (Jack Hennessy & Sean Dee) dft. Kilkenny (Mattie Corr & Darragh McCormack) 15-4, 15-14 Boys U16 S: Monaghan (Calum Sherry) dft. Kilkenny (Andrew Brennan) 8-21, 21-18, 11-2 Boys U16 D: Clare (Paul Rodgers & Liam Murphy) dft. Kilkenny (Conor Minogue & Timmy Corr) 21-15, 21-17

Softball

There were mixed results for our Juvenile players where Kilkenny contested 12 finals winning 7 of those finals. Kilkenny can only boast of one victory in the Girls grades where Clogh's Caoilinn Dowling and Ellie Roche travelled to Tyrone and defeated Tyrone in two straight games. There was treble success for Talbotts Inch winning the two premier under 16 grades with Andrew Brennan winning the Under 16 Singles, Rian Dowling/Joe Dowling winning the Under 16 Doubles and James Kenny winning the Under 17 Singles all against Munster opponents. Noah Manogue received a walkover in the Minor Singles Final and it was the same result in Boys Minor Doubles Final where Noah partnered by Conor Doyle (Windgap) received a walkover from Cork. There was more success for O'Loughlins in the Boys Under 17 Doubles where Sean Morrissey and Matthew Murphy defeated Clare in two straight games.

On the Adult front the Intermediate Singles Double was completed by Clogh's Amy Brennan where she defeated Roscommon in the final in two straight games. There was a great win for Kells brother Patrick/Peter Funchion in the Men's Intermediate Doubles Final over Mayo and there was also success in the Ladies Intermediate Grade where Noelle Dowling (Mothel)/Aine Duggan (Galmoy) defeated Roscommon in Roscommon.

Juvenile All Ireland Winners

Girls U14 Doubles: Kilkenny (Caoilinn Dowling & Ellie Roche) dft. Tyrone (Caoimhe Maguire & Kayleigh Bradley) 15-3, 15-1

Boys U16 Doubles: Kilkenny (Rian Dowling & Joe Dowling) dft. Clare (Luke Madden & Cathal Noonan) 21-10, 21-17

Boys U16 Singles: Kilkenny (Andrew Brennan) dft. Tipperary (Dean Carey) 21-3, 21-7

Boys U17 Singles: Kilkenny (James Kenny) dft. Cork (Jack Murphy) 21-1, 21-1

Boys U17 Doubles: Kilkenny (Sean Morrissey & Mattie Morrissey) dft. Clare (Martin Bon & Oisín Fahy) 21-9, 21-2

Boys Minor Singles: Kilkenny (Noah Manogue) dft. Leitrim (Benoît McKiernan) W/O

Boys Minor Doubles: Kilkenny (Noah Manogue/Conor Doyle) dft Cork W/O

Juvenile All Ireland Runners Up

Girls U15 Singles: Tyrone (Minnie McCallan) dft. Kilkenny (Kate Begley) 15-1, 15-6

Girls U16 Doubles: Tipperary (Clodagh Shinnors & Sarah Williams) dft. Kilkenny (Orla & Mairead Duggan) 21-7, 21-4

Girls U17 Doubles: Tipperary (Aoife Williams & Lucy Gould) dft. Kilkenny (Blathnaid Mullins & Kate Ryan) 21-14, 21-1

Girls Minor Singles: Tyrone (Laura Duff) dft. Kilkenny (Katie Brennan) 21-5, 21-1

Ladies Minor Doubles: Tyrone (Caislin Tracey & Laura Duff) dft. Kilkenny (Katie Brennan & Holly Byrne) 12-21, 21-20, 11-5

Adult All Ireland Winners

Intermediate Doubles: Kilkenny (Patrick Funchion & Peter Funchion) dft. Mayo (Niall Joyce & Paddy Murphy) 21-9, 21-11

Ladies Intermediate Doubles: Kilkenny (Noelle Dowling & Emer Barron) dft. Roscommon (Carragh Kennedy & Siobhan Treacy) 21-9, 12-21, 11-7

Adult All Ireland Runner Ups

Ladies Senior Doubles: Cork (Catriona Casey & Aishling O'Keefe) dft. Kilkenny (Ciara Mahon & Amy Brennan) 5-21, 21-19, 11-1

Ruby Masters Doubles: Tipperary (Billy Mullins & Pakie Mullins) dft. Kilkenny (Johnny Brennan & Joe Hennessy) 21-15, 21-7

Wallball All Ireland Championships

The Wallball All Ireland championships were played in Kilglass, Roscommon. Jack Doyle had a brilliant victory when he defeated Mikey Kelly Galway in a



thrilling tie breaker victory 6-15, 15-5, 11-1. This was a great win for Jack who had lost out the Junior Singles Final in the 40x20. Kilkenny had several other players who reached the finals weekend but lost out at the semi-final stage. Boys Minor Singles John Hayes (Kells), Kyle Jordan (Kilfane) Senior Singles, Katie Jordan (Kilfane) Ladies Minor Singles, Ciara Mahon (Clogh) Ladies Senior Singles and Margaret Purcell (Ladies Junior Singles).

Wallball World Handball Championships

The Wallball World Championships took place in the University of Limerick from 18th-23rd August in what was a fantastic week of handball. Kilkenny enjoyed great success in the tournament across the grades. There was a first World Open title for Kilkenny when Ciara Mahon (Clogh) partnered Fiona Tully (Roscommon) to win the Ladies Open Singles title defeating the USA in two straight games to claim victory. This was a fantastic victory for Ciara who has been a great ambassador for Ladies Handball in Kilkenny and got her due reward in the final. There was a weekend of mixed emotions for the Doyle family from Windgap. In the Boys Under 15 Doubles Shane partnered with Bertie Donohoe (Galway) to win the title in two straight games over Abbeylara. There was defeat for Jack in the Men's B Singles final where he lost out to American Cesar Ayala 21-12 21-13. Jack won three rounds to get to the final knocking out two of the top seeds and in the Boys Under 19 Doubles Conor partnered Conor Hession and they lost out to the number 1 seeds in the final. In the Boys Under 17 Doubles Anthony Clifford (Talbotts Inch) teamed up with Galway's Gavin Kelly to win the title 21-20, 21-13 over a Cork/Tyrone partnership. In the Boys Under 19 Singles Kyle Jordan put in a heroic display to defeat number 1 seed Fiachra O'Duill in one of the games of the tournament. There was victory for Galmoy's Niamh Drennan who partnered with Wexford's Boo Murphy had an excellent win over two Antrim players after a tough battle as well in the semi-final. Una Duggan (Galmoy)/Emer Barron (Windgap) proved to be the formidable pair in the Girls Under 19 and they were victorious in defeating Kilglass in the final. There was defeat in the Girls Under 17 Doubles Final for Katie Jordan (Kilfane) and her partner Carmel Kelleher who lost out to Tyrone/Clare partnership after a great run to the final.

Hardball All Ireland Championships

The hardball All Ireland Championships were played over the second and third weekends of September. Kilkenny had entries in the Minor and Senior Grades. The Senior Doubles was played over one day in Cashel, Tipperary on 7th September. Shane Dunne (Clogh)/Ciarán Neary (Talbotts Inch) lost out in the final for the second year in a row to Cork's Daniel Relihan/Michael Hedigan 21-8, 21-8. The Kilkenny pair had two good wins in the group stages over Limerick and Kerry to progress to the final. In the Senior Singles the round robin was again played in Cashel on 14th September. Kilkenny were represented by reigning 2023 Senior Singles Champion Shane Dunne (Clogh) and Ciarán Neary (Talbotts Inch). Both players won through the

round robin on Saturday which featured players from Cork and Limerick. The final was played at the National Handball Centre, Croke Park and Shane Dunne won in two straight games 21-4, 21-13 with an exceptional display of handball to take home the title for a second year in a row. Kilkenny were without a senior title for 22 years and now have two in two years with Shane's success. There was also success on the day for John Hayes (Kells) who had a comprehensive two game victory over Travis Gibbons (Sligo). John had lost the Junior Singles Final last year but the experience of playing in that final was evident as he cruised to success.

Team Events

In the 40x20 Windgap had a brilliant win in the Junior Team of Four final in the National Handball Centre, Croke Park defeating Breacach (Tyrone) in the final and Abbeyknockmoy (Galway) in the semi-final. The team was Sean Barron, Jack Doyle, Conor Doyle, Emmet Landy and Eamonn Hawe.

The Kells team of four had a great win the 60x30 Junior Team of Four defeating Moycullen in the final in Crinkle, Offaly. The team of Eoin Brennan, Roy Cullen, John Hayes and Conor Condon had an excellent Leinster campaign which set them up for the All-Ireland series. Kells had lost the same final the previous year so it was great for the team to come back and this time claim gold.

Feile

Windgap won the Division 1 40x20 title Kate O'Brien, Moya Egan, Rachel Kennedy and Lucy Crowley which was a huge success for the club.

Clogh girls' team of Caoilin Dowling, Ellie Roche, Abbie Flanagan and Sarah Phelan travelled to Claregalway, Galway and took home the Girls Division 2 title in tough competition after coming through the group stages with two wins.

Kilfane's girls' team of Katie Begley, Shauna Doherty, Sophie McCabe, Hannah O'Reilly and Aoife Ravenhill won the Division 2 60x30 title defeating Moycullen in Moycullen, Galway winning 21-6 21-4 to bring home the crown.

GALMOY



Galmoy Handball Club started the year off very well when Isabelle Murphy and Gerard Delaney won the Gael Linn Leinster Competition in stylish fashion. Isabelle went onto win U13 Cumann na mBunscoil, U13 40X20 Leinster Singles and Gael Linn again with Gérard Delaney. Her sisters Faye and Lily were also successful winning U12 County Doubles and to top it off, Isabelle and Faye won World Gold Medals winning the U13 B in the 40x20 Competition in October. Niamh Drennan won two World Gold medals, the first in the World Wall Ball Competition in U15 Doubles and again in the 40x20 World Competition in October. Niamh also won Junior Colleges Singles 40x20 representing Presentation College Kilkenny. The Duggan girls accumulated a large haul of medals, with Mairéad and Orla in U16 County and Leinster 60x30, Mairéad and Una winning silver medals in 40x20 Doubles, U15 and U17 respectively and Una winning silver in World Wall Ball held in UL. We also had players in Leinster Team of Ten and GAA Handball Centenary Competition which took place in Croke Park National Handball Centre. Una was runner up in the County Minor Singles Competition in March. Ella Mai Drennan won County U10 B after playing wonderful handball in O'Loughlins. Ella Mai and Lily Murphy partnered up to represent Galmoy HBC in the County U10 Doubles and lost out to eventual winners from Windgap. Niamh Drennan and Mairéad Duggan won County U16 40x20 doubles and then Niamh joined with Orla Duggan, who won County U16 Singles and went onto win Leinster 40x20 and were runners up in the All Ireland Final which took place in Croke Park.

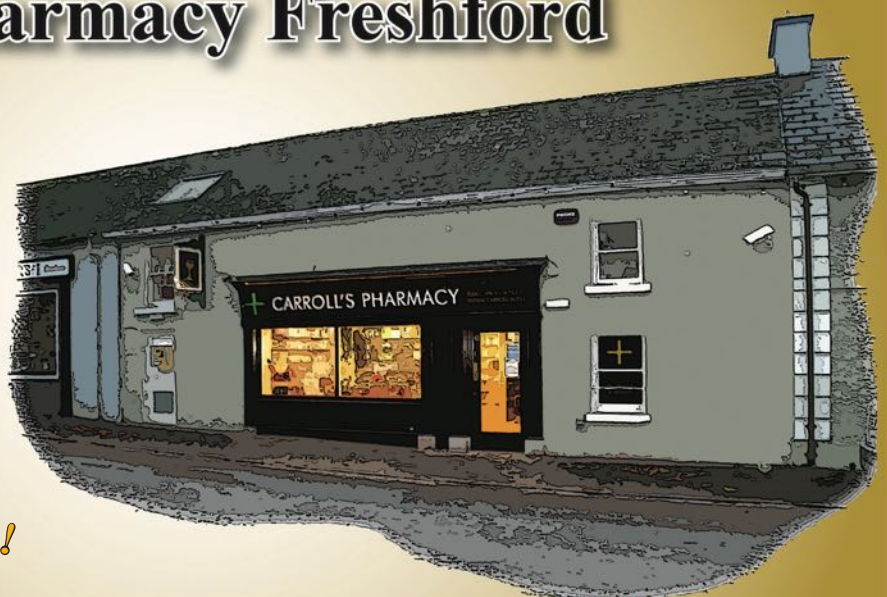
Niall Drennan partnered up with Mikey Stynes to win the Colleges Senior Leinster Final Doubles Competition, representing CBS Kilkenny. Galmoy Handball Club were hugely honored to be one of the host clubs for the World Handball 40x20 competition held in October and November, where over 85 games were played.



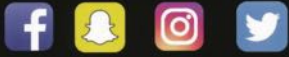
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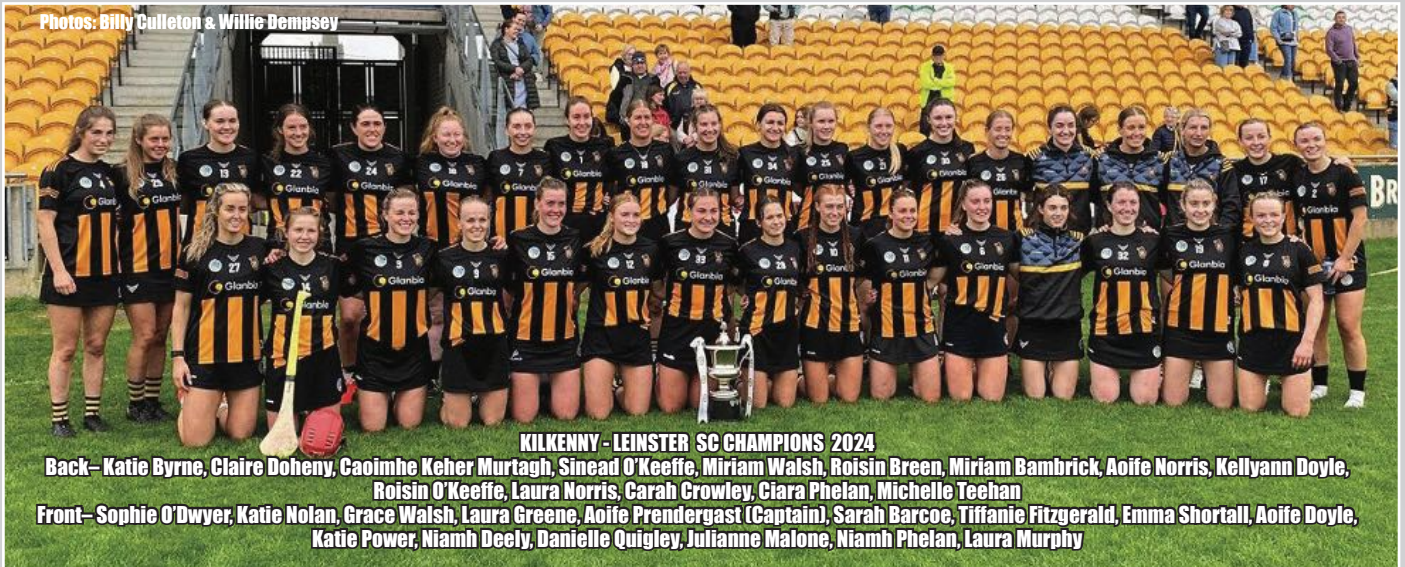
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Camogie Report by Aoife Lanigan



INTERCOUNTY YEAR REVIEW

SENIOR - LEAGUE

The first league match, Kilkenny played Clare in Cusack Park, Ennis, The first league match, Kilkenny played Cork in UPMC Nowlan Park, unfortunately they were defeated by a point 1-16 to 1-17. Second game, Kilkenny played Clare in UPMC Nowlan Park, Kilkenny were 10-point winners, 1-19 to 1-9. Their third match was against Galway in Loughrea. Galway were the better team on the day winning 1-12 to 0-9. The fourth game was against neighbours Tipperary in UPMC Nowlan Park with Tipperary winning 2-12 to 1-6. The final game of the League was against Waterford played in SETU Arena, Carriganore. Kilkenny won 2-10 to 0-13, the two goals scored by Caoimhe Keher Murtagh.

Leinster

First match – Quarter Final – Kilkenny played Westmeath in Pairc Lachtain, Freshford and Kilkenny had a comprehensive win 3-21 to 1-8. Aoife Prendergast (2) & Caoimhe Keher Murtagh with the goals.

The Semi Final against Wexford was part of a double header with the Intermediate Semi Final in Pairc Lachtain, Freshford. Kilkenny won 1-14 to 1-11.

The Final against Dublin, a repeat of the last two years finals was played in O'Connor Park, Tullamore with Kilkenny winning 0-14 to 1-6. Kilkenny were Senior Leinster Champions for the 26th time.

All Ireland Series

In the first match of the Glen Dimplex Senior All Ireland Championship, Kilkenny played Limerick in Mick Neville Park, Rathkeale, Kilkenny winning 1-19 to 0-4.

Second match, they played Antrim in Corrigan Park, Belfast, Kilkenny led 4-7 to 0-6 at half time and they ran out winners 6-15 to 0-9, Julianne Malone (2), Asha McHardy (2), Katie Nolan & Sarah Barcoe with the goals

The third match was against Waterford in UPMC Nowlan Park, Mairead O'Brien hit the equalising point for

Waterford to leave the full-time score 1-13 a-piece. Fourth match, they played Derry in Pairc Lachtain, Freshford. Kilkenny won comprehensively 4-17 to 0-7, goals from Aoife Prendergast (2), Aoife Doyle & Julianne Malone.

The final match of the group was away to Tipperary in The Ragg. Kilkenny didn't have a great first half, Tipperary leading 1-10 to 0-3 at the interval, but they played much better in the second half, out scoring Tipperary 0-12 to 0-5, but came up short, with Tipperary winning 1-15 to 0-15.

Kilkenny finished second in the group and qualified for the All-Ireland Quarter Finals against Dublin. This match was to be played as part of a double header with the GAA Hurling Semi Final in Croke Park. This was a much tighter affair than the Leinster Final, Dublin were on top the whole time, leading 1-5 to 0-7 at the interval and winning 1-13 to 0-12

Aoife Norris, Michelle Teehan, Grace Walsh, Katie Byrne, Laura Murphy, Niamh Deely, Sinead O'Keeffe, Kellyann Doyle, Steffi Fitzgerald, Sarah Barcoe, Katie Power, Aoife Doyle, Caoimhe Keher Murtagh, Aoife Prendergast (Capt), Julianne Malone. Subs – Roisin Breen, Tiffanie Fitzgerald, Ciara Phelan, Miriam Bambrick, Laura Norris, Roisin Phelan, Sarah Crowley, Laura Greene, Katie Nolan, Asha McHardy, Keara Ryan, Sophie O'Dwyer, Emma Shortall, Niamh Phelan, Danielle Quigley, Grace Barcoe, Roisin O'Keeffe, Emily McCarthy, Miriam Walsh.

INTERMEDIATE - LEAGUE

The first match, Kilkenny played Galway in Kinvara GAA, unfortunately losing 1-8 to 0-14. Second game, Kilkenny played Wexford in Dr Tierney Park, Graigueanagh. Wexford won 3-9 to 1-8.

The Third game, Kilkenny played Cork in the Cork Camogie Grounds, with Cork winning 2-14 to 1-12. Fourth game, Kilkenny played Clare in Ennis, with Kilkenny winning a close match 1-8 to 0-8. The last game was against Tipperary in UPMC Nowlan Park, also a close game, this ended in a draw, Kilkenny 2-10 Tipperary 0-16

Leinster

Leinster Semi Final played against Wexford in Pairc Lachtain, Freshford. Wexford won 2-10 to 1-10.

All-Ireland Series



In the first match of the Glen Dimplex Intermediate All-Ireland Championship, Kilkenny played Carlow in John Locke Park, Callan. Kilkenny won 2-13 to 0-8. The second match was against Antrim played in UPMC Nowlan Park, Kilkenny lead 3-19 to 0-1 at half time and they ran out comprehensive winners 5-30 to 0-3. Caroline Kennedy (3) & Niamh Crowley (2) with the goals and Danielle Morrissey hit 14 points.

The third game was against Kerry in Lixnaw, Kilkenny winning 2-14 to 0-12. Fourth match was against Dublin in Pairc Lachtain, Freshford, this game ending in a draw, with Carlise Comerford with the equalising point, 2-10 to 1-13.

Fifth game was against Meath in Rathmoylan on a wet & windy day. Kilkenny winning 3-11 to 0-10, Danielle Morrissey scored a wonderful 2 pointer sideline.

The final group game was against Kildare in Manguard Hawkfield, Newbridge on another very wet & windy day. Kilkenny won 3-15 to 0-6. This put Kilkenny top of their group and straight into the All-Ireland Semi Final.

The semi final, played in FBD Semple Stadium, was against Kerry. Having played them earlier in the group stages, we knew that this match was going to be harder and a tighter match.

Heading towards the interval, Kerry were leading 1-3 to 0-5. Hannah Scott cleared the sliotar from defence, Caroline Kennedy fielded the sliotar & passed to Claire Doheny. Claire handpassed the sliotar over the advancing Kerry defenders head to Rose Kelly & Rose rattled the back of the net. Danielle Morrissey added a pointed free & Kilkenny led 1-6 to 1-3 at the half time interval.

Kerry came back into the game in the second half and heading towards the full-time whistle, Kerry were leading 1-10 to 1-9. Danielle Morrissey was fouled and she converted the free herself to bring the match to extra time.

In the first half of extra time, Kerry scored a goal through Jackie Horgan, but Kilkenny scored three points through Danielle Morrissey (2) & Rachel Dowling, leaving the score Kilkenny 1-13 to Kerry 2-10 at the extra time interval

Danielle Morrissey & Patrice Diggin swapped points. Hannah Scott took a free from defence, Cria Langton fielded the sliotar, handpassed it to Caroline Kennedy, she seemed to be fouled multiple times but Caroline pulled the trigger and the sliotar rattled the back of the net. Patrice Diggin hit a point from play. The Referee blew the full whistle and there was great celebrations as Kilkenny were heading to the All-Ireland final against Cork

The All-Ireland final was on Sunday 11th August as part of a triple header – Senior, Intermediate & Junior.

Cliona Dooley opened the scoring for Cork with a point from play, Claire Doheny equalised for Kilkenny. Rachel Dowling & Doheny pointed to extend Kilkenny's lead to 0-3 to 0-1. Cork hit four unanswered points through Lauren Homan (2f) & Niamh O'Regan.

Carlise Comerford & Hannah Scott slotted over a point a piece to equalise 0-5 each. Danielle Morrissey pointed a free which was sandwiched between two Lauren Homan frees, leaving the interval score 0-7 to 0-6 in favour of Cork.

Danielle Morrissey hit the equalising point just after the start of the second half. Cliona O'Callaghan scored a goal for Cork before Morrissey hit two points from frees for Kilkenny. Then Morrissey hit a shot that looked like it was going over the bar, the Cork goalie put up her hurl to take it down, but it sliced off her hurl into the net to put Kilkenny 1-9 to 1-7 ahead. Lauren Homan pointed a free for Cork before Claire Doheny extended Kilkenny's lead to two points, 1-10 to 1-8. Cork hit the next three points through Lauren Homan (f), Cliona O'Callaghan (which equalised the match) & Fiona Nelligan hit the winning point, 1-11 to 1-10.

It was heart-breaking to lose to Cork by a point, but the Kilkenny Intermediate team can be very proud of their achievement of getting to the All-Ireland Final. They topped their group, winning five games & drawing the other game, winning their Semi-Final after extra time.

Unfortunately, there will be no League or All-Ireland Championship for 2nd County teams next year. They are starting an U23 Championship.

Team: Cliona Murphy, Niamh Leahy, Rachel Whelan, Jane Cass, Mairead Kennedy, Shauna Treacy, Hannah Scott, Danielle Morrissey, Lauren Ronan, Claire Doheny, Rachel Dowling, Aoife Cantwell, Carlise Comerford, Caroline Kennedy, Rose Kelly. Subs – Tara Murphy, Niamh Crowley, Emma Mulhall, Ellen Purcell, Kate McCluskey, Ellen Gunner, Eimear Leahy, Cria Langton (Captain), Ciara Foskin, Mairead Corcoran, Sofia Kerr, Afton



Leinster Minor A Champions 2024



Leinster Amber U14 Champions 2024



Leinster Black U14 Champions 2024



Leinster Black U14 Runners-up 2024

Grace, Laura Phelan, Ali Kennedy, Lauren East, Rachel Brennan, Angela Carroll, Ciara Dunne, Julie Lennon.

Kilkenny Intermediates had four players announced on the Soaring Stars Team – Goalkeeper – Cliona Murphy, Kilmacow; Half Back - Mairead Kennedy, Slieverue; Half Back – Hannah Scott, James Stephens; Midfield - Danielle Morrissey, Conahy. Danielle Morrissey is nominated for Intermediate Player of the Year at the All Stars & Soaring Stars Awards in Croke Park in November

MINOR A LEINSTER

Semi Final was against Offaly. Kilkenny won 2-17 to 1-4. The Leinster Final was played in the Centre of Excellence, Fenagh against Wexford. Kilkenny winning 5-13 to 0-6.

MINOR B LEINSTER

Semi Final was against Laois. Laois won 1-11 to 0-7.

MINOR A All-Ireland Series

First game of the Electric Ireland Minor All-Ireland Championship, Kilkenny played Tipperary in The Ragg with Tipperary winning 3-10 to 2-7.

The second game was away to Antrim, Kilkenny won 1-10 to 1-5. The third game was against Waterford in MW Hire, Dunmore. It was a tight game throughout with Kilkenny winning 0-12 to 1-7.

Fourth game was against Galway in Glenmore. Galway led 1-11 to 0-4 at the interval but Kilkenny completely turned it around in the second half, keeping Galway scoreless, scoring 1-10 themselves to win 1-14 to 1-11.

The final game, they played Cork in the Cork Camogie Grounds. Cork won 1-13 to 1-8. Kilkenny qualified for the All-Ireland Semi Final against Tipperary which was played in Rathdowney. It was a very tight game throughout, finishing 1-10 each at full time, so it went to extra time. Tipperary were the stronger team throughout the extra 20 minutes, winning 1-15 to 1-12.

Team: Jenny Saunders, Una Duggan (Joint Captain), Angela Carroll, Rachel Phelan, Caoimhe Power, Anna Doheny, Orlaith Kirwan, Emily Smith, Ambar Laherty, Aisling Browne, Shona Ruane, Lucy Boyd, Katie Brennan, Ciara Dunne, Niamh Davis. Subs – Rachel Maloney, Ciara O'Shea, Laura Doherty, Tara Roche, Aoife Shealy, Julie Lennon, Louisa Gilmore, Jill O'Brien, Molly Conroy, Megan Kenneally, Aoife O'Shea, Ava Dermody, Michelle Killeen, Ellen Murphy, Oonagh Malone.

Corner Back - Rachel Phelan, John Lockes; Midfield – Ciara O'Shea, Windgap; Half Forward – Ciara Dunne, Tullaroan named on Minor Electric Ireland Team of the Year

U16 A LEINSTER

First Match, Kilkenny played Dublin away & Dublin won 2-8 to 1-9. Their second match was against Offaly played in Ballyragget with Kilkenny winning 4-12 to 0-5. Their third match was against Laois in Rathdowney & Kilkenny won 8-8 to 1-0. Fourth match was against Carlow, Kilkenny winning 4-11 to 0-4. This set up a Cup Final against Dublin in Centre of Excellence, Fenagh. Kilkenny won 1-10 to 2-6.

U16 B LEINSTER

First Match, Kilkenny played Dublin away and Kilkenny won 3-13 to 2-8. Second game was against Kildare on Tom Walsh Park, Skeoughvosteen, Kilkenny winning 7-18 to 0-1. Third game was against Meath in Meath Centre of Excellence and Kilkenny won 7-12 to 1-4. Their Fourth game was against Westmeath, Kilkenny winning 7-9 to 3-8. This set up a Cup Final against Dublin in Centre of Excellence, Fenagh with Kilkenny winning 2-12 to 1-6.

All Ireland Series

U16A

First match in the U16 All-Ireland Championship, Kilkenny played Dublin in UPMC Nowlan Park, Kilkenny won 3-15 to 1-5. Second match was against Limerick in Newcastle West, Kilkenny winning 0-13 to 0-9. Their third match was against Galway on Ballinasloe. Kilkenny won 2-9 to 2-5. Fourth game was against Tipperary in Pairc Lachtain, Freshford. Kilkenny won 1-13 to 0-3. Their final group game was against Cork in Pairc Lachtain, Freshford & Kilkenny won 2-13 to 1-10. This set up an All-Ireland Semi Final against Limerick in Mallow. This match was a much tighter affair than when they played earlier in the group stages. Limerick turned the tables this time & won 0-13 to 0-12.



Leinster Amber U15 Champions 2024



Leinster Black U15 Shield Champions 2024



U16 All Ireland Panel



U16 A Leinster Champions 2024

U16A

Caoimhe Corcoran, Sinead Jones, Olivia Dunphy, Taylor Aylward, Aoife O'Grady, Ciara Hickey, Mia Dunne, Aoibheann Ryan, Eleanor Doheny, Ruth Crowley, Ona Kennedy, Holly Ryan, Sadhbh Shefflin, Emily Phelan (Joint Captain), Ella Walton. Subs – Kate Meighan, Kadhla Croke, Emma Hogan, Ali Greany, Leah O'Donovan (Joint Captain), Shannon Doheny, Muireann Kenny, Eva Tynan, Shauna Mahony, Chloe Teehan, Megan Trait, Sian Bolger, Keelin Byrne, Katie Chambers, Ayesha Belalouai, Emily Cooney.

U16 B

Caoimhe Duggan, Anna Morrissey, Katie Chambers, Ellie Fenlon, Eva Tynan, Aisling Coverdale, Kate Ryan, Emma Hogan, Sian Bolger, Ellen Treacy, Niamh Drennan, Kadhla Croke, Katie Dunphy (Captain), Muireann Kenny, Holly Ryan. Subs – Orla Duggan, Orla Donnelly, Ava Sutton, Sophie Roberts, Gwen Wade, Ella Maher, Laura Leahy, Clodagh O'Callaghan, Ella Sheehan, Aoife Dillon, Keelin Henebery, Lisa Fitzpatrick, Sinead Henderson, Lucy Lennon, Erin Morrissey, Ada Bambrick, Mairead Duggan, Chloe Teehan.

U13 Academy

The year gone by was a very engaging one with over 150 girls attending some or all of our academy days. With the help of coaches from various clubs and our development committee the girls received some excellent advice and coaching which culminated with our U13 blitz in Thomastown on Saturday 24th August where over 100 girls were in attendance. This year with the support of our Development Sponsors Clunetech we were able to provide all the girls who took part in the blitz with a well-deserved training top.

U14 AMBERS

After coming together in early March, training through the month of April, the Ambersquad travelled to County Cork to play their first blitz together on 18th of May. They defeated Tipperary, Cork and Galway comprehensively in all matches and this was the basis for a great season together. 4 weeks later, on the 15th of June, the girls had their sights set on the Provincial title, which was held in Portlaoise. In warm conditions, they had excellent wins over Offaly, Wexford and Dublin to claim the Leinster Provincial title. Captain Ruby Norris proudly lifted the Leinster Cup.

A month later, Kilkenny hosted the next Blitz and the Amber squad didn't have far to travel to Thomastown. The girls were now well acquainted with each other and played some brilliant camogie and claimed the silverware, beating Waterford, Dublin, Tipperary and Wexford along the way. Next up was the Orla McDonagh Tournament in Thurles, Co. Tipperary. The weather conditions were again very warm, but all girls arrived hydrated and determined to keep up their incredible winning streak. They had strong wins over Cork and Waterford, a very close loss to Limerick but progressed to the semifinal against Tipperary. Tipperary put up a good battle, but the Kilkenny girls eased past them to meet Galway in the final. It was a great battle and Kilkenny pulled away in the second half to be comprehensive winners. A very deserved win for the girls after playing 5 matches that day and once again, Ruby lifted the cup.

Two weeks later, all roads lead to Kilcock GAA grounds where the Ambers took part in the All-Ireland Blitz. They overcame Clare, Limerick and Galway to meet Tipperary once again in the final. The girls showed great confidence and determination to overcome Tipperary and be crowned All Ireland Champions! This impressive panel of 24 girls represented their 15 clubs outstandingly, on and off the pitch. Their achievements are evidence of the hard work that their coaches and clubs have put into them through their early years. Well done to all!

U14 BLACKS

The Kilkenny Blacks squad had a very successful season, taking part in 5 blitzes throughout the year.

Their first outing was on 27 April playing Tipperary in Callan CBS, with Kilkenny coming out on top on the day after a very close, hard fought game. On then to the first blitz of the year on 18 May in Kilcock GAA grounds, in Co. Kildare, where the girls took on Antrim, Wexford and Dublin on the day. They gave a very good account of themselves drawing with Wexford and Dublin and losing out by the slightest of margins to a very lively Antrim team.

This then lead on to the Leinster Blitz which took place in Rathleague GAA grounds, Portlaoise. We were drawn to play Laois, Wexford and Dublin in the round robin stage. There were some very exciting games with the girls winning all 3 games. This put us into the Cup Final against a strong Wexford team, having beaten Wexford already they were out to take revenge, but the Kilkenny girls showed great determination and at the end came out on top to win the final.

St Flannan's College in Clare on 13 July, was the next stop, where we faced Cork, Limerick and Clare. The girls hit the ground running beating Cork in the first game and then went on to beat Limerick by a narrow margin and finally Clare. This again placed us in the Cup Final where we were again to meet Limerick. The girls really hit the ground running and put on a great performance to come out on top and put another final win under their belts.

Next was on to Carnmore GAA in Galway on 27 July. Two teams pulled out of the blitz in the run up to the day so that left 3 teams in the Group; Kilkenny, Clare and Galway. The first game drew us against Clare and the girls came girls put in a great performance to win the game.

This brought us to the All-Ireland Blitz where we headed to St Anne's GAA grounds in Dublin to compete in the Lily Spence Cup. In the first game we were paired against a very strong Derry team, where unfortunately, we were a bit slow out of the traps and Derry took the first win. The girls picked themselves up and showed great resolve to go on to play Tipperary in the next game and to come out with a good win. Cork faced us in the third game and again the girls showed great heart to take the win. This then put us into the Shield Final against Galway. This game went right down to the wire and the girls showed great heart and determination and dug out the win by the narrowest of margins.

Well done to each and every one of the girls for their part in what was a very successful and enjoyable year of camogie for the Kilkenny Blacks Squad. They are a fantastic group of girls to train and a credit to their families and clubs. We are sure we'll see many of them in the future.

U14 STRIPES

The journey for the Stripes and what a journey it was started by coming together for various County Training Sessions. This allowed the girls to get to know one another and their mentors, Richie Mullally, Ray Breen and Fiona Dunne.

The first match was against Tipperary 3 on a damp morning in Callan on Saturday April 27. After a slow start the girls grew into the match and came out comprehensive winners. May 18 saw the team taking part in their first blitz in Glenmore. On the day the girls came out on top following exciting victories against Tipperary 2, Waterford 2 and Wexford 2.

Next stop was the Leinster Provincial Blitz which took place in Portlaoise on June 15. The girls put in some excellent displays during a long day of play and had great victories against Carlow, Meath, Westmeath and Kildare in the preliminary matches. Having topped the group we played Kildare in the final and on this occasion they proved just a little bit too strong for us however revenge would be ours later in the season.

On June 29th we travelled to New Ross to play Wexford. Despite a very reduced squad due to holidays and



U16B Development Team



U16 B Leinster Champions 2024

other commitments and terrible weather the girls ran out comprehensive winners. Next up was the Kilkenny Blitz which for us took place in Castlecomer. The opposition on the day was Limerick, Cork and Waterford. Following excellent match winning performances against these three teams we ended up playing Waterford in the final. The girls won the cup after some excellent hurling.

It was then on to the Orla McDonagh Blitz in Thurles. Here we played Dublin 2, Offaly 1 and Limerick 2 in the first-round matches. Following 3 great victories we moved on to play Cork in the semi-final and then Tipperary in the final. After an end-to-end battle Tipperary came out on top by one point.

After this all thoughts turned to the National Blitz. We had been training and working towards this all season. This took place in Naomh Mearmóg Dublin. We played Laois 1, Clare 2 and Limerick 2 in the group matches. After some tight and exciting matches which were really enjoyed by all our supporters, we had 3 victories and therefore topped our group and reached the final. Here we found ourselves up against our old foe, Kildare. This time however we were not to be denied and after what can only be described as a titanic battle which saw a low scoring and a lot of nerve tingling extra time the Stripes came out on top by 2 points. It was truly an exceptional performance on the day by all the girls. Well done to all the girls on an excellent and one they should all be extremely proud of

U15

Our Under15 development squad kicked off their season in April with comfortable victories away to Tipperary and Galway. This was followed by a sobering defeat to Cork in windswept Urlingford in May. A convincing victory in Wexford restored confidence among the girls ahead of the Leinster blitz.

Our inaugural U15 academy was well attended and provided 2 teams for challenge matches against Dublin in Castlecomer on July 18th. From this some of these girls were then selected to play in Div2 of the Leinster blitz in August along with our Div1 squad. A close-run victory over Dublin in the Div1 final was complimented by the Div2 girls winning the Shield.

The National blitz was held in Cappamore on August 24th where our girls only loss was to a strong Cork team in the final after extra time, despite hitting the post in normal time with the last puck of the game. Such are the fine margins at this level!

Particular thanks to Lorraine Bourke, Shirley Dowd, Adrian O'Keeffe and Tom Egan for their help on the sidelines through the year and to the girls for their fantastic efforts, commitment and attendance in training every week. We wish them every success in their future Kilkenny camogie journey.

U16B

This year an U16 development programme was introduced which allowed girls to extend their season beyond the usual finishing up of the Leinster championship in early May.

After winning the Division 2 Leinster championship the girls embarked on their campaign had games against Cork and Tipperary but unfortunately both Limerick and Clare did not field teams curtailing their involvement in the programme. Overall this was a very successful year for our U16B squad.

U17s Development

2024 was the first year for Kilkenny Camogie to use u17s as a Development cohort. With a group of 36 players it got together on Jan 17th for its first training session and followed through two times each week until April 23rd - u17s Finals Day.

The first competitive outing was in a Leinster Minor B championship v Laois at which the team lost out after a competitive game with only 3 weeks together. From that point on it was all directed towards the u17s All-Ireland series grouped with Cork, Tipperary and Galway. The management team from there on put a plan in place whereby the panel trained one night a week with a challenge match each weekend. Challenge matches included playing Wexford, Carlow, Dublin, Tipperary minor teams on home and away basis with all players getting ample game time in preparations for the competition.

On March 10th the team hosted Cork in Jenkinstown earning a 4 point win after a well contested game. March 24th they headed to Gortnahue and successfully negotiated a win over Tipperary.

April 23rd saw Galway come to Glenmore and take advantage of a first half wind to go away with a win that earned them home advantage for

the final after both teams topped the group on shared points.

The final in Loughrea was highly competitive with the Kilkenny girls taking the lead early and holding it only to be pipped at the death with a well taken Galway goal. It was unfortunate for the girls not to come away with the spoils but the success of the year was another years development in a Kilkenny jersey and in good stead to continue into 2025.

Well done to all the girls who participated in our development squads and academies and a big thanks to all our mentors for the huge work put in during the 2024 campaign.

Thanks also to all the clubs we relied on during the year for the use of their facilities and pitches

University of Limerick won the Ashbourne Cup (3rd Level) with three

Kilkenny players on their panel — Sinead Farrell (St Lachtain's), Rachel Brennan (Tullaroan) & Mairead Corcoran (Mooncoin). Sinead Farrell was selected as Goalkeeper on the Electric Ireland Camogie Third Level Rising Stars Team of the Year

University of Galway won the Purcell Cup (3rd Level) with two Kilkenny Players on the panel — Joint Captain, Tiffanie Fitzgerald (Young Irelands) & Cria Langton (Rower Inistioge)>

Marino Institute of Education won the Aisling Murphy Cup (3rd Level) with four Kilkenny Players on the panel — Captain Kate McCluskey (St Brigid's), Margaret Mary O'Shea (Dicksboro), Rose Sheridan (Kilmacow) & Orlaith O'Shea (Windgap).

Camogie Club Season Review

SENIOR

Last Years Champions, Dicksboro played St Martin's, Wexford in the Leinster Semi Final & Dicksboro won 1-10 to 0-8. Dicksboro played St Vincent's, Dublin in the Leinster Final in Netwatch Cullen Park, Carlow. Dicksboro won 0-12 to 1-7, winning their first Leinster Senior Club Title. The 'Boro were now in the All-Ireland Semi Final against Loughgiel Shamrocks, Antrim. Five points down at the interval, the 'Boro Band of Sisters turned things around after the restart to win by six, 2-13 to 1-10

Dicksboro were in the All-Ireland Final on Sunday 17th December in Croke Park against the reigning Champions, Sarsfields, Galway.

Siobhan McGrath scored a goal in the first half for Sarsfields, but the 'Boro didn't panic and led 0-10 to 1-6 at half time. Aoife Prendergast ended scoring 0-9 (7f) and the 'Boro won 0-18 to 1-11. Jenny Clifford walked up the 34 steps of the Hogan Stand to receive the Bill & Agnes O'Carroll Senior Club All-Ireland Cup, the first Kilkenny Captain to receive the Cup since St Lachtain's (Freshford) won three in a row (2004, 2005, 2006)

(See separate Report of Boro All Ireland Campaign)

Summer League Final — Dicksboro defeated Tullaroan 2-17 to 2-16 after extra time

Summer Shield Final — James Stephens defeated Rower Inistioge 2-9 to 1-4

League Final — Piltown defeated Dicksboro 2-12 to 0-12

Shield League Final — James Stephens defeated Young Irelands 0-12 to 1-5

Championship First Round — Tullaroan defeated Windgap 1-16 to 3-5, St Martin's defeated Thomastown 1-13 to 0-13, Clara defeated Barrow Rangers 5-11 to 0-8, St Brigid's defeated Rower Inistioge 3-14 to 0-5

Championship Quarter Finals — Dicksboro defeated Tullaroan 2-13 to 0-9, James Stephens defeated Clara 1-11 to 1-10, Piltown defeated St Martin's 2-11 to 0-07, Young Irelands defeated St Brigid's 2-8 to 0-10

Relegation Final — Rower Inistioge defeated Barrow Rangers 0-15 to 0-11

Championship Semi Final — Piltown defeated Young Irelands 2-13 to 1-3, Dicksboro defeated James Stephens 1-12 to 0-12

Championship Final — Piltown are Michael Lyng Motors Senior Camogie County Champions for the first time after they defeated reigning County, Leinster & All Ireland Champions Dicksboro in UPMC Nowlan Park last Sunday. It was a repeat of the League Final, played a month earlier. Aobha O'Gorman got the scoring underway with a point from play for the 'Boro in the first minute. Aoife Prendergast added another point for the Cityside before Ciara Phelan tacked on her side's third point by the 6th minute. Kellyann Doyle got Piltown's first score with a pointed free in the 10th minute and she followed this up with another pointed free 30 seconds later

Piltown equalised when Katie Power played the sliotar forward and Heather Phelan fielded the ball, while she was surrounded by 'Boro defenders, she dropped the sliotar to the boot and kicked a great point. Aoife Prendergast shot over two points for the 'Boro while Katie Power and Kellyann Doyle slotted over a point each for Piltown, 5 points a piece after 22 minutes

Piltown then hit three unanswered points through Kellyann Doyle (2f) & Sophie Holden. Heading towards the half time whistle, the 'Boro scored two points from Orla Hanrick & Asha McHardy to leave the interval score

0-8 to 0-7 in favour of the Southern team

Piltown got the perfect start in the second half, when Kellyann Doyle hit a free from the 50m line near Ardan de Gras, it got caught in the strong wind and dropped short, but it bounced passed the 'Boro goalie into the net. Doyle added another two points for Piltown to extend their lead to 6 points. Aoife Prendergast then slotted over pointed frees. Kellyann Doyle scored a great point for Piltown when Patsy Kenny's route to goal was blocked, Pasty played the sliotar back out to Doyle & Kellyann weaved her way through the 'Boro defence and slotted over the bar. The 'Boro hit three unanswered points through Aoife Prendergast (2f) and Aobha O'Gorman to leave the score 1-11 to 0-12. In the 50th minute, Piltown fired the sliotar out of defence, Katie Power fielded the ball, laid off the perfect handpass to Sophie Holden and the net rattled. The 'Boro tried get scores, but the Piltown's defence stood strong. Then in the 56th minute, Kellyann shot towards goal, the strong wind held up the sliotar. It hopped in front of the 'Boro keeper but Niamh Culleton pulled first time and it flew into the net, this put Piltown 8 points ahead. Aoife Prendergast fired over two pointed frees for the 'Boro, but it was too late as the referee blew the full time whistle & Piltown were Champions

Piltown play Glynn Barntown, Wexford in the AIB Leinster Senior Club Semi Final

INTERMEDIATE

Last years Championship, Rower Inistioge played O'Moore's (Laois) in the Leinster Semi Final but were defeated 1-10 to 1-7.

Summer League Final — Mooncoin defeated Danesfort 2-11 to 0-10.

Summer Shield League Final — O'Loughlin Gaels defeated Lisdowney 0-26 to 3-5.

League Final — Mooncoin defeated Danesfort 1-10 to 0-10.

Shield League Final — Conahy defeated St Lachtain's 1-16 to 1-4.

Championship First Round — O'Loughlin Gaels defeated St Claire's 2-15 to 0-7, Ballyhale defeated Lisdowney 3-9 to 3-6, Mullinavat defeated St Anne's 9-19 to 0-6.

Championship Quarter Finals — O'Loughlin Gaels defeated Conahy 2-10 to 2-9, Danesfort defeated Ballyhale 1-17 to 3-5, Mooncoin defeated Glenmore 2-10 to 1-6, Mullinavat defeated St Lachtain's 4-10 to 2-11.

Championship Semi Final — O'Loughlin Gaels defeated Mullinavat 1-23 to 2-12 AET, Mooncoin defeated Danesfort 0-10 to 0-9.

Championship Final — O'Loughlin Gaels are Abbott Intermediate Camogie County Champions for the first time after they defeated Mooncoin in a hard fought match in John Locke Park, Callan.

Ruth Crowley opened the scoring with a point from play for the Cityside. This was followed by another point for O'Loughlin's when Laura Murphy took a shot on goal, the Mooncoin goalie batted it out and Aisling Butler was quickest to react and slotted over the bar. Ruth Crowley added her second point to put O'Loughlin's ahead 0-3 to no score after 13th minutes. Róisín Crowley opened Mooncoin's account in the 19th minute and the Southerners then scored the next three points through Aine Aylward to go a point ahead 0-4 to 0-3. Heading towards the half time whistle, Laura Murphy tacked over the equalising point to leave the score 0-4 a piece at the interval.

On the resumption of play, Laura Murphy added another point for O'Loughlin's before Mooncoin hit two points from Aine Aylward & Muireann Gannon. Laura Murphy equalised with a pointed free. Then the

Cityside scored four unanswered points through Danielle Quigley (she had raced out of defence and hit a great point), Emma Poyntz, Laura Greene & Laura Murphy to lead 1-10 to 0-6 after 50 minutes

In the 52nd minute, Mooncoin cleared the sliotar from defence, Niamh Crowley gathered the ball & found her Captain Laura Wall. The latter hit a low shot under the advancing goalie and the net rippled. Now the match was back to the minimum. Laura Murphy fired over a free after she was fouled herself, to put them two ahead heading the end of the match. But Mooncoin didn't panic, Aine Aylward slotted over a free, then with 60 minutes gone, two Crowley sisters combined, Sarah cleared from defence to Niamh & she fired over the equaliser. The fourth official put up four minutes of additional time on the board. The question now on everyone's lips, - was there going to be a winner or were we heading for extra time. Into the last minute of the four added, O'Loughlin's had a saviour, when substitute Aoife Shealy pounced on a loose ball that came out from a ruck, she raced towards goal and she slotted over the bar.

The Referee blew the full time whistle a short time later and O'Loughlin's were Champions.

O'Loughlin's play Raharney, Westmeath in the AIB Leinster Intermediate Club Quarter Final

JUNIOR

Summer League Final — Dicksboro defeated John Lockes 2-11 to 2-9

Summer Shield Final — Piltown defeated Erin's Own 2-10 to 0-13

Shield Final — Tullogher defeated Dicksboro 0-14 to 1-10

League Final — Emeralds John Lockes — not played

Championship 1st Round — Erin's Own defeated Blacks & Whites 3-13 to 0-4, Piltown defeated Bennettsbridge 1-14 to 2-5

Championship Quarter Finals — Graigenamanagh defeated Dicksboro 3-9 to 1-8, John Lockes defeated Piltown 8-14 to 1-4, Emeralds defeated Erin's Own 2-18 to 0-2, Tullogher defeated Carrickshock 7-14 to 1-6

Championship Semi Final — Emeralds v Tullogher & Graigenamanagh v John Lockes - not played

Championship Final — not played

Junior B — Blacks & Whites v Bennettsbridge - not played

Junior C

Championship 1st Round — St Martin's defeated Lisdowney 0-3, Rower Inistioge defeated Young Irelands 4-10 to 2-1, Conahy defeated O'Loughlin Gaels 4-8 to 0-6, Danesfort defeated Barrow Rangers 3-14 to 4-2, Windgap defeated James Stephens 2-9 to 0-8, Thomastown defeated Naomh Brid 2-13 to 0-3.

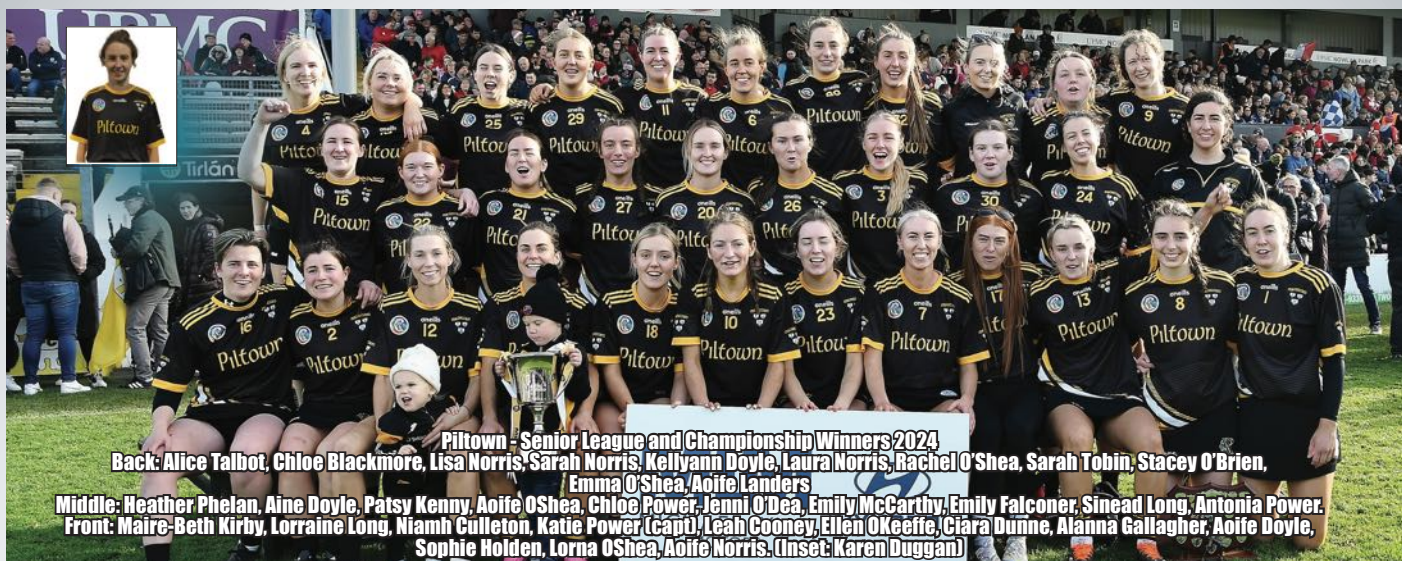
Championship Quarter Final — Windgap defeated St Brigid's 1-16 to 1-14, Danesfort defeated Rower Inistioge 2-13 to 0-3, Thomastown defeated St Martin's 2-14 to 1-1, Conahy v Mooncoin not played.

Championship Semi Finals — Windgap v Thomastown & Conahy or Mooncoin v Danesfort - not played.

Championship Final — not played

U22 — not played at time of going to print

(See Results page at the end of this article.)





Windgap - Junior C Champions



Windgap - Minor A Champions



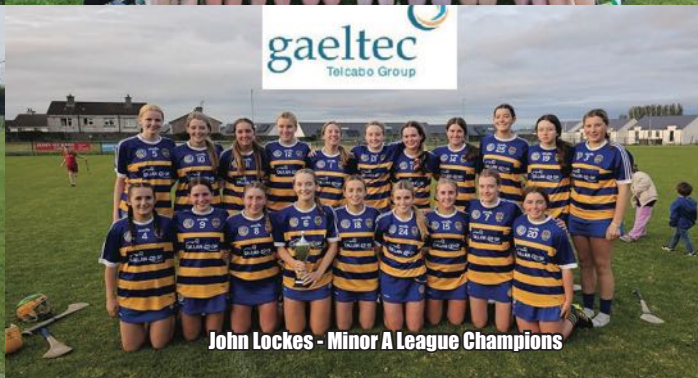
Mooncoin - Minor B Champions



Carrickshock - Minor C Champions



Bennettsbridge - Minor D Champions



John Lockes - Minor A League Champions



Tullaroan - Minor B League Champions



Tullaroan - U16 A League & Championship Winners



Tullougher - U16B League & Championship Winners



Rower Inistioge - U16 E Champions



Bennettbridge - U16 C League Champions



Clara - U16 E League Champions



Erin's Own - U14 A Champions



Tullagher - U14 B Champions



St Brigid's - U14 C Champions



Dickshoro - U14 E Champions



Barrow Rangers - U14 A League Champions



St Brigid's - U14 C League Champions



Windgap - U14 D League Champions



John Lockes - U14 A Shield Winners



St Lachtain's - U14 B Shield Winners



Thomastown - U14 C Shield Winners



James Stephens - U14 Foila League Champions



Barrow Rangers - U14 F Champions

ADULT CAMOGIE RESULTS 2024

MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS HYUNDAI SENIOR CAMOGIE		KILKENNY RIVER COURT JUNIOR CAMOGIE	
COUNTY SC FINAL	Piltown 3-11 Dicksboro 0-14	JUNIOR FINAL	To be Played
SUMMER LEAGUE FINAL	Dicksboro 2-17 Tullaroan 2-16 AET	JUNIOR B FINAL	Blacks & Whites v Bennettsbridge To be Played
LEAGUE FINAL	Piltown 2-12 Dicksboro 0-12	SUMMER LEAGUE FINAL	Dicksboro 2-11 John Lockes 2-9
RELEGATION FINAL	Rower Inistioge 0-15 Barrow Rangers 0-11	LEAGUE FINAL	Emeralds v John Lockes To be Played
SHAWS DEPARTMENT STORE INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE		JUNIOR C FINAL SUMMER LEAGUE FINAL	Windgap 5-18 St Brigid's 1-16
COUNTY IC FINAL	O'Loughlin Gaels 0-12 Mooncoin 1-8	JUNIOR C FINAL	To be Played
ALL COUNTY LEAGUE FINAL	Mooncoin 2-11 Danesfort 0-10	U22 Camogie	
LEAGUE FINAL	Mooncoin 1-10 Danesfort 0-10	To be Played	
RELEGATION FINAL	St Claire's 1-16 Carrickshock 1-10 AET		

MINOR GAELTEC

Minor A Final – Windgap 1-13, John Lockes 0-11

Minor B Final – Mooncoin 3-8, St Lachtain's 2-6

Minor C Final – Carrickshock v Thomastown *To be Played*

Minor D Final – Bennettsbridge 4-13, Blacks & Whites 1-6

Minor A League Final – John Lockes 8-9, Danesfort 0-9

Minor B League Final – Tullaroan 3-15, St Lachtain's 2-6

Minor C League Final – Tullogher 3-10, St Anne's 1-8

Minor D League Final – B'bridge 3-15, K'cow/Slieverue 2-3

Minor A Shield Final – Tullaroan 3-10, Glenmore 2-4

Minor B Shield Final – O'Loughlins v St Martin's *To be Played*

Minor C Shield Final – Tullogher 3-10, St Anne's 1-8

Minor D Shield Final – K'cow/Slieverue 4-10, GNM 4-5

U16 GAELTEC

U16 A Final – Tullaroan 1-16, Carrickshock 2-6

U16 B Final – Tullogher 4-6, Rower Inistioge 3-8

U16 C Final – Ballyhale v St Anne's *To be Played*

U16 D Final – Mullinavat 5-10, Windgap 3-12

U16 E Final – Rower Inistioge 4-7, Mooncoin 3-1

U16 A League Final – Tullaroan 6-12, John Lockes 3-6

U16 B League Final – Tullogher 3-11, Rower Inistioge 2-9

U16 C League Final – Bennettsbridge 0-10, St Anne's 0-8

U16 D League Final – Mullinavat 4-6, Blacks & Whites 1-7

U16 E League Final – Clara 6-2, Mooncoin 2-3

U14 GAELTEC

U14 A Final – Erin's Own 2-10, Barrow Rangers 2-5

U14 B Final – Tullogher 4-11, St Martin's 5-6

U14 C Final – St Brigid's 4-12, St Anne's 1-2

U14 D Final – Mullinavat 0-6, Windgap 1-5 *AET*

U14 E Final – Dicksboro (2) 1-9, James Stephens (2) 1-4

U14 A Lge Final – Barrow Rangers 6-12, Young Irelands 2-7

U14 B Lge Final – Young Irelands 2-7, Emeralds 1-1

U14 C Lge Final – St Brigid's 3-10, St Lachtain's 0-3

U14 D Lge Final – Windgap 4-6, Carrickshock 3-8

U14 E Lge Final – Conahy 9-1, Graiguenamanagh 2-4

U14 A Shield Final – John Lockes 3-10, Dicksboro 5-0

U14 B Shield Final – St Lachtain's 9-7, O'Loughlin Gaels 4-9

U14 C Shield Final – Thomastown 4-8, Danesfort 0-4

U14 D Shield Final – Clara 7-3, Conahy 3-10

U14 E Shield Final – Kilmacow 4-7, O'Loughlin Gaels (2) 1-2

U14 Foila Final – B Rangers (2) 1-1, Young Irelands 0-3

U14 Foila Lge Final – Jas Stephens 2-9, Y Irelands 2-2 *AET*

U14 Foila Shield Final – Erins Own (2) 5-6, Naomh Brid 5-1

U13 FINALS

Dunamaggin defeated Blacks & Whites

Mullinavat defeated Piltown

Dicksboro defeated St Anne's

Naomh Brid defeated Lisdowney

Tullaroan defeated Young Irelands

Graiguenamanagh defeated Kilmacow

John Lockes defeated Danesfort

Windgap defeated Slieverue

Ballyhale defeated Rower Inistioge

James Stephens defeated Erins Own

O'Loughlin Gaels defeated St Martin's

St Brigid's defeated Barrow Rangers

Mooncoin defeated Glenmore

Emeralds defeated Clara in a replay

U12 FINALS

Young Irelands defeated Lisdowney

John Lockes defeated Windgap

Mullinavat defeated Piltown

Graiguenamanagh defeated Tullogher

Kilmacow defeated Glenmore

Erin's Own defeated St Lachtain's

O'Loughlin Gaels (2) defeated Rower Inistioge

Rower Inistioge defeated O'Loughlin Gaels

John Lockes (2) defeated Blacks & Whites

James Stephens Green defeated Dicksboro

Ballyhale defeated James Stephens Red

Naomh Brid defeated Carrickshock

Mooncoin defeated Slieverue

Dicksboro (2) defeated Conahy

Barrow Rangers defeated Thomastown

Barrow Rangers (2) defeated Thomastown (2)

Clara defeated Dunnamaggin

Danesfort defeated St Brigid's

St Martin's defeated Tullaroan

St Brigid's (2) defeated Erins Own

Windgap defeated Bennettsbridge

St Anne's defeated Emeralds

FÉILE

John West Division 1 Final (U15)

Bennettsbridge 2-2, Carrickshock 0-5

Bennettsbridge lost to Boherlahan Dualla in National Cup Semi Final

John West Division 2 Final (U15)

Emeralds 1-4, James Stephens 0-5

Emeralds lost in National Division 2 Final
John West Division 3 Final (U15)

Erins Own 3-7, St Anne's 0-1

Erin's Own winners of Regional Final defeating Ardrahan

John West Division 4 Final (U15)

Blacks & Whites 1-5, Ballyhale 1-4

Blacks & Whites lost in Regional Cup Semi Final

John West Division 5 Final (U15)

James Stephens lost in Centenary Cup Semi Final

KCLR 96FM CUMANN NA MBUNSCOIL

Roinn A Final – St Canice's 4-2, Coon Muckalee 3-4

Roinn B Final – Kilmanagh 0-3, Gowran 5-6

Roinn C Final – Urlingford 6-7, St John of God 3-6

Roinn D Final – Tullaroan 3-1, St Anne's 1-4

Roinn E Final – Dunamaggin 3-6, Mullinavat 1-1

Roinn F Final – Pres Kilkenny 7-4, St Johns Senior 6-5

Roinn A Shield Final – Macauley Ris 3-5, Clara 0-2

Roinn B Shield Final – Rower Inistioge 4-3, Tullogher 1-1

Roinn C Shield Final – Castlecomer 2-4, Mooncoin 1-1

Roinn D Shield Final – Danesfort 3-8, Graigue Skeough 0-1

Roinn E Shield Final – Windgap 5-3, Moneenroe 1-1

Roinn F Shield Final – Carrickshock 3-0, Slieverue 2-2



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Walking up the Steps..... Twice!

Aoife Prendergast

By Liam Kelly O'Rourke

Be it male or female, young or old, members of the GAA and Camogie communities across County Kilkenny and beyond dream of walking up the steps of the Hogan Stand and lifting silverware. For Aoife Prendergast, that childhood dream became reality not once but twice.

The Dicksboro sharp-shooter captained Kilkenny to All-Ireland glory in 2022 when the Cats edged out Cork by 1-13 to 1-12 in a topsy-turvy encounter in Croke Park.

Since then, the stripey women have failed to reach those same heights despite their best efforts, but for Prendergast that All-Ireland winning feeling returned in the maroon of Dicksboro just last January.

A master class of shooting by Prendergast and a brilliant all-round team display that included some monumental contributions by the likes of Jane Cass, Katie Byrne, Amy Clifford, Asha McHardy and Lucinda Gahan were just some of the reasons the 'Boro secured a first ever AIB All-Ireland senior club camogie title in their history, ending Sarsfield's three-in-a-row dream by 0-18 to 0-11.

A feat that still raises a great, beaming smile for Aoife.

"We just really enjoyed playing together last year, we got on really well as a team. Everything we did, every time we crossed the white line we just seemed to click," she recalled.

"You could see it even in our performances that we are just a really strong team, there's no real individuals in our camp with Dicksboro, if the opposition keeps an eye on one girl, there's another girl to stand up to, so that's what we had last year. There was just a huge buy in from the group and that's what got us over the line every day we went out."

And if the Kilkenny champions team bond was critical to their success, their ice-cool nature and inability to fear the opposition was equally so. A trait which stood them in good stead for the showpiece final in a match which seesawed one way, then the other, eventually concluding with the Boro team becoming the first Kilkenny outfit to win a senior club All-Ireland since 2006.

"We were very relaxed in fairness, even when they went a few points up we stuck with it and in that game we showed huge trust in our team," Aoife remarked.

"We had huge respect for Sarsfields, what they've achieved as a club is phenomenal but we didn't panic when we went a few points down, we were really relaxed, there was no panic when we went a few points down or even when we went the few points up, we kept level headed and lived in the moment. There were so many individual performances that led to that team performance which was great to see."

The journey which provided numerous hurdles en route to the eventual All-Ireland final euphoria, Dicksboro had all the answers, with Windgap and St Vincent's unable to stop Donal Carroll's team in the county and Leinster finals respectively. However, despite winning those battles along the way. Aoife and her team-mates never looked past their next opponents.

"The All-Ireland wasn't a target at the start of last year. We never had our eyes on the finish line which probably stood to us, if you get too carried away that's when things start to go wrong so we just took it match by match," Aoife claimed.



"When you're going through a Kilkenny championship you definitely can't have your eye on an All-Ireland Final because to fight for a county championship is huge in Kilkenny," she said, adding, "the hurt of losing to Thomastown in the 2022 county final was used as a driver."

The Dicksboro's forward's humility is perhaps accurate just as much as endearing, with the All-Ireland champions brought crashing down to earth in October's senior county final loss to Piltown and while the South Kilkenny club will now to replicate their city counterpart's achievements, the Boro must lick their wounds and prepare for the 2025 season.

A disappointing blow for the Boro panel but a reminder to appreciate the highs when they arrive.

"It was all a bit of a blur on the journey and now we just look back on the journey and reminisce and you just have to appreciate it. These opportunities don't come around too often and it's only when we lost the county final this year that you're looking back."

"We didn't take (the All-Ireland) it for granted or anything but you just have to cherish the journey because you never know if it'll happen again and look it will always be in my memory anyway."

On a personal note, Aoife Prendergast's 2024 has been full of personal accolades. In March, she was crowned AIB Camogie Club Player of the Year at the annual awards ceremony in Croke Park. The 'Boro star was also named on the team of the year where she was joined by seven club teammates with Kirsty Maher, Jane Cass, Katie Byrne, Ciara Phelan, Aobha O'Gorman, Asha McHardy and Amy Clifford all picking up individual accolades as the Kilkenny club celebrated a record breaking season.

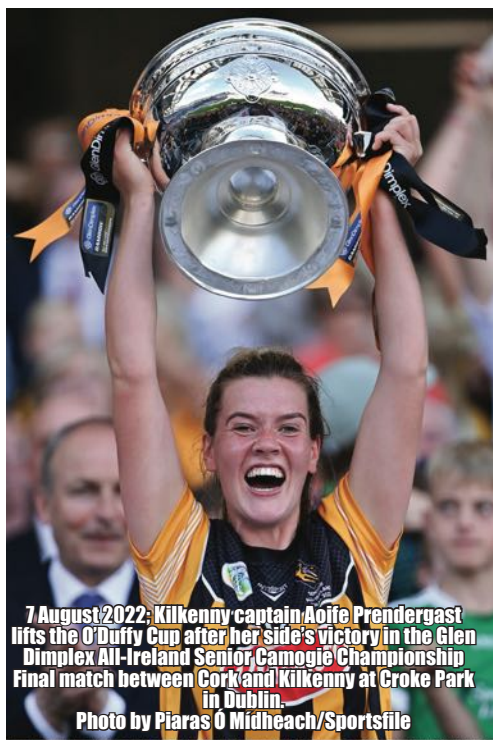
Meanwhile, in June, the Colaiste Mhuire Johnstown PE teacher was announced as the winner of the PwC GPA Women's Player of the Month award for her performances against Antrim, Waterford as well as an impressive score of 2-5 in a 22-point win over Derry to confirm a spot in the knockout spot for the Cats.

And with such a list of accomplishments, supporters and rivals alike can only conclude that during the good or bad days in a club or county shirt, the 27 year old gives everything in her being for the team. But does the pressure to succeed ever stand in her way?

"You have to ignore the noise around you and we have such good management there that they kept us focused and no outside noise is ever heard really."

"I only get the scores from the team around me and even if the frees don't go well there's other girls who can stand over them which takes the pressure off me. I know all frees are vital but if you're having an off day there's something there just as capable to take them. It comes back to trust, knowing there's players there."

The word 'team' is a constant in Aoife's mind,



acknowledging that personal success or disappointment can never outweigh the team's overall ambition.

In 2017, that came to fruition as her team-mates stood by her off the field and filled the massive hole she left behind on the field following a harrowing cruciate injury which left her sidelined for a number of months. A blow that has given her an added appreciation for being able to play the game.

"I always knew camogie was a huge part of my life and I never intended to give it up at any stage in my life or childhood, I was always going around be it in an estate, in St James' Park or in Palmerstown with a hurl in my hand. In 2017 then, I did my cruciate and it's only when something is gone from you that you cherish it even more so that's when I knew I wanted to push on and be the best I could be and enjoy it as well," the free-taker admitted.

"You're grateful to be able to play and just to be part of it with all your team-mates whether that be county or club. I'm privileged to be part of two great panels of players, they're my best friends off the field so look you appreciate it even more when you're missing from it for a while, you're always itching to get back and once you get back you have to keep realising that it's your hobby and you have to enjoy it as well."

"Obviously, you're still super competitive behind it all but you have to enjoy what you're doing too."

Aoife's never say die attitude paid off in 2020 when she received an initial call-up to Brian Dowling's Kilkenny senior camogie panel with the support of team-mates at club and inter-county level meaning an awful lot to her at that juncture of her life.

"I remember it well, Brian (Dowling) gave me a ring in 2020. It was a bit daunting at first but it's every girl's dream to play for their county so I'm grateful to Brian and the selectors."

"There was actually no Dicksboro girls on the Kilkenny team at that time but after we won the county final that year a few got called in but I went to a few of the girls who were playing on the team for some advice and the likes of Collete Dormer, Davina Tobin and everyone in the set-up was so welcoming and that made it easier."

Fast-forward two years and not only was the Dicksboro forward involved, but she was making new ground. Captaining the Noresiders to All-Ireland Final success in a nail-biting victory over Cork.

"It was unbelievable, it's a huge honour to captain your county and to climb the Hogan Stand and receive the O'Duffy Cup on behalf of your own county is even more special and for me individually that gave me so much momentum, confidence and drive to be the best I can be on and off the field."

Trophies were won but friendships were also made, a factor may be dismissed out of hand by some, but a necessity to a winning team environment in Aoife's eyes.

"I think it's huge as a team for the atmosphere around the camp. When you know you have a strong panel, you have that comradery and trust in one another that when it comes down to the wire and you need someone else to give you a hand or give you help in a ruck."

"Since I was in primary school I've been playing with the likes of Jenny Clifford, Kirsty Maher, Danielle Kenny, I would have been in the same class as them and even in primary school I would have looked up to Orla Hanrick. But to be honest, there's a whole list of names I could list out, I'd be very close with a lot of the girls."

If Dicksboro are to return to the top, that unique bond they hold will need to resurface in 2025.

"I'm so proud of the Boro girls. Even though we lost out this year we have been through so much together and we've achieved the best that we could have at senior club level over the past 12 months and nobody can take that away from us, we'll always have that as a team."

"We'll review our year to see where we went wrong and back training hard but of course it was disappointing but it doesn't take away what we've achieved," the All-Ireland winner stated.

But no matter what the future holds, Aoife Prendergast will always hold Dicksboro and Kilkenny close to her heart.

"It's where you start playing and where you're going to finish playing. The Kilkenny championship is competitive and it's great for Kilkenny camogie to see so many clubs driving on and hopefully the development at club level continues to grow which benefits the inter-county team."

CHRISTMAS ALL-IRELAND GLORY

FOR 'BORO CAMOGIE QUEENS

All Ireland Senior Camogie Club campaign by Michael O'Leary

Photos: SPORTSFILE



DICKSBORO - ALL IRELAND SENIOR CLUB CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 2023

Back: Orlaith Moore, Becky Peters, Caoimhe Carroll, Izzy Roberts, Caoimhe Dowling, Tara Clifford, Bronagh Doheny, Sarah O'Gorman, Aobha O'Gorman, Kirsty Maher, Sinead Carroll, Lucinda Gahan, Angela Carroll, Emer Phelan, Katie Byrne, Izzy Egan, Danielle Kenny, Kate O'Neill, Eva Healy, Isabelle Fahy, Tara McGrath.
Front: Niamh O'Donoghue, Ciara O'Shea, Amy Clifford, Aoife Prendergast, Asha McHardy, Orla Hanrick, Rachel Dowling, Jenny Clifford, Jane Cass, Niamh Phelan, Ciara Phelan, Rose Kelly, Aisling Browne, Libby Carroll. (Photo by Stephen Marken/Sportsfile)

The Dicksboro Camogie Team received the most perfect Christmas Present on Sunday 17th December 2023 in Croke Park, when they topped the favourites and three-in-a-row seeking All-Ireland champions Sarsfields (Galway) by 0-18 to 1-11 to become the first Kilkenny team since St. Lachtain's (Freshford) in 2006 to win the senior club All-Ireland. Dicksboro had won the county senior title for the third time with a final victory against Windgap and they went on to compete in the Leinster Championship. Victories against St. Martins (Wexford) and St. Vincents (Dublin) saw them land provincial honours for the first time. That Leinster final win saw them qualify for an All-Ireland semi-final showdown against Loughgiel Shamrocks (Antrim) and they prevailed 2-13 to 1-10 after a tough encounter, before going on to win the All-Ireland final against a strongly fancied Sarsfields outfit.

LEINSTER SEMI-FINAL

Dicksboro 1-10, St. Martins (Wexford) 0-8

Dicksboro got their Leinster campaign off to a winning start with a five point win against St. Martins of Wexford. The teams were level at 0-6 apiece after St. Martins led 0-4 to 0-2 at the midway point of the first-half, before a Jenny Clifford goal early in the second-half put them 1-6 to 0-6 ahead. The 'Boro ladies added to their tally afterwards with points from Asha McHardy, and three frees from the stick of Aoife

Prendergast as they set-up a Leinster Final showdown with St. Vincent's of Dublin. Dicksboro; Aoife Prendergast (0-8 frees), Jenny Clifford (1-0), Asha McHardy (0-2).

LEINSTER FINAL

Dicksboro 0-12, St. Vincents' (Dublin) 1-7

In a tough uncompromising encounter, Dicksboro prevailed narrowly against a dogged St. Vincents in Netwatch Cullen Park in Carlow. The teams were level at 0-5 each at half-time, before The Dublin Club went 4 points ahead early in the second-half with a goal from Niamh Hetherton followed by a point from Ava Lambe. 1-6 to 0-5. However, Dicksboro dug deep as they dominated for the remainder of the game outscoring St. Vincent's 0-7 to 0-1. The Boro struck seven unanswered points from Aoife Prendergast (3 frees), Jenny Clifford (2), Rachel Dowling and Amy Clifford that set the platform for victory.

St. Vincent's added a point from an Aisling Maher '45, as strong tenacious defending by Dicksboro particularly during those closing few minutes saw them hang on for victory to become Leinster Champions for the first-time. Dicksboro; Aoife Prendergast (0-6, frees), Rachel Dowling (0-3), Amy Clifford (0-2), Jenny Clifford (0-1).

ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL

Dicksboro 2-13, Loughgiel Shamrocks (Antrim) 1-10

Dicksboro got a stern test of their credentials in The All-Ireland semi-final against Loughgiel Shamrocks in Ashbourne, when they had to overturn a five point half-time deficit. The Boro got off to a very positive start as they led 0-3 to 0-1 after three minutes, but a goal in the fifth minute by Caitrin Dobbin put Loughgiel 1-1 to 0-3 ahead. Buoyed by that goal, the Ulster Champions led 1-4 to 0-4 by the midway point of the first-half before stretching their lead further to go 1-8 to 0-6 ahead at half-time.

Dicksboro started the second-half strongly as a goal from Asha McHardy narrowed the deficit to just two points (1-8 to 1-6), before drawing level with points from McHardy and Aoife Prendergast, 1-8 each. They went ahead with points from Jenny Clifford and Aoife Prendergast, before sealing the deal in injury-time with a second goal by Asha McHardy to set-up an All-Ireland final showdown with Sarsfields of Galway. Sarsfields defeated Sarsfields of Cork 2-10 to 1-6 in the other semi-final. Dicksboro; Asha McHardy 2-1 Aoife Prendergast 0-7 (0-6 frees 0-1 penalty), Amy Clifford and Rachel Dowling 0-2 each, Jenny Clifford 0-1

ALL-IRELAND FINAL

Dicksboro 0-18, Sarsfields (Galway) 1-11

The All-Ireland final played in Croke Park on Sunday 17th December saw the crowning of Dicksboro's greatest day, as they produced a



Dicksboro Captain Jenny Clifford lifts the Cup (Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile)



Asha McHardy of Dicksboro in action against Tara Kenny of Sarsfields
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

storming final quarter to overturn the All-Ireland champions and warm favourites Sarsfields. Dicksboro made a very positive start, and by the twentieth minute led 0-8 to 0-5 with Aoife Prendergast, Jenny Clifford, Aobha O'Gorman and Rachel Dowling all on target.

Sarsfields were dealt the blow of having to play without their captain Niamh McGrath, but her sister Siobhan came up trumps as she scored a cracking goal in the twenty-fifth minute to give the Galway contingent the lead, 1-6 to 0-8. However, Dicksboro replied and they finished the half strongly with points from Asha McHardy and Orla Hanrick giving them outright lead by the minimum at half-time, 0-10 to 1-6.

Points were exchanged early in the second-half, before Sarsfields scored three unanswered points from Siobhan McGrath, Shannon Corcoran and Sarah Spellman to give them a two point advantage heading towards the final quarter, 1-10 to 0-11.

Heading into the final quarter, Sarsfields had a two point advantage and with the experience of having featured in several All-Ireland finals, they were definitely favourites to record three-in-a-row. However, Dicksboro dug deep as they began to totally dominate that final quarter, with a pointed free by Player of The Match Aoife Prendergast beginning a scoring sequence of seven unanswered points. Ciara O'Shea landed the levelling point (1-10 to 0-13), before further points from Aoife Prendergast, Jenny and Amy Clifford put them well on their way to victory as they led by 5 points heading into injury-time, 0-18 to 1-10.

Sarsfields were not finished yet though. In the fourth minute of injury-time, a point by Klara Donohue narrowed the gap to four points (0-18 to 1-11), and shortly afterwards they were awarded a 20 metre free as Maria Cooney went for goal. Her well struck attempt was brilliantly saved by Kirsty Maher and moments later Ray Kelly blew the full-time whistle as the celebrations began in earnest.

It was a tremendous team display by Dicksboro with so many established performers, and a strong work rate throughout the field. Defensively, they were magnificent with Jane Cass and Katie Byrne in particular superb, while the two midfielders Ciara O'Shea and Aobha O'Gorman epitomised that strong work ethic. All six forwards scored from play, while the introduction of 2020 All-Ireland winning Captain Lucinda Gahan was a masterstroke in helping Dicksboro gain supremacy and dominance. It was only fitting that Niamh O'Donoghue should come on and for the final few minutes on the biggest stage of all, after



2 March 2024; Dicksboro, Kilkenny, players, from left, Aoife Prendergast, Jenny Clifford, Amy Clifford, Kirsty Maher, Aobha O'Gorman, Ciara Phelan, Asha McHardy and Katie Byrne on arrival at the AIB Camogie Club Player Awards at Croke Park in Dublin. Photo by Seb Daly/Sportsfile



Aoife Prendergast of Dicksboro celebrates after her side's victory. Photo by Stephen Marken/Sportsfile

she has given tremendous service to Dicksboro over the years.

Donal Carroll and the management team did a magnificent job in having the team in peak condition, as they came out on top against one of the top teams in the country in recent years. Dicksboro captain Jenny Clifford collected the Bill and Agnes O'Carroll Cup, and it was the perfect Christmas present for Dicksboro on the biggest stage of all in GAA headquarters.

Dicksboro: Kirsty Maher, Tara Clifford, Jane Cass, Katie Byrne, Niamh Phelan, Caoimhe Dowling, Ciara Phelan, Ciara O'Shea (0-1), Aobha O'Gorman (0-1), Asha McHardy (0-1), Amy Clifford (0-2), Rachel Dowling (0-1), Aoife Prendergast (0-9, 7f), Orla Hanrick

(0-1), Jenny Clifford (0-2). Subs: Lucinda Gahan for Rachel Dowling 45 minutes, Rose Kelly for Orla Hanrick 55 minutes, Niamh O'Donoghue for Ciara O'Shea (60+4 minutes), Tara McGrath for Amy Clifford (60+4 minutes).

Sarsfields: Laura Glynn, Reitseal Kelly, Laura Ward, K Gallagher, Tara Kenny, Maria Cooney, Joanne Daly, Clodagh McGrath, Sarah Spellman (0-1), Klara Donoghue (0-1), Orlaith McGrath (0-1), Rachel Murray (0-1), Shannon Corcoran (0-1), Siobhan McGrath (1-4, 2f), Caoimhe Kelly (0-2). Sub: Cora Kenny for Caoimhe Kelly 59 minutes.

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).



Shannon Corcoran of Sarsfields in action against Katie Byrne of Dicksboro. Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



Dicksboro Manager, Donal Carroll, with team psychologist, David Carroll in the background. Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



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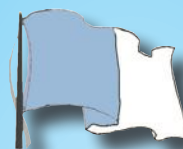
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Around the Camogie Clubs

BLACKS & WHITES



B & WS U12'S



Under 16 Team



B & WS U8'S



B & WS U10'S



Under 15 Feile Team

BARROW RANGERS



Review of 2024 Camogie Season – Barrow Rangers Camogie Club

A mixed year for Barrow Rangers Camogie Club in our 25th Year, with the major disappointment for our Seniors losing our Senior status having been promoted in 2021. The Club is very proud of the commitment shown in what was a difficult year for our players, where we had to deal with numerous challenges off the field. We will be back! We had lots of new girls starting at u6s, with big numbers at u8s and u10s this year. Numerous blitzes were attended and we had a great end of year day on 18th September with camogie games, treats & face painting and disco. Well done to all the girls and coaches. We entered two U12 teams and again competed in numerous games and ended the year on a high with wins for both Blues and Whites in both finals. Our 14s had a super year, competing in Roinn A for the first time ever. After winning the League title, we reached the Championship final just coming up short on the day. Our U14 Roinn E team won the Championship in a thrilling final on 5th October in Clara. Our Minors lost narrowly in the Q-finals and we entered two teams in the U16 league & Championship, ensuring progression for all players which is one of the Clubs goals to ensure our all players stay playing camogie. And for the first time in years, we entered the Junior Championship, playing numerous games in the league before losing in the Championship. Well done Girls & Barrow Rangers Abù!



U14 A League Champions
Well done Girls!

SHAMROCKS BALLYHALE



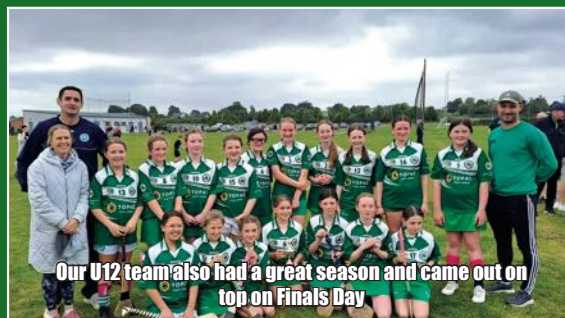
Our U10s enjoying a day out at the Mullinavat blitz



Our Minor team were County Champions in Dec 2023. Well done team and management.



Our U13 team had a great season and won the Group 3 Final



Our U12 team also had a great season and came out on top on Finals Day

BENNETTSBRIDGE



U6 Team



Under 8 Team



Under 14 Team



U12 Team



U10 team



Winners of Division 1 Kilkenny Feile

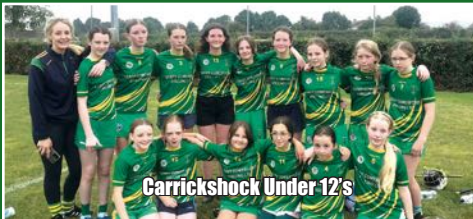
CARRICKSHOCK



Carrickshock Under 8's



Carrickshock Under 10's



Carrickshock Under 12's



Carrickshock Under 14's

CLARA



CONAHY SHAMROCKS



Conahy Camogie Club had a very successful year this year, with some of the highlights being winning the intermediate league shield final, winning the Lisdowney 7s plate, and winning the u14 league final. Thanks to all players, supporters and trainers for their dedication and commitment to the club this year. We were proud to have 5 girls represent us with adult level inter county; Danielle Morrissey, Sofia Kerr, Ellen Gunner, Emma Mulhall and Roisin Phelan. Congratulations to Danielle Morrissey who is also nominated for a Soaring Star Award and Player of the Year for the Intermediate Championship. We ran a Cake Sale in August which was a huge success for the club, raising some much needed funds, thanks to everyone who bought and donated baked goods on the day. Our Junior Cs have qualified for the Championship Semi Final which is due to be played at a later date.



DANESFORT



U12's winning their final.



Danesfort Intermediate team



U8 Camogie Team



U6 Camogie Team

INTERMEDIATE TEAM LEAGUE FINALISTS

Back: Jill O'Brien, Naomi Tynan, Laura Dunne, Emily Hughes, Aoife Farrell, Muireann Kelly, Clodagh Doyle, Aileen Gleason, Louisa Gilmore, Ellie Deegan, Laura Maher, Caroline Booth, Ciara Gleason, Orla Gleason, Doireann O'Donnell, Grace Byrne
Front: Niamh Davis, Ali Byrne, Emma Cahill, Maria Comerford, Olivia Mahony, Eva Dunne, Shauna Mahony, Jennifer Brennan, Deirdre Phelan, Leah Ireland O'Neill, Bronagh Davis, Aoife Walsh

EMERALDS



Emeralds Camogie u13 Competition Winners



Emeralds Camogie u15 Feile Team Div 2 Finalists.



Emeralds Camogie Junior Panel



DUNNAMAGGIN



U10 Camogie team



U13 Joint Captains



U6 Camogie team



U8 Camogie team



U12 Camogie team

2024 marks a milestone year for Dunnamaggin with the creation of our new camogie club.

The club has been welcomed with open arms by the community and already boasts 70+ enthusiastic players, ranging from Under-6 to Under-13.

We are incredibly proud of the club's early success and excited about the positive impact it will have on the girls for many years to come. Participation in camogie provides an opportunity for these girls to stay active, build confidence, and develop essential skills, all while making lasting friendships in a fun, supportive environment.

The sense of community pride is clear to all, with the entire parish rallying behind the girls and offering encouragement every step of the way.

As we look ahead to the future, we are hopeful that Dunnamaggin Camogie Club will continue to grow, providing a space where girls can enjoy the sport, develop their talents, and remain engaged in physical activity throughout their lives.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in making this club a reality - the parents, coaches, sponsors and the Dunnamaggin GAA and LGFA clubs - Together, we are building something truly special for Dunnamaggin. Dún Iomáin abú!



ERIN'S OWN



Erin's Own Regional Feile Winners 2024



Erin's Own U12 2024



Erin's Own U14 Roinn A Winners 2024



U10's and their Coaches

GLENMORE



Glenmore Intermediate Team 2024



Glenmore U12s Finals Day v Kilmacow 2024

Our underage section gained valuable experience through challenge games and showing significant improvement. U12s took part in the Go Games league, league and championship, losing to Kilmacow in the final. Participated in Caman at Croke Park which was their highlight of the year. U14s faced challenges with a small number and young team, but worked hard, narrowly losing games and missing out on the shield final against a strong Conahy team. U16s had a good year with notable wins in league games, despite a close loss in the first round of the championship, and have a Shield Final to be played. Minors returned to Roinn A and demonstrated resilience, achieving strong league wins but falling short in the first round. They reached the shield final after a victory against Danesfort, final still to be played. Intermediate team were involved in a competitive league/championship. The team is always learning, developing, aiming to retain players for the future whilst competing strongly. The club held their annual Lily May O'Dwyer tournament. GTR won the Leinster Final, were runners-up in the All-Ireland final.

Feile: results didn't go our way, lots of experience gained. Congratulations to Laura Doherty, Oonagh Malone who represented Kilkenny at Minor level winning the Leinster Final and reaching the All Ireland semi. Eabha Mullally and Ella Hoynes who were on the U17 Development squad, Sinead Jones, Keelin Byrne, Kadhla Croke, Ella Sheehan who represented the club at U16 winning Leinster titles and reaching an All Ireland Semi. Aisleann Mullally, Saorlaith Mullally, Olivia Mullally, Ella Talbot, Mia Barry and Danielle Phelan who were all involved with development squads.

Graiguenamanagh



Graiguenamanagh Camogie Club first Minor Team of 2024



U12 League Winners 2024

It has been another busy year for the Club and for the first time since the formation of the Club just 15 years ago we fielded teams at all levels from U6 through to Adult level. 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.

Following the achievement of our Junior team making it to the County and league finals in 2023, 5 of our Junior Team made it on to the Junior team of the year, Kelly Ann Whelan, Darcy Bolger, Ellen Delaney, Lynda Murphy and Sinead Lannigan with Kelly Ann, Sinead and Aisling Pendergast going on to represent the club with the County Intermediate team. We were honoured to host the 2nd round of the Vey League and see Kilkenny V Wexford take place in Graiguenamanagh with our own players wearing the black and amber.

We were extremely proud also to be represented at county level on development squads and teams by Rebecca Hayden, Orlaith O'Shea and Ingrid Tierney.

Our Junior Manager James Meaney agreed to continue again this year after coming so close with a county final loss last year and is joined by Owen Kenny this year and we all hope that they can go one step further this year.

In February of this year Rebecca Hayden & her teammates from St. Mary's were unfortunate to narrowly lose the All-Ireland Post primary Final.

Our Underage teams saw plenty of action this year and our U6's, U8's and Under 10's all partook in several blitzes and there was enormous enjoyment at training every week. Our Under 12's partook in several Blitzes including the John Pendergast Festival in Thomastown where Faye Hamilton won player of the Tournament. Our Under 12's went on to win their Championship final also this year which was a cause of huge celebration for that team. Our U13's also won their final this year which is great encouragement for the future of the club.

In some other memorable moments this year we saw our U12's take part in half blitz during the Intermediate game between Kilkenny and Dublin in Freshford and Ava Cody was selected to be a flag bearer as Kilkenny's intermediates took the field on All-Ireland Final Sunday in Croke Park.

Our U14, U16 teams came very close in league and Championship this year and the progression of these players is an enormous encouragement for the future of the club. This year we fielded our first ever Minor team and they made it to their shield Final but sadly came up just short on the day but their efforts this year were a source of enormous pride for the whole club.

Sadly this year the club lost some loyal supporters and the club would like to offer our deepest sympathies to all of the families involved.



U13 League Winners 2024



JOHN LOCKES



KILMACOW





LISDOWNEY



UNDER AGE AT LISDOWNEY CAMOGIE CLUB 2024

Our under 8s had a great 2024 with lots of fun training sessions where the girls developed their camogie skills, friendships were forged, and teamwork flourished. We thoroughly enjoyed the U8s blitzes over the summer, where we got to try out our camogie skills in the wonderful spirit of the go games ethos and got lots of treats too! We welcomed lovely teams from Athenry and Ballyragget to Lisdowney on 27th July for a great morning of camogie and sunshine. We are looking forward to 2025 already!

7 A SIDE BLITZ U14

Eight teams travelled to Lisdowney to take part in the inaugural u14 Camogie 7s tournament on Sunday 15th September. Naomh Brid, St Lachtains, Conahy, St Brigids.

Lisdowney, Tullaroan and two teams from Laois, The Harps & Clough-Ballacolla took part.

Teams played in two groups with the top team from each group going through to the cup final, Lisdowney v. St Lachtains produced a thrilling game with St Lachtains coming out the eventual winners

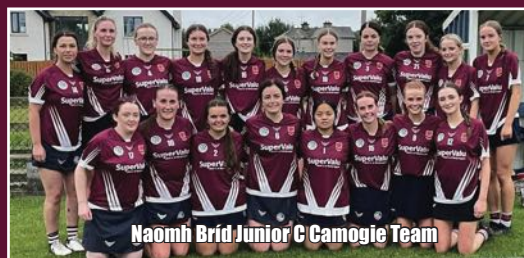
The Shield competition saw neighbouring clubs Tullaroan & St Brigid battle it out, Tullaroan securing victory, the day concluded with two plate finals, Clough Ballacolla & Conahy the plate winners. It was a very successful tournament with everyone enjoying a sevens tournament for this age group, Lisdowney Camogie hopes to build on this each year.



NAOMH BRÍD



Naomh Bríd U12 Camogie Team



Naomh Bríd Junior C Camogie Team



Naomh Bríd U16 Camogie Team



Naomh Bríd U8 Camogie Team

O'LOUGHLIN GAELS



Strength & Condition Coach James Kelly getting agility work into juvenile teams

MacDonagh Junction Shopping Centre
Sponsors: Linda O'Leary (Club Treasurer),
Rebecca Doyle (Centre Marketing Manager),
Damien Donohue (Coach), Danielle Quigley,
Eva Collins, Co-Captains Laura Murphy & Jen
Holohan, Laura Greene, Ailbhe Galwey, Eddie
Morgan (MacDonagh Junction) and James Kelly
(S&C Bravo Fitness)

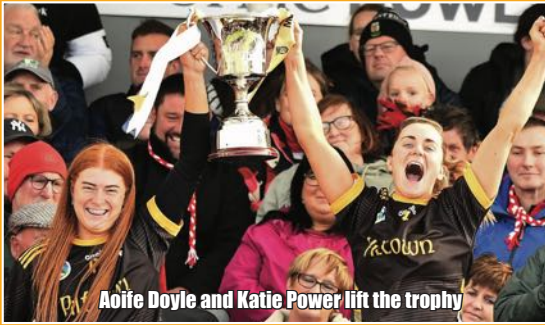


U6, u7s and u8s enjoying their end of year Sports day at St. Johns Park





PILTOWN



Aoife Doyle and Katie Power lift the trophy

Senior County Champions

Piltown Senior Camogie team won their first Senior County Championship before a big crowd in Nowlan Park on Sunday 20 October. Their victory over reigning county and All Ireland champions Dicksboro was a repeat of our victory over the same opponents in the League final also. After so many years of disappointment for this panel, it was a deserved title and one that was celebrated on the Main street in Piltown. "



ROWER INISTIIGE



Our U13s taking part in the newly established U13 competition for 2024



Rower Inistioge Seniors



Our 2 U12 teams on Finals Day



Our U6 playing in their first ever tournament in Mooncoin



ST ANNE'S



St Anne's U14's



St Anne's U16's



St Anne's U12's



St Anne's Minors



ST BRIGID'S



Junior C 2024 League Finalists



St Brigid's Minors 2024



U6



U8



U10



U12



U16



Senior Team



ST LACHTAIN'S



St Lachtain's Intermediate Girls Team 2024



St Lachtain's U14 Shield Final
Winners 2024

St Lachtain's Intermediate Girls Team
2024
Back: C.O'Connor, A.Cleere, A.Maher,
C.Bergin, L.Fitzpatrick, C.Dooley,
T.Hickey, S.Davis, S.Farrell, A.Dermody,
A.Ryan,
C.Maher, J.Bergin.
Front: A.McCarthy, M.Killeen, E.Daly,
A.Whitty, E.O'Connor, C.Hickey,
R.Campion, S.Hickey, S.Hickey,
C.Hickey, C.Nolan.



St Lachtain's U10s Camogie Team 2024



St Lachtain's U8s Camogie Team 2024



TULLAROAN



County Players



U16 team.



Senior Camogie Team.



Tullaroan U6 Team

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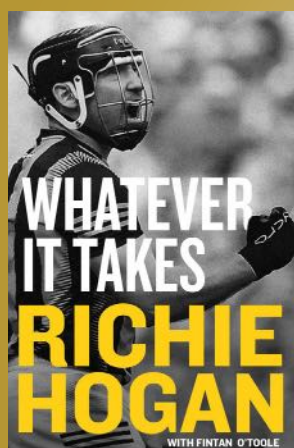


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In Whatever it Takes, Richie tells the story of his dazzling career, from his obsession with maintaining high standards in the Kilkenny team, to the stand-out moments on the pitch and the challenges he encountered along the way that threatened to derail everything.



Another job for Santy!

At all Good Bookshops



Tullaghan U6 team



Tullaghan U10 team

TULLAGHAN



Tullaghan U8 team



Tullaghan U12 team



U6s started the season in April with 12 girls training Monday evenings. We had a monster blitz in Mooncoin in August and finished the year with a party.

U8s started the year with a challenge against Mullinahone and attended four blitzes. Finishing the year with a fun evening on the field and a disco. All received a medal for their great work and improvement. Our U10s competed in four Blitzes and the GAA Green Club presented players with personalised water bottles. Heritage week in August saw them enjoy games with Windgap GAA U10 boys in Tullahought.

Our U12 team were part of the Mini League Blue group this year and played Johns Lockes, Dicksboro and Mooncoin. The u12 team took home silverware, winning a final against Bennettsbridge.

The U14 team were successful in Roinn D League and championship and showed a lot of skill throughout. They played Carrickshock in their League final and they played Mullinavat in the championship final.

The U16 team had a successful year in Roinn D and are currently preparing for a county final against Mullinavat.

The Minor team had a very successful campaign winning out the Roinn A county championship. This was a fantastic achievement for a young group of girls who proved a very strong and skillful team.

2024 saw Windgap field its first Junior C camogie team, this was a fantastic achievement for the club, the team won the league and are now preparing for their quarter final championship match.

The senior team took part in the 7 aside competitions in Borrisoleigh and Tullaroan, reaching the final of the Chris Maher Cup. The team also reached the league semifinal this year. Windgap's club player Ona Kennedy won 2024 U16 All Ireland Puc Foda in Annaverna Mountain Co. Louth.

The Windgap Hurling and Camogie summer camp ran for its third year and proved to be a hit with young budding players in the local area, thanks to all the sponsors and volunteers who make this happen and to all committee members, volunteers, trainers, and mentors who continue to give their time to the club

WINDGAP



Windgap Junior C Team 2024



Windgap U14's 2024



Young Irelands U10's

YOUNG IRELANDS



U14 Féile County Finalists



Young Irelands U6's



U8 Camogie Team



Young Irelands U12's

COUNTY NEWS



Kilkenny Junior PANEL 2024

KILKENNY JUNIORS – NFL DIVISION 4

The Kilkenny juniors got their NFL Division 4 schedule kicked off on Sunday 24th January with a home game to Leitrim. While the game ended in defeat those in attendance were impressed with the commendable performance given by Kilkenny particularly in the opening 15 minutes of each half.

On the 21st January, Kilkenny in torrential rain, had a challenging encounter against Longford in Dunmore training centre in round 2 of the NFL. Kilkenny showed determination and resilience in this game and with a bit more composure in front of goals it was felt that Kilkenny could of narrowed the score. Unfortunately, it was not meant to be and Longford finished on top.

Round 3 of the Division 4 NFL, Kilkenny were away on January 28th to the 2023 Junior All Ireland Finalists Limerick. A very defensive game by both teams, this was the game where Kilkenny limited the oppositions scoring chances the most with Limerick only converting 1-2 from play in this game.

The remaining games in the NFL Division 4 league all progressed in a similar manner. Kilkenny played away to Carlow on 11th February, were home to Fermanagh on 18th February, away to Derry on 25th February and home to Wicklow on 3rd March. Unfortunately, no wins were recorded for Kilkenny.

The Kilkenny Junior side also competed in the All-Ireland series with matches against Louth, Longford and Limerick. Although no wins were recorded, Kilkenny demonstrated some further improved performances most notably against Longford where the Kilkenny ladies gave a proud account of themselves in a close encounter in Erins Own GAA in Castlecomer.

A number of players made their debuts with the junior panel during the All Ireland Series and it was great to see this added depth to the team.

Well done to all the players who took pride wearing the Kilkenny Football Jersey this year and committed to the demands of inter county football. These players are the cornerstones of the future of Kilkenny Ladies Football and should be applauded for their efforts.

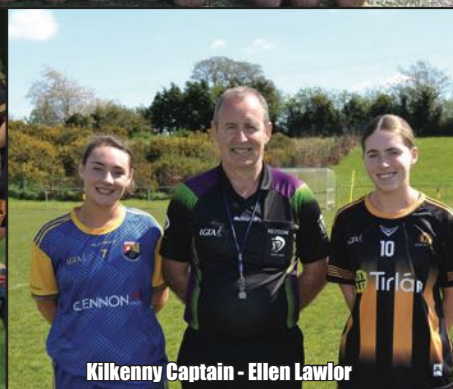
MINORS 2024

The season kicked off for the Minors early November 23. With over 50 players attending trials over a 3-week period, a squad of 30 players were selected from 10 clubs for the 2024 campaign. Early December the squad kicked off their training schedule of gym and pitch work over 3 nights per week with their first challenge match versus SETU Carlow ending in a draw. Working with the Adult management team in late December the Minors and Adults played several in-house challenge matches. The New Year brought some challenging weather and with pitches closed, playing matches became difficult, however training continued, and the minors played the Limerick minors in Tipperary.

The final 4 weeks of preparation through gym and pitch work lead the team to the first round away to Louth, Louth finished the game with a comfortable win on the day, but the players regrouped and delivered a much-improved performance at home to Carlow two weeks later, however Carlow finished



Kilkennys Ailbhe Galway in action



Kilkenny Captain - Ellen Lawlor



Kilkennys Ailish O'Neill and Jennifer O'Keeffe on the defense



Kilkennys Hollie Brennan on attack



Kilkenny Minor Panel

strongest with some well taken goals. The final round was at home to an Offaly side who were at the start of the season tipped to top the group but due to sickness in the camp their season had not gone according to plan, on the day Offaly delivered a very strong performance and finished the game with a good win.

Six Minor players through their hard work and commitment were invited to join the adult panel midway with both management teams managing their workload these players excelled at the January Adult grade with a number of them starting the final games of the TG4 Championship.

The players worked hard over the 12-week program and the management team would like to commend them for the level of commitment to the training sessions and wish them the best of luck in the future sporting careers with clubs and county.

A FABULOUS FOOTBALL FÉILE DAY FOR KILKENNY U15 FOOTBALLERS:

A Fabulous Football Féile Day for Kilkenny U15 footballers:

The Kilkenny LGFA Féile was held on Sunday 12th May across two locations – Erins Own GAA and Railyard GFC.

There were four teams contesting the Féile Cup competition – Dunnamaggin, Kilkenny City, Thomastown and Erins Own. On a very warm day the U15 girls gave a fine display of football to all in attendance. The cup final saw Dunnamaggin and Kilkenny City compete for a spot in the National Final. Dunnamaggin finished out ahead by the narrowest of margins to secure their place for the first time in their club history in the national féile final where they went on to represent Kilkenny with pride.

The shield competition had six teams across two groups compete for a spot in the regional féile. The teams competing were Clara, John Lockes, Muckalee, Piltown, Railyard and Tullogher. Four teams went through to the shield semi-finals which saw Muckalee and John Lockes progress to the shield final. John Lockes took the spoils on this occasion and went on to represent Kilkenny well at the Regional Féile on Saturday 29th June.

Clara and Piltown were runners up in the shield competition and played off for the Kilkenny Plate. After a close encounter Piltown lifted the cup at the final whistle.

The Kilkenny LGFA Junior Captain Ellen and Vice-Captain Jennifer were on hand in Erins Own to present the Cup and Shield trophy.

GAELIC4MOTHERS&OTHERS

Again 2024 has been another progressive year for the G4M&Os groups in Kilkenny. With lots of enjoyable activity and blitzes throughout the year. Railyard established their G4M&Os team this year and Tullaroan were very lucky to have been selected to play in the New York G4M&Os tournament! A very enjoyable blitz was hosted in September by the Thomastown club and was enjoyed by many of the local teams. .



G4M - Railyard



G4M - Slieverue



KILKENNY JUNIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM 2024
Colleen Rickard, Willie Brennan, Johnny Murphy, Kay Phelan,
Audrey Harrington, Seamus Knox



Kilkenny Minor Captain Millie Gilsenan



Kilkenny Minors in action v Louth



Dunnamaggin Féile Cup Champions



John Lockes Shield Champions



Piltown Féile Plate Champions

Kilkenny Championship:

Senior Championship:

2024 was the first year for a Senior LGFA championship to be played in Kilkenny with Muckalee being the sole senior team in the county. Railyard and John Lockes stepped up to compete in the competition with Railyard drawn against and knocked out by the strong Muckalee side in the semi-final. John Lockes who were drawn straight into the final played Muckalee in Danesfort on Sunday 13th. Muckalee showed their experience particularly in front of goals to convert some well taken scores and finish the game with a comfortable win. Muckalee now go on to represent Kilkenny in the Leinster club championship.

Congratulations to Muckalee captain Kelley Comerford and vice-captain Edel Coonan who lifted the cup on behalf of the champions and well done to all on a great achievement.

Intermediate Championship:

The Kilkenny Intermediate championship was the first of the adult championships to kick off in September 2024 and saw Railyard crowned intermediate champions in their first year at intermediate level after winning the junior final in 2023. On the road to the final Railyard defeated John Lockes in the semi-final and Muckalee Green defeated Dunnamaggin. The final between Railyard and Muckalee Green was a competitive match in Erins Own GAA grounds and was well attended. Congratulations to Railyards Captain Hollie Brennan who lifted the cup on behalf of the club and to all involved with the panel on a great achievement.

Junior Championship: - Kilkenny Junior Championship Final is scheduled for 17th November 2024.

Minor Championship: - Finals are scheduled for 2nd November 2024

Gaelic for Girls – Development in Kilkenny LGFA:

U13 PDP:

The U13 PDP commenced on Sunday 6th June in James Park. It consisted of 8 sessions over a 7-week period to prepare the girls for a Leinster mini U13 tournament which was scheduled for Portlaoise on the 10th August.

Over the 6 sessions we had 58 girls (DOB 2011) of all levels and abilities attend with 9 clubs represented. The girls really enjoyed the sessions.

Sean Ryan, Paul Maguire, Padraig Brennan and Sean Butler managed the training sessions with Tommy Brennan, Michelle Ryan and Mary Louise Whelan assisting with the two teams on the 10th August.

The festival of football tournament on the 10th was structured to facilitate 7 a-side games in the morning and 15 a-side games in the afternoon. Kilkenny had 32 players available to attend on the day so registered two teams and had great victories over Kildare teams however the Meath teams were too strong on the day.

The program was a great success and will hopefully lead to the development of the girls to participate with more success in the U14 Leinster competition in 2025.

U15 PDP

Kilkenny were able to take part in the U15 Player Development Programme this year with a good number of players showing great interest. Initially 68 girls registered to take part these were girls born 2009 and 2010, we had 6 weeks of fun while learning new skills, making new friends and continuing to enjoy football in a welcoming atmosphere.

Kilkenny were able to field 2 teams with 44 of those players taking part in the national blitz which saw them play football against Meath, Wicklow, Offaly, Kildare and Carlow.

There is great interest in ladies football in Kilkenny and with the help of club coaches and county players the girls involved in the U15 PDP made memories that will last.



G4MO - Tullaroan



G4MO - Muckalee



G4MO - Piltown



G4MO - Thomastown



G4MO 7 - Warm up G4MOs style at the Thomastown Charity Blitz in September.

LGFA 50th Anniversary Celebration & Honouring of 2007 Junior All Ireland Champions:

Kilkenny LGFA joined in the celebrations to commemorate the 50th anniversary of LGFA by hosting an event in UPMC Nowlan Park on the 28th July. We were delighted to be joined by all our LGFA clubs U10 teams who treated all in attendance to some fantastic exhibition games.

Looking back;

We also took this opportunity to honour our 2007 winning Junior All Ireland team. This Kilkenny Junior Ladies team was managed by Paul Whelan (Mullinavat), Richy Windle (James Stephens) and PJ Whelan (Thomastown) were crowned All Ireland Junior Champions back in 2007. This county panel prepared for the TG4 Leinster and All Ireland Series with players from Railyard, Thomastown, Mullinavat, Carrickshock, James Stephens, Mullahone and Freshford all forming part of the panel.

At this time, Kilkenny had a great Leinster campaign with wins over Carlow and Wicklow to ensure their place in the Junior Leinster Final. Unfortunately, Carlow taking revenge for their earlier defeat were crowned Leinster champions following a one point win over Kilkenny. Kilkenny regrouped for the All-Ireland series and with wins over Carlow (0-11 to 1-07) and Wicklow (4-10 to 1-10) booked themselves into an All-Ireland semi-final v Derry. Kilkenny had a fantastic win over Derry in the semi-final on a scoreline of 3-11 to 1-10 which secured Kilkenny LGFA a place in the Junior All Ireland Final. On a memorable day - Sunday 23rd September 2007 - Kilkenny LGFA claimed the TG4 All Ireland Junior Title by defeating London on a score line of 3-5 to 2-5 in Croke Park. Catriona Grace (Our 2024 U14 County Manager) was proud captain and lifted the cup on behalf of the county.

It was fantastic to see these players and management team honoured for their achievement at our 50th anniversary celebration. Thank you to Joe Fox for sponsoring fabulous plaques for all involved on the 2007 panel.



50th Anniversary - Special guests



2007 Captain Catriona Corr receiving her plaque from Leinster LGFA President Trina



Joe & Emma Fox who kindly sponsored plaques to commemorate our 2007 winning side.



Muckalee Senior Champions



John Lockes Senior Finalists



Railyard Intermediate Champions



Muckalee Intermediate Finalists



Presentation to Muckalee Senior Captains



Presentation to Railyard Intermediate Captain Hollie Brennan

Underage Champions



John Lockes U14 A Champions



Railyard U14 B Champions



John Lockes U16 A champions

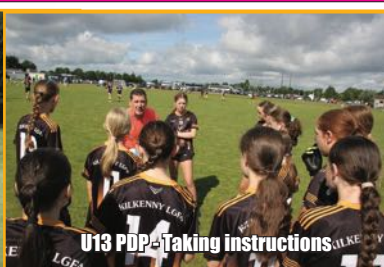


Erin's Own U16 B Champions

Gaelic for Girls – Development in Kilkenny LGFA:



U13 PDP - In Action



U13 PDP - Taking instructions



U13 PDP Festival Day



U15 PDP - Festival Day.jpg



U15 PDP - Training Group

U12 Festival of football:



Clara U12



Dunnamaggin U12



Erin's Own U12



Kilkenny City U12



John Lockes U12



Kilkenny City U12s



Muckalee U12



Piltown U12



Rallyard U12



Thomastown U12



Thomastown U12



Tullagher U12

U12 Festival of Football:

Thomastown played host to our U12 festival of football on a fabulous sunny 31st of August day. A fine display of football was put on for all in attendance by the talented U12 footballers within our clubs.

On the day Dunnamaggin won the A final, John Lockes the B final, Erins Own the C final, Kilkenny City the D final, Thomastown the E and F final.

Club News



PILTOWN LGFC

Piltown Ladies Gaelic Football Club have had a positive year. The number of registered players have increased from 2023 by 20%. The U8 and U10 teams have travelled up and down the county to attend blitzes, while also hosting their own. Our U12 team finished out their year at the 'Festival of Football' in

Thomastown. The girls had a fun morning and finished up with a match against the hosts. The U14 team had their fair share of ups and downs in 2024, however, they played an exceptional game in their recent county Final. The girls came out on top and were crowned League Shield Champions. Piltown LGFA are very proud of this team and wish them best of luck in the championship. Due to low numbers at U16 this year, we used it as a year to set a basis for returning U16 players and girls coming up from U14 for 2025. We had a new addition to our club this year with a Junior team, as it's the first-year numbers are slowly growing but the plan is to work from the ground up. As always, our Gaelic for Mother and Others team had great fun all throughout the year, the women played various matches against teams inside and outside the county and continually know how to have the craic! We would like to extend a big thank you to all the parents and guardians for bringing their children to matches and training all throughout the year. A massive thank you needs to be extended to the managers and coaches who take time out to volunteer for these girls and to promote Gaelic football in Kilkenny. Piltown LGFA is always open to new members, whether it is playing or coaching. If you would like to get involved with the club don't hesitate to contact us on our social media pages or email us at piltownlgfc@gmail.com



Piltown U14s Roinn B League Shield Final Winners



THOMASTOWN LGFC

Thomastown LGFA has continued to thrive and grow over the past year. The club would like to take this opportunity to thank all the coaches & the committee as well as the parents and of course, the players for their dedication and commitment to our club. Our minor team have battled hard this year, reaching the B League final. Showing skill and determination, they give their all in every game. Our u16's had a busy season playing some great football and look forward to building on that next year.

Our u14's have been outstanding and are Roinn A League champions. This group have been training hard and their standard of football reflects this. Our u12's had a record number of registrations this year resulting in the club being able to field two teams. Both teams had a successful season finishing with wins at the festival of football.

Our u10's had a great season. The highlight was taking part in the LGFA 50th Anniversary celebrations in UPMC Nowlan Park. Our u8's competed in blitzes throughout the season with great enthusiasm, showcasing their skills and having fun.

Our Gaelic4mothers & others had huge numbers join this year. They had a very enjoyable season which finished with a Charity Blitz in aid of Cois Nore.

This year we had girls from u13 to u16 participating in Kilkenny Development Squads. We also had 3 girls on the Minor squad. The girls would like to thank all the coaches and management teams for each of these groups.



Thomastown U14 Roinn A League Final Winners



ST LACHTAIN'S LGFC

Ladies Gaelic Football is a fairly new adventure to St Lachtains only getting together in the last 18 months and trying to increase the numbers that play in the club is a positive thing.

We have a G4M&O, U16 and U10 teams registered to play, our U16's started positive this year with some great training sessions and matches in the league but were unable to compete in championship as injuries and player numbers in a small club unfortunately prevented us.

The U10 girls had more success with plenty of matches, blitzes and even getting to play in Nowlan Park which was a great opportunity for the players.

Hopefully as the club grows the surrounding areas will get the football big and come join us on the journey.



St. Lachtains & Rallyard U16 - First League Match



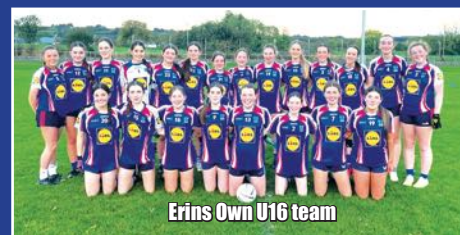
St. Lachtains U10s - UPMC Nowlan Park Experience Day



ERIN'S OWN LGFC

The girls and ladies of Castlecomer made a delighted return to the Erins Own training grounds on the 6th of March for our U12s, 14s and 16s with our U6, 8s and 10, returning on the 15th of April. From u6 girls through to U16 they returned in large numbers ready for the season ahead. The club was delighted to continue with the tradition of ladies' football that has become an inherent part of the club scene in Erins Own

U6's, U8's and U10's hosted and attended games in their age groups throughout the season. Erin's Own hosted this Year's Roinn A Football Féile with huge turnout across the board. Our U16s narrowly missed out against Muckalee in the league final. Looking ahead to the Championship Final with both U14s and 16s involved. Anyone interested in enquiring about joining for the 2025 season can contact the club at: erinsownlgfa@gmail.com



Erins Own U16 team



KILKENNY CITY LGFC

Our u10's gaelic football teams season began in March with training in Kieran's college and we were delighted to see numbers grow at every session. They played a number of blitzes throughout the season and it finished with a super day out in Erin's own to wrap up the season. We want to thank all girls for their effort all season and the coaches for their dedication to training the future stars of the club.

Our u12 squads from this season, they trained hard twice a week all season to develop into a super close net squad of players. They had some very competitive games against great teams and their work rate made for some amazing games to watch. They finished their season with two great finals in Thomastown with mixed results on the day but overall, the season was a huge success for the girl's future development. Thank you to all players for their effort all season and to the coaches for their time developing each player to their full potential.



Kilkenny City U12s



Kilkenny City U10s



CLARA LGFC

We had a busy season with our teams participating in challenge games, blitzes, Féile, league and championship, a trip to Croke Park for our u10s. We had girls represent the club at u13 & u15 PDP, on the county u14, u16, minor and senior teams. We celebrated 50 years of the LGFA and welcomed back the Kilkenny 2007 Junior All Ireland Champions, captained by our very own Caitriona Corr, who continues to work tirelessly within the club holding the position of secretary.

Our 26 u8's had a fantastic season. From their first training session to their final blitz, a marked improvement was noted in their skills development. The u10's had the season of dreams! Local blitzes saw the girls develop their skills and improve as a team. They had the privilege of playing in Nowlan Park as part of the LGFA 50 year celebrations. But the undoubted highlight of their year playing in Croke Park wearing their new team jerseys and training tops from generous sponsors.

Our u12's had a busy and productive year. They won four out of five league games finishing second in their group. They went on to play John Lockes in the B League Final which went to extra time where the girls played with great heart but fell short by a point. The future looks bright for this group of girls.

The U14s enjoyed a busy year with impressive numbers, reflecting the team's growth and enthusiasm. The girls had a great league campaign but were defeated by Railyard in the league final. The girls were unlucky to be beaten by Kilkenny City in the championship. A highlight of the year was the Tinryland blitz, where the girls got into the last 8. Six players represented Clara on the U14 County Panel, with others involved in the U13 PDP. Our U16's played games against Muckalee, Railyard, and Piltown but were defeated by Erins Own in the final. Danika Tervit-Kruger and Kathy Phelan represented the club on the county U16 team.

The minors had a quiet year only playing two league matches, defeated by Railyard but recorded a win against Tullogher. We now await the minor B championship where Clara will again play Tullogher. Clara had 4 players on the county minor panel this year, Kyla Byrne, Katie Scriven, Sarah Dunne and Lucy Boyd. This year saw Sarah make her debut with the Kilkenny Senior Ladies team against Longford. Thanks to all our players, coaches and parents for making our year such an enjoyable one agus mar a deir an seanfhocal, 'Mol an Óige agus Tíocfaidh sí'.



Clara Club out in Force



MUCKALEE LGFC

Muckalee are enjoying a successful season so far. Our intermediate team did very well to reach the county final in September. Unfortunately, the girls fell short to Railyard on the day. But the side showed impressive skills and talent on the day which is very promising for years to come. Our seniors were unbeaten in the league and went on to defeat a talented Kilkenny City side in the league final. The senior championship has not yet started. The team is looking forward to the challenge of aiming for their 4th consecutive county championship and we wish them the best of luck. Our underage teams are excellent and enjoying challenging games, winning and losing and gaining lots of experience. Our U16 team won the u16B league final. Our u14 also won the league final back in 2023 and are going from strength to strength this season. U12s and below show very promising talent. The girls are competing in games, blitzes and weekly training sessions, growing their football skills while having fun. We are thankful to all of our coaches and volunteers who give up their time to provide such an enjoyable, competitive and successful atmosphere in our club.



Muckalee U16s Roinn B League Champions



DUNNAMAGGIN LGFC

In 2024 Dunnamaggin LGFC continued 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. As well as our parish we cater for females in all surrounding areas. Dunnamaggin LGFC had a very successful 2024 season, participating in competitions at all age levels from U12 right up to adult. Our fantastic U15 group made club history this year when they won the county Roinn A Féile title and progressed to the John West National finals day in Galway. This group were then invited to partake in a national U15s 7s tournament in Dublin and represented the club honourably on both occasions. Our U12s were Roinn A champions, our U16s reached the Roinn A League Final and won the Roinn A Championship Shield final. Our Minor squad won the Roinn A League final and have yet to contest the championship. Our adult squad and U14s are currently contesting the championship. The club also caters for a non-competitive fun Mothers&Others squad, U10s, U8s and U6s groups. Our U10s had a great day in Nowlan Park this season as part of the celebrations for the LGFA 50th anniversary. This group, along with the U8s, enjoyed a memorable trip to the Passage West Blitz in Cork in which our club partakes each year. This is a highlight of the season for the girls and parents! Two fantastic days out on top of their many Kilkenny blitzes. Our U6s enjoyed teddy bear picnics and dress up sessions. The whole club also enjoyed partaking in many social events this year including our annual Table Quiz, Easter Parade, Race Night, Walkathon and Parish Rounders competition. Well done to all our squads and management teams making the club and parish very proud this season. We now look forward to celebrating the ten year anniversary of our club in 2025! Check out our Facebook, Instagram or Twitter page for more information.

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Dunnamaggin U16 Roinn A Shield Champions



Dunnamaggin U6s enjoying training.



JOHN LOCKES LGFC

The John Locke LGFA Club had another successful year in 2024; again, we saw an increase in players taking up football. Many of our youth teams continued training right through the winter, which helped to improve their playing skill. In May, the season started well, with our U15 team winning the Féile Shield final and going on to finish runners-up in the regional Féile finals in June.

Throughout the summer, the U6 and U8 panels trained and took part in multiple blitzes. The U10s had another strong year with a large panel, playing in multiple blitzes across the county. They also took part in the regional blitz in Passage West (Cork) and the South Leinster blitz. Our U12 team, after a successful league campaign, emerged victorious, winning the Roinn B league final, a testament to their hard work and dedication throughout the year. The U14 team finished runners-up in the A league final and won the A Championship final. The U16 team had another successful year, winning the A League final and playing in the U16A Championship final. The year saw another strong season from the minor panel, who finished runners-up in the Roinn A league, and many of the players also played up the adult team. On the adult front, the team saw another strong year with over thirty players available for the panel. The team won the Roinn B league and is now in the Senior Championship final. Across all the county panels, John Locke was well represented.



John Locke's Adult Panel 2024



John Locke's U8s 2024

TULLOGHER-ROSBERCON LGFC



We had a very active and busy season in our growing LGFA club. Our U6s did terrific training in football and have thoroughly enjoyed their GAA season. Our U8s and U10s had really busy seasons of football blitzes, which have been a huge success for LGFA in the county and they trained diligently. A real highlight for our club this year was when our U10s were one of the two clubs drawn out to represent Kilkenny in the famed LGFA Activity Day U10 Blitz in Croke Park. They acquitted themselves very well as always and really enjoyed the big trip to Dublin! Similar to when they played in the U10 Kilkenny blitz in Nowlan Park that was an integral part of the county's LGFA 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Our U12s showed great commitment to their training and battled very bravely in what turned out to be a very strong group. They won their last group match in a great close contest and played impressively in their end of season final but were unlucky to lose narrowly.

Our U14s had two very noteworthy wins to start their league campaign and while they've been having a hectic and very successful season in camogie, they recently had a stirring football win over Dunnamaggin in the Championship.

Our U16s had a difficult year in Roinn A in league and in the Championship. They have been reaching big finals in camogie, a tremendous group of hurlers and footballers but there were some fixture clashes around the same time and regrettably we found it hard to get enough for a full team on occasion and had to concede some matches.

Our Minors were missing a number of strong players against Clara early on in the league but we played well and lost to Clara who were impressive players, but we turned this result around with an encouraging display in the recent championship Semi-final. We played well against Thomastown in the league but again our old bugbear of missed scoring chances may have cost us dearly in this close encounter. We had a good turnout of players for our other league match v Railyard who were too strong for us that evening. We are to meet the same opponents in the upcoming Roinn B Championship County Final.

Our club is very grateful to all our players, our very dedicated trainers, mentors, club officers, parents for bringing their daughters to training and matches and for all their support, our loyal sponsors and to the local community at large who always support us generously in our fundraisers and in all our efforts.

RAILYARD LGFC



2024 was a great year for Railyard Ladies Football Club, our club continued to grow, and we had a record number of registrations

which allowed us to field teams in all age groups. We also established a G4M&Os team which fantastically compliments our club and allows us to cater for all the girls and ladies of our parish and surrounding areas.

Huge improvements were seen across our U8, U10 and U12 teams. There was great attendance and participation at trainings and in the organised blitzes for the U8s and U10s. The highlight of the year for our U10s was playing in Nowlan Park as part of Kilkenny LGFAs 50th anniversary celebrations. Our U12s, a talented group of girls, played great football all season and were unlucky not to lift some silverware at their end of season final. Our U14s had a great year and were double U14 Roinn B champions, lifting the U14 B league and championship trophies.

Short numbers at U16 we fielded a young team and we were incredibly proud of the determination and skill that our girls played with in their U16 matches. Our Minor team at present is unbeaten in their Roinn B group and they were delighted to win their league final this year and look forward to contesting the Championship final later in October.

2024 was another incredible year for our adult ladies team with a lot of football played, the ladies team was entered in the Carlow League along-side the Kilkenny League and the Kilkenny Intermediate and Senior 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 Intermediate champions in their first year at this grade.

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. New members are always welcome and if you would like to get involved with Railyard in 2025 please contact us on railyard.kilkenny@lgfa.ie



Railyard U10s - UPMC Nowlan Park Experience Day



Railyard Minors 2024

SLIEVERUE LGFC



We had a brilliant first year of Gaelic football in Danesfort. We kicked off in May with our nursery, U8s, U10s & U12s, with lots of volunteers coming forward to help out which was great to see and allow The Lgfa in slieverue initially started with the setting up of a gaelic for mothers and others team in 2021. Since then the club has grown significantly and we entered teams into the u 14 and u 16 grades in 2023 and into the u 12 and u 14 grades in The girls had a fantastic year of football which they thoroughly enjoyed playing and training for. We aim to grow again next year and enter teams into the younger age grades from u8 right up to u14. These younger girls are already practising the skills and are looking forward to showing them off in their matches in the 2025 season. This year Slieverue club was delighted to be picked to be the club representing Kilkenny in the Lidl one good club programme, this is a 10 week mental health awareness programme that runs in conjunction with the lgfa and Jigsaw. It was a big undertaking for the one good club committee, but along with the help and support of the wider Gaa and whole parish community we held some amazing events that helped us to raise some much needed awareness around mental health in young people. We also managed to secure the top prize of €5000. Our gaelic for mothers and others team is going from strength to strength, we continue to welcome new players and participate in both local and national blitzes and games.

We would like to thank everyone for their help and support throughout the year and we look forward to getting bigger and better in the 2025 season.2024.



Slieverue LGFA

DANESFORT LGFC



We had a brilliant first year of Gaelic football in Danesfort. We kicked off in May with our nursery, U8s, U10s & U12s, with lots of volunteers coming forward to help out which

was great to see and allowed us to cater for the great numbers who took part every Friday evening. Danesfort club gave fantastic assistance as well as Kilkenny County Board in getting set up, supplying equipment and generally encouraging us at every opportunity which we are very thankful for. The girls really

enjoyed taking part in the various blitzes throughout the season. We hosted our first mini blitz as part of the Danesfort Parish field day on the 25th of August with Dunnamaggin and John Lockes clubs visiting. We were very grateful for their participation in what was a great day for the club. We have even had a Gaelic 4 Mothers and Others taster session recently which was really popular and something we hope to be able to continue in the future. A great first year for us in Danesfort where the girls really enjoyed playing Gaelic football for their club and parish and we are looking forward to next year already.



Danesfort LGFA.



Danesfort LGFA.

Billy Norris RIP



The parish of Piltown lost a fine man and Piltown GAA Club lost one of its most senior members at the end of 2023 when Billy Norris passed away, following illness borne with great dignity. The turnout for Billy's funeral was testament to the esteem in which he was held, not only in his community and parish but throughout the country and in GAA circles.

Billy was born in Tybroughney, Piltown over 8 decades ago. Billy served his time as a blocklayer with the late Robert Keane and one of their early collaborations was the wall at the front of his club's main pitch and later, Billy built the wall at the front of the juvenile pitch. Billy became chairman of Piltown GAA in 1981. He had amazing vision and with the help of his friends and fellow committee members, he set about building the current Complex and raising the money to pay for it. At the time, the carnivals/festivals were nearing their sell-by-date, and so the committee took a leap of faith and in 1983 launched the Hurlers Co-Op 5,000 Club Draw with a prize fund of £75,000 – a courageous move for a small club in a time of deep economic crisis. To this day, the Complex building stands proudly in his beloved club grounds.

The draw proved to be a huge success and it eventually morphed into the current Hurlers Co-Op draw under the auspices of the Kilkenny County Board and is now the main fundraiser for most clubs in Kilkenny and further afield. Over a 40+ year period, Billy sold in excess of 7,000 tickets. He achieved this by selling tickets, not only in Kilkenny, but throughout Tipperary and Waterford and probably further afield and Billy would in return buy tickets for draws in these counties. His sportsmanship knew no boundaries.

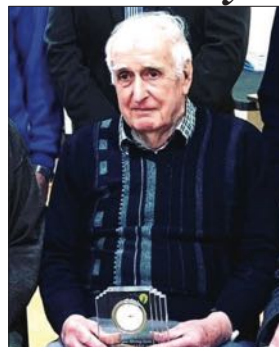
Billy's contribution to his club was immense and spanned well over 40 years. He devoted countless hours to his club and his blue van or his teleporter were familiar sights around the grounds. As a committee member and, in addition to helping with the day-to-day maintenance of his club's grounds, Billy was involved in major projects including the erection of the lights on the back pitch, and later on, Billy was also a member of the subcommittee that oversaw the construction of the AstroTurf pitch. Billy also took the lead in the scrap collection which raised a huge amount of money for his club down through the years.

More recently in 2022, Piltown GAA, Piltown Camogie and Piltown LGFA jointly launched a new fund-raising venture to raise much needed funds for the club grounds and for the three codes. Without hesitation, Billy came onboard with great enthusiasm and support and he encouraged the younger members to take up the mantle.

Billy's presence, his sound advice and his can-do attitude is missed but his legacy lives on around the grounds of Piltown GAA.

Ar dheis go raibh a anam.

Jim Conway RIP



Everyone remotely involved in Mullinavat GAA club, and indeed Mullinavat parish and further afield, were saddened, to hear of the death of Mr. Jim Conway on Sunday 14th. January 2024.

Jim was a former player, almost lifelong treasurer (1962-2019), and unofficially Mr. Mullinavat GAA Club.

President Jim. we gave him that title officially in 2020, was a man that never sought recognition, for a lifelong commitment to the GAA and particularly to his local club.

Whether fund raising, lining pitches, acting as umpire, treasurer, and many other tasks he took-on, over the years, way too many to list here, it is safe to say, there is nothing Jim had not done for Mullinavat GAA club.

From cutting the grass, to sorting out All Ireland Final tickets for club members, no job was ever too big or small for gentleman Jim. Even in recent times, whilst not at meetings or matches, he always had the inside track on everything that was going on inside Mullinavat GAA Club

Jim received a sports volunteer award back in 2004, from then President Mary McAleese, and in the time since then, he did enough to earn such an award again, many times over!

We reprint below an article from the Kilkenny People (16/07/2004), when Jim was bestowed with that volunteer's award at Aras An Uachtarain.

"Normally he can be found on duty as an umpire at games in the local field.

But last week one of the most discreet workers in sport in Kilkenny enjoyed tea with the President.

Mullinavat GAA club official, Jim Conway, discarded the white coat of an umpire and instead donned his finery for a meeting with President Mary McAleese

Mr Conway of Killandrew, Mullinavat, was one of the chosen few honoured during a Day for Sports Volunteers in Aras An Uachtarain Mr Conway was nominated for the honour by Kilkenny County Board in recognition of his dedication to his native club and parish.

"His contribution has been immense, but you will never find him looking for praise", offered GAA Development Officer, Barry Hickey, when he informed the monthly meeting of the 'Board of the honour accorded Mr Conway.

He has served as treasurer of Mullinavat GAA club for 43 years. He organised the famous Gold Watch tournament in the town, which attracted teams for all parts of the country for over 28 years. And he has been caretaker of the club grounds virtually since he was to push a pitch marker.

Mr Conway has been an umpire for over 30 years, and only recently he was on duty by a post during a Kilkenny camogie final at Nowlan Park. Anything that needed doing in Mullinavat, Jim Conway was prepared to put his shoulder to the wheel.

"He has gracefully given his life to the GAA," Mr Hickey added "He is a gentleman, a person any club would be proud to have involved. If you ever want to find him, he will be the umpire on the duty at the right-hand post of the goal at the town end in Mullinavat on match days," advised County Board chairperson. Ned Quinn "The GAA is blessed to have people like Jim Conway in its ranks," he added. "It is often said on the passing of a club stalwart such as Jim: - "His likes will never be seen again "

Never was it so true as in the case of Mr. Jim Conway.

To his beloved family and friends, we extend sincere sympathies.

Ar dheis go raibh a anam.



Around the Hurling Clubs

BLACKS & WHITES



B & W's U10's



B & W's U12's



B & W's U14's



B & W's U8's

The 2024 season for Blacks and Whites GAA Club was a year of both challenges and notable progress across various levels. Competing in Intermediate grade for a second year, the club faced tough competition. Despite a series of hard-fought battles, the Blacks and Whites intermediate team showcased their resilience, especially in their tightly contested relegation semi-final against Carrickshock. With a narrow win, scoring 0-17 to Carrickshock's 1-13 they secured their place in the Intermediate Grade for 2025 and a place in the Quarter Finals where they concluded their 2024 campaign in a hard-fought Quarter Final clash against Young Irelands.

Youth development remains at the heart of the club's mission, and this year the underage teams demonstrated impressive skill and promise. The underage teams had a fantastic season, with the U 8s, U10s and U12s showing tremendous skill, enthusiasm, and growth. Each team participated in a series of Go Games and Blitz's, building their skills and love for hurling. A major highlight of the year for them was the annual Phil Murphy Blitz, which saw great competition among the young hurlers.

The U14 hurling team had a standout performance in the Duggan Steel Roinn D Championship, progressing through the rounds with notable victories. They secured wins over Bennettsbridge B Team, St. Martin's and Emeralds in a semi-final clash, to face Mooncoin in the County Final (Match still to be played at time of writing) the team's achievements are a testament to the bright future of hurling talent within the club.

The U16 hurlers also showed determination throughout the season, making it to the quarter-finals. Their match against Galmoy/Windgap, though ending in defeat, demonstrated their competitiveness and potential. Additionally, the U15 team put on a strong showing in the Paddy Grace Feile, achieving wins against Lisdowney and competing hard in the group stages. The Blacks and Whites Minor team joined forces with The Fenians for the 2024 season, forming a strong combined squad to tackle the Kilkenny Vehicle Centre Minor Roinn B Hurling League. Despite a challenging start to their league campaign, the team showed great resilience and made significant strides as the season progressed. Highlights included a notable victory over Carlow Town Hurling Club and a thrilling match against St. Patrick's, which saw them fall narrowly short.

In the championship, Fenians/Blacks and Whites narrowly lost to Danesfort by just one point, showing their competitive spirit until the final whistle. Unfortunately, their journey came to an end in the Shield Quarter Final, where Piltown emerged victorious in a close encounter. While results were mixed, the team's ability to come together and perform admirably as a unified squad was commendable, and they will look to build on this experience for the future.

At Junior C level, the Blacks and Whites players faced a mixed season, with competitive matches against teams like Piltown and Kilmacow. Their game against Kilmacow, which ended in a high-scoring 4-12 to 0-17 win, illustrated the attacking prowess and teamwork within the junior squad. Though they faced a setback in the quarter-final match against Piltown, the team's spirited performances throughout the season highlighted the talent and potential in the ranks.

Overall, the 2024 season was one of growth, learning, and exciting moments for Blacks and Whites GAA Club. With strong performances across various Leagues/Championships and a promising underage talent pool, the club is well-positioned to build on these experiences and continue developing its players for future success. As we look ahead, Blacks and Whites will aim to keep advancing in the Intermediate ranks while nurturing the next generation of players.

BARROW RANGERS



On the playing field our Under 14's and 16's both reached the Roinn B Final, unfortunately on both days coming up short against Ballyhale Shamrocks. The Under 14's the cruellest way of all on penalties! Our Minors failed to get the

better of Glenmore in the Roinn B Shield Final. The Junior A's made it to the semi final while our Junior D's reached the quarter final. After overcoming Kilmacow in the first round of the Junior Championship they lost the quarter final to Emeralds after extra time. This season saw us with the highest numbers of players with Development Squads. Gary McHugh, Cillian Culleton and Cathal Fox were with the Under 14's while Daniel McCullagh was on the Under 14 Emerging Talent. Jake Barcoe, Jack Bolger and Daniel Lawlor were on the Under 15 Arrabawn team. Jack Keating with the 16's and Shane McDonald represented us on the Under 17 Celtic Challenge team. Darragh O' Neill and Josh Hughes lined out with the Under 16 footballers. For good measure Ciarán Breen (u 14) and Tom Brennan (u15) were selectors with the squads. In Handball Gary McHugh was runner up in the Under 14 Final but got some consolation when he was victorious in the Under 15 Doubles Final.

Barrow Rangers Pitch Development Update

2024 saw the completion of the 145 x 90 m Barrow Rangers new pitch in Paulstown, along with the new adjacent training pitch.

New Nets, goals and fencing were completed in late Spring which made way for a super playing surface on both new pitches over the summer months.

Development works continued in 2024 and included additional drainage, increasing training surfaces, fencing and dedicated parking bays and viewing platforms for people with disabilities.

2025 will see the commencement of a new 45 m x 35 m all weather pitch and ball wall following the successful award of €146,000 from the Sports Capital Body. The existing carpark will also be increased next year and additional safety signage be erected before year end.

(Other club obituaries in Obits Section at back of this book.)



Barrow Rangers Development

William Hanlon RIP
William Hanlon took up residence in Ballygurteen, Paulstown in the early sixties. Having previously played with Eire Óg he then donned the Barrow Rangers jersey from 1962 to 68. After that he served as a Mentor for a number of years.



will



BENNETTSBRIDGE

Adult Hurling 2024

2023 ended successfully for the club when our under 19 team won the last under 19 competition played in Kilkenny before the grade was abolished. We defeated Young Ireland's by 5 points in the roinn B league final just before Christmas last year. We had success in the junior football league defeating Graigueenamagh in the league final, unfortunately we lost out to the same opponents in the championship final. We also won the junior B hurling league this year defeating Fenians in the final. We lost out in the semifinal of the championship to St Lactans by a point. We also put in a third team again this year and was used for bleeding some young players out of the minor grade. Our seniors won three and lost two league games in a tough group to finish third in the group. We had championship victories over Clara and Tullaroan in the championship but lost out to O'Loughlin Gaels in the semi final. Thanks to all the players and management teams for their efforts during 2024. We were represented by Liam, Kevin and David Blanchfield on the Kilkenny senior panel this year with David again nominated for an all star this year after some great performances. In football Christy managed the Kilkenny team with James Carroll playing a key role in attack.

Under Age Games

Our school team won the Roinn C Hurling championship with a fantastic win over Mullinavat in the final. Our under 14 footballers have qualified for the roinn B final at the time of writing. While our under 14, 16 and minor teams didn't win silverware this year much progress was made and all teams were very competitive all year. Great promise was also shown at the younger age groups. Well done to Timmy Kelly, James Hughes and Paddy Walsh who won All Ireland colleges medals with St Kieran's. Bill Hughes James Hughes and Timmy Kelly represented Kilkenny at under 20 level, with Brian Lannon a selector. Jamie Walsh played under 15 county hurling while Liam Keogh, Luke and Tony Dobbey and Eoin Walpole played inter county under 16 football. Well done to all our under age players and mentors.

Other club news

On the fundraising front the club ran a successful dog night in conjunction with Bord na Nog and the camogie club in May. We continued with Split The Pot and the Christmas raffle. We hosted our now annual tractor run in January and our field day in August. This year we also looked after the car parking in St Kieran's college for the Bruce Springsteen concert which was a great success. Our Bord Na Nog hosted the Dillon Quirke foundation which carried out heart screening on a big number of young hurlers and camogie players. Many thanks to all who helped out the club during 2024 from looking after teams, stewarding, field maintenance etc, all your help is greatly appreciated.

Condolences

Bennettsbridge Gaa club would like to offer sincere condolences to all members, parishioners and friends who lost loved ones during the past year. May they rest in peace.



Bennettsbridge Under 8s 2024



CARRICKSHOCK

For the adult teams, the 2024 season produced some promising performances at different stages, but unfortunately no real advance on 2023 in terms of championship progress. The Junior A team narrowly bowed out of the championship with a one-point loss to Ballycallan. Unfortunately they reserved their best performance of the year for what turned out to be their relegation final vs Dicksboro at the end of July, winning out by 1-17 to 1-14.

The Intermediates, on the other hand, produced some very fine performances during the league stages. Under a new management team of Shane Lanigan and Alan Roche and captained by Jake O'Dwyer, there were fine wins over a highly rated Danesfort and Conahy Shamrocks. Even the earlier losses against eventual County Champions Lisdowney and Rower Inistioge had produced very encouraging performances. It demonstrated how open this year's Intermediate Championship was, where it really was up for grabs. But a loss in the final round of the league to Dunnamaggin was followed by a very disappointing display at precisely the wrong time, Championship 1st Round, going down to Blacks and Whites by 0-17 to 1-13. This brought us back to a Relegation Final against earlier conquests Conahy Shamrocks. Again, the boys proved their mettle when the chips were down, in a game that really ebbed and flowed. Both teams had purple patches at different stages, but the Shocks men were creating more goal chances and ultimately that was the difference, surviving at the Intermediate grade again by 2-16 to 0-19. A little bit like last year, not where we wanted to be come end of September, but at least it allowed us to finish the season on a positive.

Our juvenile squads had excellent seasons with our 14s, 16s and minors competing in league, shield and championship finals. Our minor squad, under the stewardship of Paddy Farrell, David Franks, Padraig Rohan & John Tennyson completed the league and championship double. They came out on top against a strong Kilmacow team in the Roinn D Championship final by a score line of 1-11 to 1-08.

Our U14 squad were up against it in Roinn B with so many teams down from last year's Roinn A. The squad improved with every game and made it to the shield final. A brilliant achievement for this group, including manager Edward Power and his coaches.

Our U10 squad had a most enjoyable season competing in the Go Games. The boys were thrilled to get a tour of Nowlan Park and compete in a blitz there. Well done to manager Padraic O'Dowd and coaches. The club extends condolences to all associated with the club who suffered bereavements this year, especially the families of young Josh Dineen whose life was tragically cut short in a car accident as well as George Lee, Johnny O'Grady, Tom Holden, Eileen Henebry, Nellie O'Shea, Marie Duggan, Jim Comerford and Tom Cassin.



Carrickshock MH 2024



Carrickshock U14's 2024



Carrickshock U10's 2024



CARRIGEEN

Carrigeen GAA took to the field in 2024 as we celebrated our 70th anniversary since the great Joe Fewer (pictured) Founded the club way back in 1954 in order to have a club for all Carrigeen Hurlers to play and represent the rural townlands & glens of our small Parish. Despite our small numbers it is great credit to the men and women who kept the club going in tough times and I am sure they will look down fondly on the current committee led by New club Chairman Frank Law.

A breath of fresh air he has been along with an equally ambitious board behind him driving the club in a positive direction. On the field of play we beat Young Ireland's in the league opener, but decimated with injuries, we bowed out early in this competition at the group stage.

In the Championship we beat Lisdowney at home in Asper Park to reach the quarter finals stage only to lose away to Kilmacow in extra time.

We had Kilkenny U-19s, U15s & U14s as well as Kilkenny U16 camogie avail of our Astro turf pitch during inclement weather. We were delighted to have them come South to visit Asper Park.

Finally the club lost two legends this year - former hurler and Honorary President of the Club, Buddy Kelly along with the great center back, Matty Collins who along with Buddy added flair to the Carrigeen Hurlers in their fledgling opening years. Rest in Peace, Proud Carrigeen men.

Carrigeen GAA will rise again in 2025.



Club Chairman Frank Law & Club Sponsor Pa Walsh with our new away jersey



Carrigeen Team 2024



Joe Fewer

CLONEEN



2024 the club welcomed our new DPO Bill Cody. Bill is doing tremendous work in both schools in the Parish and helps out in the club on a Saturday morning. He ran a very successful Summer Camp in August with the Bob O Keefe Cup paying a visit

Our Juveniles are going from strength to strength under the watchful eye of their great coaches, U6, U8 and U10's played Go Games over the Summer. U12 team joined with Conahy where they played a lot of challenge games together but played Go Games with their club. U10's had their final Go Games in UPMC Nowlan Park where they played Glenmore. The boys and girls got a tour of the dressing room and got to run out onto Nowlan Park and were presented with medals at the end. Highlight of the year was for our u11's who travelled to Croke Park in July where they played a team from Offaly, they got a tour of the dressing room, got to run out onto Croke Park and life the cup in the Hogan Stand. We finished out the year with our annual fun Day where the U10, U11 & U12's play for the Larry Rush Cup.

The U14 & U16 teams gave a great account of themselves during the year. The U16 team reached the league and Championship finals but narrowly lost out in both. Jack Carroll was on the Kilkenny u15 Development squads where they lost out in the U15B final. Cloneen Junior Team entered in the Leinster League where they defeated St Pat's Wicklow in the Final in Netwatch Cullen Park Carlow curtain raiser to Kilkenny v Carlow Leinster championship Game. Cloneen Junior team narrowly lost out to Emeralds in the Championship first round. Junior C team were defeated by Lisdowney in quarter final of Championship

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. We celebrated 40 years as a club this year and will commemorate this at a later date.



U16 League & Championship Finalists



Junior Team Leinster Div 3 League Winners

CONAHY SHAMROCKS



Adult Hurling & Football

2024 was a disappointing year for the intermediate hurlers who unfortunately are returning to the junior grade for 2025. Injuries and bad luck all around in some of their games throughout the year certainly did not help their cause. The Junior B hurlers bowed out at the quarter-final stage with a defeat to neighbours and eventual Junior B champions Threecastles. The Junior E team had some positive moments during the year, before losing out to Glenmore in the championship quarter-final. The club was again proudly represented by Tom Phelan on

the Kilkenny senior hurling panel.

In football, the intermediate footballers had a great year, winning the county title following a great win over a fancied Glenmore side. At the time of writing, they are due to begin a foray into the Leinster Junior Club championship against Barcelona Gaels. Darragh Hennessy and Karl Downey also represented the club on the Kilkenny Junior Football panel.

Bórd na nÓg

The under-16 hurlers provided the main highlight of the year when they won the Roinn C title with a victory over St. Lachtain's. The minor hurlers also made some great progress, and were narrowly defeated by Carrickshock after extra-time in the Roinn D county semi-final. The club was also proudly represented by Jack Rhatigan on the Kilkenny Under-16 Academy Squad, Tadhg Hennessy, Rory Rhatigan and Billy Rowe on the Kilkenny Under-15 Academy Squad, and Darragh Horgan on the Kilkenny Under-16 Football Squad.

Polo Grounds Development

A major club fundraiser to meet the costs involved in a redevelopment of the playing and parking facilities in the Polo Grounds in Jenkinstown was held in January and was a huge success. Many thanks to all in the club who supported the fundraiser by selling or buying tickets. A very successful Greyhound Race Night Fundraiser was also held in St. James Park in September.

The club was also fortunate to receive Sport Capital Grant funding to go towards the development. It is hoped that this will commence in 2025. It will involve increasing the car park area and developing the second playing pitch into an all-weather pitch, along with an adjoining 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 our own Tom Phelan 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-10 teams from Carrickshock, Mullinavat and Glenmore to Jenkinstown, while the Jim Comerford Memorial Blitz saw under-12 teams from Cloneen, Barrow Rangers and Galmoy take part. Many thanks to all the club coaches who assisted with the smooth running of these blitzes.



Winners in the Kilkenny Hurlers Co-Op Draw - Sean Cahill, Christy Kennedy and Pat Cahill, receiving their winner's cheques from Kevin Healy (GAA Club Chairperson).



Jimmy O'Brien was the lucky winner of a brand new Hyundai Tuscon in the Conahy Shamrocks GAA "Win a Hyundai Tuscon" Development Draw. Jimmy and his wife are pictured receiving his prize from Kevin Healy (GAA Club Chairman), along with Willie Flynn (Club Executive), and Michael Lyng and Ciaran Muldowney (Michael Lyng Motors) who provided the prize.

DANESFORT



What a year of successes for the Fort, as a club we have had many a reason to cheer and

celebrate all the talented players who wear the black and amber jersey of our club. All of our teams have given us great entertainment this year and we are extremely proud of you all.

Adult Hurling

All Danesfort supporters were there to cheer on a very talented Junior C team. As they progressed through the Junior C Championship the team had many a success, but the final will stand out as a test of the team's metal. Against a very determined Lisdowney side it was all square at full-time 1-15 1-15. As the whistle blew for the end of extra time the sides could not be separated on the score board and it was nail biting finale as it finished 3-1 on penalties.

The Intermediate team had some epic battles to become crowned League Shield winners for 2024. The final was played against Tullogher and it was a sweet victory for the lads as they really dominated the match and the final score reflected a very talented and determined bunch of players 1-24 0-15. In Thomastown little did we know we would be treated to another penalty shootout. Our Intermediate team came back after being down at half time to level score at full time and again after extra time it was still drawn. Paddy Hogan made two epic saves as well as scoring his own penalty securing a victory so we could progress to the MLM Intermediate Hurling Championship semi-final against Young Irelands. However, despite being ahead by 3 points at half time we were to be beaten by 2 in the end.

Our Minor team had a fantastically successful year making it all the way to a Roinn B final. Supporters were treated to some epic matches as they progressed all the way in the competition. Early in the season they beat Graigue Ballycallan 1-18 0-9. At the start of the Championship much tighter score line saw them defeat Blacks and Whites by a single point 1-16 2-12. However, a more resounding win over a strong Mooncoin team gave the boys great confidence that they would progress far in the competition 4-15 1-19. Progress they did captained by Darragh Coverdale all the way to the final against John Locke in Nowlan park and despite gallant efforts they were beaten. 1-13 1-21

In far flung places our players are being recognised and Jack Bruton was crowned Player of the Year in Dubai.

As a club we are always open to supporting the wider Kilkenny community and this year we were proud to host the first Saddle Up for Down Syndrome Kilkenny Hosted in April.

We wish to thank all our management teams, mentors in the juvenile section, supporters and sponsors who make such a valuable contribution to each and every teams success throughout this year.



Danesfort U6 Hurling



Danesfort U10 Hurling



Danesfort U8 Team



Danesfort U12 Hurling



DICKSBORO



Autograph Hunters



Sarah O'Gorman receives Junior League Trophy from Sheila Norris



Summer Camp 2024
2 very successful Weeks enjoyed by the kids



Aobha O'Gorman on Recruitment Trip to Malawi



The Stynes Brothers, Mikie, TJ and Liam



Dicksboro Golf Classis 2024



Three elderly inmates on weekend release



Young Supporters



DUNNAMAGGIN



Eoghan Kearney



Honorary Club Member John Walsh opening the new Gym



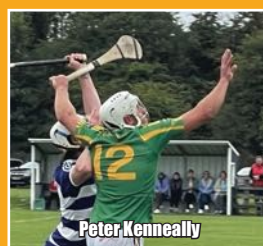
Ray Cody



Darren Fitzpatrick



Four Club Chairmen with Ger Duncan



Peter Kenneally



Thomas O'Shea Blitz Winners

Dunnamaggin GAA has continued to improve and develop facilities within the past year. The start of the year welcomed the official opening of our state of the art gym. The gym is huge asset to the club players. Development has also continued in the form of lighting on our improved walking track in Dunnamaggin. It is wonderful to see the walking tracks in both Kilmoganny and Dunnamaggin being used by the community, especially in the winter evenings. The walking tracks provide a safe place to walk for all members of the community. In January of this year the club kicked off their GAA Healthy Club campaign with a steps challenge, this was later followed by a very successful wellbeing morning at the Dunnamaggin pitch in June. Dunnamaggin GAA club were delighted to receive the Sports Capital Grant to help develop the all-weather playing area at the ball wall. The Intermediates had some highly competitive matches this year but, unfortunately, the results did not fall our way. Our U14, U16 and Minor's, whilst having some great games this year, did not advance in their respective Championship's. Our younger juvenile age groups had a busy year with Go-Games and tournaments both in hurling and gaelic football. The club engaged in many fundraising efforts across the year. One most notable was a dog race night at Kilkenny Greyhound Track which was co-hosted by our Ladies Gaelic Football Club, Kilmoganny Gaelic Football Club and newly formed Camogie club. The annual Kilmoganny Festival in August saw a new competition of 'Rounders' being introduced. The parish was split into four camps for the highly sought after Rounders Cup, Team Kells came out victors on this occasion with some great entertainment from all teams! Dunnamaggin GAA mourned the passing of some stalwarts within the club in the past year. Former Club Secretary's Eugene O'Donovan and Martin Crehan. Former club player and manager Brian Mackey. Former Club players Dickie Forristal and Tom Holden. We also mourn the loss of great supporters and members Maudie O'Neill, Martin Coffey and Thomas 'Sonny' Butler. Dunnamaggin GAA would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the upkeep and development of the pitches, grounds and club houses in Kilmoganny and Dunnamaggin in the past year. A special thanks to the coaches and a word of thank you to all who contribute to the club fundraising and sponsorship.



EMERALDS

It has been a strong year for our club, marked by strong performances across teams and dedicated support from management and volunteers. Some notable highlights were our Under-14 squad, captained by Darragh Cleere, claiming the league title in a final win over Mooncoin, setting a great example for the club. Our Under-16 team followed with their own league victory, defeating Graigueanamanagh captained by Callaun Broderick. Our Under-19 squad secured the 2023 Championship title late last year in a hard-fought local derby against Fenians, led by Brendan Cleere. We thank all players and management for their commitment and effort throughout this season across all underage codes. Our Junior hurlers also had a notable run in league and championship, reaching the county semi-final but coming up short against Windgap. This young squad has shown great potential, with more to come in future seasons. Off the field, our club secured nearly €200,000 through the Sports Capital Grant. These funds will support essential upgrades, including new pitch lighting, a dedicated underage pitch, and other improvements to our hurling facilities. A special thank you goes to Malcolm and Tina Dowling for their hard work and everyone who makes our local Drive-In Bingo a success. Thank you as well to all who supported and ran the other great fundraisers through the year. The dedication to these key fundraisers helps keep our club strong and connected. With everyone's continued effort, we look forward to another great year ahead, both on and off the field.



Emeralds Junior Hurling Team 2024

all

to



ERIN'S OWN



U6 Team



U8 Team



U10 Team



U12 Team



Minor Football Team



Erin's Own players on Kilkenny Minor Panel



Annual Trip to Croagh Patrick



Wellie Race Parade



U15 Feile Team



Erin's Own Summer Camp



FENIANS

The Johnstown/ Crosspatrick NS team made it to the County Final and played in UPMC Nowlan Park.

A great way for John Curran to finish as he retired from Principal of Johnstown NS. The Fenians club would like to wish him all the best and thank him for his invaluable contribution to our community.

U11s made it to the Schools County Final.

What a great experience for 25 children and their families as our U11 School team made it to the Roinn C County Final.

While the result did not go our way, it has given our youngsters the experience of playing in UPMC Nowlan Park.

We can't wait to see this group develop over the coming years.



Kilkenny Captain, Rory Garrett (3) and Jerry Henderson (18), in the U19 Dev League Final v Dublin.



Under 21 Roinn "D" County Champions.



Hurling goes International! San Francisco made it to Johnstown As part of their Feile trip. What a novel game for The U14s as Fenians/ St. Patricks took on the visitors.



Junior B Hurling League Finalists



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 Drennan, Orla Duggan, Máiréad Duggan and Isabelle Murphy.



Galmoy U-10s Go Games Players Nowlan Park September 2nd 2024.



Galmoy Junior C Team 2024



Galmoy Juveniles at Cúl Camp in Freshford in July 2024



Galmoy Junior Football Team 2024



Galmoy Junior Hurling Team 2024



GRAIGUE BALLYCALLAN

Underage: Every year, we are delighted to see our underage groups get involved in tournaments around the country. It was an exceptionally busy year for our u6s, u8s, u10s & u12s. They represented the club spectacularly in all that they did. The future stars of the club.

The U14s ended their season well as they took home the Duggan Steel U14 Roinn A Shield for the 2nd year running after a win over James Stephens.

In July, we hosted the 25th Declan Byrne U14 Memorial Tournament. We welcomed 7 teams to Tom Ryall Park & our boys won the Cup Final while Mooncoin won the Shield.

It was a good season overall for our u16s & Minors. The u16s made it to the Championship Quarter Final while the Minors bowed out in the Semi Final.

This year, a new initiative was introduced into the juvenile section of the club called the 'Parish League'. Our u10s & u12s competed against each other every weekend in mixed teams & finished with a finals night on Sunday June 23rd. It was a great success.

Our annual Fennelly Memorial Tournament was postponed due to the sad & sudden passing of Shane Murphy. May he rest in peace.

Adult: Our Senior team had a great league campaign, finishing on 7 points out of 10 with 3 wins, a draw & a loss. The season came to an end in Freshford in the 1st round of Championship against Dicksboro. Onwards & upwards to next year.

Both Junior A's & D's made it to the League Semi Finals with the Junior As bowing out in the Championship Quarter Final & the D's in the 1st round.

County: We had great representation this year with many involved in county action with Kilkenny. Billy Ryan added another Leinster Final medal to his collection while Eoghan Cahill also won the Minor Leinster Final & was an All Ireland finalist along with selector Pat Robinson. Jeff Neary, Aaron McEvoy, Billy O'Neill & Ryan Corcoran were part of the U21 team. Billy Ronan along with Georoid Cleere were part of the U14 Na Cait Óga Panel & Ben McEvoy & Cormac Neary were part of the u16 panels.

Schools: Jeff Neary captained St Kieran's College to Leinster & All Ireland Final glory in February & March & Aaron McEvoy played a vital role in the forwards on those days.

We would like to extend a massive thank you to everyone who has supported our club this past season. Thank you to those who've travelled to matches, volunteers including the management of every age group, those assisting at events held in Tom Ryall Park, all the parents & guardians & to everyone that has supported our fundraising efforts including the Match Forecast Competition & the local Lotto. A big thank you to our club's main sponsor Marble City Motors for this past season & to all of our other sponsors within our club. All your help & support is greatly appreciated.

Obituaries

We remember all those who have passed within our club & parish this past year. May they find eternal peace. We remember especially: John Robinson, Shane Murphy, Billy Neary, James Butler, Lily McCluskey, Mary Harrison, Phil Cahill & Michael Kelly.



GLENMORE

2023 finished on a great note for Glenmore who won the u21C Hurling Championship, beating Graigenamagh & Tullogher on the way to the final. On a wet day in Mooncoin Glenmore beat Kilmacow by 8 points to lift the cup & cap a great year at underage level.

The young Juveniles had a very busy year, with a range of blitzes & go Games from ages u6 up to u12. The U12s won the South Kilkenny League.

We participated in Roinn C in U14 & U16 & Roinn B in Minor.

The U14s had a great start to the year for the club, winning our 3 league football matches & qualifying for the league final where we beat Slieverue in a fantastic game to lift the cup. The same opposition knocked us out of the football championship 2 weeks later. In the hurling we won 3 League games & lost two. We beat James Stephens B in the first round of the Championship but lost narrowly to Kilmacow in the quarter final.

In April Glenmore, Slieverue & Graigenamagh gathered in Pairc na Rathra for the preliminary round of the u15 feile. Glenmore beat both to top the group & went on to the finals weekend where we lost narrowly to eventual winners Freshford.

The u16s lost 5 league games & won 1. This led to us meeting & losing narrowly to Freshford in the Championship first round. Losing the first round meant we entered the shield. We beat Kilmacow in the Shield Semi Final & at the time of writing we are waiting for the upcoming Shield Final versus Emeralds.

Glenmore Minors had a good league, winning 4 of 5 League games. They beat Danesfort in the League Semi Final & lost to Graigenamagh in the League final in Dunmore. The same opposition beat us in the Championship first round after extra time. In the Shield Glenmore have beaten Clara & at the time of writing are awaiting Barrow Rangers in the Shield final.

Glenmore had a solid Junior B league campaign, winning 2, drawing 1 & losing 1 game. That qualified them for the league Semi Final where we lost to Bennettsbridge. In the Championship an impressive win against Threecastles gave us hope but unfortunately we lost to the Fenians in the Quarter Final.

Our Junior E hurlers battled manfully during the league but lost all 3 games. However in the Championship we got momentum, beating Dunnamaggin & then conquered Conahy in the quarter final. Unfortunately a strong Mooncoin side came out in top in the Semi Final.

The Intermediate footballers lost 2 league matches & won one game. In the Championship we beat Piltown in the Quarter Final & Muckalee in the Semi. Unfortunately we were outdone by Conahy in the final in Thomastown.

Our Senior Hurlers struggled in the earlier rounds of the league being down a few players. We lost to Bennettsbridge & Tullaroan. However a much improved performance saw us getting a drawn against Dicksboro & we followed this up with a fine win against Thomastown. These 3 points gave us a slim chance of avoiding the bottom two but a loss to James Stephens in our final league game saw us pitted against Erin's Own in the first round / Relegation Final. Things just didn't go our way on the day & this left us with 3 weeks to prepare for a massive game against James Stephens in the relegation final. The players embraced the challenge & came out 5 point winners on the day, with a fantastic 2nd half performance against a strong wind to cement our Senior status.

Thanks to all mentors & players & well done to all who represented the club with Kilkenny at the various grades.



GRAIGNAMANAGH

2024 will be viewed by Graignamanagh GAA Club as a year of solid progress on a number of fronts. On field activities got off to a positive start early in the year with the Minor team winning the Roinn B Football Final against Tullogher Rosbercon. This was shortly followed by the adult football team winning the Junior Championship over Bennettsbridge. The Hurling season progressed with the Juniors making the All County League semi final stages. There were some mixed results in the Premier Junior League before the team hit their stride with wins in the 1st and 2nd rounds of the Junior Championship before losing out to Windgap at the Championship Quarter Final stages. Our Junior D team blended youth with experience to form a winning combination which culminated with victory in the League Final over the Rower/Inistioge and later the Championship Final over Erins Own in Nolan Park at the end of August. Many of these players will continue the hurling season right up to late in the year with U21 Championship involvement.

A milestone was reached this year with Ted Dunne becoming the first Graignamanagh player in recent years to be named on the Kilkenny senior team, when he saw action against Carlow in the Walsh Cup. Continuing the county representation, we had involvement from Ivan Bolger and Sean Hamilton on the U21 Kilkenny squad. Ivan produced a noteworthy performance when marking Offaly's Adam Screeny in the U21 All Ireland semi final. Cian O'Shea was a member of the Celtic Challenge Squad to win the Minor B All Ireland against Tipperary. We also had Club representation on all County Development Squads from U14-U16.

At Juvenile Club level, our minors continued their winning form with an unbeaten league run which earned them a Roinn B final berth against Glenmore and proved strong enough to come out on top on the night. The u16s replicated this winning league form to top their group but lost out to a strong Emeralds outfit in the League Final. The Championship however resulted in quarterfinal exits for the u14, U16 & U18 teams.

At the younger age groups, our nursery enjoyed strong numbers giving these young players their first introduction to organised playing activities. The U8s, U10s and u12s played a busy program of matches throughout the season and participated fully in the Go-Games competitions. Once again, a Graignamanagh Tournament/Blitz was organised for these younger age groups towards the end of the playing season all of which proved very successful.

Away from playing activities, this summer saw building works commence on the Clubhouse extension which is a major development that will modernise our Clubhouse with new dressing rooms, meeting room & gym facilities. This is a much-needed upgrade and major capital project for the club.

Many thanks for the financial support we have received during the year and for the time & commitment given by all our committee members, volunteers, coaches & supporters and everyone who helped out in any way during the year.

Lastly, we would like to remember and express our condolences to the Family and Friends of the following members of our community who passed away during the year, Oliver Hensen, Adrian Hayden, Denis Sheehy, John Carroll (Dungarvan), Martin Hayden, Jim Treacy, Lenny Blanchfield & Marrita Mahon. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.





JOHN LOCKES

Another year with plenty to entertain and celebrate - 2024 was a year which brought much success to the club at different age levels.

The u14 team won out the Roinn A Hurling League and the Roinn A football championship title. Our u15 team won the Paddy Grace Roinn A Feile and went on to represent Kilkenny in the National Finals in Co Wexford where they got to the quarter final stage.

The year finished on a high with our Minor team winning the Roinn B Championship County Final in Nowlan Park on October 12th.

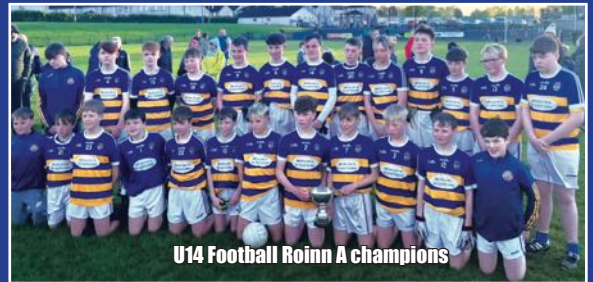
So, all in all a year to remember. Throughout the club we have had some great days out for our younger up and coming talent with plenty of Go Games and tournaments along the way. The club is growing in numbers with most groups able to field two teams. The support from parents, trainers and mentors is noted and appreciated in this regard.

We had some great fund raisers throughout the year for the Minor and Felie squads which were very enjoyable and very well supported as always by parents, members and local businesses which is as always much appreciated. The club also had team bonding outings to the Curragh and Dunmore East and many social events which were enjoyed immensely by all who took part.

We are very much looking forward to next year to build on the successes of 2024 and would like to congratulate all who brought such pride and enjoyment to our club this year.



Future stars at games in Mooncoin



U14 Football Roinn A champions



U14 League Roinn A winners



JAMES STEPHENS



James Stephens Under 7s participating in their end of year session in Larchfield



James Stephens Under 11s playing in the Athenry U tournament in Galway



Thanks to Lahart Skoda for Sponsorship



Jackie lays it on the line for the U6 squad!



KILMACOW

2024! A very progressive year in Kilmacow GAA both on and off the pitch.

The year began with the development of our Player Pathway document, which involved many meetings, lots of late nights, good people, and a very successful launch night in March all culminating into an extremely well-structured 'Player Pathway' from nursery to adult. Huge credit goes to our Coaching & Development Officer, and the Juvenile Development committee for making this happen, and their continuous roll in implementing it.

The Kilmacow schools Hurling initiative is proving very successful, and we are now in our 3rd year of the Kilkenny GAA GP Schools programme. In support of this programme, this year saw us introduce a team of club coaches into the schools to assist with this initiative. Our local Abbey Community College has also very kindly added their support to this programme, and nominated up to two TY GAA/Camogie students to help out weekly for the duration of their school term, which in turn builds towards the student's 'An Gaisce Award'. Thank you most sincerely to our local schools, and also to Kilkenny GAA for their ongoing supports. The schools and their teachers have been instrumental in this project with the school children becoming the perfect GAA students, so much so that the club has seen a steady increase in the numbers flocking to our GAA pitches from our nursery age to U12, with some age groups seeing the biggest numbers ever. Our Fundraising committee with all their might, headed up all our events this year, The Southern Showdown Boxing Event, our inaugural Golf Classic and the return of the Big Breakfast. These events became an integral part of many social calendars, and a total of 149 volunteers helped out over the course of the 3 events.... "a club that you would be most proud to be part of!" A special thank you to all our sponsors for their continued support, and to all our club members and the wider Kilmacow community who have supported our fundraising events.

A huge thank you to our Hurlers Co-Op (Piltown) Draw ticket sellers and more importantly to our ticket buyers, as 2024 was a lucky year with nice few prizes heading down south to us this year.

On the pitch, our coaching stalwarts continue to find the best in their teams and players, with a very nice catalogue of results for 2024; an U14 hurling league win, U14 & U16's hurling championship semi-finalists, U14's football league finalists, and on writing this, our Minors prepare for their up and coming Minor County Final. And, not to forget those many blitz days out, and many of those were had amongst our younger groups. Ask any player as they reach their adult hurling years, and they would always say, "those blitz's were the best day's!"

And now as we approach the closing of 2024, when the sound of the clash of the ash, the roars of the crowds, the chatter and the laughter retires from our pitch-sides to the firesides, not for us in Kilmacow! As one would say, "busy hands and idle minds have knitted many a sweater" and so in October, we saw the first sod turned and an exciting start to Phase 2 of our development plan, consisting of an all-weather astro turf, ball wall restoration and gym. The club syndicate has been a key factor in helping us reach this monumental development goal, and we thank our syndicate members for their continuous and unending support. On a final note to all our Parents and Players, Thank You.



Kilmacow U10 Nowlan Park



Kilmacow U6



Kilmacow U12



Kilmacow U8



U14 league winners

LISDOWNNEY



This year has seen some great changes to the grounds. The land beside the main pitch has been purchased by the club which will allow for further expansion of the training pitch and allow a new walkway around the two pitches. Work on the walkway has started and this will be available for all to enjoy. The Community Centre got a new facelift with volunteers painting the exterior and interior, new doors and windows to be installed, the handball alley got completely refurbished and other works are in the pipeline.

Hurling

On the hurling field, the newly promoted Junior C's got to the county final in a very well contested match, Lisdownney and Danesfort couldn't be parted at full time and extra time but unfortunately, we went down the penalty shoot out. The Junior C's also lost out in the league final to Windgap.

The Juniors won the All County Junior League, which was a first for a club's second team. On the way to the final they beat St Patrick's in the quarter final, then beat Windgap and in the final they played Barrow Rangers. This was another keenly contested match which seemed to be going the way of Barrow Rangers, but the Lisdownney "never-say-die" attitude came to the fore and we eventually ran out winners by 4-14 to 1-22.

The Intermediates won the Intermediate League final against Young Irelands in a very tight match.

Bord Na nOg

This year was the 42nd year of the Lisdownney 7's competition. It was a very successful event with everyone enjoying the games over a few weekends.

Young Irelands playing Dicksboro in the Sweeney Cup, which Young Irelands eventually won out. Piltown and St. Martins played in the Kilkenny Supporters Club shield final with Piltown running out as winners. Player of the Tournament was Sam Norton from the Dicksboro club.

Our Parish U13 7's was successfully ran over two days in June, while a mini 7's for the U8 and U10 also held which involved over 96 boys and girls. To cap off a good year, our Minor footballers won the Roinn C Shield final.

Legends Festival

An inaugural tournament was held in June for Legends from 3 parishes. There were two teams from Lisdownney and two from Erins Own. It was a good standard of hurling which was enjoyed by all who participated and watched. Hopefully this will become a yearly event. Thanks to John Bergin for organising this.

Off the pitch

There was a group gathering for the Darkness into Light walk who arrived up to the Windmills where they enjoyed the sunrise in great company. A very successful Dog Race and Golf outing was held to raise funds for the club.

Obituaries:

Lizzie Fogarty

Lizzie was very involved in local activities, starting an annual walk to raise money for the local Nation School. She played for, managed, and coached teams for Lisdownney Camogie Club, which her father founded. She was also involved in the Hurling club, including as medic for several teams. She was a respected nurse in St. Lukes Hospital. In latter years, she got great joy watching Aaron, James and Ava playing for Lisdownney. Our deepest sympathy to Brendan, Aaron, James, Ava and the extended Leahy/Fogarty families on the passing of Lizzie.



Sevens Final

MOONCOIN



It was another busy year for the club in 2024. In January, the club launched 'Be Active Be Alive', with the group meeting every Tuesday night for 10 weeks to train under the guidance of John, Marianne and Lorraine, who put them through their paces. All participants felt better after taking part, in what was a healthy start to the year.

Local clubman Liam Hogan made a bit of history in April. Alongside his Kilkenny teammates, he won the inaugural U19 Leinster League. In May, members of the club participated in a 24-hour continuous Cyclethon at Centra and at the GAA Complex. It helped that it was some of the best weather of what was a bad summer!

Also in May, the club social committee held the 'Brainiac Quiz' in the Royal Oak. A big thank you to everyone who helped make the fun quiz night such great craic.

Dylan Walsh from our U14 boys represented Mooncoin on the Kilkenny team in the Cuman na mBunscoil tournament. It was only the beginning of an incredible year for our U14 players. They won the Michael Dermody memorial trophy in Leighlinbridge, the Declan Byrne Shield Final (vs James Stephens) and became Roinn B League Champions for 2024.

In addition, our U13 boys won the Tommy Finn Memorial Tournament, while our U12 Boys won the Colm Nolan Cup in Callan. Captained by Conall Dunne and Peter Mackey, they beat John Lockes in the final on a score line of 4:09 to 2:04. In June, across two incredible weekends, many of the same boys won the Roinn B League and the Schools Country Cup in Nowlan Park. 'Mooncoin Schools' was made up of pupils from Mooncoin and Carrigeen primary schools. Thanks must go to their schoolteachers, especially Mr. Tennyson, Mr. Duggan and Mr. Curry.

Clubman Aidan Carroll had a memorable year as he was an integral part of the Kilkenny team that went all the way and won the Celtic Challenge (U17), beating the old enemy Tipperary in the final. Congrats also to our veteran club man, Tom O'Hanlon, who was part of the Kilkenny management. Similarly, Robbie Doherty and Jake O'Doherty played pivotal roles with the Kilkenny minor hurler's this year, going all the way to the All-Ireland Final. In one of the most dramatic finals in years, Kilkenny just missed out to Tipperary after extra time. But both men have two Leinster medals coming their way.

Our underage players played on several Kilkenny teams this year, including; Robbie Sutton and Cathal Morahan who played in the Tony Forristal tournament (U14), Jake O'Doherty, who was part of U16 Kilkenny panel, and Conor Walsh who played in the U15 John Doyle cup tournament.

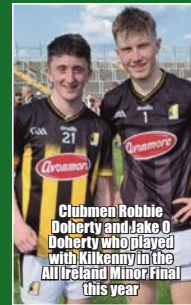
During the summer, our youngest boys and girls took part in the U6 Intercounty blitz, held in Mooncoin. Clubs from Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford took part. This year was the largest in its history with 64 teams (632 players) and coaches, parents and families visiting our club.

Also during the summer holidays, the club held a Cúl Camps and our ever-popular Camán Summer Camp. A total of 204 boys and girls from U6 to U14 were put through their paces. Intercounty stars Richie Reid, Mossy Keoghan, John Donnelly and Aoife's Norris and Doyle also made an appearance!

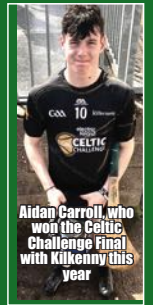
Mooncoin GAA Complex was the venue for the KCLR quiz held in aid of the Kilkenny Intermediate Camogie team. Two local clubwomen, Niamh Crowley and Mairéad Corcoran, played starring roles on the team who were just piped by one point in the All-Ireland final. The club also held its second 'Gala Summer Family Sports Day' in July. It was another very enjoyable day for all the parish, with very competitive battles for the much sought after 'Ultimate Challenge' title.

Our Intermediate hurlers nearly made it to their second county final in a row, just narrowly going down to Lisdownney by a single point in a heroic semi-final. ClubberTV was a great boon this year, as Mooncoin matches could be watched from around the world online.

Finally, there were great celebrations in the parish when our Junior E's were crowned JJ Kavanagh and Sons Junior E champions 2024, defeating O'Loughlin Gaels in the final on a scoreline of; Mooncoin 4:12, O'Loughlin Gaels 1:17. Kevin Conneally lifted the cup in Nowlan Park to the delight of all present. It's onwards and upwards for 2025!



Clubmen Robbie Doherty and Jake O'Doherty who played with Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Minor Final this year



Aidan Carroll, who won the Celtic Challenge Final with Kilkenny this year

MUCKALEE GFC



Muckalee - Minor B Football Champions 2024



The Boys of the Old Brigade - 1960's

Muckalee footballers now operating at intermediate reached the League Final where they lost out to the Rower/Instioge.

In the Championship they lost to Glenmore.

Well done to the Minors on their win in the Football County Final also to the ladies who won the Senior Championship again.

On Development, the front carpark has been tarred.



MULLINAVAT

Another hectic year for Mullinavat GAA club from juvenile to adult level, both on and off the pitch. We opened our community walkway and improved our amenities with a now full size second pitch. These upgrades will continue in the year ahead. We also launched a two-volume club history (see separate feature).

Adult level
On the playing fields, we competed well in senior football, losing to eventual county champions Dicksboro in the semi-final. In senior hurling we were shield winners and reached a county senior hurling semi-final for only the fifth time in our clubs' history, losing to Thomastown. Our Junior A's lost to Tullaroan in the hurling championship while our Junior F lads were hurling championship bridesmaids again, beaten finalists, as in 2022 and 2023.

Underage Level

Minor - Roinn D This group struggled with small numbers of eligible players again this season. They were competitive in their games at Roinn D level in both the league and championship.

U16 - Roinn B This was an extremely tough group with only 3 players "up to the age"

We played Shamrocks Ballyhale in the first round of Championship where we shipped a heavy beating.

U15 - Feile Qualifier - Naas Tournament This year we were drawn in u15B for Feile the group travelled to Gowran for Feile qualifiers. They beat Kilmacow in first game but were knocked out by Young Irelands by two points.

U14 - Roinn B This group had an up and down year of action, they started the year early in March, with Gaelic Football. We lost to Galmoy/Windgap by seven points in the Championship.

U12 Our U12 side won the Billy Hoare tournament in Graignamanagh on 31st August. Great effort has been put in with this group of boys.

U11 tournament The Club arranged entry to an ongoing tournament ran from July to September with plenty of games. Mullinavat were beaten in final by Mooncoin under lights.

U10 The U10 boys played lots of Go-games matches and blitzes throughout the season.

These boys played the Eamonn O'Donovan blitz in Slieverue, and the Aylward Cup blitz in Ballyhale, a four team Blitz in Conahy Shamrocks and an eight team Blitz in Dunamaggin. The team had a football blitz under lights in Piltown in October.

U8 These boys trained every weekend and an evening during the week also. There were many blitz's and go games throughout the year with the boys travelling to Dunamaggin, Slieverue, Kilmacow, Tullogher and Roanmore to play throughout the season.

Nursery Junior and senior infant boys and girls were put through their paces every Saturday morning for training and blitzes throughout the season. This was a large group again this year with up to 45 boys and girls registered.

Development Squads U13 Super games squad trials we sent 5 players from the club to try out

U14 Squads we had 2 players from the Club involved in Tony Forristal winning team

U15 Squads we had 3 players from the club involved at stages throughout the year.

U15 & U16 Football squads we had 2 players from the club involved.

A very successful Cul Camps were staged from 8-12th of July.

Thanks to all our players, managers, mentors, officers, volunteers, sponsors, members, and supporters for their efforts all year. Condolences to all families in the community who have lost loved ones this year.



O'LOUGHLIN GAELS

The last year was another busy and successful one for the O'Loughlin Gaels GAA and Camogie club. The club won the 2023 AIB Leinster senior hurling title defeating Na Fianna of Dublin in the final. It was the club's third provincial title. The team continued on to beat Ruairi Óg, Cushendall of Antrim in the All-Ireland semi-final before just losing out in the final where a serious officiating error cost the side victory. Paddy Deegan was honoured as AIB GAA National Club Player of the Year and was joined on the team by Huw Lawlor, David Fogarty and Mark Bergin.

Paddy Deegan captained Kilkenny to the Leinster final and was joined on the team by Huw Lawlor and Mikey Butler while Jordan Molloy, Luke Hogan, Owen Wall, Conor Heary and David Fogarty were all part of the Kilkenny senior panel and played on the team during the year. Conor Holohan was a member of the Kilkenny minor team which reached the All-Ireland final and he was joined by Cian Byrne and Daniel Mc Cormack.

Congratulations to JJ Cahill and Lucas Duggan who were part of Kilkenny's Tony Forristal winning team. JJ was honoured with the player of the match award for his display in the final.

In an historic decision the club's GAA and Camogie sections came together as one club in January and the move has proved very successful for the club as it continues to grow. To accommodate this growth a Special General Meeting of Members was held in September at which, in a second historic decision, it was unanimously decided by the large attendance that the club would purchase additional land to develop two further playing pitches.

On the playing field the club's Camogie team won the Intermediate championship and will play at senior level for the first time in 2025. The Senior hurlers won the senior League title but lost out to Thomastown in the Championship final.

The Junior hurlers were unlucky to lose out to James Stephens in the League final (after extra time) and to the same opponents in the Championship final (Section B). The Junior E team also reached their championship final but lost out to Mooncoin.

Great work continues with all of the club's juvenile teams and pride of place goes to the Under 11's who won a number of Tournaments in Kilkenny and further afield during the year. In October O'Loughlin's acted as a host venue for the o'neills.com World Four-Wall Handball Championships.



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PILTOWN

The grounds of Piltown GAA were a hive of activity from very early spring. Immense work goes on both front of house and behind the scenes to facilitate the functioning of a club, so a huge acknowledgement and thank you to all our club coaches, officers, and many volunteers and supporters. A special thank you to all those who have supported our All Star 15 fundraiser draw – both selling and purchasing tickets. This is the third year running our draw and it continues to grow from strength to strength. Huge congratulations to all our winners.

In the schools of the parish, we continue to develop and promote our games through our Games Participation Officer, who is doing trojan work with all the children of our three schools on a weekly basis.

Off the field, Piltown GAA are embarking on a development journey to modernise our club grounds. Centre to this project is the widening of our main hurling pitch and surrounding it with a fully lit walkway for the community of Piltown to use. Plans are also underway to repurpose our complex building. To aid with this, we were lucky to have a successful application for the Sports Capital Grant Funding. We thank those club members who gave up their time to ensure our application was successful.

On the playing pitches:

Our U6, U8 and U9 groups put in serious work all year - lots of fun was had and they took part in numerous blitzes. Our U8, U10 and U12's participated very well in their respective Go Games as well as various blitzes, with great progression to be seen. Our U10 group had the privilege to play for the first time in Nowlan Park in August, a day they will always remember. Our 9s, 10s and 12s experienced that winning feeling in John Lockes, Thomastown and Tramore Blitzes.

Our U14, U16 and U18 teams were very unlucky to lose out in their respective championship outings. The Kilkenny championship is so competitive at all grades that small margins decide games, and despite our lads' best efforts, lady luck wasn't on our side this year. Our U13's took home the Shield from the Lisdowney Tournament.

Kudos to Niall O'Brien and Andrew Phelan (U19), DJ Knox and Joe Cooney (U17), Archie Farrell (U16), and Joe Barry, Jack Farrell and Ronan Knox (U14), who all represented Piltown in the Kilkenny colours in 2024.

Again in 2024 we were in the fortunate position to field three teams at adult level. All three teams were extremely competitive and great progress was made.

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 Tom Gahan who won the overall Player of the Week Award for 2024. Thanks to James Norris, and his team of coaches from our juvenile & camogie clubs, for running such a successful and enjoyable week.

In early May, the Piltown GAA community were deeply saddened by the passing of Helen Kinsella. Helen volunteered to do many a task for Piltown GAA over the course of her life, from Club Juvenile Secretary, Bord na nOg rep, and committee member, to club shop helper and soup lady. She will be sorely missed. We express our sincere condolences to all her 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: Billy Norris (former Chairman and Co-op Draw founder), Seamus Fox, Mattie & Mona Talbot, Noreen Power, Tom O'Shea, Cillian Kirwan, Paddy Connolly, Kathleen Miller, Nell Norris, John Culleton, Irene Purcell.



U9 John Lockes Tournament



U10 John Prendergast Festival of Hurling - Thomastown



U12 Tramore Tournament



U13 Lisdowney Tournament



RALLYARD

Rallyard again competed in all grades from U8 to Senior and we also had an over 40s team take part in the Joe McNally All-Ireland Sevens. Our Junior and Senior teams although competitive throughout the season failed to win any silverware.

We had more success at underage level with our Minor team winning the Championship with wins over

Ballyhale and Carrickshock

The U15 Feile team also had success as they won the Kilkenny Feile Competition and went on to represent the county in the regional Feile which was played in Clane Co Kildare in June.



Rallyard Féile Team 2024



ROWER INISTIOGE

Rower GAA Grounds Dedicated to the Memory of Fr. Tom Murphy

Rower Inistioge GAA Club unanimously passed a motion to dedicate the Rower GAA complex to the memory of the late Fr. Tom Murphy.

Fr. Tom was the first man to bring a Senior All-Ireland medal back to his native Rower after playing a vital role in the 1963 victory over Waterford, scoring 2-1 in the final. Having played in four All Ireland finals – 1963, 1964, 1966 and 1969, Fr. Tom had the unique record of never playing a league game for Kilkenny. This was due to regulations governing seminarians and the clergy at the time, which meant he could only hurl on his holidays.

A prolific forward, Fr. Tom would go on to win an All-Ireland minor medal ('60), four Leinster medals ('63, '64, '66 & '69), and two senior All Ireland medals ('63 & '69), lining out in the '69 final alongside his brother Billy. Undoubtedly, Fr. Tom's proudest achievement was lining out in the Rower Inistioge's 1968 Senior County Final win over Bennettsbridge, starting at no. 15 and scoring 1-1.

Fr. Tom's achievements weren't solely on the playing field, he was a founding member of The No Name Club, an organisation which has contributed so much to the youth of Ireland. He was also the main driving force and founding member of O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Club in 1969.

The Club has recently completed a significant programme of investment in the Rower grounds with the addition of a state of the art all weather pitch and ball wall facility. The Rower GAA grounds are now known as "Fr. Tom Murphy Park."

Deaths during the year: Will Ring, Juvenile Player John Murphy, Adult Player Martin Kavanagh, Former Player



Fr Tom Murphy RIP Nov 2022

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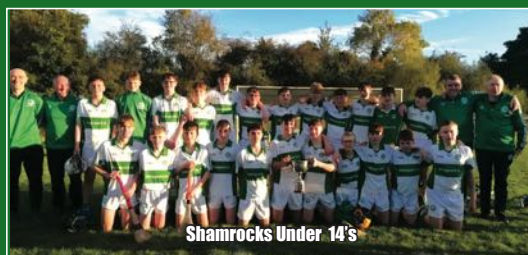
SHAMROCKS BALLYHALE



Shamrocks under 7 & 8's



Shamrocks under 6's



Shamrocks Under 14's



Shamrocks Under 10's



Shamrocks Under 9's



Shamrocks Minors



Shamrocks U12's

Shamrocks Juvenile Club had a great year in 2024 thanks to all the volunteer coaches and helpers throughout the year. From under 6's up to Minors, it was a great year for the Juvenile Club with the Club getting into Under 14's, 16's and Minor finals is a great achievement and shows the hard work put in by all is paying off. With works going on with the Shamrocks development of the new AstroTurf, next year will be so much different for all the underage in the club with a ball wall also that it will bring on so much of kids.



SLIEVERUE

2024 was another busy year for the juvenile section of the club, with almost 200 children registered and teams fielded from nursery level up to Minor.

Our U14s won the Roinn C County Football Final at the beginning of the year – not bad for a team who only started playing football last year. 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 Eamon O'Donovan tournament, which is an important day to help mark Eamon's huge contribution to the club.

Our under 14, 16 and Minor teams took part in the county league and championships.

The Camogie club had teams in every grade from u6 right up to u16. This was our first time in many years having an U16 team and it was great to see – huge thanks to the U14 girls that helped us out in fielding a team – great to see the girls committed to playing at an age where drop off is an issue. We entered teams in both u12 and u14 grades in Gaelic football and Camogie – 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. The U10's and U8's played numerous blitzes and tournaments and their efforts at training is really starting to show. We hosted the first Mary Rockett Tournament for U13s this year – it was a huge success and great way to honor Mary who was a club stalwart and so helpful in getting the Camogie club back up and running. This will be an annual event and we're looking forward to next year's day already.



U10s Camogie



U14s Football



One Good Club



Minor Hurling



U16 Camogie

Slieverue GAA club were delighted to win the One Good Club initiative this year – run in conjunction with Lidl, LGFA and Jigsaw Young Mental Health we won top prize for our efforts in demonstrating the five modules and, thanks to the involvement of the whole community, scooped €5,000 for the club. Some events will definitely turn into annual ones.



ST LACHTAIN'S

The club opened the year with the unveiling of a bust of one of our club legends, the late Pa Dillon by Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, Labhrás Mac Carthaigh. The unveiling took place in our clubroom attended by the Dillon family, friends of Pa and many GAA heroes and officials past and present, including Leinster council chairman Derek Kent, former president Nicky Brennan and chairman of Kilkenny GAA PJ Kenny. Many of Pa's former teammates and

rivals from Cork and Tipperary travelled for the unveiling, there were some great stories re-told, a few songs sang, and a wonderful catch up had by all.

MC on the night was John Meagher and speakers were club chairman John Fitzpatrick, former county board chairman Ned Quinn, Tersea Dillon and Uachtarán Larry McCarthy.

A large gathering on the night ensured that there was only standing room inside with a marquee outside to facilitate the overflow. The evening was a huge success thanks to the committee members of our hurling and camogie clubs who worked tirelessly all week. Special thanks go to local artist Kevin Buckley who made the bust, Paul Costelloe who made the stand and the late Ned Kennedy (RIP) who spearheaded this initiative. Unfortunately, Ned passed away before he could witness the fruits of his labour but was also remembered fondly on the night.

2024 also saw the first full year of use of our wonderful walkway which was completed at the end of 2023. The project was part funded by St Lachtain's GAA Club and the remaining was grant funded. Our walkway has been a fantastic addition to the local community and is in constant use. There have been a number of community and charitable events held over the year including the GAAs "Healthy Clubs, Every Step Counts Challenge 24" and Pieta Houses "Darkness Into Light" Walk. Our gym was renovated last year, the rooms were revitalised and new equipment purchased. Our players developed and completed the improvements themselves with Cathal Power heading up the initiative. Huge credit goes to all involved.

On the field we saw success at underage level and all our adult teams reaching the latter stages of their respective championships. Scoil Lachtain won the U11 Roinn B championship and U13 country cup Corn Ui Bhriain. Huge credit goes to Mr. Flood and Mr. Mullally for the work they are doing in the primary school. Our U15s won Feile na nGael Division 3 local and regional championships. A great day was had in Rosenallis, Co. Laois where our boys were crowned cup champions. They defeated Rathdowney Errill, St. Mullins, hosts Rosenallis along the way, and a fancied St Ryanaghs side in the final. At the time of writing our U14s have reached the Roinn B shield final, our U16s are in the Roinn C county final and our Minors were narrowly beaten by James Stephens, after extra time, in the Roinn C county semi-final. Our Junior Fs were crowned league champions but were defeated by Mullinavat in the county semi-final. Our Junior Bs had a tough league campaign that saw them record 4 losses but they showed huge character in the championship and got through to the county final against all the odds. Unfortunately, injuries to key players and few missed opportunities saw them go down by one point to fellow parishioners Threecastles. Our Junior team have reached the county semi-final.

There's also great work being done with our U6s, U8s, U10s and U12s. The club would also like to acknowledge the stellar work being done by coaches and mentors at all levels from U6 up to Junior.



Feile Group 2.2



ST MARTIN'S

St Martins have continued to progress as a club in 2024. On the grounds development front lights were installed on the new Astro facility in Coon that allowed all teams in the parish to train from early in the year.

On the playing front, our Intermediate team struggled to get results in the league as we had a number of players either away or trying to get back from injury. The team had a great win against neighbours Conahy Shamrocks in a tight game in the first round of the Intermediate Championship. They then lost out to Lisdowney in the quarter final where with a small bit of luck the result could have gone our way but unfortunately was not to be. Again in 2024 a lot of young players were introduced to adult hurling and this will continue to help the team develop for the years ahead. Our Junior E team had a great win in the league final beating Carlow Town Hurling club. Our U19 and U21 teams qualified for their respective county finals at the end of 2023 losing both to good Young Irelands teams.

At Bord na nOg level, our minor team were very competitive in the Rionn A hurling league before losing to an impressive James Stephens team in the championship. They also won back the Rionn A minor football championship title beating St Patrick, Ballyragget back in March. Our U16's and U14's also had good years both competing in Rionn B. All our underage teams continued to show good development throughout the year and numbers continue to be strong.



U15 Féile Div 2 Winners

Our U15 Féile team won the Kilkenny 2nd division in hurling and so qualified for the national féile in Clonlara, Co Clare in June. The lads gave a great account of themselves winning the shield competition on the day

The club again ran its main fundraiser our Golf Classic in August and again the event was a great success for a third year in row. 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.

John Mul ran 1 easter and 2 summer camps and these were again a great success and enjoyed by all the youngsters who participated. Thanks to John and his team of helpers who ran the camps 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.



ST PATRICK'S

Development

On Saturday 20th of July St. Patricks Ballyragget celebrated the clubs 70th anniversary. The focus of the day was the exhibition match between our current Junior team and the 2011 All-Ireland winning Junior team. Honoured guests were also present, namely Maurice Aylward and Matt Ruth Snr, who were part of the management set up in 2011. We would like to thank Tullogher

Rosbercon for giving a loan of the Junior Cup on the day to add to the occasion. Face painting, activities and matches kept the next generation of hurlers busy on the day.

In relation to development of our club grounds. Continuous advancements are ongoing with our Ball Wall was repainted with our club crest and new targets. Also, a new club shop was installed and opened for matches improving visitors' experience.

This year also saw great success in relation to the Club Kilkenny Committee, who are working tirelessly to help the club build a 5-year developmental plan.

Competitions

On the field of play, there was little luck at adult level with both Junior and Junior A team being knocked out in the early rounds of the Championship. Many thanks to the management team and players who worked hard all year. Hopefully these efforts will bear more fruit next year.

The best of luck to our U21 team who have strong hopes of success this year, with the competition set to go underway as this publication goes to print.

Our Minors were very unlucky to lose the quarter finals of the Championship, narrowly missing out to Graigue Ballycallan. While our U16's were defeated by Ballyhale in the quarter-final

U14's who have joined up with Fenians were successful in winning the U14 Rionn C, defeating Comer by 4 points, this success is covered in more detail elsewhere in this publication. Once again, this collaboration has proven to be very successful as it allows our underage players to contest for silverware.

Once again a highlight of the year was the hosting of our annual

M&A coaches/Phelan/Stone tournament. 24 teams travelled to St. Patricks Ballragget from across 11 counties to compete in our 3 different competitions. Overall winners of Roinn A were O'Loughlin Gaels. With wins coming from Tullaroan (Roinn B) and Patrickswell (Roinn C). Once again, this tournament was a huge success, providing a great opportunity for the U11s to showcase and develop their skills at a competitive level.

We finished off the year with our own street league for the younger members of our club. Many thanks again to players, coaches and parents for organising a very enjoyable and well-run competition, and for all the work they put in throughout the year.

Finances

The main source of finance for our clubs continues to be the local week lottery. Thanks are due to the many people who week after week continue to sell tickets for this important fundraiser.



70th Anniversary Celebration
2011 All-Ireland winning team v 2024 team



THOMASTOWN

What a year we have had in Thomastown. Last October we finally got our victory at intermediate after many years of heartache. The winter was very short for us as we were kept busy with our Leinster campaign taking on Cloughban of Wexford, Kildalkey of Meath and Bray Emmets of Wicklow in the Leinster Final. We then made our journey north to take on Setanta Hurling Club on our final step to the Intermediate All Ireland.

All roads led to Croker on a freezing February evening. All was worth it as we were crowned All Ireland Champions after beating Castletelyons on a score line of 2:23 to 0:13. It was a fantastic time for the club, young and old rejoiced looking forward to tackling the senior grade.

Our Senior League campaign had a great start, beating The Village, Bennettsbridge and Tullaroan in our first 3 games securing our 6 points. Our final two games ended in defeats, however our positive start meant we qualified for a Shield Final against Mullinavat. It was a lackluster affair, with both sides not showing their full hand. Mullinavat were victorious and we looked ahead at taking on the giants that are Ballyhale Shamrocks.

We had 2 weeks to prepare for our Quarter Final. The lads shot out of the traps raring to go. Fantastic scores coming from our forwards as well as our backs. They relished the opportunity, never giving in until the final whistle. We were back to our winning ways!

Our Semi-Final was set for UPMC Nowlan Park, where we would meet Mullinavat for the second time in just 4 weeks. From the off the boys in blue showed that they were there to prove that they are a Senior team to reckon with. Again, the determination and fight that the team showed meant they finished the game with a score line of 1:27 to 13 points. We are marching onto a Senior County Final for the first time since 1988.

An amazing year, with an amazing bunch of players. We have not only been busy with the Seniors both our Juniors and Juniors D's had a good year. Both losing out in quarter final stages.

Without a doubt it has been a fantastic year for all involved with Thomastown GAA. It surely has been exciting and we look forward to a new chapter at Senior Level. A huge thank you to all who have helped out with the club over the last couple of months as well to those who have been working behind the scenes over the last number of years to get the club to where it is today!

Photo Credit - Paul Doyle Photography/ Willie Dempsey



Elation!



Tucker's Goal!



THREecastLES

After last year's success in the Junior C Championship County Final, it is safe to say everyone in Threecastles GAA wanted to chase that feeling of victory again!

After a season where there was

plenty of promising performances from the players, this year our newly promoted Junior B Hurling squad achieved what the club never achieved before, not only did they win their second county win, two years in a row, but won the final in their first year as a Junior B team. The atmosphere was truly electric that fateful day, and for many days afterwards!

To add further, for the first time in our club's history, we to enter a second adult team, our Junior F squad.

This year was truly a testament for the hard work and

that locals witnessed for many years. 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.

This time, we partnered with a MS Kilkenny, who are a fantastic charity, and we were only too happy to support them. 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 on the 8th of December, 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, Kilkenny County Council, 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.



Tense sideline moments at the Final



Darragh Walsh delivers his Captain's address after the Final

were able

dedication



Santa Arrives on his tractor



TULLAROAN

The senior hurling team had a good year and some very good performances in the senior league. The league started with very good wins over Dicksboro and Glenmore. This was followed by a defeat to Thomastown, however the team bounced back well to beat James Stephens and Bennettsbridge to finish the league on 8 pts and top the group. Topping the group qualified us for the league final against the form team O'Loughlins. After a good first half performance by Tullaroan, O'Loughlins got ahead in the second half to run out comfortable winners. The quarter final of the championship drew Tullaroan with Bennettsbridge for the second year running. After a great effort by both teams the game ended in a draw, unfortunately after extra time Bennettsbridge prevailed on a final score of 2-26 to 1-23. Early in the year, the senior team won the Leinster League, beating Camross from Laois in the final.

The Junior A team had a very good year overall. We had 4 league matches in 2024 winning two matches, drawing one and losing one. We beat Carrickshock and Mullinavat, drew with Barrow Rangers and lost to Graigue Ballycallan. This qualified us for a league semi-final where we were beaten by Dunnamaggin. In the Junior A Championship, we had very good wins over Barrow Rangers and Mullinavat and were beaten in the county semi-final by Dunnamaggin.

The Junior F team was again competitive in 2024 and had some great games. In the league, they played 5 matches, winning 3, and losing 2. We beat Lisdowney, Mooncoin and got a walkover from Kilmacow. We were beaten by St. Lachtains and Threecastles. In the Championship, we were beaten by St. Lachtains by 1 point, on a score of 2-22 to 2-21.

The u-21 championship for 2024 has yet to commence but in 2023, Tullaroan competed in the D Championship. After some very good games, Tullaroan got to the final and were beaten by the Fenians by 3-24 to 5-15 in a great game that was decided after extra time.

At underage level, the club is fielding teams from under 6 to under 18 level and great work is being done to develop the players of the future.

Congratulations to all involved in representing Kilkenny during 2024.

- Martin Keoghán, Tommy Walsh and Gearóid Dunne who were on the Kilkenny senior hurling panel during 2024
- Grace Walsh and Miriam Walsh who were key players in the Kilkenny senior camogie team. We wish them both all the best on their retirement from the inter county game
- Gearóid Dunne and Niall Holland were on the Kilkenny hurling u-20 panel.
- Cathal Russell was on the Kilkenny Celtic Challenge squad at minor level
- Rachel Brennan and Ciara Dunne were on the Kilkenny Intermediate camogie panel
- Anna Doherty and Ciara Dunne were on the Kilkenny minor camogie panel.
- Grace Brennan was on the Kilkenny U-17 panel
- Eleanor Doherty, Shannon Doherty and Ella Walton were on the Kilkenny u-16 panel
- Katie Dunphy was on the Kilkenny u-15 panel and Tara McGree, Laura Millea and Sinead Cash were on the Kilkenny u-14 panel
- Congratulations to Ciallan Brennan and Charlie Cleere who were part of the St. Kieran's College All Ireland hurling winning squad
- Congratulations to Anna, Shannon and Eleanor Doherty, Ciara Dunne and Grace Brennan who were part of the Loreto Kilkenny All-Ireland camogie winning squad



Miriam and Grace Walsh who retired from Kilkenny Senior Camogie Team



TULLOGHER ROSBERCON

2024 got off to a Champions. Also, our At adult level we once again fielded 1 football and 3 hurling

teams, all were competitive in their grades.

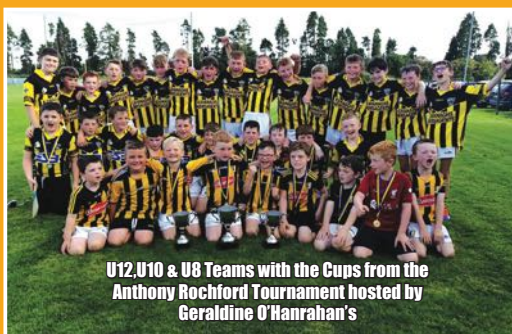
The Minor Team had a good season winning 3 out of 5 games in the Roinn B league. In the championship quarter final they were defeated by Emeralds after a close game.

The U16's played in Roinn B, winning 5 of the 7 games in the League. In the first round of the championship they defeated Mooncoin and were drawn to play Barrow with the Paulstown boys the game was

This season the U14's competed in Roinn C. In the League the lads won 4 of their 5 games and were unlucky to lose out in the semi-final after a replay. We were beaten in the championship 1st round and went into the Shield competition, winning 2 rounds to qualify for the final. At the time of submitting this report we were awaiting this fixture.

The U12's, U10's & U8's had a very busy year competing in numerous Go Games and blitzes. A particular highlight was participating in the Anthony Rochford Tournament in New Ross where we won the Cup for each age group.

The U7/U6/U5's were kept busy with blitzes and mini games. We were delighted to have upwards of 30 boys taking part across the different age grades. There was great enthusiasm and skill progression from all the players.



U12, U10 & U8 Teams with the Cups from the Anthony Rochford Tournament hosted by Geraldine O'Hanrahan's



U6 Team at the Mooncoin Tournament with Coach Dave Kavanagh



WINDGAP

Both on and off the field Windgap GAA have made great progress in 2024.

Our adult teams have again kept up their good run of form from the previous two years. It was the Junior C side that claimed the first trophy of 2024 for Windgap, going undefeated in the League and winning the League final at home on June 18th against Lisdowney (3-23 to 1-13). They also progressed to the championship semi-final but suffered a four point loss to Lisdowney (3-17 to 2-16).

The newly promoted Junior E team started well with a win against Piltown in the League (3-15 to 0-18) and also a first round championship win against Conahy Shamrocks (1-15 to 2-7), their run ending at the quarter-final stage.

The Junior team then kept up their good string of performances from 2023. Overcoming Galmoy, Cloneen, John Lockes and Barrow Rangers, Windgap topped the table in the League-Championship, earning them a League Final spot against St. Lachtains on September 14th in Kilmanagh, where they ran out convincing winners (2-17 to 0-14). The end-of-league table topping position also guaranteed a quarter-final place in the Junior Championship where Windgap overcame Graigenamanagh (3-19 to 1-18) in Instioge on October 5th. The Junior side reached the hallowed turf of Nowlan Park for the third year running, overcoming Emeralds in the Semi-Final on October 19th (2-25 to 0-22). The Final versus St Lachtain's is set to be played on November 2nd.

It was not just the adult teams that provided brilliant days out for the Windgap support. The Galmoy/Windgap U14s were on a fantastic run in the championship, defeating St. Lachtain's and Mullinavat before coming up stage. The U16s pulled off an impressive win against Blacks and Whites in the Championship quarter-final but were eventually defeated by St. Lachtain's in the semi-final. The Minors drew eventual winners John Lockes in the first round and progressed no further.

In Gaelic football Windgap's adult team were bested by Graigenamanagh in the Junior semi-final, the Minors bowed to Erin's Own by a single point in the Shield semi-final, and the u14s brought Lisdowney to a replay in the first round but came up short on the second day out.

Off the competitive field fundraising has been ongoing, including the third iteration of Windgap's 'Hurlathon' in December 2023, a hugely successful Truck and Tractor run also held at Christmas in Killmery and Orla Fallon in concert to a packed St. Canice's Cathedral crowd. These much needed funds go towards extensive development plans in Windgap GAA club, including the addition of an all-weather pitch. A final tip of the hat to the Green Club initiative established in 2023, a big step for Windgap GAA towards promoting environmental sustainability within the club and community. As part of the Green Club, Windgap can now work on projects to reduce waste, increase recycling, promote energy efficiency and educate members on environmental practices. To date they have completed numerous projects: Planting of 50 native trees, creation of a wildflower garden and designated no-mow area, a flower bed in the club colors, litter pick days with help from our U6, U8 and U10 players who were then gifted reusable club water bottles by the Green Club to help reduce the use of single use plastic bottles, and a recycling bin made from old hurls. Representatives from 'Leave no Trace Ireland' also visited Windgap National School. These actions would not have been possible without the support of our members and community, and funding from the GAA Green Club, Kilkenny County Council and Local Authority Waters Programme.



Windgap Galmoy U14s



Windgap U12s



Windgap U10s
Nowlan Park



TREE PLANTING



short against Ballyhale at the semi-final in the semi-final. The Minors drew eventual winners

YOUNG IRELANDS



2024 was a great year on the field of play for our adult teams with 4 county finals contested, bringing a great buzz and great pride to the parish. The Intermediate reached both League and Championship finals, beaten narrowly by only a single score on both occasions by Lisdowney. Congratulations to our Junior F and Junior A teams, who both brought home Championship titles! In late July, the U13s claimed a remarkable victory in the Lisdowney 7s Cup final, overcoming a spirited Dicksboro team in an exciting contest. The win was a testament to their hard work, determination, and skill, making it a standout achievement for the year.

Another highlight of the season was the All-Stars group, which became a cherished part of the club's Monday night coaching sessions. Launched on Easter Monday, this initiative provided unforgettable experiences for participants, including playing in Nowlan Park and a special trip to Croke Park. The program fostered a love of the sport and created lasting memories for all involved. These moments underscored the vibrant spirit and dedication within the club throughout the year.

INTER-COUNTY

Young Irelands were represented at Inter-County by Michael Carey (Senior), Paddy Langton (U20), Thomas Langton and Kieran Timmins (U17), Keelan Barcoe and Aidan Keating (U16), Dylan Brennan, Tomas Carroll and Darragh Corcoran (U15), Harry Barcoe, Dylan Drennan and Darragh Carroll (U14).

CLUB NEWS

The Darkness Into Light walk run by the Healthy Club Committee took place again in Gowran this year having been held for the first time last year. Young Irelands once again staged their annual Dog night in James Park in late May.

On 7th July, the ever popular Kilkenny Country Music Festival took place in Gowran Park once again headlined by Mike Denver that also featured Olivia Douglas, Claudia Buckley, Ray Lynam, Robert Mizzell, Keelan and Stacey Breen. The Festival will be back again on Sunday July 6th 2025!

The Golf Classic took place in Gowran Park in early June. David Carter took on a mammoth task in the first week of November as he ran 6 Ultra Marathons across 6 Counties in 6 days to raise vital funds for The Dillon Quirke Foundation, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland & Young Irelands GAA & Camogie Clubs.

A landmark year, back contesting adult finals after such a long absence, we are indebted to the great financial support received during this terrific journey. We look forward with great optimism to 2025.



DAVID CARTER



LISDOWNEY 7S WINNERS



ALLSTARS TRIP TO CROKE PARK

John McGuinness, T.D

Constituency Office, O'Loughlin Road, Kilkenny

Phone: 056-7770672/3

Fax: 056-7770674

Mob : 087-2855834

Email: john@johnmcguinness.ie

For appointments please call Ann Bergin, Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm



Welcome on Bórd, JOANNE

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Report
by Dermot Dunphy PRO
Photos - Willie Dempsey



St Canices - Crotty's Pharmacy Roinn A Under 13 Champions - Joe Dunphy Cup.

Founded in 1939, Cumann na mBunscoileanna Cill Chainnigh was celebrating our 85th year in existence this year, though you can be forgiven if you didn't notice, there was no fuss.

However, there was a very important addition to the history of Kilkenny Schools' Board as for the first time in our eighty-five years we have our first lady in the chairperson's role. Joanne Quinn from Kilmacow took the helm in January and became that history maker! Joanne's involvement in Cumann na mBunscoileanna continues a great family tradition as her dad, Joe, represented Kilmacow schools for over 30 years on the board. Teaching in Strangsmills, Joanne took over the role from her father and this year became the first female chair of the board. Joanne also continued another fine tradition of being a strong leader for our board, and allowing for the fact that Joanne resides in north Waterford, her dedication to the role has been just incredible. It may have taken too long for Kilkenny Schools' Board to reach this historic milestone, but we couldn't have elected a better person. Maith thú agus comhghairdeas, Joanne!

UNDER 13

Some tweaking of the Under 13 took place again this year as we entered our third season post covid. The major change came with the reintroduction of Roinn E. This became the 11-a-side competition for smaller schools while Roinn D became a 13-a-side competition which had a combination of stronger Roinn D sides and teams in Roinn C who have been struggling to field at 15-a-side. It also removed the imbalance there was with a huge Roinn C in 2023.



One tweak that remained, and even expanded, was the introduction of shield competitions. Roinn C had a shield competition in 2023 and this expanded in 2024 with three shield competitions. The teams who missed out on the play-offs in Roinn A and Roinn B contested the A/B Shield while there was separate Roinn C and Roinn D shields for the non-qualifiers in those divisions. This guaranteed teams at the bottom of the divisions a knockout game, which proved to be a success. As it happened, the two Roinn A teams involved contested the Roinn A/B final with Scoil McAuley Rice overcoming Gaelscoil Osraí. In Roinn C, Caslecomer claimed the shield with a win over CBS Kilkenny and in Roinn D, the shield went to Glenmore with a fine win over Ballyragget.

The Championships were very well contested. In the Crotty's Pharmacy Roinn A championship, a familiar name appeared in the winners' column as St Canice's reclaimed the crown. However, that

is only part of the story. Scoil Mhuire, Gowran provided the opposition and it had taken two matches to divide these teams in the Football Championship in January, and that by the slimmest of margins. A real rivalry had developed and having won the league game, Gowran were possibly some people's favourites heading into the final. While the game seemed low scoring, 2-5 to 1-4, this was surely due to the intensity of the competition and the standard and

ALLIANZ CUMANN NA MBUNSCOILEANNA SCOREBOARD 2024

Crotty's Pharmacy Roinn A: Joe Dunphy Cup
TOP Oil Roinn B: Paddy Hennessy Cup
Crotty's Pharmacy Roinn C: Georgie Leahy Cup
TOP Oil Roinn D: (13-a-side)
TOP Oil Roinn E: (11-a-side)
Allianz Corn de Bhaldrathie
Allianz Tommy O'Brien Cup
TOP Oil Roinn A/B Shield
Crotty's Pharmacy Roinn C Shield:
TOP Oil Roinn D Shield

Allianz Under 11 Kilkenny City:
Allianz Under 11 Roinn A:
Allianz Under 11 Roinn B:
Allianz Under 11 Roinn C:

St Canice's 2-5
Mooncoin 6-10
Bennettsbridge 1-9
Tullaroan 8-10
Galmoy 3-5
Mooncoin 1-14
Freshford 4-9
Scoil McAuley Rice 1-9
Castlecomer 4-4
Glenmore 5-11

St Canice's 2-8
Danesfort 2-4
Freshford 3-7
Tullaroan 8-10

Gowran 1-4
Rower-Inistioge 5-8
Mullinavat 1-6
Windgap 1-7
Johnstown 1-8
Gowran 1-9
Mullinavat 2-12
Gaelscoil Osraí 1-7
Kilkenny CBS 1-1
Ballyragget 2-3

Kilkenny CBS 1-4
Mooncoin 1-5
Kilmacow 4-1
Johnstown 1-4

FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD 2023

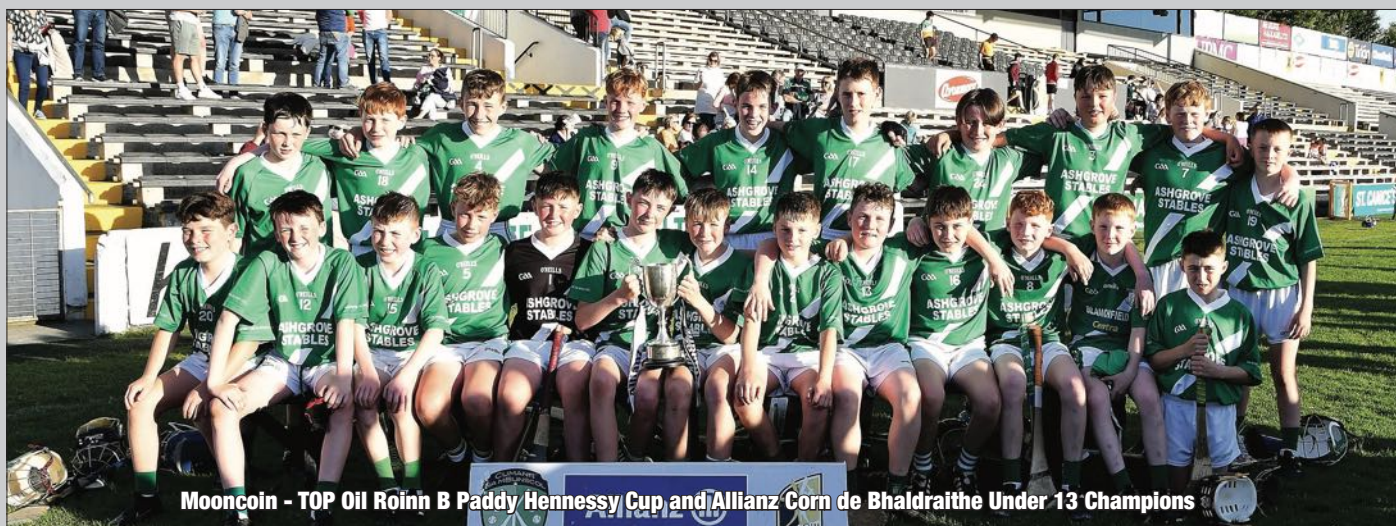
Crotty's Pharmacy Roinn A:
Replay:
TOP Oil Roinn B:
Crotty's Pharmacy Roinn C:
Allianz Corn na Tuaithe

St Canice's 2-5
St Canice's 1-6
Rower-Inistioge 1-5
Tullaroan 2-6
Gowran 1-4

Gowran 3-2
Gowran 1-5
St John's 0-3
Kilkenny SP 1-2
Rower-Inistioge 0-2

INTO CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL SEVENS

Hurling: Gowran
Camogie: Danesfort
Boys' Football: St Canice's
Girls' Football: Dunnamaggin



Mooncoin - TOP Oil Roinn B Paddy Hennessy Cup and Allianz Corn de Bhaldratthe Under 13 Champions

commitment of two great defences. Every score was hard earned and a second goal midway through the second half proved decisive as the Joe Dunphy Cup returned to the Grange's Road.

TOP Oil Roinn B was now divided in two divisions of five which played on a north and south basis, top three to qualify. An all-southern clash in the final came to be as Rower-Inistioge and Mooncoin came to meet. Rower-Inistioge had captured the Roinn B Football title and Mooncoin had won at Under 11 last year so a good game was expected. A classic ensued! Mooncoin looked as though they were well on their way to victory when they pulled 4 goals clear in the second half. Rower-Inistioge stormed back into the game and with minutes left, there was a puck of the ball in it! Mooncoin struck for a late goal to seal victory and claim the Paddy Hennessy Cup in a game for the ages. Mooncoin 6-10 Rower-Inistioge 5-8

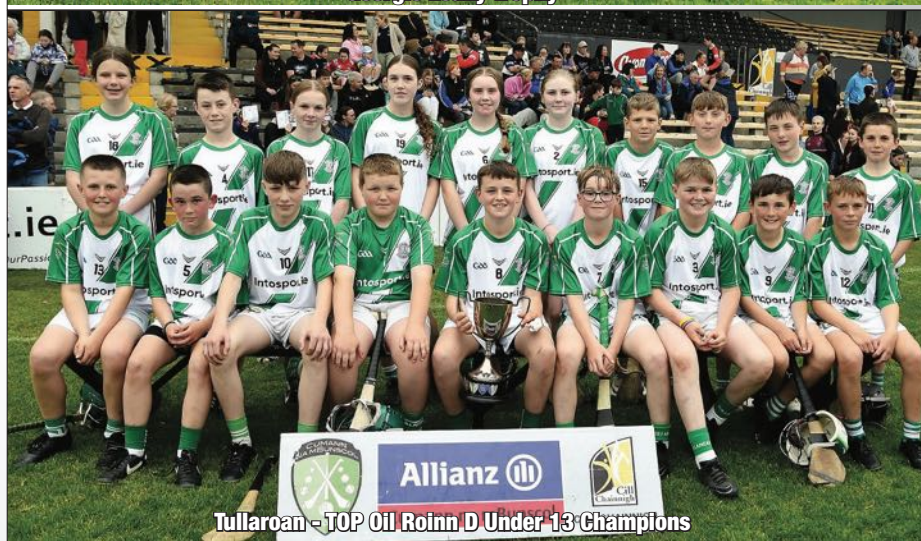
In the Crotty's Pharmacy Roinn C, we were back to two groups of five, with three teams to qualify, just like Roinn B. Also, like Roinn B two teams from the southern group met in the final as Bennettsbridge and Mullinavat came through the playoffs. The teams had met in the first round of the league and the 'Bridge lads had won by a goal. The final was equally as tight with Bennettsbridge holding a slight advantage throughout. Try as they did Mullinavat couldn't bring back the deficit and when the long whistle sounded, there was again a goal dividing the sides with Bennettsbridge winning by 1-9 to Mullinavat's 1-6. The Georgie Leahy Cup will wear green and gold ribbons this winter.

In the 13-a-side TOP Oil Roinn D league, the league was again very competitive with two more groups of five with three to qualify. Incredibly, for the third year in a row, Tullaroan and Windgap reached the final and everyone looked forward to the 'Trilogy'! Frustration had been the result for the Scoil Rhuadháin boys in 2022 and 2023 and they were determined not to be beaten for the third year in a row. Windgap were looking for a unique three-in-a-row, but that was not to be. From the get go it was obvious that it was going to be Tullaroan's day as they started powerfully finally winning on a big scoreline of 8-10 to Windgap's 1-7.

The returned Roinn E had five teams



**Bennettsbridge - Crotty's Pharmacy Roinn C Champions
Georgie Leahy Trophy**



Tullaroan - TOP Oil Roinn D Under 13 Champions



Galmoy - TOP Oil Roinn E Under 13 Champions

involved and the final saw neighbours Johnstown and Galmoy face off in the final. The last time Roinn E had taken place, the finalists were Johnstown and Galmoy, with the young Fenians winning through. That day, Johnstown had a decisive win but in 2024, the game was in the balance to the end. Johnstown had taken an early lead in the second half when a burst of goals saw Galmoy storm into the lead. Try as Johnstown could, there was no catching Galmoy this year and when the full-time whistle sounded, a first schools' title since 1996 was heading for Scoil Mhichíl in Galmoy on a score line of 3-5 to 1-8.

The cup competitions were again fiercely competed for and reflected league form for the main. The Allianz Corn de Bhaldrathe brought together Roinn A finalists, Gowran and Roinn B champions, Mooncoin. Two brilliantly matched teams met on a glorious evening in UPMC Nowlan Park and produced a great game. Mooncoin made much of the running but Gowran were hanging in right through, with a puck of the ball separating them for much of the game. However, Mooncoin were not going to be denied a famous double and stretched their lead to five points at the end. Jubilation was the order of the day as 'The Rose of Mooncoin' rang out around Nowlan Park! What a year or the boys from the banks of the Suir! Mooncoin 1-14 Gowran 1-9

For Gowran, it was a second final disappointment after a brilliant season. They contested the finals of all six competitions they entered between hurling and football. The Corn na Tuaithe and the Mini-Sevens hurling were captured and they should be rightly proud of their achievements all year.

The Allianz Corn Uí Bhriain final saw Roinn C finalists Mullinavat pitted against the defending champions, Freshford. The teams had met at the quarter final stages of the league where Mullinavat had come through a close encounter. Freshford were buoyed by capturing the Roinn B Under 11 title as the two teams met in a beautiful sunny Thomastown. Another brilliant game of hurling was played in the shadow of the Nore and the young Scoil Lachtain boys played out of their skins to defend their title on a scoreline of 4-9 to 2-12. As is evident from the score, Mullinavat played their part in a super game but goals at the right times gave Freshford the platform to hold out for a famous win. The young Mullinavat players must be also commended for a super year, but Lady Luck did not shine on them in the finals this year.

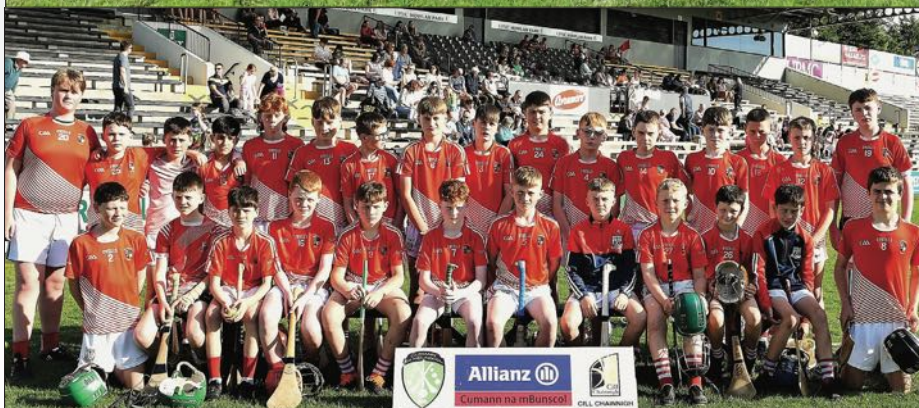
UNDER 11

The Under 11 competitions saw a slight change this year. The games are played in smaller groups, but this year over four divisions. A new City competition was trialled with eight teams entering while the other divisions returned to the pre covid days of country teams only. The smaller groups were played in blitz days, mini festivals of hurling which saw children have great fun and the competitions move quickly to knock out stages. Even so, three of the finals, City, Roinn A and Roinn C were held over to be played in September as the school holidays came too soon.

The Roinn B final was the first played just



Freshford - Allianz Corn uí Bhriain Under 13 Champions



Gowran - Crotty's Pharmacy Roinn A and Corn de Bhaldrathe Under 13 Finalists



Rower-Inistioige - TOP Oil Roinn B Under 13 Finalists



Mullinavat - Crotty's Pharmacy Roinn C and Corn Uí Bhriain Under 13 Finalists

before the summer break. Freshford and Kilmacow met in St James' Park where a fine crowd gathered as two excellent young teams put on a great display of hurling. Freshford appeared stronger early on but goals either side of the break saw the young Kilmacow boys draw level. In a ding dong finish, Freshford's ability to score points proved vital as the ran out close winners, 3-7 to Kilmacow's 4-1.

On the return to school in September, we set about organising the other three finals. The county board made UPMC Nowlan Park available on Saturday 21st of September and all three games were played on the hallowed turf.

First up was the Roinn A final, which was a repeat of the Roinn B final of 2023, Mooncoin versus Danesfort. These two teams bring out the best in each other and for the second year in a row, they produced a great contest. Early goals saw Danesfort take the initiative in the game. Mooncoin fought back and a second half goal saw them close the gap, but in a reverse of the 2023 result, Danesfort were the ones with the narrow lead at the final whistle. Danesfort 2-4 Mooncoin 1-5.

In the City round robin blitzes hosted by St Canice's in St James' Park, five city schools gathered with 8 teams, CBS, St John's, St Patrick's, Gaelscoil Osraí (2) and St Canice's (3). The final saw Roinn A champions of 2023, St Canice's win one group to play CBS Kilkenny who came through the other side. The game was close through the first half, but with a strong performance from their bench, it was St Canice's who finished stronger to claim the title on a scoreline of 2-8 to CBS's 1-4.

The last game was the clash of Johnstown and Tullaroan in the 11-a-side Roinn C competition. Recently retired principal of St Kieran's NS, John Curran, made a comeback for the day hoping for a winning send off. However, Tullaroan were not in the mood to be generous and from the start, like their Under 13 squad in June, they proved to be stronger around the field. The young Johnstown players never gave up, as is their way, but Tullaroan were not to be denied as they captured their third title in a row. All the more impressive is that Tullaroan only had a panel of thirteen to draw on! A great year for the Green Sash!

And so, the hurling season drew to a close but the children of Kilkenny are playing with the bigger ball now as the football season is in full flow. By Christmas, four new champions will have been crowned and the schools' season will come to an end!

INTO Cumann na mBunscol Mini Sevens

The INTO Cumann na mBunscol Mini Sevens returned again this year with hurling and football competitions. All in all, eight Kilkenny children graced the Croke Park turf this summer, two of them lucky enough to wear their own county colours. Two of the children who represented Kilkenny were not playing but officiating! Emma and Oisín, two Gaelscoil Young Whistlers were in the middle of the action on All-Ireland Semi Final Day vs Clare, the first time in a good number of years that Kilkenny had the honour of providing referees for the games.



UNDER 11





Tullaroan - Allianz Roinn C Under 11 Champions



Kilmacow - Allianz Roinn B Under 11 Finalists



Kilkenny CBS - Allianz Kilkenny City Under 11 Finalists



Johnstown Allianz Roinn C Under 11 Finalists



Roinn A Champs

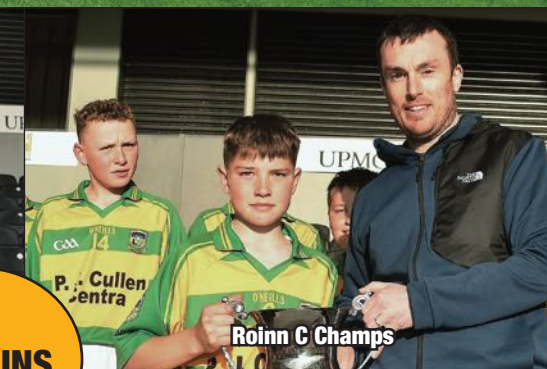
Mooncoin - Allianz Roinn A Under 11 Finalists



Roinn A Champs



Roinn B Champs



Roinn C Champs



Roinn D Champs



Corn de Bhaldratthe Champs



Roinn E Champs

CAPTAINS



Camogie Champions Danesfort



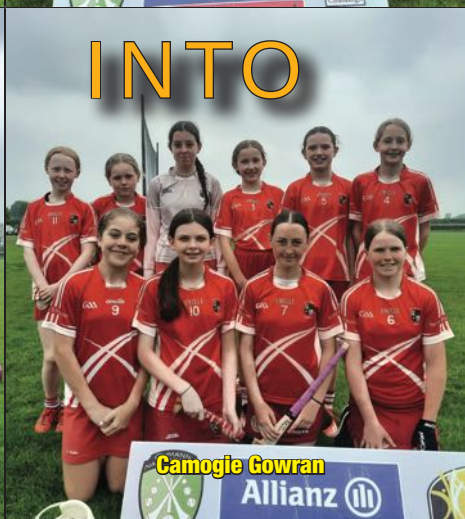
Camogie Coon-Muckalee



Camogie Dunnamaggin



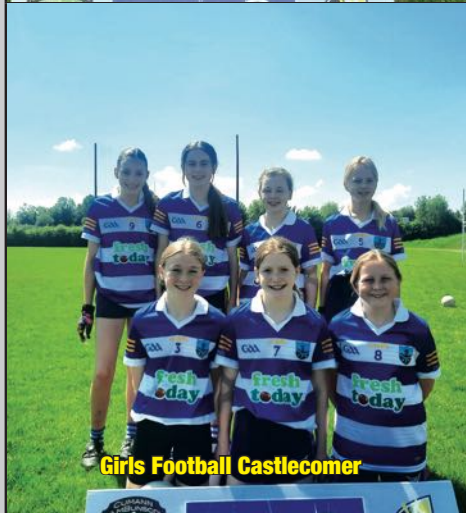
Camogie Glenmore



Camogie Gowran



Camogie Tullogher Rosbercon



Girls Football Castlecomer



Girls Football Champions Dunnamaggin



Girls Football Clara



Girls Football Danesfort



Girls Football Slieverue



Girls Football Urlingford.



Hurling Ballyhale



Hurling Castlecomer



Hurling Champions Gowran

MINI SEVENS



Hurling Graig-Skeough



Hurling Kilmanagh



Hurling Mooncoin



Football Ballyhale



Football Castlecomer



Football Champions St Canice's



Football Gaelscoil Osraí

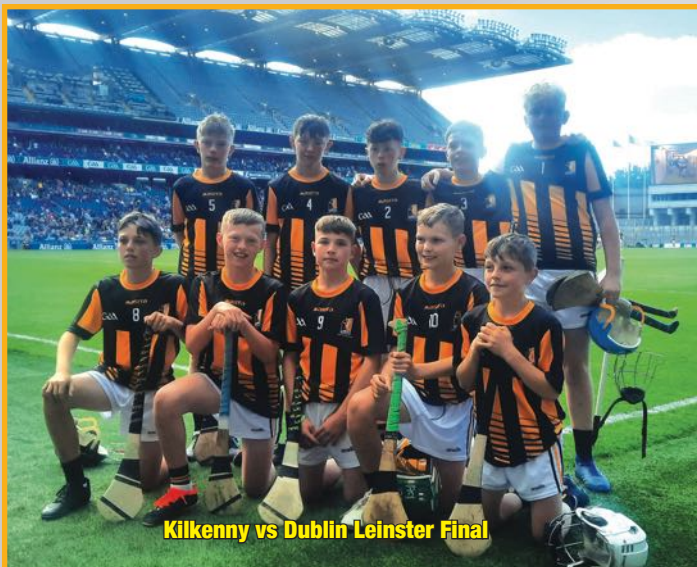


Football Gowran



Football Mooncoin

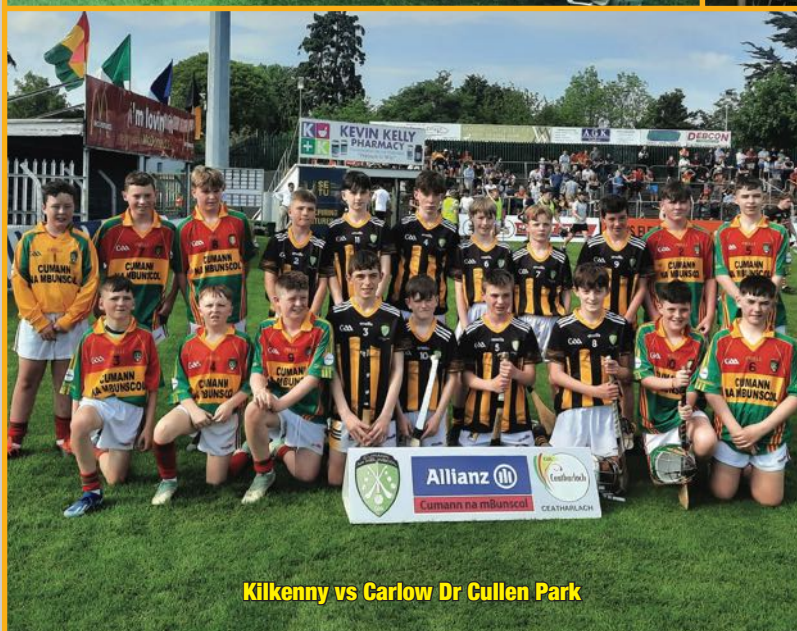
KILKENNY ON THE ROAD



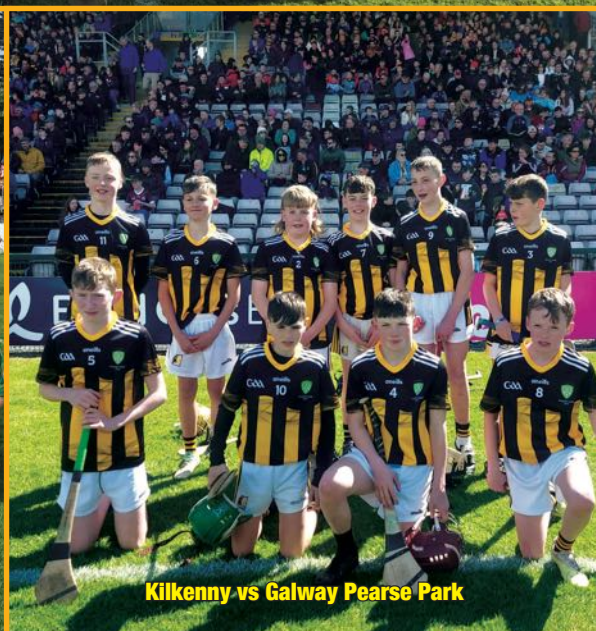
Kilkenny vs Dublin Leinster Final



Kilkenny vs Dublin Parnell Park



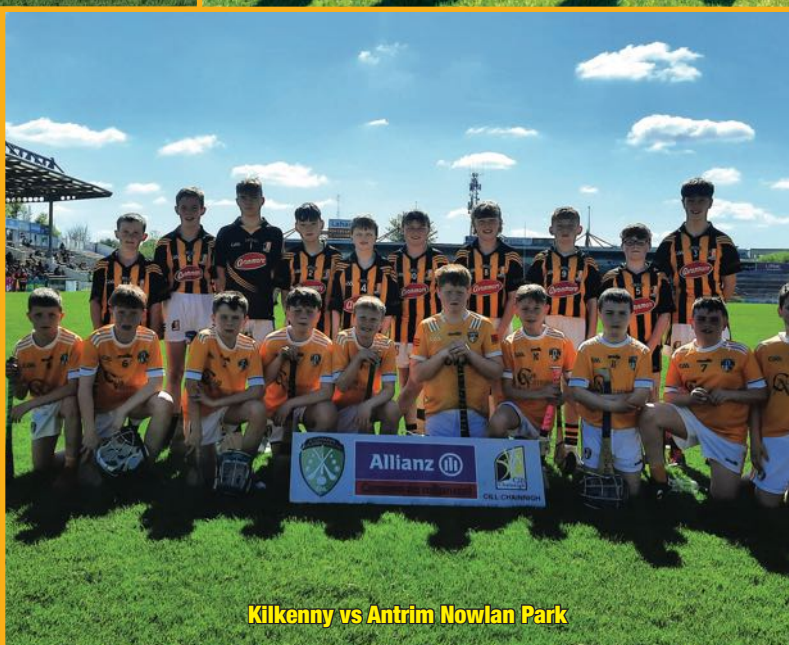
Kilkenny vs Carlow Dr Cullen Park



Kilkenny vs Galway Pearse Park

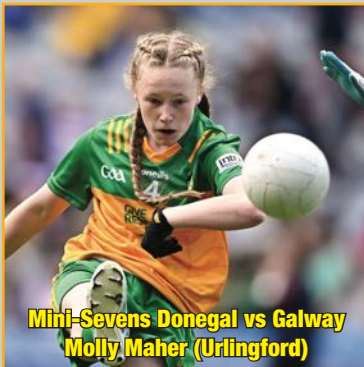


Kilkenny at Laois Camogie Blitz



Kilkenny vs Antrim Nowlan Park

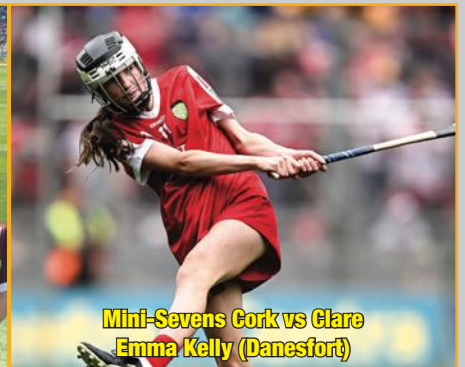
KILKENNY IN CROKER



**Mini-Sevens Donegal vs Galway
Molly Maher (Urlingford)**



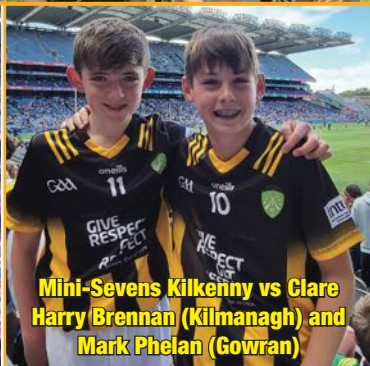
**Mini-Sevens Galway vs Armagh Rebecca
Lahart (Dunnamaggin) No 11**



**Mini-Sevens Cork vs Clare
Emma Kelly (Danesfort)**



**Mini-Sevens Galway vs Armagh
Liam Hickey (St Canice's)**



**Mini-Sevens Kilkenny vs Clare
Harry Brennan (Kilmanagh) and
Mark Phelan (Gowran)**



**Mini-Sevens Kilkenny vs Clare Young Whistlers Oisín Ó Sirín
agus Emma Ní Leannáin Bhreathnach (Gaelscoil Osraí)**

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CÚL CAMPS 2024 - THOMASTOWN



CÚL CAMPS 2024 - ERIN'S OWN



1946

This year we include archival reports of six first time County SH Final victories.

SPEED DECIDING FACTOR IN THRILLING FINISH

By An Camán

THOMASTOWN, 5-4: CARRICKSHOCK, 4-5

CARRICKSHOCK'S BIG LEAD WIPED OUT

The Intermediate championships having been scrapped after 1937 meant that successful junior teams frequently found the automatic promotion to Senior ranks quite difficult to master. Since 1938, only two successful junior teams, Mullinavat and Threecastles had managed to reach Senior finals, both of which were lost. Would Thomastown, the junior champions of 1945 fare any different when they faced up to the bigger senior clubs in 1946? They served notice that they were going to be a force to be reckoned with when they disposed of Mooncoin in the first round and the knocked out James Stephens in the second. In the semi final, Thomastown beat a strongly fancied Dicksboro team (3-6 to 3-3), the 'Boro having put out double champions, Eire Og in the first round. The second semi-final saw Carrickshock defeat a rejuvenated Tullaroan by 3-10 to 3-5 in what was a terrific match.

(Dermot Kavanagh - A History - Kilkenny Senior Hurling County Finals)

THOMASTOWN made hurling history at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny, on Sunday last, when, in a whirlwind finish, they defeated a strongly fancied Carrickshock side in the Kilkenny senior hurling championship final. It was the first time the county senior title was brought to Thomastown and, coming a year after their venture in junior grade, it represents an achievement that is unprecedented in the annals of hurling in this county. They finished a rather desultory first half 12 points behind but

they showed a complete change of form in the second moiety and a magnificent tally, which gradually suppressed all opposition, left them two points ahead (5-4 to 4-5) at the close.

It was not a game that can be described as anything in the nature of a classic, but there were phases in the second half that spoke eloquently of the speed with which Thomastown played and provided a really thrilling exhibition.

There can be no doubt about the merit of Thomastown's victory, and the determined manner in which they finished showed that they were fully prepared and that the start of the second half showed that Thomastown's advance on their rivals for victory had not been fortuitous, but as a triumph for youth and only a team that could display the same youthful vigour, the same yielding tenacity, could have had any hope of redeeming what was, to all intents and purposes, a lost cause.



THOMASTOWN - SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONS, 1946

Back: Jimmy Cassin, John Prendergast, John Stapleton, Ned "Irons" Ryan, Ned Ryan, Peter Prendergast, Pat Stapleton, Podge Dack (Capt), Jack Gibbons, Jimmy Gibbons, Ned Moore, Pat Norton.

Middle: Paddy Lannon, Luke Donnelly, Liam Kelly, Kieran Power, Dick Cassin, Jack Galway, Watty Ryan, Dick Moore, Dan Kennedy.

Front: Jimmy Bookle, Ted Kelly, Jim Challoner.

Speed was the prominent factor in the game and speed, being the very quintessence of Thomastown's hurling, enabled them to forge ahead and fight back in a resolute and unrelenting manner.

Carrickshock, being the more experienced team and capable of displaying a will and craft that so often in the past proved a formidable obstacle, were looked upon as having more than a fifty-fifty chance of adding another title to their laurels. Apparently, they underestimated the strength of the opposition and seemed quite unable to cope with Thomastown's magnificent second-half rally.

Carrickshock will find no serious loss of prestige in having to give in to a brilliant young team. Carrickshock have an enviable reputation in Kilkenny hurling circles, and while a great many people would have liked to see them win, Thomastown's victory was universally acclaimed and their display won praise even from Carrickshock supporters.

Carrickshock started in a most convincing fashion and the early stages presaged an overwhelming victory for them as they piled up what looked like a reasonably safe lead. In fact the whole first half moved smoothly in their favour and with a margin of 12 points, a completely one-sided second half was anticipated. Thomastown did not show anything like their true form in the first half and the early loss of Dan Kennedy, who fielded despite a severe foot injury sustained in training, seemed to have an upsetting effect. He'd been chosen for the right full forward position. Thomastown scored twice in the first half, Liam Kelly getting a goal and a point, and to this, Carrickshock replied with four goals and four points. Apart from the appreciable difference in the scoring, it was in every way apparent that Carrickshock were superior as a whole and they exercised a complete mastery in almost every sector.

Carrickshock's lead was reduced immediately after the start of the second half when Chalonner shot to the net. This was the signal for Thomastown's remarkable rally and from this to the end they dominated in all departments and finished two points in front.

Thomastown's victory is largely due to the speed and fast striking which was a characteristic of all their players in general. They might have even done better had they concentrated more on ground hurling. It should have been apparent to them that their main hopes of success were as in their ability to maintain a fast pace and though they did this sufficiently well enough to secure victory, there was a slight tendency to lift the ball unnecessarily.

Speed was the predominant factor in the game and the masterly display of Liam Kelly, who was the prime mover in most of Thomastown's scoring success, may be cited as an important contributory factor. He was ever keen and alert and the manner in which he engineered scoring opportunities stamped him as one of the best, if not actually the best, players on view. His resourcefulness helped to get the Thomastown men into the action at a vital period. Thomastown's defence rose to remarkable heights in the closing stages when sustained and gruelling tussles followed two "70's" which Bobby Hincks dropped into the square. On one occasion at this juncture, Power, who kept a magnificent goal for the winners, made a head-long drive to deflect the ball wide. On

another occasion, Pat Stapleton, who can display an uncanny sense of positioning, stormed his way through a barrage of hurlers to effect a fine clearance

There were two periods in the game in which the issue vacillated on a very fine thread with almost the entire Carrickshock fifteen surging round Thomastown territory, but after the storm had passed, the hopes of a Carrickshock victory passed with them. Anything could have happened at this stage and it speaks volumes for the resourcefulness of the Thomastown defence that they were able to cope successfully with a situation so pregnant with possibilities.

Thomastown had a very fine defence and the efforts of K Power (Goal), Jack Galwey, Pat Stapleton, Peter Prendergast and Paddy Dack with R Cassin and J Prendergast also lending valuable support played a very important part in their success. After recovering from the disorganised effect which

Carrickshock's early supremacy imposed, they never yielded an inch in the second half. L Donnelly and L Kelly had to give away to Carrickshock in the exchanges in the first half, but Thomastown had the advantage in the second half. J Kelly played in the last line of attack in the second half, and this change exercised an important influence on the result, J Chalonner, R Moore and W Ryan were hard and consistent workers in attack and contributed a good share of Thomastown's success. The full line also reached the peak of perfection, Lannon, who came on as a sub to give

a brilliant display getting good help from T Kelly and E Ryan.

Though P McBride in the Carrickshock goal effected a number of good saves, he did not strike his usual form. Of the backs, W Walsh was easily the best and was all the time prominent in repulsing Thomastown raids. The veteran full back, Bob Aylward, also played a fine defensive game and got able support from T Flemming, Bobby Hincks, E Fitzpatrick and E Hogan. I have seen E Hogan have better games but he had a very difficult task to cope with the speed of the younger players. T Wall and P Flemming held the upper hand at centrefold in the first half, but matters did not move easily in their favour in the second. Wall however, played consistently well throughout. J Kelly put in a tremendous amount of work without being as brilliant as he was in other games but this was due to the fact that he was anxious to undertake too much. In spite of this however, he put in a grand hour's work. J Phelan, who was chosen for the unorthodox role of full forward, was Carrickshock's most prolific scorer, and did not seem to find any great difficulty in adapting himself to his unusual role. "Builder" Walsh also played very well and was responsible for creating some good openings. M Butler, T Butler and L Long were also hard triers and contributed useful service in the first half when Carrickshock went well ahead.

Points from the Play

Carrickshock had an early wide before Liam Kelly opened for Thomastown with a point after being placed by M Ryan. R Aylward goaled for Carrickshock and a good effort by

THOMASTOWN'S UNIQUE RECORD

By winning the junior and senior titles in successive years, Thomastown have established a new and unique record. Éire Óg won the minor, junior, and intermediate titles in successive years in 1935, 1936, and 1937, and were beaten in the 1938 senior final by Carrickshock by 2-5 to 1-5. After winning the junior title in 1928 Carrickshock were beaten by Mooncoin in the 1929 senior final after two drawn games.

Thomastown won the minor title in 1942 and contested the 1943 final, in which they were beaten by Johnstown. Most of the team that won the 1942 minor title figured in Sunday's game.

Ted Kelly was well saved by P McBride. Power saved well in Thomastown's goal and following a free by Jimmy Kelly, Carrickshock forced two "70's", both of which went without result. P Prendergast saved from a Carrickshock free (Bobby Hincks) but after being placed by J Kelly, M Butler had the equalising point. Jimmy Kelly put Carrickshock in the lead with another point from a free but a Thomastown raid was finished to the net by L Kelly to put Thomastown two points in front (1-1 to 0-2). Dan Kennedy was replaced by P Lannon. A Carrickshock free was finished for a point by M Butler and a goal by Jack Phelan following a point by T Walsh left the scores 1-3 to 1-1 in favour of Carrickshock at the end of the first quarter.

Bobby Hincks pointed a Carrickshock "70" and following a determined raid on the Thomastown goal, T Walsh shot to the net. Hincks pointed two more "70's" before P Fleming raised a white flag to leave Thomastown six points behind (2-4 to 1-1). Power, Thomastown goalie, was replaced by J Gibbons. P Stapleton played goal while his place was taken by Gibbons. A Carrickshock raid was finished for a goal by T Butler and after McBride had saved well, Hincks again put Carrickshock on the offensive for Builder Walsh to add another goal. A Carrickshock free was awarded but saved at the expense of a "70" which Hincks sent wide. The half time scores were Carrickshock 4-4 Thomastown 1-1.

Thomastown opened well and a good move was finished for a goal by J Challoner. Power returned when Gibbons was hurt and Stapleton moved back to his usual place, right full back. Thomastown maintained pressure and W Ryan sent over the bar after receiving from L Kelly. Carrickshock were still eight points ahead (4-4 to 2-2), but the lead was narrowed when W Ryan went through for a goal after good work by Challoner and L Kelly. A good effort by L Kelly was cleared at the expense of a "70" and following a tussle between in the Carrickshock goal mouth Kelly had a point. Carrickshock replied with a similar score per T Fleming. Galwey scored well when the Thomastown defence was under pressure and after a Carrickshock free went without reward, Thomastown renewed the attack and Lannon forced his way through for a goal to leave the dividing margin only two points. T Fleming, Carrickshock, was replaced by Jimmy Walsh. A Thomastown free was pointed by Dack and Lannon was again on the mark and shot through for a goal to give Thomastown the lead by a point (5-3 to 4-5). Liam Kelly added another point for Thomastown and just before the end, Carrickshock had two "70's" both of which were cleared.

Thomastown:- K Power, P Stapleton, J Galwey, R Cassin, P Dack, P Prendergast, L Donnelly, L Kelly, J Challoner, R moore, W Ryan, D Kennedy, E Ryan, T Kelly.
Subs P Lannon for D Kennedy, J Gibbons for Power

Carrickshock:- P McBride, E Fitzpatrick, R Aylward, W Walsh, T Fleming, R Hincks, E Hogan, T Wall, P Fleming, T Walsh, M Butler, J Kelly, T Butler, J Phelan, L Long.
Subs J Walsh for T Fleming

Mr Jim Langton was a very capable and impartial referee.

Summing Up.

"Speed beat us" was James Walsh's comment to me after the game. He was surprised that Carrickshock made no positional changes at any stage during the second half. Their defence was called upon to stand up to a sustained assault and the changing of Jack Phelan to half a halfback or fullback might have made some difference. At the same time it must be kept in mind that Thomastown were by far the better team in the second half and it is doubtful whether any change could have stopped or even subdued the speedy and skillful efforts of those young forwards who swept all before them in

a wonderful rally.

All things considered it's a good thing that a young team can go so far and it bodes well for the future of hurling in the county

Reception for Champions.

ENTHUSIASTIC SCENES AT THOMASTOWN

(From our Thomastown correspondent)

The team was given a tumultuous reception on their arrival on the outskirts of the town on Sunday evening when thousands of townspeople and residents of the parish turned out to acclaim the victors, who headed the large procession on a motor lorry. Very lights as other phenomena were seen high in the sky and a jubilant atmosphere prevailed far into the night. The procession soon halted outside the courthouse which was literally stormed as the hurlers attempted to gain admission to the hospitable reception awaited them. The team was congratulated on their victory by Rev. M Drea P. P who said that their loyal supporters had been amply rewarded for the enthusiasm and encouragement they had shown. He paid a warm tribute to Mr Paddy Norton, trainer of the team, and enumerated the list of honours which they had already taken on the hurling field. "You have played a most courageous and skilful and manly game" he said "and we are all proud of you". Rev A O'Dwyer CC who also congratulated the team said they started on the lowest ring of the ladder but when they won the junior championship he knew that victory in a higher grade was possible. They had now reached the highest rank and had beaten formidable teams. They went out determined to bring home the laurels and they succeeded. "It is a red letter day in the history of Thomastown" he continued "for it is the first senior hurling championship which has come to the parish".

QUOTES FROM THE MUNSTER EXPRESS

"Carrickshock gave all that was in them in this half, and when they turned over at half-time with a lead of twelve points, they looked all set for another title. Thomastown followers were completely flabbergasted with the poor showing of their team in this first half, and very few expected them to overtake such a big lead."

"In all these valued scores, every member of the- winning team played his part, but pride of place must be given to young black-haired Liam Kelly (son of Tim Kelly. Killarney. a former well-known hurler). who proved the brains and inspiration behind these well-engineered movements which resulted in the fall of the Carrickshock net."

"It was a most peculiar match from many angles, being all Carrickshock in the first half, and all Thomastown in the closing moiety, while history was also created by re-ason of the fact that it was the first time for the senior honours to be brought to Thomastown, and by the fact that the receipts beat all previous records for a County Final - £352 odd."

"The townspeople stood by them to the last and travelled in full strength by every possible mode of conveyance to cheer the wearers of the blue and white to victory on Sunday. It was an enthusiastic scene as they carried the players shoulder-high from the pitch to the dressing-room. where they were again mobbed by hundreds of excited followers. Bob Aylward, on behalf of Carrickshock, also dropped in to convey congratulations and was heartily appreciated."

"Three of their players. Dan Kennedy, P. Prendergast. and Liam Kelly (who possesses all the qualities and science of a Christy Ring) have already been honoured by inclusion in the Kilkenny senior hurling side to meet Wexford in the National League on Sunday week."

1949

GRAIGUE WIN THRILLING HURLING FINAL

TURNED THE TABLES ON TULLAROAN

Graigue 3-12 Tullaroan 2-14

By An Camán

The identity of three of the four qualifiers for the semi-finals would have satisfied hurling sentimentalists. Tullaroan, Mooncoin and Carrickshock, who between them had won 35 County titles, had made it through to the penultimate stage. The fourth qualifier was Graigue whose best performance to date was to take Tullaroan to a replay in the 1947 semi-final. In their semi-final outing, Graigue faced Mooncoin, and after a fine game came through on a 2-10 to 3-4 scoreline. Champions, Tullaroan, repeated last year's final victory over Carrickshock with an easy 5-12 to 2-6 win this time around.

(Dermot Kavanagh - A History - Kilkenny Senior Hurling County Finals)

In what may well be described as one of the most spectacular finals ever witnessed in Kilkenny, Graigue, who were contesting their first senior hurling championship, turned the tables on Tullaroan (holders) during the playing of lost time at Nowlan Park on Sunday to win their first title on the scores 3-12 (21 points) to 2-14 (20 points).

Still in their infancy as a senior team, few expected Graigue to stand up to the

more experienced holders, and up to the end of the hour Tullaroan appeared to be certain victors.

Many followers left the pitch before the final whistle without any doubt about the final issue - to learn with amazement afterwards of a whirlwind come-back by an apparently beaten side, which evoked scenes of wild enthusiasm in Nowlan Park, reminiscent of an All Ireland final.

From early in the game it was all about Tullaroan, with sporadic flashes from Graigue, which occasionally narrowed the lead and maintained interest. In the final quarter this interest lagged when Graigue, after narrowing the lead to one goal, lost their chance to equalise and Tullaroan forged ahead again.

For periods at this stage hardly a murmur arose from the huge crowd and the game seemed fated to end in extreme



GRAIGUE- COUNTY SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1949

Back: Dick Blake, John Keane. Henry Giles, Paddy Cahill, Dinny Holohan. Jim Walton, Nick Purcell
James Fennelly, Marty McEvoy, Mick Blake.

Front: Paddy Burke, Maurice Shaughnessy, Mick Kenny, Billy Daly, Bill Cahill, Bob Woodgate, Mick Coonan.
Subs: Dick Cleere, Martin Brennan, Jimmy Maher.

dullness. The playing of lost time had begun and a trickle of people went towards the exits. Then two epic goals, one by Jim Walton, another by W.Daly, coming with a bewildering rapidity, brought the silent crowd to their feet in a frenzy of cheering.

In a moment Graigue's blue and white colours sprouted everywhere, hats, coats, handkerchiefs were flung into the air in a thrilling moment, which will long be remembered among Kilkenny hurling fans. The apparently beaten team had swept away a solid lead and gone ahead by one point.

There followed phases of tense, dogged hurling. W.Costigan sent over the equaliser for Tullaroan, and everyone seemed to have one eye on their watches, another on the pitch as Graigue went into attack, and M.Kenny converted a free into the deciding point, when approximately nine minutes overtime had been played.

For a few minutes more suspense lasted with Tullaroan striving for the all important score and Graigue playing all they knew and a bit more, to hold control, until the whistle brought to a close what was truly an epic county championship final.

Graigue's spectacular success is the story of a team that refused to be beaten. A comparatively "green" team tilted at the traditional giants of Tullaroan, and continued to tilt with superb grit and confidence when few thought they had a chance in the closing 'quarter, even the eloquent silence of their own strong following failed to dampen their efforts.

The missing of two goals from the square at a late stage left them unshaken, their stubborn efforts were maintained until they brought their reward. With this, Graigue seemed to have the advantage of being a little fitter. When Tullaroan had slackened slightly after an hour of gruelling hurling, Graigue still had a little in reserve which stood them in good stead in the last vital minutes.

The game, which was for the most part played in brilliant sunshine, was notable for the fine spirit of sportsmanship which prevailed all through, and the winners and losers are to be congratulated on a fine display. Fast, non-stop hurling prevailed all through, and there were very few stoppages, with very frequent scoring.

The half was thrown in by Mr T Walsh, T.D., President of the Leinster Council. The James Stephens Pipe Band paraded on the pitch and entertained the spectators during the interval. Kilkenny Ambulance Unit (Order of Malta) were present and attended to injured players. In the first half Tullaroan had a decisive supremacy at midfield, while their forwards had the advantage in speed. The Graigue forwards were not co-ordinating well and poor finishing characterised their attacks.

Much tightening up and shrewd changes told their tale in the second half, and Tullaroan's lightning dashes which had brought them rapid scores in the first half were kept well in check by close and determined marking. Graigue had an outstanding man in M.Kenny, who played a fine game in the half-forward line, and in the second half at midfield where he gave the winners a strong pull.

Another brilliant figure among the winners was captain John Keane, especially in the second half, when he provided the forwards with plenty of chances from the half-back line.

M.McEvoy, who moved to the half-forward line in the second half, played a sterling game. J.Fennelly was a strong partner for Kenny at midfield and this pair played a vital role in the second half. J.Walton was the best of the full forward line, while W.Daly was prominent in the half-forward line.

Hitherto a minor, W.Cleere gave a very promising display after replacing Bob Woodgate on the back line early in the game. H. Giles gave a good display in the half line of defence, and P. Burke was also good in the full line. In goal D.Holohan gave a fine display and effected many spectacular saves.

For Tullaroan, T.Walton starred in the first half, putting his fine marksmanship to good effect. In the second half, however, he was allowed little opportunities. P.Dowling, at midfield, had a big part in Tullaroan's earlier supremacy, when Graigue were well beaten in this department in the first half. J. Clohosey was prominent in the half line of attack for his speed and accuracy, and W.Costigan, as centre half, played a fine game.

In defence, M.Marnell gave a sound display, while P.Teehan was also good. R.Walsh was best in a good half line. S.Shortall in goal gave a sterling display.

THE PLAY

Tullaroan lost no time in getting off the mark and a shot by Clohosey was knocked down by the Graigue goalie. Tullaroan returned immediately, and Clohosey this time sent over the bar for the opening score, in the first minute. Daly replied immediately with a point from short range. A free sent Graigue attacking again and Shortall cleared from the square. Graigue continued to press and a shot by Daly was blocked well by Shortall and in the ensuing tussle the ball went wide. A free by Peter Dolwing was sent to the net by Walton, and Walton soon after followed up with a fine point which put Tullaroan in the lead by 1-2 to 0-1.

Another shot for the goal by Clohosey was cleared by Holohan. Downey was fouled near the Graigue goal just before sending over the bar. Though the whistle had gone, the score was finally allowed. Giles cleared a strong Tullaroan attack before Walton sent another fine shot over the bar to put Tullaroan ahead by 1-3. At this point Graigue seldom succeeded in getting past the Tullaroan half-back line. A centre by Giles was cleared by Mark Marnell and Clohosey added another point for Tullaroan before Kenny replied with a point. A free launched Graigue on a strong attack and after one shot struck the post a Tullaroan defender sent out for a "70", which was centred by John Keane and sent over the bar by D. Daly to leave the scores 1-5 to 0-3. Graigue continued to press strongly and in a strong rush the defenders conceded a penalty, which was pointed by Kenny. Costigan replied from a free, and J.Cahill followed up with another point. Dowling centred from midfield and Teehan shot to the net from an angle to make the scores 2-7 to 0-4.

A centre by McEvoy sent Graigue into the attack and Purcell sent to the net for their first goal. Graigue resumed the offensive and Jim Walton pointed from close in. Graigue's efforts livened up and Kenny added a point from a free and Fennelly another to narrow the lead to one goal, but Tullaroan widened the gap again with snap points by Fennelly and Costigan. Another point was added by Costigan from a free to leave the scores 2-10 to 1-7.

A free for Graigue centred by Daly was cleared from the square and another fierce Graigue attack ended in a close-in

free which was pointed by Kenny just before the interval, to leave the scores: Tullaroan, 2-10: Graigue, 1-8

Soon after the resumption Jim Walton finished a shot by Daly over the bar. Tightened up considerably at centrefield, Graigue went into attack again but Purcell sent narrowly wide from close in. A strong counter attack by Tullaroan was fended off by the Graigue defenders and John Keane sent a free over the bar from far out to make the scores 2-10 to 1-10. Coonan cleared a strong Tullaroan attack but a fine shot by Walton went over the bar to put Graigue out of striking distance once more. Peter Dowling, who had moved into the half-forward line at this stage, further consolidated Tullaroan's lead with a nice point.

Graigue lost a chance when a centre by Kenny was sent wide at the square. Tom Walton added a point to Tullaroan's lead. Graigue went into attack and earned a "70" taken by John Keane, which went wide. Another free for Graigue taken by John Keane was ushered wide. To drown an unfortunate series of misses, a shot by Jim Walton at an open goal close in, which seemed to be a certain score, was just wide of the post.

With time running out, a point by Kenny from a free making the scores 2-14 to 1-11, aroused little interest. A free for Tullaroan centred well by the Graigue goalie and Graigue returned to the attack strongly but the effort ended with a wide. It was at this stage that a free by John Keane was finished with a lightning shot to the net by Jim Walton, to put new life into what had become a very dead game. Hardly had a ball been pucked out when Graigue were in attack again and another rasper was sent into the net by Billy Daly.

With only lost time to be played, Graigue had taken a lead of one point on the scores - 3-11 (20 pts.) to 2-13 (19 pts.) This came at the end of a terrific bout of hurling, and six players dropped the moment the ball went out of play. After the puck-out a free sent Tullaroan into attack and they were conceded another free about 40 yards out. It was taken by W.Costigan who sent it over the bar to level the scores at 3-11 to 2-14 when over five minutes of extra time had been played.

Graigue returned to the attack and a shot by McEvoy which went over the bar, was nullified by the whistle. The resulting free was sent over the bar by Michael Kenny for the vital point which put Graigue into the lead with the final whistle due at any instant.

In the following minutes Graigue were an inspired team. A terrific effort by Tullaroan was held firmly in check after a snap shot by Jimmy Clohosey, and the holders were given little opportunity to pull the game out of the fire before the final whistle.

Graigue - D. Holohan, (goal), P. Burke, M. Coonan, B. Woodgate, P. Cahill, J. Keane, H. Giles, M. McEvoy, J. Fennelly, N. Purcell, M. Kenny, W. Daly, W. Shaughnessy, J. Walton, W. McCarthy, W. Cleere replaced Bob Woodgate in the first half.

Tullaroan - S. Shortall, S. Marnell, M. Marnell, P. Teehan, J. Hogan, T. Hogan, R. Walsh, P. Dowling, P. Malone, J. Clohosey, W. Costigan, S. Downey, T. Teehan, J. Cahill and T. Walton.

The referee, who deserves to be complimented on handling the game fairly and well, was Mr Paddy Dack, Thomastown.

FROM THE MUNSTER EXPRESS GRAIGUE'S WIN OVER TULLAROAN KILKENNY SENIOR HURLING FINAL

In a game which produced passages of traditional Kilkenny hurling, and ended in a sensational last-minute success, Graigue defeated Tullaroan (holders) to win the county title for the first time at Nowlan Park on Sunday. Only the minimum margin separated the sides the final scores, being 3-12 to 2-14.

Though not over-brilliant, it was a keen, hard-fought game played in a fine sporting spirit, despite the fact that the teams are neighbouring rivals. Tullaroan, with a lead of nine points at one period, looked likely winners, but Graigue staged a wonderful rally and rammed home two goals in quick succession as lost lime was being played.

This put them ahead by a point, but Tullaroan levelled the scores. When all seemed certain of a draw, the champions spoiled by fouling close in, and from the resultant free on the 21 yards line, Kenny clinched the issue for Graigue with a point.

Keane, Burke Cahill, Purcell and McEvoy were prominent throughout for the winners, whilst Walton, Clohosey, Downey, Costigan and Shortall (in goal) were conspicuous for Tullaroan. Mr P. Dack. Thomastown. refereed.

SCENES OF JUBILATION.

There was considerable excitement at the close of the game, when enthusiastic supporters of the Graigue team circled the captain and his colleagues to the dressingroom. to the accompaniment of cheers. Tom Walton and Paddy Malone of the losing side, went to the Graigue dressing-room to congratulate the victors. John Keane, captain, thanked Tullaroan for their grand gesture, and called for three cheers for the losers, a request which was heartily responded to.

The Smithwick Cup was presented to the winners by Mr Tom Walsh, T.D., Chairman of Kilkenny County Board who congratulated Graigue on winning the title for the first time, and paid tribute to Tullaroan. who went down so gallantly. He also referred to the fine sporting manner in which the game had been played.

The victors were subsequently entertained to a reception at the Eagle Inn Hotel, Kilkenny, where speeches were given by Mssrs. Martin Egan, Chairman. Northern Board. G.A.A., R. Aylward. M.C.C. representing the County Board, Joe Young, former County Secretary, D Maher N.T.. Graigue, and John Keane, captain of the winning team.

KILKENNY S.H. TEAM TO MEET GALWAY

At a meeting of the County Senior Hurling Selection Committee held at Nowlan Park on Sunday evening last, the following team was chosen to do duty for Kilkenny in the National League against Galway at Ballinasloe on Sunday week, 23rd October;

Ramie Dowling (Goal), Paddy Hayden. Jim Langton, Liam Reidy (Eire Og); Tom Walton, Shem Downey M. Marnell, Jim Hogan (Tullaroan); John Keane. W. Costigan. Ml. Kenny (Graigue) . Dan Kennedy (Bennett's Bridge); Bill Walsh (Carrickshock); Peter Prendergast (Thomastown); and P. Buggy (Slieverue). Sub.: J. Clohosey (Tullaroan); J. Heffernan (Carrickshock); P. Hanrahan (Thomastown); N. Purcell (Graigue) , and P. J. Garvan (Dicksboro).

The team shows six changes from the side which went under to Laoighis in the Leinster Final. Walton. Hogan, Buggy Kenny. Reidy and Costigan coming on in place of Paddy Grace. Jimmy Kelly. Jimmy Heffernan, Jack Mulcahy, Jim Walton, and J. Clohosey.

1954

SLIEVERUE'S FIRST SENIOR TITLE

TULLAROAN BEATEN BY SPARKLING SOUTHERN SIDE

SLIEVERUE, 6-5. TULLAROAN, 4-3.

With the introduction of the Parish Rule and its strict application, there was little or no room for ambiguity and all the clubs appeared to comply with it. An unusual situation developed before the draws were made. Thomastown were due to play Glenmore in the Southern Junior Final of 1953 in March (1954). The club decided that whether or not they won the junior championship they were stepping up to Senior Ranks. If Thomastown lost the contest for the County Junior title there would be 12 teams in the Senior draw - the 10 already entered, plus the Junior champions, and Thomastown. If Thomastown did win the junior crown there would be only 11 teams in the draw. Thomastown did not win the Junior table. Due to the number of teams (12) in the draw it was strangely decided that the winner of a specific second round game would automatically qualify for the final. Thus when Slieverue defeated neighbours Glenmore in that second round game they qualified for their second consecutive County Final. Tullaroan, conquerors of double champions Bennettsbridge in the second round, overcame Mooncoin in a thrilling semi final game by two points in "lost" time,

(Dermot Kavanagh - A History - Kilkenny Senior Hurling County Finals)

Slieverue put the seal on years of effort and climaxed a season of surprises when they defeated Tullaroan in the final of the County Kilkenny Senior Hurling Championship at Nowlan Park on Sunday, to take the title for the first time. Never was a title won more decisively.

The Southern club, who first hit the headlines

four years ago, when they won the junior championship, and who contested last year's final with Bennettsbridge, were given only an outside chance of success in pre-match general opinion, but right from the throw-in it was obvious that they meant to set a hot pace, and at half-time the writing was on the wall for a Tullaroan team that was beaten for speed in all departments.

Slieverue were a revelation. Gone was the lack of cohesion that appeared in their previous games. They were a solid, youthful side that had all the hallmarks of sound preparation for the big day; they were fit and fast; they hurled the ball on the ground in the old tradition, and there was never a falter when Tullaroan turned on the steam in the second half to try



SLIEVERUE - SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONS, 1954

*Back: Michael Grant (Selector), Tommy Walsh, Dick Mahony, Gerry Buggy, Paddy Grant, Dick Rockett, Ned O'Dwyer, Andy Irish, Jim Walsh, Tom "Builder" Walsh, Michael Griffin (Treasurer), Michael Walsh.
Front: John Hokey, Bill Cahill, Paddy Buggy, Sean Griffin, John Hartley, Martin Buggy, Michael Murphy, Pat Irish.*

and save something from the wreckage.

While the standard was hardly up to that of other finals there can be no doubting that the new champions are likely to be a force in the county for some years if they can hold their side together. It is a great achievement for a young team that they slammed a side with a tradition like Tullaroan's and that they rose well above the ordinary to such an extent that all the craft on the tamed northern team proved of no avail. It is true that Slieverue had a great start (they were five points up in as many minutes) and that Tullaroan were always battling, but the zest and spirit this Slieverue side put into their play from the word go suggests that they were on to a winning plan. Having established that early lead they never looked like being overtaken and their early scores were just the tonic they needed.

Tullaroan were perhaps in the unfortunate position that while their form in the championship was well known to their opponents they had little means of gauging the capabilities of the southern side who had entered the final after two games. Slieverue were the "unknowns" of the championship race and planned accordingly. Since they last came into the limelight by their junior success in 1950 they have been steadily team building and it is noteworthy that they have been beaten each year by the subsequent champions. Their display in last year's final against Bennetsbridge suggested they would soon be a force in the county, and their success this year has merited reward for their efforts and for the confidence placed in young players.

Slieverue's win was a triumph for youth, enthusiasm and skill and pitted against the traditional artistry of Tullaroan, their success is all the more sweet. It is no reflection on Tullaroan to say that the southerners victory was a popular one because sports followers dearly love gallant newcomers and the spirit in which the losers accepted defeat in a clean fought game where they had been favourites to win is all to their credit.

SLIEVERUE BALANCE

Little as was known of Slieverue at headquarters, Prior to the final it was generally accepted that they were a well-balanced side. How well this was fulfilled! Rarely has a champion team displayed such all-round integrity as Slieverue did in their first success. Their superiority over Tullaroan was so marked in all sectors that it comes as a difficulty to pinpoint any line or any player as their match winners. Theirs was essentially a team win, but what comes to mind in a recap of the games is the solidarity of their half back line.

It was this trio that bore the brunt of Tullaroan's challenge in the second half, and in the closing stages, they swept aside the losers' last rally in grand style. Their speed and their great power of recovery came to the aid of the side time and again. Paddy Buggy, on the left, kept the pattern of the close defence right through the hour, and his own stylish clearances were never seen to greater effect. P. Grant, who previously had played in the forwards, was called back to the defence for the game and such a success did he make of the centre half position that it is certain more will be heard of him. Jimmy Walsh on the right flank had speed to burn and held Jim Clohosey in a tight grip.

Perhaps the most sensational feature of the game was the measure of control exercised by R Rockett and P Irish (and Murphy) at centre field. Right from the start Slieverue had Seán Clohosey and Pete Dowling tied up and though J Hennessy improved matters for Tullaroan when he was switched, Slieverue always had the upper hand. Rockett, a goal-man last year with county prospects, had a glorious hour for the winners.

The Slieverue full back line gave little away. E Dwyer, captain of the side, gave a repeat of last year's form and showed that his place was at corner back. Full back Hokey was sound and M Walsh on the left did a great day's work for his team in holding Tom Walton scoreless from play. T Walsh in goal did his work well. A measure of the solidarity of the defence is the fact that Tullaroan's scores in the first half were all frees.

FIVE GOALS

"When we come to the Slieverue forward line everything else was

overshadowed by the great day left corner forward Sean Griffin had. Five goals in one game speaks volumes for one of the sides inter-county minors. Griffin must have broken the hearts of the Tullaroan defence with his lightning thrust and his opportunist goals, even if some scores were handed to him on a plate. There was more than a touch of greatness in his third goal, when his deft wrist-work steered the ball though mazed defenders to the net.

W. Cahill, who won an All-Ireland medal with Kilkenny in 1947, was the only 'old timer' on the side and if the younger players looked to him for guidance they were not disappointed. His breaks through the Tullaroan defence spelt danger every time, and his cute reading had the same defence guessing. At full-forward, R. Mahony (from Viper Kells) was not so close, but he helped to make the openings for many of his side's six goals. Star of the half-forward line was Gerry Buggy, brother of Paddy, whose accuracy from frees and general play was noteworthy. Hartley, a county minor this year, had a very effective game in the centre and Murphy, another minor, improved when he moved to centre field. Walsh, who came on as a sub in the second half, showed much of his old artistry.

Tullaroan will not be eager to remember the game. For with their midfield broken and Tom Walton held, they could do little right. Jim Hogan was the only defender to shine, and but for him the defence would have fallen to pieces. Paddy Malone had another sterling game, but he was too often a lone worker and when he was shifted to the defence the attack lost much of its sting.

Gormley was very subdued and when he moved into the attack he faded except for patches of effort in the second half. Tom Walton was well held, although he was tiring at the end and the rest of the forwards had an unhappy day. Moore was often seen to good advantage in the defence, as was W. Gaffney, but T Hogan in goal, who had been prominent in earlier games, was unfortunate in that two misdirected advances from his goal cost his side dearly.

THE PLAY

Tullaroan lined out with the breeze and sun in their favour in the first half. Slieverue broke away from the throw in but were sent back, and at the other end a free relieved Tullaroan pressure on the southerners' goal. Dowling was wide for Tullaroan and in the third minute Slieverue opened the scoring with a ground point by Cahill. A minute later, Gerry Buggy had another point from a free, and after five minutes Slieverue were five points up when Cahill ran in to tap a neat centre from Murphy to the net.

Tullaroan did not score until the eighth minute when Jim Hogan pointed from a 70, but a minute later Tom Hogan in the Tullaroan goal ran out to save well but overheld the ball, and Slieverue were awarded a 21-yard free from which Gerry Buggy goaled. Tom Walton pointed a Tullaroan free two minutes later and the northern side began to find the net; after their disastrous start Jim Hogan shot another point from a free at the end of the first quarter.

Gerry Buggy added another point for Slieverue from a free. In the 19th minute of play Slieverue netted another shock score. A high centre from Rockett spelled danger to the Tullaroan goal, and T. Hogan came out in an attempt to save. The ball beat him and Griffin was in in a flash to score his second goal. Thus, at the end of 19 minutes Slieverue led 3-3 to 0-3. Tullaroan came back and when they were awarded a 21 yards free, Tom Walton shot to the corner of the net.

Tullaroan tried midfield switches to stop the Slieverue onslaught. Paddy Malone moved to midfield with Hennessy and Seán Clohosey into centre forward, but Slieverue still came back. Cahill broke away but was fouled and from the free, G Buggy put over another point. Hogan made a great effort to point another 70 for Tullaroan but it was Slieverue again with a great goal by Griffin. Cahill had sent in a high ball and the corner forward slipped in and steered the ball past an array of Tullaroan backs for a fine goal. At half time Slieverue led 4-4 to 1-3.

Tullaroan made their great effort at the beginning of the second half.

Two minutes after the restart, J Hennessy goaled from close in, but three minutes later Griffin was on the mark again. He tapped the ball past the Tullaroan full back and ran in to add another goal. Tullaroan came back with a quick goal by T Hennessy in the seventh minute. Cahill put over a very nice point for Slieverue four minutes later and the next score did not come until ten minutes from normal time. In the meantime Tom Hogan had moved out of the goal for J Fitzgerald for Tullaroan. Following a long period of sustained pressure by Tullaroan, J Hennessy goaled to leave the scores Slieverue 5-5 Tullaroan 4-5, with ten minutes to go.

Tom "Builder" Walsh came on for Slieverue for Irish with Murphy going to midfield and Jim Walton replaced Young for Tullaroan.

Slieverue put the finishing touch to a great display with yet another Griffin goal. He cut over to the right and his low shot beat Fitzgerald for the final score of the game two minutes from time. Tom Walton tried to rally Tullaroan but his low shot went straight across the goal and wide and a Slieverue 70 by Paddy Buggy went to Grant who shot wide.

Slieverue

T Walsh, E Dwyer (C), J Hokey, M Walsh, J Walsh, P Grant, P Buggy, R Rockett, P Irish, M Murphy, J Hartley, G Buggy, W Cahill, D Mahony, S Griffin.

Tullaroan

T Hogan, W Moore, P Clohosey, K Tobin, J Hogan ©, J Hennessy, W Gaffney, P Dowling, S Clohosey, T Walton, J Young, T Hennessy
Referee - John Sutton

ATTENDANCE

Attendance was not as large as the semi final between Tullaroan and Mooncoin. Receipts were £509 as compared with £561 for the semi final.

TWO BANDS

Prior to the game St Patrick's brass and reed band and James Stephens pipe band led the parade of the teams, and the national anthem was played by St Patrick's Band

FROM THE MUNSTER EXPRESS GRAIGUE'S WIN OVER TULLAROAN SLIEVERUE'S FIRST SENIOR TITLE

Rank outsiders, even at the beginning of the Championship, Slieverue confounded the critics by defeating the much-fancied Tullaroan side to capture Kilkenny's premier hurling honours for the first time in the history of the club.

The standard of hurling fell short of previous years' finals, but the manner by which the southern team mastered, with ease, the stars of the Tullaroan team, caused loud cheers of encouragement from their supporters.

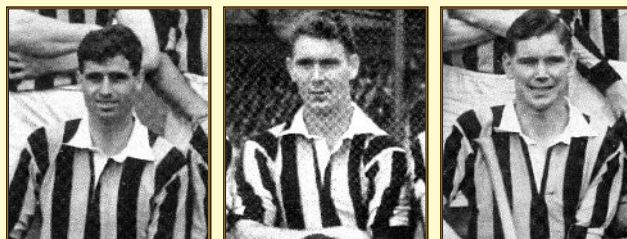
Completely on top at centrefield, R. Rockett and P. Irish were enabled to supply the forwards with a fair share of the ball, and star minor, S. Griffin, made no mistake when netting five of his side's total. In the defence, Paddy Buggy rose to great heights, and seldom if ever has this clean, stylish player played a better sixty minutes.

Other players to catch the eye in this grand Slieverue side were P. Grant and Ed. Dwyer (in defence), with Billy Cahill and Gerry Buggy always dangerous in attack.

It must be admitted that Slieverue never allowed the Tullaroan team the same scope as they held against Mooncoin, and few if any men enhanced their reputation. Jim Hogan tried hard to stem the Slieverue attack, and for most of the hour he ploughed a lonely furrow in the defence.

Out of the game badly at centrefield, Paddy Malone was the only player capable of penetrating the Slieverue defence, but lack of suitable support saw his many fine efforts wasted.

Slieverue's Paddy Buggy, Dick Rockett and Mickey Walsh (below) were members of the Kilkenny team which won the 1957 All Ireland SH Final against Waterford



Fifty years on - The surviving members of the Slieverue 1954 Kilkenny Senior Hurling County Champions who were honoured in Nowlan Park on Sunday, October 31, 2004.

Back: Barry Hickey (Development Officer, Kilkenny GAA), Paddy Grant, Andy Irish, John Hartley, Pat Irish, Dick Rockett, Tommy Walsh, Gerry Buggy.

Front: Sean Griffin, Michael Walsh, Martin Hanrahan (Food & Beverage Manager, Springhill Court Hotel), Neddy O'Dwyer (Captain), Ned Quinn (Chairman, Kilkenny GAA), Paddy Buggy, Martin Buggy.

1968

ROWER-INISTIOGE WIN THRILL-PACKED FINAL

Rower Inistioge 3-9 Bennettsbridge 3-7

Little did these Kilkenny followers attending the National Hurling League Final at Croke Park on May 12 anticipate the long-term consequences of the "misunderstanding" between the Kilkenny defence and the Tipperary forwards.

In July following a Central Council witchhunt, spearheaded by a number of maniacal delegates who had not attended the game, Ollie Walsh and John Flanagan (Upp) were each suspended for six months.

At a subsequent tense County Board meeting, the Thomastown delegate, Joe Walsh, quite understandably proposed that all Kilkenny teams should withdraw from all participation in the pending Leinster and All Ireland Championships. While there was general sympathy for the proposal, it was not seconded. Wiser Counsel prevailed, mainly through the contribution of County Chairman Nicholas Purcell, who pointed out, *inter alia* that such precipitate action would penalise amongst others, the Leinster Council, who were totally blameless in the affair'

Ultimately a unanimous decision was taken that the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Championship would proceed as normal until such time as Thomastown would be called again into action. Where that situation arose the championship would then be put on hold until Ollie Walsh's suspension had expired. (Dermot Kavanagh - A History - Kilkenny Senior Hurling County Finals)

The Rower-Inistioge are the 1968 county senior hurling champions. They took the title from the holders Bennettsbridge, at Nowlan Park on Sunday after one of the most memorable finals for 30 years.

The game had everything, clean, fast hurling uncompromising exchanges, without an ugly incident, and individual performances to set the hearts of the Rower-Inistioge followers a glow. Not since the herculean days of Éire Óg and Carrickshock has there been a county final with so much spectacle, thrills and heartthrobs, as the winners dominated for 40 minutes and then found themselves on the defence and perilously close to defeat.

The game provided a standard to satisfy the most exacting tastes from the very start the winners played with a skill and purpose that knocked the title holders off their game.

There were many factors in the Rower -Inistioge approach but the most important was their determination.

Giant Killers.

Setting themselves the role of giant killers they showed amazing courage and the vigour with



which they contested every second was an indication that they had come to Nowlan Park with a clear intention of winning. They played with a supreme confidence. But in spite of dictation the play and getting the better of the exchanges generally for most of the hour we also saw a sample of the greatness that has made Bennettsbridge such a wonderful

combination, though we had to wait until the closing stages to see it.

The Rower-Inistioge were winning their first senior hurling title and the celebrations will go on for a very long time. While every man on the winning side played his part in this great victory goalie Donal Kavanagh carved a niche of his own and is likely to earn the most encomiums from the club's supporters. He certainly won the admiration of neutrals at Nowlan Park. Some of his saves were amazing.

The backs also rose to the occasion in great style Jim Murphy, Fintan Murphy, and Martin Walsh had their lines completely sealed and their clearances were well directed John Walsh had a splendid game at right half with Billy Murphy and Eamonn Flood also leaving an imprint on the game.

In spite of Paddy Moran's hard work, the winners had slightly the edge at centrefield where Dermot and Pat Kavanagh played delightful hurling. Dermot was particularly brilliant all through with Pat coming more into the picture in the second half.



Rower Inistioge - 1968 County SH Champions

Back : John Mahon, Michael Murphy, Martin Walsh, Fintan Murphy, Pat Murphy, Tom Murphy, Tom Waters, Eddie Keher, Jim Dunphy, Martin Kavanagh, Dermot Kavanagh, Pat Kavanagh, Johnnie Cottrell.

Front : L. Cassin, P. Galavan, "Shorn" Morrissey, Martin Freeman, "Gee" Murphy, Michael Walsh (Capt.), John Walsh, Eamonn Flood, Billy Murphy, Donal Kavanagh, Danny White.

The Rower Inistioge attack played to a plan and it worked pivoting around Eddie Keher and Tommy Murphy, they used the wings effectively and those well worked early scores laid the foundation for victory. Their attacking movements were skilfully executed and paid dividends against defenders of the calibre of Jim Treacy and Seamus Cleere.

But Eddie Keher and Tommy Murphy were not alone in shaping this success. Danny White was another star and Pudsy Murphy fought every ball with a relentless intensity.

Michael Walsh and Martin Kavanagh teamed up splendidly in a purposeful combination.

Whether it was the fury of the early avalanche that took them by surprise or a slight degree of over confidence, Bennettsbridge never measured up to the expected standard and it was sheer determination alone that brought them back into the game in the closing stages.

Noel Skehan had many great saves to his credit and it would be hard for him to stop any of the goals. Jim Treacy was in brilliant form in the fullback line despite some clever hurling by Tommy Murphy, and Martin Treacy and Larry Cleere did quite well under periods of sustained pressure.

Seamus Cleere was obviously in need of the game after his long lay off but showed touches of his former greatness and John McGovern often got the better of Eddie Keher.

Paddy Kealy was off form at right half back and was replaced in the second half.

Paddy Moran as usual was in fine form at centrefield but he did not get sufficient support for his work to have a more telling effect. Conor O'Brien and later Pat Lalor helped him at centrefield

John Kinsella was best in the Bennettsbridge attack and might have got better returns if he had been given the necessary help. Sam Carroll for once was off form and Jim Bennett made a difference when he moved out to the half line. Noel Ryan made a big impact on the game in the closing stages but Paddy Treacy got little scope from Jim Murphy

Rower Inistioge: Donal Kavanagh, Jim Murphy, Fintan Murphy, Martin Walsh, John Walsh, Billy Murphy, Eamonn Flood, Dermot Kavanagh, Pat Kavanagh, Eddie Keher, Mick Walsh, Danny White, Pudsy Murphy, Martin Kavanagh, Tommy Murphy.

Bennettsbridge: Noel Skehan, Martin Treacy, Larry Cleere, Jim Treacy, Paddy Kealy, Seamus Cleere, Johnny McGovern, Paddy Moran, Conor O'Brien, Pat Lalor, John Kinsella, Sam Carroll, Noel Ryan, Jim Bennett, Paddy Treacy. Sub. Liam Cleere

Referee James Murphy (Tullogher)

KILKENNY CHAMPIONS CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Bonfires Blazed Welcome For Senior Hurlers

Bonfires blazed in the Rower on Sunday evening and festivities continued into the early hours of the morning in celebration of the Rower Inistioge's victory in the 1968 Kilkenny senior hurling championship final in Nowlan Park early in the day.

It was the Rower Inistioge's first appearance in the senior final, and victory was made all the more sweeter by reason of the fact that Bennettsbridge, the leading club side in Ireland for a number of years and the present holders of the Kilkenny title provided the opposition in what proved to be the one of the best and most exciting finals seen in the venue for a number of years.

Although the records will show that the new champions had only two points to spare at the finish, those lucky enough to see the game would be the first to admit that Bennettsbridge were flattered to finish so close to their young enthusiastic and skilful opponents. The winners in fact were nine points ahead with ten minutes remaining.

A typical Bennettsbridge rally cut arrears to an uncomfortable level for followers of both sides, but it is significant that the winners came back again to force the initiative at a time when their position was in danger.

The exciting finish helped to add to the enjoyment of the occasion and the trend of play towards the finish emphasised the superiority of the winners.

The success gave ample reward for all the fruitless endeavour over the years to the devoted men at the top who have continued to persevere.

It was a great Ross, who has been one of the guiding lights behind the scenes for a number of years.

It was a doubly happy occasions for Mr. Kavanagh to see the realisation of a life ambition and to see his four sons play important roles in the achievement of that ambition

A player to which this victory gave tremendous satisfaction was Fr. Tom Murphy, the former Kilkenny senior hurler who travelled over from Edinburgh to play in the three games.



From left: Jim Bennett, Eamonn Flood, Noel Ryan, James Murphy (Ref), Billy Murphy, Fintan Murphy, Martin Walsh.

The



SCORES BY THE CLOCK			
TIME	TEAM	SCORE	SCORER
FIRST HALF			
3 min.	Rower Inistioge	Goal	Danny White
7 min.	Bennettsbridge	Point	John Kinsella
8 min.	Rower Inistioge	Goal	Eddie Keher
10 min.	Rower Inistioge	Point	Dermot Kavanagh
13 min.	Rower Inistioge	Point	Eddie Keher
15 min.	Bennettsbridge	Point	Paddy Moran
16 min.	Rower Inistioge	Point	Tommy Murphy
18 min.	Rower Inistioge	Point	Dermot Kavanagh
21 min.	Bennettsbridge	Point	John Kinsella
24 min.	Rower Inistioge	Point	Eddie Keher
25 min.	Rower Inistioge	Point	Eddie Keher
26 min.	Bennettsbridge	Goal	Paddy Moran
28 min.	Bennettsbridge	Point	John Kinsella
HALF TIME SCORE: ROWER INISTIOGE 2-6 BENNETTSBRIDGE 1-4			
SECOND HALF			
12 min.	Rower Inistioge	Goal	Tommy Murphy
14 min.	Rower Inistioge	Point	Eddie Keher
16 min.	Rower Inistioge	Point	Eddie Keher
20 min.	Bennettsbridge	Point	Seamus Cleere
21 min.	Bennettsbridge	Goal	Noel Ryan
23 min.	Bennettsbridge	Point	Noel Ryan
28 min.	Bennettsbridge	Goal	Jim Bennett
29 min.	Rower Inistioge	Point	Danny White
30 min.	Bennettsbridge	Point	Paddy Moran
FULL TIME SCORE: ROWER INISTIOGE 3-9 BENNETTSBRIDGE 3-7			

1984

SHAMROCKS LOSE FIRST FINAL TO

MAGNIFICENT MARTINS!

ST MARTIN'S 1-14 BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS 1-7

By John Knox

Hats off to the daring heroes of St. Martins, the newly crowned Kilkenny senior hurling champions. In a remarkable county final at Nowlan Park, on Sunday, they dethroned the super power of the last six years and current all-Ireland champions, Shamrocks (Ballyhale). In a number of ways this turned out to be an astonishing final, after a tense and close beginning. The success-starved winners were never headed. They momentarily looked a bit dodderly when hauled back to level terms in the third quarter, but their finish was truly amazing.

A goal 14 minutes from time by the immensely strong Tom Moran dumped shamrocks back into arrears (1-10 to 1-7) just as they looked poised to deliver one of their renowned match-clinching bursts. A quick point by the dazzling Johnny Brennan and St. Martins were well and truly on the road to their first senior hurling championship success.

After that, there was no way they were going to be beaten. The level of St. Martins' resistance was breathtaking, and not one of the red-clad heroes seemed afraid of putting life or limb at risk in pursuit of glory for the parish. The 10,000 supporters loved it, because

FIGURES OF THE GAME	FIRST HALF					
	G's	P's	F's	W's	65's	
	St. Martin's	0	7	9	5	1
	Shamrocks	0	4	9	3	0
	SECOND HALF					
	G's	P's	F's	W's	65's	
	St. Martin's	1	7	6	2	1
	Shamrocks	1	3	9	1	1
TOTALS						
	G's	P's	F's	W's	65's	
	St. Martin's	1	14	15	7	2
	Shamrocks	1	7	18	4	1

centenary honour could not have been fashioned in a more fitting manner.

Stringent test

This was the shamrocks' first defeat in a senior hurling championship final. All the time they struggled to cope, but they looked to have clicked into top

gear between the 38th and 42nd minutes when the efficiently wiped out arrears of five points to draw level at 1-7 to 0-10. They had it all going for them then, but the super determined northerners survived the stringent test of character and roared on to victory.

There were heroes a plenty for St. Martins. If one tried, one could not find a bad player among the lot. Team captain, Johnny Brennan, showed uncanny accuracy and helped himself to 11 points. In defence, Jim Moran was a commanding centre back, whose game of craft was perhaps his best ever. They



St Martin's - Kilkenny County SH Champions 1984

Back: Richard Maloney, John Moran, Michael Maher, Jim Moran, Patsy Moran, John Morrissey, Tom Moran, Tony Maher.

Front: Jack Morrissey, Bobby Shore, J.J. Dowling, Paddy Lawlor, Johnny Brennan, Jimmy Kelly, Danny Coonan, Tom Walsh.

were just two bright stars, but Tom Moran, Tony Maher, Bobby Shore and Michael Maher were others who made invaluable contributions to the making of this particular piece of parish history.

Shamrocks had their good performers, too, but overall they were unable to match the intensity of their opponents. The winners played a good tactical game, but perhaps their greatest asset was their unending desire to succeed against opponents they respected totally.

When Tom Moran raced through for a point for the winners in the opening minute it was obvious St. Martins were as finely honed as they could be. Even when Brendan Fennelly answered that effort, the Shamrocks were very uneasy.

Venial sins

The opening half never erupted into anything great, and during the unsteady early stages Maurice Mason (S), Jimmy Kelly (M), and Liam Long were all booked for venial sins. Later Liam Fennelly and Dermot Fennelly both had their names taken, but their combined series of crime was nothing in a full-blooded encounter.

Three points from the elusive Johnny Brennan, and another from John Morrissey, left Shamrocks trailing 0-1 to 0-5 at the end of the first quarter. Shortly afterwards, the losers most consistent player, Tommy Phelan, had their second score. Phelan hit another one before the break at which St. Martins led by 0-7 to 0-4.

It was hard to know what to make of that half. It wasn't great, and was very tense and close, but of the two the winners came closest to goaling.

Danny Coonan, who was used well in a running game, had a half chance in the 18th minute saved by Shamrocks' keeper, Kevin Fennelly. And then minutes later Tom Moran blazed through, but was deprived of a big score by the combined efforts of Wattie Phelan and Frank Holohan. At the other end the Shamrocks were crowded out every time they threatened, and that was the way it was for them right to the finish.

Great show

In a bid to improve matters in the new half, the losers introduced Ollie Harrington and moved Kevin Fennelly out the field. Overall they showed four changes as they tried to break the St. Martin's stronghold as they attacked the railway end.

The Ballyhale boys got off to a great start when Ger Fennelly pointed a free after just 30 seconds. Once again St. Martins got right into the groove and points followed from Johnny Brennan and Tom Moran to send them a comfortable double scores in front, 0-10 to 0-5, in the 37th minute.

A St. Martin's win looked certain at this stage, but the Shamrocks, with Maurice Mason hitting an inspired patch, turned the match right around in the space of four minutes. First Brendan Fennelly pointed. Later a blistering shot from Liam Fennelly was blocked out by the winners' goalkeeper, Bobby Shore. Dermot Fennelly however, nipped in and finished the ball to the net. A quick point from a 21 yard free by Brendan Fennelly had the teams level at 1-7 to 0-10. The initiative was now most definitely with the Shamrocks.

The battling northerners refused to be ruffled, and before their all important clinching goal, Bobby Shore made a vital stop at the other end.

The deciding goal was created by Patsy Moran who flighted towards the post from 35 yards out on the bank side. It was an awkward shot for a keeper to deal with, and when the ball ran loose the powerful Tom Moran was on hand to tap it into the net (1-10 to 1-7). The cheers had hardly died down when Johnny Brennan knocked over a point after Moran had been fouled.

Moved well

St. Martin's were like a raging storm now, and with supporters cheering their every move, they put in an effort that was hard to credit. Their resistance at the back was of gigantic proportions. And up front they moved well and tossed the ball around nicely.

SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 1984

FIRST ROUND

Fenians 2-12; Glenmore 1-11.
Mooncoin 1-9; Thomastown 2-6.
St. Martin's 4-11; Galmoy 2-5.
Shamrocks 3-8; Rower-Inistioge 3-7.
Jas Stephens 1-11; Erin's Own 3-4.
St. Patrick's 3-9; Clara 3-8.

FOURTH ROUND

Glenmore 2-13; St. Martin's 1-6.
Mooncoin 4-12; Fenians 2-8.
Thomastown 3-8; Galmoy 0-6.
St. Patrick's 5-6; Shamrocks 3-8.
R/Inistioge 4-14; Erin's Own 0-6.
James Stephens 2-11; Clara 2-8.

SECOND ROUND

Glenmore 1-15; Thomastown 0-8.
Mooncoin 4-11; Galmoy 0-2.
St. Martin's 1-11; Fenians 1-7.
Shamrocks 3-8; Jas Stephens 0-15.
Clara 2-9; Erin's Own 1-10.
Rower Inistioge 2-13; St. Patrick's 2-8.

FIFTH ROUND

Glenmore 3-14; Galmoy 2-9.
Thomastown v. Fenians (not played).
St. Martin's 2-12; Mooncoin 2-6.
Shamrocks 2-7; Clara 2-6.
Jas Stephens 4-14; R/Inistioge 1-13.
St. Patrick's 2-9; Erins Own 0-10.

THIRD ROUND

Glenmore 3-6; Mooncoin 3-4.
Fenians 3-12; Galmoy 0-5.
St. Martin's 1-11; Thomastown 1-5.
Shamrocks 3-12; Erin's Own 2-12.
Rower-Inistioge 3-12; Clara 1-16.
James Stephens 0-12; St. Pat's 0-7.

SEMI-FINALS

St. Martins 3-6; James Stephens 1-5.
Shamrocks 2-9; Glenmore 1-7.

COUNTY FINAL

St. Martins 1-14; Shamrocks 1-7.

RELEGATION

Erin's Own 3-8; Galmoy 2-8.

One such good move between Patsy and Tom Moran ended with the former raising a white flag with seven minutes remaining (1-12 to 1-7). Before the finish Johnny Brennan added another brace that most absolutely sure the Tom Walsh cup was going north.

The scenes of jubilation at the final whistle were unparalleled as the St. Martin's players were drowned in a sea of well-wishers. Yes, it was a glorious first.

One could run through all the St. Martin's players and sing their praises. All deserve it, for no one flinched once in the heat of battle. It was a performance worthy of the highest of praise.

But what of the Shamrocks? Their wonderful exploits during the past few years should not be forgotten. They set a level of performance that others had to attain if they wanted to be successful. They went down in the spirit of great champions. On this occasion, Shamrocks' best were Frank Holohan, Maurice Mason, for a devastating spell in the third quarter, Tommy Phelan and Dermot Fennelly.

The Scorers

St. Martin's: J. Brennan (0-11, seven frees), T. Moran (1-1), J. Morrissey, P. Moran (0-1 each).
Shamrocks: D. Dennelly (1-1), B. Fennelly (0-3, frees), T. Phelan (0-2), G. Fennelly (0-1, free).

The Teams

St. Martin's: B. Shore, J. Kelly, T. Maher, J.J. Dowling, T. Walsh, Jim Moran, M. Maher, J. Morrissey, John Moran, P. Lawlor, P. Moran, J. Brennan (capt), D. Coonan, T. Moran, R. Moloney.

Shamrocks: Kevin Fennelly, Frank Holohan, Liam Dalton, Wattie Phelan, Liam Long, Maurice Mason, Sean Fennelly, Johnny Walsh, Mick Fennelly, Tommy Phelan, Ger Fennelly, Dermot Fennelly, Brendan Fennelly, Liam Fennelly, Mickey Kelly.

Sub: Ollie Harrington for M Kelly, Declan Connolly for J Walsh.
Referee: P. Long (Carrickshock).



Jimmy Kelly (St Martin's) attempts to block down Brendan Fennelly (Shamrocks) in the 1984 County Final.

BONFIRES ACCLAIM NEW HURLING KINGPINS



BILLY BRETT (Trainer)

THEY celebrated like never before in North Kilkenny this week. Bonfires blazed on the hills of Coon, Ballyfoyle and Muckalee to acclaim the newest Kilkenny hurling kingpins to add their name to the illustrious list of winners of the Tom Walsh Cup.

St Martin's first victory in the senior hurling championship at Nowlan Park on Sunday was greeted with

unbounded enthusiasm and jollity by a proud people in a proud parish. "I never experienced anything like it in my days in hurling", conceded delighted St. Martin's coach, Tom Neville, the former Wexford defender and winner of all Ireland senior hurling medals in 1960 and '68.

"It was the best ever day in sport the parish has enjoyed", an equally exuberant St. Martin's selector, Paul Kinsella felt. "The first victory is always the sweetest, and this being the Centenary year of the G.A.A. made this one doubly so".

Mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, indeed everyone came out to join in the the early hours of Monday and continued even as we went to press. Past disappointments were forgotten as the parish, where hurling means more to people than it does to anyone in any other part of the country, wallowed in the success.

St. Martin's, only formed in 1982 by the amalgamation of Muckalee/ Ballyfoyle Rangers and Coon, earned their victory with a powerful display of courage and commitment against classy former champions, Shamrocks (Ballyhale).

Dug into reserves

"I would have been satisfied just to win, but we did it in style", Tom Neville reckoned. He thought the team showed exceptional character during the second half when the Shamrocks fought back to equal terms, and then Martin's dug into their reserves and produced a winning effort.

While the win was memorable from every point of view, it must have had a special significance for members of the old brigade like Tom Moran (Knockmajor), Tom Kinsella, Robert Shore, Jack Coonan and Dick Teehan (Ballyfoyle). They must often have wondered was it possible for the parish to ever win the

richest prize in sport in Kilkenny - the senior hurling championship. Their prayers have been answered.

"A lot of people still can't credit it has happened", Paul Kinsella thought.

The new champions now have the job of picking the Kilkenny senior hurling selectors, and they will sit down and do this at the first available opportunity.



TOM NEVILLE (Coach)

1997

DARING YOUNG BLOODS SHOW MEAN EDGE

DUNNAMAGGIN 2-10 Young Irelands 2-7

By John Knox

Hats off to the daring heroes of St. Martins, the newly crowned Kilkenny senior hurling champions. In a remarkable county final at Nowlan Park, on Sunday, they dethroned the super power of the last six years and current all-Ireland champions, Shamrocks (Ballyhale). In a number of ways this turned out to be an astonishing final, after a tense and close beginning. The success-starved winners were never headed. They momentarily looked a bit dodderly when hauled back to level terms in the third quarter, but their finish was truly amazing.

It was a victory for self-confidence and belief!

The brazen young bucks from Dunnamaggin went out and did things their way at packed Nowlan Park on Sunday, and they walked away proud history makers.

Just two years after swanning into the senior grade, dashing Dunnamaggin ascended to the hurling summit.

And they did it with a style and assurance that belied their tender years, remembering that the average age of the team is a mere 21.

In inflicting the first defeat of the season on high flying Young Irelands (Gowran), the Southerners produced a disciplined and power-packed performance that left the defending champions labouring

throughout.

The winners snatched two goals, one of the lucky variety, within three minutes of the start. They were set up nicely for a shot at victory. At the same time, 'Irelands' were severely handicapped.

Door Bolted

From there on, the losers were always looking for a way back into the match. However, apart from a brief spell late in the first half, they found the door bolted against them.

Dunnamaggin, who underlined their strong self-belief by refusing to pick a horses-for-courses team to diffuse potential trouble spots on the 'Irelands' side, merely did their own thing. The dividend of a first senior title was truly immense.

After the dose of shock treatment meted out during the blistering opening, Dunnamaggin kept the opposition in an awful bind for about 20 minutes. They only conceded two points, both to James Fitzgerald.

During the second half, their defence was as tight as a bank vault, and a paltry three points were conceded from play.

'Irelands did everything to try and batter their way through but a superb full back line drove them back constantly. Indeed, and one doesn't want to rub salt into 'Irelands wounds, Dunnamaggin could easily have been bigger winners.



Dunnamaggin St. Canice's Credit Union Senior Hurling Champions 1997

Back Row: Gerry Carroll, John Hickey, James Moylan, Eamonn Kennedy, Sean Ryan, Jim Hickey, Matt O' Shea, Paul Cahill (Captain), Michael Moran, Noel Lahart, Denis Lahart, Colin Herity, Pat Moylan, Richie O'Neill, Andrew Hickey.

Front Row: Niall McCormack, Brian O'Shea, Michael O'Neill, Tom Hickey, Kenneth O'Shea, Paul Kearney, Anthony McCormack, Ramie Ca Noel Hickey, JP O'Neill, Brendan Moore.

Photo: Liam Butler

GOALS AND SAVES CRUCIAL

They shot 15 wides during the hour – 'Irelands had 9 – including three in-a-row just before their opponents had their second goal in the 57th minute.

The two quick goals, and a miraculous 24th minute save by goalie Anthony McCormack, were crucial factors in this victory.

The former set Dunnamaggin on their way, and took off the pressure. The importance of McCormack's blinding stop cannot be over-stated, because it came after 'Irelands had bagged a goal only a minute earlier.

Had McCormack not saved that full force drive from 12 yards by D.J. Carey, the advantage would probably have changed sides. The score was 2-4 to 1-2 at the time.

There was plenty more besides. The winners' defence was magnificent, with Tom and Jim Hickey especially bright performers, although Noel Lahart played a major role in his tight policing of danger man, D.J. Carey.

Midfielders Mick O'Neill, particularly in the first half, and Denis Lahart, particularly in the second, put in power showings like never before.

And in attack, the high work rate and roving of everyone hounded the opposition into all sorts of trouble, and the threat was from all quarters.

ONE OF BEST

'Irelands, although never as fluent in attack as they can be, had one of the best players on the park in Owen Farrell, while Cathal Fitzgerald, James McDermott and Ciaran Phelan in the second half, and Jack Carey, for his ability to win ball in the air, were excellent.

Dunnamaggin must have thought all their birthdays had come together when they sent the green flying twice within three minutes of the start.

James Fitzgerald opened the scoring with a point, made by D.J. Carey, after only 90 seconds.

Moment later, the rock solid Eamon Kennedy drove in a free from his own 65. Unlucky 'Irelands' 'keeper, Oliver Carter, allowed the ball into the net off his fingertips.

Within a minute, young Carter was beaten again. This time Sean Ryan sent a vicious dipping shot from a bad angle to the right of the city end goal, looping over the guardian and into the top far corner.

If Dunnamaggin were up for it before this, they were positively on the moon afterwards. For a long while, the losers could hardly get the ball up the field, as the trio of Paul Cahill, Eamon Kennedy, and Noel Lahart held firm on their '40'.

NICE REPLY

Ramie Cahill added a lovely point to the goals, before scores from Sean Ryan and Ken O'Shea took the difference up to 2-3 to 0-1 after 15 minutes.

Ireland's second score, in the 17th minute, fell to James Fitzgerald. There was a nice reply from Paul Kearney before the losers hit their best portion of the match.

In the 23rd minute Toss Farrell dug out possession near midfield, and pushed the ball forward. Jack Carey took it from the sky, and powered his way forward.

His hand-pass forward left Charlie Carter with a bit to do, but the county man still managed to sneak the ball into the net. All of a sudden Ireland's were on fire. Within a minute they were threatening the Dunnamaggin goal again. This time Dick Carroll freed D.J. Carey in front of goal, but his full-blooded drive was somehow blocked out by the magnificent McCormack.

That big stop was vital. It preserved Dunnamaggin's fair lead, and left them with a 2-6 to 1-3 interval lead that reflected fairly their share of possession.

Hurling tense

If the hurling during that period had been fast and furious, and wonderfully skilful, heavy rain during the break hampered things somewhat.

The hurling afterwards, while never easy, was tense and a bit

DUNAMAGGIN'S PROGRESS 1997

APRIL 20

James Stephens 1-12 Dunnamaggin 0-7

Scorers - Michael Moran (0-3, frees); Sean Ryan (0-2); Ramie Cahill, M. O'Shea (0-1 each).

MAY 4

Dunnamaggin 0-18 Erin's Own 2-8

Scorers - M. Moran (0-8, seven frees); Paul Kearney (0-5); M. O'Shea, S. Ryan, K. O'Shea (0-1 each).

MAY 24

Dunnamaggin 2-15 Mooncoin 1-8

Scorers - K. O'Shea (2-2); S. Ryan (0-4); M. Moran (0-3); P. Kearney, M. O'Shea (0-2 each); M. O'Neill, R. Cahill (0-1 each).

JUNE 8

Dunnamaggin 1-15 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-14

Scorers - M. Moran (0-7, five frees, one penalty); S. Ryan (0-4); E. Kennedy (1-0); D. Lahart, R. O'Neill, P. Cahill, K. O'Shea (0-1 each).

JUNE 29

Dunnamaggin 3-12 St. Martin's 2-12

Scorers - K. O'Shea (2-1); M. O'Shea (1-0); S. Ryan (0-5); M. Moran (0-5); J. Hickey (0-1).

AUGUST 14, LEAGUE SEMI-FINAL

Young Irelands 3-20 Dunnamaggin 0-15

Scorers - P. Kearney (0-5); M. Moran (0-3, one free); E. Kennedy (0-3, frees); S. Ryan (0-2); K. O'Shea, N. Lahart (0-1 each).

SEPTEMBER 8, CHAMPIONSHIP QUARTER-FINAL

Dunnamaggin 0-18 Erin's Own 1-7

Scorers - M. Moran (0-8, seven frees); S. Ryan (0-5); E. Kennedy (0-2, one free, one 65); P. Kearney, R. Cahill, K. O'Shea (0-1 each).

SEPTEMBER 21, CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL

Dunnamaggin 1-9 Dickshorn 3-1

Scorers - M. Moran (0-3, two frees); K. O'Shea (1-0); E. Kennedy (0-2, one free, one 65); D. Lahart, P. Kearney, M. O'Shea, S. Ryan (0-1 each).

OCTOBER 12, COUNTY FINAL

Dunnamaggin 2-10 Young Irelands 2-7

Scorers - S. Ryan (1-1); E. Kennedy 1-1, frees); P. Kearney, K. O'Shea (0-2 each); M. Moran (0-2, one free); R. Cahill, M. O'Neill (0-1 each).

frenetic at times. There was a fair amount of handling errors and bad striking, but Dunnamaggin's resolve never wilted. They were still high, and they still operated at full throttle. And all the time their full-back line dazzled.

It needed to, because for long spells during this half Ireland operated with Jack Carey as the target man at full-forward. While Carey took a lot of ball from the sky, he was gobbled up when he came to ground. The strategy had to be changed later.

Ireland made only slow progress, and for 10 minutes of hard chasing their only returns were a pair of points, one a free, from D.J. Carey.

Nearing the close of the quarter, Michael Moran slipped over a point for edgy Dunnamaggin to keep them 2-7 to 1-5 clear.

Rushed shot

Not long afterwards a long ball from Cathal Fitzgerald put Charlie Carter clear behind the winners' defence. But the county man rushed his shot, and put wide the best goal chance of the half.

Five minutes afterwards, came the next score, a point from a 21 yards free by Eamonn Kennedy following a foul on Ramie Cahill. When the next score also fell to Dunnamaggin and Ken O'Shea, things began to look really bleak for the defending champions.

There were nine minutes left! The difference was 2-9 to 1-5. Although Ciaran Phelan pulled back a point for Ireland's, they enjoyed a few breaks as their opponents missed chances. First Ramie Cahill missed a handy free, and then they spoiled two other good chances.

They got back on the scoring trail in the 56th minute when Paul Kearney finished a good move started by Sean Ryan with a point.

REKINDLED CHASE

Seconds later, Ireland's rekindled the chase when they snatched a goal. D.J. Carey was fouled to the left near the 21. He duly drilled the free shot to the net (2-10 to 2-6).

Both sides missed a score immediately afterwards, and in the wind-up Ciaran Phelan had a point for the winners.

But Dunnamaggin never looked like surrendering what they had at this late stage. The day, and victory, was rightly theirs.

The Scorers

Dunnamaggin – S. Ryan (1-1); E. Kennedy (1-1, 3 frees); K. O'Shea, P. Kearney (0-2 each); M. Moran (0-2, one free); M. O'Neill, R. Cahill (0-1 each).

Young Irelands – D.J. Carey (1-2, goal and point frees); C. Carter (1-0); J. Fitzgerald, C. Phelan (0-2 each); J. McDermott (0-1).

The Teams:

Dunnamaggin – A. McCormack, J. Hickey, T. Hickey, N.

Hickey, P. Cahill (capt.), E. Kennedy, N. Lahart, M. O'Neill, D. Lahart, P. Kearney, M. Moran, M. O'Neill, S. Ryan, R. Cahill, K. O'Shea.

Subs – J. Hickey for M. Moran 47th min; R. O'Neill for M. O'Shea 59th min.

Young Irelands – O. Carter, D. Phelan, P. O'Neill, C.

Fitzgerald (capt.), B. Farrell, P. Drea, O. Farrell, J. McDermott, C. Phelan, D.J. Carey, T. Farrell, J. Fitzgerald, D. Carroll, C. Carter, J. Carey.

Subs – A. O'Neill for J. Fitzgerald 48th min; B. Treacy for D. Carroll 53rd min.

Referee – P. Neary (James Stephens).

QUOTES FROM THE MUNSTER EXPRESS

"Pre-match hurting wisdom suggested that Dunnamaggin had perhaps bitten off a little more than they could chew, but they rose to the challenge and gave the famous "candy stripes" quite a licking in the process. It had looked as though things were about, to go according to script when James Fitzgerald put Gowran a point up after only thirty seconds. But no one was prepared for the sixty-second burst of magic that saw Dunnamaggin turn that early deficit into the commanding five point advantage they were to hold for virtually the remainder of the game."

"Already the three Hickey's - Jim, Tom and Noel - were laying down the gauntlet for Young Ireland's vaunted score-getters and, try as they might, neither "The DJ" nor his fellow attackers could solve the hurling conundrum set for them by magical Dunnamaggin."

"Dunnamaggin were- hurling like champions-elect, but the number and frequency of missed chances continued to rise. Good as their eight-point, lead was, it could and. should have been several points better at this stage. But Gowran were also guilty of profligacy in front of goal."

"For once, "The DJ" got the Dunnamaggin defence in a spin, and cut clean through. He unleashed a tremendous shot, that had "goal" written all over it. Carey's shot would scarcely have had more velocity had it emerged from the muzzle of a Springfield rifle. But Dunnamaggin's brilliant young goalkeeper was catching bullets in Nowlan Park on Sunday. It was a magical save and. one of the game's defining moments. Dunnamaggin breathed a collective sigh of relief, then swept downfield again for Michael O'Neill to shoot them a point further ahead."

"Gowran needed something major to restore their flagging hopes. And they got it in the shape of a goal from maestro, DJ Carey, who worked his own brand of magic on a placed ball twenty five yards out. It injected a bit of late drama into the game, and Ciaran Phelan's point, a minute later, put Gowran, within a score of their opponents for the first time since the second minute. But in real terms, they were no nearer to this fine young Dunnamaggin fifteen, and were defending desperately against another green and gold, assault on their citadel when referee, Paddy Neary blew for full time."



Noel and Tom Hickey close in on Brian Treacy (Young Irelands) in the closing seconds of the Final.

1 líonta dé



John Carroll

John Carroll, Cloghala passed away at his home on June 25th, 2024.

A lifelong Club member, supporter and volunteer, John was always on hand ready to do what needed to be done. His immense contribution to the club culminated in his term as Chairperson from 1998 – 2001. His legacy continues as his grandchildren participate across underage teams in both hurling and Camogie. John was also a much respected master of his trade, tillage farming. He served as chairman of Kilkenny IFA during a career long contribution to the association.

We extend our sympathy to his wife Teresa, sons Billy, Dick, John Paul, daughters Bridget, Mary & the extended Carroll family.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Tom Cassin

On Sept 30th Club stalwart Tom Cassin (Ballygeadra) left us. Tom had been battling Glioblastoma (A severe type of brain cancer) for more than two years. Tom had a great love for Carrickshock and for all aspects of parish life.

He progressed through the grades representing the Shocks at all levels. Tom was an uncompromising defender who relished a good battle and loved rising to the task when a noted opponent was his marker. Once his playing days had finished, he turned his hand to coaching juveniles. Tom was more a skills coach than a tactician. He had little time for sweepers, short puckouts or short game hurling where coaches limited rather than extended the scope of a player's game. He prided himself in producing players who might step up to county or colleges teams outside our club. Many did while under his watch.. Although resident in Ballyhale for the best part of two decades he was a loyal Carrickshock supporter and helped out in those years at both coaching and selecting of Carrickshock teams, juvenile and adult alike. He was also a promoter of the club/parish lotto.

Tom's work took him from Ballyraggett to Russia and Poland as a systems manager with Avonmore (Tírán/ Glanbia). The GAA connection continued when he moved to Kiely Meats as Operations and Production Manager. Both employers are strong Kilkenny GAA sponsors and

Tom was often tasked with finding guests who could "Talk Hurling" on Kiely's table at Kilkenny Corporate Nights. He enjoyed the cut and thrust of exchanges on match weekends and often entertained fellow cats and opponents with his observations. He reserved his most ascerbic comments for acquaintances (or even strangers) from Tipperary.

In recent years Tom supported his children Ciara, Aoife and Shane who play for his adopted club the Shamrocks.

Tom's wake and funeral saw club members mourn a former teammate, friend and coach. The guard of honour spanned four generations of club members. The poignant placing of the club's colours by 94 year old James Murphy (The sole survivor of the 1951 senior championship winning team – a cousin and teammate of Tom's father John Cassin) marked our club's final tribute to one of our own. We remember Tom's wife Caroline, his children Ciara, Aoife and Shane as well as his surviving siblings, friends and extended family. Whatever matches are played in heaven Tom will be competing, encouraging and entertaining friends and opponents alike.

Ar Dheis Dé dó.



Andy Comerford

The passing of Andy Comerford of Clover, Gowran on The August Bank Holiday Monday (5th August), saw another of the successful Young Irelands Junior Team from 1964 pass to their eternal reward, following the passing earlier in the year of his brother Mikie Comerford and also Martin Murphy who captained the winning Junior Team 60 years ago.

Andy was a Minor when he was part of the Young Irelands Team that lost the 1957 Junior Final to Tullogher, while he hurled with the Kilkenny Minors for three consecutive years from 1955-1957.

He was part of the Kilkenny panel that won Leinster Finals in 1956 and 1957, before they lost the All-Ireland Final to Tipperary in both of those years.

Andy hurled with the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team, and he enjoyed his finest hour in 1962 when he was part of The Kilkenny Team that won the National League Final against Cork.

That League Final win was most cherished as it was only Kilkenny's 2nd League title, and it was their first since 1933.

Kilkenny were coached by Gowran man, Monsignor Tommy Maher who would go on to become one of the most influential figures in the history of the game.

Also in 1962, Andy was part of the Leinster Panel that won the Railway Cup Final which was played on St. Patrick's Day when the competition was at the height of its popularity.

Andy and the Comerford family were part of one of the great days in Young Irelands history on December 6th 1964, as they defeated Thomastown Rangers 9-7 to 1-3 to win their first Junior title.

Andy had an outstanding game in midfield as part of an outstanding team performance, while his brothers Mikie and Paddy were also on the team.

Mikie was goalkeeper, while Paddy was at full-forward and

he was one of the goalscorers on a memorable day for the Gowran Club.

The Young Irelands Team was captained by Andy's mid-field partner Martin Murphy from Bramblestown.

As mentioned both Mikie Comerford and Martin Murphy passed away earlier in the year,

Mikie died on Wednesday May 1st, and he was predeceased by Martin two weeks earlier on Monday April 15th. Andy's nephews Andy and Martin hurled with distinction for Kilkenny with Andy captaining the Black and Amber to All-Ireland glory in 2002. He ran the grocery shop at the top of Gowran village for several years along with his wife Margaret.

Andy is sadly missed by his beloved wife Margaret, sons Andrew and James, daughters Brigid, Margaret and Clare, sons-in-law Kevin and James, daughter-in-law Margaret, grandchildren John, Isabelle, Tom, Katie and Kevin, brother Davy, sisters Statia and Sr. Brigid (Bridie), sister-in-law Phil, nephews, nieces, friends and neighbours.



Eugene O'Donovan

Dunnamaggin GAA and community was saddened at the loss of honourary club member and former club secretary Eugene O'Donovan in July. Eugene was all that epitomises community. He was instrumental in many ventures both within the club and within the community itself and further afield. Eugene was a master organiser. Anything he did, he did to perfection. Amongst many of his roles was the coordinator for the 'Big Raffle' which took place in the 90's as part of the development of the club. He and his great friend Dick had every inch of Kilkenny mapped out for his team of 'sellers' and they duly reported back to them every Sunday evening in Doherty's pub. He was inventive, spearheading the set up of the parish lotto in 1996. His many great friends have shared tales of Eugene's generosity. The Monday night the men finished the 'Big Draw' (drawing clay from the Slate Quarries to the pitch in Dunnamaggin to form the bank) seems to be infamous when Eugene, who arrived into the pub to do the lotto found himself 'sponsoring' the beverages!. Eugene was secretary of Dunnamaggin Hurling Club for over 16 years. He had a great flair for fundraising therefore it was no surprise that his final event 'The Big Push' or 'Pushathon' as it became known as was a tremendous success in April of this year. Eugene's generosity was known by many, and done in a quiet unassuming manner. We are also acutely aware of the support and assistance of Eugene's beloved wife Siobhán in the background in all that she did. Dunnamaggin GAA and community are so grateful and privileged to have been steered by Eugene, to have worked alongside him and to have known him. Eugene's loss to our parish is a sorrow but his contribution has been immense.

Rest in Peace, Eugene



Eamonn Campion

The death occurred on 12th March 2024 of Eamonn Campion, Adamstown, Tullaroan. In his younger days he played with Clomantagh before moving to Tullaroan and taking up the position of goalkeeper for several years. As his family were growing up, he enjoyed coaching success with the juvenile teams over the years with particular mention to the victorious Lisdowney 7's and Under 14 teams in 1994. At his funeral, many former players spoke of their memories of travelling in the car crammed full of players heading to games all over the county. He was a regular attendee at intercounty and club games alike. In more recent years he took great pleasure in celebrating the 2020 Intermediate All Ireland success of Tullaroan in Croke Park and immense pride in the victory of Mullagh of Galway in the Senior B county championship 2023 where his son Eddie played a pivotal role. He is survived by his wife Anna and children Caroline, Olive, Patrick and Edmund, son and daughters in law grandchildren and a wide circle of family, neighbours and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a ainm dílis.



Milo Moore

Former Tullaroan Hurler Milo Moore Passed away at the age of 98 years in 2024.

In his younger days Milo played hurling with Tullaroan at all levels. He was on the panel of the 1948 Tullaroan team who won the Kilkenny Senior County Final.

He was part of the team who were defeated in 1950, 1952 and 1954. In 1958 Milo played in the full back position where he won his last senior county final medal on the victorious Tullaroan team.

When Tullaroan won their first adult junior final in 1983, Milo was part of the selection committee.

Throughout his life along with his late wife Lily he followed the fortunes of both Tullaroan and Kilkenny teams.

Milo took great pride when Tullaroan won the Intermediate County final in 1988 and the senior in 1994 and the Intermediate County Final and the Leinster Final and the All-Ireland in 2019/2020.

Milo is survived by his children, James, Gemma, Dorothy, Damien and Fergal and his grandchildren.

Ar dheis dé go raibh sé



Jim Ryan

James (Jim) Ryan R.I.P. born 1944 died 1st September 2024 age 80 years

Tollogher/Rosbercon GAA club lost a great friend and clubman when Jim passed away on Sunday the 1st of September 2024. Jim farmed extensively in Guilcough Beg from a very young age. He was a member of Macra na Feirme and took part in public speaking and stock judging. He won the All-Ireland beef judging competition in 1969 in the RDS at the spring show

In his young days he played underage hurling and then he was a member of the panel when Tullogher contested their only senior hurling county final against Freshford in 1963. He was a member of the team when they contested the junior hurling county final in 1969 against Clara

Jim held various positions in the club including chairman and selector. He represented the club at county board meetings for over 20 years. He was a great Kilkenny supporter and travelled to venues throughout the country to both league, championship and All-Irelands. The highlight was being in Croke Park for the replayed 2012 All-Ireland final between Kilkenny and Galway, when Walter Walsh became the first man from the club to win an All-Ireland medal and receive the man of the match award.

He was a member of the club committee for over 40 years and was a great man to help with fundraising for both the club and the Kilkenny supporters club.

He is survived by his wife Kathleen (nee Joyce), his sister Kathleen (Hanrahan), nieces, nephew, extended family, neighbours and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Jimmy Coogan

Jim (Jimmy) Coogan passed away peacefully on the 9th of January 2024 aged 85 years, having been predeceased by his loving wife Mary. Jim or Jimmy as he was known in his home parish, was born on the 27th of January 1938 in Uskerty, Coon/Muckalee to a family of 10 children.

Following in the footsteps of his brothers John and Martin, Jimmy played football with Muckalee and hurling with Coon from the early 1960's and won his first county title with Muckalee Junior Football team in 1966. Two years later in 1968 he would go on to claim his first of three Senior County titles starting at centre back. This was a historic occasion for the club which always held fond memories for Jim. Two more Senior football titles would follow in 1975 and 1977.

At Inter County level, Jim spent nearly two decades playing Gaelic Football for Kilkenny Seniors and remembered

many competitive matches and wins against stronger football counties such as Laois, Carlow and Offaly.

On the hurling side, Jim was always hugely proud of having played a part in the first county title won at any grade by Coon hurling club, when they beat Knocktopher in the 1967 Junior County Final. On the day, Jim hurled at right half back beside his brother Ned, with Jim marking Knocktopher's danger man Denis Heaslip.

Jim's work with the ESB brought him the length and breadth of the country with Jim winning many All Ireland inter-firm championships in both hurling and football while representing the ESB.

Jim moved to Tullaroan in the early 70's when he married Mary Cleere. Some of his happiest moments were spent going to endless underage and senior games around Kilkenny and beyond watching his three sons Jimmy, John and Ken hurl with Tullaroan.

Jim was also a huge follower of Kilkenny hurling, attending All Irelands from the 1950's up to his last in 2022. His proudest days were watching his sons play for Kilkenny in Croke Park.

Jim will be forever greatly missed by his sons Jimmy, John and Ken, sister Maggie, daughters-in-law Clodagh, Grainne and Leanne, his 11 grandchildren, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, relatives, neighbours and many friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Tom Reid

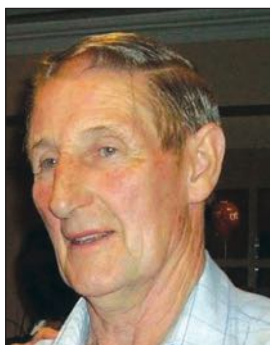
All involved with Mullinavat GAA club were saddened to hear of the death of our former club secretary Mr. Tom Reid on Friday, October 11th, 2024. Tom was a well-respected secretary of the club from 2005-2010, was a very professional individual, and always available to assist when needed.

Tom will be sadly missed by his loving and heartbroken wife Deirdre, sons Damien and Paul, daughter Jane, brothers Sean, Richard and Pat, sister Bee, daughters-in-law Theresa and Lisa, extended family, and many friends. From the famous Reid hurling clan of Ballyhale, Tom's large presence and warm smile will be sadly absent from Croke Park and such venues supporting the black and amber, a gentleman gone but not forgotten.

Tom passed away unexpectedly and peacefully after a short illness bravely borne at The Beacon Hospital Dublin. He was predeceased by his first wife Gabrielle and parents Paddy and Jennie Reid.

One of the clubs' annual fundraisers each year is our golf classic, which has a thirty-year lifespan at this stage, and Tom was always to the fore in both organising and taking part in this event. Tom had a great love of sport generally and at the time of his death was also Mens Captain at Waterford Golf Club and was also a founder member of Mullinavat indoor bowling club.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Leonard (Len) Blanchfield

Graignamanagh GAA Club would like to acknowledge and remember the passing of Lenny Blanchfield on August 1st 2024. In his youth Lenny hurled with St. Vincents the local Club at the time. He loved the game of hurling and was very dedicated to whatever he set his mind to, be it hurling, farming or Family. An old teammate Liam Ryan recalled how the Parish Priest at the time organised a gold watch tournament and the local team won the final beating the Rower by a point. Lenny played in the forwards that day and they were thrilled to receive the watches. Lenny worked as a manager in J M Murphys on main street, he later went on to open his own hardware shop just across the street where he resided until his death.

Lenny was a man of great faith. When Duiske Abbey was being restored, one of the timbers from the roof was given to Lenny which he took to the Phoenix Park to be blessed when the Pope visited Ireland in 1979. The timber was then placed in the roof of the Abbey. Lenny fulfilled many roles in our Club down through the years and was always a loyal supporter with his wife Kitty. In later years he was a proud Grandfather and supported his grandchildren in Graignamanagh, Bennettsbridge, BarrowRangers, Mount Leinster Rangers & Ballinkillen Clubs.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.



Paschal Tynan

Fenians Club President and Former Chairman
It was a sad day for the Fenians Club when word spread around the Parish that Paschal Tynan (RIP) had passed away.

Paschal was a larger than life character and a legend of our local Community.

Paschal, was Chairman during the glory days of the 1970's when the Fenians were kingpins of Kilkenny Hurling, winning 5 County Championships, a never to be forgotten three in an row, and setting the trend for further Kilkenny success, by becoming the first Kilkenny team to win the Leinster Senior Hurling Club Championship.

Local achievements were even surpassed by Fenians exploits on the Intercounty scene and even when the glory days passed, Paschal took great satisfaction when more Fenian legends represented Kilkenny in Croke Park.

Keeping the Fenian warriors of those day in check was an achievement in itself, and Paschal worked strategically by ensuring no stone was ever left unturned to ensure every possible avenue was explored to make sure things always

went the Fenians way.

Chairman, Treasurer and President, and much else besides, some going for a man who gave a lifetime of service to the Club.

Innovative thinking and practices were always to the fore when Paschal was involved.

Some of those would be better off not being in print, but we know them all locally, and many stories and anecdotes were recounted over the funeral.

The guiding principle for Paschal was "what needed to be done, would be done" to the betterment of the Fenians.

Paschal overcame many very hard events in his life but came through them all.

His legacy will forever live on, whenever The Fenians are mentioned.

Ar Dhéis Dé go raibh a anam Dlíis.



Ollie O'Neill

While widely known and respected in the amateur Boxing world Ollie O' Neill was also a member of Barrow Rangers Hurling Club. Ollie played his part in the Club as manager and selector with several under age teams. But it was as a referee that he was better known. Ollie officiated throughout the County for over 20 years.

Ar Dhéis Dé go raibh sé.



David Healy

With the passing of David Healy, Barrow Rangers lost one of it's most loyal supporters. Although residing in Co. Dublin once David knew there was a match on at any level involving Barrow Rangers he did his utmost to attend. David was ahead of his time, he organised street leagues and mini games among the Club's young players long before it was the norm and putting up the prizes himself. Over the years he was a very generous sponsor to Barrow Rangers Hurling and Camogie Clubs.

Solas Sior'ái dó



This

members

Rangers GAA

met with great

upon hearing of the untimely passing of Edward Prendergast.

Ed will be fondly remembered by his friends, teammates, club supporters and the wider GAA community for the drive, passion, determination and honesty that he showed every time he took to the field wearing the Barrow Rangers jersey. He endeavoured to always give 100% on the field of play and lead by example time after time with his many memorable performances.

Two of Ed's proudest moments came in the autumn of 2010 and the autumn of 2019. In 2010 he was left wing back on our minor team that defeated Bennettsbridge in the Roinn B Minor Championship final in Thomastown. On that day he put in one of his finest displays for Barrow Rangers having shone in every round of the championship that year.

In 2019 he proudly captained our Junior hurlers to capture the Junior League title in an emphatic victory against Piltown in Ballyhale. Once again, he lined out at left wing back and produced another incredible performance and graciously accepted the cup on behalf of Barrow Rangers in front of lots of his peers, teammates and club supporters. This image will be an everlasting one in the hearts of everyone who miss him dearly and will continue to remember him for the player and character he was.

Ar Dhéis Dé go raibh sé.



David Delaney

Galmoy is mourning the untimely loss of David Delaney, who died peacefully on 10th October in the presence of his loving family after a long illness borne with tremendous courage and dignity. David was a much-loved member of the community who was well known locally as a parent, friend, neighbour, team-mate and coach.

David's lifelong involvement in GAA was a source of great enjoyment and pride, whether it was contesting the Harty Cup with CBS Thurles, representing UCD or winning a Freshers All-Ireland final with WIT. Of course, one of his proudest moments was captaining Galmoy to a Junior Club All-Ireland Cup in 2005, an historic achievement remembered with great pride by all in the community.

Once his playing career finished, David spent several years involved with the Galmoy junior team management before returning to underage coaching where at various stages he coached all ages from u7 to u16, including with the

Galmoy-Windgap underage partnership. In recent times, he was also a driving force behind the development of an astro turf area and ball wall in the Galmoy club grounds.

David is sadly missed by his wife Mary, children Gerard, Daniel and James, his parents Stephen and Carmel, sisters Sinéad, Claire and Nora, brothers Paul and Stephen, extended family and wide circle of friends.

Go Raibh Suaimhneas Siorai Air



Tom O'Donovan

Tom O'Donovan passed to his Etemal Reward in St Lukes Hospital in the early hours of June 4th. His cortege was flanked by members of the John Lockes GAA Club and Callan Golf Club. His Requiem was celebrated by Fr. Willie Dalton. He was interred beside his beloved Bea in Kilbride Cemetery June 7th

Tom was a hugely conscientious, determined, honourable person. As a friend of many, - I was privileged to be numbered as one- he was unequivocally loyal. He worked with Chadwicks for years, branched out to a dry-cleaning business in Kilkenny City (John St), purchased the Abbey Bar in Callan. He was the quintessential optimist, with a beguiling sense of humour. The Donovan gene of windup, quirky disposition, and a great sense of enjoyment were never too far from the surface.

The O'Donovan Family were hugely involved in sport. Their elder brother, Johnny was an Irish Champion boxer. Tom and Paddy followed Johnny into the boxing ring too but not with comparable success. They all hurtled with the John Lockes Club, and when it finished, they were never found wanting when shoulders were needed to turn the wheel of progress. Tom and his wife Bea - she sadly predeceased him by three years- were front and central to the purchase, development and fund-raising of John Locke Park. Two more solid and proud members of the new home for the John Locke Club were not to be found. Tom was Vice Chairman of the Club at the time. He was a selector on numerous club teams. He was also a selector on a Kilkenny Junior All Ireland winning team with his great friend Ollie Walsh in 1987. Tom joined the Callan Golf Club in the early 70s, followed not too long afterwards by Bea. Almost immediately they made a significant contribution to the evolving Club development. They were hugely involved in the ambitious plans of taking the club into modernity. The determination and hard work could not be overstated when discussion about the progress of the club to a facility that all are so proud of. Tom and Bea were great Ambassadors of the Club both on and off "the pitch". Bea was Lady Captain in 1984 and Lady President in 2004. Whilst Tom was elected Club Captain in 1988. His Grandson, Ollie won the Leinster minor Final, scoring a brilliant goal in the process, a couple of weeks before Tom passed.

Tom O'Donovan will be sadly missed by an enormous portfolio of friends, too many to commit to paper. Primarily his Children and their Families will miss their Dad, their Grandfather, their Father-in-law, and great Grandfather. His sisters, Teresa Dawson, and Brigid Napier and their husbands- Pakie Dawson, and Gus Napier (Clonmel) will be saddened by his loss. A Callan man to the marrow of his bones, and a true Gael besides.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Alex McGrath

Kilkenny GAA lost a much-loved past-player this week following the sad passing of former inter-county minor hurler Alex McGrath at the age of 82.

McGrath, who has been living in Chicago for many years, was centre-back on the Kilkenny minor team in 1959/60. The local man was also a member of the 1971 Chicago Harry Bolands team who won the American League, lining out with fellow county men John and Liam O'Brien, Tom McGrath (brother), Geoff Butler and Mick Crotty.

Paying tribute to McGrath, former Chairman of the Kilkenny County Board, Ned Quinn commented: "It was a privilege to meet and chat with Alex on many of his trips home from Chicago. He loved to talk about his time lining out in the Black and Amber and he continued his support for all Kilkenny teams throughout his life. May his gentle soul rest in peace."

The former Donegal Imports owner was also a great friend to the legendary Mick Crotty, with the James Stephens clubman passing away just last month.

Mr McGrath's funeral mass took place on Friday, November 8, at St Mary of the Woods church in Chicago followed by burial at All Saints Catholic Cemetery.



Jim Kearns

The parish of Ballyhale lost another fine man, another fine The parish of Ballyhale lost another fine man, another fine clubman, when Jim Kearns passed away on February 19, 2024.

Jim had been President of Ballyhale Shamrocks GAA Club for many years at that point. This honour reflected the esteem in which he was held not just throughout his home parish but throughout the whole of South Kilkenny and beyond. The great turnout for his wake and his funeral emphasized this point.

Jim counted as a deeply popular person, always quick with a pleasant encouraging word. He was quiet and observant, well able to size up any situation. He loved in particular to attend the Shamrocks' floodlit training in Piltown, as another Senior Championship moved towards culmination, assessing player form, assessing possibilities and chances.

The truth? Jim Kearns was one of the sinews on which the GAA depends. This man? A volunteer to his fingertips, trustworthy and reliable, forever available to help out at short notice. He gave countless hours collecting on the gate in Páirc na Seamróg and stewarding in Nowlan Park. He similarly had a longstanding involvement with the Kilkenny Supporters Club.

One of the many people who worked with Jim Kearns in

various contexts over the decades remarked: "Every GAA club needs a Jim Kearns. He was Mr Dependable for the Shamrocks. No job too big or too small. You could ring him any time, no matter what."

He continued: "Jim never lost his love of Ballyhale and of the Shamrocks. I think living out the parish for a lot of his adult life actually increased the feeling he had for his home place. He stood fully behind the club from the start. And he had a great sense of Kilkenny hurling as well, in the broadest way."

Jim Kearns was born on January 20, 1940. Knockmoylan, his home townland, lies down the parish's southern end. He agreed strongly with the 1972 amalgamation of Ballyhale GAA Club and Knocktopher GAA Club as Shamrocks GAA Club. His middle years were full of delight at the new outfit's swift progress to the top, Senior Champions in 1978, All Ireland Champions in 1981. Recent successes left him no less proud. But Jim was a true supporter, there during thick and thin.

Jim married Joan Foran, a Mooncoin native. He was predeceased by Joan, his loving wife, in 2021. Having lived in Fiddown for a number of years, they moved with their family to Mooncoin Village in the early 1990s. During this period, Jim acted as a Shamrocks selector, one of the management team for 1991's Senior Final triumph. This moment looked back to years of service already given, looked forward to 30 plus years of further service.

Ballyhale Shamrocks GAA Club and the whole parish offers deepest sympathy to Jim and Joan's children, Katharina, Diane, Olive, Michael, Séamus, Richard and Selena.



Declan Stynes

Declan Stynes, a native of Laois, came with his wife Majella to Talbot's Inch in 1997.

From that time on, despite those Laois origins, Declan became committed to Dicksboro Club and his commitment was unwavering.

This commitment was most evident through his children's participation at all levels in Dicksboro and both he and Majella supported and encouraged them in every way. His greatest passion was his family, followed by farming and G.A.A.

He was a great and generous neighbour and a talented and meticulous tradesman whose work was greatly prized by those lucky enough to deal with him.

In 2014, Declan finally completed his new house in Tullaherin, but the move from Talbot's Inch in no way sundered the great bond he and Majella maintained with St Canice's Parish and Dicksboro club.

Declan was a man of few words and yet had a kind word and smile for everyone he met. Countless people will remember Declan from cold and wet sidelines as he cheered on the Maroon and White as well as the Black and Amber.

All were saddened by the decline in his health over his final couple of years, but right to the end he continued to attend the matches, even though relying on railings, crutches and especially on Majella and Claire who with Emer and the boys accompanied him everywhere.

He made friends everywhere he went and the kind words and prayers of those many people has been of great solace to Majella, TJ, Liam, Emer Michael and Claire.

The recent match featuring TJ, Liam and Michael all starting on the same team no doubt was watched from on high by Declan. A great man who will be missed by all who knew him.

Solas síorai dó.



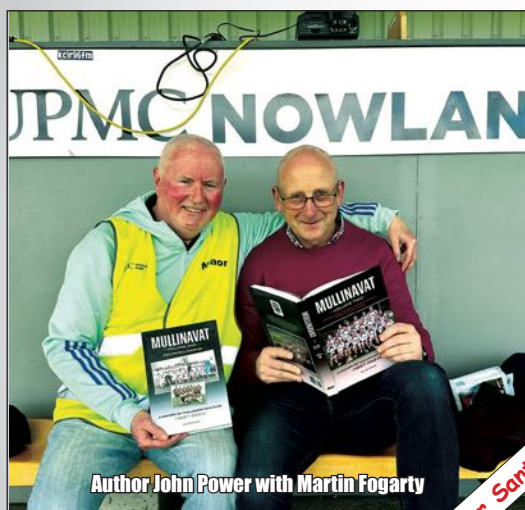
RESULTS 2024



SENIOR HURLING		MINOR HURLING	
COUNTY SH C'SHIP FINAL	Thomastown 0-18 O'Loughlin Gaels 0-7	MINOR "A" C'SHIP FINAL	James Stephens 1-16 Dicksboro 1-13
SH LEAGUE FINAL	O'Loughlin Gaels 4-24 Tullaroan 1-18	MINOR "B" C'SHIP FINAL	John Lockes 1-21 Danesfort 1-13
SH SHIELD FINAL	Mullinavat 1-25 Thomastown 1-19	MINOR "C" C'SHIP FINAL	Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-15 James Stephens 0-16
BYRNE CUP	Dicksboro 2-22 O'Loughlin Gaels 2-19	MINOR "D" C'SHIP FINAL	Carrickshocks 1-11 Kilmacow 1-8
SH RELEGATION FINAL	Glenmore 3-17 James Stephens 3-12	MINOR "A" LEAGUE FINAL	James Stephens 3-18 Thomastown 0-16
INTERMEDIATE HURLING		MINOR "B" LEAGUE FINAL	Graignamanagh 3-14 Emeralds 1-18
COUNTY IH C'SHIP FINAL	Lisdowney 2-12 Young Irelands 0-15	MINOR "C" LEAGUE FINAL	James Stephens 4-12 Rower-Inistioge 0-13
IH LEAGUE FINAL	Lisdowney 3-17 Young Irelands 2-18	MINOR "D" LEAGUE FINAL	Carrickshock 0-20 Dicksboro 2-9
IH SHIELD FINAL	Danesfort 1-24 Tullagher Rosbercon 0-15	U16 HURLING	
AYLWARD CUP	Rower Inistioge 1-17 Thomastown 0-19	U16 "A" C'SHIP FINAL	Erin's Own 1-20 Dicksboro 2-13
IH RELEGATION FINAL	Carrickshock 2-16 Conahy Shamrocks 0-19	U16 "B" C'SHIP FINAL	Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-16 Barrow Rangers 1-14
JUNIOR HURLING		U16 "C" C'SHIP FINAL	Conahy Shamrocks 1-13 St Lachtain's 1-8
COUNTY JH C'SHIP FINAL	St Lachtain's 2-15 Windgap 1-12	U16 "D" C'SHIP FINAL	Dicksboro 3-11 Cloneen 1-12
JH LEAGUE FINAL	Windgap 2-17 St Lachtain's 0-14	U16 "A" LEAGUE FINAL	James Stephens 4-16 Dunnamaggin 1-14
JH C'SHIP SECTION B LGE FINAL	James Stephens 1-17 O'Loughlin Gaels 2-13	U16 "B" LEAGUE FINAL	Danesfort 1-15 Rower-Inistioge 0-15
ALL COUNTY JH LEAGUE FINAL	Lisdowney 4-14 Barrow Rangers 1-22	U16 "C" LEAGUE FINAL	Emeralds 1-18 Graignamanagh 0-10
JH 'A' C'SHIP FINAL	Young Irelands 2-15 Dunnamaggin 0-18	U16 "D" LEAGUE FINAL	Ballinkillen 6-10 Cloneen 2-9
JH 'B' C'SHIP FINAL	Threecastles 0-16 St Lachtain's 0-15	FÉILE NA nGAEL	
JH 'C' C'SHIP FINAL	Danesfort 1-22 Lisdowney 2-19 Danesfort won on penalties a.e.t.	FEILE UNDER 15 DIVISION 1 (PADDY GRACE CUP) FINAL	John Lockes 1-7 Barrow Rangers 1-5
JH 'D' C'SHIP FINAL	Graignamanagh 2-15 Erin's Own 1-14	FEILE UNDER 15 DIVISION 2 FINAL	St Martin's 0-12 Dunnamaggin 1-7
JH 'E' C'SHIP FINAL	Mooncoin 4-12 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-17	FEILE UNDER 15 DIVISION 3 FINAL	St Lachtain's 0-11 Erin's Own 1-4
JH 'F' C'SHIP FINAL	Young Irelands 0-19 Mullinavat 0-10	U14 HURLING	
JH 'A' LEAGUE FINAL	O'Loughlin Gaels 1-29 Dunnamaggin 2-13	U14 "A" C'SHIP FINAL	Danesfort 0-12 Dicksboro 0-8
JH 'B' LEAGUE FINAL	Bennettsbridge 0-24 Fenians 2-16	U14 "B" C'SHIP FINAL	Ballyhale Shamrocks bt Barrow Rangers on pens
JH 'C' LEAGUE FINAL	Windgap 3-23 Lisdowney 1-13	U14 "C" C'SHIP FINAL	Fenians/St Patricks 1-12 Erin's Own 1-8
JH 'D' LEAGUE FINAL	Graignamanagh 0-20 Rower Inistioge 3-9	U14 "D" C'SHIP FINAL	B & W's 4-14 Mooncoin 0-6
JH 'E' LEAGUE FINAL	Carlow Town 1-18 St Martin's 0-13	U14 "A" LEAGUE FINAL	John Lockes 5-7 O'Loughlin Gaels 3-5
JH 'F' LEAGUE FINAL	St Lachtain's 0-16 Young Irelands 0-14	U14 "B" LEAGUE FINAL	Mooncoin 2-15 James Stephens 4-4
FENNELLY CUP	Erin's Own 0-18 Rower-Inistioge 0-11	U14 "C" LEAGUE FINAL	Kilmacow 2-18 Fenians/St Patricks 3-11
CAHILL CUP	O'Loughlins 1-19 Thomastown 0-17	U14 "D" LEAGUE FINAL	Emeralds 1-9 Mooncoin B Team 0-11
		ADULT FOOTBALL	
U21 HURLING 2024		SF C'SHIP FINAL	Dicksboro 1-9 Lisdowney 1-6
U21 ROINN A FINAL	Dicksboro 3-21 James Stephens 1-14	IF C'SHIP FINAL	Conahy Shamrocks 3-8 Glenmore 1-10
U21 ROINN B FINAL	Not Completed	JF C'SHIP FINAL	Graignamanagh 0-11 Bennettsbridge 1-6
U21 ROINN C FINAL	Not Completed	SF LEAGUE FINAL	Thomastown 3-14 James Stephens 2-5
U21 ROINN D FINAL	Not Completed	IF LEAGUE FINAL	Rower Inistioge 1-8 Muckalee 0-7
U21 ROINN E FINAL	No Competition	JF LEAGUE FINAL	Bennettsbridge 4-4 Graignamanagh 1-7
		SF RELEGATION FINAL	Erins Own 1-4 Danesfort 0-4

U14 FOOTBALL		MINOR FOOTBALL	
U14F "A" FINAL	John Lockes 1-7 Danesfort 2-0	MF "A" CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL	St Martin's 3-13 St. Patrick's 0-4
U14F "B" FINAL	Bennettsbridge 3-8 Kilmoganny 0-4	MF "B" CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL	Graignamanagh 3-11 Tullagher/Rosbercon 1-4
U14F "C" FINAL	Slieverue 5-3 James Stephens (B) 1-8	MF "C" CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL	Railyard GFC 4-12 Carrickshock 0-7
U14F "A" LEAGUE FINAL	O'Loughlin Gaels 3-7 Kilmacow 2-8	U16 FOOTBALL	
U14F "B" LEAGUE FINAL	St Lachtain's 3-9 Piltown 4-5	U16F "A" FINAL	Not Completed
U14F "C" LEAGUE FINAL	Glenmore 3-5 Slieverue 1-4	U16F "B" FINAL	
		U16F "C" FINAL	

135 YEARS OF MULLINAVAT HISTORY



Author John Power with Martin Fogarty



Another job for Santy!

136 years of Mullinavat GAA History was recalled on Saturday 11th May, 2024 at Mullinavat Community Centre, when the club officially launched their two-volume club history book.

The books were researched and written by club P.R.O. John Power with help from committee members, both past and present.

Ex-Meath All Ireland football star Liam Hayes and his company Hero Books produced the publications with hard covered front and back coloured covers. The club invited Martin Fogarty to launch the dual history books. Martin was the GAA's first-ever National Hurling Development manager, along with being a selector in the Brian Cody and Kilkenny glory era from 2005-2013. In this period Martin was involved in six Kilkenny Senior All-Ireland titles and made an interesting speech on the night, concerning both past and present-day hurling.

Book 1 - This has almost 500 pages and covered the main adult club hurling and football histories, including Leinster club campaigns in both codes. Introductions were included from people like current GAA President Jarlath Burns and former President Nicky Brennan.

A special section on club heroes featured the likes of Monsignor Thomas Maher, who coached Kilkenny to seven Senior All Ireland hurling titles (1957, 1963, 1967, 1969, 1972, 1974, 1975).

Book 2 - This has almost 350 pages covering everything else GAA wise in the parish. The full handball and camogie club histories, ladies football, inter firms and college grades, the story of Mullinavat fete, including reports on all 35 tournaments, and features on other fete tournaments in the South Kilkenny area, where Mullinavat parish teams took part.

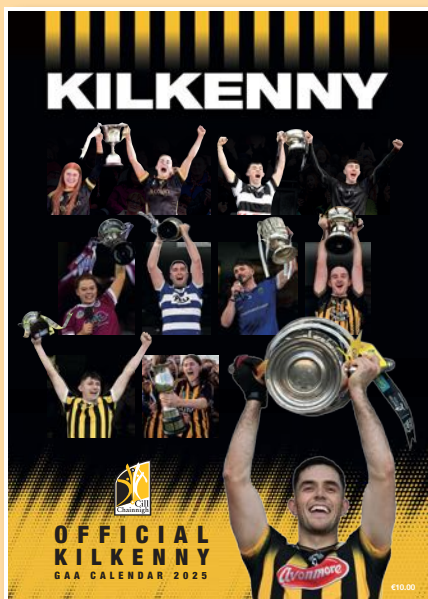
A full record of past and present club officers, inter county representatives from the club, county finals list in all grades and county final referees from the club were also documented.

Both books are still available from club officials or can be bought online direct from Amazon.

Here's to the next 136 years of Mullinavat GAA history.

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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