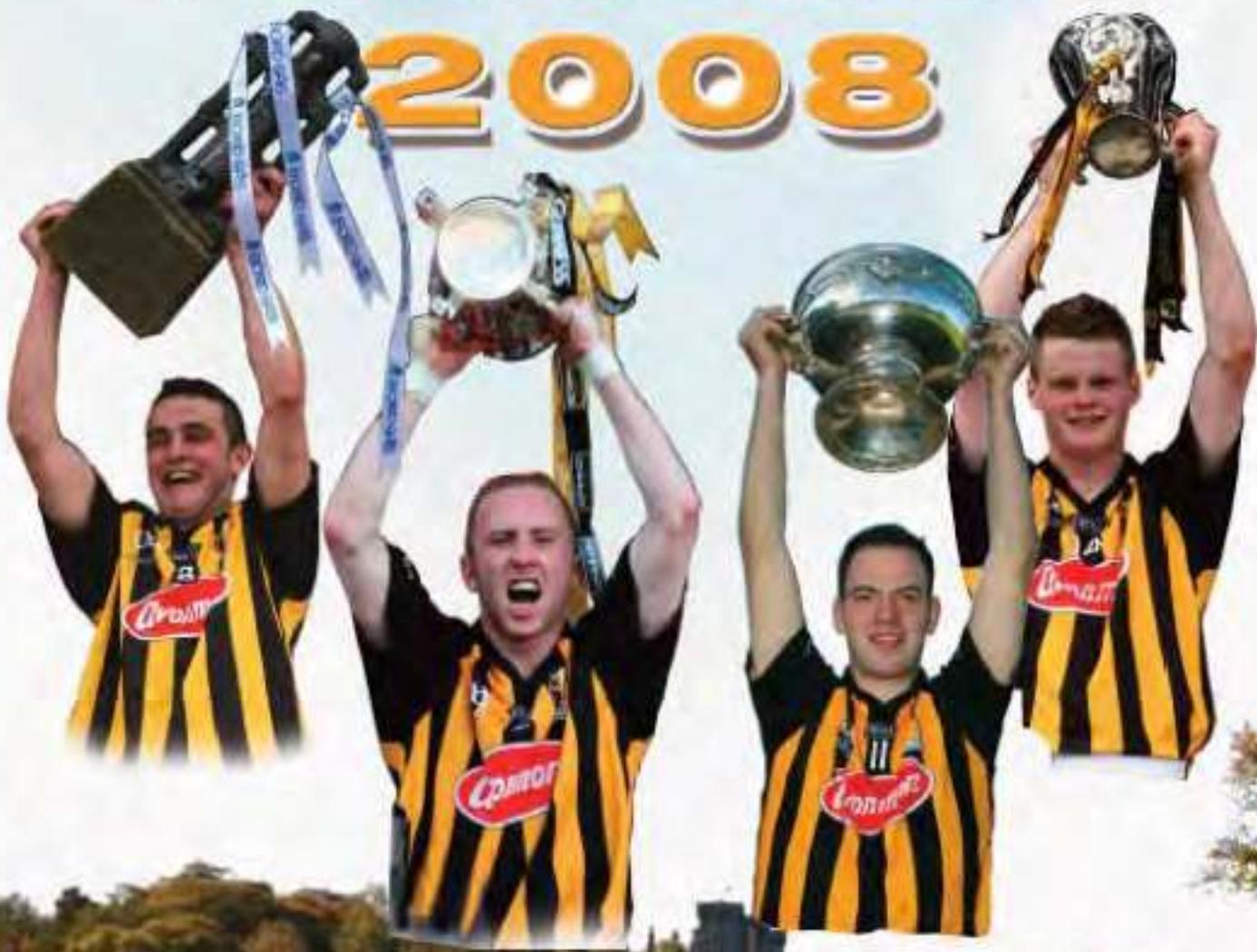


KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK

2008



€12.50

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Foreword

A chairde, tá an t-áirí bualte linn arís chun cur síos ar eachtraí Cumann Lúthchleas Gael anseo cos Fheoire agus taigántaí faoi lerth a lua ar na gclubanna agus ar na daomh a léirigh go soiléir díunn choobh tréan is atá ár gcluichí anseo i gCill Chainnigh.

2008 will go down as the greatest year in the history of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael here in Kilkenny. To have all four inter-county hurling teams reach All-Ireland finals is a tremendous achievement but to succeed in all four is almost beyond belief, something we've all dreamed of but probably never believed would happen.

Little did we realise on August 2nd, when our Intermediate hurlers defeated Dublin, after extra time, what would be in store for us over the following seven weeks culminating with victory in the U21 All Ireland against Tipperary on September 14th.

Victory in the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final for the third year in succession was the obvious highlight of the year. I'm sure all the records achieved by this team and team management will receive due tribute from greater scribes than I in this publication, however, I'd like to compliment them on how their main attributes of: team, dedication and effort have filtered down through all our teams, to our Development Squads and to our Schools and Clubs. All the fore mentioned attributes were exhibited by our Intermediate, U21 and Minor teams as they achieved their respective victories.

The past year saw some great club hurling in Kilkenny. All our finals were closely contested and clearly show the current strength of the game in the county. I congratulate the various winners and thank all the teams for the sporting manner in which the games were played. I wish all the victorious Clubs success in the various upcoming Club Championships while I'd also like to congratulate Conahy Shamrocks on their historic success in the All Ireland Junior Club Hurling Final – 2007/2008 will be remembered by them for ever.

It is easy to forget that Kilkenny continues to have an active Gaelic Football programme in spite of so much emphasis on hurling. Successes all are too rare at inter-county level, however the victory over London in the N.F.L. in Nowlan Park before a large crowd was a great boost for the game.

Handball as is now customary had another successful season with All Ireland victories in a variety of competitions. The highlight of the year for me was the achievement of Michael 'Ducksie' Walsh in reaching the All Ireland Singles Final – surely one of Kilkenny's greatest sportsmen. Congratulations to all who achieved success and well done to the dedicated people who coach and administer the game in Kilkenny.

Camogie also enjoyed great success in 2008 winning U16, Minor and Intermediate All Ireland and in doing so created their own records at U16 and Minor level.

Photographs are an integral part of any publication. The Yearbook Committee have made a special effort this year to bring the colour and excitement of 2008 to you in the best pictorial coverage possible. Many thanks to the many excellent photographers for allowing us to use their material.

The running of our County Board is an expensive operation and would not be possible but for the generous help of our many sponsors and advertisers. The support of our team sponsors Gланbia Plc is vital in helping us to maintain the success we've enjoyed over recent years, while St. Canice's Credit Union, Joe Coogan Auctioneers, J.J. Kavanagh & Sons, Iverk Produce, MI. Lyng Motors, The Citreon Centre and Duggan Steel generously help with our local Championships. I would ask all our readers to support our sponsors and advertisers whenever the opportunity arises.

Our Supporters Club branches in Kilkenny, Dublin and Kildare also make substantial contributions to the financing of our teams and I'd like to thank these small but dedicated groups for their work.

As in previous years, this Yearbook will find its way to many parts of the world. Wherever you may be, I hope you enjoy reading of the exploits of the many sportsmen and sports-women in our country who thrilled us all during 2008. It is fitting that their achievements and endeavours are recorded for current and future generations.

I am grateful to the Editor, Barrie Henriques, Chairman Pat Henderson, Gerry O'Neill and their hard working committee for the many hours spent compiling and editing the Yearbook and which I'm sure will be a keepsake for all Kilkenny people at home and abroad.

Every good wish for Christmas and the New Year to all the clubs, players and supporters in the county and all Kilkenny Gaels outside the county. We can all look forward to 2009 with further hope and anticipation.

Slán agus Beannacht.

Pat Cinsealach

Cathaoirleach Coiste Contae Cill Chainnigh.



KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 2008

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Editorial



I was tempted to write a very simple Editorial for our Yearbook this year. If for one moment I had thought that I might have got away with it, I would simply have written, "2008 was the greatest year in the annals of the GAA in Kilkenny ever, and will not be replicated". That's what I wanted to write, but I know that we need to be a little more specific on the events that were so much a part of the greatness that was Kilkenny GAA 2008.

You all know the contents of the goodies bag, with All Ireland Titles in every discipline, All Stars by the sack load, and banner headlines proclaiming the greatness of a great GAA County.

We have tried to capture most if not all of the excitement of a fabulous season, which incidentally is not over quite yet. Everyone will have their own special memory of a memorable year. Whether it is the dash of Noel Hickey against Cork in a never-to-be-forgotten semi-final, or the gaol by Aidan Fogarty in the same game. Whether you will remember the pure poetry of Tommy Walsh's displays throughout a great season, or the Henry Shefflin point from the next Parish against Waterford. Whatever it is, we hope that we have captured most of them in word, picture or both with our Yearbook. It has been a Labour of love for all.

My sincerest thanks to our Chairman, Pat Henderson, our compiler, Gerry O'Neill, and all of the rest of the crew, Conor Denieffe, Tommy Lanigan, Jimmy Walsh, Conor Brennan, and Ned Buggy.

I wish to record our gratitude to our Professional photographers, Ray McManus and his team at Sportsfile, Eoin Hennessy and his team at Hennessy Photography, John McIlwaine, Charlie Maher and all of the other picture takers.

Thanks to all of our contributors, including Enda McEvoy (Sunday Tribune). Without our advertisers, it is doubtful if this publication would be as comprehensive, and stylish as it is. I earnestly ask you to support our advertisers whenever possible.

To all of the people, club officials, supporters, and others who helped in any way to produce this Yearbook, my gracious thanks.

On a sad note, the year was tinged for us as a Committee by the untimely death of our colleague, Tommy O'Brien. His loss has caused a considerable void in the lives of us all. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a anaon dílis.

In the hope that we will all be around twelve months from now, may I wish you, your families, and all of your friends a very healthy, and happy Christmas.

Slán go fóil.

Barrie Henriques

(Editor)

Shamrocks Conquer All

County SH Championship Report by Tommy Lanigan



Ballyhale Shamrocks - County SH League & Championship Winners / Leinster SH Club Champions 2008

Back: Liam Grant, Michael Carroll, Joseph Holden, Tom Coogan, John Dermody, Eoin Knox, Martin Healy

Middle: Maurice Aylward (Manager) Alan Cuddihy, Eamon Walsh, Mark Aylward, Michael Paul Drennan, Brendan Costello, David Hoyne, Paul Shefflin,

Michael Dermody, Donnchadh Fitzpatrick, Ger Fennelly, Keith Nolan, TJ Reid

Front: James Walsh, Aidan Cummins, Michael Fennelly, James Connolly, James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick, Bob Aylward (capt), Eoin Reid, Padraig Holden, Paddy Reid, Henry Shefflin.

Eoin Hennessy



James Stephens - County SH League & Championship Finalists 2008

Back: Ian Hayes, James Hennessy, Conor O'Grady, Joe Murphy, Joe Murray, Conor McQuillan, Eoin McCormack, Cillian Murphy.

Middle: Joe Mernagh, Brian McEvoy, Alan Tyrrell, Dermot Grogan, Jackie Tyrrell, Donnacha Cody, Gary Whelan, Richie Hayes, David McCormack, Peter Barry, Shane Campion, James Moran, Tomas Keogh, Martin Phelan.

Front: David Walton, Philip Larkin, Francis Cantwell, Eoin Larkin, Matthew Ruth, Niall McQuillan, Derrick Brennan, Niall Tyrrell, Shane Brennan
Eoin Hennessy

If the bookies were to be believed we should not have bothered with a senior championship this year at all! Ballyhale Shamrocks were so hot favourites that it seemed to have the effect of many opponents surrendering meekly when the going got tough in league and championship. Credit must go to the southerners that they never allowed the advance publicity to distract them from their marvellous quest of a third county title in a row, to equal the feat of their predecessors from 1978-80.

County Final

The madness continued to the county final when they were quoted at 1/8 favourites against the second most successful team of the noughties, James Stephens.

Could the Ballyhale men be so good? Yes they did capture their third successive title.

Yes they did encounter very little difficulty on the way. Yes they did demonstrate that they are an exceedingly talented side, bursting with skill, strength and savvy.

They were handed a tremendous attacking opportunity when James Stephens surrendered much of the field to them by withdrawing Peter Barry into defence though playing with a strong wind. The Shamrocks defenders and midfield had the luxury of being able to pick out telling passes, that resulted in two first half goals to Eoin and Patrick Reid. Their seven point interval lead of 2-7 to 0-6 did scant justice to the opportunities they might have converted.

The second half will be remembered for the

**St Canice's Credit Union
County Senior Hurling
Championship 2008
Scoreboard**

First Round

Graigue Ballycallan 0-18, Dicksboro 1-10
Fenians 2-12, Dunnamaggan 2-10
Tullaroan 1-16, St.Martin's 0-15
Clara 0-14, Young Irelands 0-10

Second Round

Ballyhale Shamrocks 3-19, Clara 0-10
O'Loughlin Gaels 4-15, Tullaroan 2-14
Carrickshock 0-16, Fenians 1-7
James Stephens 1-17, Graigue Ballycallan 1-10

Semi-Finals

Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-21, Carrickshock 0-11
James Stephens 1-12, O'Loughlin Gaels 0-13

Final

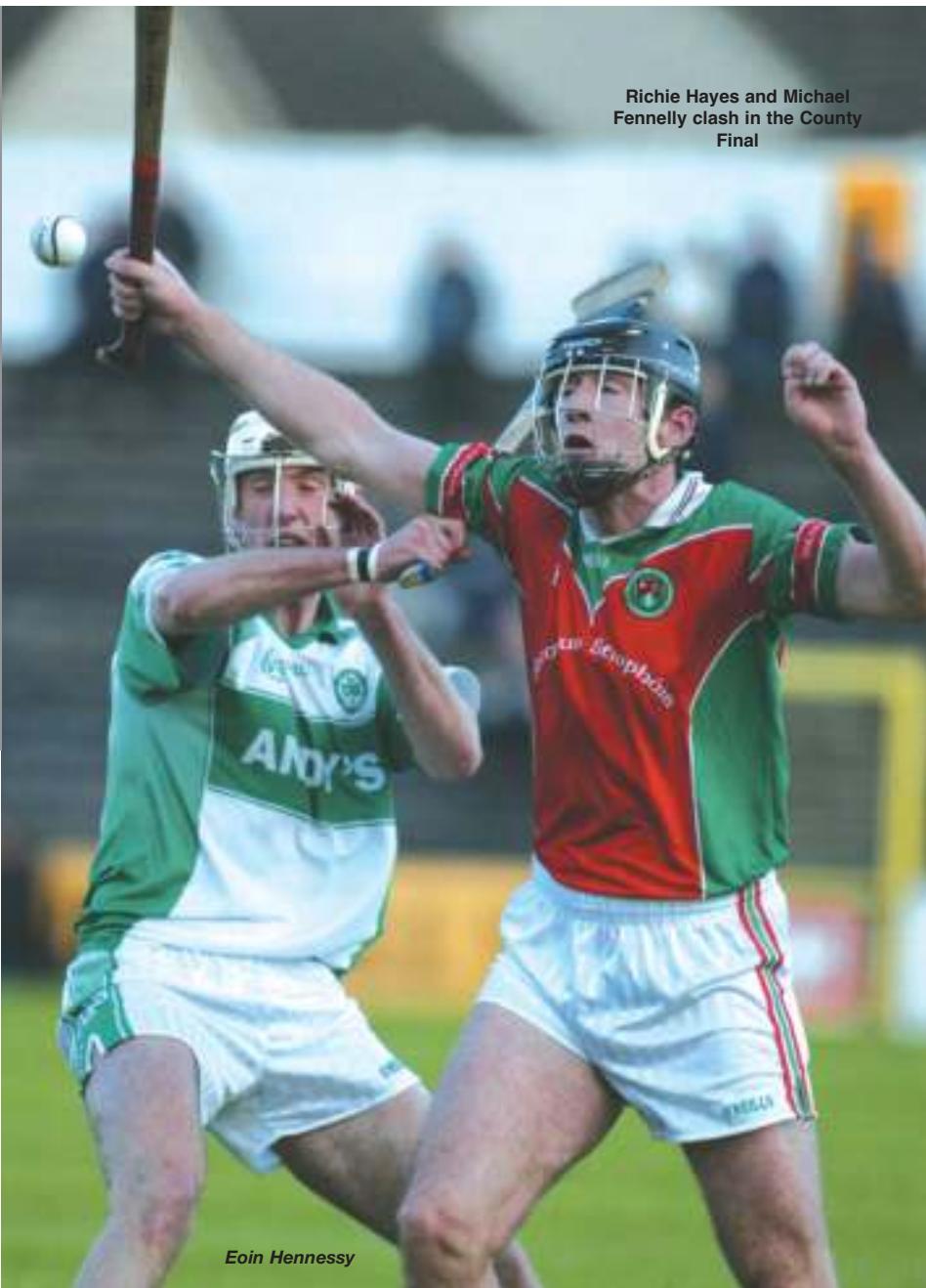
Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-11, Jas Stephens 0-12

Relegation Final
Young Irelands 2-11, Dicksboro 1-11

contribution of Jackie Tyrrell. Not since 1994 and Liam Keoghan's tour de force for Tullaroan has one individual taken hold of a 'senior final in such inspiring and dramatic fashion. He led the Village in a stunning comeback that rocked the county champions. Against the elements 'Stephens reduced the deficit to three points and forced Shamrocks to defend manically. Two points on the counter attack, one majestic effort from the irrepressible Michael Fennelly in the final minutes dragged Shamrocks over the victory line. The players reactions at the end demonstrated relief as much as elation as their wonderful vein of form continued. It was not their best display but there is virtue, too, in winning ugly.

Clear Winners in Semi finals

Richie Hayes and Michael Fennelly clash in the County Final



Eoin Hennessy



Conor Bergin versus Tomás Keogh in the County Semi-final.

Sportsfile



Eoin Hennessy

Carrickshock - County SH Semi-Finalists 2008

Back: John Butler, Paul Barron, Dan O'Brien, Larry O Shea, Darren O Dwyer, Liam Barron, Kieran Holden, John Power, Andrew Power, Damien Walsh, Edward Power.

Middle: William Hoyne, Emmet Dunphy, Jamie Power, Richie Power, Niall Rohan, Michael Rice, James Moran, John Tennyson, Pat Farrell, John Dalton.

Front: Nicky Murphy, Shane Power, John Murphy, Luke Gaule, Niall Tennyson, Michael Rohan, Mark O Dwyer, Davy Franks, Pat Tennyson, Richie Frisby, Chris Price.



Eoin Hennessy

O'Loughlin Gaels - County SH Semi-Finalists 2008

Back: Benny Cleere, Stephen Murphy, Rick Leydon, Peter Dowling, Johnny Kearney, James O'Keeffe, Mark Dowling, Eddie Kearns.

Middle: Jimmy Comerford, Nigel Skehan, Brian Murphy, Seanie Cummins, Bryan Skehan, Sean Dowling, Brian Hogan, Alan O'Brien, Niall McEvoy, Mark Kelly, Andy Kearns.

Front: Niall Bergin, Gary Kelly, Luke Leydon, Alan Geoghegan, Brian Dowling, Maurice Nolan, Danny Loughnane, Ollie Blanchfield, Brian Kelly, Paul Kelly, Mark Bergin, Conor Bergin, Paddy Deegan, Ben Leydon, Jamie Malone.

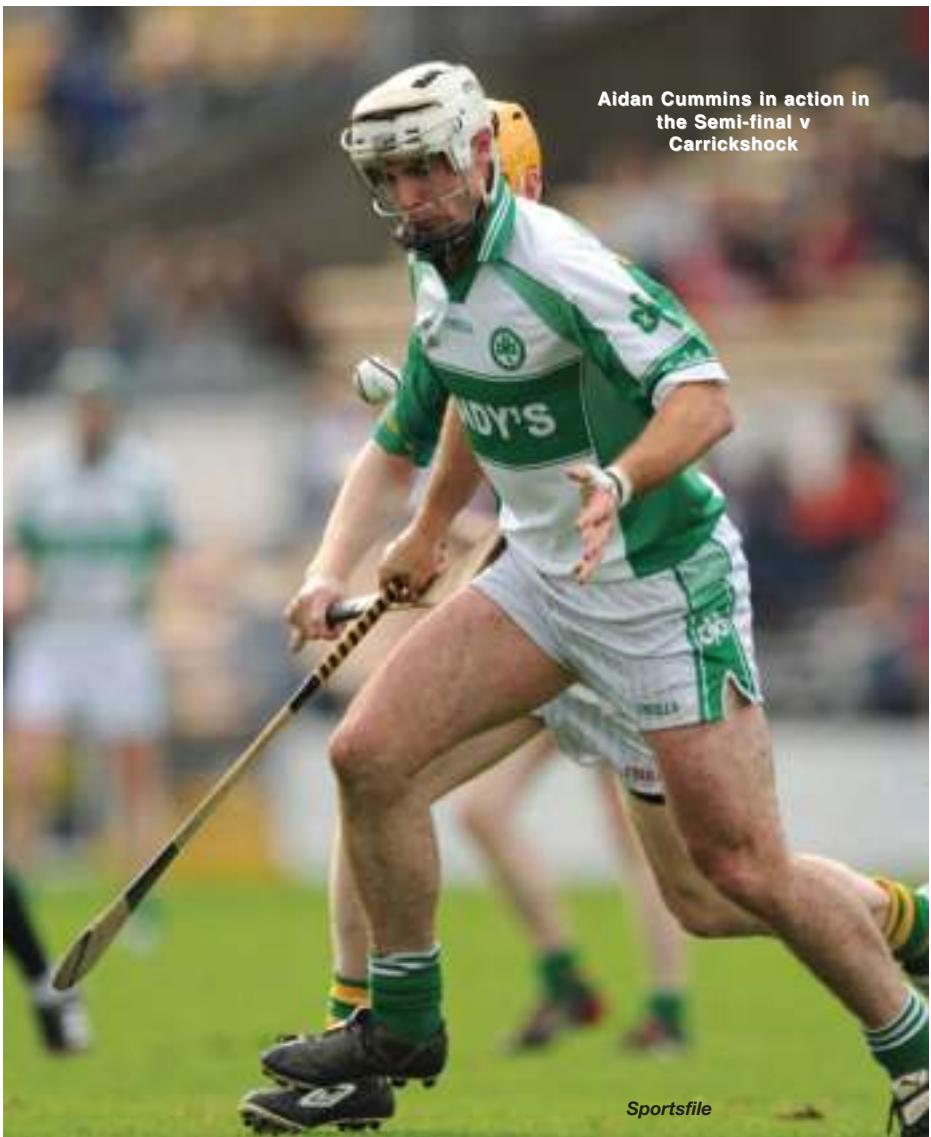
The semi-finals were games of contrasting style and quality. Shamrocks annihilated near neighbours Carrickshock by 1-21 to 0-11, a surprising result to many who had watched them earlier in the best league game of the year. Then the champions had snatched a winning goal in added time. They made no mistake when it mattered as they simply ran away from the increasingly weak challenge of 'Shock in a truly one sided second half. Carrickshock failed to defend from the front and they were ruthlessly swept aside.

The city derby was a quality and close affair. For the past seven years little has divided these sides but an Eoin Larking goal midway through the second half gave Stephens the momentum to survive a furious

O'Loughlins rally and wing by 1-13 to 0-12. O'Loughlins introduced several young players to senior ranks this year and would seem to have a bright future despite this disappointment.

What of the challengers of 2008?

The St. Canice's Credit Union league did not produce many memorable games. It was won in a canter by Shamrocks who hammered James Stephens in a lop sided final while O'Loughlins captured the Shield. Early promise by Fenians and Tullaroan failed to spur either of them to championship fury. Fenians remain competitive, all the more praiseworthy because of their very small pool of players. Tullaroan have similar qualities and issues.



Aidan Cummins in action in
the Semi-final v
Carrickshock

Sportsfile

Newly promoted Clara performed creditably with a very young team and they have the capacity to join the upper echelons of senior hurling. St. Martins were the disappointment of the season after their annus mirabilis of 2007. Perhaps expectations were too high but they will surely improve next year and become forceful challengers.

The only bright light of the year for Graig-Ballycallan was the series of wonderful performances by James Ryall who, at times, single-handedly defied the opposition. Their early season form was miserable and demonstrated that league form is a fair indicator of championship performance.

Dunnamaggin too, seem to be receding from their previous heights of excellence. Though they have very good defenders, scoring freely has become a significant problem for them. Yet they remain formidable opponents.

Just as Ballyhale were hot favourite to win, Young Irelands were expected to return to Intermediate ranks. But through the League they battled manfully in all their games, showing great spirit. They survived the relegation final against Dicksboro thanks to a truly outstanding performance by veteran Charlie Carter.

The old adage 'forwards win matches' was very much in evidence in Dicksboro's displays

this year. However with a thriving underage structure we may expect them to return to senior ranks before long.

This year the final league game was played in August, thus giving more meaningful impetus to midsummer club training. The experiment seems effective particularly since issues of first round byes and relegation worries were decided on that weekend. It may not always be as successful.

There is a growing concern that there is an increasing number of weaker teams competing at senior level and that intermediate team standards have fallen. Too many clubs are relying on veterans to keep them afloat in both grades. For many years strong well populated clubs have been plying their trade at 'B' level in underage ranks. The disturbing trend may be the principal factor in many clubs being unable to bring their young players to the highest adult level.

Kilkenny's greatest strength has been its underage structure, but it beggars belief when only three or four teams compete at 'A' level in some age groups. Let us be warned, there may be serious consequences down the road for excellence at adult level.

08 will be remembered as the 'year of the shamrock', whither 09?

The following are the players who took part in the 2008 Kilkenny senior hurling championship.

Ballyhale Shamrocks: James Connolly, Paul Shefflin, Eamonn Walsh, Padraig Holden, Michael Dermody, Aidan Cummins, Bob Aylward, James Cha Fitzpatrick, Michael Fennelly, Henry Shefflin, Colin Fennelly, TJ Reid, David Hoyne, Eoin Reid, Brendan Costello, Mark Aylward, Alan Cuddihy, Patrick Reid, Ger Fennelly.

Carrickshock: John Butler, David Franks, John Murphy, Luke Gaule, Niall Tennyson, Pat Tennyson, Shane Power, John Dalton, Michael Rohan, Richie Power, Michael Rice, Mark O'Dwyer, James Moran, Jamie Power, Paul Barron, Niall Rohan, Darren O'Dwyer.

Dicksboro: Sam Morrissey, David Carroll, Kieran Cuddihy, Darren Tyrrell, Michael Fagen, Paddy Henderson, James Maher, John Fagan, Mareo Roussman, Martin Gaffney, Tom Manning, Paul O'Flynn, Eddie O'Donoghue, Shane Maher, Adrian Stapleton, Enda Malone.

Clara: Michael Barcoe, Dermot Nolan, Shane Prendergast, Eoin O Shea, Lester Ryan, David Langton, David Prendergast, Liam Ryan, Neal Prendergast, Conor Phelan, TJ Fitzgerald, John Murphy, James Nolan, Austin Murphy, Keith Hogan, Brian Phelan, Brian O Shea, Stephen Quinlan, Ger Prendergast.

Dunnamaggin: David Herity, Liam Heffernan, Noel Hickey, Mark Heffernan, Andrew Hickey, Canice Hickey, Aidan Donavan, Darren Fitzpatrick, Kenneth Moore, Brian o Shea, Colin Herity, Michael O'Neill, JJ Dunphy, Noel Lahart, Seaghan O'Neill, Sean Connery.

Fenians: PJ Ryan, Paul Phelan, JJ Delaney, Declan Garrett, Ger Henderson, PJ Delaney, John Henderson, John Broderick, Cathal Ryan, Darragh Tobin, Brian Power, Kieran Grehan, Diarmuid Broderick, Kevin Reid, Paul Quinlan, Kevin Power, Eoin Shiel, Stephen Grehan, Jason Ryan.

Graigue Ballycallan: Michael Hoyne, Pat Robinson, Dermot Hoyne, Darragh Walton, James Ryall, Ciaran Hoyne, Dermot Ryall, Niall Millea, Eddie Brennan, Paddy Kennedy, Denis Byrne, J. J. Brennan, Gearoid Cleere, John Hoyne, Adrian Bourke, Kevin Cleere, James Dunphy.

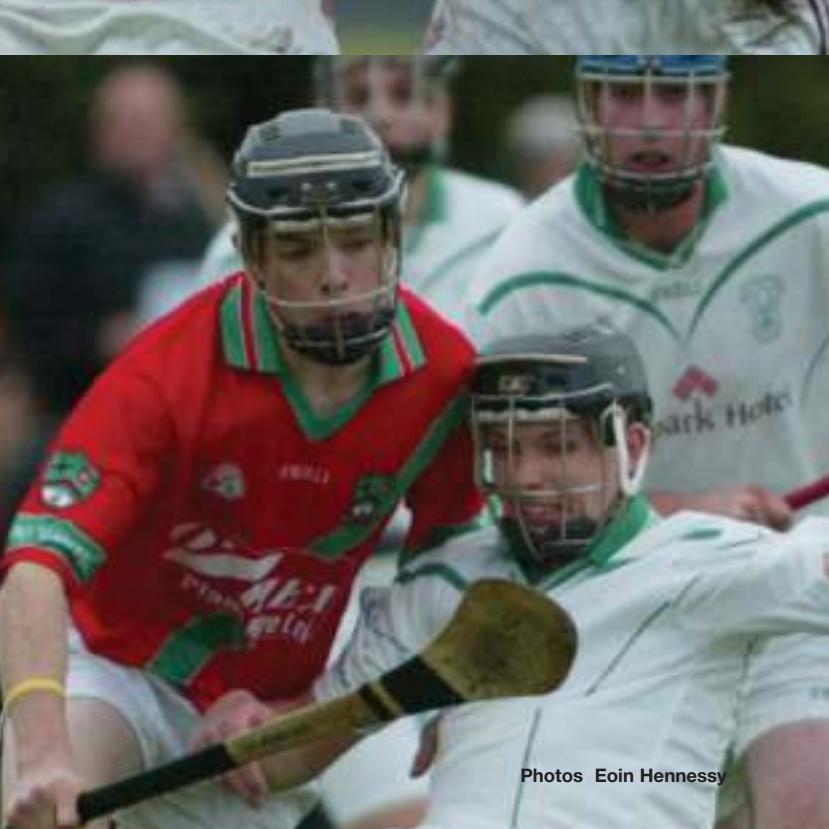
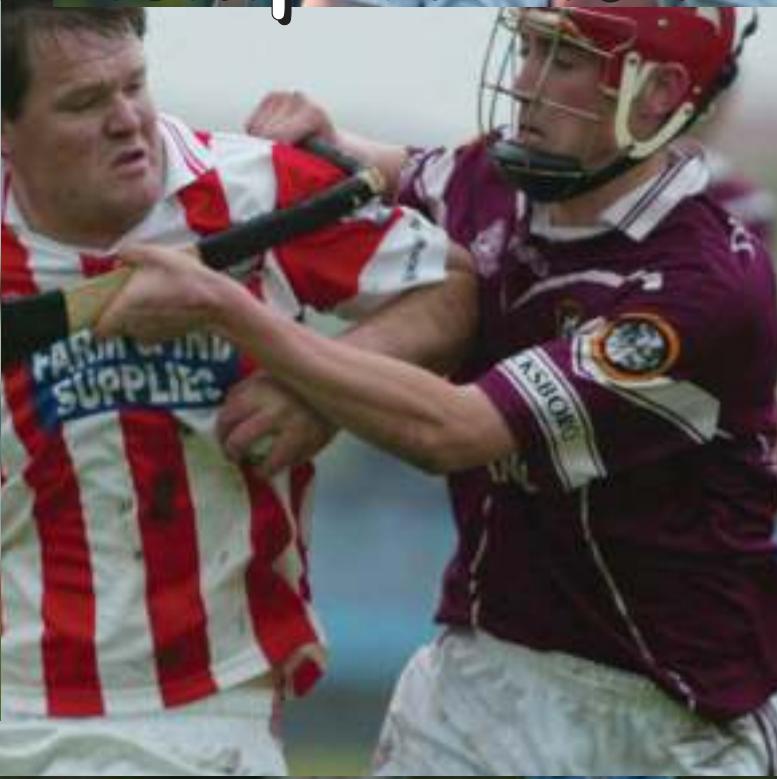
James Stephens: Francis Cantwell, Tomas Keogh, James Moran, Niall McQuillan, Donncha Cody, Jackie Tyrrell, Shane Campion, Richie Hayes, David McCormack, Garry Whelan, Eoin Larkin, Peter Barry, Matt Ruth, Shane Brennan, Brian McEvoy, Philip Larkin, David Walton, Joe Murray, Eoin McCormack.

O'Loughlin Gaels: Ollie Blanchfield, Brian Kelly, Andy Kearns, Alan O'Brien, Sean Dowling, Brian Hogan, Paul Kelly, Mark Kelly, Niall McEvoy, Maurice Nolan, Mark Bergin, Danny Loughnane, Brian Dowling, Alan Geoghegan, Conor Bergin, Peter Dowling, Seanie Cummins, Jimmy Connerford.

St.Martin's: Colin McGrath, Shane Cadigan, Brendan Maher, Ollie Walsh, James Dowling, Paddy Nolan, Niall Moran, Paul Maher, Ronan Maher, Joe Maher, John Mulhall, Shane Coonan, Eoin McGrath, John Maher, Thomas Breen, Brian Mulhall.

Tullaroan: Richard Butler, Paddy Campion, Stephen Maher, Michael Maher, Tommy Walsh, Eddie Campion, Ken Coogan, Chris Maher, Martin Walsh, Jimmy Coogan, Shane Hennessy, Richard Cleere, Paul Glennon, Michael Walsh, Stephen Dowling, Paul Doheny, Mark Walsh, Eamon Brennan, Tom Fitzgerald.

Young Irelands: Martin Carey, Ciaran Carroll, Stephen Byrne, Martin Carter, Michael Walsh, Eoghan Farrell, Darragh Phelan, Ollie Carter, Sean Keogh, Dick Carroll, James Fitzgerald, Thomas Carroll, Paul Keogh, Charlie Carter, David Carter, JJ Lennon, Peter Carroll.



Co SH Championship Action

Perfection!

Kilkenny's Championship Story 2008

....there has never been a purer form of our ancient game played anywhere on the planet....

writes Barrie Henriques

The Kilkenny All Ireland champs had barely enough time to fill their lungs with their familiar brand of Irish fresh air than they were thrown into the Walsh Cup, with an opening game against Antrim in Freshford on Sunday January 20th. Surprise surprise, the Glensmen came home in front, winning by 2-15 to Kilkenny's 1-17. First Trophy lost! Kilkenny – P. J. Ryan; S. Cummins, B. Hogan, J. Tyrrell; J Dalton, P. J. Delaney 0-1, J. Ryall; R. Mullally 0-1, W. O'Dwyer; P. Cleere, R. Power 0-9, Aiden Fogarty 0-2; E. McCormack 1-0, Brennan, Austin Murphy, Eoin Larkin, Willie O'Dwyer, Seaghan O'Neill and Aidan Fogarty. Subs (used): Eoin McCormack, Michael Rice, John Dalton, Mickie Murphy.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

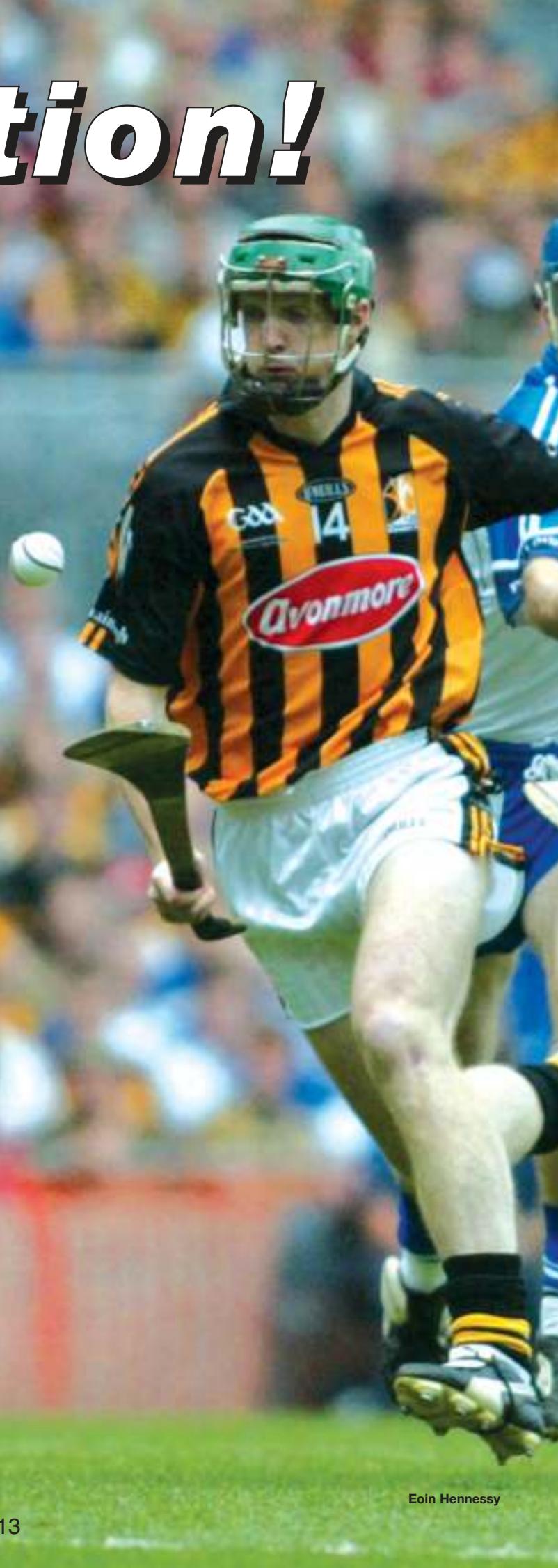
Kilkenny V Dublin Nowlan Park February 17.

Kilkenny opened their League account against Dublin in Parnell Park on a sunny, but cold end of February Sunday, seven days before the Walsh Cup Final. Kilkenny shot 2-13, but the Dubs shot 0-19. They (the Dubs) were deliriously happy, Kilkenny less – much less- so.

Eddie Brennan was the brightest star on view, scoring 0-6. Eoin Larkin got 0-6, five from frees; Willie O'Dwyer bagged 0-3, while Eoin McCormack, (0-2), Martin Comerford (0-1), and Aidan Fogarty (0-1), completed the Kilkenny scoring. Tipperary were first visitors to Nowlan Park to test the reigning League Champions.

After nineteen games undefeated, stretching back to the All Ireland semi-final of 2005, Kilkenny came up short against the This was a very productive seven-day period for Kilkenny. They collected their first League points by beating Dublin in Nowlan Park, and later in the week, the CCCC awarded them two more points because of the postponement of the Cork game.

Kilkenny beat Dublin rather more easily than the 1-21 to 2-10 would suggest. There was much to please the Kilkenny support and Management about this initial win. The form of first-time out captain, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick was astonishing. This man's instincts are phenomenal. His new midfield partner, Michael Fennelly was very impressive, as were Richie Hogan and TJ Reid. They laid down their personal



Eoin Hennessy



The Waterford Team overcome by Kilkenny in the All Ireland SH Final Sportsfile

markers, which would have been noted for future reference. Kilkenny lead at the break by 1-12 to 0-7, the goal coming from the stick of young Hogan five minutes before the break. It would contribute to a nice card of 1-2 in toto for the Danesfort youngster.

There was a minute's silence before the game as a mark of respect for the much-loved and respected Jimmy Bergin. The Kilkenny team and scorers was: PJ Ryan, Sean Cummins, JJ Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, James Ryall, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick (0-2)(capt), Michael Fennelly, Richie Power (0-3), Eddie Brennan (0-6), TJ Reid, Richie Hogan (1-2), Martin Comerford, Aidan Fogarty (0-2).

Subs (used): Willie O'Dwyer (0-2), Eoin Reid (0-2), PJ Delaney, Canice Hickey.

Final score, Kilkenny 1-21 Dublin 2-10

cruised to a mundane 11-point victory over Waterford in Nowlan Park, thus collecting their third brace of League points. Their three winning aggregate score would now stand at 34 points. Ten thousand souls turned up for this clash – the big Waterford contingent believing that they, rather than Limerick should have been on the All Ireland Final stage on the previous September.

Exciting centre forward, Michael Rice added to his mounting lustre. Richie Hogan again was at the head of the scoring chart with a fine seven points. John Dalton made a huge impression in the number 3, while Brian Hogan was unbeatable in the pivotal defensive roll.

Waterford lost Michael "Brick" Walsh just before the break, but the Waterford support couldn't in honesty hang the reason for the 11-point defeat on that one.

James McGarry was back in goal.

Kilkenny: James McGarry, Michael Kavanagh, John Dalton, Jackie Tyrrell, James Ryall, Brian Hogan, PJ Delaney, Michael Fennelly (0-2), Tommy Walsh, Richie Hogan (0-7), Michael Rice (0-4), James "Cha" Fitzpatrick (capt)(0-3), Eddie Brennan (0-2), Martin Comerford (0-4), Aidan Fogarty (0-3).

Subs (used): Donnacha Cody.

Final score, Kilkenny 0-25, Waterford 0-14

Kilkenny V Waterford Wexford Park March 9.

Noel Hickey made a welcome return to the Kilkenny colours in a floodlit game against Clare seven days prior to this game, but if the Dunnamaggin man returned, another injury, this time to Derek Lyng put him out of action for a prospective rest of the League campaign.

This League outing did not give Kilkenny any cause for delirious celebration. Wexford were woefully poor, so poor in fact that their supporters turned on them in their own back yard. It was not a pretty sight, as Kilkenny sauntered to another brace of League points at their ease. Kilkenny were in cruise mode from an early part of this game. Five of their starting forwards for instance had scored before the 13th minute had passed.

At half time, Kilkenny led by 0-17 to Wexford's 0-5. Hundreds of the Wexford support were streaming towards the gates in disgust. They were all gone well before the game ended.

The Kilkenny lineout was: PJ Ryan, Michael Kavanagh, JJ Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, James Ryall, "Cha" Fitzpatrick (capt), Michael Fennelly, Richie Power (0-7), Michael Rice (0-4), Eddie Brennan (0-3), Eoin Reid (0-3), Martin Comerford (0-2), Aidan Fogarty (0-4).

Subs (used): TJ Reid, Richie Hogan, PJ Delaney.

Final score, Kilkenny 0-23, Wexford 1-5.

Kilkenny V Waterford in Nowlan Park March 16.

Without the services of Henry Shefflin, PJ Ryan, JJ Delaney, Noel Hickey, Derek Lyng, Willie O'Dwyer and Eoin Larkin of their All Ireland starting contingent, Kilkenny still

Kilkenny V Antrim Nowlan Park March 23.

Antrim brought plenty of enthusiasm, aggression, and naïveté to Nowlan Park. A paltry crowd turned out, mindful of what happened in Freshford previously, the result this time round was practically a foregone conclusion. Kilkenny had already qualified for the playoffs; Antrim had been doomed to relegation. The younger brigade got a bit of a gallop. It was good to see the likes of Donnacha Cody, Eamon Walsh, Damien Fogarty, Canice Hickey, Eoin McGrath, and Eoin Reid getting into the action. The spirited Glensmen managed parity at the half time break with Antrim crafting 1-5 from their efforts, while the Kilkenny men scored eight points.

It was all Kilkenny in the second half, as goals from the two Fogartys, Aidan and Damien, and Martin Comerford helped them to clock up a final tally of 3-22.

Kilkenny: James McGarry, Canice Hickey, JJ Delaney, Donnacha Cody, John Dalton, Brian Hogan, PJ Delaney, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick (capt)(0-2), James Ryall (0-1), Richie Hogan (0-7), Michael Fennelly, Eddie Brennan (0-2), Damien Fogarty (1-3), Martin Comerford (1-2), Aidan Fogarty (1-3).



Subs (used): Eamonn Walsh, Eoin McGrath, Eoin Reid (0-1), TJ Reid (0-1).

Final score, Kilkenny 3-22, Antrim 1-8.

Kilkenny v Tipperary in Nowlan Park April 13 (National League Semi-final)

A big crowd thronged Nowlan Park in expectation of a thunder ball of a game between these age-old traditionalists. The script didn't exactly pan out, as Tipperary thundered into a League Final without, it must be said, too much trouble. This was a watershed for more than the players. The Management team were rather perplexed with the result too. The papers roared words on their banners like, "Tigerish Tipp too fierce for meek Kilkenny"; another used words like "Powerful Tipp challenge too hot for Cats". In fairness Tipp were the fitter outfit, and as their Manager, Liam Sheedy stated in the post-match interviews, "I told them that if we could be close to Kilkenny in the last ten minutes we should win", and that is exactly how it ended. At half time Tipperary led by 1-9 to Kilkenny's 1-5. They had struck the front in the 6th minute with a Lar Corbett goal. They were never headed from that point.

Kilkenny: PJ Ryan, Michael Kavanagh, JJ Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, James Ryall, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick (capt)(0-1), Michael Fennelly, Richie Power (0-6), Michael Rice (0-1), Willie O'Dwyer, Eddie Brennan (1-0), Martin Comerford, Aidan Fogarty (0-1).

Subs (used): TJ Reid, PJ Delaney, Eoin Reid (0-1), Richie Hogan. Final score, Tipperary 1-15, Kilkenny 1-10.

The Championship

Kilkenny V Offaly in O'More aPark Portlaoise June 15.



The Kilkenny minors under Richie Mulrooney set the pulse for the Championship when qualifying from the round robin system for the Leinster semi-final. Eoin Larkin returned to the hurling fray, fit, and full of fire for the challenge. John Tennyson was showing great signs that he was ready for the up-coming battles. The Camogie girls won their National League Final against Galway. The talk was about hurling and the Olympics. Brian McEvoy announced his retirement in May. He was to rescind that decision later. Henry Shefflin was back in action by the middle of May. Ian Dowling was to become the eighth Kilkenny man to win an Irish full International cap, as he got ready to tour New Zealand and Australia.

Seven days prior to the Offaly game the list of injuries in the Kilkenny camp did not make pretty reading. Noel Hickey, Richie Power, Derek Lyng, Aidan Fogarty, James Ryall, and PJ Delaney, were out, or very doubtful. Not the kind of message one needed going into a Leinster semi-final against Offaly.

Brian Cody expected a tough hard encounter, where mental fitness would be as important as a physical presence. For thirty-five minutes, his expectations were well founded, as Offaly threw down the gauntlet to the Kilkenny lads. The crucial score of the game arrived just before the break, when Henry Shefflin set up Martin Comerford for the all-important goal.

That goal afforded Kilkenny some respite, as they led by 1-9 to 0-6.

Kilkenny returned with a run of five unanswered points immediately after the break. From there to the finish, the game was somewhat a bit of a miss match, irrespective what spin was accorded to it by subsequent scribes and commentators.

Brian Hogan was outstanding at centre back, winning the



KILKENNY – ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 2008

Back: Eoin Reid, James Ryall, John Tennyson, Donncha Cody, Canice Hickey, PJ Delaney, Sean Cummins, Michael Fennelly.

Third Row: Richie Hogan, JJ Delaney, Eddie Brennan, John Dalton, Eoin McGrath, Michael Rice, Richie Power, Willie O'Dwyer, Tommy Walsh.

Second Row: TJ Reid, Derek Lyng, Jackie Tyrrell, David Herity, PJ Ryan, James McGarry, Martin Comerford, Henry Shefflin, Aidan Fogarty.

Front: Richie Mullally, Michael Kavanagh, Brian Hogan, Cha Fitzpatrick (Captain), Darragh McGarry, Eoin Larkin, Noel Hickey, Damien Fogarty. (Eoin Hennessy)

THE ROAD TO CROKER 2008

ULSTER

First Round

Sun, May 11 BREFFNI PK Monaghan 2-15 Cavan 1-16
Sun, May 11 LISNASKEA Tyrone 1-11 Fermanagh 2-7

Second Round

Sun, May 18 CLONES Monaghan 1-15 Donegal 1-14
Sun, May 18 HEALY PK London 2-13 Tyrone 1-6

Quarter Finals

Sat, May 24 PAIRC ESLER London 2-23 Armagh 4-16
Sun, May 25 CELTIC PK Derry 7-23 Monaghan 3-13

Semi-Finals

Sun, June 1 CASEMENT Antrim 2-17 Derry 1-12
Sun, June 1 CASEMENT Down 4-16 London 1-16

Final

Sun, June 15 CASEMENT Antrim 3-19 Down 2-15

LEINSTER

Sun, May 25 PORTLAOISE Dublin 3-21 Westmeath 0-11
Sun, May 25 PORTLAOISE Offaly 4-22 Laois 2-12

Semi-Finals

Sat, JUNE 14 KILKENNY Wexford 2-13 Dublin 0-19
Sat, JUNE 22 CROKE PK Wexford 2-15 Dublin 1-15
Sun, JUNE 15 PORTLAOISE Kilkenny 2-24 Offaly 0-12

Final

Sun, JULY 6 CROKE PARK Kilkenny 5-21 Wexford 0-17

MUNSTER

First Round

Sun, June 1 GAELIC GDS Clare 2-26 Waterford 0-23

Semi-Finals

SUN, JUNE 8 P UI CHAOIMH Tipperary 1-19 Cork 1-13
SUN, JUNE 22 THURLES Clare 4-12 Limerick 1-6

Final

SUN, JULY 13 GAELIC GDS Tipperary 2-21 Clare 0-19

ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

QUALIFIERS

Round 1

Sat, JUNE 28 CASEMENT PK Galway 6-21 Antrim 1-16

Round 2

Sat, JULY 5 GALWAY Galway 1-26 Laois 0-9
Sat, JULY 5 ANTRIM Waterford 6-18 Antrim 0-15

Round 3

Sat, JULY 12 P UI CHAOIMH Cork 1-17 Dublin 0-15
Sat, JULY 12 GAELIC GDS Offaly 3-19 Limerick 0-18

Round 4

Sat July 19 THURLES Cork 0-23 Galway 2-15
Sat, July 19 THURLES Waterford 2-18 Offaly 0-18

All Ireland Quarter-Finals

Sun, July 27 THURLES Cork 2-19 Clare 2-17
Sun, July 27 THURLES Waterford 2-19 Wexford 3-15

All Ireland Semi-Finals

Sun, August 10 CROKE PARK Kilkenny 1-23 Cork 0-17
Sun, August 17 CROKE PARK Waterford 1-20 Tipperary 1-18

All Ireland Final

Sun, Sept 7 CROKE PARK Kilkenny 3-30 Waterford 1-13

RTE Man of the Match award. Not too far behind Hogan, Michael Fennelly was outstanding. Henry Shefflin slotted over 11 points, and Eoin Larkin, who was also outstanding grabbed four beauties.

Kilkenny: PJ Ryan, Michael Kavanagh, JJ Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, John Dalton, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick (capt)(0-1), Michael Fennelly (0-1), Martin Comerford (1-1), Michael Rice (0-2), Eoin Larkin (0-4), Richie Hogan (0-1), Henry Shefflin (0-11), Eddie Brennan (0-2).
Subs (used): Willie O'Dwyer, Aidan Fogarty (1-0), PJ Delaney, TJ Reid (0-1), Richie Mullally.

Final score, Kilkenny 2-24, Offaly 0-12

Kilkenny V Wexford Leinster Final Croke Park

James Stephens won the Féile Christy Ring Final. Dolly Parton was nearly blown out of Nowlan Park, but stayed to contribute €70,000 to the coffers. The under-21 lads were throwing the shapes of winners under Mickie Walsh. Wexford made the Leinster Final after two games with Dublin.

The omens were not good for a Wexford surprise. They had lost the previous six Final appearances with the cats. What a strange game this Final turned into. Wexford, giving as good as they got in the first 35 minutes only trailed the champs by a mere two points. It was a gripping, full-blooded first thirty-five.

But what a transformation in the second half. Wexford were absolutely blown out of the water by the Kilkenny hurling tornado, led by Eoin Larkin. A goal two minutes into the new half by Eddie Brennan, set up by Eoin Larkin was the seminal score of this game. It afforded Kilkenny some space, and they certainly capitalised on the room available. The game as a contest petered out into one of the greatest mismatches in history.

Kilkenny: PJ Ryan, Michael Kavanagh, JJ Delaney, John Dalton, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, PJ Delaney, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick (capt)(0-4), Jackie Tyrrell, Martin Comerford (0-1), Derek Lyng (0-1), Eoin Larkin (0-3), Richie Power (1-2), Henry Shefflin (1-7), Eddie Brennan (2-2).
Subs 9used: Willie O'Dwyer, Aidan Fogarty (1-1), Michael Rice, Richie Mullally.

Final score, Kilkenny 5-21, Wexford 0-17.

Kilkenny V Cork in Croke Park August 10. (All Ireland Semi-final)

All the Provincial titles came Kilkenny's way. The County was still on course for a four-timer of All Ireland wins. Cork took care of Galway in their quarter-final game. It was to be Ger Loughnane's last game in charge of the Tribesmen. The talk prior to the semi-final was about Cork knocking the cats off their three-in-a-row aspiration. It was a case of "Do unto them what they did to you". This encounter turned out to be just about the best hurling game of the year. Cork would not, never did roll over when it came down to winning serious hurling contests. Kilkenny welcomed back Noel Hickey.

As if he was never away from the action, he turned in a power-packed performance that was quite unbelievable, considering his absence from competitive hurling at this level. Derek Lyng was colossal at midfield. He tore the heart of the Cork defence to shreds. A super display. Eoin Larkin reaped the only goal of the game, and what a memorable gem that was.



Collecting the sliothar some forty metres from the Cork goal, he raced towards the Hill 16 goal. With a delicious swivel of his hips, he wrong-footed two Cork defenders before slamming the ball home.

Magic.

Kilkenny led at the break by 1-12 to Cork's 0-7.

Cork brought the game back to a five-point game by the 45th minute. They were never to get closer. Outscoring the Corkonians by 0-8 to 0-5 in the last ten minutes set the seal on a fabulous Kilkenny win.

Kilkenny: PJ Ryan, Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, JJ Delaney, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick (0-1), Derek Lyng (0-1), Eddie Brennan (0-4), Martin Comerford, Eoin Larkin (1-2), Richie Power, Henry Shefflin (0-9), Aidan Fogarty (0-4).

Subs (used): Willie O'Dwyer (0-1), TJ Reid (0-1), Michael Rice.

Final score Kilkenny 1-23, Cork 0-17.

Kilkenny V Waterford All Ireland Final, September 7th.

The superlatives have all been used.

In summary we simply say, that Kilkenny went to the top of the All Ireland leader board with a game of hurling artistry that was complete in every element. It was a form of perfection that up to then had never been seen. Suffice to say that there has never been a purer form of our ancient game played anywhere on the planet.

The Final score was, Kilkenny 3-30, Waterford 1-13.

Wipe out.

Kilkenny: PJ Ryan, Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, JJ Delaney, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick (capt)(0-2), Derek Lyng (0-3), Martin Comerford, Richie Power (0-2), Eoin Larkin, Eddie Brennan (2-4), Henry Shefflin (0-8), Aidan Fogarty (0-3).

Subs (used): TJ Reid (0-4), James McGarry.

Other panel members: Michael Fennelly, Richie Mullally, Donnacha Cody, James Ryall, Canice Hickey, PJ Delaney, Damien Fogarty, Willie O'Dwyer, Michael Rice, Sean Cummins, John Dalton, John Tennyson, David Herity, Richie Hogan, Eoin Reid, Eoin McGrath.



Members of the 1983 All Star Hurling Team Honoured in Croke Park on All Ireland Final Day (Picture by John Mcilwaine)
Back: Liam Fennelly, Nicky English, Frank Cummins, Noel Lane, Billy Fitzpatrick, Jimmy Barry Murphy, Dick O'Hara, Leonard Enright.
Front: Ger Fennelly, Tom Cashman, Ger Henderson, Joe Hennessy, Noel Skehan, John Henderson, John Fenton.

Village Set the Headlines

Bord na nÓg U14 Report by Martin Quilty PRO



James Stephens - MH "A" League, Championship, Football & County & National Féile Champions 2008

Back: Dean Walsh, Niall Mullins, Diarmuid Ryan, Alan O'Byrne, Cathal O'Neill, Sean Mulholland, Ben Lahart, Harry Wallace.
Middle: Andy Valentine, Cormac Connolly, Robbie Corcoran, James Tyrrell, Andy Hickey, Ricci Drennan, Eoin Maher, Killian Cantwell.
Front: Cian Morton, Jack Cotter, Hugh Lane, Michael Drennan, Donagh Carney, Diarmuid Cody, Jack McGrath, Sean Sinnott, Paddy Duggan

Championship Roinn A

There is no doubt that the headline-setting team for the U14 grade this year was James Stephens. It is fair to say that they creamed the opposition this year as the Villagers went on to win the Paddy Grace Final in Kilkenny before going to the National Féile and claiming the Division 1 trophy for a record 9th time. In the local scene only four teams took part in the Roinn A championship this was run on a league basis this year with the top two teams to qualify for the final. The Villagers met the local rivals Dicksboro in the Final.

This was an eagerly awaited contest between probably the best two big hitters at U14 level in the County for the last number of years but could the Villagers take revenge on the Boro boys after they defeated James Stephens last year by a whopping 10 points? The final was played in Nowlan Park in front of a sizeable crowd. It was an even game of hurling up to half time but the question was asked before could James Stephens take revenge from last year and the answer was yes. The Village boys showed great heart and determination on the field and stared to pull away from the boro boys near the end to take victory by a staggering 11 points - 2-11 to 0-5. It capped a great double for the Village boys who would have a chance at the treble when they played the league Final.

Championship Roinn B

14 teams played in the Roinn B championship this year which was divided into four groups. Again, like Roinn A this was run on a league basis with each team getting at least three championship matches with one to qualify from each group for the semi finals. The four teams to qualify were, Graigue Ballycallan, Emeralds, Thomastown, and Piltown. In the first semi-final, Graigue Ballycallan had a good win over Thomastown and looked a good bet for the final. In the second semi-final, Piltown took on the Emeralds. This was a very good and close game. Neither team deserved to lose and with Emeralds having put up such a good performance in the County Féile Final against James Stephens, one would think that they would take victory and go onto the final with great expectations. This they did, but only by two points with credit going to Piltown for putting up such a battle. The County Final was played between Graigue Ballycallan and Emeralds. This game has been described as the best underage match that was played at any level in the county for a number of years. Ballycallan went into the Final as underdogs but they shocked everyone by their performance in the final to finally end in heartache when they lost by a solitary point. Final score 0-14 to 2-7.

Championship Roinn C

Again this division had to be split into four divisions, with top team qualifying for the

semi-finals. Tullaroan, Dicksboro B, Ballyhale Shamrocks and Bennettsbridge all qualified top of their groups. Tullaroan were drawn against Dicksboro B and Bennettsbridge were drawn against the Shamrocks.

In the first semi-final Tullaroan surprised everyone when they defeated the Boro B team by seven points to qualify for the County Final. The second was a much tighter encounter. Bennettsbridge had their sights set on the County Final after heartbreak last year when they were defeated in the final. The Shamrocks had other ideas and hoped to get to the final themselves. There was only one point to spare in the end of the battle with Shamrocks coming out on top. It has heartbreak for the Bridge lads but, being gracious in defeat, wished Shamrocks well in the Final. The Final was played in Callan where Tullaroan and the Shamrocks did battle. Whoever won this grade would be playing at a higher grade in U16 next year which was the ambition of both teams. It was a very close game with only two pucks of the ball between the two teams. The Shamrocks did eventually come out on top and win the game by five points but Tullaroan, being a young team, will bounce back and make progress next year.

Championship Roinn D

Four teams qualified for the semi-finals- Graignamanagh, Fenians, Tullogher-Rosbercon and Young Irelands. In the



Emeralds - U14H Roinn "B" League & Championship Winners, Féile & Roinn "A" Football Finalists 2008

Back: Andrew Morgan, Jack Kavanagh, Brian Healy, Aisling Webster, Micheál Troy, Connor Bergin, Shane Fitzgerald, Jessie Ryan, Brian Brennan, Darragh Phelan.

Centre: David Moriarty, Bertie Tobin, Jimmy Tobin, Conor Martin, Cathal Walsh, Shane Moriarty, Thomas Moriarty, Martin Phelan, James Tobin, Michael Troy, J.J. Kavanagh, Billy Walsh.

Front: Gearóid Troy, James Kenny, Brian Troy, Eoin Moriarty, Niall O'Gorman, Dáire Gleeson, Michael Fitzgerald, Matthew Kavanagh, Joseph Kavanagh, Brian Webster, Daniel Phelan.

Mascots: Gavin McCarthy, Harry Kavanagh, Keelan Martin, Seán Power, Enda Kelly



Shamrocks - U14H "C" Championship Winners 2008

Back: Aidan Burke, Tom O Keefe, Shaun Donnelly, Joseph Cuddihy, Patrick Malone, Robert Burke, Thomas Kehoe, Mark Phelan Richard Butler (selector)

Middle: Michael O Sullivan (Manager) Kevin Mullen, Keith Phelan, Adam Moore, James Deasy, Jack Kenneally, Jade Cuddihy, Patrick Mullen, Brian Butler, Ronan Corcoran, Pat Cullen (selector)

Front: Dylan Doran, Conor Phelan, Eugene Aylward, Eoin Doyle, Liam Elvidge, Luke Donnelly, Stephen Donnelly, Conor Reid and Brian Cody.

League section, Fenians and Graignamanagh looked the two most likely teams to contest the County Final and both teams avoided each other in the semi-finals. Graigue drew Tullogher-Rosbercon and Fenians drew Young Irelands. As expected, the two big hitters easily disposed of their opponents to set up a clash of the titans final. Played in St John's Park in front of a very good crowd, the supporters were treated to an awesome game of hurling. The

Fenians put it up to the Graigue boys but the Barrowsiders were that bit ahead of the pack and ran put comfortable winners in the end on a score 5-13 to 2-10. It's great to see Graignamanagh doing so well at this level as they find it hard to get numbers at higher levels.

Under 14 League Finals

The under 14 league finals Roinn A never took place as Dicksboro gave James

Stephens a walkover in the Final to allow the Villagers make a clean sweep of titles at U14 level.

Roinn B

Roinn B saw Emeralds looking to make it a double sweep as they made it through to the semi-finals along with Erin's Own, St Lachtains and Piltown. Emeralds had a comprehensive victory over St Lachtains while Erin's Own had an easy win over Piltown. Again, Emeralds would play Comer



Graignamanagh - U14H Roinn "D" League & Championship & Roinn "C" Football Championship Winners 2008

Back: Michael Bolger, Brandon Fenlon, Adam Canning, James McCabe, James Meaney, James Doyle, Adam Kennedy, Patrick Dowling, Stephen Browne, Dylan Conran, Jack Conran, Ciaran Manning, Peter Kavanagh, Nicholas Russell (Mentor)
Front: Jim Coady (Mentor) James Coady (Mascot), Gerard Hennessy Jamie Dunne, Sean Dowling, Sean Cahill, Ciaran O'Brien, Michael Coady, Jordon Brett, Ryan O'Halloran, Liam Hearne.



Bennettsbridge - Roinn "C" U14 League Champions 2008

Back: Cian Aylward, Michael Shiel, Shane Nolan, Enda Morrissey, Kevin Blanchfield, Ian Morrissey (Selector) Sean Morrissey, Larry Cleare (Manager) Liam Blanchfield, Dylan Walsh, Willie Blanchfield Selector Michael Power, Cormac Wafer, Eoghan O'Connor.
Front: Bill O'Neill, Jason Cleere, Joseph Murphy, Aidan Byrne, Kevin Brennan, Luke Dowling, Maurice Walsh, Shane Byrne, Eoin Power.

as they did in the c/ship but the same result ensued as Emeralds won by 12 points 2-9 to 0-3.

Roynn C

In group 1, James Stephens B and Bennettsbridge qualified for the semi-final as did Tullaroan and Dunnamagggin from Group 2. In the semi finals Tullaroan played James Stephens B and the Villagers won the match by 12 points to reach yet another final, while in the second semi final Bennettsbridge played Dunnamagggin with the boys from the Bridge winning by a whopping 19 points. So Bennettsbridge met James Stephens B. Could the Village boys emulated what their "A" counterparts achieved or could the Bridge boys claim some silverware for the year's hard work. In the final Bennettsbridge started stronger and really never looked back as they played in front of huge support from the Bridge. At

the final whistle they had claimed victory by seven points on a score 4-9 to 1-5.

Roynn D

This competition almost mirrored the Roynn D Championship, with Fenians, Galmoy, Graignamanagh and Tullogher Rosbercon qualifying for the semi-finals. Fenians accounted for neighbours, Galmoy, scoring a whopping 22 points in the process (4-22 to 4-6) while Graignamanagh accounted for Tullogher Rosbercon by 5-1 to 0-2. This set up another final between Graignamanagh and Fenians which Graig won on an almost identical scoreline of 5-13 to 2-9, thus completing the Roynn D hurling double.

Football Championships

There were four divisions in the football competition all divisions having quarter finals, semi-finals and the County Final.

Division 1

Emeralds, James Stephens, Barrow Rangers and Dicksboro qualified for the semi-finals. In the first semi-final, Emeralds pulled off a shock victory over Dicksboro by two to qualify for the County Final. In the second semi-final, Barrow Rangers decided to give a walkover to James Stephens to make the County Final pairing Emeralds v James Stephens. They game was played in Nowlan Park as part of a triple header and, in fairness to Emeralds, they were totally out-classed on the day by an inspired James Stephens team who took scores from every part of the field and won comprehensively by 24 points final score 7-7 to 0-4.

Division 2

In the quarter finals, Clara got a walkover from Mooncoin, Mullinavat beat St Martins, Piltown beat Graigue Ballycallan,



Piltown U14 Roinn "B" Football Championship Winners 2008

Back: Tom Kenny, Michael Dunne, Francis O'Brien, Ian Flynn, Aidan Ryan, Jamie Murphy,

Middle: Kieran Walsh (Mentor), Niall Norris, Thomas Talbot, Kieran Walsh, Shane Doody, Ryan Gallagher, Eoin Dunphy,

Tom Whelan (Mentor), David Phelan (Mentor)

Front: Michael O'Dwyer, Donal Ryan, Tadhg Whelan, Nollag Brophy, Christopher Shum (Capt), David Kinsella, Richie Phelan, Dean Brophy, Damien Foley.



Graigue Ballycallan - U14 Roinn "B" Football League Champions 2008

Back: Padraig Tynan, Eoin Corcoran, Cathal Dermody, Tommy Egan, Conor Cleere, Darragh Egan, Vincent Teehan, Dylan Hillman, Conor Murphy, Daniel Cahill.

Front: Geoffrey Maher, James Dooley, James Maher, Shane Butler, Philip Doheny, Philip Cahill, Sean Tynan, Brian O'Sullivan, Peter Boland, Dylan Dooley.

and Rower-Inistioge beat Erins Own. The semi-final pairings saw Rower-Inistioge overcome Clara by an impressive 33 points, while in the second semi-final Piltown played Mullinavat with Piltown claiming victory by 11 points to set up a County Final meeting with the Rower. This was played in Nowlan Park on a very hot and sunny day, it was an even close game with scores hard to come by at first but some very

good footballers from Piltown helped them to victory and claim the title by 16 points 4-7 to 0-3.

Division 3

Bennettsbridge, James Stephens, Graignamanagh and Railyard had victories over Lisdowney, Danesfort, Glenmore and St Lachtain's to set up the semi-final pairings of Bennettsbridge v Graignamanagh

and James Stephens v Railyard. In the first semi, Graignamanagh had an easy win over Bennettsbridge while Railyard cruised to victory over James Stephens. In the County Final Railyard would have been hot favourites, being a more predominately football club but Graigue had other ideas and they had a shock victory winning by four points 2-5 to 1-4.



Railyard - U14 Roinn "C" Football League Champions 2008

Back: P.Wilson, M. Delaney (Manager), P. Whelan, G.Egan, L O' Neill, P. McGuire, M. Buggy, M. Feehan.
Middle: D.Close, E. Buggy, D. Shortall, B. Allen, C. Buggy, A. O' Neill, S. O' Neill (Capt) P. Delaney, D. Wilson, P. Kelly, C. Brennan, A. O' Neill.
Front: U. Walsh, M. Maguire, S. Maguire, M.J. Feehan, S. Roche, N. Daly, R. Maguire, K. Whelan, R. Egan, A. Coogan.



Tullogher/Rosbercon - Roinn "D" U14 Football Championship & League Winners 2008

Back: Dean Morrissey, Edmund Walsh, Billy Ryan, Richie Power, Sarah Ryan, Liam Walsh, Daire McGrath, Michael Doyle, Chris McKeown.
Middle: John Ryan, Billy McGrath, Anthony Cotterell, Kevin Hennessy, Pádraig McGrath, David Manning (Capt), Robert Hartley, Donncha O'Connor, Conor Purcell, Basil Glennon, Ciarán Kennedy Walsh.
Front: Pádraig McGrath, Conor Hennessy, Sean Murray, John Walsh, Roty Byrne, Kyle O'Connor, Cian O'Donoghue, Stephen Lawlor, Marc Lawlor, Danny Glennon.

Division 4

Carrickshock, Kilmaganny, Tullogher-Rosbercon and Windgap all qualified for the semi finals. Carrickshock were defeated by Tullogher-Rosbercon while Kilmaganny defeated Windgap. It left Tullogher to contest their first County underage final in a long time. They brought up huge support from the south and it showed as the supporters were like a 16th man playing on the field cheering on the young players. It defi-

nitely helped Tullogher-Rosbercon to win the County Final by six points on score 3-7 to 2-4.

Football Leagues.

In the football leahues, James Stephens again dominated Roinn A with a 7-13 to 0-1 victory over Dicksboro. In Roinn B, Graigue Ballycallan avenged their Championship defeat by Piltown and went on to beat Erin's Own in a low-scoring

final by 0-6 to 0-3.

Roinn C saw Graignamangh and their championship victims meet again but this time, Railyard took the honours 2-8 to 1-9. The Roinn D league, too, mirrored the championship with Tullogher Rosbercon and Kilmoganny again coming to the top and meeting in the decider, with Tullogher again coming out on top by 2-7 to 1-2, thus completing a Roinn D football double.

Boro & Lockes Share the Spoils

Bord na nÓg Duggan Steel U16 Report
by Conor Denieffe PRO PRO CLG Cill Chainnigh



Dicksboro - Roinn "A" U16H Championship Winners and League Finalists 2008

Back: Sean Treacy, Aaron MacDonald, Peter Turley, Darren Bawle, Stephen Tynan, Daniel Farrell, James Gittens, Ciaran Brennan, Jack Deegan,

Middle: Michael Walsh, Rory Glynn, Eoin Gough, Mason Clifford, Conor Maharaj, Gary Gaule, Ollie Walsh, Cillian Buckley, Michael Hayes, Evan Guilfoyle, Robert Dooley.

Front: Sam Dunlop, Shane Clohessy, Luke O'Hara, JJ Hickey, Eoin Cantwell, Aaron Duggan, Darragh Buggy, Ruairí Morrissey, Aidan Nolan, Denis Guilfoyle.

Roinn A

Eight teams went to post in this year's Duggan Steel Under 16 A hurling championship with the three city teams, Dicksboro, O'Loughlin Gaels and James Stephens being joined by Clara, Barrow Rangers, St. Patrick's, John Locke's and Thomastown. The first game of the championship saw Dicksboro lay down a statement of intent when they defeated Barrow Rangers 0-16 to 1-5. Thomastown justified their return to this grade with a high scoring win, 3-16 to 3-9, over James Stephens. John Lockes also racked up a big score of 4-19 in defeating St. Patrick's who registered 2-9. The last quarterfinal saw O'Loughlins end Clara's interest in the championship, defeating the country side 1-12 to 2-4. The semi-finals saw big scorelines and impressive victories recorded by Dicksboro over Thomastown, 1-17 to 2-5 and John Lockes over O'Loughlin Gaels 4-15 to 2-5. The county final against Dicksboro was the first appearance by a Callan side at this Roinn A level since the days of John Power, Bosco Bryan et al. An excellent contest ensured. John Lockes playing with wind advantage led by a single point at the interval. They played with great determination in the second half and it took a kicked goal from Dicksboro's stylish half forward Aidan

Nolan to settle the issue with the city team prevailing 1-10 to 0-9. Both sides had some really impressive players with J.J. Hickey, Gerry Gaule, Ollie Walsh and Cillian Buckley impressing for the winners, while Eoin McGrath, Tony Delaney and Shane Bergin and Ryan O'Dwyer all did well for John Lockes. Both sides deserve great credit for the cracking game of hurling they served up and while the Callanmen were disappointed they can take solace from the fact that they were beaten not only by a good team, but a very good one.

Teams

Dicksboro A. Duggan, R. Glynn, J.J. Hickey, R. Morrissey, M. Hayes, G. Gaule, C. Mahoney, O. Walsh, M. Clifford, D. Buggy, C. Buckley, A. Nolan, E. Cantwell, E. Guilfoyle, S. Clohessy. Subs E. Gough, L. O' Hara

John Lockes L. Burke, J. Bergin, T. Delaney, D. J. Bergin, J. Mc Dowell, E. Mc Grath, R. O' Dwyer, J. Corcoran, S. Bergin, C. Byrne, M. Houlihan, G. Bergin, J.J. Corrigan, J. Foran, J.J. O' Keffe.

Roinn B

There were some entertaining and exciting contests in the opening round of the Duggan Steel under 16 Roinn B county championship and some very impressive

tallies were recorded particularly by Erin's Own who defeated Glenmore 9-12 to 2-12, St. Lactain's who beat Galmoy/Windgap 5-24 to 2-5, Emeralds who registered 4-14 to Mullinivat's 1-8 and Rower Inistioge who dispatched Danesfort 5-14 to 0-8 other first round victors were Graig Ballycannan who beat Mooncoin on a 4-7 to 1-11 score and St. Martins who defeated Fennians by 1-18 to 2-7. St. Lactain's continued their high scoring form when accounting for the Rower Inistioge 4-11 to 1-4 in their quarter final. Their tally was bettered by Kilmacow who ended St. Martin's interest in the championship by 5-13 to 0-4. The other two teams who emerged from the quarter finals were Emeralds who defeated Graig Ballycallan 1-13 to 1-10 and Erins Own who progressed over Bennestbridge. The semi-finals saw neighbours St. Lactain's and Emeralds play out an exciting game in which the Freshford men progressed to the final 2-9 to 1-8. Erin's Own of Castlecomer registered another impressive total when they were too strong for Kilmacow 3-13 to 1-6. The final between Erin's Own and St. Lactains saw the Castlecomer men victorious bringing the first of three county titles to their club as the intermediate and minor titles followed this victory. It was a cracker of a game and the sides were level on no fewer than nine occasions throughout the



John Lockes - U16H Roinn "A" League Winners, Championship Finalists & U16F "A" Champions 2008

Back: Eric Keogh, Liam Byrne, David Phelan, Nicholas Roche, Damien Roche, Niall Maher,

Centre: Jamie Bergin, JJ Corrigan, JJ O'Keeffe, Owen McGrath, Jack McDowell, Cathal Byrne, Tony Delaney, Jason Foran, Matthew Holohan.

Front: Ryan O'Dwyer, Tomás Óg Roantree, Jason Corcoran, Shane Bergin, Luke Burke, DJ Bergin, Graham Bergin.



Erin's Own - U16H RoinnB Champions 2008

Back: Michael Daly, Eddie Brennan, Stephen Murphy, Eoin Brennan, Robert Moran, Sean McDermott, Michael Carroll, Liam Wallace, Liam Barrett, David Moran, Garrett Delaney, T.J. Meally, Ciarán Brennan, David Brennan, Adam Smyth, Willie Gorman.

Front: Andrew Carron, John Brennan, Declan Dunne, Stephen Daly, Padraig Keating, Noel Callinan, Eoin Mealey, Jim Buggy, Edward Holland, Eamon Healy, Jamie Brennan



Y Irelands U16H Roinn "C" Champions 2008

Back Row: Mark Dargan, Declan Bennett, Eoin Walsh, Jack Glendon, Paul Holden, Patrick Quinlan, John Morris, David O'Brian, Niall Walsh, Patrick Drennan, Dara Kehoe.
Front Row: Liam Drea, Gearoid Kennedy, Emmett Byrne, Paul Delahanty, J.P. Treacy, Dale Hayes, Nathan Cahill, Michael Lennon.
Mentors: Pat Lennon, Charlie Carter, Pat O'Neill, Garry Farrell.

hour and after a pulsating finish, the minimum margin separated the sides, Erin's Own 1-12, St. Lactain's 2-8. In what was a fantastic team performance by the Deensiders mention must be given to full forward Stephen Daly who helped himself to 1-7 of his side's total. Others to excel for the winners, who last won an under 16 title in 1985, were Eoghan Meally and Robert Moran. James Maher, Brian Kennedy and Stephen Farrell who scored 2-5 best served St. Lactain's who played their part in an epic encounter and who were unlucky to be just edged out at the finish.

Teams

Erin's Own Jim Buggy, T. J. Meally, Declan Dunne, David Moran, Garret Delaney, Eoghan

Meally (Captain), Liam Wallace, Padraig Keating, Sean Mc Dermott, Andrew Carron, Robert Moran, David Brennan, Stephen Murphy, Stephen Daly, Noel Callinan, Subs. Eoin Brennan, Eamon Healy, Liam Barrett, John Brennan, Jamie Brennan, Ciarán Brennan, Edward Holland, Adam Smith, Michael Carroll (inj)

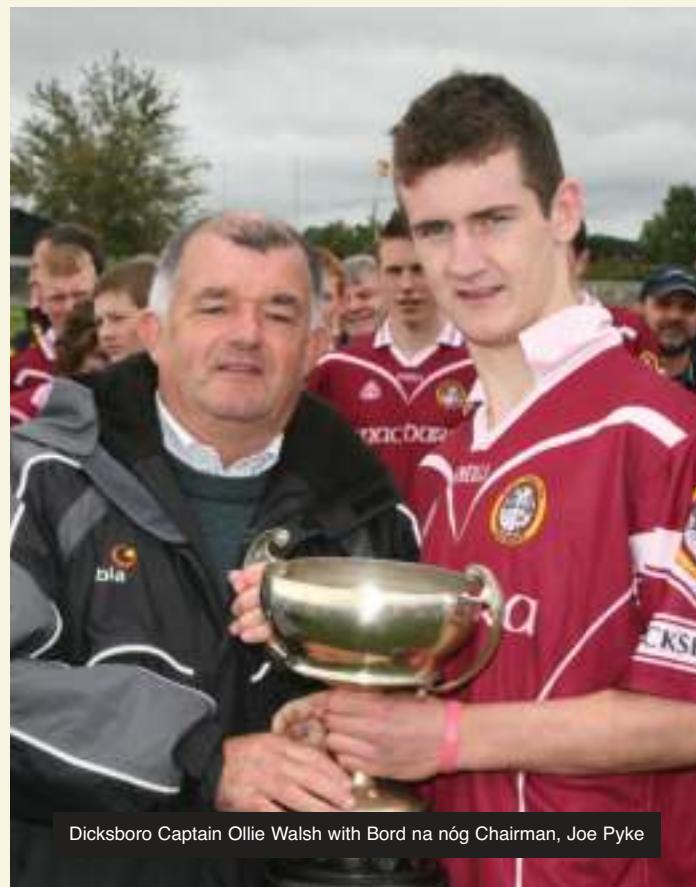
St. Lactain's

Conor Cooper, James Maher, Lactain Kennedy, Michael Burke, Daniel Allen, Brian Kennedy, Brendan Quinn, Paul Dermody, Philip Campion, Edwin Brennan, Robert Barnaville, Denis Lennon, Liam Hickey, Stephen Farrell, Simon Rafter, Subs Matthew Phelan, Odrán Waldron, Fintan White, Ryan Hughes, Jamie Burke, Shane Donnelly, Jack Cleere, Michael

O'Brien, Michael Neary, Nicholas Grace

Roinn C

In the Roinn C Duggan Steel Under 16 championship fourteen teams faced the challenge of taking the title with plenty of hope of collecting the silverware at the end of the campaign. Young Ireland's set down an early marker of their interest when they defeated Ógra Graig/Blacks & Whites 2-25 to 2-5 while O'Loughlin Gaels B side also registered a high score of 9-20 to Tullogher Rosbercon 0-3. The title of game of the first round went to the Dunmaggin versus Ballyhale Shamrocks encounter, which the former won by 3-14 to 3-13. Conahy



Dicksboro Captain Ollie Walsh with Bord na nÓg Chairman, Joe Pyke



Erin's Own Captain Eoin Meally with Bord na nÓg Chairman, Joe Pyke



Tullaroan - U16H Roinn "C" League Champions 2008

Back: Gerard Luby, Peter Walsh, Paul Buggy, Bill Simpson, Conor Kenny, Michael Walsh, Padraig Walsh, Trevor Luby, Edward Teehan,

Paul Sweeney, William Dooley, Shane Cuddihy, Michael Maher.

Front: Jack Keoghan, Jim Moore, Reamonn Brennan, Gavin Joyce (capt), Shane Walsh, Bob Cuddihy, Jack Holmes, John Walton, Bill Cuddihy, David Sweeney.



Young Irelands Captain Paul Holden with Bord na nÓg Chairman, Joe Pyke



Tullaroan Captain Gavin Joyce with Bord na nÓg Chairman, Joe Pyke

Shamrocks and Dicksboro B also had a tight encounter with the city side losing out by 0-9 to 0-11, while Lisdowney beat Tullaroan 1-18 to 0-9. The quarter finals saw Gowran side Young Irelands continue their impressive form when they accounted for Dunmaggin by 2-17 to 1-7, O'Loughlin Gaels B defeated Conahy Shamrocks 2-9 to 3-3 while Lisdowney eliminated Piltown 3-18 to 1-10 and Cloneen went on a goal spree against Carrickshock, winning 6-5 to 0-8. Cloneen secured a final place when they overcame O'Loughlin Gaels B side 1-12 to 1-5 and Young Irelands and Lisdowney played out an entertaining semi final, which saw the Gowran side advance by 4-12 to 3-9.

Young Irelands bridged a 21-year gap when they defeated Cloneen 1-10 to 1-6 to secure a hard earned victory in the final. Cloneen played with the breeze and led 1-5 to 0-5 at the interval but Gowran used the elements well in the second half and some excellent point scoring from Paul Holden and a Declan Bennett goal helped the Young Ireland's side to a 1-10 to 1-6 victory.

Teams

Young Irelands: P. Delahunt, E. Byrne, J. Glendon, P. Quinlan, P. Drennan, N. Walsh, D. O'Brien, J. Morris, M. Lennon, M. Dargan, P. Holden, G. Kennedy, D. Bennett, E. Walsh, J.P. Treacy Subs D. Kehoe, N. Cahill, D. Hayes, L. Drea
Cloneen: B. Buggy, K. Brennan, P. Kelly, C. Kelly, P. Maher, S. Purcell, K.

Delaney, B. Cahill, D. Shortall, B. Allen G. Mansfield, E. Hennessy, D. Wilson, A. O'Neill, M. J. Feehan Subs. P. Gahan, L. O'Neill, M. Maguire

Leagues

The Roinn A League final was a repeat of the championship final as it featured John Locke's and Dicksboro once again. Both sides went undefeated through their League campaigns and won their semi-finals convincingly John Locke's accounting for O'Loughlin Gaels 2-11 to 0-6 and Dicksboro ending Thomastown's interest in the league 1-8 to 0-5. In the final the Callan men gained a measure of revenge for their championship defeat when they captured the League title winning by 2-8 to Dicksboro's 0-7.

The Roinn B League final threw up an entirely different pairing to the championship decider as it featured Bennettsbridge and the Rower Inistioge. The 'Bridge men defeated Erin's Own at the quarter final stage and then beat Graig / Ballycallan to qualify for the final while the Rower Inistioge secured their place in the decider by beating Emeralds. The final was an excellent encounter and it saw Bennettsbridge prevail by the minimum margin scoring 2-16 to the Rower Inistioge's 3-12.

Tullaroan secured the Roinn C league title with a two goal victory over Lisdowney in the final winning by 3-10 to 1-10.

Fantastic Year for Comer!

Bord na nÓg Minor Report
by Conor Denieffe



Erin's Own - County MH "A" Champions 2008

Back L-R David Buggy, Ronan Ryan, Aidan Moran, Declan Dunne, Gerry Callinan, Conor Fogarty, Michael Carroll, Martin Hawley, Killian Brennan, Ciarán McDermott, David Moran, Padraig Keating, Stephen Daly, Stephen Murphy, Mark O'Neill, Caomhán Dunne, Donal Dunne.
Front: Brian Deevy, Robert Moran, Cathal Murphy, Michael Dwyer, Anthony Kavanagh, Pierce Dargan, Thomas Keating, Eoin Mealey, Sean Brennan, Larry Carroll, Andrew Ring, Noel Callinan,
Mascot Joey Ryan, Hurl Carriers Conor Delaney, Niall McMahon, Sean Buggy

What a fantastic year 2008 was for the Erin's Own (Castlecomer) Club. Indeed the 'Comer men exactly repeated the successes of Clara the previous year by taking the Intermediate, Under 16 Roinn B and the Minor Roinn A titles. It is with the latter success in the Kilkenny Citroen Centre minor hurling championship that this report is concerned as the Erin's Own team under the shrewd management of Donal Dunne (trainer) Ronan Ryan and Adam Holden (selectors) and David Buggy (manager) brought only the second county minor championship to the club.

Dicksboro, a team many people fancied to win the minor crown, began the competition with a convincing preliminary round victory over city rivals James Stephens on a score-line of 4-20 to 1-5. A very interesting quarterfinal line up saw St. Patrick's defeat Thomastown by double scores 0-16 to 0-8.

Dicksboro proved too strong for a game Mooncoin side, Erin's Own defeated last year's champions Clara convincingly 2-17 to 0-7 and Barrow Rangers ended O'Loughlin's interest in the championship 1-12 to 0-6.

At the semi-final stage Barrow Rangers and Erin's Own played out a thriller that saw the eventual champions progress by a single point 2-10 to 2-9. While St. Patrick's made every effort to match the powerful 'Boro side but came up just a little short losing out by 1-11 to 0-9.

The crowd in Nowlan Park on County

Final day was treated to an absolutely superb minor encounter. The game was played at a hectic pace, both sides gave it everything and there were a number of outstanding displays. The closeness of the contest also made for a riveting game. Dicksboro looked to be on target for an eight title in the grade as they held Erin's Own to 0-5 a piece after playing into the strong wind. But the 'Comer men came out after the interval, played heroic hurling and thanks to a Stephen Daly goal on the 36th minute opened up a 1-6 to 0-6 lead. Dicksboro responded well to the

the 'Boro attack minus the injured Martin Gaffney failed to function on the day. If Dicksboro had some very good players Erin's Own had two great ones in Aidan Moran and Conor Fogarty. They received most support from goalkeeper Eoin Meally who made a brilliant double save in the second half, captain and full back Thomas Keating and Michael Dwyer and Stephen Daly in attack. All in all it was a tremendous overall team effort.

Dicksboro

Philip Byrne, Jamie Lynch, David Glynn, Gary Gaule, Peter Nolan, Danny Kenny, Kevin Nolan, Cillian Buckley, Enda Malone Capt., Brian Fitzpatrick, Oisin Walsh, Brian Dollard, Ollie Walsh, Michael Cotter, Darragh Buggy, Mikey Hayes, Jessie Waters, Sean Tyrrell, Caimin Browne, Cian Tynan, Eamon Campion, Ciarán Gough, Stephen Glynn, Conor Maharaj, J.J. Hickey, Mason Clifford, Michael Kealy, Ben O'Mahony, Colm Manning, Sam Dunlop, Martin Gaffney (inj.)

Erin's Own
Eoin Meally, Larry Carroll, Thomas Keating Capt., Padraig Keating, Declan Dunne, Aidan Moran, Jerry Callinan, Pierce Dargan,

Ciarán McDermott, Andrew Ring, Conor Fogarty, Michael Dwyer, Stephen Daly, Sean Brennan, Anthony Kavanagh, Cathal Murphy, David Moran, Mark O'Neill, Cillian Brennan, Caomhán Dunne, Noel Callinan, Brian Deevy, Michael Carroll, Stephen Murphy, Martin Hawley, Robert Moran



Joe Pyke (Chairman, Bord na nÓg) and Cathal O'Neill (Sponsor, Kilkenny Citroen Centre) present Thomas Keating (Captain Erin's Own) with the Minor Hurling Roinn A cup. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

challenge but never regained parity, and in the end no one could question the merit of Erin's Own's victory.

The city team had a number of very good players in defence particularly Gary Gaule at full back and Danny Kenny who was a rock at centre back. Enda Malone and Killian Buckley did well at centre field but



Rower Inistioge - MH "B" Champions 2008

Back: Tom Tennyson(Selector), George Allen, Tom Murphy, Tadgh Leahy, Joe Lyng , David Tennyson, Pauric Ryan, Brendan Lyng, Kevin Minogue, Tom Tennyson, Shane Brennan, Richard Ryan, Conor Joyce, Ger Morrissey (Team Manager)
Front: Michael Doyle (Selector) Kevin O,Niell , Paudie Fleming, Kieran Cummins, Brian Muldoon, Thomas Grace (Capt), Eoin Doyle, Dean Kehoe ,Sean Lyster, Paddy Walsh, Robert Grace. Missing from Photo-James Cassin.

Roynn B

Eighteen teams competed for the Kilkenny Citroen Centre Roynn B Championship title in Kilkenny this year. Last year's beaten finalists Rower Inistioge started the competition as favourites but other teams also harboured optimistic hopes that they would finish the competition on the winner's podium, among them Conahy Shamrocks, Danesfort, Piltown and Young Irelands. The Rower Inistioge defeated St. Martin's in a preliminary round game, as did Piltown against Mullinavat when they won by the minimum margin. The same two clubs Rower Inistioge and Piltown advanced through the first round proper joined by fellow first round victors St Lactains, Conahy Shamrocks, Carrickshock, Glenmore and Young Irelands to make up a very interesting quarter -final programme.

The Rower Inistioge continued to show fine form and defeated Carrickshock convincingly while St. Lactains put an end to Glenmore's interest in the competition. Conahy Shamrocks scraped by Piltown while there was a battle royal between Young Irelands and Danesfort for the last semi-final place. This pair drew, Young Irelands (2-9), Danesfort (1-12) on the occasion of their first meeting but it was the Gowran men who prevailed at the second time of asking by a four point margin 1-14 to 1-10. The semi-finals saw convincing wins for Young Irelands (1-16) to St. Lactain's (1-9) and Rower Inistioge (0-20) to Conahy Shamrocks (2-8).

The final, played in Thomastown in appalling weather conditions saw the Rower Inistioge make good on last year's disappointment when two first half goals from county minor panellist James Cassin proved the difference between the sides. The Gowran men did try as hard as they could but the trophy went to the men from the south 2-8 to 1-8.

Rower-Inistioge

Kevin Minogue, Tom Tennyson, Tadgh Leahy, Eoin Doyle, David Tennyson, Tommy Grace (Capt), George Allen, Dean Keogh, Paudie Fleming, Brendan Lyng, Joe Lyng, James

Cassin, Tom Murphy, Conor Joyce, Sean Lester.

Young Irelands

Niall Walsh, Patrick Lennon, Michael Walsh, Jack Glendon, Sean Kehoe, Sean Dreen, David O'Brien, Colin Dreeeling, John Morris, Paul Holden, J.J. Lennon, Chris Nolan, Patrick Quinlan, Paul Kehoe (capt.), Eoin Walsh. Sub – Emmett Byrne

Roynn C

With an entry of eight teams the Kilkenny Citroen Centre Roynn C minor hurling championship was a straightforward com-



Tullaroan - MH "C" League & Championship Winners 2008

Back: Ger Luby, Peter Walshe, Reamonn Brennan, Michael Walsh, Michael Maher, Trevor Luby, Jack Holmes
Middle: Bill Simpson, Richie Maher, Colm Kennedy, William Dooley, John Maher, Shane Cuddihy, Conor Kenny, Mark Simpson
Front Eoin Brennan, Padraig Walshe, Sam Holmes(capt), Gavin Joyce, Josh Moore, Paul Glennon and Paul Buggy.



Dicksboro - MH "A" League & Championship Finalists 2008

Back: Mason Clifford, Ben O'Mahony, Sam Dunlop, Conor Maharaj, Jesse Waters, Eamon Campion, Cian Tynan, Sean Tyrrell, Michael Hayes, Colin Manning, Caimin Browne.
Middle: Martin Gaffney, JJ Hickey, Steven Glynn, Ciaran Gough, Michael Cotter, Oisin Walsh, Kevin Nolan, David Glynn, Danny Kenny, Ollie Walsh, Michael Kealy.
Front: Peter Nolan, Philly Byrne, Jamie Lynch, Enda Malone, Cillian Buckley, Gary Gaule, Darragh Buggy, Brian Fitzpatrick, Brian Dollard.



Mooncoin - Roinn "A" MH League Champions 2008

Back: Mark O'Neill, David Kearns, Ethan Ryan, Niall Madden, Jackie Ryan, Conor O'Toole, James Walsh and Paul Walsh.
Middle: Niall O'Hanlon, Mark Fitzgerald, Eamon Hennebry, Liam Roche, Thomas Walsh, Eric Wall, Eoin Crowley, Seamus Kearns and Mark Sullivan.
Front: Daniel Purcell, Cormac Daly (Captain), Peter Dunlea, Stephen Crowley, John Wall, and Brian Gallagher.



Young Irelands - Minor B League and Championship Finalists 2008

Back: Liam Walsh, Eoin Walsh, Darren Cahill, Jack Glendon, Colin Dreeling, J J Lennon, Chris Nolan, David O'Brien, Patrick Quinlan, John Morris, Paul Holden, Paul Kehoe, Patrick Lennon, Declan Bennett, Pat Lennon, Pat O'Neill.
Front: Gary Farrell, Emmett Byrne, Mark Dargan, Niall Walsh, Sean Daireen, Michael Walsh, Sean Kehoe, Gearoid Kennedy, Michael Lennon, Patrick Drennan, Charlie Carter, Sharon Hanrick.

petition to run. Bennettsbridge, Dunamaggin, Tullaroan and Ógra Graig/Black and Whites earned their semi-final places by virtue of quarterfinal victories over Cloneen, Tullogher Rosbercon, Kilmacow and Ballyhale Shamrocks respectively. Tullaroan defeated Bennettsbridge convincingly 2-14 to 0-6 to earn a final place while Ógra Graigue/ Blacks & Whites did likewise to Dunamaggin, 5-6 to 1-7. In the County Final the newest club in Kilkenny, Ógra Graig/Black & Whites came up just short against one of the oldest clubs in the county, Tullaroan, despite the presence in their ranks of county minor Michael Maloney, a member of Kilkenny's All Ireland winning minor team. On the day strong performances from Paul Buggy, Josh Moore, Sam Holmes, Paul Glennon and Mark Simpson earned Tuallroan a 2-8 to 1-9 victory.

Tullaroan

Gavin Joyce, William Dooley, Sam Holmes, Eoin Brennan, Josh Moore, Paul Glennon, Bill Simpson, Conor Kenny, John Maher, Paul Buggy, Mark Simpson, Richie Maher, Peter Walsh, Paraic Walsh, Colm Kennedy. Subs: Ger Luby, Shane Cuddihy

*Ógra Graig/Blacks and Whites
Keith Doherty, Niall Foley, Michael Moloney, Michael Doyle, Shane Haugh, CJ Browne, Darren Cleere, Nicholas O'Donnell, Aidan O'Dowd, Sean O'Brien, Michael Moloney (capt.) James Kennedy, John Lennon, Nathan Sbilia, Dane Managan, Subs: Stephen Foley , Robert Doyle.*

Kilkenny Honda Centre Minor Hurling Leagues

The minor A league title went south to Mooncoin who defeated Dicksboro in the final by six points, 2-7 to 0-10. John Lockes of Callan who got the better of Young Irelands of Gowran on a 4-10 to 2-10 scoreline captured the B title while Glenmore, who beat Danesfort in the final 1-10 to 1-7, won the Shield. The Minor C final saw a second meeting of the championship finalists, Tullaroan and Ógra Graig/Blacks & Whites. This final was played eventually played in Clara on Saturday, Nov 22nd and was, once again, a close-run affair with Tullaroan coming out on top on a scoreline of:-

Tullaroan 2-11

Ogra Graig/Blacks & Whites 1-12

Erin's Own are Back!

"In the end, experience won out over youthful exuberance"

Writes Conor Brennan

Joe Coogan Auctioneers Intermediate Hurling Championship 2008

Photos Eoin Hennessy



**Tom Brophy, Captain
Erin's Own, lifts the
Hanrahan Cup**

As with previous years, it proved to be an open and even affair once more in the intermediate championship in Kilkenny. The opinions of all the experts in the county varied throughout the year as different teams showed their best form at various stages of the season. But in the end, experience won out over youthful exuberance, as Erin's Own (Castlecomer) rose their heads above the surface and regained their senior status after a two year stint in the lower grade. It wasn't without drama, however, as it so easily could have been one of at least five competing teams who came close to getting their hands on glory.

The early rounds of the league were symptomatic of the even level that existed among the majority of the teams. Results varied throughout with newly promoted Conahy Shamrocks and the Rower-Inistioge leading the way in Group A, while in Group B, Emeralds and Erin's Own held the top two positions respectively, despite Mullinavat and Mooncoin coming close.

The league finals saw Emeralds showing the intent for the rest of the year by disposing of Conahy Shamrocks on a score line of 3-16 to 0-14. The junior champions of last year were just not able to

physically compete with the Urlingford men, who used their strength to good effect around the field. Unfortunately for the Emeralds, this good form did not carry them to a championship title, as we will see later. The shield final saw Erin's Own secure a narrow victory over the Rower-Inistioge, winning 1-14 to 2-9.

And so the stage was set for what was an intriguing championship. Even in the opening round, the outcomes of the pairings provided some surprises. The first was the near escape that last year's county finalists, St. Lachtain's (Freshford), had against John Lockes (Callan), who were serious underdogs coming into the game. The Freshford men had only a goal to spare in the end, having been made fight all the way by their opponents, winning 3-12 to 2-12. The other minor surprise came when Danesfort accounted for Mullinavat. Adrian Ronan's men proved to be far hungrier than the Southerners, who had shown very inconsistent form in their return to the intermediate grade. Danesfort had two points at the final whistle and qualified for the quarter-finals on a 1-13 to 1-9 score line.

The final two first round matches were southern derbies with



Erin's Own team who defeated Danesfort in the Intermediate Hurling Final in Nowlan Park:

Back: David O'Gorman, Barry Dunne, Eddie Kelly, Michael Dwyer, Danny Byrne, Cathal Murphy, Jerry Callinan, Dermot Wallace, Damien Mullins, Donal Mealey.
Middle: Patsy Brophy (Selector), Jimmy Byrne, Stephen Dwyer, Thomas Dwyer, Eoin Rothwell, Sean Dwyer, Peadar Boran, Colin Dunne, Michael Moran, Sean Meally, Eddie Brennan, Donal Fenlon, Ronan Ryan, Cillian Brennan.

Front: Tommy Brennan (selector), Gordon Byrne, Liam Shore, Brian Dillon, Aidan Moran, Michael Murphy, David Buggy, Michael Owens, Tom Brophy (captain), Niamh Brophy, Peter O'Donovan, Martin Boran, Damien Fogarty, Conor Fogarty, Joe Meagher. (Missing Donal Dunne, Manager)

Glenmore taking on Graignamanagh and Mooncoin facing Thomastown. Both tussles were similarly tight and tense. The first saw Graignamanagh put Glenmore into a relegation battle as they had a goal to spare in their victory (1-12 to 0-12). Mooncoin also advanced to the quarter-finals with a hard-fought win over Thomastown, winning 3-11 to 2-10. The results saw John Lockes and Glenmore face into a relegation dogfight to see who would play junior hurling in 2009. In what was a dramatic, tense and nerve-wracking affair, it was the Callan men who lost their intermediate by the narrowest of margins, with Glenmore winning 2-10 to 1-12.

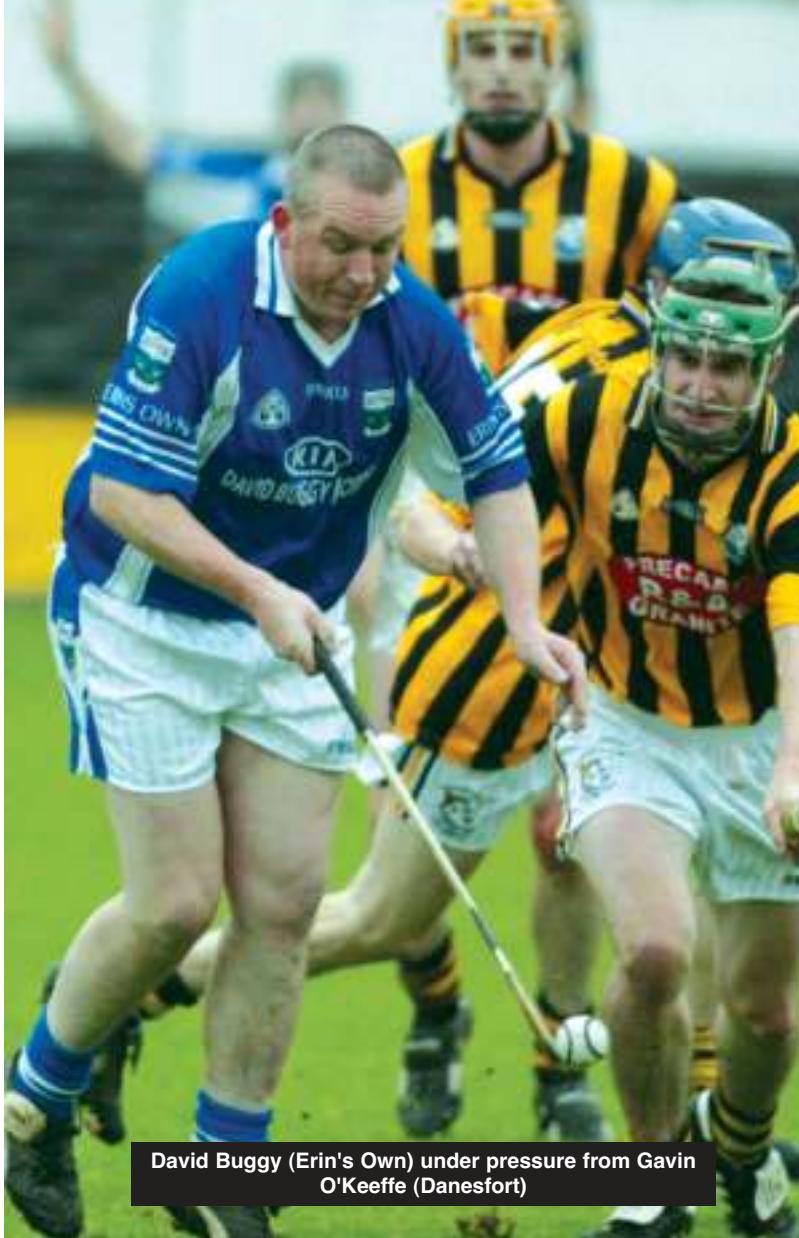
The quarter-finals were seen as the crucial time in the championship as the teams who were vying for supremacy were all lined up to face each other. An interesting tussle was the clash of the two All-Ireland junior club champions, namely Danesfort and Conahy Shamrocks. It was the 2007 champions who held the edge over the 2008 champions, as the Danesfort men were superior throughout the majority of the game. However, it was not until late in the game that they were assured of victory thanks to a goal from full-forward Frank Manogue. From there, they soldiered on to win by 1-13 to 1-9. It was equally tight and tense in Ballyragget between Erin's Own and St. Lachtain's as both sides fought tooth and nail. It appeared that the Freshford men held the advantage as the game went into the closing stages, but Castlecomer recovered and Damien Fogarty shot an equalising free to level the scores and force a replay (1-10 to 0-13). In the replay in Nowlan Park, St. Lachtain's again looked to have put themselves into the driving seat as they lead by five points with seven minutes remaining. But the Comer men, led by the supreme David Buggy, made an emphatic recovery to score six consecutive points to snatch victory on a 0-11 to 0-10 score line.

Many people's favourites for the title at this stage, the Emeralds, had less trouble in disposing of the challenge of Graignamanagh. Having just captured the league title, the Urlingford men again displayed their physical strength in powering their way forward and to which the Graig men had simply no answer to. The game concluded with a handsome nine point margin in favour of Emeralds, with them winning 0-16 to 1-5. The gap between southern rivals Mooncoin and the Rower-Inistioge was far smaller, as had been anticipated in the build-up to the game. It was never a classic, but there was literally nothing between the sides all through as both sides went score for score. However, Mooncoin got the crucial scores when it happened and opened a three point lead as the game neared its conclusion. The Rower responded with two points of their own, but time ran out on them as Mooncoin booked a semi-final place with a single point to spare (1-13 to 1-12).

The semi-draw pitted Danesfort against Emeralds and Erin's Own with Mooncoin. Danesfort were appearing at the semi-final stage for the first time in their history but the favourites tag rested with the Urlingford men. And it appeared that this did not sit well with them, as they failed to produce the form they showed in previous outings. Their opponents were far hungrier and the Emeralds looked tense and nervous in their play. But it was all to play for as the game entered the final stages and with little between the sides. But the result went the way of the underdog as Danesfort held on for a one point victory, winning 0-11 to 0-10.

The second semi-final was an opportunity for Mooncoin to finally step beyond the shadows and finally clinch a place in the top level. They had met heartbreak at such moments in previous years having promised so much. Their opponents, Erin's Own, had a different kind of emphasis of approach, hoping their blend of youth and experience to get them through. They played this game to perfection, and the southerners could not respond. The Comer men always seemed to have enough in reserve and so it proved. When Mooncoin scored the opening goal of the game in the second half, Erin's Own were able to respond with a goal from Eddie Brennan. Mooncoin couldn't force their way back, and thus Erin's Own qualified for the county final (1-13 to 1-7).

It was hardly the final pairing that anyone had been anticipating, but such was the nature of the games in the intermediate grade this year, it was hardly surprising. It was equally difficult to predict the winner of this final. It played out in that fashion also, with little between the sides all through. It was going to take a minor difference to separate the sides, and it came from a likely and reliable source for Erin's Own. They possessed a great attack leader in David



David Buggy (Erin's Own) under pressure from Gavin O'Keeffe (Danesfort)



Michael Moran (Erin's Own) keeps an eye on the loose sliotar as Tony Woodcock and Paddy Hogan (Danesfort) close in

**Joe Coogan Auctioneers
Intermediate Hurling
Championship
2008**

Results

1st Round

John Lockes 2-12, St. Lachtains 3-12
 Mooncoin 3-11, Thomastown 2-10
 Danesfort 2-14, Mullinavat 3-9
 Glenmore 0-12, Graignamanagh 1-12

Qtr Finals

Emeralds 0-16, Graignamanagh 1-5
 Erins Own 1-10, St. Lachtains 0-13
 Conahy Shamrocks 1-9, Danesfort 1-13
 Rower Inistioge 1-12, Mooncoin 1-13
 Qtr Final Replay (Extra Time)
 Erins Own 0-11, St. Lachtains 0-10

Semi-Finals

Mooncoin 1-7, Erins Own 1-13
 Emeralds 0-11, Danesfort 0-12

County Final

Erins Own 2-10, Danesfort 1-10,

Relegation Final

Glenmore 2-10, John Lockes 1-12

The following players took part in the 2008 Kilkenny Intermediate Hurling Championship.

Conahy Shamrocks: Eoin Murphy, Kieran Mooney, Paul Buggy, Tom Nolan, Seamus Og Brennan, Denis Kelly, Damien Webster, John Wallace, Brian Healy, David Healy, Declan Buggy, Padraig Nolan, Michael Lawlor, Alan Healy, Gavin Nolan.

Danesfort: Shem Hurley, Tom Mahony, Paul Murphy, Pa Dillon, Tony Woodcock, Paddy Hogan, Liam Forrestal, Gavin O'Keefe, Podge Forristal, David Forristal, Aaron Dunne, Robbie Walsh, Richard Hogan, Padraig Treacy, Frank Minogue, Philip Walsh, Oisin Walsh, Tommy Ryan.

Emeralds: Colin Grant, William Norton, Ger Joyce, Joey Doheny, Niall Cahill, Eamonn O'Gorman, Pa Doheny, Aidan Fogarty, Ray Moriarty, Alan Guilfoyle, Derek Lyng, Ian Grant, Padraig Phelan, Emmet Kavanagh, Kieran Rafter, Ken Hughes, Francis Clohosey, Brian Doyle.

Erins Own: Tom Brophy, Aidan Moran, Sean Meally, Peter O'Donovan, Danny Byrne, Damien Fogarty, Colin Dunne, Ronan Ryan, Conor Fogarty, Michael Owens, Michael Moran, Eddie Brennan, Gordan Byrne, David Buggy, Martin Boran, Michael Murphy, Jimmy Byrne, Peadar Boran.

Glenmore: PJ O'Connor, Fergal Freyne, John Cody, Mark Phelan, James Murphy, Richard Mullally, Paddy Mullally, David Aylward, Michael Foran, Eoin Murphy, Sean Kirwan, Michael Phelan, Emmet Vereker, Ken Cottrell, David Byrne, Kieran Foran.

Graignamanagh: Ronan Dowling, Ken Walsh, James Cahill, Henry Roberts, Leonard Blanchfield, Jarlath Bolger, Chris O'Neill, Brendan Foley, Ger Dowling, Diarmuid O'Neill, Eddie Dowling, Ger Walsh, Cathal Dunne, Eddie Walsh, Padraig Whelan, Alan Morrissey.

John Lockes: Paul Morrissey, Eoghan Fahy, Michael Roche, Michael Dunne, Adrian O'Sullivan, John O'Neill, Robert Jackman, Paddy Kennedy, J.P. Corcoran, James Power, David Lynch, Brian Cahill, Michael Gordan, Alan Bergin, Niall Hennessy.

Mooncoin: David O'Brien, Ciaran Dunphy, Alan Walsh, Liam Hennebry, Tom O'Hanlon, Eamon Mackey, Eddie Mackey, Niall Mackey, Sean Wall, Keith Kirwan, Eoin Hennebry, PJ Roe, Ray Wall, Diarmuid Mackey, Michael Grace, Mark Fitzgerald, Thomas Kearns, Gerry Kirwan, Stephen Foley, Noel Delahunt.

Mullinavat: PJ Aylward, Tony Duggan, Ger Anthony, Tomas Frisby, Liam Murphy, Walter Burke, Damien Aylward, Paul Aylward, Michael Malone, Nicholas Anthony, Jamie Fennelly, Willie O'Dwyer, Ian Duggan, Michael Murphy, Paddy Raftice, Andrew McGovern, Padraig Gahan.

Rower Inistioge: Liam Tierney, James Roche, Sean Cummins, Toby Kavanagh, Sean Grace, Kieran Joyce, Neil Lyng, David Lyng, JJ Kenny, Michael Grace, Eoghan Kavanagh, Brendan Lyng, Michael Doyle, Padraig Grace, Rory Galavan, Padraig Tierney, Michael Meany Tommy Grace.

St Lachtain's: Derek Deegan, Michael Hickey, Michael Kavanagh, Jamie Kennedy, Paul Costelloe, Niall Phelan, John Dooley, John Fitzpatrick, Cian Waldron, Bill Beckett, Naoise Waldron, Noel McGree, Tomas Flynn, James Kavanagh, Paul Guinan, James Maher, Robbie Dowling, Eoin Guinan, Jimmy Meagher, Martin Power, Davy Brennan.

Thomastown: Paul Dempsey, Colm Clarke, Shane Lanigan, Brian Dempsey, Peter Hanrahan, Sean Mahony, Edward Tennyson, Dessie Walsh, Richie Bolger, Richard O'Hara, Derek Brennan, Derek Lanigan, Stuart Waugh, Michael Mahony, JJ Farrell, Paul Treacy, James Hanrahan.



Emeralds Intermediate League Champions 2008

Back: Tommy Kennedy, Ciarán Bergin, Tommy Neary, Ian Grant, Declan Guilfoyle, Ken Hughes, Tom Walsh, Tom Holohan, Shane Norton, Austin Cleere, John Norton, Conor Costello.
Middle: Brian Doyle, Derek Lyng, Pa Doheny, Kieran Rafter, Alan Guilfoyle, Emmet Kavanagh, Benny Cahill, Francis Clohosey, Pa Tobin.
Front: Niall Cahill, Joseph Doheny, Ger Joyce, Colin Grant, Aidan Fogarty, Ramie Moriarty, Eamonn O'Gorman, Padraig Phelan.

Buggy who showed great cunning and resourcefulness to inspire his colleagues throughout. The ascendancy went to and fro throughout the opening half, with Buggy scoring an early goal only for Danesfort's Aaron Dunne replying later in the half to ensure a two point lead for his team at the half-time interval (1-6 to 1-4).

The second half saw Erin's Own inch their way back into the game, thanks mainly to major contributions from David Buggy and his full-forward colleague Martin Boran, who scored two consecutive points in a crucial period for the Comer men. Danesfort could not seem to add to their tally as they faltered at the crucial stage. The key moment came six minutes from time when Martin Boran finished to the net to give Erin's Own a four point lead. Danesfort made a heroic attempt at a recovery, but Richie Hogan's superb shot cannoned off the post to deny them a badly needed goal. Time ran out on them however, and Erin's Own were deserving winners (2-10 to 1-10) and suitably triumphant. Experience had won out over youthful endeavour.



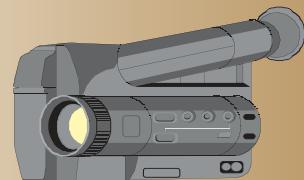
Martin Boran (Erin's Own) catches the sliotar under pressure from Tom Mahony (Danesfort)

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Eoin Larkin

Year

**by Enda McEvoy
(Sunday Tribune)**

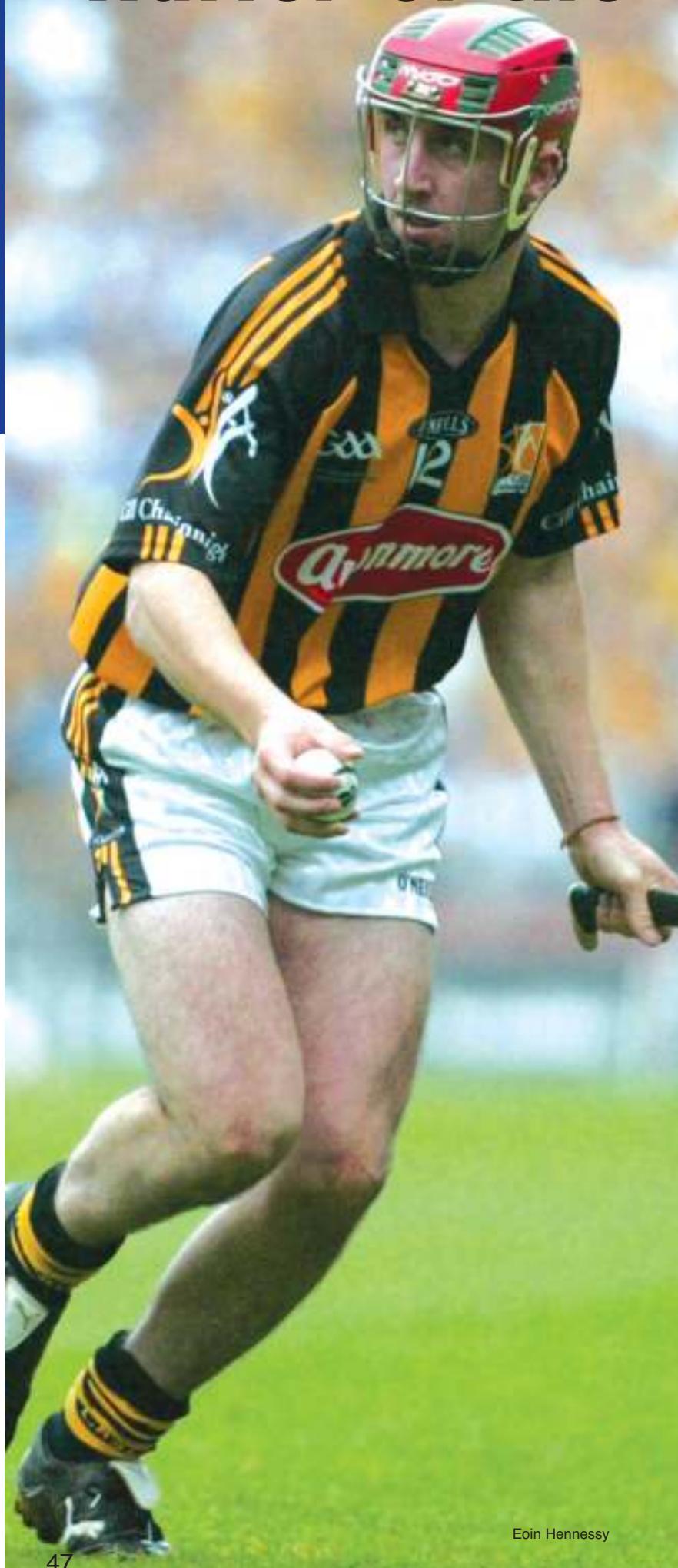
Eoin Larkin's 2008. In intercounty terms it ended not on the first Sunday of September but on a mid-October Friday night at the Citywest Hotel in Dublin, where he received an All Star and the Hurler of the Year award to add to his third All Ireland medal. But where the season began for Larkin? Well, you could go back to Portlaoise on 15 June, when he hit four points against Offaly in the Leinster semi-final and went home happy that the ball was running for him and hopeful that it just might continue to. You could go back to 1 April, when Private E Larkin of the 3rd Battalion returned from a six-month stint on UN peace-keeping duty in Kosovo feeling fresher than he'd felt in years. Or you could go way back to 2004 and to the evening James Stephens, casting around for a centre-forward and not exactly inundated with options, decided to take a punt on the young lad from Upper Patrick Street in the heart of the Village. Little though any of them could have suspected it at the time, it was the night the journey to Citywest began.

Larkin, then in the process of turning 20, was no obvious choice as an attack leader. As a teenager he'd been a corner-forward, skilful but small and, largely because he and his contemporaries didn't constitute one of those all-conquering teenage outfits James Stephens churn out with monotonous regularity, not a name that went down in many notebooks as a potential star of the future. As a minor he'd been a sub when Kilkenny won the All Ireland in 2002. As an under-21 he wouldn't make the county team until his final year. But Tommy Lanigan, the James Stephens manager, reckoned there might be more to Larkin than met the eye. Lanigan turned out to be right.

Not that he's claiming any credit for his powers of insight. "Look, it's a simple story," he says. "At club level there's no such thing as a readymade centre-forward. You put somebody in there and either he works or not, and if he doesn't you try somebody else. We put Eoin in there, gave him responsibility and he took it on. If there was any luck attached it was that he came into a team where Peter Barry, Brian McEvoy and Philly Larkin were powerful leaders. That helped bring him on immensely."

How radically different a path Larkin's career might have taken had DJ Carey not put a last-gasp close-range free to win the 2004 county final a couple of inches over the James Stephens crossbar, we don't know and never can. Certainly it would have been easy for him in

- Hurler of the Year



Eoin Hennessy

view of his skimpy under-age CV to disappear off the radar altogether. But little nails hold the hinge of history, and instead of being denied their first county triumph in 23 years on the finishing line, the Larchfield club went on to win successive Kilkenny titles, successive Leinster titles and an All Ireland title. In the process, no boat was lifted higher by the rising tide than Larkin's. "Things could have worked out a lot differently had DJ put that ball under the crossbar alright," he agrees. "There was a big stroke of luck involved."

In the 14 games 'Stephens played en route to Croke Park glory in 2005, beginning against Tullaroan the previous May, continuing through Leinster and culminating against Athenry on St Patrick's Day, Larkin hit an aggregate of 5-105. That this was bulked out with a total of 0-78 from placed balls troubled neither the headline writers nor the people selecting the TG4 man of the match; scorers are always sexier than non-scorers. Brian McEvoy was by some distance the winners' standout performer in the All Ireland final, for instance, but beauty being in the eye of the beholder it was Larkin who walked off with the glassware. "I'll take them if they're going," he says drily. Quite.

The hard part, however, had yet to come. A couple of stats will indicate precisely how hard it would be.

Larkin, who made his provincial bow against Offaly in 2005, has started each of Kilkenny's 18 championship outings over the past four seasons but was substituted in five of his first six. In the nine fixtures in which he featured in 2005-06, he scored 10 points. In the nine fixtures in which he featured in 2007-08, he scored 3-23. He is the same Eoin Larkin and he's a very different Eoin Larkin.

It was difficult, he admits. It was even more difficult because every time he was substituted he promised himself he'd do better next time – and mostly when next time came, he didn't do better. "I don't know what it was. Psychological, maybe. But I definitely wasn't going to sulk. The aim always was to get back and show that I was worthy of a place." A couple of points approaching half-time against Wexford in the 2007 Leinster final and a couple more points approaching half-time against Galway in the All Ireland quarter-final showed – to himself as much as to anyone else – that he was getting the hang of it at last.

If nothing else, the length of Larkin's learning curve demonstrates the dues that have to be paid by modern intercounty aspirants in Kilkenny. For every Henry Shefflin there's a Cha Fitzpatrick, for every Tommy Walsh a JJ Delaney. The Shefflins and the Walshes belong to the tiny minority, the Chas and the JJs – irrespective of how gifted they may be – to the majority. It's less a question of talent than an issue of adjustment. The process is usually slow. It is almost invariably painful. It is never easy.



Eoin Larkin's Goal Sequence from the 2008 All Ireland Final by John McIlwaine

The difference with Larkin now? "I honestly don't know. I always put in the work. Maybe in my head things are different." Experience? "Could be." Physique? "I'm probably in better shape alright."

After two seasons of hurling right through to the following spring with James Stephens and two more of hurling into September with Kilkenny, Kosovo gave him a change of scenery he didn't at the time realise he needed. Half a year living in another country was, predictably, an eyeopener wrapped in a culture shock. The Irish compound was a couple of miles outside a large town. The poverty that surrounded them was striking; "like Ireland 50 years ago", a couple of the older soldiers asserted. Each day began with a 7.30am parade. Afterwards they'd go out on patrol in jeeps with their Steyr rifles. Mercifully things were generally quiet, which left plenty of time for gym work and an amount of scope for 10km runs provided there was an army car out patrolling. Six nights a week Larkin heaved and hauled weights in the gym and every couple of days he checked in with Mick Dempsey, letting Dempsey know how he was getting on and hearing in turn how the lads were getting on in his absence.

He arrived home on a Tuesday and was back training with Kilkenny on the Friday night. It wasn't as if he'd never been away, mind you; it was as if he'd never been there in the first place. This wasn't an ash plant he was holding, he quickly discovered, it was an iron bar. His hand-eye coordination was all over the place, his reaction time snail-slow, his touch a mile off, the sliotar "jumping away" from him the whole time. He knew there was only one cure. Get to the ball alley in Larchfield and get there fast. "Nearly every night after work. Fifteen or 20 minutes a night. It got me used to holding a hurl again, got my touch back, got my eye in. All the basics."

The quo with the quid was that he returned from Kosovo a stronger man physically. A much stronger man physically. "I didn't feel it at first, but once I got back into the hurling I realised it. I felt fitter. And fresher. My mind was fresh after being away from hurling. My body was fresh."

A sub for the National League semi-final defeat by Tipperary, he'd regained his place for the championship opener against Offaly at O'Moore Park. Being a Cody-era Kilkenny hurler, what he says next will strike a familiar note. Offaly were "serious opposition"; Martin

Comerford's goal on the blow of half-time opened up the game; in the end the McCarthy Cup holders were "just delighted" to come out of there with the win. After all, as Larkin reflects, "those are the days when you can be caught, you know. But the ball ran for me that day in Portlaoise and kept running. As the year went on I was getting more confident. The rest is history, I suppose."

How do the champions continue, double-digit victory after double-digit victory, to keep their eye on the ball? He grins. "It's not very difficult with Brian Cody over you. If you get carried away he's fairly quick to bring you back down to earth. And if you're not doing the job, he'll get someone else to do it." Not that Cody is, despite a popular perception, hurling's answer to the Queen of Hearts, ever screaming for

heads to be chopped off all over the place. Not that he could possibly have been remotely as successful as he has been if he were. "It's not like that at all. Brian is always doing everything he can to help you. He's very good to encourage you, and if you want to talk to him he always has an ear open. But he wants to bring Kilkenny forward, and if you throw it back in his face that's not the way forward."

Larkin doesn't usually do nerves. For the All Ireland semi-final with Cork he made an exception. "The nerves were never-ending. I thought they'd never go away. I think we were all nervous in training, but at the same time we were all looking forward to it. We knew we'd have to pull out a massive performance to win." Just how massive was brought home to him during the first half when he found himself going down on his hunkers to catch his breath. "There was I, supposed to be in peak condition, and I thought my lungs were going to explode. I don't think anything on the training field can prepare you for Croke Park on days like that. Obviously it helps. But." It must have helped for his goal. "Ah, the ball just came out at my feet after Derek Lyng's solo run. There was a lot of lads in the ruck, everything opened up for me and I had only one defender to beat."

And the All Ireland final? "The 15 of us clicked, yeah. Every one of us was delighted with our own performance. That was great. But you can't make All Irelands any sweeter than they are. Every one of them is sweet when you win it."

Ask Larkin if there's one department of his game in which he's improved and he'll cite fielding. He used to find it difficult under the dropping ball, especially when he was contesting it with Peter Barry and Barry was throwing his backside around. "It's hard to be steady in that situation. The same with Tommy Walsh. He throws himself around too. But you learn to take it and get yourself steady again so you can make the catch." The most important lesson he's learned along the way, he adds, is to take what you can get when you can. Seeing Shefflin, John Tennyson and Richie O'Neill all do their cruciates last year taught him that. "Because it can all be whipped away very quickly."

Gather the rosebuds while ye may. Exactly what Eoin Larkin did in 2008.



Lt General Dermot Earley (Chief of Staff of the Irish Defence Forces) presents Kilkenny Senior Hurler Pte Eoin Larkin with a token of appreciation for his achievements on behalf of the Irish Defence Forces for winning both the G.A.A. and G.P.A. Hurler of the Year awards, also pictured is G.A.A. President, Nicky Brennan. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Blacks & Whites Camogie Team of 1968.

Back: Patty Murphy, Ida Whitford, Greta Lennon (R.I.P), Catherine Doyle, Theresa Connolly, Mary Savage, Lil Murphy Ann Doyle.
Front: Nora Carroll, Teresa Lennon, Lizzy Hickey, Sheila Murphry, Maggie Ryan, Ann Lawlor.



Black & Whites U-14 Camogie 2008

Back: Aisling Cullen, Ellie Barcoe, Enya Foley, Niamh Nolan, Muireann Murphy, Mary McDonald, Orla Cleere, Nadine O'Brien, Tara Treacy, Emma Neville.
Front: Mary Lennon, Cieragh Tarpey, Siobhan O'Brien, Aoife Moore, Megan OGrady, Sinead Nolan, Aine Ryan, Erin Barcoe, Grace McDonald.

Club Officers 2008

Chairperson	Nancy Moloney
Vice Chairperson	Bernie Cleere
Secretary	Breda O'Dowd
Treasurer	Mary Murphy

Action on the Field

This year was a busy year in the Club. There was a lot of work at underage level and we had teams entered from U-12 grade up to Junior Grade. The U-12 and U-14 teams lost at the semi-final stages of their Championships. The U-16 girls also got to semi-final stage. The U-18 grade is still ongoing and we have reached the semi-final. In the Junior grade Blacks & Whites reached the quarter finals and drew with Piltown. In the replay we were beaten by Piltown, who went on to win out the Junior Championship.

Black & Amber Success

This year two of our club members won All Ireland Intermediate Medals with Kilkenny. They were Anne Marie Lennon and Sinead Kelly. Congratulations to them both and well done on their achievement. Thanks to all our supporters and sponsors during the year. To all the parents who helped in any way. To the Blacks & Whites hurling club for the use of the facilities and to the trainers and selectors of both our underage and adult teams, who put so much of their time into Camogie.

Football

The Club also entered teams in the Ladies Football competitions at U-14 and Junior level, but didn't have any success. The underage age girls enjoyed these games very much. Three girls from Blacks & Whites took part at U-14 county level, Niamh Nolan, Shannon Foley & Enya Foley. At U-12 level a number of girls took part in the Blitz held in Carlow.

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Club Officers 2008

Chairman	William Power
Vice-Chair	Paula Kenneally
Secretary	Siobhan Mason
Treasurer	Kay Walsh

This year was not a very successful year for the club but yet it did not pass without its good points. The club fielded teams at under-age (U-8, U-10, U-12), U-14, Minor and Junior.

Under-Age

The under-age scene in the Club was very strong this year with teams participating in tournaments throughout the County. A most sincere thanks to all those who helped in anyway either coaching, supporting or transporting the girls to games. It is a vital part of any club and hopefully will get stronger for the coming year.

U-14

The U-14 team was the most successful of all teams reaching the U-14 Roinn C Shield Final and defeating O'Loughlin Gael's. Well done to trainers, selectors and players. The club fielded an U-16 team but were not very successful.

Junior

The Junior team had a disappointing year as they were defeated by Young Ireland's in

both League and Championship at Quarter Final stage. A big thank you to the Trainers and Selector namely Jimmy Sheehan, Jim Ireland and Willie Power for all their hard work and dedication and to the players, they are a great bunch of girls who have been unlucky in the Junior Championship over the past number of years but hopefully next year will be a better year for them if they stay together. Keep it up girls! Don't stop believing!

County Panelists

Congratulations to Laura Fennelly who was a member of the victorious Kilkenny Minor team and to Mairead Power who was a member of the St. Brigid's College All-Ireland winning team. The club had two players, Jenny Dalton and Lisa Millea, on the WIT Panel who were defeated in the Ashbourne Cup Final earlier this year.

Football

The football club competed well for their first year in the senior grade and hopefully the coming year, with more support, will go even further.

Handball

A hearty congratulations to Marie Walsh who had a very successful year winning the 60x30 and the 40x20 All-Ireland Handball

Titles. done

Fund Raising

Fundraising for the club went very well with three major events. The Sponsored Walk early in the year was a major success and was enjoyed by all. The "Guess the Score" Competition for the all All-Ireland Hurling Final and the recent bag-packing in Dunne Stores were a big success also. Many thanks to all those who organised, supported or helped out in any way with any of the fund raising events throughout the year. It was very much appreciated.

Bereavements

The club wishes to extend sincere sympathy to all those who suffered bereavements throughout the year, the O'Gorman Family, Cassin Family, Ballygerdra and anyone who had been associated with the club and has been omitted. Ar dheis De go raibh siad.

Thank You

Finally the club would like to thank the Carrickshock G.A.A. Club for the use of both pitches both in Hugginstown and the newly acquired pitch in Stoneyford and also to thank all those who contributed in any small way to the running of the club in training, coaching, organising, fundraising and transport – Go raibh mile maith agaibh!

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Well Done, again, Kilkenny!



Great Year!

Dicksboro Camogie Club have enjoyed a wonderful year's camogie. The U-8s and U-10s have increased in numbers thanks to the great efforts of the parents, trainers and mentors. These young teams have enjoyed meeting up with other clubs around the county and also have had a visit from St. Martins of Dunshaughlin where a great morning's camogie was played.

The U-12s had a successful and enjoyable year in which they played challenge matches with local teams. They succeeded in reaching the final against Danesfort and in a match that was full of suspense down to the last score, came out winners of the group. Well done to the trainers for making the transition from U-10s to U-12s such a pleasant experience for the girls.

Feile Victory

Our U-14's succeeded in becoming the first team in the Club to win the Kilkenny Feile, and became one of three clubs to represent Kilkenny in the 2008 Finals. We were hosted by Burgess from Tipperary. Despite the rain it was a wonderful weekend with the girls winning one game, drawing one and losing against the hosts. The U-14 Roinn B title became Dicksboro's in September as they defeated Mullinavat in the final. Thanks to the trainers and mentors.

As they were only 3 teams in the U-16 'A' competition it was decided that the top two teams go into the final. Unfortunately we lost out on a place by one point. Thanks to the trainers involved.

The U-18 championship has not finished. Well done to the junior girls who defeated Glenmore in the League Final. In the championship we drew with Piltown in the final but in the replay we lost by 3 points. We are through to the All County Final against Gowran. Again thanks to all trainers and mentors.

Congratulations to the girls in the club who have represented our club at county level. Best wishes to the girls who have become engaged or who have married throughout the year.

Sympathy is extended to the families in our club who have lost loved ones, may they rest in peace.



Dicksboro U14 Camogie Team 2008

Back: Rachel Doyle, Orla Hanrick, Rachel Lynch, Niamh Tynan, Sarah Hennessy, Niamh Browne, Claire Nolan and Niamh O Connor. **Middle:** Lauren Martin, Eva Maher, Ciara Tyrrell, Rachel Bawle, Jenny Kelly, Kellie Malone, Bronagh Walsh Ciara Conefery. **Front:** Jillian Kavanagh, Laura Cody, Lucy Sherwin, Muireann Breann, Louise Kenny, Nicola Tynan, Laura Lacey.



Dicksboro U12 Camogie 2008

Back: Dave Hogan (trainer) Eva Maher, Eimear O'Donoghue, Emma Bawle, Anna Sheehan, Eimear Hogan, Jenna Sherwin, Jillian Kavanagh, Kirsty Maher, Daneille Kenny, Pauline Ryan, Ciara O'Connor, Anna Walsh, Andrea Ryan (trainer).
Front: Ashling Gaule, Hannah Butler, Micheala Delaney, Jenny Clifford, Elizabeth Boland, Jenny Lowe, Aoife Prendergast, Meabh O'Reilly, Eva Minogue, Emma Mullen and Sarah Bawle (Trainer)

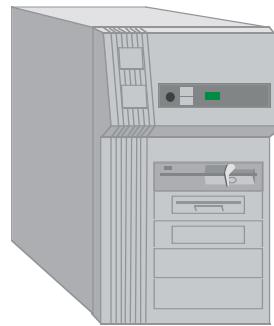
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Glenmore Camogie Team 1993

Back: Maire Ennett, Edel Drohan, Dolores Kehoe, Anna Boyle, Marie O'Shea, Margaret Aylward, Josephine Dowling, Anne Garvey, Catherine Hennessy, Joan Aylward, Aine Cody, Karen Phelan, Chris Dollard.
Front: Anna Doherty, Brigid Murphy, Olive Mullally, Bridget Mullally, Margaret Doherty (capt), Owen Murphy, Helen Murphy, David Garvey, Annette Phelan, Marie Hanrahan, Frances Phelan, Martina Murphy.



Glenmore Junior Camogie Team 2008

Back: Grace Phelan, Ailish McDonald, Siobhan Aylward, Ruth Jones, Laura Aylward, Aishling Irish, Helen Murphy (Captain), Kate Mooney, Bridget Mullally, Annmarie Roche, Marie Therese Doherty, Louise Boyle, Emma O Keeffe.
Front: Breda Comerford, Karen Jones, Josephine Rockett, Catherine Walsh, Claire Aylward, Linda Long, Michelle Murphy, Annette Cody, Karen Hennessy, NoraLee Phelan

Asst-Secretary	Marie-Theresa Doherty
Treasurer	Mairead O Donovan
PRO	Mary Aylward, Annette Cody

Juvenile Camogie

We had another great year in 2008 in relation to under age camogie, with numbers and interest at training growing all of the time. We trained in the Gaa pitch all year and now train in the parish hall on Wednesdays with great success. The girls entered into many blitzes throughout the year and held some blitzes as well. A huge thank you has to go to their trainers, Annette Cody, Seamus Dollard, Marie-Theresa Doherty, Chris Elliott, Maria Giffan, Martina Kirwan, Helen Murphy, all of which were involved with girls from u14 down & gave so much of their time. The

girls have come on so much over the past year, which can be seen in the games they play. The number at Juvenile has increased greatly over the past few years, so in 2009 we will be forming a Juvenile Committee.

Junior & U-16 Team

2008 was a very good year for the Junior Camogie Team; we trained very hard, & had great commitment. Training consisted of 3 nights, skills and fitness, with a greater emphasis on fitness this year. We started off the year training in the St Josephs Athletic Club, thanks to them for the use of their facilities. We played as many challenge matches as possible, playing teams a grade above us to make all games very competitive. Thank you to Ferrybank Gaa for the use of their hurling wall at the end of the year, this is fantastic for first touch & skills.

We had a very successful League campaign reaching the League Final for the first time in a few years; unfortunately Dicksboro beat us on the day. Which brought us onto the later stages of the Championship; we played Piltown in the County Semi final and were beaten. Piltown went onto beat Dicksboro in the County Final. Our u16 team were very competitive this year, with most of the team coming from the Junior Panel.

All Ireland & Leinster Medals – Well Done & Thank you!

Glenmore Camogie Club would like to Congratulate Bridget Mullally winning the League Final with Kilkenny Senior squad this year beating Galway & best of luck to Bridget in the Leinster Final against Dublin. Congratulations to Linda Long winning an All-Ireland Medal with the Minor team beating Clare, & best of luck to her in the Leinster Campaign. Congratulations to Ruth Jones & Claire Aylward winning All-Ireland Medals beating Cork in the Final & Winning Leinster Medals beating Dublin, Well done to you all, this is fantastic for the club. Thanks to all who supported us throughout the year, especially our main sponsors Mernagh Transport. Thank you to Glenmore GAA for their continued support. Last but by no means least a huge thank you to our trainer Neddie Aylward, thanks for your hard work & commitment all year, thanks for what you have brought to the team, belief in ourselves. On a final note we would just like to mention the Glenmore Pitch Development 2008/2009. This development will benefit all of us - Hurling, Football & Camogie, not to mention Handball, Squash, basketball, Tennis, & safe walking (walkway around the grounds). Thank you to all who have supported so far it's a huge undertaking but with great rewards for the future.



Intermediates Perform Well

Drawing from a very young panel of players Lisdowney Camogie club fielded teams from U-16, U-18 and Intermediate level. We lost the Intermediate All County league semi final narrowly after extra time to eventual winners Clara and reached the Intermediate Final. On route to the final we beat last years finalists The Rower and the fancied Paulstown after a thrilling semi final which also went to extra time. In the Intermediate Co Final although defeated by a stronger Windgap team a great performance was put in by these players, particularly in the second half after being down by 2-4 to 0-2 at half time, they clawed their way back into the game in the second half bringing the margin to two points on one occasion, losing out eventually on a scoreline of Windgap 2-11 to Lisdowney 1-7. Panel: S.L.

Murphy, A.M. Lacey, M. Brennan(Capt.), G. Murphy, K. Dowling, C. Phelan, J. Mackey, E. Mulhall, M. Gannon, L. Hogan, E. Brophy, A. Murphy, S. Holland, S. Gleeson, M. Holland, N. Murphy, S. Staunton, Y. McCarthy, J. Boran, E. Holland, L. Sweeney, K. Cahill, K. Delaney, J. Foley, C. Dunne(C), S. Cummins, C. Dunne(B), S. Campion, J. O' Sullivan, K.A. Quinn, L. Hickey, R. Brennan, E. Bergin, C. Mackey. In reflection, it was a huge step to reach the final, huge steps were made over the year but one would hope another year or two at Intermediate level will stand to this young squad. Special mention to mentors B. McCarthy, D. Walshe and A. Whelan for their tremendous work they put into the team.

At U-16 level we defeated Gowran, Freshford, Ballycallan and got walkovers from O'Loughlin's and James Stephens to reach the U/16 Roinn B semi final. Panel: K.A. Quinn, C. Healy, G. Murphy,



Under 10's Lisdowney Tournament October 2008

Back: Rhea Grace-Cashin, Emma McEvoy, Mairead Kennedy, Eimear Walsh, Niamh Kenny, Aoife O'Carroll, Aoife Murphy.
Front: Ellen O'Carroll, Holly Moore, Asling Phelan, Eimear Kenny, Amy Dunphy, Clare O'Carroll, Sarah Phelan, Chloe Mullins.

C. Maher, J. O'Sullivan, K. Dowling, S. Campion, C. Mackey, E. Mulhall, C. Phelan, L. Sweeney, A. Murphy(Capt.), L. Hickey, K. Delaney, R. Brennan, E. Brophy, E. Randall, S. Maher, M. Hickey, E. Holland. Many thanks to P.J. Kenny, A.M. Lacey, E. Downey and A. Whelan for looking after the team during the year.

Underage Work

At underage level great work is being put the primary school team competed, this team was made up of Under 8's and Under 10's and three other girls in 5 & 6th Class, namely C. Healy, E. Randall, A.M. Drennan.

We ran a very successful and competitive U-10's tournament held in October to finish off the year for the players. St.

Brigid's emerged as winners with Emeralds the runners up.

Well Done to All!

At county level All Ireland medals at U-16 Level were won by Grace Murphy, Claire Phelan, Aoife Murphy, Eimear Mulhall. At Under 18 Claire Phelan & Noreen Murphy brought home Under 18 All Ireland. Congratulations and well done to all the girls on their achievement.

Sincere thanks to Lisdowney hurling club for the use of the pitch and facilities. A special thanks to Tom Carroll for all his help. To our hard working committee and parents for all their support throughout the year from bag packing to travelling to matches - long may this continue.



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KILFORD HOTEL NEWS



**Naomh Bríd,
Ballyragget**



Naomh Brid, Ballyragget U-12 camogie team 2008

Back: Sarah Jane Butler, Colette Dunne, Viki Bannon, Nicola Dowling, Tara Hickey, Jane Kavanagh, Michelle Lawrence, Ailish Tierney, Dawn Healy, Cathy Moylan, Ciara McGrath.

Front: Toni Malone, Sarah Staunton, Eadaoin Phelan, Maeve Gannon, Niamh James, Claire Dunne, Roisin O'Shea, Sinead Butler, Shauna Healy, Aine Stapleton.

Club Officials 2008

Marie Gannon, Mary Jacob, Marie Holland, Carmel Kenny-Walsh, Breda Delaney.

Club Action

Naomh Brid Ballyragget was founded in

1997 / 98 after the local school Parents Committee decided to train a team. The club now caters for u-10s, U-12s and U-14s. This year we won the U-14 Roinn C League. The U-12s reached the final. We participated in Feile 2008 playing host to Mullagh,

Galway.

County Players

This year we had four players on the county U-14 squad - Tracey Brennan, Dervla Gannon, Kate Holland and Noelle Murphy.

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O'Loughlin Gaels U13 Camogie team at Callan blitz 2008.

Back: Saoirse Claffey, Kelly Dowd, Grainne Walsh, Chloe Tyrrell, Lizzie Twomy, Bronagh Cleere, Laura Murphy, Katelyn Leahy, Eimear Daly.
Front: Fiona Whitley, Becky Doyle, Tara Conry, Sophie Stapleton, Amy Bryan (Capt), Laura Greene, Julie Stakelum, Kate Walsh, Sharon Morrissey, Sarah Mc Geeney

Officers 2008

Chairperson: Jim Kavanagh
 Vice Chairman: TJ Bryan
 Secretary: Pat Stapleton
 Treasurer: Eileen Cleere
 PRO: Aoife Lanigan

Games Action

The club competed in the U-12, U-14, U-16, U-18 and junior championships this year. The U-10s trained hard all year and also took part in a couple of blitzes. Although the U-12's were not successful in the championship they acquitted

themselves well. The U-14s were unlucky to lose the Shield Final to Carrickshock and the U-13s reached the final of the John Lockes blitz. The U-16s came up against very tough opposition and just failed to make the semi-finals. The fact that there was a huge overlap of players from both the U-14 and U-16 teams meant that we had to field very young U-18 and Junior teams which resulted in early exits.

County Players

Amy Bryan represented the club on the County U-14 team that won the Leinster Final. Shauna Brennan was part of the County U-15 Development Squad. Amy Bryan, Kate Walsh, Eimear Daly, Laura Murphy, and Bronagh Cleere took part in the Inter County U-13 Blitz.

Development

Some great fundraising was done, which allowed us to purchase playing gear. We are indebted to all our to all our sponsors and to all who helped make our Table Quiz, Raffle, and Bag-packing weekend such a success. The Camogie Club would like to thank O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Club for the use of their pitches and complex during the year and also thanks to all involved in training and coaching our girls.

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Piltown Junior Camogie Team 1988

Officers 2008

Chairman	Jim Malone
Vice Chairman	Mairead Diffley
Secretary	Kate Foley
Ass. Sec	Patricia Jordan
Treasurer	Eileen Dunne
Asst. Treasurer	Jackie Norris
P R O	Charlene Norris

Junior

Our junior team had an exceptional year when they defeated Dicksboro in the county final to make history and bring the first adult camogie title home to Piltown. It took

tremendous team effort over two games to overcome a talented Dicksboro team. Both teams finished 1-08 each in the drawn game and Piltown won the replay by 1-08 to 1-04. Great credit is due our players who worked very hard both as a team and also on their individual fitness levels during the year. Also management team Jim Malone, Tony Foley and Mairead Diffily for the work they put in during the year.

U-14 and U-16

Fielding a very young team in this year championships the girls applied themselves

well and worked hard for their trainers Seamus Dunne and Eamon McGowan. The U-12 team won their group championship defeating Mooncoin by 8-04 to 2-01. Great credit is due to their trainers Gay Doyle and Tom Holden, who put huge emphasis on skills training and team-work during training sessions.

U-10

A huge influx of young players saw the U-10 squad expand to over 30 players this year. Sheila Norris and Eleanor O'Shea worked hard with them, while the U-10 team won their final in the Southern U-10 blitz under the tuition of Tom Holden and Gay Doyle.

All-Ireland Success

Sinead Long played corner back on Kilkenny's All-Ireland winning Intermediate team. Katie Power played on the senior team and along with Sinead Long, Karen Duggan and Georgina Culleton were members of the victorious Kilkenny Minor team. Niamh Dermody and Edel Long were members of the U14 team who defeated Dublin in the Leinster final.

Thanks

The club would like to thank all involved in the camogie club, Players, Committee members, Parents, supporters, the GAA club, sponsors especially our main sponsors Iverk Produce and Piltown Credit Union for all your help during the year.



Piltown U-12 Camogie Panel 2008

Aoife Norris, Siobhan Dermody, Ellen Commins, Ciara Phelan, Katelynn Phelan, Chloe Phelan(0-2), Chloe Blackmore(0-2), Alice Talbot, Kelly Ann Doyle (4-0), Lisa McCarthy (2-0), Debbie Phelan (Capt, 1-0), Sarah Murphy (1-0), Sinead Walsh, April Kelly, Rebecca Kelly, Ciara Whelan, Shauna Coady, Jean Power, Stacey O'Brien & Aoife Doyle



AMOGIE NEWS



Rower Inistioge

Officers 2008

Chairperson Mary Lyng
 Vice-Chairman Ann Lyng
 Treasurer Kathleen Dunphy
 Secretary Becky Dempsey

Lots of Games

2008 was a relatively progressive year for the club due to the hard work of the players and mentors alike. The club was very competitive in all grades this year, fielding teams in U-12, U-14, U-16, U-18 and Intermediate level.

The U-12s reached the Semi-Final but were beaten by St. Martins. The U-14s were beaten in the Shield Final by St. Martins. The U-16 team is in the Final of the Championship against Clara after beating Mooncoin in the Semi's. The U-18 competition is ongoing. The Intermediate team having reached the County Final the previous year, there was a lot of expectations on the team but unfortunately after a promising start the quarter final we were narrowly beaten by Lismore.

Inter County Players

We enjoyed great success this year at county level. Kelly Hamilton was part of the Kilkenny U-14 panel and won a Leinster medal. On the U-16 Kilkenny panel, Jane Cullen and Aoife Lyng represented the club and won All-Ireland medals. Ciara Lyng won her second All-Ireland minor medal. At senior level Lizzie Lyng and Eimear Lyng won their first league medals overcoming Galway in the final.

The club would also like to acknowledge and congratulate the six members of our club who were part of the St. Mary's New Ross All-Ireland winning team this year, Tara Kennedy, Aoife Lyng, Deirdre Meaney, Rachel Lyng, Fiona Carroll and Debbie O'Mahoney who brought six All-Ireland medals to the parish. Well done girls!

Thanks for the Support!

Many thanks to all who supported us throughout the year without their hard work and commitment our club would not be as successful. The R/I camogie club can definitely look forward to a 2009 with confidence.



Rower Inistioge Junior Camogie Champions 1982 - defeated Tulloher by 2-7 to 3-2.

Back: Michael Brennan, Nora Cassin, Hazel Diamond, Mary O'Neil, Carmel Hennessy, Claire Cotterell, Carol Walsh, Breda Ryan, Catherine Hennessy, Mary Delahunt & Billy Kennedy. **Front:** Brid Kelly, Ann Roche, Marie Kelly, Chrissie Ryan, Noreen Tierney, Mairead Fennelly and Margaret Delahunt.



Rower Inistioge Camogie players who represented Kilkenny in 2008
Back: Ciara Lyng, Lizzie Lyng, Eimear Lyng. **Front:** Kelly Hamilton, Aoife Lyng, Jane Cullen.

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AMOGIE NEWS



St Martin's

St. martins Camogie began their 2008 with a resolve to find themselves back in the position of contesting the senior title. After being defeated in the county final in 2007, the girls were determined to get themselves back into a senior final level.

Under the guidance of Bobby Shore, assisted by Pierce Dargan the girls trained hard and showed a great commitment and focus.

However after reaching the county final, the girls fought hard, yet a well experienced Freshford team ensured they would once again represent Kilkenny in the Leinster Championship. The St. Martins team were disappointed to be pipped at the post for the second year in a row but are hungry for the taste of the title and are determined to be back there again in 2009.

The U18 girls kick started their year with a cracking game against Thomastown. Great performances were given by all and the Muckalee girls battled hard coming out 2 pints on top. St. Martins are serious contenders for this years u18 championship and

have a very strong panel. It looks like the U18 championship will run into 2009.

St. Martins Camogie would like to extend their congratulations to their players and team mates that represented the club at county level.

Congratulations to Marie Dargan and Edwina Keane in the camogie senior league, division 1, also both girls along with Ann Marie Walsh put in great performances in the U18 County team. Edwina was also nominated for an award for young player of the year. Hannah Maher was an influential member of the intermediate all Ireland winners. The U16 all Ireland winning team had three St. Martins girls, Michelle Maher, Maeve Mansfield and Aisling Brennan. Well done girls, the club are very proud to be represented so well at county level.

The girls would like to give a special thank you to Bobby Shore for all the work, commitment, effort and belief he has shown in them over the years and hope he continues to do so. His effort has not gone unnoticed and is certainly appreciated.



St Martin's Edwina Keane with Ailbhe Kelly (Galway) in the Senior All-Ireland Camoige Championship. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

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Chairperson: Pat Manning
Secretary: Liz Carey
Treasurer: Tarah O Hanlon
PRO: Trish Dempsey

During the year Thomastown Camogie Club lost its Chairperson Eleanor Heafey who died in August after a short illness. Eleanor was chairperson of the club for many years and her commitment to and enthusiasm for the club were legendary. She had a great love for the game of camogie and worked tirelessly for the youth of Thomastown to make the club into the flourishing, successful entity it is today. Eleanor was a familiar figure at matches near and far, encouraging players in their efforts at whatever level they were playing. Possessed of great energy and charm she threw herself wholeheartedly into the running of the club and the many fundraising events held throughout the year. She will be sadly missed by all at Thomastown Camogie Club. A very large crowd attended Eleanor's funeral where a guard of honour was formed by members of the club to accompany Eleanor on her last journey. The club would like to offer their sincere condolences to Eleanor's family.

This year was the club's first year up senior in a number of years and the main objective was to remain at senior level, which was achieved. The girls were very narrowly beaten in the championship quarterfinal by eventual county finalists St Martins. The girls also qualified for the All County Senior League Final but to date this competition has not been finished. At Under age level

great work is been done and the u-8's and U-10's had a very successful year taking part in a number of blitz's around the county. The U-12's reached the semi final but unfortunately they were defeated. Clara defeated the U-14's in the shield final while Windgap defeated the U-16's in their bid for three in a row. As we went to press the U-18 competition had not been finished.

The annual sponsored walk took place on Sunday 27th July. A large crowd attended and were blessed with lovely weather. The committee would like to thank all those who took part in the walk and all those who contributed so generously to such a worthy local cause. Many thanks to our sponsors, The Salmon Pool, The Jerpoint Inn, Treacy Construction, Murphy & Kelly Contractors and Councillor Dixie Doyle. The walk was a great success and added some much needed funds to the Camogie Club, which relies solely on voluntary contributions.

Well done to Sinead Brennan who was captain of the victorious Kilkenny Intermediate Team who defeated Cork in the All Ireland Final, to Anna Farrell who was captain of the county U-18 team who defeated Clare in the All Ireland Final and to Shelly Farrell who was Captain of the Kilkenny U-16 All Ireland winning team when they defeated Cork. Congratulations to all who represented the club at county level. Many thanks to all our sponsors and a special word of thanks to Thomastown GAA Club for their facilities.



**Michelle Farrell lifts the under 16 All-Ireland cup after Kilkenny defeated Cork in Semple Stadium.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)**

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Well Done Kilkenny - Another Great Year!



CENTRA



CAMOGIE NEWS



Windgap

In a year of historic achievements Windgap came of age when their quest for Senior Status was fulfilled. In addition the club won their first U16 "A" championship, participated at "A" level in all grades and were represented on the Kilkenny winning teams.

At adult level it was celebrations all round as the intermediate side played with skill and style to win the Championship. In the county final a great start proved to be half the battle when they defeated Lismore. The win gave them the Intermediate double as they had already overcome St. Anne's in the League final. During the year youth and experience were added to the team by mentors Pat Walsh and Matt Doran.

At under 16 level Windgap won their first "A" title in a thriller against three in row seeking Thomastown. The win came after back to back U14A titles under their trainers Joan O'Gorman, Judith Phelan and Eamon Murphy.

With a strong juvenile structure the club hosted an U8 blitz, participated in blitzes in Thomastown and Kilmanagh and in a mixed one in Windgap under trainers Susan Dunne and Siobhan O Gorman.

At U10 level the side under Kathleen Purcell and Deirdre Dunne participated in a series of blitzes organised by Piltown, whilst their U12 side lost their first championship game in four years.

In a cracking U14 "A" final the team seeking a three in a row had to give way to St. Lactans. Their ambitions of travelling to Féile were hindered on the bank holiday weekend when an under strength side went down to Dicksboro. The club still involved at U18 level.

Club players Laura Walker, Alison Walsh, Denise Gaule and panellists Joanne Cody, Niamh Phelan, Clodagh Phelan, Eimear Roantree and Doireann Mackey played a huge role when St. Brigid's of Callan won the All Ireland Senior Colleges title.

Earlier in the year Lisa Phelan captained Scoil Mhuire Carrick-on-Suir to win their first All Ireland Colleges Senior "C" title. Lisa was joined by Julie Walsh, Claire Moore, Nicola Moore and Suzie Phelan. At third level club players line out with U.L. U.C.C. and U.C.D.

Intercounty history was made when Lisa Phelan, Ann Marie Phelan and Elaine O'Shea were part of Kilkenny's National League winning team. They were joined by All Ireland Minor winners Denise Gaule and Alison Walsh when all five won an Intermediate All Ireland. At U16 Laura Walker played for the All Ireland winning team and Niamh Phelan captained the U14 Provincial Champions assisted by Michaela

Dunphy and Catherine Foley.

The Year started in fine style when County Hurler Michael Fennelly presented the U12 Divisional and U14 "A" County medals and ended in a way that active co-founder Pat Moore could not have predicted fourteen years earlier.

Behind the scenes trojan work was done at all levels particularly in providing the financial support through a Cake Sale, Table Quiz and Bag Packing. Thanks are extended to Club sponsor Pius Phelan, team medics, cross channel players, Windgap and Dunnagin Clubs and Celebrity Bainisteoir James Meagher.

Officers: Chairperson Matt Doran, Vice Chairman Eamon Murphy, Secretary Martha Mackey, Assistant Helen Walsh, Treasurer Therese Walsh, Website/PRO Julie Walsh/Jimmy Walsh, Registrar: Noreen Power, Development Officer Eileen Walker



Elaine O'Shea (Captain) receives the Co Intermediate cup from Camogie Board Secretary, Martin Quilty.



Windgap County Under 16A Camogie Champions 2008
Back: Eamon Murphy (Trainer) Katie O'Gorman, Catherine Foley, Amy Murphy, Niamh Bambrick, Fiona Walsh, Amanda Power, Leanne O'Neill, Louise Carroll, Aishling Cody, Claire Bambrick,
Middle: Judith Phelan (Trainer), Joan O'Gorman (Trainer) Nicola Moore, Serena Phelan, Donna Weekes, Laura Walker, Susie Dunphy, Ciara Molloy, Christy Whelan (First Aid).
Front: Marie Phelan, Gemma Long, Clare Grace (Captain), Katie Power, Niamh Phelan, Laura Moore,



The oldest Windgap Camogie Photo - Lamogue 1920's



There is evidence of a camogie club in Gowran at various stages since the early 1900s. In 1966 a new club was formed in Gowran called St. Mary's. A team was entered in the Junior

Championship, where they went onto the reach the county final but were beaten by Castlecomer. In 1967, they again reached the county final but were beaten by St. Pauls.

St. Mary's won two county finals in 1970 & 1973 and again reached the final in 1975.

The 1976 Kilkenny Senior Team that won the Leinster Final had Gowran girls on it - Mary Kennedy, Peggy Carey and Helen Drennan. Other members to represent Gowran on the county team were Betty Kennedy, Ann Dreeling, Catherine Kennedy, Joan Kennedy, Carmel Drennan, Anna & Nora Cody.

Beatrice Treacy was selector with the 1974 All Ireland Kilkenny County Camogie Team and also served as County Board Secretary 1972 – 1976. This Club disbanded in the early 1980's

In 1994 a group of girls came together to reform the club.

The following year the club won the Junior Championship.

A lot of work has been done in past few years with the under age in Gowran. Therefore going onto win the schools in 2000, the under 14 Roinn D in 2006 and the Under 16 Roinn C in 2007.

This year so far the Junior team were beaten in Junior Championship Semi Finals but have qualified for the All County Final. Under 14's were unfortunate to be beaten in the Roinn C County Final, Under 16's are through to the Roinn B County Final and Under 18's are through to the Roinn C County Semi Finals.

We'd like to congratulate all our girls on County Teams this year, Sarah Anne Quinlan (Under 14), Laura Fennelly, Ashling Carey, Mag Simpson & Emma Comerford (Under 16).

We would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone that helped out the club in any way during the year.



St. Mary's 1970 County Junior Champions:

Back: Jimmy Walsh (Selector), Mary Dooley, Peggy Carey, Catherine Kennedy, Ann Doyle, Breda Doyle, Noreen Connolly, Bridget Kennedy, Helen Drennan, Beatrice Treacy (Trainer)
Front: Jim Fitzharris (Selector), Liz Kennedy, Joan Kennedy, Mary Walsh, Mary Kennedy, Carmel Drennan (Capt), Ann Coady, Nora Coady
Mascots: Patrick Treacy, Bernadette Treacy



Young Irelands Camogie Club Under 8's

Back: Steffi Fitzgerald, Melissa Rabat, Rachel Dreeling, Megan Darcy, Hannah Brennan, Laura Nevin, Leah Brennan, Ciara O Keefe.
Front: Laura Langton, Tiffanie Fitzgerald, Nicole Carter, Heidi Sheridan, Reece Carter, Aisling Rudkins, Saoirse Smith, Eimear Naddy.



Gowran Under 14 County Finalists

Back: Miriam Holden, Fiona Coogan, Elaine RudBack: Miriam Holden, Fiona Coogan, Elaine Rudkins, Sinead Twomey, Estelle Geoghan, Sarah Anne Quinlan, Orlaith Byrne, Eibhlín Fogarty, Kay Drea, Anne Drea, Rebecca Devitor, Aoife Kehoe, Anne Marie Byrne, Nora O' Leary. Paula Farrell, Siobhán Power.
Front: Left to right: Fionnuala Quinlan, Bonnie Comerford, Ciara Byrne, Sharon Quinlan, Ava Comerford, Katie Quinlan, Niamh Walsh, Roisin Bolland, Sinead Naddy.

Minors Pull it Off!

There was luck attached to the success, no question about that, but on the majority of occasions Kilkenny showed some impressive form and indeed some fine tactical awareness along the way.

Writes Conor Brennan

ESB All-Ireland Minor Championship 2008

It was perceived, with good reason, that Kilkenny minor hurlers would face an uphill challenge in retrieving an All-Ireland title that has eluded the county for five years. However, Kilkenny manager Richie Mulrooney and his squad faced into the task with great enthusiasm and defied the predictions to secure the Irish Press cup once again. There was luck attached to the success, no question about that, but on the majority of occasions Kilkenny showed some impressive form and indeed some fine tactical awareness along the way. This astuteness would prove vital in the All-Ireland final against Galway, and ultimately decided the game in Kilkenny's favour.

It was a long road to travel to this eventual destination, and it all started for Kilkenny back in the league round-robin section in April. Successive wins over Wexford (3-12 to 0-15) and Laois (6-18 to 1-8) signalled a hunger to achieve more than certain experts had expected them to. The first test on the championship route was to face Carlow in Freshford on June 21st. It was by no means a vintage performance. Kilkenny led 1-7 to 0-6 at the half-time break, with the goal coming from Mark O'Dwyer. But it wasn't until the second period that Kilkenny showed something like their true form as they scored numerous points, the majority coming from the accurate Joe Brennan. They had nine points to spare over a dogged Carlow side, advancing 1-16 to 0-7.

The Leinster final against Wexford was expected to be a true reflection of the potential of Kilkenny, based on two major reasons- that both sides fought a very even battle in their round robin league match-up, and that Wexford had shown great improvement in defeating Dublin in their semi-final. It was a challenge that Kilkenny certainly had to respond to, and they did so in emphatic fashion. A tenth minute goal from corner-forward Martin Gaffney was a great settling factor for Kilkenny and it encouraged a solid first half performance. Joe Brennan and Thomas Breen were crucially making an impact in the forward line also which Wexford were finding difficult to cope with. Kilkenny justifiably led by five points at the half-time interval, 1-9 to 0-7.

The second half held the same pattern as the first with Kilkenny in the ascendancy, despite Wexford's best efforts at a recovery. One felt Kilkenny's greater composure was the major factor and the fact that they outscored their opponents by ten points to five in the



Danny Purcell celebrates his winning goal in the All Ireland Final

Sportsfile

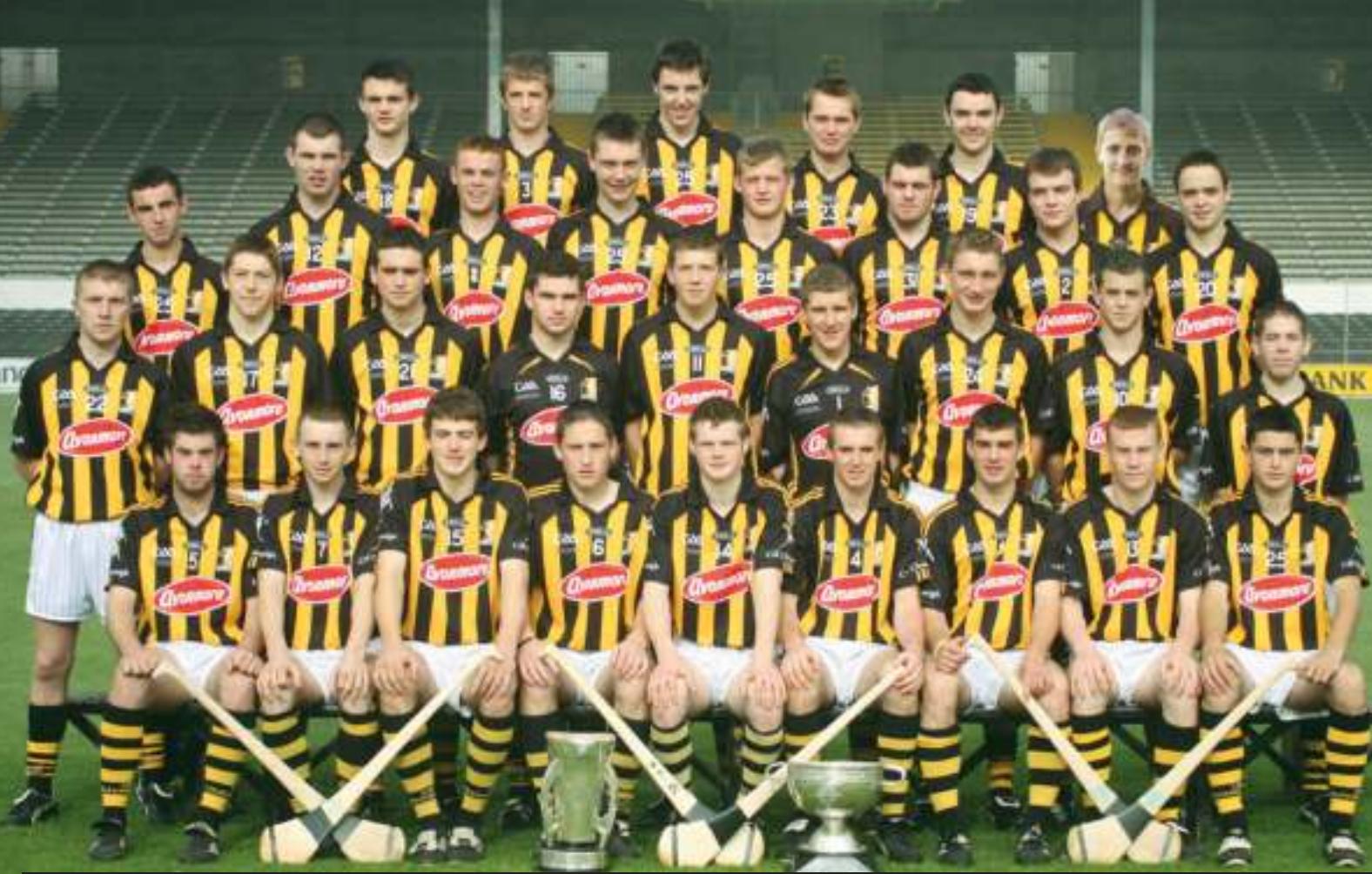
second half emphasises that. And so it concluded with a Kilkenny victory by 1-19 to 0-12. A first major test had been overcome.

The big psychological test was to come, however. Kilkenny's stumbling block of the previous two years, Tipperary, stood in their way in another All-Ireland semi-final. The incentive was there for Kilkenny, as was needed was the performance. One sensed in Kilkenny's preparation that that was the prevailing mood in the team also. The performance was needed, as it was provided in no uncertain terms. A major contributing factor was the inclusion of Walter Walsh at centre-forward for Kilkenny, as the Tullogher man proved a serious attacking threat for Kilkenny. He scored two goals in a blistering first-half performance, ably supported by Joe Brennan, who scored eight points in all during the game, with four from play. Kilkenny enjoyed some good fortune too, when Tipperary's main scorer-in-chief, Noel McGrath, saw his penalty saved. With this advantage, Kilkenny held a four point lead at half-time (2-6 to 0-8).

The second half was without question the best 30 minutes Kilkenny produced throughout the whole year. In anticipating a possible Tipperary fightback, Kilkenny showed a ruthless conviction to totally nullify their opponents and create an eleven point lead with ten minutes remaining. The final nail in the coffin for Tipperary came when Martin Gaffney scored Kilkenny's third goal. Though Tipperary managed a consolation goal before the end, Kilkenny deservedly advanced on a 3-17 to 1-14 victory.

The fear now for Kilkenny as they faced into their final clash with Galway was that they had reached their peak performance level in that semi-final. The opening quarter of the game suggested this theory was well founded. Galway were slicker and settled quicker in establishing a four point lead. But Kilkenny had the hurling gods in their favour and got their first stroke of luck when a speculative shot by Joe Brennan managed to find its way to the net. It ensured Kilkenny eventually settled and managed to secure some more possession. They received a further boost later when a defensive blunder allowed Thomas Breen to score Kilkenny's second goal. Whether it was deserved or not is up for debate, but the reality was Kilkenny had two crucial goals to their advantage. That was vital at the half time interval, with them leading 2-5 to 0-6.

Kilkenny enjoyed a third piece of good fortune immediately at the



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND MH CHAMPIONS 2008

Back: Canice Maher, Michael Walsh, James Cassin, Aidan Moran, Danny Purcell, Tom Ryan.

3rd Row: Paddy Dowling, Rory Hickey, Cathal Kenny, Danny Kenny, David Glynn, Cormac Daly, David Healy, Sean Phelan.

2nd Row: Enda Malone, Mark O'Dwyer, Mark Fitzgerald, Gary Delaney, Walter Walsh, Eoin Murphy, Nigel Stanley, Joe Brennan, Liam Lacey.

Front: Michael Moloney, Conor Fogarty, Martin Gaffney, Richie Doyle, Thomas Breen, Alan Cuddihy, James Gannon, Peter McCarthy, Geoff Brennan.
(Eoin Hennessy)



A turbo-charged Thomas Breen (Captain) leads his men from the tunnel.

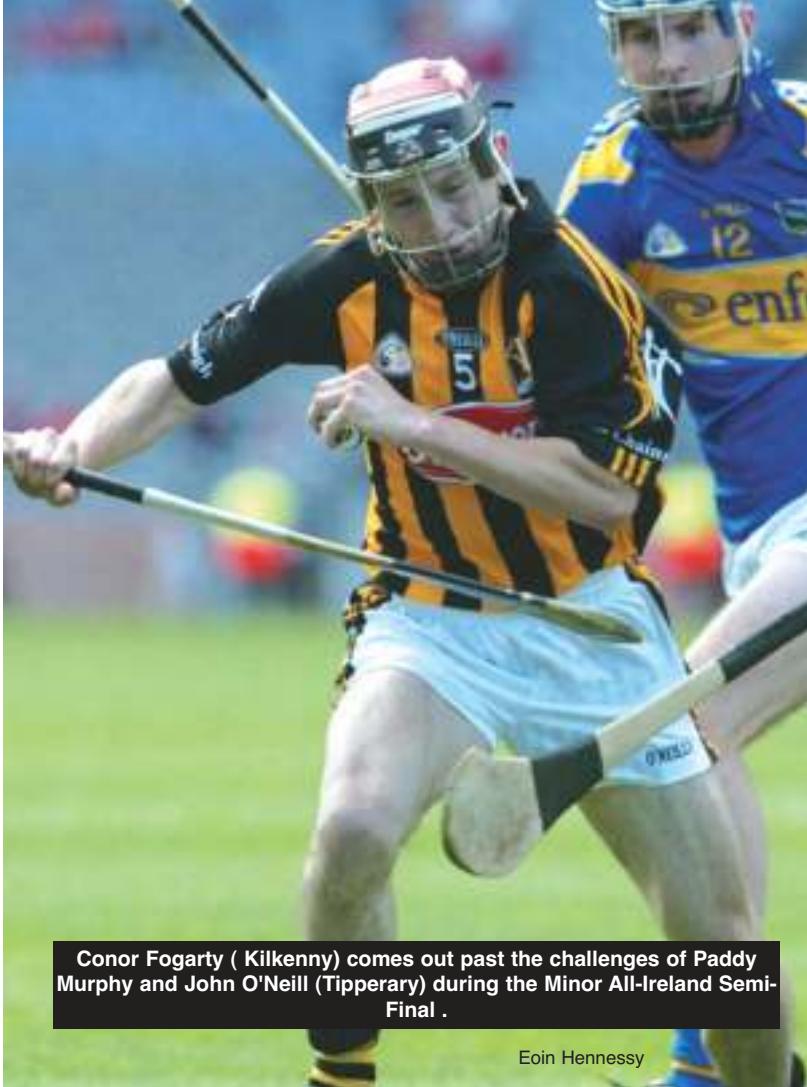


Richie Mulrooney, Kilkenny manager, speaks to his players before the game.

start of the second half when Galway's Niall Burke missed an open goal. But Galway showed some great hunger to blitz Kilkenny and deny them any reasonable possession. They had managed to level affairs by the midway point of the second half, with Kilkenny failing to register a score and indeed missing a number of easy chances. Yet they were still within touching distance of Galway.

With ten minutes remaining however, the Kilkenny selectors made their key change. Danny Purcell was introduced and the Mooncoin man's quick pace was put to good use. He first snatched onto a loose ball to score Kilkenny's first and only point of the half to reduce the deficit to a single point. Soon after, another substitute, Canice Maher, won a ball from a throw-in and it found its way to Purcell. Showing great calmness, he managed to flick the ball to the net and give Kilkenny a winning lead, 3-6 to 0-13. It was hard to believe that such grand larceny had occurred, but Kilkenny had pulled it off. Another minor title was managed to find its way back to Kilkenny.

The full Kilkenny minor panel during 2008 was:
Eoin Murphy (Glenmore), David Healy (Conahy Shamrocks), Michael Walsh (Young Irelands), Alan Cuddihy (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Conor Fogarty (Erin's Own), Richie Doyle (Barrow Rangers), Michael Moloney (Blacks & Whites), Cathal Kenny (Barrow Rangers), James Gannon (St. Patrick's), Joe Brennan (St. Patricks), Walter Walsh (Tullogher Rosbercon), Rory Hickey (Lisdowney), Mark O'Dwyer (Carrickshock), Thomas Breen (St. Martins), Martin Gaffney (Dicksboro), Gary Delaney (Cloneen), Peter McCarthy (Piltown), Canice Maher (St. Martins), Danny Purcell (Mooncoin), Seán Phelan (Lisdowney), Mark Fitzgerald (Mooncoin), Enda Malone (Dicksboro), Aidan Moran (Erin's Own), Nigel Stanley (Galmoy), Tom Ryan (Clara), Geoff Brennan (St. Patricks), Danny Kenny (Dicksboro), Cormac Daly (Mooncoin), James Cassin (Rower/Inistioge), Liam Lacey (St. Patricks), Paddy Dowling (St. Martins), David Glynn (Dicksboro). Team Management: Richie Mulrooney (Team Manager), Brian Ryan (Trainer), Brendan O'Sullivan, Tom O'Hanlon (Selectors).

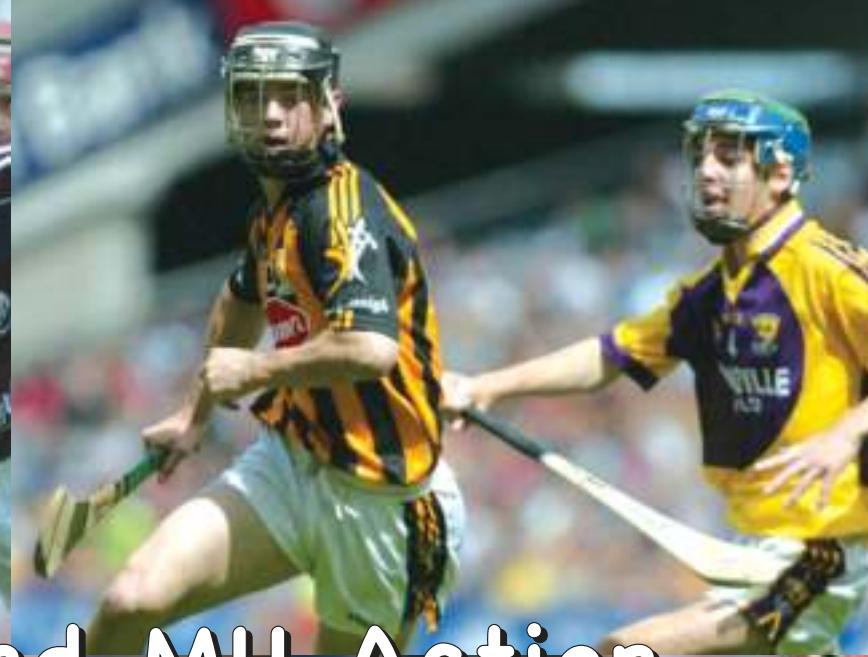
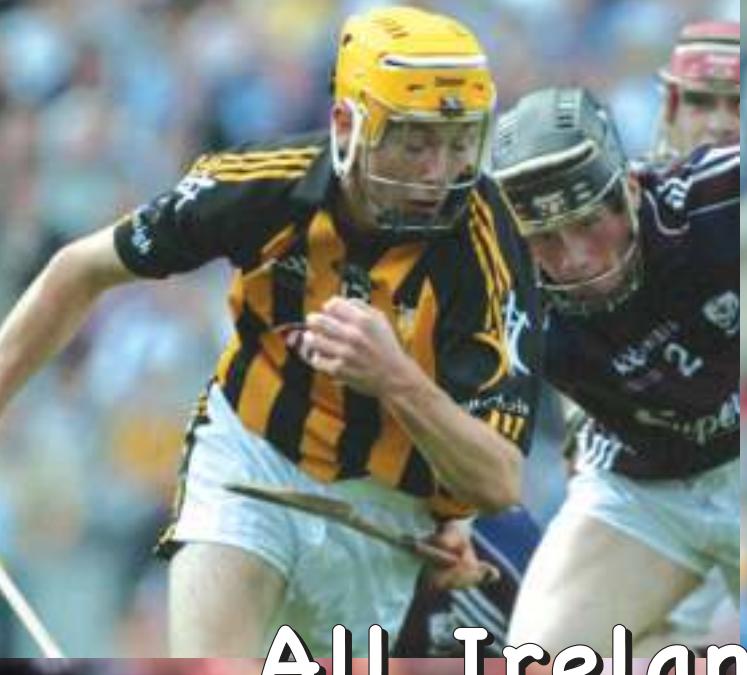


Conor Fogarty (Kilkenny) comes out past the challenges of Paddy Murphy and John O'Neill (Tipperary) during the Minor All-Ireland Semi-Final.

Eoin Hennessy



Martin Gaffney, Joe Brennan and Walter Walsh (Kilkenny) challenge Liam Butler (Tipperary) for the breaking sliotar during the Minor All-Ireland Semi-Final clash in Croke Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



All Ireland MH Action

Cumann na mBunscoileanna

Maroon to the Fore Again!

Maroon seems to be the obligatory colour for Roinn "A" champions. The last six county finals in that grade have been shared between St Canice's and Clara with three each. 2008 saw St Canice's conquering Gaelscoil to win their second successive "A" final, while Clara regained their grip on the Country Cup title with their fifth Corn de Bhaldraithe title in six years.

St John's gained their second Roinn "B" title accounting for Castlecomer, while Danesfort bridged a thirty year gap with a big win over Tullogher in Roinn "C". Dunamaggin returned to the winners' enclosure when accounting for Conahy in the Roinn "D" final.



Slán le Seán agus Pól

Retirement of Paul Kinsella and John Knox after 35 years with Schools Board



St Canice's Roinn A
Hurling Champions
2008

Back: Oisín Gough, Aidan Nolan, Seamus McGrath, Ross Butler, Barry Hennessy, William Oakes, Conner Comerford, Dion Guilfoyle, Patrick Reade, Bill Sheehan.

Middle: Mr. Hoyne, Mr Crowley, Thomas Kenny, Mark Slater, Shane O'Brien, David Kennedy, John Hanrick, Micheal Phelan, Edward Moylan, Mr Hanrick, Mr Lennon.

Front: Conor Doheny, Frank Nolan, Robbie Murphy, Kevin Kenny, Darragh Holohan, Stephen Farrell, Jamie Byrne, Ben Lyng, Chris Kavanagh.

St John's - Roinn "B"
Champions 2008

Back: Mr Felix Nolan, Mr John Cooney, Tervine Wallace, Jimmy Jackman, Jamie Quigley, M.J. Nolan, Shane Fahy, Jay Leahy, Rory Brosnan, Corey Cahill, Daniel Fitzgerald, Darragh Morrissey, Francis O'Reilly, Mr Padraig O'Neill, Principal, Mr Brian Roche.

Middle: Thomas Wadding, Patrick Butler, John Rice, Christopher Dunne, Jamie Kavanagh, Kenneth Mguni, Gary Bryan, Cian Loy, Robert Buckley.
Front: Evans Wallace, Tony Jackman, Paddy Deegan, Simon Callanan, Vincent Wallace (Capt), James Lenihan, Shane O'Brien, Luke Whearty, Stephen O'Reilly.





Danesfort - Roinn "C" Champions 2008

Back: John Dunne (Supporter) Mr Paul Roche, Des Dunne, James Tynan, Mark Carrigan, Eugene Stanley, Philip Cooney, Dion Fitzpatrick, Joanna Mc Sorley, Shannon Haines, Conor Hackett, Mr Jim Fennelly
Front: Conor Morrissey, Dylan Dunphy Wallace, Tom Whitty, Jake Cullen, Brendan Hyland, Josh Haines, Ger Dunne Capt, Brendan Cullen, Diarmuid O'Brien, Conor O'Neill



Dunamagglin- Roinn "D" Champions 2008

Back : Joan Keneally (Mentor), Ryan Thomas, Tommy Brennan, Christopher Keane, Liam Noonan, Ray Cody, Paul Kirwan, Ronan Coffey, John Fitzpatrick, Michael Cody, Eimear Moylan, Laura Cuddihy, William Bergin, Pascal Connolly (Mentor).
Front : Heather McLoughlin, Morgan Thomas, Kelvin Murphy, Jack Brett, Victor Costello, Eoghan Kearney, Aaron Doherty, Michaela Keneally, Steven Lawlor, Greg O' Donnell, Alison Bergin, Michelle Maher.

Clara - Country Cup Champions 2008

Back: Matthew Bergin, Andrew Bergin, Aaron Casey, Caine Curran, Cormac O' Driscoll, Ben Langton, Padraig Staunton, Patrick Lehane
Middle: Richard Mulrooney(Coach), David Jordan, Michael Healy, Shane Campion, Daniel O' Sullivan, Stephen Campion, Ben Leydon, Kevin Galvin, Jason Byrne
Front Row: Paddy Ryan, Gary Kehoe, Luke Scanlon, Bill Carrigan, Jason Barcoe, Brian Nolan, Joe Connolly, Jake Scanlon





**St Canice's Roinn A
Football Champions 2007**

Back: Thomas Kenny, Seamus McGrath, Barry Hennessy, William Oakes, Conor Comerford, John Hanrick, Dion Guilfoyle, Robert Crotty, Ryan O'Byrne, Jeff Murphy.
3rd Row: Aiden Tuohy, Mark Slater, Kevin Kenny, Ross Butler, David Kennedy, Micheal Phelan, Caolán Ó Cleirigh, Bill Sheehan.
2nd Row: Robbie Murphy, Shane O'Brien, Frank Nolan, Stephan Farrell, Darragh Holohan, Jamie Byrne, Ben Lyng.
Front: Oisín Gough, Edward Moylan, Aidan Nolan, Paddy Reade, Conner Doheny, Chris Kavanagh.



**Mooncoin - Roinn "B"
Football Champions 2007**

Back: A Holden, K Crowley, E Doherty, B Condon, N Quinn, J Falconer, B Power, T Reddy.
Middle: A Skehan, C O Shea, S Walsh, C Fleming, J Fitzgerald, N Flynn, A Brennan, M O Keeffe.
Front: M Doyle, E Purcell, N Blanchfield, K Dillon Dunphy, N Brophy, I O'Keeffe, P Henebery, P Walsh.



**Tullogher/Rosbercon -
Roinn "C"
Football Champions 2007**

Back: Mr. Bill Cassin (coach)
Padraig Walsh, Stephen Lawlor, Cillian Fenlon, Dean Morrissey, Darragh McGrath, Tarek O'Connor.
Middle: Donnacha O Connor, Luke Kent, Anthony Cotterell, Chris McKeon, Sean Murray, Paul Manning, Liam Hennessy, John Ryan (Mentor).
Front: Conor Hennessy, Kyle O'Connor, Nickey Doyle, Billy Ryan, Kevin Hennessy, Cian O'Donoghue, Liam Walsh, Paudie McGrath.

Educational Supplies' Hurling League (Roinn A)
St Canice's 4-4 Gaelscoil 0-2

Hennessy Fuels' Hurling League (Roinn B)
St John's 1-7, Castlecomer 2-3

Paddy O'Connell (Dublin) Hurling League (Roinn C)
Danesfort 6-5, T/Rosbercon 1-2

Tedcastle Oils' Hurling League (Roinn D)
Dunnamaggin 3-5, Conahy 2-1

Tedcastle Oils' Corn de Bhaldraithe
Clara 3-5, Callan 2-2

GARDA SIOCHÁNA CITY CLASS LEAGUES

2nd class: St Canices bt St Pats
3rd class: St Pats bt St Canices
4th class: St Canices bt Gaelscoil
5th class: St Canices bt Gaelscoil
6th Class: CBS bt St Canices

Football League (Roinn A)
(Bertie O'Callaghan Cup/Kilkenny Association, Dublin)

St Canice's bt Kilkenny CBS
Toymaster Football League (Roinn B)

Mooncoin 3-3, Goresbridge/Paulstown 2-2

Tedcastles Oil Football League (Roinn C)
Tullogher 4-3 Tullaroan 4-0
Country Cup Football Final
Rower Inistioge bt Callan

INTO Mini-Sevens Winners

Hurling

Clara

Football

Gaelscoil Osraí

Camogie

Clara

Girls' Football

Thomastown



Paul Kinsella and John Knox retired as Secretary and Treasurer respectively of Cumann na mBunscoileanna in 2008. Both men had served in their offices since 1973 providing an amazing 35 years each of dedicated service to the Board.

Together they oversaw the running of all the schools competitions in every grade in hurling and football during that period, organising fixtures, County Finals and Coaching camps. They also looked after the subsidisation and provision of hurleys and helmets for the children of the county and organised the Inter-City competitions. For the first fourteen years of their tenure, they also had the responsibility for all U14 Hurling and Football fixtures in the county and during that period, they masterminded two highly successful Féile na nGael National Festivals.

Their contribution to Kilkenny GAA has been enormous.

John is now retired as Principal of Gowran NS where he enjoyed great success with his own school teams and numbers DJ Carey, Charlie Carter and Pat O'Neill among those stars whom he introduced to the game. Paul continues as Principal of St Pat's De La Salle NS where he too, has enjoyed great success on the playing field. He is now Cathaoirleach of CLG Cill Chainnigh and we wish him every success in his new position.

Paul and John are pictured here at the function in their honour held in Langtons Hotel earlier in the year which was attended by hundreds of their friends and colleagues. Mile buiochas dóibh.

MICHAEL CROTTY

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EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES

**Congratulations to All Cumann na mBunscoileanna
Winners in 2008**

Roynn A Final

St. Canice's 4-4 Gaelscoil Osraí 0-2

St. Canice's made it back to back wins in the Roynn A final when they proved too strong for the gallant challenge of Gaelscoil Osraí in the 2008 final played in Páirc Lachtain. St Canice's had two early points from Shane O'Brien and Jamie Byrne. Solid defensive work from Canice's Mark Slater and Stephen Farrell frustrated many Gaelscoil attacks. Goals from Frank Nolan and Kevin Kenny and a further point from the latter player gave St. Canice's a commanding lead. A margin of nine points separated the team at half time.

St. Canice's did not rest on their laurels in the second half. A point by Kevin Kenny followed by a 7th minute goal by Frank Nolan set them firmly on the road to success. Gary O'Tionán pointed from 65's in the 10th and 13th minutes for the Gaelscoil.

Bhí an mí-adh ar Roibeáird Mac Giolla Phádraig ón nGaelscoil le sár iarracht a chuaigh fíor bheagánin ar foraoil. Déirigh le Gabhán Mac Oistigín, an cùlbáire ón bfoireann chéanna, sábháil iontach a dhéanamh dhá nóiméad roimh deireadh an chluiche. However, St. Canice's finished the contest as convincing winners. Comhghairdeas leo. Beidh lá eile ag an nGaelscoil.

St. Canice's: David Kennedy, John Hanrick, Mark Slater, Edward Moylan, Michael Phelan, Stephen Farrell, Chris Kavanagh, Darragh Holohan, Shane O'Brien (0-1), Thomas Kenny, Frank Nolan (2-0), Robert Murphy, Jamie Byrne (0-1), Kevin Kenny (2-2), Conor Doheny, Dion Guilfoyle, Seamus McGrath, William Oakes, Patrick Reade, Bill Sheehan, Conor Comerford, Barry Hennessey, Aidan Nolan, Oisín Gough.

Gaelscoil Osraí: Gabhán Mac Oistigín, Ben Ó hlcí, Sean MacCurtáin, Concubhair Ó Broin, Gary Ó Tionán (0-2, "65's"), Roibeárd Mac Giolla Phádraig, Hew Ó Leathlobhair, Concubhair de Brún, Briain Mac Giolla Phádraig, Jamie Ó Broin, Niall Ó Maoláin, Colm Ó Bhioráin, Aléin Ó Faoláin, Dónall Ó Conchobhair, Eoin Ó Dubhshláine, Aléin Ó Murchú, Maitiu Ó Cionnaith, Briain Crowdle, Niall Ó Braonáin, Ronán de Buitléir, Pádraig Ó Fearghail.

Referee: John Guinan

Roynn B Final

St. John's 1-7 Castlecomer 2-3

St. John's were worthy victors in a classic Hennessy Fuels Roynn B decider at Páirc Lachtain. Aided by the breeze, St. John's began at a terrific pace and were rewarded when Tony Jackman found the net in the third minute after a great run by Evans Wallace. Patrick Butler added a point for the city side a minute later. A point from Niall McMahon from a free in the fifth minute opened the Castlecomer account while St. John's replied with a similar score from Tony Jackman in the seventeenth minute. The half-time scoreline of St. John's 1-2 Castlecomer 0-1 did not reflect the dominance of the city side in the first half. Castlecomer began the second half strongly with Ciaran Coogan blasting the ball to the net.. Two excellent points from Stephen O'Reilly from placed balls kept St. John's in front. A



Gaelscoil Osraí - Roynn "A" Finalists 2008

Back: Alan Ó Murchú, Robbie Mac Giolla Pádraig, Niall Ó Maoláin, Colm O Bhioráin, Seán Mac Curtáin, Jamie Ó Broin, Gary Ó Tionán, Niall Ó Braonáin, Pádraig Ó Fearghail, Brian Mac Giolla Phádraig.
Front: Brian Crowdle, Alan Ó Faoláin, Ronán de Buitléir, Maitiu Ó Cionnaith, Conchúr de Brún, Ben Ó hlcí, Gabhan Mac Oistigín, Eoin Ó Dubhshláine, Conchur Ó Broin, Huw Ó Leathlór, Dónal Ó Conchubhar.

Múinteoirí: Seán Ó hArgáin, Brian mac an tSionnaigh, Nioclás Ó Ceardaill.



Castlecomer - Roynn "B" Finalists 2008

Back: Martin Walsh, Emmett Coogan, Eoin Walsh, Andrew Dowd, Ciarán Coogan, Nartín Healy, Conor Doyle, Ciarán Healy, Shane Rice, Donal Carroll.
Middle: Conor Dwyer, Donal Shore, Rian Holden, Paul Ring, Eoin Brennan, Stephen Dowd, Jimmy Comerford, Ben Cossar, Simon Murtagh.
Front: William Trousdale, Sean Buggy, Jamie Holohan, Richie Healy, Conor Delaney, Niall McMahon, James Callinan, Griffin Carroll, Conor Dowling, Michael Ryan, David O'Neill.

point from Conor Delaney and a goal directly from a '65 by Rian Holden put Castlecomer in front for the first time. Stephen O'Reilly restored the St. John's lead with three well taken points from frees. Both sides fought with skill and determination. St. John's captain Vincent Wallace was in unbeatable form at the heart of the city defence. Tension mounted as Castlecomer's Niall McMahon pointed to reduce the deficit to a point in the 23rd minute. However, that proved to be the final score and the city side emerged worthy victors. Great credit must go to all players for serving up an enthralling game, one of the best in recent years.

St John's :

Simon Callanan, Shane O'Brien, Vincent Wallace (C), Luke Whearty, Robert Buckley, James Lenihan, Corey Cahill, Stephen O'Reilly (0-5, :0-4 frees, 0-1 "65,) Patrick Butler (0-1), Cian Loy, Tony Jackman (1-1), Evans Wallace, Paddy Deegan, John Rice, Thomas Wadding, Gary Bryan, Francis O'Reilly, Jamie Kavanagh, Jamie Quigley, Kenneth Mguni, Darragh

Morrissey, Rory Brosnan, Jimmy Jackman, Paddy Doyle, John Dillon, Shane Fahy, Daniel Fitzgerald, Ronan Buckley, Jay Leahy, M. J. Nolan, Tervine Wallace, Jordan Molloy, Christopher Dunne.

Roynn C Final

Danesfort 6-5 Tullogher/Rosbercon 1-2

Danesfort took their first primary school title since 1978 when they comprehensively beat Tullogher/Rosbercon in the 2008 Tedcastle Roynn C Final at Páirc Lachtain. Tullogher were first on the scoreboard when Cian O'Donoghue pointed after ten minutes. Intense pressure on the Tullogher defence yielded a Danesfort goal through full forward Tom Whitty midway through the first half. Brendan Cullen increased the Danesfort lead with a point. Tullogher registered a point from a 65 by Billy Ryan. Danesfort replied with a point from Brendan Highland. Tullogher goaled through Liam Hennessy but Danesfort immediately responded with a similar

score from Brendan Cullen.

Half time score : Danesfort 2-2 T/ Rosbercon 1-2
A pointed free from Brendan Cullen and a goal from Mark Carrigan in the early minutes gave Danesfort a great start to the second half.. Despite the great work of Goalie Luke Kent and Anthony Cottrell, Tulloher were finding it increasingly difficult to withstand the Danesfort pressure . Danesfort tacked on two further points from Brendan Cullen and Tom Whitty and then came the three goal blitz to put the game beyond the reach of Tulloher. Goals from Tom Whitty, Brendan Highland and Brendan Cullen ensured that Danesfort would bridge the 30 year gap in bringing the title back to their parish. Danesfort were very worthy winners but Tulloher/Rosbercon can take a lot of satisfaction from their year also. They can also be proud of their performance in a year, which saw them take the Roinn C football title and reach the hurling final in that grade also.

Danesfort: Philip Cooney, James Tynan, Gerard Dunne (Capt.), Des Dunne, Conor O Neill, Josh Haines, Dion Fitzpatrick, Brendan Hyland (1-1), Dylan Dunphy Wallace, Jake Cullen, Brendan Cullen (2-3), Conor Morrissey, Joanne McSorley, Tom Whitty (2-1), Mark Carrigan,(1-0) Eugene Stanley, Diarmuid O'Brien, Shannon Haines, Conor Hackett.
Tulloher Rosbercon: Luke Kent, Chris McKeogh, Donnacha O'Connor, Sean Murray, David O Shea, Paudie McGrath, Billy Ryan (Capt.) (0-1), Anthony Cottrell, Kevin Hennessy, Darragh McGrath, Cian O'Donoghue. (0-1), Michael Doyle, Liam Walsh, Liam Hennessy (1-0), Conor Hennessy, Stephen Lawlor, Tarek O Connor, Paul Manning, Pádraig Walsh.

Referee: Paschal Connolly

Roinn D Final

Dunnamaggin 3-5 Conahy 2-1

Dunnamaggin and Conahy served up a thrilling Roinn D final in John's Park. Dunnamaggin got off to a flying start. Ray Cody who was very influential throughout the game slotted over a free in the first minute and within a minute Christopher Keane latched onto a long clearance from Paul Kirwan to whip the ball to the net. In the fifth minute Paul Kirwan landed a superb point to increase Dunnamaggin's lead. Once they began to settle, Conahy showed their ability and in the twelfth minute Pat Byrne was quickest to react to a breaking ball in the goalmouth and buried the sliotar in the net to reduce the deficit to two points. Conahy were now exerting huge pressure on the Dunnamaggin goal. Smart defending from Michael Cody and an outstanding save from goalkeeper Aaron Doherty all helped to keep Dunnamaggin in front. A third point for Dunnamaggin came in the sixteenth minute from Ronan Coffey. Three minute later the sides were all square when Conahy's Tom Phelan latched on to a cross twenty metres from the goal and his blistering shot rattled the net: a wonderful goal and just reward for the determined efforts of the Conahy team. The half time whistle sounded with the sides level.



Conahy - Roinn D Finalists 2008

Back: Phillip Cass, John Byrne, Adam Dempsey, Tom Phelan, Sean Walsh, Sarah McEntee, Joe Mullan, Oliver Feehan, Jack Kelly, Edmond Delaney, Niall Coogan.
Front: Donal Cass, Daniel O'Shea, Padraig Walsh, James Bergin, Niamh Delaney, Padraig Delaney, Sean Brennan, Kieran Delaney, Pat Byrne, Liam Cass.

Half time score:

Dunnamaggin 1-3, Conahy 2-0

Once again Dunnamaggin got a tonic start when Christopher Keane whipped the ball to the net in the second minute of the new half. Conahy refused to lie down and came storming back into the game. Dunnamaggin had a let off in the tenth minute when a rasping shot came back off the post. A minute later Dunnamaggin had a point from Ray Cody. Conahy replied with a pointed free from Tom Phelan who was really doing his utmost to rally his troops. The crowd was now really getting behind the teams and it was end to end stuff. Hard though Conahy tried, they just could not find a way past Aaron Doherty in the Dunnamaggin goal, who was outstanding. His opposite number Sean Brennan in the Conahy goal, was also to the fore with some fine saves. Gradually, however, Dunnamaggin's superior strength was beginning to tell and when Ray Cody got his sides third goal five minutes from time, the signs were ominous for Conahy. Paul Kirwan got the final score, a point, in the twenty-fourth minute to leave his side seven points ahead when the final whistle sounded. This was a super game of hurling from two excellent sides. The level of skill and the commitment from both sides must be applauded. The honours went to the better side on the night but full marks to both teams for an entertaining game.

Dunnamaggin: Aaron Doherty, Eimer Moylan, Michael Cody, Eoghan Kearney, Victor Costello, Paul Kirwan, Jack Brett, Ronan Coffey, Ryan Thomas, William Bergin, Ray Cody, Michaela Kenneally. John Fitzpatrick, Liam Noonan, Christopher Keane, Stephen Lawlor. Christopher McEnery, Alison Bergin, Laura Cuddihy, Emily Murphy, Greg O'Donnell, Callan Byrne, Heather McLoughlin, Morgan Thomas, Tommy Brennan.

Conahy: Sean Brennan, Adam Dempsey, Pádraic Delaney, Niall Coogan, Sean Walsh, Philip Cass, Kieran Delaney, Liam Cass (Capt.), Edmund Delaney, Pat Byrne, Tom Phelan, Pádraic Walsh, Jack Kelly, Oliver Feehan, Joe Mullan, James Bergin, Daniel O'Shea, Niamh Delaney, Donal Cass, Conor Waters, John Byrne, Justin Brophy, Claire McEntee, Brendan Nolan.

Referee: Podge Butler

Corn De Bháldraithe

Clara 3-5 Scoil McCauley Rice 2-2

Corn De Bháldraithe specialists Clara added another title to their impressive list when they defeated Scoil McCauley Rice in the 2008 final. Clara began brightly and really rocked their opponents with two goal salvo in the fifth minute, the first from Ben Leydon and within a minute Joe Connolly added a second with a ground strike. Ben Leydon and Jason Byrne added a point each to the Clara scoreline before James Power pointed a free to open Scoil McCauley Rice's account. The first half concluded with Ben Leydon, Clara, pointing a free while James Power replied with a similar score for Scoil McCauley Rice.

Half time score:

Clara 2-3, Scoil McCauley Rice 0-2.

Clara maintained their momentum in the second half and Ben Leydon registered two further pointed frees. There was no lack of commitment on the part of the Callan side either and Clara goalkeeper Jason Barcoe denied them a certain goal. Callan pressure was soon rewarded with a goal from a 21m. free by James Power. With excitement at fever pitch and some of the best skills of the game on the display, Clara's Jake Scanlon struck with a crucial goal in the 24th minute. Mark Morris replied with a goal for Scoil McCauley Rice but the cup was destined for Clara. Credit to Clara, the worthy victors, and to Scoil McCauley Rice, who ensured that this final was a most entertaining encounter.

Clara: Jason Barcoe David Jordan Bill Carrigan (Capt.). Gary Kehoe, Jake Scanlon (1-0), Luke Scanlon, Paddy Ryan, Jason Byrne (0-1), Daniel O'Sullivan, Shane Campion, Kevin Galvin, Stephen Campion, Joe Connolly (1-0), Ben Leydon (1-4 - 0-3 frees), Brian Nolan, Michael Healy, Padraig Staunton, Cormac O'Driscoll, Caine Curran, Ben Langton, Patrick Lehane, Andrew Bergin, Matthew Bergin, Aaron Casey.

Bunscoil McAuley Rice:

Keith Fitzpatrick, Jack Butler, Cathal McGrath (capt.), Lee Doheny, Keith Roche, Séan Tierney, Ryan Bergin, Bill McDowell, Séan Power, Nathan Coffey, Mark Morris (1-0), Owen Byrne, Robert Kerwick, Cian Maher, James Power (1-2, frees), Pádraig Purcell, Corey Doheny, Jack Lynch, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Conor Murphy, Eoghan Scriven, Jamie Freaney, Robbie Corcoran, Brónan Kirwan.

Danny Lynch

What it says on the tin.....

By Barrie Henriques

A tremendous Gael, a football man in Coolagh, Philly Shea – the bed of Heaven to him- would always prefer his statements re great football contests with the expression, “that was the time me man when ya kept yer shirt well out from you’re a**e, drove every kick to the goal, and when small birds built their nests in ould men’s beards”

For as long as I remember, Danny Lynch sported, maybe sported is the wrong word, a beard. You associated, or at least you did in my youth, the wearing of a beard with longevity, maturity, knowledge, dignity, academic ability, experience, guile, statesmanship, and sagacity He was a man you went to, to sort out a problem. You knew, instinctively, that here was a man who could dig you out of a hole; your agony aunt if you like. Little did he know that his life was scheduled to be one vacu-packed episode after another when first he walked through the door of the Ceann Aras over twenty years ago.

But the Kerry man brought a whiff of good fresh air into an Association still being driven by the relics of ould decency, political intrigue, and a misleading conception that it was hyper-democratic.

He attempted change.

Many times he stood alone, and the damning thing about that was that he was allowed to. Sometimes his journeys through the night were lonely roads.

This son of Kerry was afforded a three-year secondment, or something similar, to the GAA.

Danny Lynch was fast-tracked into his first Pandora's box of problems on his very first day at the office. But then he had cut his eye teeth on sorting out situations not of his making. He had nineteen years of putting out fires that someone else had started, and he was good at it. Subsequently his acumen would serve him well. He was Private Secretary to four different Dail Ministers during his nineteen years, often crossing all Party divides during his tenure.

“Private Secretaries to Ministers are in a very privileged position. They know everything that is going on in their own Ministerial office. They know everything that is going on in every other office, and consequently being able to think on one’s feet is important. Being able to keep one’s mouth shut is mandatory. But being able to make judgements within an acceptable time frame is also hugely important”, he told me.

As a civil Servant, he had served with Jack Lynch, Charlie Haughey, George Colley, Paddy Hillary et al. Exciting, informative, dramatic times, gan dabht

The Croke Park involvement with the GAA was just what the Doctor ordered.

Danny Lynch was bred in the purple to be a GAA man. His love of Gaelic Football whetted his appetite for the Association. His earliest, and fondest memory would involve being brought six miles along the road to a neighbour's house, on the bar of a bad bike, to listen to the great O'Hehir, on a wet battery radio, tell of Cronin, O'Shea, Murphy and Sheehy of Kerry failing to beat McKeever, Niblock, McGribben and Sean O'Connell of Derry in the All Ireland semi-final of 1958.

He cried that day.

They say that success has many Godfathers, but failure is an orphan.

He remembered many orphans crying in Kerry that day. He would never forget. His first major challenge was the publication of an All Ireland programme. At that time, words like alt, shift, ctrl were the vocabulary of someone trying to recreate the English language. Letter wizards and auto summarize were Cape Kennedy speak, and windows were parts of houses. No pictures, no formats, no info were his production tools, but he did the job. That's how it was for the Croke Park frontline PR trooper. Rather like being

thrown into a raging river with one arm tied to your leg, and told to swim for your life.

But Lynch learned to cope.

His training as a Civil Servant had taught him many such lessons.

Over the twenty odd years of his tenure, Danny Lynch faced, often single handed, an enormously varied raft of issues from Croke Park concerts, to the staging of the Special Olympics, from the opening of Croke Park to other sports, to the abolition of Rule 21. There were many more, some stellar moments, others not so glorious.

When the phones were melting in Croke Park on the weekend of Princess Diana's death, demanding that the All Ireland semi-finals should be postponed as a mark of respect, DL, thought heavily criticised by certain members of the Press, diplomatically stated that as our organisation, as a matter of policy, principal and rule (there's thinking on your feet) there are no postponements of games except for the death of a National Head of State, and that the only time that policy was parked was when President John F Kennedy was assassinated.

“I knew when I said that, I could not have been accused of a double standard, because when Kennedy died, it was in the month of October, and there were no matches played anyway”.

He was publicly called an Urban Terrorist by an inner city Dublin TD, when the planning processes of Croke Park were being discussed by residents.

It was not by accident that the entire planning processes for the new Croke Park as you now see it were expedited without one objection being lodged.

Hard to credit that in this modern world of rejected planning, and litigation. Danny Lynch was at the forefront of all of these negotiations with the Dublin Corpo.

Where's the proof?

At a meeting of the Dublin City Council two weeks ago, when it was muted that Danny Lynch was retiring, Sinn Fein TD, Christy Burke rose to pay regard to Lynch's contribution to the GAA, and to the development of Croke Park. “I can honestly state, Chairman, without fear of contradiction, that the magnificent edifice we now see as Croke Park, would never have been constructed were it not for the dedication, professionalism, and co-operation of Danny Lynch”.



High praise indeed for the Kerryman. He takes personal pride from having directed and cajoled the elder statesmen, finally convincing all concerned that TV exposure would serve the Association well. With Tim O'Connor, Bill Lalor, Michael Lyster from RTE, he embarked on a crusade to convince the traditionalists that a greater exposure

would be the propellant needed to raise the games to a higher elevation. Contrary to opinion in the halls of staid traditionalism, it would not be anathema.

"We met all the Secretaries of the Provincial Councils", said Danny, "in places like Knock in the month of November where we were the only people in the Hotel, in the Hazel Hotel in Emo where we were again on our own. But we eventually convinced them that what we were planning would ultimately set our association apart", he said.

How right he was.

Television led to an amazing culture change for the GAA. For the first time, it became noticeable that numbers of young people were going to matches wearing their County jerseys. The gender balance was seriously distorted in a most beneficial way. It was sexy to be seen at games, sexier still to be picked up in the eye of the camera. The age profile of the audiences dropped enormously. Family involvement became commonplace.

Lynches crusade was worth the cold nights in cold beds in places like Knock, Emo and Limavaddy.

Again his judgement proved platinum rich. He saw the value in publicity. He was aware that there was a whole new era in communication dawning. He brought the networking of the games from a single camera, a single radio line into the realm of the fast developing phenomenon called Local Radio ("I remember yourself and Pat Treacy with Radio Kilkenny, side by side with Joe McDonagh from Galway Bay FM, sitting cheek by jowl on a single bench on the top deck of the old Hogan Stand"), internetting, web sites, Ipod broadcasting, overseas transmissions, and other forms of communication. He was hugely influential in the planning of what is now, probably one of the best Media nests anywhere in the World.

The re-building of Croke Park was the single most rewarding, and ambitious exercise that Danny Lynch was ever involved with.

"The re-development to what we now have, was so influential, that it lifted all boats within the Association. There were tough times. It had its own history of conflict and controversy. The demolition stages were traumatic to say the least, but we faced them, and with a mixture of common sense on both sides, a little diversification when needed, and a little kidology, we got it finished, and I for one am very proud that I was so much a part of the process from start to finish", he smiled with a roguish smile.

We spoke of issues like the Games Development and the



way it is being directed; the muted pay-for-play issue; the opening of Croke Park; the hybrid football game with the AFL. "Whilst I have always been a staunch supporter of the Provincial Championships, nevertheless, one must be practical. When you look at both codes, some of the Provincial Championships are close to being non-events, or at best a one-game programme. In hurling, the situation is nearly

worse, and judging by the way that you people down in Kilkenny have advanced the game, hurling now is nearly a one game Championship. I do not say that by way of criticism of Kilkenny. No way! I have been an ardent supporter, and admirer of the Kilkenny style both on and off the field. They win with a terrific style. They lose with a greater style. But somehow I feel that we will have to re-visit the set ups again, and re-assess the values of the Provincial Championships, because, at present, they are still very lopsided, and non competitive".

Danny was very much aware of the huge importance of the issue of care and protection of children in the Association. "I always worked from a premise of duty and care of our young people, and we had a number of cases to address on those issues. I found it a difficult time, but we handled it very honestly, sincerely, and with due sympathy and integrity, but they were hard times for us as a national Association".

What always struck me about Danny Lynch was his courage in the eye of a storm, and there were many. It seemed to me, and I would not have been alone amongst my peers, that when there was a bad GAA story, Lynch stood alone, but when the news or the story was good, you would have to physically prevent the upper echelon of the Croke Park glitterati from taking the mike.

He has had tough assignments, often been called upon to defend the indefensible. I think of the Joe Higgins (Laois) debacle and his twin boys in a Parade; I think of Sean Boylan, Tommy Dowd, and the Sam Maguire being refused entry to Croke Park by a silly little man in a uniform; I think of the pay-for-play scenario, to which Lynch is diametrically opposed; I think of the hybrid game in Australia, of which again Lynch is not a fan; I think of the Offaly/Clare game when a dangerous situation was cooled by Lynch marching into the middle of the seated Offaly supporters, and leading them like the Pied Piper out of Croke Park.

There were many more.

The legend of Lynch is indelibly inscribed into the commemoration stone of the modern, evolving Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. He is only gone a few wet days from the place, and he is already missed. He will never be forgotten by an enormous army of us who loved and hated him, who admired and admonished him, but always respected him. Danny Lynch, he was never less than what it said on the tin.



CHA FITZPATRICK

John McIlwaine



EDDIE BRENNAN

John McIlwaine



EOIN LARKIN

GWILS

Sportsfile



HENRY SHEFFLIN

John McIlwaine

Clara Camogie



Clara - Roinn A Camogie Champions 2008

Back: John Bolger (Coach), Maeve Bergin, Eimear Mulhall, Catherine Brennan, Doireann Harding, Sarah Bergin, Ciara Treacy, Niamh Mulrooney, Anna Tobin, Aisling Delaney, Nia Powis
Middle: Niamh Treacy, Jane Maher, Deirdre Carrigan, Ciara Byrne, Claire Nolan, Dianaimh Phelan, Mary O'Connell, Catherine Murphy, Bláithín Breen
Front: Chloe McDonald, Siobhán Curtis, Áine McDonald, Róisín Kealy, Aisling Nolan, Lisa Kehoe, Margaret Kehoe, Nicola Murphy, Aoife Glynn



Coon/Muckalee - Roinn "B" Champions 2008

Back: Amanda Meaney, Shauna Dowling, Marian Morrissey Aoife Coady, Laura Tynan, Katie Farrell, Roisin Healy, Eilis Brennan, Mr Kevin Cummins, Anna Healy, Leanne Dreeling, Aine Buggy, Orla Fitzpatrick, Aoife Hanlon, Lucy Doyle, Mary Hennessy, Amy Finn, Bernie Coonan, Marissa Bryan, Jenny Power, Cliodhna Manning, Ciara Butler, May Cummins (mascot), Edel Coonan, Edel Coonan, Kelley Comerford, Amy Meany, Cliona Quirke, Kate Geoghegan
Sitting: Chloe Dooley, Martina Morrissey, Sophie Finn

Roinn A Final

Clara	1-4
Thomastown	1-1

A great goal from Áine McDonald helped Clara capture the spoils in a pulsating Roinn A primary schools camogie final.

In a game between two skilful and determined teams, little separated Clara and Thomastown- no surprise, as

the teams finished on level terms when they met in the league earlier in the season.

Clara had first use of the breeze and with it enjoyed a lot of possession. They picked off two frees from their sharp-shooter Claire Nolan before Aisling Nolan added another from play. However, the Thomastown defence were in mean mood and were determined not to give away easy scores. With goalkeeper Aoife Farrell making save after save Clara knew it

was going to take something special to beat her.

As the game neared half-time Thomastown turned the match on its head. Awarded a free 30 metres from goal, Niamh Donnelly's shot deceived the Clara defence and ended up in the net. At half-time the sides were level, Clara 0-3, Thomastown 1-0.

Niamh Donnelly threatened with a number of chances, but strong displays from Mary O'Connell and Ciara Byrne



Dunamaggin - Roinn C Champions 2008

Back: Joan Kenneally (Selector), Louise Blake, Amber Prior, Emily Murphy, Alison Bergin, Michelle Maher, Laura Cuddihy, Eimear Moylan, Michealla Kenneally, John Bergin (trainer), Katie Dunphy (capt), Marina Kelly, Katie Murphy, Katelyn Brett, Mary Moylan (selector), Clodagh Keech, Shannon Freaney
Front: Lauren Ryan, Megan Ryan, Emma Denny, Sarah Doherty, Kathy Long, Chloe Dack, Rhaannah Maher, Elaine Power, Claire Kirwin, Heather McLoughlin.



Johnstown - Roinn D Champions 2008

Back: Rosy Lee, Sinead O' Connell, Eibhlin Vaughan, Roisin Costigan, Ellen Fitzpatrick.
Middle: Mary Corcoran, Orla Maher, Sarah Whelan, Linda Warren, Edel Hughes, Marian O' Connell.
Front: Laura Whelan, Alison Muldowney, Niamh Sweeney, Maria Cullinane, Lisa Beahan, Rachel Dermody, Sarah Brennan, Chloe Purcell.
 Missing from photo Karen Brennan and Jessie Brennan

denied her at every opportunity. It looked like a big score would swing the tie, and so it proved. The deadlock finally broken when Áine McDonald finished the sliotar to the net following a long Deirdre Carrigan delivery. Clara were on a roll now, and edged further in front when Claire Nolan pointed a free to push her side four clear.

Thomastown bravely battled back and cut the gap to three when Niamh Donnelly converted an excellent free. The final five minutes saw both sides give their all, but Clara held on for a deserving win.

Best for the winners were Aisling Nolan, Mary O'Connell, Róisín Kealy, Ciara Byrne, Dianaimh Phelan and Claire Nolan. For Thomastown, Aoife

Farrell, Maeve O'Connor, Niamh Donnelly, Niamh Quigley and Ciara Farrell gave top performances.

Clara – Lisa Kehoe, Jane Maher, Mary O'Connell, Roisin Kealy, Ciara Byrne, Catherine Murphy, Dianaimh Phelan, Claire Nolan (0-3), Aisling Nolan (0-1), Margaret Kehoe, Deirdre Carrigan, Áine McDonald (1-0) Subs: Siobhán Curtis, Nicola Murphy, Doireann Harding, Maeve Bergin, Anna Tobin, Shannon Rowe, Ciara Treacy, Niamh Mulrooney, Aoife Glynn, Blaithin Breen, Niamh Treacy, Aisling Delaney, Eimear Mulhall, Catherine Brennan, Sarah Bergin, Chloe McDonald, Nia Powis.

Thomastown – Aoife Farrell, Niamh Quigley, Maeve O'Connor, Ciara Farrell, Orlaith Butler, Alice Carey, Ailish Butler,

Nelle Henderson, Niamh O'Shea, Niamh Donnelly (1-1), Sinead Whelan, Eimear Donnelly. Subs: Edwina Maher, Emma Walsh, Nessa Griffin Eimear Corr, Ciara Lannon, Emma Tougher.
 Referee – Eileen Fitzpatrick.

Roinn B Final

By Michael O'Leary

Muckalee/Coon 5-01

Urlingford 0-01

Goal ace Edel Coonan was the star on show, bagging a hat-trick of goals and helping create the other two as Muckalee/Coon strolled to victory against Urlingford last Thursday afternoon in Nowlan Park.

Coonan was a constant goal threat throughout and the Urlingford defence found it difficult to deal with her pace, skill and eagerness in front of goal. Inspired by team captain Kelly Comerford and Ciara Butler, Muckalee/Coon always led after a Bríd Moore free had put Urlingford ahead. That was the losers' sole score as Muckalee/Coon dominated afterwards with their first goal arriving in the 14th minute.

The winners doubled their tally a minute later when Coonan's testing shot slipped by the advancing Sarah Moriarty-O'Connor - 2-0 to 0-01.

Coonan set up Jenny Power for a third goal in the 17th minute, before Coonan added her second goal when winning possession 25 metres from goal. Overall though, Sarah Moriarty-O'Connor had a fine outing in the Urlingford goal as she pulled off a number of important saves, preventing a further hammering. Only two scores arrived in the second-half as Muckalee/Coon completely dominated. Ciara Butler pointed a free before Coonan completed her hat-trick, finishing off an excellent movement involving Jenny Power and Marion Morrissey.

Urlingford fought gallantly but like the Rower-Inistioge girls in the Roinn C final, their attacking unit was met by a resolute defence. No one could fault the efforts of their captain Aisling Webster who tried her utmost to inspire her colleagues. One particular highlight from her was a 50 metre solo run where - in danger of losing control of the sliotar at the expense of a sideline cut - she somehow managed composure, before making the space to strike her clearance downfield.

Ciara Phelan was a livewire all through, while Bríd Moore and Mollie Kavanagh gave it everything without any reward. Muckalee/Coon could afford the added luxury of shooting 11 wides, while Urlingford failed to shoot a single wide.

Player of the Match: Edel Coonan (Muckalee/Coon). Coonan was involved in all five goals and her class, pace and skill was a pleasure to behold.

Muckalee/Coon: Orlaith Fitzpatrick, Aoife Hanlon, Amy Meaney, Kelly Comerford (Captain), Ciara Butler 0-01(f), Cliodhna Manning, Marion Morrissey, Cliodhna Quirke, Jenny Power 1-0, Lucy Doyle, Mary Hennessy 1-0, Edel Coonan 3-0. Subs: Mary Coady, Marissa Ryan, Amy Finn, Melissa Comerford, Ailish Brennan, Katie Geoghegan.

Rest of panel: Áine Buggy, Laura Tynan, Katie Farrell, Amanda Meaney, Rúisín Healy, Anna Healy, Leanne Dreeling, Shauna Dowling

Urlingford: Sarah Moriarty-O'Connor, Kim Comerford, Rebecca Pembroke, Treise Gleeson, Aisling Webster (captain), Mollie Kavanagh, Ciara Phelan, Rúisín Leahy, Bríd Moore 0-01(f), Gráinne O'Dwyer, Katie Walsh, Áine Leahy. Subs: Lily Kenny, Niamh Ahern, Lauren Moore

Rest of panel: Danielle Kavanagh, Sarah-Jane Bechan, Anne-Marie Bergin, Leah Carroll, Eliza Walsh, Claire Dunphy, Kerri Fitzgerald, Hayley Costelloe, Shannon Stranger

Referee: Eileen Fitzpatrick (St. Lachtains)



Thomastown - Roinn A Finalists 2008

Back row: Maeve O'Connor, Ciara Farrell, Emma Walsh, Orlaith Butler, Alice Carey, Ailish Butler, Niamh Donnelly, Nelle Henderson, Niamh Quigley, Edwina Maher.

Front row: Sinead Whelan, Niamh O'Shea, Aoife Farrell, Ciara Lannon, Eimear Corr, Emma Tougher, Nessa Griffin, Eimear Donnelly



Urlingford - Roinn B Finalists 2008

Back: Claire Dunphy, Shannon Stranger, Kerrie Fitzgerald, Annmarie Bergin, Leah Carroll, Lauren Moore, Lily Kenny.

Middle: Eliza Walsh, Sarah-Jane Bechan, Gráinne O'Dwyer, Sarah Moriarty-O'Connor, Rebecca Pembroke, Áine Leahy, Hayley Costelloe, Niamh Ahern.

Front: Katie Walsh, Mollie Kavanagh, Bríd Moore, Tréise Gleeson, Aisling Webster, Kim Comerford, Ciara Phelan, Róisín Leahy.

Dunnamaggin easily defeated Rower-Inistioge in an all Southern primary schools camogie Roinn C final. The winners made a dashing start when under-14 county panellist Michaela Kenneally raced through and her overhead shot deceived Rower-Inistioge goalkeeper Siobhán Phelan in her attempts to gather the sliotar along the greasy surface. Kenneally displayed sublime skill throughout along with the equally outstanding Eimear Boylan, the industrious Katie Dunphy and double-goal heroine Alison Bergin. Eimear Boylan added a point from a 25m free in the fifth minute. More than 10 minutes later, a long clearance from the stylish Katie Murphy saw Alison Bergin blast home an unstoppable shot for a truly great goal.

Rower-Inistioge registered their only score in the 17th minute when good work from Christine Lyng and Cliona Kelly saw Áine Gannon fire between the posts with a well taken point. Strong defending from Dunnamaggin kept Rower-Inistioge at bay and the half-time score-line read 2-01 to 0-01. A solitary point wasn't just rewarded

for the losers' efforts as they kept fighting to the end. Certainly no reward for the excellence of defender, Christine Lyng, who constantly relieved danger while under extreme pressure. Áine Gannon also performed heroically while Rachel Dwyer, Aisling Carroll and Cliona Carroll never gave up.

Their best chance came in the ninth minute of the second half when a long clearance down-field by Aisling Carroll saw Claire Lyng with a clear path on goal, but her shot was deflected to safety by Dunnamaggin goalkeeper Emily Murphy.

Michaela Kenneally added a point for Dunnamaggin before victory was virtually sealed moments later when Marina Kelly finished emphatically following a long clearance from Katie Murphy. 3-02 to 0-01. Alison Bergin

added a second goal with 10 minutes to go, before Eimear Boylan closed the scoring with a 25m pointed free.

It was Dunnamaggin's first Roinn C primary schools camogie crown since the competition began in 1986. They won the Roinn D title in 2006.

Camogie vice-chairperson Martin Quilty presented the McGoldrick Cup to winning captain to Katie Dunphy.

Dunnamaggin: Emily Murphy, Michelle Maher, Laura Cuddihy, Heather McLoughlin, Claire Kirwan, Eimear Boylan 0-02, Katie Dunphy (captain), Katie Murphy, Michaela Kenneally 1-01, Alison Bergin 2-0, Marina Kelly 1-0, Elaine Power. Subs: Rhiannah Maher, Megan Ryan, Katey Brett, Rest of panel: Amber Prior, Kathy Long, Shannon O'Shea, Clodagh Keeche, Chloe Dack, Louise Blake, Sarah Doherty,

Lauren Ryan.

Rower-Inistioge: Siobhán Phelan, Jenny Holden, Christine Lyng, Rachel Dwyer, Aisling Carroll, Cliona Kelly, Lisa McGrath, Sarah Ryan, Áine Gannon 0-01, Aideen Foskin, Flora Jesscock Schwartz, Claire Lyng.

Subs: Kate Prendergast, Eimear Spindler, Aisling Kelly, Laura Walsh, Aoife Deevy, Róisín Richards.

Referee: Eileen Fitzpatrick (St. Lachtain's)
Player of the Match: Eimear Boylan and Michaela Kenneally (Dunnamaggin)

It was impossible to separate the duo as both were truly outstanding. Kenneally's skill levels were top class while Boylan displayed great resilience, constantly driving her team in attack. Rower-Inistioge's Christine Lyng also deserves a special mention for her outstanding display.

Roinn D Final

By Michael O'Leary

Johnstown 2-0 Callan 0-2

Callan shot nine wides and didn't take advantage of their dominance late in the first-half. A Deirdre Carroll 25 metre free was their sole reward in the first half. Deirdre Carroll doubled Callan's lead with a well taken point shortly after the restart before Johnstown goalkeeper Maria Cullinane denied Caroline Murphy with a brilliant one-handed save.

The Johnstown school began to establish dominance and in the 6th minute following the restart, Sarah Whelan's shot was brilliantly saved by Callan goalkeeper Jane Walker at the expense of a 25m free.

Johnstown's dominance was eventually rewarded and the tireless Mary Corcoran set up Sarah Whelan and her rasping shot gave Jane Walker no chance. 1-0 to 0-02.

Callan pressed forward in search of a levelling score, but were out of luck. Callan did their utmost to retrieve the situation with Aoife Brennan leading by example. However, the Johnstown school sealed glory a minute into injury-time when the hard-working Lisa Beahan set up Niamh Sweeney and she laid the cherry on top of the icing as her shot from close range reached the bottom left-hand corner.

The Johnstown school thoroughly deserved this victory. Among the gallant Callan outfit, Aoife Brennan, the tight-marking Niamh Fitzgerald, Deirdre Carroll and Chantelle Komar all performed heroically. The winners were best served by Alison Muldowney, Mary Corcoran, Sarah Whelan and Lisa Beahan. Vice-Chairperson of the Camogie



Rower Inistioge - Roinn C Finalists 2008
Back Row: Eimear Spindler, Kate Prendergast, Aoife Deevy, Siobhan Phelan, Jenny Holden, Claire Lyng, Aideen Foskin.
Front Row: Flora Jesscock Schwartz, Aisling Kelly, Rachel Dwyer, Cliona Kelly, Christine Lyng, Aine Gannon, Aisling Carroll, Lisa McGrath, Sarah Ryan.



Callan - Roinn D Finalists 2008
Back: Aisling Butler, Sarah Bergin, Jade Butler, Aisling McGrath, Serena Gaffney, Linda Byrne
Middle: Chantelle Komar, Emma Shelley, Claire Byrne, Aisling Foley, Nicola Carroll, Caroline Murphy
Front: Jane Walker, Katie Delaney, Meghan Hahessy-Madigan, Aoife Brennan, Becky Freaney, Deirdre Carroll, Nicola Fitzgerald

Board, Martin Quilty presented the Fennelly cup co-captains goalkeeper, Maria Cullinane and Lisa Beahan.

Player of the Match: Aoife Brennan (Callan) produced an excellent performance. She constantly helped her team mates and was the driving force doing her best work in the closing stages.

Johnstown: Maria Cullinane (co-captain), Orla Maher, Linda Warren, Sarah Brennan, Alison Muldowney, Edel Hughes, Chloe Purcell, Mary Corcoran, Sarah Whelan 1-0, Lisa Beahan (co-captain), Marian O'Connell, Rachel Dermody. Subs: Ellen Fitzpatrick, Niamh Sweeney 1-0. Rest of panel: Rest of the panel: Serena Gaffney, Nicola Carroll, Aisling McGrath, Linda Byrne, Jade Butler, Sarah Bergin. Referee: Eileen Fitzpatrick (St. Lachtain's)

Whelan, Sinéad O'Connell, Rose Marie Lee, Eibhlín Vaughan, Karen Brennan, Jessie Brennan.

Callan: Jane Walker, Niamh Fitzgerald, Megan Hahessy Madigan (captain), Aisling Foley, Claire Byrne, Aoife Brennan, Deirdre O'Carroll 0-02(1f), Katie Delaney, Chantelle Komar, Emma Shelly, Becky Freaney, Caroline Murphy. Subs: Ellen Fitzpatrick, Niamh Sweeney 1-0.

Rest of the panel: Serena Gaffney, Nicola Carroll, Aisling McGrath, Linda Byrne, Jade Butler, Sarah Bergin.

Referee: Eileen Fitzpatrick (St. Lachtain's)

INTERMEDIATES SET UP THE GRAND SLAM

Inter-County IH Report

By Barrie Henriques

There were not too many teams interested in affiliating to the Leinster Intermediate Championship, but Kilkenny, as always, was one such. Invariably it comes down to a Final between two, the other being Wexford. However, Dublin had a free run into the Provincial Final, which left Kilkenny and Wexford to contest a semi-final.

They met down in Wexford Park on Saturday, June 28. Manager, Pat Hoban was relieved that he mustered a team to play the Wexfordmen, as the perennial problem of availability of players was no different than in previous times. Wexford, the defending All Ireland Champions were forced to field a brand new team, and that constraint didn't help their case.

In fairness, Kilkenny, strangers though they may have been on the day, turned in a very committed, workmanlike show. They never allowed the home side to settle, and by half time, even though playing against the breeze in the first half, the Kilkenny lads were in front at the break, leading by 1-8 to Wexford's 0-7. The Kilkenny goal was swept to the Wexford net in the 10th minute by Cathal Dunne (Graignamanagh), after a blistering shot by Paddy Hogan was blocked by the Wexford custodian, Michael Walsh.

The second half went as anticipated, with the Kilkenny lads growing in stature.

The final score read, Kilkenny 1-19, Wexford 0-12.

Kilkenny: Liam Tierney, Kieran Joyce, Sean Cummins, Mark Phelan, Niall Doherty, Conor Phelan, David Prendergast (capt), Pat Hartley, Philly Lonergan, Alan Healy, Peter Cleere, Noel Doherty, Cathal Dunne, Paddy Hogan, Damien Fogarty.

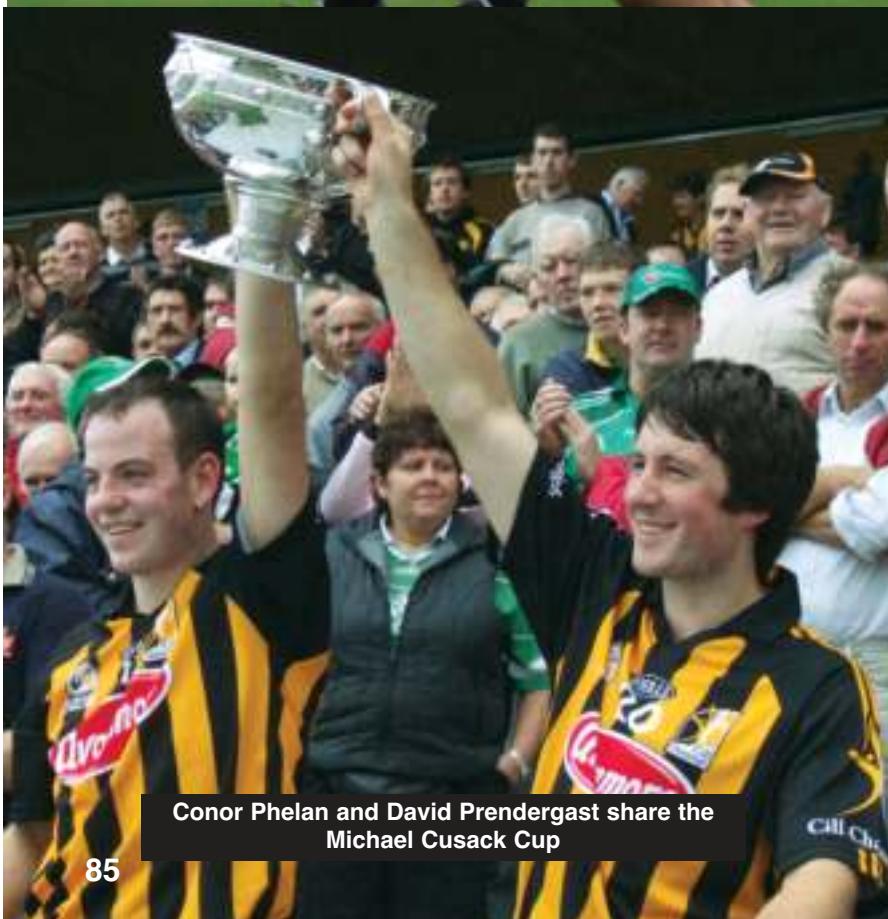
Subs (used): Eoin Hennebry, Niall Walsh, James Nolan.

The Leinster Final against Dublin had the added dimension of completing a Kilkenny grand slam of Provincial Titles. Played in Nowlan Park this encounter was a high-octane contest, with the result in doubt for

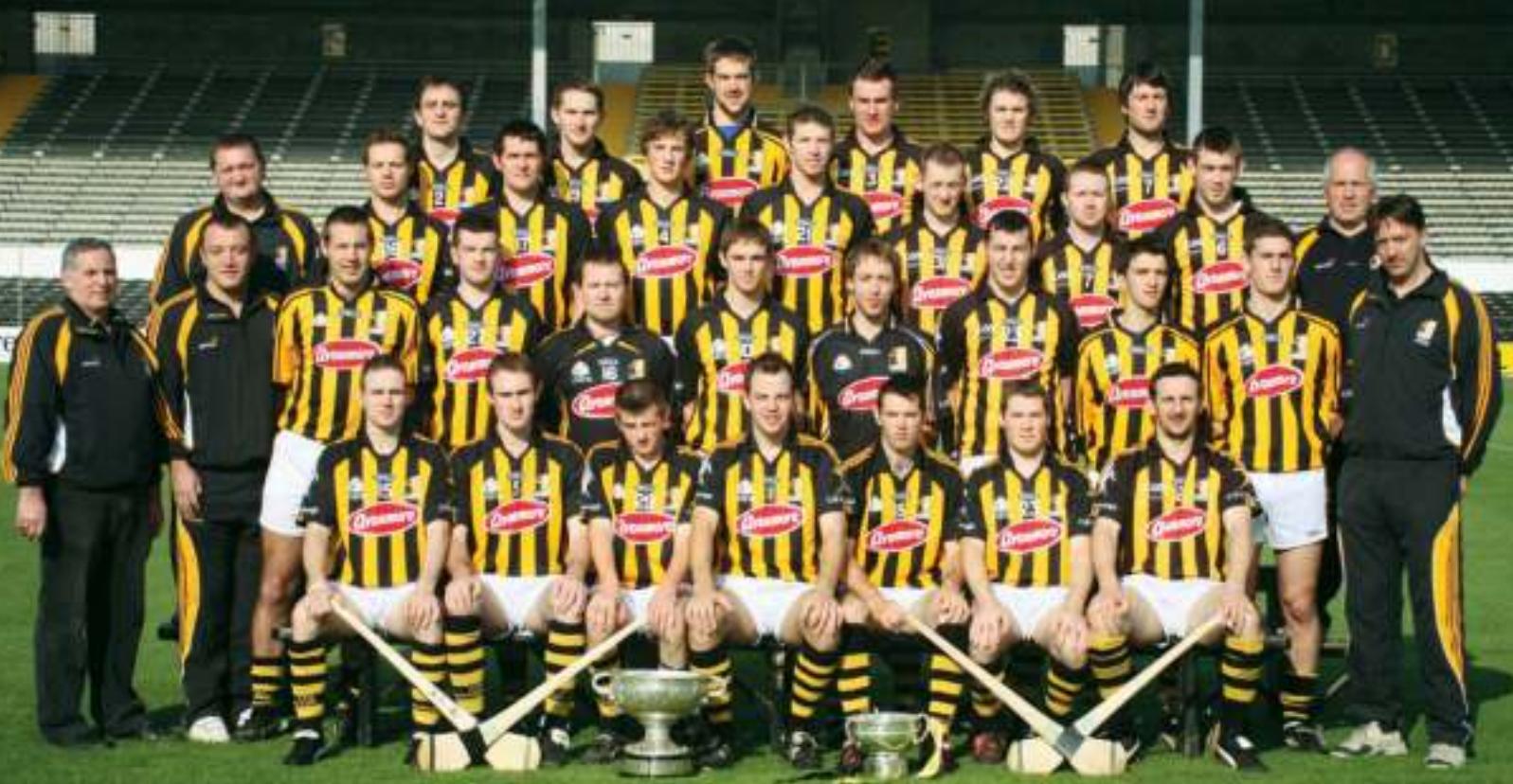


Paddy Hogan had a powerful campaign

Eoin Hennessy



Conor Phelan and David Prendergast share the Michael Cusack Cup



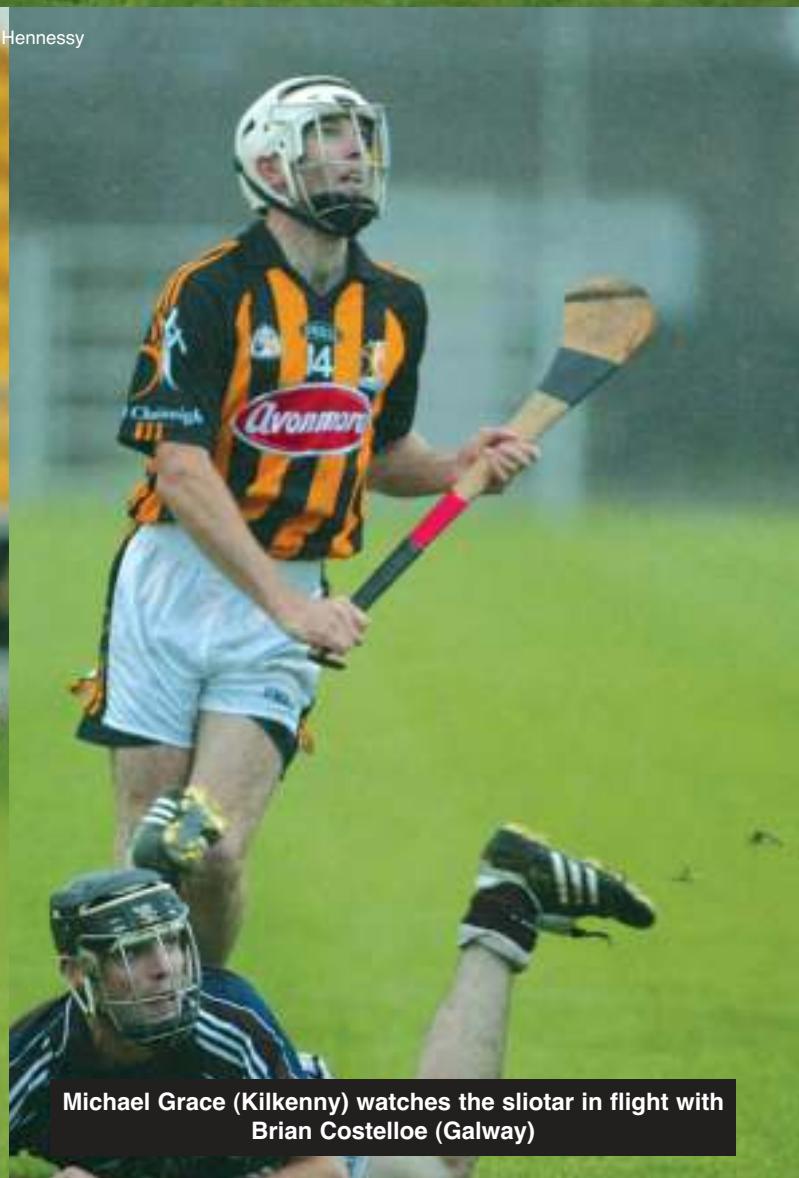
KILKENNY- ALL IRELAND IH CHAMPIONS 2008

Back: Mark Phelan, Niall Walsh, Sean Cummins, Kieran Joyce, Michael Bergin, David Prendergast.
3rd Row: PJ Kenny (Sel), Anthony O'Hara, James Cahill, Shane Prendergast, Eoin Henebery, Damian Fogarty, Niall Doherty, Patrick Hogan, Paschal Connolly (Sel).
2nd Row: Pat Treacy (Sel), Ciarán Muldowney (Trainer), Peter Cleere, Niall Kennedy, Derick Brennan, Bill Beckett, Liam Tierney, Eddie Brennan, Alan Healy, Pat Hartley, Pat Hoban (Manager).
Front: Noel Doherty, Philly Lonergan, James Nolan, Conor Phelan (Capt), Michael Grace, Cathal Dunne, Paul Buggy.

Eoin Hennessy



Conor Phelan (Kilkenny) comes in to challenge Rory McGauran (Galway)



Michael Grace (Kilkenny) watches the sliotar in flight with Brian Costeloe (Galway)

a very long time. Dublin came with justified confidence, and they were somewhat unfortunate that they didn't return as Leinster Champions.

Fortune favoured both sides at varying intervals. Kilkenny led by 3-14 to 2-14 in the 61st minute. Dublin's David Sweeney tore through the Kilkenny defence and his blistering shot was saved. However it squirmed into the air, and half forward, Shane Martin pounced to slam home the equaliser.

If the Dublin lads thought that the power was with them during the extra time, they were jolted into realism very swiftly and clinically. Dublin were restricted to a single point during the extra time, whereas Kilkenny bagged a terrific 1-12. Of such determination are Championships won.

Final score, Kilkenny 4-26, Dublin 3-15 (aet).

One would have to credit the abilities of the men on the sideline. Every one of their alterations, be it positional or substitutional was excellently managed. So take a bow:- Pat Hoban (Manager), PJ Kenny (Selector), Pat Treacy (Selector) Paschal Connolly (Selector), and Ciarán Muldowney (Trainer).

Seven days later, Kilkenny travelled to Tullamore to address the challenge of Galway, who had no previous game. This surely can be written into the history books as the Paddy Hogan show. He fired home 4-4 of the Kilkenny total of 5-14.

Additionally, this game had all the hallmarks of a biblical epic. Kilkenny were done and dusted, staring defeat in the face with fourteen minutes of the game remaining. They were not performing, they were lack lustre in their approach, and it looked as if they would qualify as the first Kilkenny team to leave the Championship arena. However, Danesfort's Hogan arrived on his white steed to rescue the cats. He travelled route one at all times whenever he got possession. His teammates responded to the leadership qualities being shown. He suckered Galway with a low free that ended up in the net in the 47th minute. Eoin Hennebry added a point immediately afterwards. A Hogan penalty in 56 cut the deficit to two. A heavy tackle on Hogan in the 59th minute led to himself clattering Kilkenny into a single point lead. Galway levelled, and the Leinster Champions were back into the extra time scenario for the second week on the bounce. Extra time was a doddle for the cats. Galway shot two points, Kilkenny collected 1-6.

Final score, Kilkenny 5-14, Galway 3-12 (aet).

The All Ireland Final beckoned, with Limerick the opposition.

All Ireland Final

There was added pressure on Kilkenny in this Final, as they were the first of the four adult teams going into the Final arena. Kilkenny had not won the Intermediate title since 1973, and even at Junior level, the last title won dated back to 1995. To add an extra difficulty to the situation, Limerick were allowed, within rule, to use their second best team. Hence, the appearance of Ciarán Carey at full back, Pat O'Reilly and Alan O'Connor figuring among the forwards.

Limerick showed plenty of determination and no little skill in this encounter. Kilkenny were careful, if not spectacular. They were nervous too, and the fluidity of their natural game suffered. They led at half time by a shaky 0-11 to Limerick's 0-8. There was still much careful shadow boxing in the second half, but then Kilkenny exploded into life inside the last ten minutes with that seminal Hogan goal. That totally deflated the Limerick sail, and it was all over within a clinical few moments when Hogan added a brace of points.

There was terrific excitement afterwards as captain Conor Phelan collected the cup, Kilkenny's first All Ireland Trophy for 2008.

As events panned out subsequently, the Intermediate heroes set a precedent that was both inspirational, and headline-setting. Final score, Kilkenny 1-16, Limerick 0-13.

Kilkenny: Liam Tierney (Rower Inistioge), Mark Phelan (Glenmore), Sean Cummins (Rower Inistioge), Shane Prendergast (Clara), Philly Lonergan (Windgap), Pat Hartley (Tullogher Rosbercon), Kieran Joyce (0-1) (Rower Inistioge), Niall Walsh (Slieverue), Damien Fogarty (0-2) (Erins Own), Bill Beckett (0-2) (St.Lactains), Conor Phelan (capt) (Clara), Paddy Hogan (1-6) (Danesfort), Michael Grace (0-2) (Rower Inistioge), Peter Cleere (Blacks & Whites), Noel Doherty (0-3) (Galmoy).

Subs (used): Niall Doherty (Galmoy), Eoin Hennebry (Mooncoin), James Nolan (Clara), Alan Healy (Conahy), David Prendergast (Clara). Rest of panel: Derek Brennan (James Stephens), James Cahill (Graignamanagh), Paul Buggy (Conahy), Cathal Dunne (Graignamanagh), Eddie Brennan (Erins Own), Niall Kennedy (Blacks & Whites), Anthony O'Hara (Lisdowney), Michael Bergin (Clara).



Niall Walsh and Sean Cummins in action in the Final



All Ireland IH Action

Kilkenny Make a Return!

Football Report

By Conor Denieffe PRO CLG/Tom O'Reilly, Sec. Football Board

Photos Eoin Hennessy



Paul Maher and Michael Mahony (Kilkenny) jump with Gary Kane (London) for possession of the football during the Senior Football League encounter in Nowlan Park. (Photograph: Eoin Hennessy)

Kilkenny made a return to the National Football League in 2008 after a number of years absence from this level of competition. Team manager Tom "Cloney" Brennan and his selectors Dick Mullins, Eoin Maher, Joe Brennan (Trainer) and Tommy Duggan assembled a committed panel of players who showed great dedication throughout the season. The team took part in the O' Byrne Cup, the National Football League, the Leinster Shield, the Leinster Junior Football championship against Wicklow and the Tommy Murphy Cup against London. The county's best performances came in the National Football League and after a number of narrow defeats a league victory was recorded over London in front of a large crowd in Nowlan Park. This win was a real morale booster and was no more than the players deserved as they, the management team already mentioned and backroom team of Claire Hassett and Dr. Mary O' Gorman never wavered in their commitment to the cause.

Kilkenny under 21 footballers played Westmeath in this year's Leinster championship and went down to a 1-15 to 1-6 defeat in a game played in Nowlan Park in February. Considering the diffi-



Historic Score - Kilkenny's League win over London. Eoin Hennessy



Fr Martin Ryan, Tom Brennan (Manager) and Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh on the occasion of the Kilkenny v London Game. Eoin Hennessy



The North and South Football Selection teams after their contest in Thomastown. Eoin Hennessy



James Stephens - County Senior Football Champions 2008

Back: Peter McBride, Aogán Courtney, Joe Murphy, Brian Dooley, Jackie Tyrrell, James Moran
Middle: Phil 'Fan' Larkin, Jim Mulvin, Liam O'Connor, David Walton, Niall Tyrrell, Gary Whelan, Richie Hayes, Pat Butler, Tomás Keogh, David McCormack, Brian McEvoy, Richard Windle
Front: Shane Brennan, Dermot Grogan, Niall McQuillan, Derrick Brennan, Joe Murray (Capt), Joe Mernagh, Philip Larkin, Paddy Crotty

culty in organising advance preparation for the game and the heavy defeat Kilkenny suffered to the same county the previous year this was not a bad showing by Kilkenny and all present will remember the terrific goal scored by Kieran Joyce in the second half of this contest when his rising shot from 25 yards zipped into the top corner of

the Westmeath net.

The Kilkenny team was M. Gannon, D. Walton, S. Kenny, N. Roche, M. Morrissey, K. Joyce, R. Cody, B. Staunton, D. Lyng, K. Quinlan, M. Murphy, J. Mulhall (Capt), P. Grace, R. O'Hara, P. Raftice, Subs, J. Maher, C. Roche, D. Wafer, C. McGrath, S. Mooney.

At minor level Kilkenny made a first round exit to a strong Wexford team despite a good deal of preparation work put in by team manager Emmet Mc Avinney and his selectors. Kilkenny were represented on the day by S. Hayes, P.J. O'Brien, A. Delahunty, B. Byrne, J. Fennelly, J. Culleton, A. O'



Mooncoin - Intermediate Football Championship Winners 2008

Back: Michael Holden (Selector); Cormac Daly; Jamie McGrath; Diamruid Mackey; Michael Grace; Joe Kearns; Thomas O'Hanlon; Sean Wall; Eoin Hennebry; Richard Mackey; Barry Purcell; Eddie Mackey; Paddy Kinsella; Seamus Comerford (Selector).
Front: Eugene Dunphy (Manager); PJ Rowe; Gerry Kirwin; Johnny Phelan; Niall Mackey; Dick Howley; Keith Kirwin; David O'Brien; Ray Wall; Eamon Mackey; Tomas Kinsella.



Conahy Shamrocks - County Intermediate Football League Champions 2008

Back: Ger Byrne, Martin Fitzpatrick, Michael Bergin, Daire Connery, Declan Buggy, Tomas Nolan, Eoin Byrne, Peter Dollard, Paul Buggy, John Wallace, Gary Kavanagh, Padraig Nolan, Denis Kelly, Conor Brennan.
Front: Barry Murphy, Padraig Harding, Paddy Mullan, Micheal Lawlor, Brian Healy, Alan Healy, Gavin Nolan, Ciaran Muldowney, Seamus Og Brennan, Peter Harding, Tomas Nolan.

Dowd, W. Walsh, J.J. Lennon (Capt), P. Mullan, G. Aylward, I. Duggan, E. Campion, S. Holmes, M. Sheehan. Subs. N. O' Donnell, K. Boyle, P. Maher, J. Hoyne,

History was made at local level when both the senior football and junior football county finals were played under floodlights. The senior decider saw James Stephens defeat Erin's Own 1-8 to 1-7 in an exciting game of football played in Ballyragget while on the same night Ballyhale Shamrocks defeated Tullogher Rosbercon 3-12 to 0-4 in

the junior decider played in Piltown. Mooncoin captured the county Intermediate title overcoming Thomastown 4-9 to 2-5. A full set of Intermediate and Senior Football League games were also played and the winners of the senior league were Railyard who beat Mullinavat in the final 0-11 to 1-6 while Conahy Shamrocks took the intermediate league title when they saw off Danesfort 1-10 to 0-5.

One final note of interest is the performance of the Kilkenny champi-

onship winners in the Leinster Club Competitions. James Stephens did themselves and the county proud by reaching the semi-final of the intermediate club football competition. They defeated Carnew Emmets of Wicklow and Cashel of Longford before losing to St. Ultan's of Meath. Mooncoin had a victory over Shroid Slashers of Longford but lost out at the semi-final stage to Moynalvay of Meath.

All in all a busy season at local and national level for Kilkenny football.

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Plug into Service and Price

2008 - Fulfilled expectations, dashed hopes and a surprise!

Camogie Report by Richard Mulholland PRO



Photos - Eoin Hennessy



Kilkenny - National Senior League Champions 2008

Back: Sinead Brennan, Linda Cotterell, Bronagh Neary, Sinead Long, Marie Dargan, Lucinda Gahan, Anna Farrell, Edwina Keane, Hannah Maher, Mariga Middle: Claire Aylward, Grace Dunphy, Lisa Phelan, Claire Ryan, Bridget Mullally, Julieanne Woodcock, Elaine Aylward, Collette Dormer, Keeva Fennelly, Catherine Doherty, Kelly Ann Cotterall, Caitriona Ryan, Jacqui Frisby, Laura Kavanagh.
Front: Siobhan Murphy, Amy Butler, Eimear Lyng, Sinead Millea, Michelle Quilty, Katy Power, Lizzy Lyng, Marie O' Connor, Aoife Nary, Aine Fahey, Ann Dalton.

A new year brings with it new hopes expectations and aspirations. 2008 was to bring with it fulfilled expectations, and dashed hopes and a surprise. At the start of the year Kilkenny were contesting in 10 competitions between Leinster, League and All Ireland Championship. By November Kilkenny will have competed in and won 6 of those finals with two still to be played.

Kilkenny's U14s started the Inter-county season off, with a new management team at the helm lead by Paddy Kelly and Imelda Kennedy. Although the personnel had changed, Kilkenny continued their dominance of Leinster in this age group. The final was played in Thomastown, and Kilkenny won with an impressive score line of 4-12 to Dublin's 1-8. Not only did they win Kilkenny's first trophy of the season but also set the first of Kilkenny's new records this year, six consecutive Leinster u14 titles.

Kilkenny's U16's added their fourth All Ireland Title to their Leinster win against Dublin. Beating Cork in the final in Semple Stadium by 3-7 to 2-4 after trailing 1-4 to 1-2 at half time. Kilkenny have now contested the last five All Ireland Finals and won the last four All under Liam Dunne and Stephen Dorner. Four titles in a row had never been achieved at this age group since the competition's inauguration in 1974. To put the icing on the cake the management team have been nominated as manager of the year a second nomination and hopefully this time they will leave City West with the plaudits.

The Kilkenny Minors so far have been the only winners of the Minor All Ireland since the competition

began in 2006 and they were not about to relinquish their crown easily. They met Clare in the All Ireland final and the cats were to prove too strong and show why they are defending champions out scoring Clare in the last quarter 1-5 to 0-2 eventually winning by 3-15 to 1-5. Edwina Keane (St. Martins) was named player of the match, and has also been nominated for Young Player of the Year.

Changes to the structures for the adult Inter-county grades meant that Kilkenny were competing at Senior and Intermediate grades. This was Kilkenny's first outing in the Intermediate grade and they struggled in the League, beating Cork but suffering defeats to Clare and Waterford. The team did show plenty of fighting spirit through the league and this was to be an important factor for the All Ireland. A place in the semi final was secured and the draw handed Kilkenny a match against Galway. It took two games to dispose of Galway, Kilkenny having to come back from a half time deficit each time. Cork where to provide their opposition in the final as they defeated a highly rated Derry. Kilkenny raced to a good half time lead getting goals when they needed them and finished the half leading by 4-3 to 1-5. The second half was to prove to be a testing time for the team, management and its supporters. Cork clawed back Kilkenny's lead and with seconds to go and the game hung in the balance when Collette Dorner caught a free and fired it to the back of the net. Cork had no time to respond as the puck out was taken and the whistle blew and Kilkenny where Intermediate All Ireland Champions for the first time on a score of 5-5 to 1-14.

The seniors where handed a tough draw in the League with both the All Ireland Finalists from 2007 in their group, but Kilkenny qualified for the final with wins against Dublin, Cork and Wexford. The final was played in Nowlan Park against Galway who had previously won the league two seasons before. It was to prove a tense affair with Kilkenny starting nervously but eventually securing the counties first league title since 1993 on a score of 3-11 to 0-17. Hopes were high in the county that a semi-final place could be secured in the championship but it did not work out for Kilkenny and they failed to Qualify for the Semi Finals despite beating All Ireland finalists Galway.

Kilkenny secured three All Star Nominations in 2008, Elaine Aylward (Mullinavat), Sinead Millea (Cashel) and Aoife Neary (James Stephens). On the night James Stephen's Aoife Neary won her first All Star Award and Liam Dunne and Steven Dorner secured the Manager of the Year Award. Edwina Keane (St. Martins) won the Leinster Young Player of the Year Award.

As 2008 draws to a close, it is time to reflect. This year has probably been the most successful year for Kilkenny in Camogie with three out of four All Irelands won, a national league title and a clean sweep in Leinster so far with two finals to play. Looking forward Kilkenny will challenge strongly at Minor next year probably starting as favourites. It will be difficult for Kilkenny to defend their Intermediate title as the vagaries of the grading system makes the players who won ineligible, but that team showed this year a never say die attitude and not many people would have put them on the top



Kilkenny - All Ireland Intermediate Champions 2008

Back: Sinead Kelly, Hannah Maher, Grace Dunphy, Leanne Fennelly, Lisa Phelan, Sinead Long, Ann Marie Lennon, Elaine O' Shea, Denise Gaule, Ann Marie Phelan, Sinead Brennan (Capt), Emma Staunton, Laura Kavanagh.

Front: Mariga Nolan, Alison Walsh, Linda Cotterell, Jenny Reddy, Shelly Farrell, Claire Ryan, Michelle Brennan, Collette Dormer, Lucinda Gahan, Claire Aylward, Aine Fahey, Bronagh Neary.



Kilkenny – U14 Leinster Champions 2008

Back: Rachel Buckley, Anna Buggy, Miriam Walsh, Stacey Nugent, Rachel Hogan, Maureen Walsh, Sarah Hennessy, Noelle Murphy, Edel Long, Leasa Byrne, Amy Holden,

Middle: Paddy Kelly (Trainer) Kate Doheny, Dearbhla Gannon, Kate Holland, Kelly Hamilton, Niamh Byrne, Lydia Fitzpatrick

Amy Bryan, Catherine Foley, Niamh Dermody, Tracy Brennan, Eimear Fennelly, Ester Kennedy (Mentor) Imelda Kennedy (Trainer)

Front: Laura Dunne, Orla Hanrick, Emma Ayres, Ciara Holden, Niamh Phelan (Captain) Michaela Kenneally, Meghan Farrelly, Sarah Crowley, Ciara Mahon, Sarah Ann Quinlan. Missing From Photo - Kate Doheny, Mentor Nicola Tynan-Doyle



Kilkenny Minor Camogie Panel 2008 (3-in-a-row Champions)

Back: Leanne Fennelly (Mullinavat), Róisín Byrne (Clara), Ruth Bergin (Clara), Georgina Culleton (Piltown), Denise Gaule (Windgap), Aisling Dunphy (St Brigidís), Edwina Keane (St Martinís), Niamh Byrne (Clara), Sinéad Maher (Dicksboro), Claire Phelan (Lisdowney), Niamh Kelly (Dicksboro), Orlaith Curran (St Anneís), Sine-d Long (Piltown), Nicola Butler (St Brigidís), Áine Curran (St Lachtainís), Karen Duggan (Piltown).

Front: Noreen Murphy (Lisdowney), Emma Staunton (Paulstown), Michelle Quilty (Mullinavat), Katie Power (Piltown), Anna Farrell (Thomastown), (Captain), Shelly Farrell (Thomastown), Anne Marie Walsh (St Martinís), Marie Dargan (St Martinís), Mariga Nolan (St Lachtainís), Ciara Lyng (Rower-Inistioge), Caoimhe Shiel (James Stephens), Alison Walsh (Windgap), Linda Long (Glenmore).

Missing from photo: Kate McDonald (Thomastown). Managers: Ted Browne & Brendan Williams. Selectors: Pierce Dargan, John Quilty & Vincent Shiel.



Kilkenny – Leinster & All Ireland U16 Champions 2008

Back: Isobel Robinson, Grace Murphy, Claire Phelan, Aisling Curtis, Aisling Carey, Laura Fennelly, Jennifer Cunningham, Claire Aylward, Niamh Dowling
Middle: John Quilty, Eithne Byrne, Stephen Dormer, Sonia Buggy, Laura Fennelly, Yvonne McGrath, Eimear Mulhall, Jane Cullen, Aisling Dunphy, Niamh Byrne , Michelle Maher, Ruth Jones, Aisling Brennan, Kathleen Corrigan, Liam Dunne, Geraldine Dunphy.
Front: Brid Byrne, Noelle Maher, Aoife Murphy, Aoife Lyng, Laura Wall, Margaret Simpson, Davina Tobin, Shelley Farrell, Emma Comerford, Laura Walker, Grace Walsh, Ciara Holden, Maeve Mansfield, Siobhan Healy



Aoife Neary, of Kilkenny, is presented with her Camogie All-Star Award by President of the Camogie Association Liz Howard and Guest of Honour - Tipperary hurler - Brendan Cummins. Camogie All-Star Awards 2008. Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE



Kilkenny managers Stephen Dormer, left, and Liam Dunne receive the Manager of the Year award from Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association, in the company of Guest of Honour - Tipperary hurler - Brendan Cummins, left, and Tony Towell, Managing Director of O'Neills, at the Camogie All-Star Awards 2008. Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

of the list to win this year. The seniors can build on the success of the League, it is worth noting that Galway won the league title two years ago and were in this year's All Ireland final and who's to say that the O'Duffy Cup will not be Noreside for next Christmas and if it is, it just might be here for a few years.

Local Competitions

St. Lachtain's continued to show they were the team to beat at senior grade at least in Kilkenny. They qualified for their 12th Senior County Final in a row and duly landed their 10th senior title in a rather one sided affair against the team they beat in last year's final St. Martins. Tullogher were the team to be relegated back to Intermediate this year.

The Intermediate Final was to be a more competitive match. Fresh their winning exploits against St. Anne's in the League final the week before, Windgap faced Lisdowney. Windgap in the last few years had been close to the final though never quite making it. Lisdowney were relegated from senior the year before and were looking to make a return. Windgap got the best possible start and with the first quarter nearly over a lead of 2-4 to no score was theirs with Anne Marie Phelan and Denise Gaule being the scorers. Lisdowney managed to score two points through Siobhan Holland. Flying start was to prove decisive in the first half with the teams going

in at half time 2-4 to 0-2.

Though Lisdowney made positional changes they were not able to close the gap between the two teams with both scoring 2 points apiece. Going down to 14 players rather than dispiriting Lisdowney drove them on and three long range frees brought the gap to 5 points. However the spare player began to tell and two points from frees eased Windgap's worries a little. The comfort zone was not to last long when Siobhan Holland of Lisdowney scored a vital goal to bring the lead back to 4 points. Time was ticking with 5 minutes left but Windgap could see the finishing post and pushed on points from Anne Marie Phelan, Denise Gaule and a monumental point from Lisa Phelan finally killed off the Lisdowney Challenge, and when the final whistle blew, the score line said it all. Windgap 2-11 Lisdowney 1-7. For the Winners Windgap new challenges lie ahead for them in the senior ranks, for the losing side there was much to be proud of and more importantly something to build on.

The Windgap Panel was: Laura Walker, Terry Mackey, Elaine O'Shea, Alison Walsh, Marie Barry, Phena Heffernan, Nicola Moore, Lisa Phelan, Eleanor Downey, Shauna Fennelly, Denise Gaule, Sarah McCarthy, Clare Moore, Ann Marie Phelan, Kathleen Purcell, Clare Grace, Susan Dunne, Laura Moore, Julie Walsh, Catherine Phelan, Catriona Downey, Martha Mackey, Libby Moore, Caroline McCarthy, Katie Kirwan, Ciara Molloy, Marie Phelan and

Suzie Phelan.

Lisdowney: Sarah Lee Murphy, Anne Mary Lacey, Mary Brennan, Grace Murphy, Louise Hogan, Clare Phelan, Julie Mackey, Sandra Gleeson, Maeve Gannon, Emer Mullhall, Kathleen Dowling, Michelle Holland, Aoife Murphy, Noreen Murphy, Siobhan Holland. Subs: Emma Brophy, Sarah Staunton.

Danesfort find themselves back in the junior ranks after losing the Intermediate relegation final. Piltown on the other hand took two games to defeat Dicksboro in the Junior Championship. Dicksboro after their win in the league final would have perhaps started as favourites, but Piltown perhaps felt they needed to show something following last year's defeat in the semi final when perhaps they should really have won. The initial game was tied at 1-8 apiece. The conditions were poor a strong breeze which favoured Piltown in the first half and driving rain for the first half were not going to contribute to the game. None the less Piltown got off to a flying start by the 20th minute Katie power had scored 1-3 with Niamh Cullerton adding a point. It was not until the 22nd minute that Dicksboro got on the score board with a scrambled goal from Brena Phelan by Piltown had added 3 further points leaving the score 1-7 to 1-0 in Piltown's favour. In the second half Dicksboro needed to get scoring



Windgap County Intermediate Champions 2008

Back: Pat Walsh, Loraine Moore, Katie Kirwan, Catriona Downey, Maria Barry, Caroline McCarthy, Claire Moore, Martha Mackey, Nicola Moore, Phena Heffernan, Eleanor Downey, Sarah McCarthy, Matt Doran.
 Middle: Alison Walsh, Denise Gaule, Anne-Marie Phelan, Shauna Fennelly, Susan Dunne, Laura Walker, Elaine O'Shea, Libby Moore, Susan Dunne, Kathleen Purcell, Terri Mackey, Suzie Phelan, Molly Walsh (Mascot).
 Front: Catherine Phelan, Laura Moore, Julie Walsh, Clare Grace, Marie Phelan, Ciara Molloy.



Piltown - Junior Camogie Champions 2008

Back: Nicola Jordan, Mary Drennan, Niamh Dermody, Emma Walsh, Jessica Norris, Brid O'Shea, Charlene Norris, Niamh Culleton, Carol McCarthy, Michelle Foley, Anita Duggan, Fiona Malone, Geogina Culleton, Leanne Long, Michelle O'Shea.
Front: Leanne Long, Hilary Power, Nicole Culleton, Emma Dunne, Nicola Foley, Mairead Diffily, Elaine Kenny, Karen Duggan, Laura Norris, Katie Power, Sinead Long, Nicole Grace.

In the first 7 minutes each team added a point. For Piltown this was to prove their last score of the game. Dicksboro pressed hard scoring 3 points. The game moved into Injury time and Piltown looked good for their win, but Hearts were in mouths when in the 32nd minute Niamh Kelly struck a shoot for the goal, the keeper was beaten but the ball hit the woodwork and was cleared. A further point from Dicksboro before the final whistle saw Piltown thanks to the wood-work home and junior champions on a score of 1-8 to 1-5.

Piltown Team

Mairead Diffily, Leanne Long, Anita Duggan, Fiona Malone, Sinead Long, Karen Duggan, Carol McCarthy, Charlene Norris, Laura Norris, Katie Power, Niamh Culleton, Georgina Culleton, Nicola Foley, Elaine Kenny, Emma Dunne

Subs: Michelle O'Shea, Michelle Foley, Mary Drennan, Nicola Culleton, Hilary Power, Brid O'Shea, Emma Walsh, Jessica Norris, Niamh Dermody, Nicola Jordan, Leanne Dunne, Nicola Grace

Dicksboro Team

Eimear Skehan, Jenny Dillon, Lisa Hanrick, Geraldine Kelly, Niamh Kelly, Nicola Doyle, Áine Maher, Emer Tynan, Brena Phelan, Niamh O'Donoghue, Noelle Corrigan, Annmarie Hogan, Sinead Maher, Hilda Butler, Aisling O'Grady

Subs: Ciara Murphy, Mairead Dowling, Susan Donovan, Helen Byrne, Sarah Bawle, Cathy Bergin, Andrea Ryan, Aoife Walsh, Sorcha Fennelly, Emer Kelly, Sarah Kennedy, Eimear Walsh, Christine Kelly, Darra Walsh, Michelle Mulhall



Edwina Keane, of Kilkenny, is presented with her Leinster Young Camogie Player of the Year Award by President of the Camogie Association Liz Howard and Guest of Honour - Tipperary hurler - Brendan Cummins. Camogie All-Star Awards 2008. Picture credit: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

Ladies Football - Back to Business

"After the whirlwind of winning the junior All Ireland title in 2007 Kilkenny ladies settled back to business in 2008."

Writes Noelle Curran PRO

Ladies football continued to prosper in Kilkenny in 2008 with new clubs forming in Tullogher, Callan and Muckalee bringing the total number of clubs to eleven. Development continued within the primary schools competition and over fifty girls aged eight to fourteen attended a very enjoyable three day football camp in July held at Kierans' college. Railyard won their third senior championship in a row and four years hard work paid off for Freshford when they claimed the junior title. Mullinavat denied Railyard another double by winning the senior league and newcomers Tullogher made their mark by winning the junior league title. 2008 was a busy year in Ladies football and further development and participation at underage level is essential to harness the talent that is abundant throughout the county.

COUNTY INTERMEDIATES

After the whirlwind of winning the junior All Ireland title in 2007 Kilkenny ladies settled back to business in 2008 determined to make strides in the much tougher intermediate grade. With retirements and injuries Paul Whelan, Richie Windle and PJ Whelan brought some new faces into the panel to begin the building process for what would prove to be an experimental year and part of a plan to gain a solid footing in the coming years at intermediate level.

The Suzuki National League kicked off with the visit of London who arrived with a settle to score after losing out to the cats in the All Ireland final of 2007. The Londoners did just that and defeated the cats at Thomastown 1-6 to 1-5. Despite a shaky start Kilkenny got back on track when Derry visited Clogh two weeks later. A Miriam O Keeffe goal and a last minute Sara McCarthy penalty secured a 2-10 to 1-8 win for the cats. A trip to Wicklow in late February made it two wins on the trot with a 3-8 to 2-7 win for Kilkenny. Round 4 proved to be the stumbling block when the cats met Limerick at Clogh. The Treaty girls showed Kilkenny that life in the intermediate championship would prove to be a tough campaign and defeated the cats 3-8 to 1-8. This defeat meant that a win over Antrim on St Patrick's weekend was essential but Kilkenny now required Limerick to slip up in their final game for the cats to make the semi final stages. The long trip to Belfast proved worthwhile with goals from Kelly Roche, Helen Murphy and Joanne Cotterell giving Kilkenny a good 3-7 to 0-9 win. Unfortunately for Kilkenny Limerick won their final two games and three wins from five was not enough to put Kilkenny into a semi final spot. However three out of five was a good return early in the season and Paul Whelan began the task of preparing for the upcoming TG4 Leinster championship and All Ireland Series.

Leinster Championship

A number of changes were made for the championship campaign with the withdrawal of the dual players who were tied to camogie fixtures but Kilkenny prepared well for their first intermediate outing - a



Kilkenny - Leinster U18 Shield Champions 2008

Back: Sarah Hennessy, Sarah Walsh, Ruth Bergin, Grace Clarke, Aine Manning, Sinead Stapleton, Niamh Whelan, Breena Fennelly, Clodagh Doyle, Mairead Daly
Front: Marie Meagher, Edwina Keane, Aisling Brennan, Marie Dargan, Emer Roantree (capt), Maeve Mansfield, Aine Lannon, Annette Reddy, Debbie O'Mahony, Deirdre Phelan.

Leinster semi final against Westmeath. A great display by the cats at Jenkinstown earned the perfect start to the campaign. James Stephens' starlet Denise Gaule made her championship debut a memorable one with a goal in each half including the winner in injury time to give Kilkenny a 2-10 to 1-10 win and a place in the Leinster intermediate final. The cats went into the final as complete underdogs facing a Longford side which had tasted life in senior ranks in recent years and were favourites to go all the way in 2008. With the loss of the dual players proving a bridge too far, Kilkenny were facing some tough times with the long term lay off through injury of inspirational centre back April Purcell. The cats played their hearts out in Dr.Cullen Park in late June but were no match for a star studded Longford team who claimed the Leinster title 4-12 to 0-1.

Leinster final team; Kilkenny; Aine Sheehy, Andrea Murphy (capt), Sara Mc Carthy, Niamh Whelan, Lydia Phelan, Sally Teehan, Eimear Roantree, Kelly Roche, Catriona Grace, Angela Kennealy, Denise Gaule, Lucinda Gahon, Mary Love, Miriam O Keeffe, Helen Murphy, Niamh Spratt, Joanne Cotterell, Orla McCormack, Sara Walsh, Emer Kelly, Lisa Carey, Lisa Millea, Leanne Fennelly, Martina Maher, Sara Butler, Noreen O Keeffe, April Purcell

All Ireland Series

Overcoming the Leinster final defeat the cats regrouped for the TG4 All Ireland series and another meeting with Longford. On this occasion Longford did not have it all their own way at Jenkinstown and needed a fortuitous goal to lead at half time 2-5 to 1-4 with Kilkenny making life very hard for the visitors.

Longford had to up the ante in the second half to shake off the Kilkenny challenge and in the final quarter pulled away with a string of points to win 2-14 to 1-4. The cats took heart from a good performance and a week later at the same venue faced Westmeath in what should have been a repeat of Kilkenny's win over the same opposition in the provincial semi final. However on the day what could go wrong

did go wrong and Westmeath gained revenge defeating the cats 0-9 to 1-5. This was a disheartening result for Kilkenny as it ruled out any chance of making the playoff stages with games yet to come against Ulster champions Fermanagh and last year's beaten all Ireland finalists Wexford. The girls headed north to play Fermanagh in Ulster's home of football, St Tiarnach's park Clones as the opener to the Armagh v Fermanagh men's Ulster final replay and the Ulster girls turned on the style in front of a huge home support to account for the challenge of the cats.

Despite the defeat where the result did no justice to Kilkenny's performance, the girls took their seats as guests to enjoy the spectacle that is the Ulster football final and were more than impressed with the talent on show among the Armagh and Fermanagh men's teams!

Kilkenny's last game was away to Wexford and although the loss of so many influential players during the summer proved detrimental to Kilkenny's challenge, the girls made the commitment to fulfil their final fixture. With the Wexford girls aiming for a semi final spot the Model county fielded a strong team and Kilkenny bowed out of the All Ireland series. The cats will maintain intermediate status in 2009 and with this in mind will re-group in January to prepare for the National League. The Kilkenny ladies can take heart from their great run in the 2008 league and on reaching the provincial final while hoping on this occasion to maintain the momentum through to championship time in June.

KILKENNY LADIES FOOTBALL – UNDER-AGE SCENE

With an ever increasing interest in girls' football Kilkenny's underage stars continued to impress in 2008 with a hugely successful primary schools championship and teams playing at u14, u16 and minor level in the Leinster championship. Coupled with the success of underage development Kilkenny entered the Leinster under 12 and under 14 blitzes for the third year in a row and did themselves proud with the under



Railyard - County Senior Champions and Leinster Club Finalists 2008.

Back: Eoghan Buggy(kitman), Kelly Roche, Nora Daly, Sarah buggy, Nicole O'Neill, Sarah Roche, Laurena Murphy, Aisling Brennan, Michelle Dowd, Amy Geoghegan, Emma Baldwin, Helen Quirke, Noreen Kelliher
Middle: Mary Love, Breda Roche, Martin Buggy (manager), Grainne Daly, Edwina Keane, Noreen O'Keeffe, Miriam O'Keeffe, Emer Kelly, Aoife Dunne, Aisling Corrigan-Ryan, Jo Roche, Brigid Murphy, Aoife Brennan, Kerry Murphy
Front: Elaine Gildea, Mairead Daly, Maeve Mansfield, Sinead Brennan, Catriona Grace (capt), Noelle Curran, Mairead Corrigan, Marie Dargan, Alice Farrell, Andrea Murphy, April Purcell

12s unlucky to lose out in the final against Wexford. The Kilkenny girls saw off the challenge of Kildare, Offaly and Wexford to top Division 3 before narrowly losing to the same Wexford side in the final 1-3 to 0-3. Thomastown's under 14 team were a revelation at the Leinster Feile competition claiming the Division 4 title, and created a stir at the National Feile finals in Cavan in July beating opposition from Cavan, Fermanagh and Britain to win their group with ease before losing out to New York at semi final stage.

Kerry Murphy and Martin Buggy assembled panels of thirty in under 14 and under 16 and the girls travelled some long journeys gaining more experience with games against Offaly, Westmeath, Louth and Longford. The under 14s had a big win over Carlow and no doubt many of these players will continue to show off their football skills in years to come.

Pride of place goes to the county minor side who won the Leinster shield final against Carlow in May.

Primary Schools

A total of eighteen schools entered the primary schools championship culminating in a very enjoyable finals day at Nowlan Park in May. In the Northern final Ballyragget edged out Kilkenny School Project with just a point between the sides 2-1 to 1-3. Player of the match was KSP's Nicole Lawlor. The southern final brought together Piltown and Gowran primary schools with the Piltown girls emerging victorious 5-5 to 2-2. Piltown's Shauna Commins won the player of the match award.

In the B final the girls from St. Fiachra's in Skeoughvosteen met the girls from Galmoy with both teams under the expert guidance of their teachers, county stars April Purcell and Andrea Murphy. The Galmoy girls emerged strongest with a stunning five goal spree from county under 14 star Sara Whelan who was a deserved player of the match.

In the A final, the big guns of St Canices and Thomastown squared up with the Thomastown girls victorious 3-5 to 2-0 after a cracking game which displayed every skill

of the game. Niamh Donnelly received the player of the match award.

Under 18- Leinster Minor Shield winners

The county under 18s side bowed out of the minor championship in a heartbreaking semi final defeat to Longford but bounced back to claim the provincial shield in May when they faced neighbours Carlow at Ballon. Due to exam commitments several players were unavailable and five members of the under 16 team stepped up. The younger girls played a huge part in a cracking game where Kilkenny looked safe at half time leading by three clear goals, 4-3 to 1-3. However Carlow emerged rejuvenated after the break adding 1-6 to bring the game right down to the wire and reduce Kilkenny's lead to four points at 5-4 to 2-9. The game went into the melting pot when Carlow netted again five minutes from the end to leave just a point between the sides at 5-4 to 3-9. The Kilkenny girls showed great character under pressure and some outstanding defending saw the cats hold on for a memorable win. Captain Emer Roantree accepted the minor shield from Leinster ladies football president Bill Daly and Thomastown's Aine Manning was a deserving player of the match after an awesome performance at full back. With six of the minor side also on the intermediate panel this team has the potential to emerge as a fine adult side in coming years and no doubt will bring more silverware to Kilkenny in ladies football.

Kilkenny; Grace Clarke (Thomastown), Sinead Stapleton (Thomastown), Aine Manning (Thomastown), Aisling Brennan (Railyard), Sarah Hennessy (Tullogher), Emer Roantree (Callan), Breena Fennelly (Thomastown), Marie Dargan (Railyard) (2-1), Niamh Whelan (Thomastown), Ruth Bergin (Freshford), Edwina Keane (Railyard) (1-1), Marie Meagher (Freshford) (0-1), Deirdre Phelan (James Stephens) (1-0), Sara Walsh (Thomastown) (0-1), Maeve Mansfield (Railyard) (1-0). Substitutes; Clodagh Doyle (Thomastown), Debbie O'Mahony (Rower Inistioge), Annette Reddy (Thomastown), Mairead Daly (Railyard), Aine Lannon (Thomastown)

RAILYARD LADIES FOOTBALL CLUB 2008.

In 2008 Railyard ladies football club raised the bar once again in ladies football in Kilkenny. Having dominated in recent years the north Kilkenny side retained the senior county title and went on to represent the county in the Leinster Intermediate club championship, narrowly losing the provincial final to Killoe of Longford. However in 2008, Railyard were made fight alot harder by their closest rivals Mullinavat who denied Railyard a league and championship double when the girls from the south claimed the league title in July. On this occasion Railyard were off colour losing out to the southern girls who were worthy winners on a 5-5 to 1-10 scoreline.

Railyard put all their energy into the championship campaign determined to win their third title in a row and defeated Thomastown in the first round 4-12 to 1-03, before accounting for Carrickshock 3-07 to 1-06. With the return of April Purcell from injury and the O Keeffe sisters back from a summer of football in Chicago the stage was set for a cracking semi final with Mullinavat. Due to the never ending clash with camogie fixtures, a hectic week of football ensued in mid September, with county semi finals and finals taking place only four days apart.

Railyard and Mullinavat met under lights in Ballyragget and the game was neck and neck from start to finish. The 'Vat girls lead at half time 2-1 to 1-2 and held a one point lead late in the second half. With sharp-shooter Edwina Keane absent Railyard struggled in front of goal until the ever reliable Marie Dargan popped for the winning goal and a late point to seal a 2-6 to 2-3 win setting up a repeat of last year's final against Thomastown.

Three days later Railyard gave an outstanding performance to overcome a young and very game Thomastown team who fought to the finish but were no match for Railyard's experience and strength. The holders lead at half time 3-10 to 1-3 with goals coming from Catriona Grace, Marie Dargan and Alice Farrell. Thomastown

staged a strong revival in the second half with points from Anna Farrell, Liz Dempsey and a Shelly Farrell goal. Railyard upped the tempo adding a further five points and two Edwina Keane goals for a comprehensive 5-15 to 2-8 win to claim their third championship on the trot. Captain Catriona Grace was a worthy Player of the Match. The champions had no time to celebrate with the first round of the Leinster intermediate club championship the following day. The opposition hailed from Clongeen in Wexford and Railyard had to work extra hard after the exertions of the previous four days. The sides were level at half time 1-03 to 0-06 in a game played in a constant downpour. Clongeen took the lead with a point mid way through the second half and Railyard had to dig deep to stay in the game. With five minutes left Dargan and Keane took the game by the scruff of the neck grabbing a goal apiece to secure a 3-3 to 0-7 win and a quarter final meeting with old rivals Ballylinan of Laois.

Martin Buggy had his charges well prepared for the visit of Railyard's near neighbours and despite trailing 1-4 to 1-3 at half time it was only a matter of time before the home side kicked into gear. Railyard powered ahead to win 5-10 to 1-5.

The north Kilkenny girls were now in the semi final with the visit of Arklow Geraldines to Clogh. An Edwina Keane goal and points from Marie Dargan, Kelly Roche and Miriam O Keeffe saw Railyard lead at half time 1-9 to 1-2 but the expected Arklow onslaught arrived straight after the break. Alice Farrell and Marie Dargan pointed for Railyard but two Arklow goals reduced Railyard's lead to three points. Points from O Keeffe, Keane and Grace restored Railyard's six point lead and despite Arklow grabbing goal number four with ten minutes remaining Railyard stepped up another gear. A goal apiece from Dargan and captain Catriona Grace earned Railyard a well deserved 3-16 to 4-4 win, and a place in the Leinster club final. Facing the experienced Killoe from Longford Railyard went into the provincial final as underdogs but made the Longford side fight all the way. The girls played superbly in the first half with April Purcell in commanding form at full back keeping a tight leash on Killoe's star forward Sharon Treacy, while captain Catriona Grace led by example at centre forward.

Marie Dargan despatched a penalty to the Killoe net but despite leading 1-6 to 1-2 at the break Railyard could not maintain that grip on the game. Miriam o Keeffe pointed on the restart to stretch the lead to five points but the Killoe forwards kicked into gear and grabbed a fortuitous goal to leave just two points between the sides at 1-7 to 2-2. The complexion of the game changed dramatically midway through the half and the Longford side kicked six points on the trot to lead 2-8 to 1-7 with time ticking away. Railyard laid siege to the Killoe goal but the experienced Longford side packed the defence in the final ten minutes to keep Railyard's forwards at bay and a Marie Dargan point was Railyard's only reward



St Lachtain's - Junior champions 2008

Back: Georgina Power, Shauna Bowden, Niamh Buggy, Yvonne McGrath, Kate Maher, Ruth Lennon, Kerry Delaney, Jennifer Cooper, Mary Bergin, Eileen Colclough, Suzanne Meagher, Marita Lanigan, Mary Dalton.
Middle: Martin Power(manager), Jimmy Gogarty(selector), Carol Kavanagh, Laura Comerford, Aine Connery, Marie O'Connor, Breda Kavanagh, Jaimee O' Sullivan, Collette Comerford, Majella Colclough, Niamh Kennedy , Lorraine Cass, Mairead Costello, Jacinta Power, Deirdre Delaney.
Front: Ann Dalton, Catriona Maher, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Noelle Corrigan, Cora Dowling (capt), Marie Meagher, Fiona Dowling, Emma Maher, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Michelle Ryan

before the final whistle sounded with Killoe ahead 2-8 to 1-8.

Railyard had blazed a trail through Leinster with three fine wins on the trot but will look back on the provincial final defeat as one that got away. As always the north Kilkenny girls did their club and county proud and will set out their stall in 2009 with the aim of winning county title number four. Martin Buggy has moulded his side into a formidable outfit and in 2008 Railyard remained the pace setters in ladies football in Kilkenny.

Railyard panel 2008; Noelle Curran, Aisling Corrigan, April Purcell, Aoife Dunne, Jo Roche, Grainne Daly, Noreen O Keeffe, Kelly Roche, Andrea Murphy, Marie Dargan, Catriona Grace, Miriam O Keeffe, Alice Farrell, Edwina Keane, Breda Roche, Emer Kelly, Noreen Kelliher, Mairead Corrigan-Ryan, Emma Baldwin, Amy Geoghegan, Laurena Murphy, Helen Quirke, Aisling Brennan, Maeve Mansfield, Brigid Murphy, Aoife Brennan, Michelle Dowd, Mairead Daly, Sara Buggy, Sarah Roche, Nicole O Neill, Sinead Brennan, Nora Daly, Elaine Gildea, Kerry Murphy.
Manager; Martin Buggy

Callan Ladies Football 2008

John Lockes ladies football club was formed in January 2008 by former Thomastown player Angela Doyle along with local Callan man John Stapleton. A panel of thirty girls trained under John Thornton and Dick Dunne with plenty of help from John Culhane and Brian Kelly. Eimear Roantree who was part of Kilkenny's 2007 All Ireland winning team played a pivotal role for Callan and the team improved with every game. Despite not winning any silverware in 2008 the girls battled hard gaining some great experience and will be ready and willing for action again in 2009.

St. Lachtain's Ladies Football 2008

St. Lachtain's Ladies football club began its fourth season in existence this year with a score to settle. After being defeated in the county final by Carrickshock the previous year the girls were not about to let it get away again. The panel of players steadily grew from strength to strength throughout the year; from the original six to the final thirty. The year included an uneventful league followed by an unforgettable championship. Hard fought matches filled up the summer ending with a place in the semi final against Muckalee. A close match on a cool night in Ballyragget ended in St.



Piltown- Primary Schools Girls Football "B" South Champions

Back: Lauren O'Meara; Orla Hayes; Jennifer Norris; Claire Flanagan; Chloe Blackmore; Aoife Moore; Rósín Phelan; Jessica Poyntz; Shauna Murphy; Orla McDermott; Aisling Carroll.
Middle: Sinead McCarthy; Niamh Mundy; Shauna Commins; Ellen Commins; Eleanor Cunningham.
Front: Rebecca Kelly; April Kelly; Ciara Phelan; Emma Fitzpatrick; Lisa McCarthy; Sarah Murphy; Ellie Cooney; Eva Flanagan; Claire Power; Robyn Oakey; Ann-Marie Egan; Stephanie Falconer; Michelle Whelan

Lachtain's favour and a final meeting with James Stephens was set. A slow start saw James Stephens gain the upper hand in the first quarter but the Freshford girls edged ahead just before half time to lead 2-1 to 1-2. An inspiring second half display which included all important goals from Marie O Connor, Cora Dowling and Ann Dalton secured a 5-4 to 1-3 win for the St. Lachtain's girls. Captain Cora Dowling was a worthy recipient of the Player of the Match award and St. Lachtain's were crowned Ladies Junior Football Champions for the first time in the club's history. An amazing year was had by all, which was aided by the many new faces in the club including new trainer Jimmy Gogarty who along with Martin Power guided the club to its success. Unfortunately the season was to go no further and it ended with defeat to Wicklow champions Greystones in the first round of the Leinster junior club championship. Freshford have assembled a strong panel of players and could well create a stir in ladies football circles in the coming years.

Panel: Aine Connery, Ann Dalton, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Breda Kavanagh, Bridget Bergin, Bronagh Neary, Carol Kavanagh, Catriona Maher, Collette Comerford, Cora Dowling (capt), Deirdre Delaney, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Eileen Healy, Emma Maher, Fiona Dowling, Fiona Muldowney, Georgina Power, Jaimee O'Sullivan, Jennifer Cooper, Kate Maher, Kerry Delaney, Laura Comerford, Lorraine Cass, Mairead Costello, Majella Colclough, Marie Meagher, Marie O'Connor, Niamh Buggy, Niamh Kennedy, Noelle Corrigan, Ruth Lennon, Shauna Bowden, Sinead Connery, Sinead Corrigan, Suzanne Maher, Yvonne McGrath.

Management: Jimmy Gogarty, Martin Power.

St Martin's Ladies Football 2008

St. Martins Ladies Football Team was formed in January 2008. They made their debut against Callan in the League. This was an exciting time for the team as a lot of the girls would not have played Gaelic football before.

As one of the new teams in the Junior Championship, St Martin's have proved to be serious competitors and are continuing to strengthen, under the guidance of our trainer Paudraig Keegan who has shown patience, commitment and belief in our girls.

The team reached the semi finals of the junior championship where they faced a strong Freshford side. While St. Martins battled hard, the experience of the Freshford team shone through. However the Muckalee girls were not deterred by this defeat and will be back in fighting form for the 2009 Championship.

The team really appreciate the support they have been given by Kilkenny Recreation and Sport Partnership, through a sports equipment grant and sponsorship by Jim Bolger, Horse Trainer. Their contributions have really helped get the club up and running. The girls are proud to tog out in our new jerseys, which have been generously sponsored by Joe Coogan, Auctioneer.

Thomastown Ladies Gaelic Football Club

Feile Peil na nÓg 2008 - CAVAN 4-6 JULY
Thomastown under 14 girls football team made the long journey to Cavan to repre-



Thomastown N.S - Primary Schools Football 'A' champions

Back: Jessica Davis, Kirstie Davis, Caitlin Skehan, Laura Tennyson, Eimear Corr, Aine Butler, Sarah Walsh, Maeve Egan, Chloe Quinn
Middle: Breda O'Shea, Nessa Griffin, Eimear Donnelly, Karen O'Shea, Sinead Whelan, Niamh O'Shea, Niamh Quigley, Ruth Skehan, PJ Whelan
Front: Alannah O'Keeffe, Maeve O'Connor, Emma Walsh, Nelle Henderson, Aoife Farrell, Ciara Farrell, Niamh Donnelly, Alice Carey, Ailish Butler, Orlaith Butler, Edwina Maher



Ballyragget N.S - Primary Schools Girls Football 'B' North Champions

Back: Karen Delaney, Zara Gunner, Niamh Butler, Gabriella Tallafus, Laura Walsh, Arianna Walsh,
Middle: Laura Hegarty, Orla Jacob, Katelyn Phelan, Emma Kelly, Lauren Dermody, Lisa Delaney,
Front: Amy Blue, Kelly Dowling, Nicole Brophy, Shauna Lacey, Noelle Murphy, Meghan Foley, Aoife Dempsey, Rachel O'Sullivan, Anna Brennan
Missing: Sheila Kenny, Imelda Lennon, Katie Brophy.



Galmoy - Primary Schools "C" Champions 2008

Back: Eileen Vaughan, Laura Whelan, Celine Cullinane, Emma Nicholson, Caoimhe Glendon, Sinead O'Connell
Middle: Andrea Murphy(Trainer), Mae Doyle-Ryan, Niamh Sweeney, Mary Corcoran, Ciara Geoghegan, Marian O'Connell
Front : Sarah Fogarty, Bethan Hiscock, Sarah Laherty, Ashleigh Tully, Karen Brennan, Charlotte Barton, Sarah Whelan, Deanna Phelan

sent Kilkenny at the 2008 Feile Peil na n-Og for the second year running. The Thomastown girls performed well at the 2007 competition in Leitrim and were hoping to go one step further this year. With development in place in Kilkenny to add further underage girls' clubs Thomastown more than did their county proud as Kilkenny's representatives. The Feile Peil na n-Og competition for under 14 boys and girls has been a huge success since its inception in 1982. 156 teams travelled to Cavan for the 2008 Feile from all 32 counties as well as teams from Great Britain and the U.S.A totalling over 3,000 participants. Kilkenny were represented by Emeralds of Urlingford in division 5 of the boy's competition and the Thomastown girls took part with twelve clubs in division 4 of the girls. Both clubs were hosted by the Derrylin in Fermanagh and Thomastown were grouped with Derrylin (Fermanagh), Killeshandra (Cavan) and Warwickshire (Great Britain) while teams from Cavan, Antrim, Derry and New York made up the other side of the draw. The girls had prepared well under the guidance of PJ Whelan, - who is also a selector with the county intermediate ladies side, and as they set off on their journey north early on the Friday morning they were accompanied by a large group of supporters with parents and friends flying the blue and white of Thomastown.

After comfortable victories over Derrylin (Fermanagh), and Killeshandra (Cavan), Thomastown encountered stiffer opposition from Warwickshire but came out on top in a tight game. In their final match, the girls had to give way to a highly skilled New



Thomastown panel: Niamh Bolger, Sinead Whelan, Ailish Butler, Alice Carey, Nell Henderson, Ciara Farrell, Alice O'Hanlon, Joanne O'Hanrahan, Alison Murphy, Niamh O'Shea, Danielle Walsh, Leanne Walsh, Megan Farrell, Anna Walpole, Eimear Corr, Aine Butler, Sophie Kavanagh, Aoife Farrell, Jessie Carroll, Orlaith Butler, Niamh Quigley, Sorcha O'Connor, Maeve O'Connor, Santana Hernandez-Power, Kate Delahunt. Manager Team: PJ Whelan

York side, mostly of Irish descent. Despite losing out at the semi final stage, the girls did themselves and their club proud by winning their group well and were worthy representatives of Kilkenny ladies football. Thomastown will be vying to represent Kilkenny again in next year's feile to be held in Kildare.

Intermediate Team:

For the second year running the intermediate team reached the county final where

once again their opponents were Railyard. The girls fought hard but could not get the better of a strong and very experienced Railyard side. Hopefully next year the girls will be able to go that one step further. The club would like to thank Barry Hayes and PJ Whelan for all the time they give to training the teams and a special word of thanks to the Shem O Hara of O Hara's Bar who is the clubs main sponsor. Many thanks to Thomastown GAA Club for the use of their facilities.



Kilkenny Citroën & Honda Centre

CALLAN ROAD, KILKENNY



Photographed at Kilkenny Castle at the handing over of the keys of a Citroën Centre van to Kilkenny County Board (from left): Joe Pyke, Chairman Bord na nÓg; Niall O'Neill, Kilkenny Citroën Centre; Charlie O'Neill; Paul Kinsella, Chairman County Board; Pat Dunphy, Vice-Chairman County Board; Denis Rackard Cody, Kit Manager Kilkenny Hurling Team; Ned Quinn, Secretary County Board; John O'Neill, Kilkenny Citroën Centre; Cian O'Neill and Jackie Tyrrell, former All-Ireland winning captain with Kilkenny.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

An appeal to the 85,000+ population of Kilkenny.....



Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters club presenting new gear and gear bags to the Minor Footballers. Pictured from left are Emmett McAviney (Manager), J.J. Lennon (Captain), John Mackey (Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters Club), Jim Freeman (Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters Club), Joe Pyke (Chairman, Bord na nÓg) and Paddy Buggy (Kilkenny G.A.A. Supporters Club). (Photograph: Eoin Hennessy)

The GAA may be an amateur organisation, and the players may be amateurs, but making financial ends meet can be difficult.

This season, Kilkenny won four All-Ireland hurling finals at senior, intermediate, under-21, and minor level.

In addition, teams were fielded in the senior football league, junior, under-21, and minor football championships and also in under-17, under-16, and under-14 hurling tournaments.

The Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club currently plays a bigger and bigger role in helping the County Board finance all its operations. Since it was founded in 1991, the Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club has contributed over a million euro to the various boards and clubs within the county. The money has been spent in a variety of ways in providing better gear, facilities and back-up support for county teams while also supporting the official coaches employed by the board.

This year, for example the club has contributed €50,000 to the players' holiday fund, €19,000 towards the expenses of the four teams that won All-Irelands and €10,000 towards the various coaching schemes.

On top of that, the club gave financial assistance to the clubs who represented the county in the Leinster and All-Ireland club championships, in football as well as hurling. Clubs who represented Kilkenny in the Féile na nGael competition also received a contribution towards their expenses.

The other sections of Gaelic games - handball, camogie, schools, and ladies football, including the boards that supervise these games, also received a contribution towards their expenses.

The Supporters Club committee members also worked hard to make both the corporate and the banquet dinners a huge success, and they spearheaded the drive to sell €20,000 worth of raffle tickets for the fund-raising draw that was held on county final day.

All this was done by volunteers in the background who give their time freely and willingly because they want Kilkenny to be as successful as possible.

The club's main fund raising ventures are membership subscriptions, an annual Golf Classic, a Race Day in Leopardstown and the sale of Kilkenny merchandise. The money raised through membership could be a real money spinner if Kilkenny people took the idea on board. In 1991 the membership of the club was less than 100. This year the figure has grown to nearly a 1000 but, in a county with a population in excess of 85,000, people there is still huge room for expansion,

Kilkenny teams enjoyed unprecedented success during 2008, and they gave us all great enjoyment during the year. All the victories came at a price, but, in all cases, the price was met, thanks in part to the members of the club.

By joining the club, you can play your part in insuring that the funds required to secure the future are available when required. The membership fee of €20 per year is a very small price to pay when you are rewarded with the success of the Kilkenny teams over the last ten years.

The membership is made up of people of all ages, our oldest member is Martin White who won an All-Ireland SH medals in 1932, '33 and '35 and the youngest member is Jack Buggy who was born on 2nd September 2008.

Anyone interesting in joining or who would like to know more about the club should contact any of the following:

<i>John Mackey</i>	<i>(Chairman)</i>
<i>Eddie Keher</i>	<i>(Vice-Chairman)</i>
<i>Jim Freeman</i>	<i>(Secretary)</i>
<i>Sean Dunne</i>	<i>(Assistant Secretary)</i>
<i>Eamonn Hennessy</i>	<i>(Treasurer)</i>
<i>Ned Buggy</i>	<i>(PRO)</i>

Committee Members: Tom Clooney Brennan, John Cahill, Senan Cooke, Martin Dowling, Eugene Grehan, Frank Houlihan, Jim Kavanagh, Jim Kearns, Frank Morrissey, Billy Norris, Denis North, Tom Walsh.

The Kilkenny Supporters club suffered the sad loss in 2008 of Tommy O'Brien, long-time PRO with the organisation. Suaimhneas sioráí dó.

Tommy O'Brien

One of Kilkenny's best known and best loved sons.....

On March 7th 2008, Kilkenny lost one of its best known and best loved sons. This was evidenced by the huge turn out at the removal on Saturday evening and the burial in Foulkstown on Sunday of Tommy O'Brien of Michael Street.



Tommy was born in June 1944, the oldest of nine children, to the late Dan and Maureen O'Brien (née Waldron). He received his primary education at Kilkenny C.B.S. from where he won a scholarship that led to his second level education in St. Enda's Preparatory College. Having received a call to St. Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra in 1962 he qualified as a National Teacher there in 1964, winning the Gold Medal for Mathematics.

Tommy's entire teaching career was spent in Kilkenny C.B.S. He joined the staff as an assistant teacher and later he was to become the first Lay

Principal of the famous city school in 1984. For fifteen years he served as Principal up to the time of his early retirement in 1999. As a teacher, Tommy O'Brien was out of the top drawer. His insight into and his understanding of the pupils in his care was wonderful. A fair man, he had a unique way of combining firmness with great kindness and compassion and consequently brought out the best in all under his care. This too was easily witnessed by the huge numbers of past pupils and parents who attended on both days.



Tommy is honoured at the 2007 GAA President's Awards Ceremony in Croke Park by Uachtarán Nicky Brennan. *Sportsfile*

Tommy's contribution to sport was immense. A good hurler himself, he was associated with various city teams in his young days and in latter years with Dicksboro. He steered many C.B.S. teams to famous victories in both hurling and football. He was an opponent to be respected, a man who was humble in victory and generous in defeat. He led C.B.S. to the Féile na nGael final in Cork in 1975 and when Féile came to Kilkenny in 1978 and 1979, Tommy, as an excellent Chairman, steered Cumann na mBunscoileanna through those two demanding years. On the administration front too he was Secretary of the County Football Board in 1968 and served as P.R.O. with Kilkenny County Camogie Board.

Handball, of course, was Tommy's big love. He was a skilful player in the alley, but he devoted much of his adult life to promoting and coaching young players and to the administration side of the game. His skill in fostering the game among the youth can be gauged by the names that came to the fore under his guidance. Little wonder then that his mortal remains were carried to St. John's Church on the shoulders of such greats as Michael 'Ducksie' Walsh, D.J. Carey, Eugene Downey, Paddy O'Reilly, Ollie Harold and Billy Bourke - All-Ireland champions all. Fair testimony to any man!

On the administration side of the game, Tommy was very involved with his local club, Talbot's Inch. He served as County Secretary of the Handball Board from 1968 to 1972 and was Chairman of the same board from 1973 to 1976. He was Leinster Secretary for over 30 years, although his late mother, Maureen, claimed that was her job! Tommy was honoured in the Handball world when in the Centenary Year for the G.A.A. in 1984 he was elected Uachtarán Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann, a post he held until 1987.

He had many links with local radio and was well known as a match commentator and sports pundit. He was a much sought after referee in his day in both G.A.A. and Handball circles and he was also a keen golfer. Tommy was a founder member of the Kilkenny Supporters' Club and was its P.R.O. He served as P.R.O. of the annual Kilkenny Sportstars' Awards and was their genial M.C. over many years.

Outside sport, Tommy, as a teacher, took a great interest in I.N.T.O. affairs. He was a member of the Kilkenny City Branch and attended Congress on many occasions. He had a beautiful voice and was a member for many years of the Unity Singers. He was also a member of the Kilkenny Musical Society and played leading roles in some of its productions. A man of many talents!

Bhí grá mór i gcónaí riamh ag Clann Uí Bhriain do'n Ghaeilge agus is iomaí Samhradh a chaith siad i nGaeltacht na Rinne ins na Déise. Mhún Tomás Ó Briain ar na Cúrsaí Samhraidh i gColáiste na Rinne ar feadh roinnt mháith bliain agus ar ndóigh sa tréimhse sin freisin bhí sé i bhfeighil na gcluichí agus cúrsai spóirt ann. Bhí ainm in áirde air sa Choláiste mar mhúinteoir agus mar dhuine.Luaitear a ainm le meas agus grá go rí-mhinic fós sa chúinne sin tíre.

Above all, Tommy had a great sense of family. Predeceased by his brother Conor, he will be sadly missed by his brothers Donal, Liam, Deaglán, Tadhg and Finbarr, sisters Réidín Condon and Gráinne O'Neill, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, aunts, nephews and nieces, to all of whom and to his legion of friends sincerest sympathy is extended.

Go dtuga Dia leaba i measc na naomh dá anam uasal.

Joe Dunphy

CLUB NEWS

Ballyhale Shamrocks



Club Committee:

Chairperson: Sean Reid
Secretary: Dave Gallagher
Vice-Chair: Michael Fennelly
Asst. Secretary: Sean O'Sullivan
Treasurers: Neddy Walsh & John Drennan
PRO/Registrar: Dave Gallagher
Juvenile Chair: John Kenneally
Juvenile Secretary: Jimmy Walsh
Caretaker: Kevin Kennedy

125 years

Ballyhale Shamrocks is one of the newer clubs in Co. Kilkenny. Formed in only 1972 the Club was an amalgamation of Knocktopher and Ballyhale with elements of the previously defunct Knockmoylan Club – hence the three parts of the Parish pointed towards the Shamrocks name and logo. The Club was successful almost immediately, winning the 1973 Junior Championship and its first run of under 21 successes which led eventually to massive achievements a few years later at senior level – achievements that the current crop of hurlers hope to emulate. Interestingly the current Chairperson and Vice-Chair were on that 1973 team so perhaps in 2043 Henry Shefflin and Cha Fitzpatrick will hold those positions!

Football

Shamrocks showed again this year that

the Parish and Kilkenny are not ‘just’ hurlers. Under the leadership and guidance of Tommy Shefflin and Tom Coogan the Club went on to win the Junior Football Championship in the County.

Underage

An awful lot of work has gone on at underage at all levels with much time being given up to coach, play and organise tournaments. Particular credit must go this year to Michael O'Sullivan's under 14 team who won a County under 14 Championship with Eoin Doyle as Captain.

County Players

As has been the case for most of the Club's short history the Club has contributed to Kilkenny success on the National stage. This year, however, was a bumper year for both Club and County. Firstly James ‘Cha’ Fitzpatrick followed in Henry's footsteps by Captaining Kilkenny to All-Ireland success – and as an aside – also to Kilkenny's first ‘real’ three in a row! He was supported by Henry Shefflin, Michael Fennelly (Vice-Captain), TJ Reid and Eoin Reid. TJ Reid and Colin Fennelly claimed Under 21 All-Ireland medals. Alan Cuddihy, wearing no. 4 claimed a Minor All-Ireland medal with Kilkenny.

Club Hurling

Our Junior 'A' hurlers fell foul of the Championship yet again despite enjoying great success in the League part of the competition, winning out the League. Fortunately the Senior Hurlers were not so unlucky! Shamrocks won the League title in the County for the 4th year in a row and then went on to win a 3 in a row in the County Championship. Captain Bob Aylward got to go up the steps twice this year and the team are still in the hunt for Leinster (and maybe) All-Ireland honours – a great achievement for Maurice Aylward and his backroom team and all the panel of players.

Community

No Club is run successfully without the full support of the community in which it takes both its name and identity. We are very grateful to all supporters whether fans or financial backers – particularly to our main sponsor Andy O'Keeffe. Also the Club could not be run without the support of family. Several families in the Parish suffered losses this year – in particular the Reid family, who lost Mary and the Aylward family who lost Kitty – two very strong women who inspired and encouraged the men in their family. Our sympathies go to all who have suffered bereavement during the past year and we hope that their memories will continue to inspire a love of hurling in the Parish.



Ballyhale Supporters welcome Liam McCarthy

CLUB NEWS

Barrow Rangers



Barrow Rangers Minor Football C Champions 2007 (played in 2008)

Back: Martin Dormer, Sean McDonald, Thomas Whately, Kevin Brennan, Dylan Whearty, Richard Doyle, John Kealy, James Kevin Hughes, Ger Walsh, Thomas Brennan, Patrick Drennan, Jason Holden, Patrick Purcell.
Front: Eugene Kealy, Ciaran Doyle, Michael Whately, Cathal Kenny, Martin Bambrick, Damien Barcoe, John Brennan, Tom Brennan, Cathal English.



Jeanville - Junior Football Champions 1906

Jeanville is a townland near Goresbridge. They played Harristown in the Junior Final in 1908, winning by 1-13 to 0-0. The game was unfinished but Jeanville were awarded the title.



Barrow Rangers U-8 team in Roanmore Tournament

Back: Shauna Treacy, Ciaran Brennan, Ciaran Hanlon, Eoin O'Connor, Ruairi Breen, Philip Drennan, Darragh Mahon.

Front: Evan West, Sean O'Neill, Eoghan Hogan, Liam Hogan, Eamon Roche.

Officers 2008

Chairman:	Pat Drea
Vice-Chairman:	Dermot Maher
Secretary:	Bob Shortall
Asst. Secretary:	Mick Barcoe
Treasurer:	Philip Maher
Asst. Treasurer:	Murt Medlar
PRO:	Michael Shortall
Asst PRO:	Peter Breen

Juvenile

Chairman	Eugene Kealy
Secretary	James Flavin
Treasurer	Christy Kenny

Adult Grades

The improvement in the junior hurling team was noticeable again this year and with a little more commitment a junior title of some description cannot be too far away. They reached the semi final of the league where they were beaten by Dicksboro. Thus they qualified for the quarter final of the North Junior Hurling Championship. The long lay off did not help their chances and opponents Bennettsbridge defeated us by four points. Some good performances along the way enabled them reach the quarter final of the All County League, where they lost out to neighbours Blacks & Whites. The U-21 side were narrowly defeated by St Patrick's, Ballyragget after extra time in the Quarter Final.

Underage

The club competed at Roinn B level in U-14, as they had lost a good number of players. Even here they struggled and suffered some heavy defeats during the season. The U-16 side had a disappointing year.

The minor team put up some very good performances. They just missed out on qualifying for the League knock out stages on score difference. In the championship they beat O'Loughlin Gaels and put up a great performance against eventual champions Erins Own. The year ended on a high with the Minor Footballers having a hard earned but deserved victory over Carrickshock to take the Roinn C Title

Team Management

A special word of thanks goes to the various management teams, without whose dedication and commitment the club would not function.

In the Black and Amber

Pride of place here must go to Richard Doyle and Cathal Kenny, proud members of the Kilkenny Minor Leinster and All Ireland winning team.

March of Time

Dermot and Philip Maher suffered a major loss with the death of their father Gerry. He regularly attended games and was very proud of the performances of his sons. Martin Brennan, Fenniscourt, also suffered a huge blow with the death of his two young sons, Stephen and Adrian. Sympathy is also extended to all other players, officials and members that suffered a bereavement during the year.

CLUB NEWS

Bennettsbridge



Officers 2008

Chairman	Eamon Hanrahan
Secretary	Dick O' Neill
Treasurer	PJ Cullen
Co Board rep.	Martin Treacy
PRO	Ian Morrissey

Officers - Juvenile Committee

Chairman	John Byrne
Vice chairman	Christy Walsh
Secretary	Mary Blanchfield
Treasurer	Dick O'Neill
P.R.O.	Alan Byrne
Registrar	Tom Kiely

Junior Hurling

The 1st round match was against O'Loughlins. This match was a draw but Bennettsbridge were sucessfull in the replay. Up next was Paulstown, Bennettsbridge showesd great improvement here and won this game. Then the Northern semi final against the fancied Galmoy outfit. Bennettsbridge played very well and went on to win this match. It was then onto Nowlan Park to play the Northern Final against Lisdowney. The Bridge did not do themselves justice here and went down. Full credit must go to the manager Richard Moran, who was a great guide to this team. We look forward to next year where Bennettsbridge could well be in the county final again.

Development

The development of Bennettsbridge GAA club continues. This year a major undertaking of putting up extra floodlights, was taken on. Much praise must go to the hard working field committee who are looking after this project. Work is at an advanced stage and we hope to have the lights working very soon.

Bennettsbridge Bord na nÓg

Bennettsbridge had a very successful year at juvenile level. For the first time in the clubs history an u-6 team was fielded under the



Bennettsbridge - U16 "B" League Champions 2008

Back: Christopher Fitzpatrick, Alan Byrne, Gavin Hickey, Jamie Monaghan, James Brennan, Shane Brennan, Tom Kealy, Jonathan Neville, William Murphy, Eamon O'Connor.
Front: Jack McCarron, Enda Morrissey, Paul O'Neill, Barrie Geoghegan, Cormac Wafer, Shane Egan, Robert Lennon.

guidance of Shane Doyle, Ger Kelly and John Nolan.

The U-8 team managed by Michael Lewis, Leo Mahon, Paul Brennan and Michael Murphy had a great year with wins in a number of blitz's.

The U-10 team managed by Tony Cullen, Mort Coyne and Mike Hanley contested a number of tournaments but with no great success.

The U-12 team managed by John Byrne, John Brennan and John Aylward were beaten in the semi-final of the Conahy tournament by Lisdowney.

The U-14's managed by Larry Cleere, Willie Blanchfield and Ian Morrissey had a great year with victory in the league beating

James Stephens in the final and losing by one point in a thrilling semi-final against Ballyhale Shamrocks in the championship.

The U-16's managed by John Brennan, John Nolan, Tommy Lennon and trained by James McGarry had a good campaign winning the league final against Rower-Inistioge but losing to Erin's Own in the championship.

The minor team managed by Larry Cleere, Willie Blanchfield, John Byrne, Ian Morrissey and Paul Brennan had a good year reaching the semi-final in both the league and championship. Thanks again to everyone involved.



Michael and Theresa Nolan

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CLUB NEWS

Blacks & Whites



Curragh 1926

Back: Jack Kelly "Of the river", Curraghlane; Jim Kelly, "Of the river", Curraghlane; Bill McCormack, Gurteen; Michael Gordon, Boherkyle; John Healy, Townahaha; Harry Comerford, Powerstown; Tom Carroll, Townahaha; Paddy Doyle, Mount Loftus; Richie Power, Townahaha.
Front: Peter Carroll, Pollagh; Andy Healy, Townahaha; Martin Kelly "Of the river", Curraghlane; Jimmy Barcoe, Coolatogher; Jack Carroll, Pollagh; Edward "Neddy" Dalton, Glencoum.
Boy: Andrew "Wren" Stephen O'Donnell (Born on St. Stephens day).



Blacks and Whites - Winners Division 2 Leinster League Final

Back: J Foley, P Hayden, C Ryan, A O'Dowd, J Lawlor, D Fitzpatrick, P Cleere, T Phelan, B Cleere, J Murphy, M Doyle, T Farrell, S Kealy.
Front: A Foley, N Kennedy, P Whelan, J Whelan, J Murphy, J Brennan (Capt.), J Doran, P Murphy, D Brennan, M Moloney, T Moloney

Club Officers 2008

President	Sean O'Grady
Chairman	Ned Moran
Vice Chairman	Dr Michael Helly / Mick Lennon
Secretary	Joe Lawlor
Asst. Secretary	Niall Kennedy
Treasurer	Nancy Moloney
Registrar	Mick Lennon
PRO	James Doran
Youth Officer	Michael Moloney

Junior Hurling

A good league run saw the hurlers reach the All County League Final only to lose narrowly to Galmoyn in a game played in Palmerstown in late July. The hurlers also had a great run in the Leinster league, and after winning division 3 the year previous, found themselves up against stiffer opposition in division 2. However, they embraced the challenge and found themselves in the final against Wexford senior outfit Cloughbawn, after dismissing Ferns St. Aidans in the semi-final.

In what was probably the team's best performance of the year in Kennedy Park New Ross, the Skeough lads were level after extra time. In the replay Blacks & Whites again performed well and came out on top by a single score.

Unfortunately the lads didn't carry that form into the championship and after defeating Erins Own they exited the championship at the hands of Dicksboro.

Club Development

It was another good year for the club off the pitch which saw the completion of the surface on the juvenile pitch which will be ready for action next year. The indoor hall with synthetic grass surface is proving very popular with bookings quite heavy for hourly slots throughout the year for hurling, football and soccer training. It is most useful in the winter season and neighbouring clubs and parishes are also availing of the facility. It is a unique asset in the area and at 50 per hour is very reasonable and a great source of revenue. Great credit must

be given to Bridie Lennon who manages the bookings and money. Works are also being completed on new changing rooms and showers etc for the hall. Great credit must also go to the field committee for the upkeep of the pitch and clubhouse etc.

Juvenile Review

Lack of numbers in both clubs saw the coming together of Blacks and Whites and neighbouring Graignamanagh as Ogra Graignamanagh/Blacks and Whites at minor and U-16 level. The minors performed well all year and were unbeaten until the championship final where they fell to Tullaroan. They have also qualified for the league final where they face the same opposition. The U-16s lost in the championship to Young Irelands who went on to win the competition. Similar to the minors they have also qualified for the Semi final of the football championship against Emeralds. Great credit to all who put in the time and effort to train and coach the players.

Our U-14 team actually lost out to Graignamanagh in the league and championship with at least some good individual performances giving hope for the future. Also an U-6 and U-8 hurling blitz was held in Tom Walsh Park during the summer where all neighbouring clubs attended and proved to be a great success.

Black and Amber

Peter Cleere collected his fifth All Ireland medal with the Kilkenny intermediate team which beat limerick. Niall Kennedy was also a member of the squad. Michael Moloney collected an All Ireland Minor medal as the Kilkenny lads beat Galway on All Ireland final day where he lined out at No. 5.

A Bit of History

The picture above is the Curragh football team of 1926. In 1927 Curragh and Grove Ramblers which was the hurling club in the area at the time amalgamated to form the blacks and whites. The first success for the Blacks and Whites club came when they won the 1932 county senior football title beating O'Loughlin Gaels on a score line of 4-4 to 1-1, the final being played in Nowlan Park in May 1933. Michael Gordon, Boherkyle, was the team trainer. The 1932 panel which won the championship was as follows: Jack McNamara (Graignamanagh), Dick Dunne (Graignamanagh), Jim Brennan (Aclare), Kevin Hayden (Townahaha), Billy Carroll (Pollagh), Jack Carroll (Pollagh), Peter Carroll (Pollagh), Ren Carroll (Pollagh), Jack Kelly (Curraghlane Upper), Jim Kelly (Curraghlane Upper), Martin Kelly (Curraghlane Upper), corner back, Dick Walsh (Pollagh), Michael Moran (Powerstown), Pat Simpson (Barrowmount), Martin Bolger (Graignamanagh), ----- Doyle (Co Carlow), Jimmy Doherty (Graignamanagh), Michael Gordan (Boherkyle) trainer, Joe Kelly (Curraghlane Lower), Jimmy Barcoe (Coolatogher), Davy Power (Townahaha), Paddy Murphy (Ballyduff), and Jack Healy (Townahaha). Ar dheis De do raibh said.

CLUB NEWS

Carrickshock



Carrickshock Senior Hurling team 1942

Back: Paddy Aylward (Knocktopher), Willie (Whirl) Doherty, Jimmy Cuddihy (Ballinteskin), Larry O'Keeffe (Kilree), Paddy Hearne (Catstown), Willie (Lynch) Walsh (Slieverue), Paddy Grace, Martin Brennan (Túnabhaile), Jim Roughan (Carraigtearna) 12?, Pakie Butler (Cotterstown)
Middle: Tom (Builder) Walsh, Jim Malone, Tom Dalton (Greywood), George Dermody (Crowbally), Bob Aylward (Knockmoylan), Bobby Hincks (Slieverue), Jimmy O'Neill (Ballintee), Neddy Fitzpatrick, Jimmy Kelly (Rosboulnra), John Fitzpatrick (Knockmoylan),
Front: Mickey Kearns, Jimmy Walsh (Kilcreddy), Luke Gaule (Keatingstown), Paddy Butler, Jack (Count) Phelan, Johnny Walsh (Newchapel), Jack Murphy (Lukeswell), Jim (Feg) Murphy.



Carrickshock - the future

A selection of u-6 and u-8 players at Mullinavat blitz

Senior League Champions

2008 was again a busy year on and off the field at Carrickshock the event of note was the winning of the first senior title in 51 years with a good victory over O'Loughlins in the shield final.

Bord na nÓg

Many thanks to all involved in our underage structures which saw children from u6 upwards representing the club over the sporting year, great credit goes to all.

At county level our ambassadors were Mark Dwyer at county minor, U17 John Cahill and Brian Donovan, U16 John Power and Ciaran Roche, U15 Stephen Farrell and David Holden and U14 Tommy Hearne. A word of appreciation to Tom Duggan who continues to contribute great time and energy in the pro-

motion of gaelic games in our schools.

The adult teams

Three adult teams competed over the course of the year with special junior A and B and senior involved in all hurling competitions.

The U-21 hurling team has reached the southern final of the roinn B competition as we go to press.

The senior panel continued to make progress under the stewardship of John Leahy, Pat Dwyer and Joe Brennan winning the shield final but losing out to shamrocks at the semi of the championship.

A team was entered into the Kilmacud Crokes, a great experience for all, a wonderful start to All Ireland weekend.

Football

The team competed well, making history

been the first adult team to play at the new grounds at Stoneyford when they hosted James Stephens in the football league.

Handball

A busy and successful year was recorded in handball with Mark Dwyer and Ger McGrath taking double senior college honours, Ger went on to take Leinster 40x20 and 60x30 titles finishing the year with an All Ireland colleges double when he was partnered by Dan Breen representing Scoil Aireagail, Eamon Foley won u21 Leinster and Steven Dwyer successful taking u-14 title. Marie Walsh also excelled for the club winning 40x20 and 60x30 All Ireland titles

The County Scene

Again the club had representatives on all county panels with Mark Dwyer flying the flag at minor, Niall Tennyson at U-21 and John Tennyson, John Dalton, Michael Rice and Richie Power on the senior. Congrats!

The Financial Scene

Fund raising drives over the year included the novel 'Cheltenham Challenge' which created a great buzz and saw local man William Duggan taking the top prize, the Piltown draw, weekly lotto and golf classic were again steady earners and thanks to all who run and support these ventures. Special thanks to our main sponsor David Doyle, Doyle Concrete.

Club Developments

Recent remedial works and drainage projects reaped rewards over the wet summer with the grounds holding up very well at Hugginstown, the hurling wall is a great addition to the club and provides a challenge for young and old !

The new field at Lawcus has proved invaluable over the year and the sod continues to improves the months go by.

A defibrillator was acquired by the club and is available at the club rooms. Funds permitting it is hoped to plaster the recreational hall and complete the car parking area at Hugginstown over the next months.

The Social Scene

Congrats to Tom and Caroline Cassin and Pat and Bernie Tennyson on their weddings during the year and to David and Jennifer Franks on the arrival of Baby Adam.

Bereavements

The club wishes to extend sincere sympathy to those who suffered bereavements over the year, the Cassin family, Ballygerdra on the passing of John, our esteemed life president (see obituary) and the O Gorman Family Hugginstown on the passing of Hannah.

CLUB NEWS

Carrigeen



Carrigeen GAA had a hectic and busy year with their Junior B team participating in the junior B league and championship and also the Joe Walsh Cup. The club also played a tournament game in Borris in Ossory as part of the friendship that has developed between the two clubs honoring the late Bob O'Keeffe. The club played 15 games in the southern league and championships. The games took place on a weekly basis during the height of the summer. Even though no trophies were won the club were competitive and contested strongly in every game

they played in. The team manager Noel Maher from Carrickshock had the team playing to their full potential and beyond and many teams got a hard match from what was an injury stricken under strength Carrigeen team during the year. Noel Maher has done tremendous work during the three years that he has been with us and no Carrigeen team has gone out less than adequately prepared and in most cases were punching beyond their weight. This is testimony to the managerial and motivational skills of Noel Maher and the club are indebted to what Noel

has done for the team. The final game of the year was a tournament game in Borris in Ossory against the local team. This has become an annual event between both clubs. After the game the members of both clubs visited the graveside of the late Bob O'Keeffe where prayers were recited. The club would like to thank the efforts of the players, manager and selectors for their commitment during the year.

The club committee were very busy during the year, starting with the under 12 (Eddie Quinn cup) & under 14 (Johnny Walsh cup) hurling tournaments ably run by Hillary Og Delahunty. The winners of the Eddie Quinn under 12 tournament were Thurles Og who beat Craanford in the A final. The winners of the Johnny Walsh under 14 final were Ballyboden St Enda's who beat Passage East in the A Final. A lot of work went into the running of these tournaments, organising fixtures, referees and thus enabling both competitions to run smoothly. Well done to all the teams who participated and their mentors.

The club are about to commence a major development with the construction of a new building, that will cater for indoor sport, meetings and new dressing rooms. The entrance to the ground will also be changed from its current location to the opposite side of the ground adjacent to the new development. Many thanks to the Delahunty family for their generosity towards making the new entrance possible.

The club would like to thank the various members who are involved with the various boards within the county, Pat Dalton, County Board delegate, Pat Dunphy, Southern Board secretary, Claus Dunphy, Southern Board delegate and Richard Quinn, delegate to the football board. The club would also like to thank the members who helped out at games in Nowlan Park during the year and also all the members who assisted with games hosted by the club especially the southern junior hurling semi-final between Piltown and Kilmacow.

The club lost two great supporters during the year - the late Pat Vereker who played with the club during the 50's and 60's and also the late Hillary Delahunty who gave great service to the club both on and off the field. Both families had seven brothers that represented the club over the years.



Carrigeen Team beaten by Carrickshock in South semi-final 1977/78

Back: John Lynch, Willie Roche, Jimmy Brien, Tommy Pucell, Paddy Walsh, John Walsh, Willie Grant, Willie Cummins.
Middle: Pete Conway, Matty Kelly, Francis Walsh, Bill Kelly, Ray Murray, Lar Power.
Front: Paddy Kelly, Tommy Walsh, John Purcell, John Kelly, Michael Walsh, Dick Walsh.



Carrigeen Tournament 1956 - Team which beat Ballygunner in the Final

Back: Davy Quinn, Michael Meaney, PJ Phelan, Hilary Delehunty, Tom Dunphy, James Phelan, Toby Vereker, Jackie Vereker.
Middle: Tom Walsh, Jimmy Vereker, Billy Phelan, Joe Vereker, Petie Doyle, Sonny Kelly.
Front: Jimmy Grace, John Deady, _____?

CLUB NEWS

Clara



U 14 COUNTY CHAMPIONS 1963 CLARA 4-4 BALLYHALE 4-1

Back: Liam Ryan, Fr. Wall, John Prendergast, Dan Murphy.
Middle: Pat Bryan, Francis Gorey, Syl Knox, Liam Galvin, David Prendergast, Billy Murphy, Billy Byrne, Liam Murphy, Richie Grant, Michael Butler.
Front: Phil O Keefe, Michael Knox, David Brennan, Jim Murphy, John Prendergast, Paddy Byrne, Jimmy Knox,(RIP) Larry Fitzpatrick.



Clara U-10's Liam Ryam Memorial Cup Team

Back: James Carrigan, Patrick Bolger, Matt Kenny, Joe Connolly, Kevin Kehoe, Bill Cody, Liam O'Reilly, Jack O'Connell, Rory O'Keefe.
Front: James Bergin, Michael Rafter, Alex Johnston, Eoin Harding, Sean Bergin, Ryan Lehane, Siobhan Curtis, Aine McDonald, Caitlin Farrell.



Clara U-12's Winners of the Anthony Prendergast Memorial Tournament

Back: Michael Healy, David Jordan, Kane Curran, Kevin Galvin, Jason Byrne, Ben Langton, Shane Campion, Cormac O'Driscoll, Gary Kehoe, Brian Nolan, Evan Tully.
Front: Paddy Ryan, Jack Bennett, Padraig Lennon, Pierce Cody, Aaron Casey, Luke Scanlon, Jason Barcoe, Jake Scanlon, Joe Connolly, James Walsh, Patrick Lehane, Matt Kenny.

A Busy Year

Clara GAA Club had a very busy year. The Club Dinner Dance was held on 19 January to mark the success of 2007. This year the club had success at Junior A, claiming the county title in a thrilling final. The Junior B's had some tough matches and but enjoyed the championship. The Senior team managed to maintain their senior status but were knocked out by Ballyhale Shamrocks at the quarter final stage. The U21's championship is ongoing with Erin's Own the next opponents in the Northern Semi-Final. The U-18's were in a very tough group in Roinn A and did not progress past the initial round. The U-16's also competed in Roinn A and they travelled to a tournament in Naas and won the Cup Final. The U-14's won the Paulstown Tournament Shield Final. The U-12 team had a successful year winning the Danesfort Tournament and the Anthony Prendergast Memorial Tournament for the first time on home territory. The U-10's won the Dan Ryan Memorial Tournament and were runners-up in the Liam Ryan Memorial Tournament. The U-8's played a number of challenge games and beat Bennettsbridge, Castlecomer, Thomastown and St. Vincents and also got to the final of the Gorey tournament.

In the schools competition Clara took the Country Cup beating Callan in the final. They also won the Mini-Sevens competition.

Financial Matters

During the year the club, in association with the Camogie Club, ran a club crest competition that was won by Anne O'Shea, Clara Upper. We now have club branded gear that is available from the club. (see <http://clara.kilkenny.gaa.ie>). Sponsorship plays a very important part in the club fundraising and the club is grateful for the support from all the community in particular the team sponsors - Carrigan Bros Plant Hire and Clara Cars. Also for fundraising the club ran a Golf Classic in May which was very well supported and we were involved with the North Kilkenny Hunt in a canter in October.

The club would like to congratulate the following:

- Kevin Galvin, Jason Barcoe & Ben Leydon who represented the club in Croke Park at the mini sevens.
- Christopher Bolger who was on the Kilkenny U-14 Panel.
- Conor O'Shea, Shane Cassin & Noel Kehoe who were on the Kilkenny U-15 Panel
- Killian Phelan & Peter English who were on the Kilkenny U-16 Panel.
- Thomas Byrne & Patrick Galvin who were on the Kilkenny U-17 Panel.
- Tom Ryan Captain of the Minor All Ireland Winning Team.
- Eoin O'Shea, Lester Ryan, Neal Prendergast, Keith Hogan, Liam Ryan, David Langton & James Nolan who won an All Ireland U-21 Medals with Kilkenny.
- Conor Phelan (Captain), David Prendergast, Shane Prendergast, James Nolan & Michael Bergin who won an All Ireland Intermediate Medal with Kilkenny.

CLUB NEWS

Cloneen



Cloneen Under 10 team - Larry Brennan Rushe Shield Winners

A Quarter Century

Cloneen Hurling club celebrates its first quarter of a century in existence next February and remains the youngest club in County Kilkenny. A few notable changes in the past year saw the retiral from office of the two most senior club officers, founder Secretary Charlie McCarthy who was appointed at the inaugural meeting in 1984 and Tim Wilson who has been treasurer since 1989. Both were asked to remain on the committee so that their experience would not be lost to the club and Timmy is now the County Board delegate while Charlie is PRO. Both were made Honorary Life Presidents in recognition of their service to the club.

The new faces in the key positions at the

top table are Josephine Cooney (Secretary) and John Paul O'Neill (Treasurer). Long standing chairman Donal Brennan remains in that position.

Playing Matters

On the playing front Cloneen have been locked in a non progressive zone at junior level for the past few years having failed to advance beyond the first round of the championship in that time including this year when they were knocked out by James Stephens.

In order to redress this problem, Cloneen officials saw fit to put in place an independent juvenile committee which set about bringing on youngsters from under 8's upwards. This move has definitely brought

dividends with some very promising young talent emerging. This year the Under 16's reached the county 'c' championship final only to lose by four points to Young Irelands. The minors showed some decent form while the under 21 team were unlucky to lose their semi final by a single point to Bennettsbridge.

Another historic move on the part of the members was the decision taken at an Extraordinary General Meeting in October to vest the club's pitch and property in the GAA. A thorough debate on the pluses and minuses of such a move led to a comfortable vote in favour of the motion.

Underage Blitz

Once again Cloneen ran an Under 10 blitz for the Larry Brennan Rushe perpetual cup in memory of one of the club's most dedicated officials. The cup was won by Conahy Shamrocks with the host club winning the shield.

Congratulations to Gary

A talented young product of the underage set up brought honour to the club in September when goalkeeper Gary Delaney was a member of the Kilkenny minor squad which won the All Ireland final against Galway.

Cloneen is still a small club in a parish without a hurling tradition but there is a solid foundation and structure in place and hopes are positive that with the evolvement of the younger elements, this club on the most northerly outpost of the county will be up there rubbing shoulders with the elite.

CASTLECOMER ROAD, KILKENNY, IRELAND.

Tel: 056 - 7752900 Fax: 7771455



Well Done, again, Kilkenny, from Bobby at the Bróg

The Bróg Maker was established in 1994. Notwithstanding this, the design and atmosphere of both its lounge and bar is Olde Worlde as if from a time gone by - the perfect place to relax, enjoy a pint and savour excellent food.

CLUB NEWS

Conahy Shamrocks



Official Opening 16 August 2008

Nickey Brennan, Úachtáran C.L.G., officially opens the new GAA clubhouse accompanied by Paddy Delaney, Club Chairman, and Fr. James Dollard, P.P.

New Clubhouse

After the on-field success of winning an All-Ireland title, the other major cause of celebration during the year in Conahy GAA was the official opening of the new clubhouse and meeting rooms in the Polo Grounds on August 16th by Úachtáran C.L.G., Nickey Brennan. The new building was also solemnly blessed by Fr. James Dollard, P.P. Despite the wet and windy weather, it proved to be a most successful evening, with the occasion marked by a challenge match between Conahy and the All-Ireland intermediate club champions, Clonkhill from Co. Westmeath.

To further acknowledge the official opening, the club was presented with a replica of the All-Ireland junior trophy and a display cabinet for the clubhouse by Tommy Downey of Downey Logistics, the club's main sponsor. Sincere gratitude was expressed to Tommy by club chairman, Paddy Delaney, who also thanked the club's development committee, led by chairman Toddy Lacey and the facility's builders, Mulhall Bros., in ensuring the quick completion of the project.

Feile na nGael

The under-14 hurlers were again rewarded with the opportunity to play in Féile na nGael for the second year in succession. This year's visitors came from Clongush in Co. Longford and a memorable weekend was enjoyed by everyone involved. The Polo Grounds played also host to Fenians



Members of the Conahy Shamrocks Development Committee at the official opening of the new clubhouse

Back: Tommy Downey (Club Sponsor), Mick Kelly, Peter Mulhall, Mick Keogh, Brian Lacey, Seanie O'Mahony, Shane Mulhall, Jimmy Tierney.

Front: Diarmuid Healy, Paddy Delaney, Toddy Lacey (Committee Chairman), Pat Cahill, Kevin Mulhall.

(who eventually won the competition) and Knockbridge from Co. Louth as part of the weekend's activities.

Bord na nÓg

It was a busy year at under-age with the annual Kevin Bergin Under-10 tournament and Jim Comerford Under-12 tournament once again being major highlights. The under-age activity for this year finished on a high recently with the annual under-8 and under-11 street leagues.

The youngsters also had the added bonus of seeing the four All-Ireland trophies on dis-

play in the Polo Grounds on the finals day. Thanks to all under-age coaches for their great work throughout the year.

County Players

Congratulations to the club's All-Ireland winners who represented the club at All-Ireland level. They included Alan Healy and Paul Buggy (Intermediate Hurling), Kieran Mooney and Brian Healy (Under-21 hurling) and David Healy (Minor Hurling). Congratulations also to all our local camogie players who won All-Ireland medals with Kilkenny this year.



A BLAST FROM THE PAST Conahy Shamrocks 1953

Back: Nicholas Carroll, Shem Carroll, Billy Walsh, Mick Lawless, Liam Conry, Mick Kelly, Paddy Lawless.

Middle: Nicko Griffith, Nick Healy, Michael Brennan, Martin Holohan, Dan Byrne, Paddy Harding.

Front: Matty Maher, Paddy Conry.

CLUB NEWS

Danesfort



Cuffesgrange/Danesfort Hurling Team (1912)

Back: M. Healy, Martin Dunne, Dick Dunne, J. Corr, Jim Doyle, Ger Marnell, M. Marnell, Tom Cranny (Murphy Racecourse)

Centre: Gerry Dunne, Dinny Murphy, John Dunne, Jimmy Murphy, Mick Corr, T. Marnell, Matt Corr.
Front: Fan Bardon, W. Reddy, Nicky Fennelly, Dave Corr.

Intermediate

The Intermediates reached the county final for the first time in over 75 years, where they unfortunately lost out to Erin's Own of Castlecomer.

Well done to Adrian Ronan, selectors Tom O'Neill (Rath) and Noel Morrissey, all backroom staff associated with the team and of course the team itself for their efforts and achievements this year.

going down in the final by a goal to Glenmore. They beat Emeralds of Urlingford in the first round of the championship, drew with Young Irelands of Gowran in the second round before losing the replay by a goal.

Underage

Danesfort U-13s had another great run in the Lismore Sevens where they were unfortunately beaten by an excellent Lismore team in the final.

Congratulations to Cathal O'Neill and Ben O'Connor who played for the county at U-16 this year and to Brendan Cullen who selected on a Kilkenny team at U-13 level.

Well done too to U-13 players Josh Haines, Ger Dunne and Gary Tynan who were selected to play in the mini sevens during the Leinster Final this year.

Special Mention

The club wishes to congratulate three of its players for successfully representing Kilkenny at various levels this year.

Richie Hogan won an All Ireland senior medal as part of Kilkenny's historic 3-in-a-row winning panel. Richie played in both the league and championship for Kilkenny, becoming the first Danesfort man to do so since Mick Brophy in the early '60s.

Richie, his brother Paddy, and Paul Murphy were all part of the Kilkenny under-21 team that defeated Tipperary to earn an historic fourth All-Ireland title in a single year for the county. It

was the biggest ever representation that the club has had on a Kilkenny team. Paddy also won another All-Ireland title, with the Intermediates who defeated Limerick in the final.

Finally, Richie was on the victorious Leinster team which beat Munster in the Inter-Provincial final, scoring 1-1 in the decider.

Club Development

During the year the club established a Development Committee with a view to the future development of the club such as facilities, pitches, floodlights, clubhouse etc.

It is hoped that the work of the Committee will eventually help Danesfort to have one of the best GAA facilities in the county in the years to come.

Remembrances

The club was saddened by the passing of several valued members in 2008.

Shane O'Neill from The Racecourse was a hugely talented and popular player who passed away this year.

Jimmy Byrne from Ennisnag was another popular member to pass away and was a former chairman of the club. His cortège paused for a moment's silence outside the hurling field in recognition of his contribution to the club during his lifetime.

Paddy Nolan from Rath also passed away during the year. He was an honorary President of the club.

Paddy was heavily involved with the National Ploughing Association during his lifetime so it was a fitting tribute to him that the parish hosted the National Ploughing Championship this year.

The club wishes to extend its sympathies to the families of Shane, Jimmy and Paddy. Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.



Robbie Walsh goes on the attack in the Intermediate semi-final against Emeralds

Under-21

The U-21 team was defeated by Erin's Own, Castlecomer by 3-5 to 0-8 in the first round of the championship.

Minor

The minors played 3 matches in the league, drawing with eventual winners John Locke's of Callan, losing by a point to finalists St. Lachlain's of Freshford and losing to Glenmore. They qualified for the Shield Final after good wins over Sliieverue and Carrickshock,

CLUB NEWS

Dicksboro

**Club Officers:**

Chairman; Sean Breathnach

Vice-Chairman; Jim Murphy

Secretary; Frank Tynan

Treasurer; Seamus Rochford

Games Chairman; Simon Walton

Grounds Chairman; Joe Phelan

Development Chairman; Enda Malone

Children's Welfare Officer; Edmund Nolan

Irish Officer; David Carroll

Registrar; Declan Gough

Juvenile Chairman; Eddie Holohan

Juvenile Officers:

Vice-Chairman; Sam Dunlop

Juvenile Secretary; Liam Scott

Bord na Nog Reps; Frank Morrissey and

Martin Gaffney.

As Dicksboro G.A.A. Club look forward to celebrating its centenary in 2009 the club can look back on a year of highs and lows in 2008. Obviously, relegation from Senior to Intermediate grade was the cause of disappointment but the club acknowledges the huge level of effort and commitment shown by all involved with the team. Victory in the Byrne cup exemplified the level of great talent within the club together with victories in the County Junior League and Fennelly Cup competitions there is indeed much to look forward to in 2009.

Off the playing field, the club continues to develop and improve its facilities. Thanks to great efforts by members, fundraising initiatives in 2008 were impressive. One of the highlights was a very successful Dog night held in James Park. The Club wishes to acknowledge the support of our many sponsors and club volunteers who participate and support such initiatives. Plans for further improvements to the grounds have been agreed and when completed in the coming months will enhance further the clubs facilities.

Juvenile Year

The Club took great pride with all its Juvenile players who represented Kilkenny at U-14, U-16 and U-18 level this year. All members of each panel represented their County and Club with great distinction. Our younger members also had a busy year from U-6 upwards a great year was enjoyed by all. The U-8 panel organized a very successful Tournament with 16 teams participating and raising 1300euro for the O'Neill centre. The club greatly acknowledges the support of Parents in assisting with such events.

The U-10's also held their own tournament, which was an outstanding success. Our U-12 team reached the final of the Na Fianna tournament in Dublin and won their tournament held in Palmerstown.

At U-14, U-16 and U-18 level the Club have had another very encouraging year. At U-14 level, the team contested in the All-Ireland Feile and Reached the Roinn A U-14 County and League Finals. Our U-16 hurlers brought great pride to the Club when they won The Roynn A U-16 County Final and they reached

the League Final. Our Minor hurlers reached both The Roynn A U-18 County Final and U-18 League Final and did so with great pride and commitment.

With the continued involvement of Mentors and Parents, we will build on the success of this year at juvenile level and can look forward to the 2009 season.

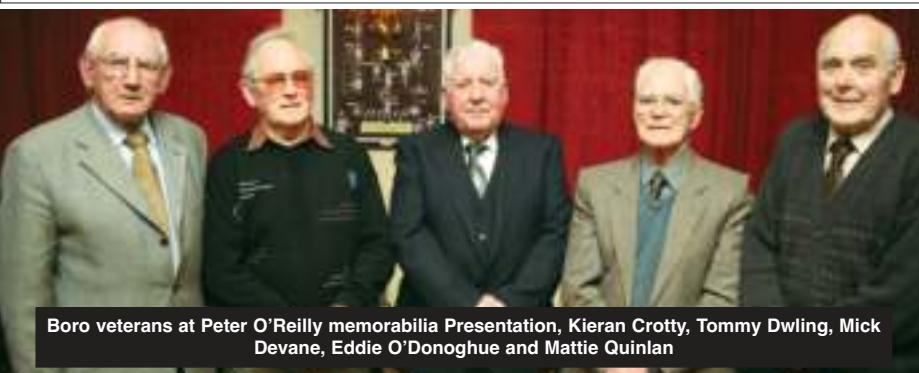
Bereavements

On a sad note, the club lost many loyal supporters and members since last year. The deaths of Ger Devane, Tommy O'Brien, Denis Philpott and Martin Hayes was the source of great sadness to all those associated with Dicksboro. The club would like to offer their sympathy and prayers to all members and supporters of Dicksboro who died during the year. May they rest in peace.



Peter O'Reilly Collection

The Club was delighted to receive a priceless collection of memorabilia celebrating the many great achievements of Dicksboro hero Peter O'Reilly during the year. The items which included an All-Ireland medal from 1932, Hurley and Passport signed by famous American sports hero Babe Ruth were given by the O'Reilly family to Dicksboro and will be a source of great inspiration for all future Dicksboro young hurlers. Pictured are Jack DeLoughry, Peter O'Reilly (Jnr), Sean Breathnach (Club Chairman) and Tom Rafter.



Boro veterans at Peter O'Reilly memorabilia Presentation, Kieran Crotty, Tommy Dwling, Mick Devane, Eddie O'Donoghue and Mattie Quinlan



1910 Dicksboro Junior Hurling Team

Included are: W Walsh (Capt), J Ayres, McCormack, J Donoghue, P Donoghue, J Dermody, M Brennan, J Brennan, J Brennan, J Purcell, M Nugent, W Egan, M Butler, M McCarthy, P Fahy, J Hoynes.

CLUB NEWS

Dunnamaggin



Club Officers 2008

Chairman	Seamus Knox
Secretary	Eugene O Donovan
Treasurer	Niall McCormack
PRO	David Herity
Juvenile Chair	Johnno Reid
Juvenile Sec.	Patricia Coffey, Joan Kenneally
Juvenile Treas	John O'Dwyer
Juvenile PRO	Mary Moylan

Social Events

The 2008 year started with the annual social night held in Dunphy's Bar in Kilmoganny. Noel and Canice Hickey brought the Liam McCarthy Cup with them to add to the celebratory night. The achievements of both players along with All Ireland ladies Junior football winner Sarah McCarthy were acknowledged as presentations were made to the players for the honour they had brought to the club through their exploits with the Kilkenny teams. The Monsignor O'Neill Player of the Year Trophy went to David Herity, while James Rossiter won the Clubman of the Year for his great efforts and help with the club during 2007.

Juvenile Report

U-8's and u-10's trained every Saturday from March to November, Children as young as five five trained. The u-8's won the shield in the Dicksboro tournament beating Conahy in the final and the also won a Carrickshock tournament beating

Mullinavat in the final. The u-10's won the shield in Sliieverue beating Mooncoin by a point in the final. Year culminated in mid November with a presentation of medals to all players. The county hurlers and camogie players were present as well as the McCarthy Cup and the camogie cup.

U-14 Action

Under the guidance of Pat Long, Joan Kenneally and Mary Cody the U-14 teams had a relatively successful year although bringing home no silverware. They reached the finals of the U-14 Football League and Championship beaten both times by Tullogher. They reached the semi-final of the Hurling league where they were beaten by Bennetsbridge. Squad members William Moylan, Conor Long and Patrick Delaney all represented Kilkenny U-14 this year, with Niamh Phelan and Michaela Kenneally on the successful Kilkenny U-14 camogie team. Michaela and Gemma Long later represented Kilkenny in the Pan Celtic Festival where again Kilkenny were victorious. The minor footballers were successful bringing home the Roinn C '07 trophy, they guided to victory by Johnno Reid and John Kelly. William Phelan represented Kilkenny at U-16 level during the year.

Senior and Junior

Dunnamaggin had another disappointing year at Junior and at Senior level. After promising runs in both leagues Dunnamaggin's good luck ended when they

bowed out to a more clinical finishing Fenian side in senior and after an excellent first round win against Sliieverue in the Junior they went down fighting to a stronger Windgap team in the quarter final. A huge thanks must be given once again to both managers Seamus Knox and Tom McCormack, with Dick O Shea and Matt Doran and Paddy O Neill as selectors, James Rossiter as fitness trainer, physio Aoibhlin Dunphy and also to Pat Langton, Noel McDonald, Paddy Reade and all those who assisted with the senior and Junior teams throughout the year.

Acknowledgements

The club would like to thank all who supported them during the year in particular our main sponsors Springwell Developments. Special thanks must go to the supporters who travelled the length and breath of the county to support the different teams. The Golf Classic was once again a huge success despite falling victim to the miserable summer weather on the second day of play. Huge thanks once again must go to Michael Murphy and for his great work. Thanks also to those who supported the Parish Lotto to which contributes enormously to the running of the club. Congratulations to those who represented the club on the intercounty scene throughout the year, Noel and Canice Hickey and David Herity for their

**From One  Team
to Another**



Congratulations to the Kilkenny Senior Hurlers on achieving 3 in a row.

CLUB NEWS

Emeralds



Conor Martin with Uachtarán CLG, Nicky Brennan, receiving the Iggy Jones (Tyrone) Crystal Trophy at Féile Peil na nÓg, Breffni Park.

Photo Dolores Gleeson



Past Pupils of Urlingford NS with the All-Ireland trophies Visit Urlingford NS

Back: Davina Tobin (All-Ireland U16 Camogie), Claire Ryan, Áine Fahey and Laura Kavanagh (All-Ireland Intermediate and National League Senior Camogie)

Front: Conor Martin (All-Ireland Féile U14 Peil na nÓg Football Skills Champion), Derek Lyng and Aidan Fogarty (All-Ireland Senior Hurling)



Action from Nowlan park, 1972, when Emeralds beat Barrow Rangers to win their first Northern Final

Emeralds Bord na nÓg had a good year on and off the field. The U8's, U10's and U12's competed in numerous tournaments in and beyond the county with reasonable success. Imaginative and progressive training programmes are being devised for 2009.

Our U14 team had the proud distinction of participating in Féile na nGael and Féile Peil. The hurling team made history by reaching the Paddy Grace Final and were narrowly beaten by James Stephens in a highly competitive game. This qualified us to play in Div 1 of the Féile. We hosted Raparees in the competition and beat them in the opening match, and continued our winning streak against Toomevara and Dicksboro. In the Group Final, we beat Dicksboro in a shootout, thus topping the group and qualifying to meet Na Piarsaigh in the semi-final playoff. Though leading from the start, we were caught with two injury time scores thus ending our 2008 Féile dream. We won two of our games, only losing out to Dungarvan who went on to win our Division. However, we regrouped and three weeks later, travelled to Fermanagh for the Féile Peil where we received wonderful hospitality from our hosts, Derrylin. We won two of our games, only losing to Dungarvan, eventual winners of our division.

The highlight of the weekend was when Conor Martin was crowned the most skilful footballer in Ireland for 2008. The team went through the League and Championship undefeated and we look forward to 2009 at U16 level with this team.

The U16 team had a great league campaign, only losing to Rower Inistioge in the semi-final, while in the championship, two late goals from St Lachtaín's in the semi-final ended our progress. They are currently through to the semi-final of the football competition and we wish them well in this.

Our Minors were again very successful, topping their group, only to lose out to John Lockes in a sporting and competitive game. In the championship, the team lost out narrowly to Danesfort.

Bord na nÓg undertook various fund-raising events during the year, the main ones being a Table Quiz which attracted 60 tables and a very well-supported Sponsored Walk on the new bypass. The club hopes to organise a medal Presentation night in the Community Centre to celebrate the achievements of 2008. It is hoped to have our County representatives present together with all the trophies won in 2008.

2008 was a good year for our Intermediates, who, under Paddy Moore as Manager, topped our group in the league with wins over Freshford, Mullinavat and Mooncoin, defeating Conahy in the League Final by seven points. A great quarter final win over Graignamanagh saw us into our first Championship semi-final. In a close, tense battle, Danesfort took the honours by a single point.

Our Junior A's and B's exited in their first rounds to Clara and Threecastles respectively.

Guide Dogs and Emeralds - A success story

Earlier this year, Emeralds GAA Club linked up with the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind in a fundraising adventure. Liam Shinnock of the Guide Dogs and local treasurer, Colin Ahern came together and the club agreed to help with fundraising for the organisation. The specific aim as to funraise at the National Ploughing Championships in Cuffesgrange in September. Breda Clancy of the Guide Dogs Association came to Urlingford also and with the local committee and Paddy Joyce co-ordinating with the ploughing a huge bucket collection project was organised. Volunteer collectors from the club collected over three days and in total ?28,000 was collected with half of this going to the guide dogs. On November 13th, Liam and Breda came again to Urlingford and were delighted to receive a cheque for ?14,000. Well done to all the collectors and thanks to those who contributed at the Ploughing. A great success all round!

CLUB NEWS

Erin's Own



Officers 2008

Chairman	Martin Walsh
Vice Chairman	Michael Owens
Secretary	Billy Moran
Treasurer	Paddy Coady
P.R.O.	Richard Connolly
Registrar	John Kelly
County Board Rep	Marty Connolly
Bord naNog Chair	Martin Carroll
Vice Chairman	Marty Delaney
Secretary	John Buggy

Three Titles Captured

2008 has been the most successful year in the club's history in terms of titles won, with the Intermediate, Minor A and U-16 B hurling teams winning their respective championships. Our U-14 hurlers also qualified for the Roinn B league final and the senior footballers were extremely unlucky to be defeated in the county final played under lights in Ballyragget, by a single point. The Intermediate's have progressed to the Leinster final.

Outstanding Underage Progress

Castlecomer primary schools contested the Roinn B County final against St Johns N.S. Kilkenny and after a thrilling game were most unfortunate to lose by a point 1-7 to 2-3. Our U-12s had a very busy year; the highlight was contesting the final of the prestigious Jim Comerford cup. Our U10s played a number of challenge matches and tournaments during the year. The U-9s won our own tournament. Saturday 13th July will live long in the memory of the Erin's Own U-8s, as the day they made their debut in Croke Park. It was a delight to witness the excitement of players and supporters alike as the boys lived the Croke Park dream. This side also won the Cloneen and Freshford tournaments. The tremendous work being done at under age level by both the club and schools is bearing fruit with ever increasing numbers of youngsters involved. Well done to all and keep up the good work.

Reunion

The Erin's Own hurling team of 1958 celebrated the 50th Anniversary of winning the county junior hurling title in Castlecomer Golf Club on Saturday 30th August. This victory was a major breakthrough as it secured senior status for the club; indeed the club maintained that status for 45 years. The evening commenced with prayers for the deceased members at vigil mass, before moving on to the golf club for a meal and presentation to the surviving members and representatives of the deceased. Martin Walsh chairman spoke on behalf of the club and Ed Holland and Dick Brennan (Roe) spoke for the team. A most enjoyable night

was had by all, and many memories of those times were recalled.

Team: Michael Rowe, Larry O'Keeffe, Paddy McEvoy R.I.P., Michael Bealin, Dick Brennan (Roe), Edward Holland, Tom Shalloe R.I.P., Martin Meally, Martin Coogan, Kieran Meally R.I.P., Phil O'Meara R.I.P., Tommy O'Neill R.I.P., Mick Byrne, Seamus Farrell, Michael Dormer R.I.P., Andy Joe Bealin R.I.P., Sean Dunne, Paddy Brennan (Swack) R.I.P., Tom Brennan (Cloney), Seanie Coogan, Tommy Delaney R.I.P., Tom Coogan, Jimmy Byrne, Canon Kearns Manager R.I.P., Gerard Moran Trainer R.I.P., Billy Mulcahy Selector R.I.P.

County Representatives

Congratulations to the following that represented the club at county level, Martin Fogarty and Damien Fogarty members of the three in a row winning senior side. Peter O'Donovan, Paul Mullins and Eddie Brennan were members of the senior football team. Damien Fogarty and Eddie Brennan on the All Ireland winning Intermediate hurling side, Michael Murphy with the victorious U-21s, Conor Fogarty and Aidan Moran who won All Ireland medals at minor level and to Robert Moran and Sean McDermott who were members of the U-14 Tony Forristal side.

Ballycomey Developments

The development of the club grounds in Ballycomey are continuing apace, a second full sized all weather pitch has been completed this year, dugouts on both pitches, a standing area on the main pitch and a scoreboard are also nearing completion. The club is about to launch a major fundraising drive to help finance the ongoing developments of our grounds and your continued support is much appreciated.

The club website address is www.erinsowngaa.ie



Celebration after the Intermediate Final Victory



Denis Owens and Bobby Brennan Erin's Own counting the proceeds of a gate circa 1960

CLUB NEWS

Fenians



Club Development 2008

Great work is being put in at all levels and this must continue if we are ever to regain the heady days of the seventies. Off the field, the dressing rooms have become the envy of many visiting teams with several requests to view the facilities as clubs undertake their own renovations. Many people contribute to the successful running of all club activities during the season. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the club for their valued contribution in making the GAA club such an integral part of the community in Johnstown/ Crosspatrick.

Feile Fever: All Ireland Champions 2008.

History was made this year when an All Ireland Feile title was brought back to the parish for the first time ever. They received a hero's welcome on their return to Johnstown. This team also showed great heart in contesting both league and championship finals being defeated by a very strong Graignamanagh team on both occasions. Well done to all involved especially Sean White, Ger Brennan, Paul Webster and Rachael Tobin.

Senior

At senior level after three years under the stewardship of Billy Fitzpatrick the Fenians unfortunately lost at the quarterfinal stage of the championship after defeating Dunnamaggan in the first round.

Billy, Mick O'Flynn, Ger Henderson and Anthony McEvoy managed the side and great credit must go to all concerned. We all know now the effort required to maintain our valued senior status, while operating with small numbers, and hopefully lessons learned will hold us in good stead in the coming season.

Junior

The junior team played some exciting matches in the league but unfortunately fell to Clara in the Championship. Many of this team went on to play senior championship hurling later in the season. Manager: M Phelan

U-21 Hurling

The under twenty-one year commenced with a fine performance against Young Irelands. Unfortunately after a disappointing display defeat was their lot in the next round. With several senior players on board more was expected from this team. Hopefully this disappointment can be turned into victory in the coming season as many of this team are under age next year. Manager: J Carroll

Minors

A young minor team found the going tough this year and after some good displays were defeated by Glenmore in the Championship. Competition at this grade is quite fierce in the county and we look forward to greater returns in the coming season. Manager: P Phelan.

Under 16

In the championship a late flurry of scores ended their hope of championship victory for the season. With a bit more encouragement this group can flourish.

Sunday Morning Coaching

A lot of work has taken place at this age



Johnstown National School 1924 / 25

Back: Tom Ryan (teacher), Ger Henderson, W. Drennan, J. Doheny, J. Broderick, D. Hughes, M. Drennan, P. O'Loughlin, P. Hickey, T. Lennon.

Middle: W. Tobin, E. Hughes, M. Curran, J. Bergin, M. Fitzpatrick, P. O'Neill, T. Bergin.

Front: J. Sweeney, P. Dillard, E. Curran, M. Kennedy, D. Hughes, R. Tobin.



Fenians - Feile na Gael Champions 2008

Back: David Walsh, Ciaran Rochford, Ronan Maher, Eoin Wilson, Patrick Duggan, Lorcan O'Loughlin, John Muldowney, Michael Carroll, William Brennan (Capt) Cormac Ryan, Michael Drennan, Patrick McCormack, Robert Gorman, James Sweeney, Damien Delaney, Sean Brennan, Niall Walsh, Damien Hawkes, Mark Webster. **Front:** Bobby Tynan, Killian Fitzpatrick, Padraig Sweeney, John Duggan, Killian Walsh, Sean Tobin, Shane Currahan, Niall Carroll, Jason Dermody. **Mascots:** Fergal Maher, Shane Whyte, Kieran Whyte, Jordan Muldowney. **Selectors** (not in pic): Sean Whyte, Ger Brennan, Paul Webster, Rachel Tobin.

level with numbers increasing during the season.

It is great to see such activity on Sunday mornings after mass. A big thank you to all those who give of their free time, so willingly.

Excellent victories were achieved by the U-12s in St. Bridgets, Dublin mini feile, Ballingarry Shield Final, Colaiste Mhuire Tournament. The U-11s were Camaint champions of their section in Nowlan Park.

More All Ireland Glory

Congratulations to the Fenian representatives who helped Kilkenny achieve the much sought after three in a row, JJ Delaney, PJ Ryan and PJ Delaney. Also congrats to JJ on winning another All-star and to the only goalie, who didn't concede a goal in the All Ireland championship, we

would have picked you!!!

Congrats to Pat McCormack selector with the U-21s and Brían Ryan trainer of the minors.

Fenian's online

Keep up to date with The Fenians on line at : <http://www.fenians.ie/>

Obituaries

The club wishes to extend its sympathy to the families of the following who passed away during the year:
Tommy Ryan, Alma Carroll, Mrs. Bridget Fitzpatrick (mother of the Fitzpatrick brothers Billy, Martin, and Paddy (RIP), Margaret Ryan, nee Fitzpatrick, Joe Drennan, Robert Garrett.
Ar dheis De go raibh said.

CLUB NEWS

Galmoy



CLUB OFFICERS 2008

President	Fr. Tom Coyle, Willie Drennan, John Harte and Kieran Drennan.
Chairman	Brian Doherty
Vice-Chairman	Nicky Maddock
Secretary	Liam Drennan
Asst-Secretary	Jerry Fogarty
Treasurer	Paul Delaney
Asst-Treasurer	Martin Phelan
P R O	Jerry Drennan

All-Ireland medals

2008 was memorable for Galmoy GAA Club when three club members brought All-Ireland and Leinster medals to the club. First were the Doherty brothers Noel and Niall who were members of the victorious Kilkenny Intermediate team who beat Limerick in the final.

Noel lined out at corner forward and scored three points in the final as well as being top-scorer in the Leinster Final where he notched a very creditable 2-4, while Niall was introduced as a substitute early in the second half in Thurles.

Then, in September Nigel Stanley was a member of the Kilkenny minor panel which pipped Galway in the minor All-Ireland final. This was a great honour for the club and congratulations are wished to all three players.

All-Ireland Vocational Winners

On April 12th Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown, captained by Galmoy player Nigel Stanley, won the Vocational Schools All-Ireland final for the first time in 26 years. There were six other Galmoy players on the Coláiste Mhuire panel. They were the Corcoran brothers Eamonn and Thomas, the Phelan brothers Brendan and Thomas, Eoin Glendon and Joe Dollard who scored a point in the final.

New Jerseys

As a reward for winning the All County Junior hurling league the club won a set of jerseys and it was decided to obtain an alternative club strip of black jerseys with blue trim.

Development Squads

The following players participated in the various Kilkenny Development squads during the year.

U-16 - George Bassett and Thomas Phelan (Bawn)

U-14 - Frank Phelan, Michael Vaughan and Martin Duggan.

Congratulations

The Club wishes to congratulate the following club members who got married during 2008, namely David Delaney, Leo Doherty, Phil Brennan, Cathal Doherty and Joe Doyle.

Bereavements

The club wishes to express sincerest sympathy to the relatives of Murt Ryan who passed away on 11 November. Murt was the captain of the Galmoy team which won the club's second Junior Hurling county final in 1966. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Galmoy U-10 team 2008

Back: Conor Kelly, Eavan Morrissey, Sean Phelan, Cathal Phelan, Jack Delaney, Colm Smith, Dylan Grace, Maple Ryan-Doyle, Caoimhe Glendon.

Front: Conor Grace, Brandon Phelan, Oisín Phelan, Maeve Duggan, Mary Phelan, Billy Drennan, Conor Drennan, Gearóid Phelan.



Galmoy Hurling team - Picture Presented to Fr Drea on his departure from the parish in July 1940

Back: Fr. Drea, Jack Cavanagh, Paddy Norton, Tommy Barton, Seamus O'Connell, Peter Leahy, Jack Stapleton, Willie Brennan.

Centre: Jim Grace, Mick Brophy, Nick Grace, Jack Brophy, Dick Scott, Paddy Dollard.

Front: Johnny Ryan, Joe Lennon, Nicholas Brophy, Jim Henderson.



Seven Galmoy players on the victorious Coláiste Mhuire Vocational Schools All-Ireland panel with Brian Cody.

Thomas Phelan, Nigel Stanley (Capt.), Eoin Glendon, Joe Dollard, Thomas Corcoran, Eamonn Corcoran, Brendan Phelan.

CLUB NEWS

Glenmore



Glenmore Football team 1930's

Back: Martin Murphy (Ballinlammey), John Kirwan (Gaulstown), Paddy Murphy (Ballyveria), Tom Phelan (Mullinahone), James Murphy (Upper Ballinlammey), James Irish (Aylwardstown), - Kirwan (Rochestown).
Middle: Bill Irish (Melville), Richard Duggan (Flemingstown), Bill Hartley (rRochestown, Capt), James 'Link' Walsh, Jim Freyne (Kilbride).
Front: Tom Fitzgerald (Moulerstown), Tom Conway (Killandrew), James Mullins (Flemingstown), Willie Hartley (Ballyvaring)



Glenmore U-16 County Football Champions 2008

Back: John Phelan, Robert Kelly, Colm Foran, Richard Young, Ben Doherty, Brian O'Donoghue, Mark Aylward, David Flynn, Simon O'Neill, Tom Phelan, James Sheehan, Thomas Foran, John Flynn, Tom Sinnott.
Front: Patrick Greene, Rory Doherty, Jim Doherty, Sean Duggan, Ger Aylward, Ben Maher, Colm Doherty, Patrick Hennessy, Shane Walsh, Shane Doherty, Andrew O'Neill.

On the Field of Play

Glenmore GAA Club competed at various adult levels in Kilkenny this year including Intermediate, Junior B and U-21 Hurling as well as Senior and U-21 Football. The underage structure is very active with all ages catered for by a dedicated number who organise the Juvenile section.

The Intermediate hurlers encountered a difficult year in all competitions but they showed their battling qualities when defeating a gallant John Lockes, Callan in the relegation final. The Junior B panel competed gamely without ultimate success. The U-21 hurling team competed admirably in the Roinn B Southern Championship with two wins but was beaten by Carrickshock at the semi-final stage. The Senior footballers were beaten by Mullinavat after a commendable performance.

The club wishes to thank all those who were involved in supporting its activities throughout the year. These include Officers, Players, Trainers, Selectors, Sponsors and Supporters.

Huge Redevelopment

Going forward, Glenmore GAA Club has decided to re-develop the club grounds at a substantial cost. Since the initial development of these grounds in the late seventies, the club has progressed dramatically with the ultimate achievement of winning an All-Ireland Club Senior Hurling Title in 1991. With the work being done at underage level and promising players coming through the system, we believe this re-development will aid us in our aim to reach the pinnacle again. For this reason we request that present and former players and parishioners support us in this project.

County Stars

Glenmore GAA Club had representatives on the Senior, Intermediate and Minor panels and congratulations must be accorded to Richie Mullally, Mark Phelan and Eoin Murphy on their achievements this year. You have all brought great pride to Glenmore Club and Parish.

The club offers votes of sympathy to relatives of all those who died in the past year and were attached to the club and/or parish.

Your Team Working for Kilkenny

John McGuinness TD

Cllr Andrew McGuinness - Kilkenny Borough Council

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick - Kilkenny County Council

One-Stop-Shop-Advice Centre

Every Saturday from 10.30am to 1.30pm

Constituency Office O'Loughlin Road
Kilkenny

Please contact Ann Bergin for an appointment

Phone: 056 770672/3 Fax: 056 7770674

Mobile: 097 2855834

Email: johnmcg@eircom.net

Web: www.johnmcguinness.com



CLUB NEWS

Graignamanagh



Graignamanagh 1925

Back includes: Pak Bolger, Denis 'Wren' Foley, Harry Byrne, Paddy Burthcaell.
Front: Jimmy Doherty, Micholas Carroll, John McNamara, Bill Walsh, Robert Wallace, Paddy Kinsella, Alice Bolger. **In front:** Martin Bolger.



Graignamanagh U8's at Inistoige Blitz

Back: Brian Bolger, Dylan Cahill, David Doherty, Joe Dowling, Jack Moylan, Sean Dempsey, Owen Byrne, Sean Holden, John Cahill.
Front: Danny Sheehy, Sean Cosgrave, Denise Byrne, Stephen Cahill, Liam Cahill, Thomas Doherty, Ben Savage, Sean Walsh.



Graignamanagh U-14's winners of Roinn C Football Championship 2007 (played 2008)

Back: Bill O'Brien, Eoin Bolger, DJ Campbell, Jim Ryan, James McCabe, Ciaran Manning, James Meaney, Robert Doyle, Adam Kennedy.
Middle: Seamus Canning (Mentor), Michael Bolger, Jack Conran, Bernard Hennessy, Thomas O'Donnell, James Doyle, Stephen Browne.
Front: Patrick Dowling, Liam Hearne, Kelly Anne Whelan, Seamus Kavanagh, Lee Kinsella, Ciaran O'Brien, Adam Canning, Michael Coady.

Club Officers 2008

Main Sponsors	Doran's Supervalu
Presidents:	Anna Dunne, Jackie Ryan, Fred Randle R.I.P., John Bolger and Todd Whelan.
Chairman:	Robbie Carroll.
Secretary :	Michael Dunne
Assistant Sec:	Billy Hoare
Treasurer:	Breda O'Shea
Asst Treas:	Anne Phelan
PRO:	Mary O'Donnell
Bd na nOg Rep:	Lillian Bolger
Co Board Rep:	Timmy McDonald
Committee:	Paul Ryan, Valerie Ryan and Pat Doyle.

Juvenile

From U-6 to U-12 we had lots of action with the panels playing in a host of tournaments with much success. Pride of place must go to this years U-14 team who won the Roinn D Hurling Championship and League and the Roinn C Football Championship.

U-16 & Minor

The Club joined with the Blacks/Whites at this level to form Ogra Graignamanagh/Blacks Whites. The U-16's had a quiet year in hurling but they still have to play the semi-final of the Football. The Minors competed well and were unlucky to lose to Tullaroan in The Roinn C Final. These teams will meet again in the League final.

U-21'S : Congratulations to our U-21 Team who won the Roinn C Championship over Bennettsbridge.

Adult Action

The Junior B Hurriers won the Joe Walsh Memorial Cup defeating Blacks /Whites. Piltown beat them in the semi-final of the Southern Championship. The Intermediates had a disappointing year losing to The Emeralds in the quarterfinals.

Presentation Night took place in O'Driscoll's, Tinnahinch. Medals were presented to the Junior Footballers who won the County Championship and also to the Junior B Hurriers who won the Southern Championship and League

Other Presentations: 2007
 Junior Hurler of the Year - Nicky Moylan
 Intermediate Hurler of the Year - Ger Dowling
 Junior Footballer of the Year - Neil Coady
 Club Person of the Year - Paul Ryan

Bereavements

Mr. Eamonn Foley, Fairview. Eamonn Our No1 Fan was known far and wide not only by our own supporters but also by supporters of all other Clubs in the County.

Mr. Fred Randle, Tinnahinch. From the very Foundation of the Club in 1953 he became actively involved in affairs on and off the pitch during its formative years. With the schools team he achieved remarkable success being a vital part of an administration that brought such success to school and Parish.

Mr. Henry Bolger, Tinnahinch. Henry died minutes after he watched the U-21 hurliers win the county Final.
 Go ndeana Dia trocaire ar a Anam dilis.

CLUB NEWS

Graigue Ballycallan



Early Days

The Graigue-Ballycallan GAA Club was formed in 1969, with the amalgamation of the two Junior Club's in the parish Graigue and Ballycallan. The hurling field was in Teehan's of Shipton. In 1969 we were beaten by Conahy in the Northern Semi-final by one point. However in 1970 the club won their way through to the Junior County Final. In the Final we were to play Windgap. This game never took place, Windgap were awarded the Co. Championship by the Co. Board. (There's not enough room on this page to tell that story!)

Declan Byrne U-14 tournament

The Declan Byrne U-14 tournament has been run by the club since September 1999, in memory of Declan, son of Liam and Philomena and younger brother of former county star Denis. This year the cup was won by O'Loughlin Gaels beating St. Lachtains 3-6 to 1-4 in the final. The shield final was won by the host club who beat Graiguenamanagh 4-10 to 2-5. Our U-14's won the Football League beating Erin's Own in the Final. Our U-16's are in the Football League Final. Both the U-14's and U-16's lost out heartbreakingly by one point in the hurling championship.

Special Junior

The Junior B team won the Northern Final when they beat Galmoy by 3-18 to 0-6. In the County Final they came up against a very good Piltown team, who beat us by 4 points. Despite the result it was a good game of hurling and next year our Special Junior team will be even more determined to win the County final.

Junior

The Junior Team could not match the 2007 heroics when they won 3 titles. This year they went out early in both the League and Championship.

Senior

The Senior Team contested this year's Byrne Cup Final where they came up against Dicksboro; however they were missing a number of players on the evening, and Dicksboro won out convincing winners. A few weeks later both teams met in the Championship. This time we had our revenge winning the match 1-13 to 1-8. James Stephens beat us 1-17 to 1-10 in the Quarter Final.

Congratulations to Eddie Brennan on winning his sixth All-Ireland medal on the first Sunday in September, with a man of the match performance scoring 2-4 from play. In October he also picked up his 4th All Star award. James Ryall a sub on the day collected his 5th All-Ireland medal. Well done to you both and best of luck in 2009!



Graigue-Ballycallan - Northern Junior Champions 1970

Back: Paddy Cahill, Michael Kelly, Kieran Hoynes, John Coonan, Pat Hoynes, Nicholas Teehan, Johnny Dermody, John Hoynes, Paddy Byrne.
Front: Johnny Keane, Johnny Marnell, John Murphy, Frank Minogue, Joe Millea, Tom Ryall, Tom Fitzpatrick.



Graigue-Ballycallan, Shield Winners - Declan Byrne Tournament 2008

Back: Geoffrey Maher, James Maher, Padhraic Tynan, Tommy Egan, Diarmuid Walsh, Eoin Corcoran, Vincent Teehan, Cathal Dermody, Darragh Egan, Philip Doheny, Daniel Cahill, Shane Butler.
Front: Dylan Hillman, Brian O'Sullivan, Sean Tynan, Philip Cahill, Billy Ryan, Conor Cleere, James Dooley, Conor Murphy, Peter Boland, Dylan Dooley.



Graigue SH Team 1957 - One of the earliest colour team photos taken in the county.

Back: Joe Cleere, James Fennelly, Nicholas Teehan, Simon Cleere, PJ Claffey, Mick Walsh, Mick Coonan, Nicholas Purcell, Ned Walton.
Front: Tom Walton, Billy Daly (Capt), Paddy Burke, Patsy Lahart, Abby Holmes, Billy Ronan, Dick Cleere, Tom Ryall.

CLUB NEWS

James Stephens



Officers 2008

President	Sean Tyrrell
Vice Pres.	Liam Tyrrell,
Chairman	Dick Coyne
Vice Chairman	Jimmy O'Brien
	Sean Brennan, Paddy
Secretary	Neary
Treasurer	Fergal Walsh
Bar Treasurer	Tom Keane
PRO	John O'Neill
Registrar	Val Malone
Youth Officer	Aodhan O Ruairc
Development	Mark Tyrrell
	Michael Moore

Feile na Gael

The highlight of the year was the tremendous victory which gave the parish its seventh National Feile na Gael title. We defeated Na Piarsaigh, Cork thanks to a last minute goal. Well done to Eamonn Tyrrell and his management team who led us to the record number of Christy Ring trophies. The panel went on to win every trophy available in Kilkenny in hurling and football.

Underage Matters

The club ran tournaments at every age level from U-8 to minor level. Organising so many tournaments with a large number of teams competing in each grade is a huge task for any club. Many thanks must go to the selectors at each age level who take responsibility for the tournaments.

Ladies Committee

Every year our ladies committee plays host to each visiting team that plays games in our club. On tournament days they often cater for up to two hundred people. They also help with various functions during the year. Their commitment to our club is huge and much appreciated.

Development

Early in the year the club embarked on its most ambitious project by purchasing a thirty eight acre site on the Kells Road. The hard working development committee led by Michael Moore is currently in the process of applying for planning permission to develop four playing pitches and associated works. It will be a long and painstaking process to complete the development but we look forward to a successful outcome.

Congratulations

It has been a wonderful year for so many of our club members. Brian



De La Salle School hurling team, Patrick St, Kilkenny 29 June 1914

Winners of a set of medals given by Carlow Feis, open to counties Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny. Included are Hughie Shields, ? Coogan, Paddy Murphy, Bro. Polycarp, Jack Hennessy, Jack Fitzpatrick, Marty Coyne, Jackie Butler, Jackie Fahy, Jack Leahy, Paddy Flanagan, Paddy Brennan, Tom Kenny, Jimmie O'Shea, Mickie Griffin, Kerr McGrath.



James Stephens - Senior Hurling finalists 1927 v. Mooncoin.

The county final went to four games, two played in James's Park, two in Waterford. Note later All Ireland senior hurling medal winners, Jack 'Sag' Carroll, Mick Larkin and Paddy Larkin

Back: Barney Hennessy, Martin Tierney, Jack Walsh (President), Paddy Kealy, Kerr McGrath, Mick Walsh (Chairman), Martin 'Switch' Coyne, Paddy 'Leeks' Delaney, Joe Delaney (Secretary), Martin Power, Mick 'Bugger' Bergin, Jack 'Sag' Carroll.

Middle: John 'Sock' Dunne, Martin Gleeson, Mick 'Phleep' Larkin, Peter Foley, Paddy Larkin, Paddy 'Nully' Walsh, Jack Foley, Peter Dunne (mascot).

Front: Martin Cassidy (Committee), Mick Brett, Philly Dwyer, Connie Keane, Joe 'Bony' Culleton.

Cody led Kilkenny to three All Ireland Senior titles. He has been honoured with the 'Freedom of the City'. We wish to congratulate Seamus Pattison, always a strong supporter of the club, on his elevation as a Freeman too.

Eoin Larkin was honoured with his first All Star Award and has swept the honours board by winning the GPA and Texaco awards. Eoin is the second player from the club to have won this

coveted award. In 1976 Liam 'Chunky' O'Brien also won the Texaco Award. Jackie Tyrrell won his second All Star award and a GPA award.

Donnach Cody won his third All Ireland senior medal. Matthew Ruth won an All Ireland U-21 medal and Derrick Brennan an Intermediate championship.

Congratulations also to Aoife Neary who won a first camogie All star award for the club.

CLUB NEWS

John Lockes



A Difficult Year

2008 was a landmark year for the John Lockes Intermediate team, but unfortunately not for the right reasons.. A 21 year run between the Intermediate and Senior Grades was ended when the club was finally relegated to the Junior ranks. After a poor league campaign which saw the intermediates fail to win a game, the Championship draw saw the club face St Lachtains in the 1st round. Despite missing a large number of players for various reasons, the Callan lads produced a spirited and committed display, and looked set to advance to the quarter final stages when they led by 5 points with only 5 minutes left on the clock. The concession of two poor goals in the last few minutes however, the 2nd in added time, meant that another relegation final awaited them. Glenmore were the opposition for the Lockes, in the final which no club wants to contest, but again the concession of two poor goals undermined another strong display from the Callan men. Glenmore ended up prevailing by the minimum margin thanks to a disputed injury time free, and the club were relegated to play in the Junior grade for the first time since 1987. Great credit goes to all the players who produced such a huge effort in both of these games, and both could easily have gone either way. Over the course of the year however, the club struggled at the grade, and a return to the Junior ranks for the 1st time since 1987 might be the spark that gives the club momentum for the future. The Junior B team promised much, and after an average league campaign, they produced a number of spirited performances to meet Piltown in the south final. Despite having beaten the southerners twice in 2008, the game proved 3rd time unlucky for the Lockes and Piltown progressed to the county final.

Juvenile Club

A disappointing year on the field for the adult section of the club was contrasted by an excellent campaign for the underage section. The Minor team repeated their league win of 2007 with a great win over Gowran in the final. Despite the league success, the Championship again proved a bridge too far unfortunately, and St.Lachtains defeated them on a bad night in Palmerstown. It was overall however, another excellent year for the minors in 2008.

Exceptional Performances

The real success story for John Lockes in 2008 were the U-16 teams. In 3 competitions, Hurling League and Championship, and Football

Championship, this outstanding group of players tasted defeat just once. The smallest winning margin in the rest of the games was 7 points. The footballers swept all before them culminating in a great win over Thomastown in the county final. Unfortunately for the hurlers, the one defeat the team suffered was in the county final to Dicksboro. On a stormy day in Bennettsbridge, the Callan

lads went down by a goal to the city kingpins in a tight contest. Despite their first setback of 2008 and the disappointment of losing such an important game, the U-16 hurlers rallied strongly in the final game of the year for the club, to convincingly turn the tables against Dicksboro in the league final, winning a game of outstanding quality by 8 points. Great credit goes to all involved.



The first success of John Lockes

John Lockes - 1911 Junior Hurling County Champions

Back: Jim Tobin (trainer), Paddy Kerwick (treasurer), Paddy Cuddihy (secretary), Michael J Lynch (chairman), Mick Martin, John Fogarty.

Third Row: Johnny Walsh, Bob Mahoney, Dinni Fitzpatrick, Jimmy Stapleton, Paddy McKenna, Gerry Fogarty, Jimmy Russell.

Second Row: Jim Lavelle, Mick Fitzgerald, Jack Fitzgerald, Ned Roche (capt), Matty Fitzgerald, Mick Buggy, Jack Fitzpatrick.

Front: Paddy Walsh, Dick Finn, Jimmy Corcoran, Bill Fitzgerald.



John Lockes U12 Camogie Team - Callan's First!

Back: Jade Butler, Deirdre Carroll, Rachel Buckley, Sarah Bergin, Rebecca Freyney, Chantelle Komer, Claire Byrne, Emma Shelley, Niamh Fitzgerald, Victoria Dul.

Front: Aisling McGrath, Lauren Corcoran, Caitlyn Moore, Laura Hennessy, Katie Delaney, Aisling Butler, Carrie O'Connor, Emma Wall, Linda Byrne.

CLUB NEWS

Kilmacow



Kilmacow Club Officers 2008

Chairman	Adrian O'Keeffe
Secretary	Michael Brick
Treasurer	Eamon Irish
PRO	Nichola Laffan

Juvenile Section

The club's Juvenile Section continued its great work in 2008 under Juvenile Chairman Joe Quinn with Margaret Costello as Secretary and Cathleen Hayes as Treasurer.

The U-14 Hurling team successfully competed in the Johnny Walsh Memorial floodlit tournament – Group B at the Carrigeen Club. This team commenced the first game of this competition in early January with a one point loss to Roanmore (Waterford). However they persevered & in the ensuing weekends in cold wet & windy conditions they defeated Clara (Kilkenny), Killeagh (Cork), Kilsheelan (Tipperary) & Clonea (Waterford). This event culminated in victory with a tough contest in the Final against Glenmore (Kilkenny) where Kilmacow were the comprehensive & deserving winners! Team trainers, Paul O'Hanlon, Joe Quinn & Pat Dempsey panel: Dylan Cooke, Kevin McNamara, Ian Williams, Shay Dempsey, Adam Morgan, Ryan McKenna., Lee Doyle, Ryan O'Hanlon, Donagh Myler, Ian Aherne, Eoin McEvoy, Kevin Croke, Daniel Connolly, Patrick Hefferan & Mark Penkert.

County Players

Congratulations to Kevin McNamara, Ryan McKenna & Shay Dempsey who represented the Club on the County U-14 panel. John Hayes, Dean Power and Andy Kearns did the Club proud with the County U-15 panel while the performances of Luke Harney with the County U-16 panel were generally regarded as being exceptional.

Adult Section

Things began slowly for the Junior & Juniors B squads. However the management team of Georgie Leahy, Dick McNamara & Jim Kinsella worked hard with the players and the improvement was visible to all. The Juniors gave an excellent performance in their championship quarter final match with Mooncoin and progressed to a Southern semi final meeting with Piltown. Too many missed opportunities in the first half was partly responsible for their undoing and they finally went down by two points. The marked improvement in the performances of some of the younger players gives hope for the future.

Obituaries

We would like to extend our sympathy to club treasurer Eamon Irish and the Irish family on the death during the year of their parents Ned and Lizzy. We would also like to extend our sympathy to the families of Noel Kavanagh, Paddy Lawlor, Martin Kearns and Ben Hoban who died during the year.

Thanks

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to our many sponsors. A special word of thanks also to those Club members who helped to fundraise and organise the numerous events during the year. To all those who helped with and managed the many teams in the Club we are extremely grateful.



Dunkitt Ramblers 1929

Back: Jimmy Walsh, Tommy (Fox) Dunphy, Dunkitt, Dick O'Keeffe, (Ballinaroughry), Jack Fogarty, Joseph (Becky) Walsh, Michael Keane, Willy Walsh (all Dunkitt), Nicholas Kelly (Ballinaroughry), James Doody (Grannyknock), Francis Walsh (Dunkitt), Patrick Kavanagh (Lr. Kilmacow), Paddy Kelly (Ballinaroughry), Tim Kelly (Bennettsbridge), Jim Cleere (Milltown), Michael Walsh, Joe Walsh (The Minister), John Walsh, Jim Cooney, Pat Walsh (Skeard), Peter Walsh (Dunkitt Bridge), Neddy Walsh (Chairman), Jack Walsh (Secretary, Dunkitt Bridge).

Front: Willy (Slabs) Dunphy, Jimmy Dowling (Dunkitt), Martin McEvoy (Ballykeoghan, Capt), Tommy Walsh, Tommy Dunphy, Eddie Sweeney, Peter Walsh.

In this photo, there are two Walsh families with five and six brothers respectively.



Kimacow - Carrigeen U-14 tournament winners 2008

Back: Joe Quinn, Dylan Cooke, Ian Williams, Shay Dempsey, Adam Morgan, Ryan McKenna, Paul O'Hanlon, **Front:** Michael Cooke, Lee Doyle, Donagh Meyler, Ian Aherne, Eoin McEvoy, Eoin McKenna.



Kilmacow Junior Panel 2008

Back: Michael Sweeney, Paddy O'Keeffe, Liam Kearns, John Phelan, Michael Heffernan, Peter Mulally, Sean Flynn, Shane Gaule, Paul Laffan, Trevor Grant, Ray Hennessy, Declan Gahan, Conor Dowling, Stephen O'Keeffe, Sean McGrath, Richard Kearns, William O'Toole, Brian King, Brian Fleming.

Front: Mark McGuinness, John Barron, Robert O'Keeffe, Richard Walsh, John Daniels, Richard McNamara, Paul Long, Nicky Barron, Owen Doody, Tommy Reddy, Sean Ivory.

CLUB NEWS

Lisdowney



On the field of play

2008 was a very successful year. The highlight being winning the Northern Junior Championship for the first time since 1960. The Special Junior team also had a successful year reaching the Northern Junior league final. The U16s showed great improvements after a bad start to the year to reach the league final. The u-13s won the shield in the Coca Cola Sevens, While the u-12s were not to be outdone winning the Conahy and Johnstown tournaments. The club underage structure continues to flourish with more parents getting involved in Saturday morning and indoor hurling training. The club ran a morning blitz at the end of October with our County minors, Sean Phelan and Rory Hickey presenting medals to all youngsters.

Achievements

The club was well represented at county level with Rory Hickey and Sean Phelan winning all Ireland Minor medals in September. Antony O'Hara also won all Ireland medal with the County Intermediates. Niall Mackey, Vinny Fitzpatrick, Jimmy Delaney, Rory Hickey, Owen Warren, Aaron Fogarty, Damian Clyne, Michael Lennon, Jamie Bergin were all on the Colaiste Mhuire panel which won the All Ireland Vocational Final in April.

Development

The club developed a Wall Ball and Dugouts in the hurling field. A defibrillator was purchased and eight members of the club trained in its use. The club ran an U-17 eleven a side competition over a June weekend to cater for players not getting hurling during the exam period. During the presentation ceremony County Chairman Paul Kinsella unveiled a plaque in honour of Lar & Ted Carroll. Neighbours Freshford won the main trophy with the locals winning the shield.

Bereavements

During the year the club lost one of its 1939 founding members in Billy Campion and also one on the 1960 county junior winning team in Michael Henderson. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dilis.



Lisdowney team 1940 - Urlingford Tournament

Back: Jack Costello, Bill Moore, Mickey Grace, Joe Young, Jim O'Shea, Jack Walsh, Tom McEvoy, Jock Costigan, Mick Delaney, Mick Ivory, Johnny Ivory. **Middle:** Pak Walsh, John Phelan, Dan Grady, Neddy Walsh. **Front:** Larry Carroll, Dick McEvoy.



Lisdowney U-12 winners of Conahy Tournament

Back: Dean McCann, Conor O'Carroll, Michelle Hickey, Eoin Walsh, Brian O'Carroll, Clare Healy, Darragh Mackey, Peter O'Sullivan, Alan Murphy, James Murphy, Jack Dunphy, John Brennan. **Front:** Liam Dunphy, Morgan Cashin, Dylan Jordan, Luke Woodward, William Kenny (Capt), Brian Kavanagh, Aoife O'Carroll, Kevin O'Sullivan, Ian Buckley.



Mary and Angela Carroll with Paul Kinsella (Chairman, Kilkenny County Board) at the unveiling of a plaque to the late Ted and Lar Carroll at Lisdowney G.A.A. Grounds. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Plaque Unveiled
Tom O'Carroll speaks at the unveiling of the plaque to Ted and Lar Carroll.

CLUB NEWS

Mooncoin



County Champions

The highlight of the playing season must be our victory in the Intermediate Football Championship. We defeated Kilmoganny in an entertaining semi final and faced Thomastown in the final. After a slow start the players picked up the pace and we eventually won by a good margin. This victory entitled us to participate in the Leinster Junior Club Championship and we are awaiting further details on our semi final opponents having defeated Shroid Slashers from Longford in the quarter final.

Intermediate Hurling

The hurling season was rather productive as we collected silverware in the Alyward Cup defeating Ballyhale in the final. The championship proved to be a mix of good

and bad. Our league position ensured that we would have a first round game against Thomastown. The players proved their battling qualities and having been in some bother early on the persevered and eventually won through. Our quarter final opponents were The Rower and this time we made a good start. We came under severe pressure during the second half but we managed to hold firm and secure a semi-final place against Castlecomer. However this performance proved to be most disappointing and we eventually lost out by 6 points. The season as a whole was quite positive and we can have a positive outlook for next season.

Junior Action

The junior side enjoyed a decent campaign

during the league with a couple of victories which kept them on track. The championship campaign came to a shuddering halt with Kilmacow proving them to be much the stronger side during this first round encounter. A promising U-21 side looked destined for great things but alas horrendous conditions and a determined Mullinavat side put paid to their ambitions. The Junior B grade saw the club enter two separate squads in the competition for the first time. The experiment proved to be worthwhile and all players saw action throughout the campaign. The A side reached the quarter final of the championship but were defeated by a physically stronger Callan outfit.

Minor Triumph

This year's minor crop were the best for some time and we had high hopes for them. The early indications were good as they went through the league undefeated eventually defeating Dicksboro in the final of the competition. We faced the same opposition in the championship and although the players gave it there all they just could not overcome a much changed side from the League final.

The U-16 side had a respectable league campaign; however similarly to their U-21 counterparts they struggled under horrendous conditions and a well coached Graigue Ballycallan side in the Championship. However they did reach the Football final but were defeated by Glenmore.

The U-14 side struggled this season and never reached the highs of last years Feile triumphs. However they competed with distinction throughout the year and can be very proud of their efforts.

Juveniles

The primary school hurling team failed to build on their football success prior to Christmas and lost out in the quarter finals of the campaign. The younger children had some great days out during the summer and have a bright future ahead of them. The U-11 side failed to make progress in the Waterford City League however the U-12 team reached the semi finals thanks to impressive victories over Ballygunner and Tramore. Eventually their run was halted by Ballygunner in the semi final.

Development

The club is continuing apace with developments to the grounds with the redevelopment of the old complex building taking place. The walkway constructed around the field has been a major success and hopefully the complex will be completed during the next 12 months.

Sympathies

We extend sympathy to all club members who have experienced bereavement in the past 12 months. Ar Dheis Dea Go Raibh a Ainmneacha!



Mooncoin - Kilkenny Senior Hurling Champions 1908

Back: Pat Phelan; Dick Dunphy

2nd Row: Dick Walsh; Tom Butler; Billy Hennebry; Jim Ryan; James Quinn; Tom Hennebry; Ned Fewer; Bob Morahan

Middle Row: Mick Doyle; Jimmy Kelly; Dick Doyle; John Fielding; Dick (Droog) Walsh; Dick Doherty; James Brennan.

Front Row: James Butler; Eddie Doyle; Mark McDonald, Joe Delahunt.



Sean Wall (Mooncoin) looks back for the sliotar as Conor Fogarty (Erin's Own) closes in during the IHC semi-final. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

CLUB NEWS

Muckalee Football Club



Muckalee - County U21 "A" Football Champions

Back: Larry Maher (Chairman), Paddy Nolan, Mick Morrissey, Mick Nolan, James Maher, Ollie Walsh, John Mulhall, Mike Keane, Eoin Bolger, Joe Maher, John Maher, Noel Darcy, Eddie Butler (Sel).

Front: Patsy Murphy (Sel), Thomas Breen, Fionn Lawlor, Colin McGrath, Mark Murphy, Ronan Maher (Capt), Aidan Murphy, Brian Mulhall, James Dowling, Canice Maher, Anthony Maher (Sel). (Eoin Hennessy)

Officers:

Chairman: Larry Maher

Vice-Chairman: Nicky Morrissey

Secretary: Paddy Morrissey

Ass. Secretary: Patrick O Flynn

Treasurer: Patsy Murphy

This past year has been an average one for the club. For the third year in a row, our senior footballers made their exit from the championship at the first hurdle. This year it was the eventual champions, James Stephens, who were our conquerors in the first round. The junior team did not have quite as good a year as last year as they were beaten at the quarter final stage by Graigue-Ballycallan. The only silverware captured by the club in the past year was the U-21 'A' championship 2007. This final was played last January in

Freshford when our lads captured the title for the third time by beating Railyard.

The senior league began last March and our seniors began with a good win over Glenmore. In their next game against Railyard a draw was the result. They suffered a comprehensive defeat against Erin's Own in their third and final game of the league. This ended their interest in the league.

In the first round of the championship they suffered a one point defeat (1-10 to 1-9) by James Stephens after looking the better team early on.

Our U-21 team had a good win over Glenmore in the semi-final of the championship. In the final they had to battle a bit harder but eventually pulled away for a 2-12 to 1-7 victory.

By winning the football title they completed the double as they had earlier won the 2007 Roinn 'A' U-21 hurling title.

The minor footballers were knocked out at the semi-final stage of the 2007 Roinn 'A' Minor championship by Erin's Own.

The backbone of the Kilkenny junior football this year was made up of Muckalee players and they played a big part in Kilkenny's only win in the league for a long while.

On the development front, a lot of work was done around the pitch and its perimeter after the drainage and erection of the floodlights last year. Plans are at an advanced stage for further development in the coming year.



Paul Kinsella receives the congratulations of his Muckalee/St Martin's colleagues on his election to Chairmanship of Kilkenny County Board. From left: Eddie Butler, Paddy Morrissey, Richard Nolan, Richard O'Shea, Patsy Murphy, Lillian Holahan and Tom Dowling. (Eoin Hennessy)

CLUB NEWS

Mullinavat



Thanks Tommy

The club A.G.M was held in January and it saw long standing chairman Tommy Frisby step down from the role after serving a phenomenal term of twenty years as chairman. It has been a truly outstanding term of office and tributes paid to him were warm and fully deserved as Tommy vacated the chair. Tommy has served the club faithfully as player, trainer and club chairman and he oversaw the major development programme undertaken by the club in recent years.

Birmingham Trip

Mullinavat under 13 football team travelled to Birmingham on the June Bank Holiday weekend to participate in Féile Peil International where they reached the semi final of the shield competition. The Sean McDermott's Club based in Birmingham hosted the team, and no effort was spared to make the visitors stay very enjoyable. The panel flew out from Waterford Airport on Friday afternoon and returned home on Sunday evening, with cherished memories of a wonderful weekend.

Chairman of the Féile Peil International competition was Mullinavat man Declan Wall, and Declan's uncle Pakie was one of the team selectors.

Sporting Affairs

Our juvenile teams did not fare too well in 2008 but our under 14, 16 and minor teams were all very young and will all have mostly the same panels available next year so more will be expected from these teams in 2009. Our minor team competed quite well in the league but exited the championship in the first round.

At the end of the year our U-12 team captured the James Grace memorial tournament in Hugginstown while the U-15 team won the Jim Reid memorial shield competition

under the floodlights in Piltown. The U21 team has given the club an end of season boost with a spirited campaign which brought them to the southern Final where they just failed to peg back Carrickshock. While our intermediate team made no impression this year, the Junior A side produced some good performances to reach the county final where they were beaten by a very good Clara side.

County Performers

Congratulations to Willie O Dwyer on winning another senior all Ireland medal and to Pat Hoban for managing the Kilkenny intermediate team to all Ireland victory.



Mullinavat 1939 Junior Hurling champions:

Back: Pat O'Brien, Danny McLoughlin, Willie Durney, John Walsh, Jimmy Bergin, Jimmy Foskin, Paddy Holden, Neddie O'Connor, Jim Keegan, Secretary.
Middle: Tom Durney, Jimmy Hendrick, Paddy O'Neill, Willie Walsh, Pat McDonald, Pat Aylward, captain, Peter Foskin, Andy Aylward, Tom Walsh, Dixie McSweeney, Nickie McSweeney.
Front: Philip Hoban, Mick Heffernan, Mick Doolan, Paulie Fitzgerald, Pete Sutton and Donie O'Brien.



Mullinavat U-21 team Southern Finalists 2008

Back: Niall Frisby, Paddy Jones, Ian Duggan, Pádraig Gahan, James Murphy, Michael Malone, John Thomas Murphy, Micheál Farrell, Joe Fennelly, James Culleton, Andrew Delahunt.

Front: Brian Power, John Reade, Joseph Gahan, Paddy Raftice, Darren Kenneally, Stephen Ryan, Ciarán Boyle, Daniel Davis, David Murphy, Nicky Anthony, Mossy Jones.



Mullinavat under 13 Football 2008

Back: Tom Duggan (selector), Daniel Coughlan, Nathan Malone, Conor Frisby, Matthew Reade, John Walsh, Liam Fennelly, Brian Phelan, Pakie Wall (selector).
Middle: Billy Walsh (manager), William Delahunt, Kevin Howley, Daniel Walsh, Liam Walsh, John Dunphy (selector).
Front: Killian Dunphy, Conor Duggan, Mikey Jones, James McCarthy.

CLUB NEWS

O'Loughlin Gaels



Executive Committee

Chairman:	Michael Nolan
Vice Chairman:	Martin Hanlon
Secretary	Margaret Hanlon
Finance	Joe Nolan
Hurling / Football	Seanie Tyrrell
Juv. Chairman	Paul Cleere
Pavilion	Benny Walsh
Grounds	Paddy Greene
Social	Mick Burke
Development	Coleman Loughnane
Handball	Con Moore
Membership	Marguerite O'Connor
Co. Board Del.	Martin Brennan
PRO	Benny Cleere

Adult teams

The seniors had a good league campaign winning 4 games to qualify for an automatic quarter final spot in the championship and also for the Shield Final where they lost out to Carrickshock. In the championship they defeated Tullaroan in an entertaining match before exiting at the semi final stage to city rivals James Stephens - losing out by 2 points.

Good progress was made this year under Barrie Power, Derek Shelly and Colm Furlong as both of these games were played without the injured Martin Comerford and 7 U21s from the year before started on both days. The Juniors lost out after a replay to the eventual Northern finalists Bennettsbridge while the Special juniors exited at the hands of Graigue Ballycallan. At the time of writing our U21s have qualified for the Northern semi final having defeated the champions of 2007 St.Martins at the quarter stage.

Congrats to Martin Comerford and Brian Hogan who collected Senior All Ireland medals in Kilkenny's 3 in a row. Also to Mark Bergin and Mark Kelly who were part of the U21 All Ireland winning squad.

Juvenile

Our U6s & 8s saw great numbers involved and have shown very good improvement during the year. The U-10s had a great year and competed very well in all tournaments. At U-12 we enjoyed a very successful year winning a number of tournaments including retention of our Ballyragget tournament title and defeating Dicksboro in the Callan tournament final.

Our 14s and 16s both fielded 2 teams and the highlights were a win for the 14s in the Kilmanagh tournament and Anthony Forristal captaining Kilkenny U-16s in the Arrabawn tournament.

A young minor team was beaten in their first round but showed good form at times in the league.

Summer Camps and Street Leagues

We held our first Club Summer Camp which was a great success. Thanks to Niall Bergin who organised this. Our Street Leagues were a great success and thanks to MacDonagh Junction, Fields, Prochem Eng Ltd., our sponsors for this and to John Collins and his organising committee.



O'Loughlin Gaels - Winners U - 12 Tom Phelan (Ballyragget) Tournament

Back: Shane Fahy, John Dillon, Robert Buckley, Gary Bryan, Shem Downey (who presented the trophies), Ross Butler, Daniel O'Connor, Sean Kiely, Patrick Clifford.
Front: Darragh Morrissey, Patrick Doyle, Jimmy Jackman, Francie O'Reilly, Jack Lawlor, Cian Loy, Sean Bolger, Shane Maher, Kevin Roe.

Missing from photo: Thomas Gleeson. **Coaches:** Niall Bergin, Neil Loy, Eddie Buckley.



Executive Committee 1979 - Opening of New Pavilion

Back: Andy O'Driscoll, Tommy Roche, Seamus Dowling, Tommy O'Brien, Marty Brennan, Luke Roche, Pádraig Leydon
Front: Eamon Doyle, Fr Tom Murphy, Jim Rice, Tommy Gregg, Sean Casey.

Thanks to all managers, mentors, ladies committee, John Wemyss and anyone else who helped during the year.

A special thanks to MacDonagh Junction who came on board as main sponsor for the juvenile section in 2008.

Handball

Another great year for O'Loughlins Handball Club with players winning County, Leinster and National Titles. Most notably was Billy Bourke winning the Silver masters Singles and Doubles Leinster and All Ireland Titles and Joe Hennessy winning the Golden Masters Leinster and All Ireland Championship. Eddie Burke competed in the M.Donnolly Senior Championships with distinction while at Juvenile level our most successful players were Keith Bourke and Jason Delaney who won the Under 17 Leinster and All Ireland

Championships.

Thanks

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to all those who supported and sponsored us during the year in our Lotto, Golf Classic, race Night or as team sponsors.

Thanks also are extended to the many people who devote their time in a voluntary capacity at all levels of the club.

Lost Friends

The club would like to extend its sympathy to all members who lost loved ones during the year and especially to the O'Hara and Brennan families. Both Jim and Neddy were long serving officers in roles off and on the field of play in the club. Gone but not forgotten. May they Rest in Peace.

CLUB NEWS

Piltown



Piltown Hurling team, County Senior Finalists 1904

Back: T. O'Donnell, M. Power, J. Dillon, P. Carroll, M. Roche, W. Dillon Walsh, J.T. Power.

Middle: M. Landy, J. Dillon, J. Grace, J. Power, N. Butler, T. Hurley.

Front: W. Greene, J. Anthony, B. Bowe, Drug Walsh.



Piltown U-10 team - Mullinahone Tournament Winners with Nicky Brennan (President of the GAA)

Back: James Kirby, Conor Friend, Shane Whittle, Darragh Walsh, Ronan Ryan, Jamie Norris (Capt), Richard Norris, Sean Power, James Flynn, Kieran Reid

Front: Adam Grace, Sean Knox, Oisin Brophy, John Kenny, Evan Murphy, David Tobin, Cian Kinsella, Conor Whittle, Sam Grace.



Piltown U-12 Hurlers – Waterford League Division 2 Finalists

Back: Alan Dowley, Conor Sarsfield, Peter Tobin, Robert Kent, David Norris, Conor Friend, Francis O'Brien, Michael Dineen, Martin Kirby, Shane Walsh, Liam Fortune, Aidan Nugent

Front: Richard Norris, Richard Brophy, Thomas Murray, Michaél Dunne, Oisin Brophy, Ian Long, Tom Kenny, Shane O'Dwyer, Jamie Norris, Ronan Ryan, Aaron Gallagher.

Adult Section Officers

Chairman	John Maher
Secretary	Bill Costello
Treasurer	Cepta Brennan
PRO	Robbie Blackmore
Co. Board	Eddie Blackmore

Hurling

Following a twenty year gap the Club had a marvellous victory in the Junior "B" Championship, defeating Graigue/Ballycallan in the final. In a total of 22 games played during the season they only lost two games.

The Junior Hurlers won the Southern Junior Hurling League, but lost in the ACHL Final to Dicksboro. In the Championship they lost the Southern Final to Tullogher/Rosbercon. James Norris won an All-Ireland medal with the Kilkenny U-21 team.

Football

The Intermediate Footballers defeated The Rower Inistioge and Graignamanagh in the Championship, only to be denied a Semi-final slot due to a County Board ruling.

Club Developments

The Warm Up area for the All Weather Floodlit pitch was completed this year and extra car parking spaces were added. A Spectator Stand was erected at the All Weather Pitch, which provides great comfort for winter games and training. Future planned developments include new toilets for the main Dressing Rooms, extra drainage of the Main playing field and a Hurling Wall.

Juvenile Section Officers

Chairman	Philip Walsh
Secretary & Bord Na nÓg	Helen Kinsella
Treasurer	Liam Ryan
PRO	Seamus Norris

2008 was a wonderful year for juvenile hurling and Gaelic football. The U-14 footballers won the Roinn B championship and now top the roll of honour for that competition. In hurling the U-14's reached both the league and championship semi-finals. There were successes in Mullinahone (U-10) and Roanmore (U-8). The U-8's won the Roanmore tournament for the third year running. This year they did not concede a single score. The U-11's won both their Camaint games in Nowlan Park against St. Martin's and Mullinavat. They also got to the semi-finals of the Waterford League. The U-12's were beaten in the final by Ferrybank in the same competition. The under-8 hurlers played half-time exhibition matches at two adult Southern hurling finals.

Peter McCarthy won his second consecutive All-Ireland senior colleges medal with De La Salle, Waterford. Brendan Norris was also involved. Peter then added Leinster and All-Ireland minor medals with Kilkenny. Kevin Walsh played with Kilkenny in the Tony Forristal tournament. Piltown hosted the South U-15 hurling tournament for the Jim Reid Memorial Cup.

CLUB NEWS

Rower Inistioge



Schools GAA

'08 was another very active Year for all the various under age teams. The Under 6's, 7's, 8's, and 9's played in a number of blitzes throughout the year culminating in the Roanmore Tournament where the U- 8 and U-9 Team each won their respective Groups. The U-10 Team got to the semi final stage of the Caulfields league while the under 11 Team had a great victory in the Ballyragget Tournament. The U-12 Team played also played in a number of Tournaments winning the Paulstown Tournament after a great contest with Neighbours Thomastown in the final.

The Schools Hurling team had a great run in the Schools league and qualified for the A semi final, where they had to give second best to Gael Scoil. Well done to all of the many Club Members who assisted will all of the various under age teams in '08.

Luke Roche Memorial

All were extremely saddened with the Death of Luke Roche after a brave battle with Illness in March this Year. A Memorial Tournament for Luke was organised by the Club in October with 8 local Under 8 Teams participating. Well done to all involved and to Luke's Parents, Harriette and Dickie who presented all teams with their medals afterwards and presented Shamrocks-Tournament Winners with the Luke Roche Memorial Cup.

Bord na nÓg

Pride of place for '08 must go to our Minor Hurling Team who won the County Roimh B Final in November. Our U-16 Team were defeated by the narrowest of margins in the U-16 league final and the U-14 Team got to the Football County Final where they lost out to Piltown.

Adult Teams

The Intermediate Team enjoyed a good run in the league and qualified for the Shield Final, where they lost out to Castlecomer. In the championship Q-Final against Mooncoin, the Intermediates again suffered defeat by the narrowest of margins. The Junior A Team got to the Southern Final of the Championship, while the Junior B Team enjoyed mixed results in their competition.

Club Development.

In '08, planning permission was secured for the Building of the GAA Community Centre in Inistioge and the development



Rower Inistioge players in joyful form at the Roanmore Hurling Tournament



Where they Begin! - Rower Inistioge Under 6 Hurlers

of the GAA Grounds in the Rower. Construction work commenced on the GAA Community Centre in September and is planned to be completed in September '09. The Centre will include changing rooms and showers, Community hall, indoor sports area for Juveniles and a Gym. Development work on the Rower Grounds will commence during the summer of '09 with a planned completion date of April 2010. This development will include the

expansion, levelling and draining of the existing GAA field and the construction of a new car park area.

All Ireland Medals

Congratulations to all Club Members who won All Ireland Medals with Kilkenny in '08, James Cassin (Minor), Kieran Joyce (U-21 and Intermediate), David Lyng (U-21), Liam Tierney and Michael Grace (Int) and to Sean Cummins (Intermediate & Senior).

CLUB NEWS

Slieverue



A Very Busy Beginning to 2008

2008 started off on a sad note for the club with the un-timely death of Eamonn O'Donovan our Juvenile Chairman (RIP) who is sadly missed by all in Slieverue. The Club year opened at a frantic pace and in February we held a registration night on the 8th, Junior training starting on the 16th and the month finished with a U-21 and Fennelly Cup medal presentation on the 29th.

This month also saw a premeditated act of vandalism on club grounds that incurred significant financial loss to all our members.

Spring Campaigns

The 25th March was the date that the club got into full swing with all juvenile teams starting training.

The Junior team started their league campaign with an unexpected win over Tullogher/Rosbercon, this great early form was not replicated for the rest of the year with the Juniors losing some tight games that could have gone either way.

Later in the year our U-21's took part in the (B) Championship and their pairing with Glenmore provided one of the best hurling games of the season. It's clear that there are several good prospects for the junior panel on this team.

Well Done Ringville!

Early April saw a historic first in Slieverue when Slieverue/Ringville National School fielded their first ever Camogie team.

This is a fantastic development for both the club and the parish and a special word of thanks must go to our teachers Ms Brennan and Ms Maher.

The club also had a team in the St Canice's Credit Union Under 14 (B) Camogie League.

Juvenile Action

Slieverue Juvenile hurling teams also had a good year with the U-11's winning the Waterford City League Final against our near neighbours Glenmore and our U-10's coming runners up in the Eamonn O'Donovan Tournament Final against Thomastown, loosing by two points. The same team went on a week later to win an invitational tournament in Dicksboro. This team also had considerable success in the South Kilkenny and All county "Go Games" series.

All Ireland Medallists

Highlight of the year had to be the success of both Niall Walsh who won an U-21 and Intermediate All Ireland Medal and Michelle Quilty who won a Minor All Ireland Camogie medal. These successes are the culmination of many years hard work by both players and every one in the club is justifiably proud of them.

Development

The committee and its officers were also very busy during the year developing plans to improve facilities in the club.

Improvements will be carried out in two phases, the first involving pitch improvements, provision of Astroturf surfaces, hurling walls, new netting and ancillary works.

Phase two will involve the provision of a new club house/dressing rooms and possibly a small gym. Phase 1 is scheduled to start very soon.

Coaching Development

Throughout the year there has also been a focus on providing additional coaching expertise for trainers with many attending courses and seminars.

Coaching development will once again come under the microscope in the New Year and hopefully there will be some new additional developments in this vital area.

Sympathies

The club would like to take this opportunity to extend our condolences to the families and friends of fellow club members who were deceased during the year.



Slieverue Senior Hurling team 1940
Back: Henry Butler, Joe Fitzpatrick, M Knox, J Kavanagh, Jim Mylett, Jimmy Dower, Joe Wright, Denny Keogh, Billy Hokey, Jimmy Haberlin
Front: Richard Doyle, Mick Walsh, John Knox, Tom Walsh, Tom Butler, John Maher, J Hogan.



Slieverue Under 10 Team Dicksboro Tournament
Back: Michael Alcock, Ger Frisby, William Mullally, Seamus Morrissey,
Middle: Gavin Grant, Evan Cullen, Kaelyn Stephanson, Lee McGuire, Michael Irish, Tadgh Williams, William Mullally, Craig Phelan, Mark Keogh, Stephen Mullally,
Front: Aaron O'Brien, Hannah Irish, Mathew Gaynor, Ben Alcock, Eamon Phelan, Jack Frisby, Cillian Power, Gavin Morrissey, Conor Galvin, Danny Moore.

CLUB NEWS

St Lachtain's



2008 marked the 25th anniversary of the club's historic shinty/hurling tour of Scotland in 1983. What better way to celebrate this milestone than with a return trip which is what happened in June when our fourth tour of Scotland took place. The highlights this time included a visit to the home of Glasgow Celtic at Parkhead and two shinty /hurling games played at KinCraig and Newtonmore. James Burke was the only link with the 1983 trip when he travelled as an under 14 player. This time he accompanied the group as a parent with his sons Shay and Harry. Thanks to everyone on Bord na nÓg who helped to organise the trip and especially to Noel Maher who led the group.

Highlight

The highlight of 2008 was provided by the under 16 hurlers who qualified for the Roinn B county final for the first time since 1994. In what was regarded as one of the best under age finals seen in Kilkenny for some time, St. Lachtain's were pipped at the post by Erin's Own. The minors too gave good value for money when they qualified for the semi-final of the B championship where they were beaten by Young Irelands. The under 14s also did well to qualify for the league semi-final before bowing out to Emeralds. The Scoil Lachtaín team competed well before bowing out to stronger opposition.

Trojan Work

Thanks to all the team mentors and officials from under 8s up who are doing Trojan work each year for the club. Much of this work goes on unheralded in mini-competitions at various venues throughout the county or in surrounding counties and at indoor hurling during the winter months.

All Ireland Medal winners

In this historic year of the Three-In-A-Row and the Clean Sweep, it was great to see St. Lachtain's represented on three of the teams. Congratulations to Michael Kavanagh on winning his sixth All Ireland senior medal, to Bill Beckett who was on the Intermediate team and to James Meagher who coached the under 21 team.

Proud of our Pair!

Thanks to FÁS and the Freshford Community Employment Scheme for their help in caring for the grounds and clubhouse at Páirc Lachtaín and in particular to employee Noel Hughes who had the field looking immaculate in 2008. Thanks also to former employee Paddy Dawson who retired early this year.

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to the families of the following who passed away during the year: Larry Carroll, Three Castles who won a county senior championship medal with St. Lachtain's in 1963; Joan O'Neill; Charlotte Heaphy; John Maher, Ballyroe; Johnny Butler; Jim Hickey; Paddy Crosbie; Paddy Britton; Michael Hickey; Mary Burke; Margaret Connery and John Maher, The Square. Ar dheis lámh Dé go raibh siad.



Ready To Roll!

A group of St. Lachtain's players about to travel in style to support Kilkenny.



Freshford minor hurling team, dated 24 April 1926.

It is possible that this was the Sart minor hurling team which won the championship in 1928. It was taken at O'Shea's field on the Moate Road.

Back: John McCarthy, Jack Treacy, Dan Connery, capt., Jim Farrell, J. Grace, Paud O'Donnell, M. Tobin.
Middle: Ned Fitzpatrick, Wedger Kelly, Sonny White, Pat "Googs" Maher, Lottie Fitzpatrick, Paddy Phelan.
Front: Nicky Molloy, Sonny Kehoe, Willie Phelan.



Pat 'Googs' Maher

The accompanying photograph of the individual hurler is that of Pat "Googs" Maher of Clone House. It dates from c. 1914 and is the oldest known photograph of a Freshford hurler. He later emigrated to Australia.

Connections

By way of interest, Jack Treacy's grandson, Daniel Maher, is currently playing on the St. Lachtain's under 10 team. He is also great-grand-nephew of Pat Maher. Jim Farrell's great-grand-nephews James, Patrick and Darragh Maher are also playing under age hurling in Freshford. Andrew "Sonny" White's great-grandson, Shane Donnelly, is on the under 14 team. Paddy Phelan is, of course, grand-uncle of the one and only D.J. Carey.

CLUB NEWS

St Martin's



ST. MARTINS SERVING THE COUNTY WELL!

While 2008 may not have been a vintage year for St. Martins on the local club scene, the club can be extremely proud of the contribution it has made to the Kilkenny hurling scene both on the playing field and at administrative level.

Paul Kinsella, after many years of dedicated service with Cumann na mBunscoil and in various roles within the county board, successfully gained election at last year's convention to become the first member of St. Martins Hurling Club to become Chairman of Kilkenny county board. It was a great honour for Paul and St Martins and reflects the many hours of work that he has done for Kilkenny hurling over the years. His first year in office proved to be a memorable one with Kilkenny completing the Grand Slam, winning Senior, Intermediate, Under 21 and Minor All-Ireland titles, I am sure Paul won't mind if all this success keeps him busy on the "medal presenting circuit" !

As already stated we did not have a good year on the local scene but 2008 was a very successful year for our inter county representatives. In all there were 9 All-Ireland medals won by St. Martins players in 2008 and the club had the distinction of captaining both the All Ireland



Thomas Breen



James Dowling

U21 team with James Dowling and the Minor team with Thomas Breen. All the hard work at underage level which began ten years ago by the likes of Tony Maher, Patsy Murphy Sean O'Neill and John McGrath amongst others has certainly paid off in recent years, with the club winning Minor A honours for the first time and now, there are a greater number of players now donning the black and amber jersey than ever before. It is incumbent on all of us to maintain

this high level of performance of our club players by participating and organising in the running of the juvenile section of our club for the years to come. For the record, our All-Ireland winners in 2008 were as follows :

Senior: Eoin McGrath
Under 21: James Dowling, Colm McGrath, Joe Maher, John Mulhall, Paddy Nolan

Minor: Thomas Breen, Canice Maher, Paddy Dowling.



Junior County Finalists 1961

Back: Dick Comerford, Phil Shore, Paddy Byrne, Willie Lawlor, Billy Shore, Murty Somers, John Ryan, Raymond Brophy, Abban Quinn, Ralph Hunt, Neddy Coogan.

Front: Nickey Morrissey, Eamonn Morrissey, Tom Ryan, Liam Farrell, Mick Somers, Martin Morrissey, Mick Lawlor, Jim Brophy, Bernie Somers, Paddy Lawlor.

Jim Healy (Missing) Inset: Canice Farrell, Robert Shore.

CLUB NEWS

St Patrick's Pallyragget



A Historic Year

2008 proved to be a watershed year in the history of St. Patricks, Ballyragget club because for the first time in the club's history we competed in Roinn A in all underage competitions. Well done to all whose work and encouragement of our young players made this achievement possible.

On the field of play the clubs minor team was the most successful. They reached the county semi final where they lost out to Dicksboro. The remainder of our under age sides had varying degrees of success.

The best news was the U-21 victory over Lisdowney in the Northern B Final.

Elsewhere the club's adult teams competed gamely at all levels with little luck.

County Players

All Ireland final day 2008 was a proud day for the parish of Ballyragget as for the first time in its history four players from the club were included on the Kilkenny minor hurling panel. James Gannon and Joe Brennan were on the starting line up that beat Galway in the ESB All Ireland minor hurling final, while Liam Lacey and Geoffrey Brennan were included amongst the substitutes.

Michael Brennan was selected on the county U-16 team for the Tipperary Supporters Club tournament while Eoin Bergin played for the Kilkenny U-14 side in the Tony Forristal tournament in Waterford.

The club was represented on the Kilkenny football squad by Liam Brennan and J.J.O Sullivan.

Tournament

The Annual Phelan/Stone memorial tournament took place during the Summer and again proved to be an outstanding success, with very high quality matches throughout. O'Loughlin Gaels won the Tom Phelan memorial trophy while Rower/Inistioge took the Benny Stone memorial Cup.

Fund Raising

Once again the weekly local lottery run by the club was the main source of income during the year.

Thousands of Euro have been generated over the years by this fund raiser and the club would like to thank the people of the parish and the sellers for their continued support and the tremendous work they do from week to week in so many ways. The Hurlers Co-op draw also realised a substantial figure in 2008 while the weekly Bingo sessions also contributed to club funds.

Development

Development work continues at the local park. Plans are at an advanced stage for completion of work on the upstairs section of the dressing rooms.



St. Patrick's 1955

St Patrick's Ballyragget 1955
Back: Paddy Fogarty, Sonny Brophy, Jack Fogarty, Phil Phelan, Tom Bergin, Billy Butler, Liam Stapleton.
Front: Billy Lawlor, Eamonn Kenna, Nabs Butler, Shem Downey, Marty Butler, Des Mansfield, Mick Bergin, Kieran Bergin.



Warriors All!

A photo of the St. Patricks Ballyragget Junior team from the mid 1950s, showing scars of battle but happy after another victory!



Four St. Patricks players helped Kilkenny to victory in the All Ireland Minor hurling final
Joe Brennan, Geoff Brennan, James Gannon and Liam Lacey

CLUB NEWS

Thomastown



1960 All Ireland Minor Winning Team Honoured:

On County Final Day in Nowlan Park the 1960 All Ireland Winning Minor Team were introduced to the crowd. Representing Thomastown were Paddy Dempsey, William Grace (Captain), Michael Kelly and John Murphy. One of the selectors on the team was Joe Walsh (RIP).

Brian Cody:

Brian Cody was guest of honour at a function to mark the end of the juvenile club year in Grennan College. Brian encouraged all present to continue to work hard at the game. The Liam McCarthy Cup was also present on the night.

Intermediate Hurling:

In the Intermediate league we had wins over Danesfort, John Lockes and Glenmore but lost out to Rower Inistioge and Conahy Shamrocks. In the first round of The Championship

we were defeated by Mooncoin.

Junior B Hurling:

The Junior B Team won the Southern League Final when they defeated John Lockes by two points after extra time. Unfortunately they were defeated in the County League Final by a very strong St Martins side. The Junior B's were defeated by Carrickshock in the quarter final of the Southern B Championship.

Intermediate Football:

Once again Mooncoin proved to be Thomastown's bogie team. This time it was the footballers that stopped us in our quest for glory in the Intermediate County Final.

Underage

Great work is being done at underage in the club and long may it continue. Every evening during the summer months Grennan is the hype of activity with teams from U-6 up to our

intermediates training and playing matches.

The U8's, U-10's and u-12's took part in a number of blitz's during the year and represented the club very well.

Well done to the U-14's who reached the Roinn B County Semi Final in both Hurling and Gaelic Football. They were unlucky and lost out to Graigue Ballycallan in the hurling and to Dicksboro in the Gaelic Football. Well done to Paul Dempsey, Shane O Connor, Seamus Mason and Jim O Connor for their work and dedication to the U-14 teams.

Congratulations to Michael Donnelly who won The South Kilkenny Feile Skills Competition.

During the year ball stoppers were erected behind the goals on both pitches. Major redevelopments are planned for 2009

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CLUB NEWS

Threecastles

Club Officers:

Chairman:	Eamon Hennessy
Secretary:	Mark Webster
Treasurer:	Ann Murphy
PRO:	Gay Rafter

About Threecastles

Threecastles, for anyone who doesn't know is possibly the smallest club in the Kilkenny. It is a very small section of the Freshford Parish in North Kilkenny. We have no under age set up of our own and most youngsters, locally play with either Freshford or one of the town teams.

You would think that with no underage set up that is would be impossible to turn out a team year after year. It certainly is difficult but not impossible as we are proof of that, and that's all down to the determination and love of the game locally.

Field Day

To keep in touch with the younger population we ran a field day on the 3rd of August . The weather wasn't kind but the field was awash with all the locals and loads of kids. With great local help a great afternoon was had by all, face painting tuck shop and novelty games for all the kids including long puck, penalty shoot out and tug of war. The whole afternoon culminated in the Threecastles under 13's Tournament Final between Freshford and Dicksboro. Threecastles was well represented on the Freshford Team and alas the local lads lost. A big thanks to all those who turned out and helped in any way despite the bad weather conditions.

Fundraising

We run a race night in the Rock Bar usually after Christmas along with Co-op tickets and membership. This usually is adequate to run the club.

Field of Play

On the playing field we played seven league matches and after beating Emeralds in the first round of the Championship lost to Galmoy by two points.

Don't forget its 25 years since Threecastles was reformed so look out for the celebrations during the coming year.

Condolences

We wish to offer our condolences to anyone connected with the club who suffered a bereavement during the year.



Three castles v Emeralds

Back row left to right: Tommy Murphy, Gay Rafter, Emmet Costigan, Billy Doheny, Tom Lennon, John Crosby, Noel Rafter, Damien Rafter, Ross Costigan, Lorcan Carroll, Denis Butler, Richie Teehan (Capt) and Robbie Webster.

Front row left to right: John Hurley , John Trait, Damien Lennon, Micheal Crosby , Marty Campion, Davy Ryan, Micheal Fitzpatrick, James Campion, Frank Keoghan.



Threecastles Junior Champions 1940

Back: Martin Egan, Mick Clohessy, Paddy Hennessy, Jim Neary, Paddy Kelly, Nick Fox, Tom Shorthall, Tom Lennon

Front; Jack Egan, Mick Egan, Joe Hennessy, Dan Egan, Jack Donegan, Jack Cleere, Jack Buggy, Jack Lalor, Willie Kerwick

Inset: Lar Neary, Tom Neary, Dan Mullan, Tom Murphy, Paddy Dowling

Mascot: Seamus Byrne



All - Ireland Final 1903

Blackrock (Cork)v Three castles (Kilkenny) Played in Dungarvin 17 - aside
Note the goalposts in the photograph these were changed to the uprights in 1910

CLUB NEWS

Tullaroan



Club Officers 2008

President	Dick Walsh (Church)
Chairman	Dick Walsh
Secretary:	Donnie Hogan
Treasurer	Edward Holland
Juv Chair	Derek Holmes
Juv Sec	Elizabeth Maher
Juv Treas	Catherine Holmes

Senior Action

The Senior team won three league games and beat St Martins in the championship before losing to O'Loughlins in the quarter final. The Leinster league provided competitive games, culminating in victory over Raparees (Wexford) in the final.

The special junior team won the North league final and were beaten by St Lachtains in the championship.

Our U-21 team played Emeralds but were unsuccessful. Tullaroan competed in the junior football championship for the first time in many years, with plenty of encouragement for the future.

County Stars

Tommy Walsh won Leinster and All Ireland medals with the Kilkenny senior team, winning his 5th All Ireland and 6th All Star award. Tommy also captained Leinster to victory in the Inter provincial competition. Martin Walsh was a member of the victorious Kilkenny U21 panel winning Leinster and All Ireland medals. Paul Buggy was a member of the Kilkenny U16 team in the Nenagh Co-op tournament.

The Club held its 6th annual golf classic in Rathdowney in July and once again this proved to be a great social outing as well as a vital fundraiser. The "play for the park lotto", the hurler's co-op draw and the Christmas draw were the other main sources of income.

The sympathy of the club is extended to the families of Patricia Fegan, Mary Joyce, Catherine Cleere, John Maher, Christina & James Glennon, Kathleen Kevitts, Paddy Molloy, Theresa Hulme & Dan Grace.

Juvenile Activities

There was plenty of activity on the juvenile scene in 2008. On Saturday July 13th two bus loads left Tullaroan as the U-8 team made their debut in Croke Park. The players were treated to the full Croke Park experience. They then played a game of hurling against Toom of Westmeath. The team were then led up the steps in the Hogan Stand to the presentation area where they got a chance to lift a trophy. It was a great day for all involved and great credit must go to Croke Park and the GAA for organising the event.

The U-8's also had numerous challenge matches and took part in the Dicksboro tournament. The U-10 team also played challenge matches and were unlucky to be beaten in the final of the Conahy tournament by Dicksboro and the James Stephens tournament by Conahy. The U-12 team took part in the Callan tournament and beat Shamrocks in the final.

The U-13 team was beaten by Gowran in the quarter final and the school football team are currently in the semi-finals. All groups U-8 to U-12 took part in the "go games" 2008 and enjoyed them immensely.



Tullaroan U-12 players in Callan Blitz

Back: Martin Keoghan, Shane Walsh, Jim Moore, Patrick Grace, Kieran Lanigan, Bill Cuddihy, John Walker, Jack Keoghan, Sean Cuddihy, Bill Gaffney, Jason O'Riordan.
Front: Joey Walsh, Bob Cuddihy, Niall Buggy, Tommy Wash, Ella Moore, Diarmuid Doheny, Dylan Simpson, Aidan Cleere, Sean Buggy, Bill Walton (mascot), Kevin Maher, Shane Joyce, Mairin Hennessy.



Tullaroan U-8s grace Croke Park!

Back: Packy Cummins (Coach), Tommy Walton, Simon Lanigan, Jack Keoghan, Roisin Treacy, Caoimhe Holland, Eddie Lanigan (Coach).
Front: Leanne Cleere, Eilish Hennessy, Sinead Keoghan, Tomás Dunne, Brendan Walsh.

Tullaroan Bord na Nog

Tullaroan Bord na Nog had a great year, starting with our U-14 team reaching the final of the championship but unfortunately they were beaten by the Shamrocks in a great game. The U-14's also reached the final of the league but were beaten by James Stephens. Our U-16 team had a bad start to the year but ended on a high note, winning the league, beating a very good Lisdowney team.

The highlight of Tullaroan's year was our Minor team winning the Championship. They were up against a very strong Blacks and Whites team; but Tullaroan proved to be the real champions winning by 2 points.



Joe Pyke, Chairman Bord na nOg presents the Minor hurling trophy to **Sam Holmes**, captain of Tullaroan.

CLUB NEWS

Tullogher Rosbercon



Junior Champions

The end of year and Tullogher Rosbercon are County junior champions. Losing two finals in a row in 2006 and 2007, the junior hurlers began 2008 with a new manager, coach and selectors. The drive, ambition and pride required to go to the well one more time was shared by players, mentors and the club and the long journey towards Nowlan Park saw many twists and turns. It took two games to get over Windgap and a hard fought win over Piltown in the southern final for Tullogher Rosbercon to earn the right to play Lisdowney in the county final. On a day when the wind and rain battered both teams, Tullogher Rosbercon dug deep and chiselled out a victory over a strong and determined Lisdowney team. For the players, mentors, club and parish, the victory lifted the gloom of previous defeats and was a just reward for the collective effort put in by so many.

Leinster Championship Beckons

But there was to be no rest for club as the Leinster junior club hurling championship was just around the corner. Facing intermediate teams from Dublin (Trinity Gaels) and Laois (Colt), Tullogher Rosbercon rose to the challenge and overcame both and we are now at the penultimate stage in that competition.

It is fitting to note that the first silverware of the year was brought home by the young under 14 footballers who won the league and championship double beating Dunnamaggan on both occasions. The under 14's continued their good form in hurling and reached the semi finals in league and championship. The evidence of solid work being put in place at juvenile level was further demonstrated by the under 12's in hurling where they face Ballyhale Shamrocks in a replay of the Richie Young Memorial Tournament final and by good showings at under 10 and eight level. Football continues to be played at junior level in the club and we reached the final this year where we lost to Ballyhale Shamrocks.

County Players

It is a source of pride to us that Tullogher Rosbercon contributed to the success of various county teams in 2008.. Pat Hartley was on the Kilkenny team that won the intermediate All Ireland, Richie Dollard was on the under 21 panel and Walter Walsh made an immediate impact in his first start for the minors when he scored two goals in the semi final win over Tipperary and went on to win the minor All Ireland with Kilkenny's win over Galway.

Developments

Both on and off the field, Tullogher Rosbercon continue to plan for the future. Outline planning permission has been granted for the club's proposed re-development and as we face tough challenges against our near neighbours in the intermediate campaign in 2009, we look forward to the continued and valuable support of the parish and our sponsors.



Tullogher Rosbercon Junior Hurling champions 1957

Back: Mikey O'Brien, Paddy Kennedy, Mikey Greene, Jimmy Phelan, Mikey Murphy, Tommy Doolan, John Hamilton, Lar Murphy, Mick Walsh, Dan Croke, Simon Kennedy, James Kennedy.

Front: Phil Murphy, Johnny Boyle, Jay Murphy, Jimmy Cummins, Tom Murphy, Paddy Curran, Jamesie Murphy, Billy Murphy, Paddy Walsh, Ned Phelan.



The great Tullogher team of the 1930s

Back: Tom Malone, Pat Gaule, Luke Roche, Mick Malone, Mick Purcell.

Middle: Ned Conway, Dick Barron, Luke Gaule, Martin Malone, John Hendrick, Martin J. Malone,

Front: Tom Bird, Jim Dwyer, Jack Barron, John Maddock (Capt), Watt Ryan, Paddy Barron, Paddy Malone.



Tullogher Rosbercon - County Minor C Champions 1988

Back: Tom Mulally, Tom Doherty, Lukey Doyle, Shem Cummins, Robbie Hennessy, Eamonn Mulally, Joe O'Driscoll, John Murphy (Capt). **Front:** Jamie Doyle, Joe Murphy, Eamon Bookle, Michéal Bookle, Tommy Murphy, Martin Fitzgerald, John Murphy (B/foyle).

CLUB NEWS

Windgap



Mixed Fortunes 2008

The junior footballers were the first in action and victories over Sliieverue and Kilmacow saw them qualify for a quarter final in which they were narrowly beaten by eventual winners Ballyhale. The junior hurlers started their league campaign with an impressive victory over near rivals Piltown. This was followed by wins over Naomh Brid and Cloneen but we lost to O'Loughlins. A good run to the Paddy Cahill Cup final matched us against St. Martins and Windgap held on in a frantic finish to win by a goal and claim the only silverware of the season.

In the championship there were victories over Kilmacow, Dunamaggin, Mooncoin and Sliieverue and a quarter final win over Dunamaggin. A cracking draw and replay against Tullogher ended sadly for us losing on a 2-9 to 1-15 scoreline.

The Junior A grade has been a source of some success in recent years, but unfortunately this year saw the team fail to register a victory in the league. A much improved championship performance saw them secure a draw against the Rower Inistioge, but the loss of key players to injury proved too much as the Rower came out on top second time round.

County Players

The club was well represented on the county front this year, with Eoin Cody at U-21 and Philip Lonergan at intermediate level bringing home All-Ireland medals. Niall Doran won a leinster medal at Intermediate. Paddy Walsh was also involved as an U-21 selector.

Other county representatives included Cian Ryan at u-15, Peter Landy at u-17 and Aidan and James Mackey at senior football.

Underage Development

At underage level, great work continues to be done by the various trainers, mentors and parents, despite the constant battle to field teams due to falling numbers. The u-14s looked to build on last years Feile success and had a number of good performances in both the league and championship. At u-16, minor and u-21 level the locals joined with Galmoy in a bid to remain competitive. The u-16s went down to a good St Lachtains outfit, while Piltown proved too strong at minor level. At u-21 Mullinavat came out on top despite a good showing from the combined Windgap/Galmoy team. The u-14s looked to build on last years Feile success and had a number of good performances in both the league and championship.

Handball Club

The handball club saw members win a total of twenty two titles at county and provincial level. The club hosted the Irish Nationals and Cumann na mBunscoileanna games. Five provincial championships were won from under thirteen to Senior Masters by ladies and gents. At county level it was one of the better years with seventeen titles won across both alleys by boys and girls from under eleven to Masters C singles. 2008 saw the deaths of former club players Thomas Meehan and Eddie Houlihan. Ar dheis De go raibh siad.



Amhrán na bFíann was rendered by Julie Walsh, Eoin Ryan, Maria Comerford and John Ryan when Windgap hosted their first ever Southern Final.



SLATE QUARRIES HANDBALL CLUB, 1925,
Winners of Kilkenny Co. Championship G.A.A. and of Autaven Cup
Standing—J. Fitzpatrick, R. Walsh, W. Purcell, M. Purcell and T. Walsh
Sitting—J. Walsh, J. W. Healy and P. Hearn,
Photo—Keohan, Dungarvan and Carrick-on-Suir.



Lamogue (Kilkenny) Gaelic Football Team 1906.

CLUB NEWS

Young Irelands



Under 8s in Croke Park

Back: Adam Bolland, Charles Farrell, Conor Ryan, Dylan Carey, Padraig O Neill
Front: Cormac Nolan, Shane Walsh, Seamus Farrell, Jack Brennan, Jack Blagriff



During the year Michael Murphy, Bricana, became the first person to scoop the jackpot in the Club Lotto. He is pictured here, with his wife Rachel, receiving his winning cheque from Liam Walsh, Lotto Chairperson. Also in the picture are Pat Treacy (Club Treasurer), Eddie Power (Club Secretary), Tom Carroll, Mary Holden (Lotto Secretary), Ciaran Carroll (Lotto Committee), John Drennan (Lotto Committee)



In 1957 Young Irelands reached their first ever county final when they qualified to meet Tullogher in the County Junior Final.
Young Irelands Junior

Team 1957 :
Back Row: Denis Fowler, Nick Dunphy, Richie Bryan (Capt), Jimmy Byrne, John O'Neill, Andy Comerford, Mick Shea, Martin Murphy, Tommy Roche.
Front Row: Podge McCarthy, Frankie Farrell, Joe Doyle, Jim Fowler, Richie Moylan, Jimmy Brennan, Terry Brennan, Jim McCarthy, Tommy Murphy.

ARE YOU HERE?



That was the Year...

.....that will never be bettered

by Enda McEvoy
(Sunday Tribune)



All Photos - John McIlwaine

Best to be upfront from the beginning...

The above headline is the very same one that appeared on the corresponding article in the 2003 Kilkenny GAA Yearbook and was followed by this intro: "From a Kilkenny point of view, how could it be? Without getting too parochial about it, there's little point in hiding light under a bushel, so here goes. All Ireland hurling titles in senior, minor, under-21, under-14, colleges' A, colleges' B and Féile na nGael.

National League success. The senior title to go joint-top of the roll of honour with Cork. The minor title to do likewise. The county's second All Ireland senior, minor and under-21 treble, only the third time the feat has been achieved. The first back-to-back McCarthy Cups since Kilkenny themselves did the trick in 1992-93. The All Ireland senior and minor double in successive seasons, a unique achievement. And so on and on. To repeat, it doesn't get better than this. Frankly, it cannot. So eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die."

It cannot get better than this? Well, such sentiments seemed fair enough at the time. The Cody period had, it appeared, reached its apogee. In reality, as it turned out, the man was only clearing his throat and the Cody period would eventually become the Cody era, the most successful age in the history of Kilkenny hurling. On the basis that you can read elsewhere in this publication about three-in-a-rows and grand slams and suchlike, it's no harm to point up not just the county's achievements in 2008 but their manner, specifically the style in which the three-in-a-row was completed and the elan with which the minors and under-21s hurled for the majority of their respective campaigns, if not quite on All Ireland final day itself. And even if both under-age teams had been pipped at the post, as might well have been the case, it wouldn't have mattered a jot in big-picture terms. Unlike their 2007 counterparts, the Kilkenny minors and under-21s of 2008 comprehensively punched their weight, which is all that anyone could have asked of them in the first place but which wasn't the case that had invariably obtained in recent years. Credit to the players. Abundant credit to the team managements. Anyway, here's

how the remainder of the year went.



April: Kilkenny's interest in the National League ends at the semi-final stage on an afternoon when Tipperary come to Nowlan Park and record a splendid five-point win. Brian Cody doesn't appear unduly concerned afterwards and has every right not to; this is the second Sunday of April, after all. Tipp are overjoyed and have every right to be; give or take last summer's upset of Cork in the All Ireland qualifiers, this is the county's first victory of genuine substance in years. Logic says that a McCarthy Cup triumph at the first attempt under the guidance of Liam Sheedy may be beyond them and that one or two hard lessons may have to be learned before a man wearing blue and gold ascends the steps of the Hogan Stand again. But make no mistake, Tipperary are a coming team, a point proved when they proceeded to see off Galway in the league final a fortnight later. The next time Tipp win an All Ireland, will we look back on 13 April 2008 as the day the road turned for them? It's a thought, nothing more.



May: Waterford are beaten out the gate by Mike McNamara's well prepared Clare in the opening round in Munster. A few days later Justin McCarthy has been unseated. A shocking display of ingratitude by players all too happy to forget about their three provincial titles, not to mention last year's National League success, under McCarthy.? A lot of people take this view. But don't forget that it's the players who are putting their lives on hold for the promise of success on the hurling field. Are we seriously expected to believe that they should continue to play on under a manager who, rightly or wrongly, no longer has their confidence? Don't forget too that, irrespective of the fate that would befall them at Croke Park in September, Waterford ended up going farther in the championship under Davy Fitz than they did under Justin, immense as the latter's contribution to the fortunes of the

Déise unquestionably was. To put it another way, there are no grounds for asserting – as so many did and with such glee – that the Waterford players' rebellion blew up in their faces. It didn't.

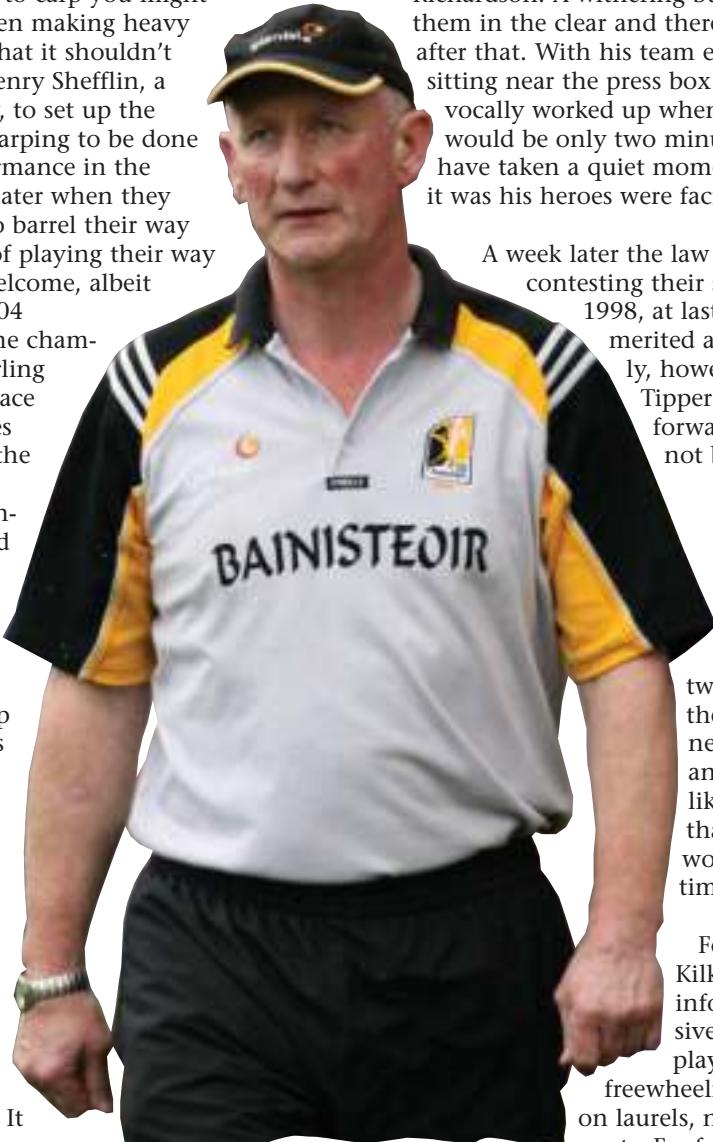


June: To Portlaoise to see Offaly produce a manful effort in attempting to cope with the All Ireland champions' infinitely superior fire-power. They're doing fine coming up to half-time until Martin Comerford breaks open the game with the opening goal and the favourites go on to win as they like. If you wanted to carp you might hold that Kilkenny had been making heavy weather of it thereto and that it shouldn't have taken a burst from Henry Shefflin, a man returning from injury, to set up the goal. There's rather more carping to be done about their first-half performance in the Leinster final a few weeks later when they spend 35 minutes trying to barrel their way through Wexford instead of playing their way around them. It is an unwelcome, albeit brief, return to their 2002-04 approach – brief because the champions revert to playing hurling after the interval, create space up front, employ the angles and slap in five goals. For the first time in a number of meetings between the counties Wexford have managed to keep the game alive for more than half of the trip. For the first time since last year's All Ireland quarter-final Kilkenny haven't a game wrapped up after 20 minutes. But that's about the height of it.

In the curtainraiser, against a fancied Wexford, the Kilkenny minors are a breath of fresh air. There is a welcome structure and pattern to their play. The team members know what they're doing, have clearly been well coached and demonstrate a neat appreciation of the use of space. It is a red-letter day for Richie Mulrooney, the team manager, who's had the good sense to bring in that wise old owl Brendan O'Sullivan, one of Kilkenny hurling's truly great men, as a selector. With the garrulous Thomas Breen banging over the points, this looks a side that will go a long way.



July: After Tipp dispose of Clare with aplomb in the Munster final, summer turns to high on successive magical weekends at Semple Stadium. First off, on a sunny Saturday evening, Waterford defeat a resurgent Offaly before 14-man Cork come from behind to beat Joe Canning – sorry, I mean Galway – in improbable circumstances. Eight days later in the All Ireland quarter-finals, Waterford touch Wexford off in a cracking encounter and Cork mount another stirring comeback to catch Clare on the finishing line. Cork will now enter the semi-final with momentum behind them, having had two hard matches in



the space of a week. Kilkenny haven't had two hard matches in the space of two years.



August: Kilkenny 1-23 Cork 0-17. It is the signal performance of the Cody era – the signal performance to date, at any rate. Qualms that it might take his charges half the afternoon to work out the optimum configuration of their forward line prove utterly groundless; the holders are primed to the minute, for which an extremely loud round of applause must go to their trainer Noel Richardson. A withering burst approaching half-time puts them in the clear and there's no way back for the Leesiders after that. With his team eight points down, the Cork fan sitting near the press box who became extremely and vocally worked up when it was announced that there would be only two minutes of added time should really have taken a quiet moment first to reflect on exactly who it was his heroes were facing.

A week later the law of averages kicks in as Waterford, contesting their sixth All Ireland semi-final since 1998, at last win one. It is a victory as richly merited as it is long overdue. Viewed coldly, however, the 1-18 they concede to a Tipperary team in which four of the six forwards barely show up for work does not bode well for next month.



September: Wow. That's not the only word for it but it's quite possibly the most suitable.

Thirty-seven shots,

two wides, one save, one back off the upright, 33 scores. There has never been anything like it before and there will never be anything like it again in our lifetime – and that's a prediction I'm pretty sure I won't have to revise in five years' time.

For all the pace and poise of Kilkenny's hurling, the rigour that informed it was not the least impressive of the innumerable virtues displayed. There was no preening, no freewheeling, no self-indulgence, no sitting on laurels, no mocking of labouring opponents. Far from disrespecting Waterford, the winners paid them the compliment of busting a gut to beat them by as much as was humanly possible. Nothing personal, just business. Moments after hitting his second goal, Eddie Brennan was to be found out in the middle of the field wiring into Waterford players. TJ Reid announced his entry by hooking Jack Kennedy before he got around to landing the first of his four points. Brian Cody's men alright. And even in the flickering embers of a long-dead contest the winners still had the pedal to the metal, replying to Eoin Kelly's goal with the game's three closing points.

A few years ago Cody announced that he "didn't do tactics". He does them now, a development which demands plaudits to his selectors Martin Fogarty and Mick Dempsey. Martin Comerford's duty in the All Ireland final was obvious: prevent Ken McGrath getting the sliotar into his hand, a task Comerford carried out with both diligence and success. Declan Prendergast's weakness in the air at full-back had been clearly identified also; everything that was slung

in to Richie Power was slung in at head height and Power duly had a field day in terms of winning possession. As was the case against Cork, opposition puckouts found the Kilkenny wing-forwards dropping back almost on top of their own half-back line, meaning not only that there was an extra layer of protection for the defence but also that there was more space up front for the full-forwards to run into – witness Aidan Fogarty in the first half of the semi-final or Eddie Brennan ghosting from the right-hand corner into the unmanned acreage of the left for one of his points against Waterford - once their colleagues gained possession out the field.

Does the magnitude of their victory render Kilkenny the greatest hurling team ever? There existing no foolproof touchstone for comparing teams of different eras, it is a question that cannot be answered satisfactorily. All that can be said for sure is that, with six All Ireland titles in nine seasons, Cody's Kilkenny are the most successful team in the annals of the sport, with any possible quibbles that remained after 2007 firmly banished. The defeat of Cork left them with a positive percentage record against every Munster county they've met during the Cody era. (Played 16 Won 13

Drew 1 Lost 2,

Average

Winning

Margin 7.15
points.)

Kilkenny even had – at long last and quite rightly – a team in the National Football League this year, leaving one chestnut fewer to be raised. That diehard Gaelic football man Liam Hayes declared the Sunday after the hurling final that he was “still exhilarated” at the memory of the winners’ display.

It was a compliment from an unusual source and all the more of a compliment as a consequence.

If the curtainraiser on September 7th saw the county commit highway robbery to unhorse Galway at the death, one poor performance viewed in the context of a fine campaign, the highlight of which was the job they did in the All Ireland semi-final on a Tipperary side seeking three in a row, can scarcely be regarded as a crime. This was a Kilkenny minor team built with curious materials in the form of an inordinately large continent from intermediate and junior outfits. Whether or not these young men press on to bigger things in the coming years is for the moment irrelevant; it is enormously encouraging to see the representatives of less prominent clubs have their day in the sun.

Perhaps the biggest lesson for the county in 2008 concerned the importance of having the right people in charge

– a pretty obvious lesson, granted, but one easier said than achieved. Richie Mulrooney and his cohorts ticked that box with the minors. The same went for Michael Walsh and his management team with the under-21s. True, a smidgen of good fortune attended their completion of Kilkenny’s grand slam; had Tipperary got the goal they were threatening ten minutes from time, they’d surely have kicked on and taken the silverware. In the end it was the favourites who held their nerve and won, going away, by five points. Given the long road they’d travelled, a journey that began with a trip to Parnell Park to face the defending provincial champions, they had little to apologise for. The assurance of their All Ireland semi-final showing against Galway at Semple Stadium, where only a large dollop of gross inaccuracy prevented them winning by upwards of 12 points, stands out as the highlight of their campaign. Looking at it on a strict man-for-man basis, one is scarcely applying neck to block in suggesting that more of the Kilkenny under-21s of 2008 are likely to be heard of in a few years’ time than are the minors of 2008. But as we’ve seen, who can imagine what the passage of five years brings?



Michael Kavanagh's great flick against John Mullane

Hurler of the year: Eoin Larkin.

Next best: JJ Delaney.

Young hurler: Joe Canning.

Next: Seamus Callanan.

Goal: Joe Canning in the National League final.

Point: Henry Shefflin from under the Hogan Stand early in the All Ireland final.

Individual performance: David Buggy for Erin's Own in the Kilkenny intermediate final. What a pair of wrists.

Team of the year: The 15 men who wore black and amber at Croke Park on September 7th.

* *Enda McEvoy is the hurling correspondent of the Sunday Tribune*



JACKIE TYRRELL

Eoin Hennessy



JJ DELANEY

Eoin Hennessy



MICHAEL KAVANAGH



NOEL HICKEY



TOMMY WALSH

Noel Hickey - Nearly Didn't Make it.

Noel Hickey very nearly didn't make it into the heat of Championship hurling in 2008. Even after the team returned from an exhausting trip to Australia and New Zealand, the talk was all about injury problems, and the headlines ran riot with amateur prognoses. Martin Comerford, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick, Richie O'Neill, John Tennyson all featured on back pages from Gweedore to Ballylickey. But another name was slowly creeping into the frame with little mention, and speculation.

The Dunnamaggin farmer, Noel Hickey, having survived an earlier setback in the middle of 2005, took no part whatsoever in the National League campaign. His first active hurling was the opening round of the St. Canices Credit Union League game against Young Irelands from Gowran.

There was more speculation about Hickey's injury, and its importance to the overall hurling context, than there was to the "will he or won't he play" talk about the great DJ.

Noel's injuries did not improve as a result of his assisting his beloved Dunna. He continued to play with the green and gold, but his thigh was conspicuously encased in an enormous wrapping of bandage.

Cork hammered their way through to the All Ireland semi-finals, having unexpectedly taken care of the Joe Canning-fired Galway along the route.

Kilkenny support gave a tremendous sigh of relief when they saw the number three geansai on the broad back of Noel Hickey. The Kilkenny defence was now restored to its proper order as the punters saw it.

In the Kilkenny People, John Knox was bubbling in admiration of the returning full back.

"Noel Hickey. Wow! He returned to the Championship arena with a bang, and cleaned out the rich talent that is Joe Deane". Cork were put to the sword. Kilkenny were on their way to a possible three-timer, and they were very happy that the Dunnamaggin full back was back minding the family silver on the front doorstep.

He has had such a stellar career as a club hurler and most certainly as a Kilkenny county hurler at every grade. But he was not born a county hurler. He is the youngest of all the Hickey family down in Danganmore, the home of Ann and the dearly departed, Andy, a fierce hurling man.

He first played the game competitively in the National School in Dunnamaggin. He certainly looked the least likely of all of the Hickey brothers to make it onto the big time hurling stage. He looked very slight, and he was forced to wear glasses, even to play hurling.

"I had to wear glasses playing as I had difficulty in picking up the flight of the ball. But all of the lads had some problems with their eyes. I eventually wore contact lenses, and then in 2006, I was advised to go to Jim O'Reilly down in Waterford, and he performed this well-publicised laser treatment. It was terrific, and now I have no problems whatsoever with picking up the flight of the ball. Mr. Costello, our teacher in Dunnamaggin, was a great man to all us young lads at the time. He put us into all of the under-age competitions, and I will always remember going into Nowlan Park for the Primary Schools Finals. That was a great thrill for us", said Noel. "Like all of my brothers, I went to Callan CBS where the big men were Br. Damien Brennan and Tom (Walsh). I owe a lot to them too", he said.

You notice that he refers to Tom Walsh as Tom, not out of disrespect, but out of a friendship that was cultivated between the iconic Callan teacher, and every one of the students that chanced to come in contact with him.

"You remember we beat St. Kierans College in a memorable Leinster Colleges Final in Nowlan Park, and we felt that nothing could surpass that. I mean, to beat Kierans for Callan, was like Wicklow winning the Leinster hurling final", said he with a freshening smile at the returning memory.

His next greatest memory is as a minor hurler with Dunnamaggin, when in 1998, they managed to get to the Roinn A County Final.



By Barrie Henriques



That was a magnificent achievement, but what happened afterwards was nigh on miraculous. With Brendan Fennelly as their Manager, Dunnamaggin faced a James Stephens team that had never tasted defeat since they first came together. I mean, never!

Dunnamaggin, with top class underage hurlers being supplemented by a galaxy of honest foot soldiers, beat the famed Village. Noel Hickey had played the entire campaign as a centre forward- they had no forwards of note. On Final day, Fennelly packed his defence to thwart the high-powered Village attack. It worked like a dream. After frustrating the efforts of the excellent Village forwards, Dunnamaggin threw caution to the breeze and moved Noel to centre back. Still holding the Village forwards, Hickey, with his brother Canice behind him, Kenny Moore at midfield with Colin Herity, and Liam Heffernan as a lethal forward went on to win.

"I will never forget that win as long as I live", beamed Noel.

Noel Hickey met Brian Cody for the first time.

Noel was on the Kilkenny minor team in 1998, thus completing the Hickey dynasty on Kilkenny minor teams, as all of his brothers, Jim, Tom, Canice, and John had all figured.

He was deliriously happy with the under-21 All Ireland win over Galway in '99 - he was captain.

He made his Senior Inter County debut against Dublin in the Leinster semi-final in 2000 at corner back. He was moved to full back against Offaly in the Final, a win that was more pleasing to the likes of Willie O'Connor, DJ Carey, Charlie Carter, and John Power than himself, as they had failed to the Faithful on the two previous occasions in '98, and '99.

From there it has been an unimaginable roller coaster of highs for the great Dunnamaggin man.

He has great memories of every game, every player, every mentor,

and every opponent.

He was told on the morning of the Kilkenny Senior County Final against Gowran by Brendan Fennelly that he was going in against Dick Carroll. He was 17 years of age. Brendan Fennelly knew what he was doing. Noel had played a bit of a challenge with the senior lads the week before the Final.

What a baptism!

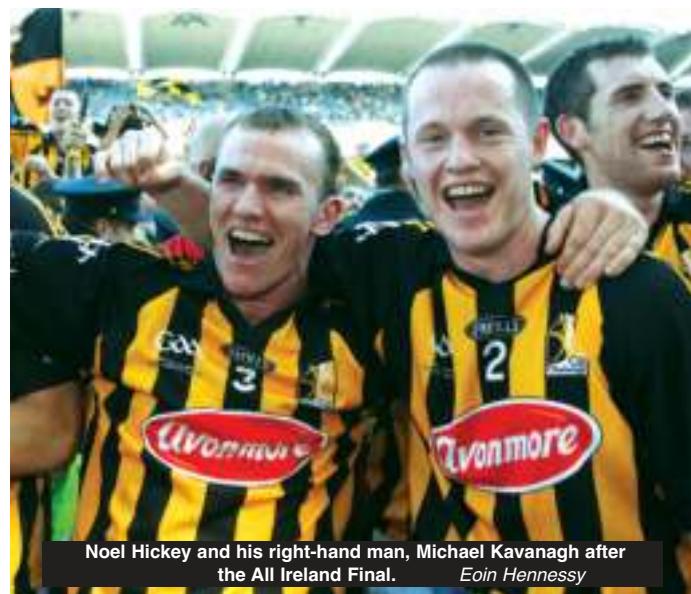
He will tell you that his greatest All Ireland memory involved the 2006 All Ireland win over Cork.

"That was a great match, and there was a great sense of relief when the final whistle went", he remarked.

Noel Hickey is just a very ordinary young Irish country lad, with no pretensions of grandeur, no illusions about what he has achieved, nor is he in any shape or form self-opinionated.

He respectfully pays due regard to all of the people that have helped him get where he is at present, but he is also well aware that now is only temporary.

However, even though he would be rather shy to admit it, one person above all others was a real gem in the long line of people who helped him along the road to greatness, who was his confidante when he was down, who listened and comforted when the blight of injury was most evident, who directed him with valuable advice, who was never less than encouraging, who walked every step beside him during the dark days of 2007----- his Mother, Ann.



Noel Hickey and his right-hand man, Michael Kavanagh after the All Ireland Final. Eoin Hennessy



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FANS!



U21 Underdogs Complete Kilkenny's Grand Slam

Inter-County U21H Report

By Jimmy Walsh

Photos Eoin Hennessy

The outsider of the County's four starters in the Leinster and All Ireland championship series, Kilkenny's under Twenty One hurlers', path would be marked "Progress" with a first round win over Provincial champions Dublin in late June. A defeat by the championship favourites would confirm that Kilkenny had remained static since their meeting at minor level in Carlow three years previously. As it was, newly appointed manager Michael Walsh and his backroom team of Pat Walsh, Pat McCormack and James Meagher had other ideas and met the challenge head on. For months they had been working quietly and diligently in trawling the county to locate the players to create a team to deliver the results.

Dublin in First Round

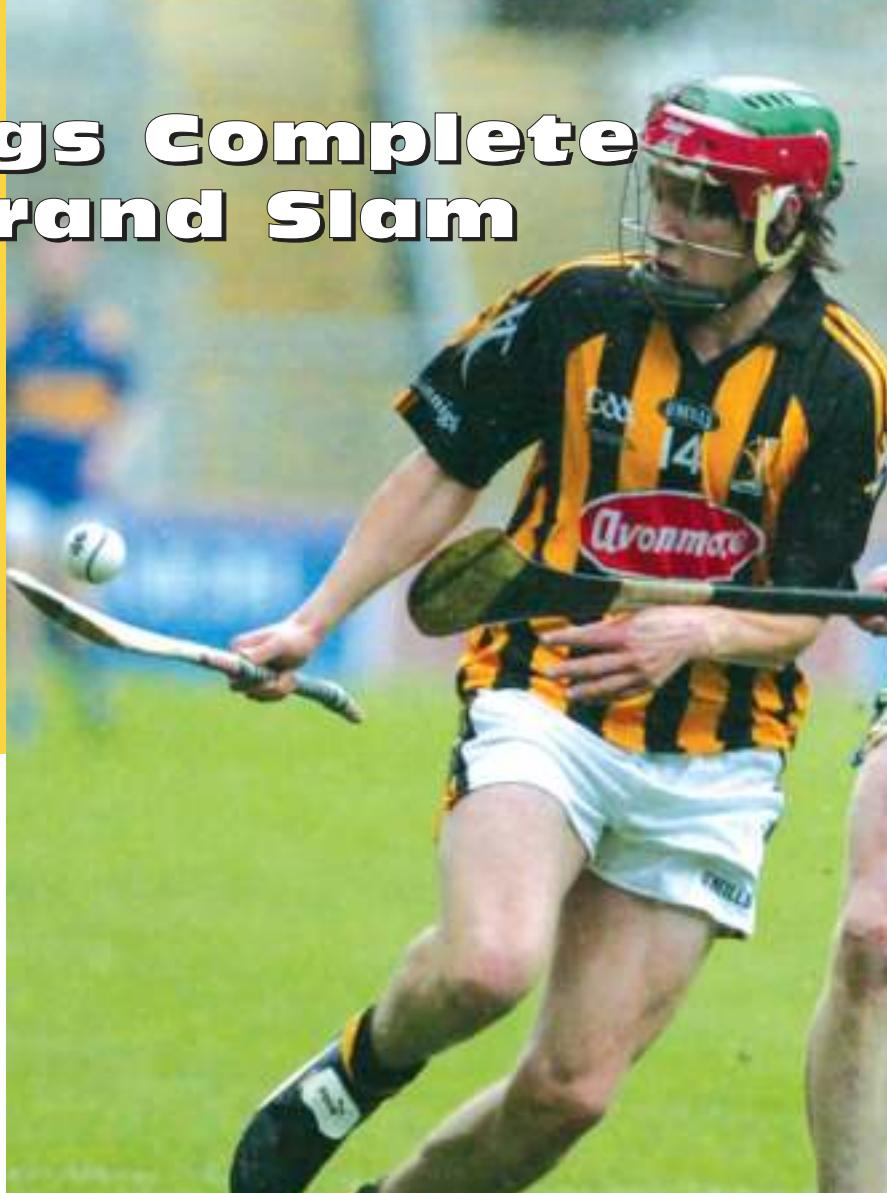
Travelling to Parnell Park, more in hope than confidence in the eyes of supporters, Kilkenny faced a Dublin side fielding seven members that had brought Wexford to two games in the senior championship semi-final. With local support scarce due to the timing and distance through Dublin City's rush hour, the Kilkenny side blitzed Dublin from the throw in and led by 0-5 to 0-0 after just seven minutes. A Richie Hogan goal embellished the performance and with centerfielders Niall Walsh and James Dowling outplaying their senior markers, the lead was quickly built on with the Cats going in 1-12 to 0-5 ahead at the break.

The new half saw a continuance of the high-level performance and with additional scores through Walsh, Nicky Cleere and Richie Hogan, Kilkenny were thirteen points ahead with just as many minutes left on the clock. The final period saw the metropolitans rally with a series of points, with their goal coming too late to matter, as the game finished on a 1-20 to 1-11 scoreline. The journey home saw thoughts turn quickly to a rematch with a Joe Bergin-led Offaly side who had relieved Kilkenny of its provincial crown in the semi-final in Nowlan Park a year previously.

Kilkenny: Colin McGrath, Paul Murphy, Kieran Joyce, Eoin O'Shea, Neal Prendergast, Patrick Hogan, Lester Ryan, James Dowling, Niall Walsh, Colin Fennelly, T.J. Reid, John Mulhall, Matthew Ruth, Nicky Cleere, Richie Hogan. Subs used John Joe Farrell, Mark Bergin,

Offaly in Provincial Final

In the provincial final in Tullamore a massive crowd gathered with home supporters full of hope for their side, backboned by the stars of their All Ireland campaign against the best of Munster at senior level. After an on-off fixture debate, the game was played a week late because of Offaly's captivating run that included a victory over the all Ireland senior finalists Limerick and a sterling performance against Waterford in games that had captured the imagination of sports followers. In a fine first half, the sides were level for the sixth time at the break as Kilkenny, playing with style and relative comfort,



John Mulhall (Kilkenny) keeps his eye on the sliotar during the under-21 All-Ireland Final in Croke Park.



Colin Fennelly, James Dowling (captain) and TJ Reid in post-final celebration.



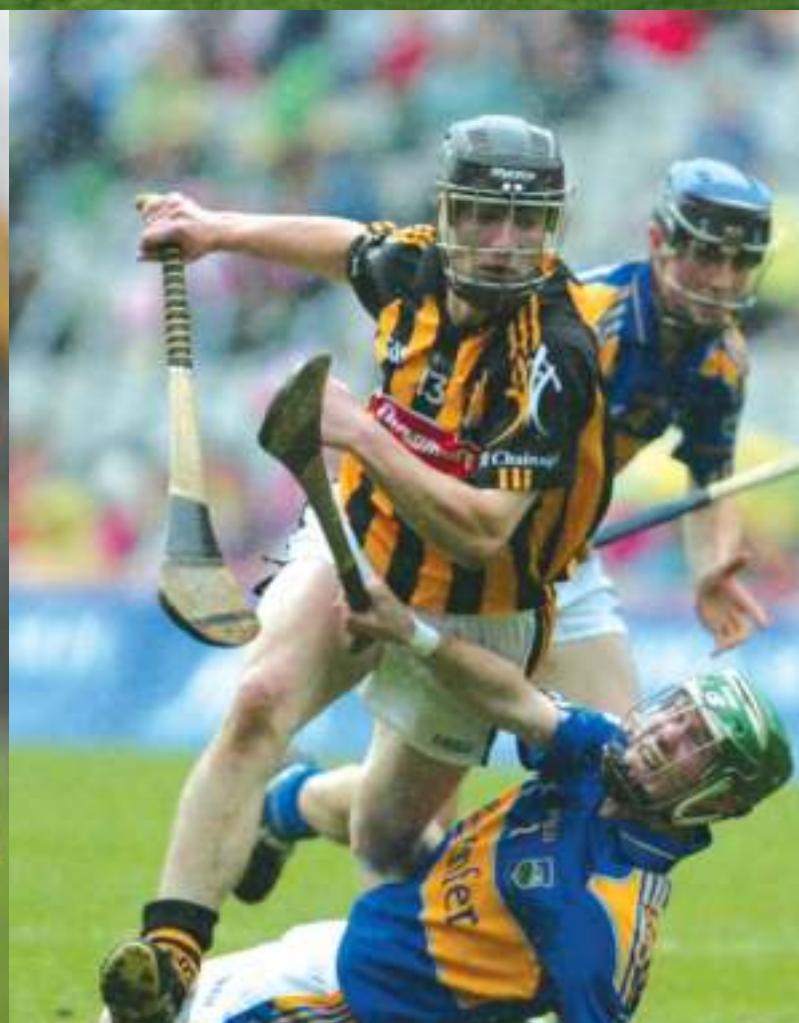
KILKENNY – ALL IRELAND U21H CHAMPIONS 2008

Back Row: Kieran Mooney, Joe Maher, Niall Walsh, Eoin Cody, Richie Dollard, Kevin Reid, TJ Reid, John Joe Farrell, Martin Walsh, David Lyng.
Third Row: Robbie Walsh, Brian Healy, Michael Grace, David Langton, PJ Rowe, Paul Murphy, Michael Murphy, Lester Ryan, Kieran Grehan, Eoin O'Shea

Second Row: James Maher (Trainer), Martin Phelan (Physio), Grace McCormack (Physio), James Nolan, Paddy Nolan, Keith Hogan, Colin McGrath, Neil Pendergast, James Norris, Kieran Joyce, Paddy Hogan, Mark Kelly, Pat McCormack (Sel), Michael Walsh (Manager), Pat Walsh (Sel).
Front Row: Mark Bergin, John Mulhall, Colin Fennelly, Matthew Ruth, James Dowling (Capt), Nicky Cleere, Richie Hogan, Liam Ryan, Niall Tennyson.



Kilkenny U21 Manager Michael Walsh during the under 21 hurling All-Ireland semi-final encounter in Semple Stadium.



Matt Ruth (Kilkenny) jumps over the challenge of Michael Cahill (Tipperary) challenges during the under-21 All-Ireland Final.

had recovered well from a Joe Bergin penalty. It came at a psychologically inopportune time five minutes before the half time whistle and was, however, quickly balanced with John Mullhall and Ritchie Hogan points. On the resumption, points were exchanged before Kilkenny took the initiative and had racked up a nine point 1-17 to 1-8 lead at the three quarter way stage thanks to a Nicky Cleere goal. Playing with a growing confidence, they added another goal through TJ Reid as they posted a 2-21 to 2-9 victory to take their twenty third Leinster title.

On that first evening in August, as James Dowling accepted the cup, it was becoming very obvious this side had potential and had developed many of the traits of the senior stars, displaying great skill, speed onto the breaking ball and successful rotational moves.

Kilkenny: Colin McGrath, Paul Murphy, Kieran Joyce, Eoin O'Shea, Neal Prendergast , Patrick Hogan, Lester Ryan, James Dowling, Niall Walsh, Colin Fennelly, Nicky Cleere, T.J. Reid, Matthew Ruth, John Mulhall, Richie Hogan. Subs used Joe Maher, John Joe Farrell,

Galway in Thurles Semi-final

Against Galway in the semi final in Thurles, it was the under dogs tag again as Kilkenny faced the reigning All Ireland champions and minor champions of their year. Led by hurling sensation Joe Canning, who had recently bagged 2-12 in Galway's senior battle with Cork, hopes rested on another fine performance by the Paddy Hogan, Kieran Joyce Paul Murphy axis. Almost injury-free and coming off the back of a recent round of club championship games, hope and confidence was growing for our chances.

Kilkenny opened well and were 0-7 to 0-2 ahead after twenty minutes. Having had the greater portion of the play and having been off target on a number of occasions, they were stunned to be going in level at the break after a late Galway goal. In a blistering start to the second half, Galway led three times by the minimum amount but Colin Fennelly and John Mulhall points kept tabs on them. Kilkenny stepped up the pace after ten minutes and went on to lead by five points when Richie Hogan goaled following a Matthew Ruth pass. Unable to stretch away as John Greene and Conor Kavanagh points and two Joe Canning line balls kept on the pressure, the score stood at a shaky 1-14 to 1-12 for Kilkenny as the tie entered its final five minutes. In the end, it took a second Richie Hogan goal set up by TJ Reid to give the side a five point lead and Galway could only reduce it by one as they saw their team go on a score of 2-14 to 1-13.

Kilkenny: Colin McGrath, Paul Murphy, Kieran Joyce, Eoin O'Shea, Neal Prendergast , Patrick Hogan, Lester Ryan, James Dowling, Niall Walsh, Colin Fennelly, Nicky Cleere, T.J. Reid, Matthew Ruth, John Mulhall, Richie Hogan. Subs used Joe Maher, John Joe Farrell,

As the wins lengthened the championship road and a place in the All Ireland Final was now achieved it would be old rivals Tipperary that stood between the side and the holy grail that was now in sight.

Pressure Pot for Croker final

For the final it was back to Croke Park on 14th day of September, a

week after the history-making three-in-a-row senior and minor final victories. With the players focussed on their own goals, an unplanned burden was added as supporters craved victory to clinch hurling grand slam that commenced with the Intermediate title a fortnight before. With this added burden and facing a Tipperary side full of confidence and experience, fresh from a run of all Ireland wins at minor level, the team management focussed the players' thoughts and attempted to deflect the added pressure elsewhere.

On the hallowed ground, Tipperary took an early two points lead before Matthew Ruth made his mark when scoring two early points and then two goals to open up a six point 2-7 to 0-7 cushion at half time. The goals came from great work by a dominant defence that saw Lester Ryan, Paddy Hogan and Neal Prendergast move the ball speedily forward. A great TJ Reid catch and run followed by a Hogan brothers combination move put the Village man in for his well finished brace. On the restart, Tipperary upped the ante and with three early second half points left just two in it with a long fifteen nail biting minutes to go. The Noresiders, showing great character, rallied with a Richie Hogan free and a great effort by John Mullhall. This was crucially followed by a fine save in a one-to-one situation by keeper Colin McGrath that surely helped to stem the tide. Two further Tipp points had the lead down to the dreaded two point margin when Niall Walsh added a monster effort and Tipp quickly replied. All were on tenterhooks as the blue-and-gold-clad Patrick Maher foraged through the defence with the ball and hit the deck in the square. The relief was palpable as a free out resulted and Kilkenny went downfield to tack on two further points to take the title on a 2-13 to 0-15 scoreline.

For the stewards manning the sidelines as the rains bucketed down at the final whistle, there was no need for Plan B as hurling supporters present stood back and admired the achievement while others nationwide were in awe of the county's fourth All Ireland success in three weeks.

As the side celebrated in victory deep under the Cusack Stand, County secretary Ned Quinn sang the County Anthem in honour of the occasion – the victory, the drawing level with Cork's eleven titles, the part they played in Kilkenny's Hurling Grand slam and the season that delivered an all Ireland medal to most clubs in the county to nurture the game for the years ahead.

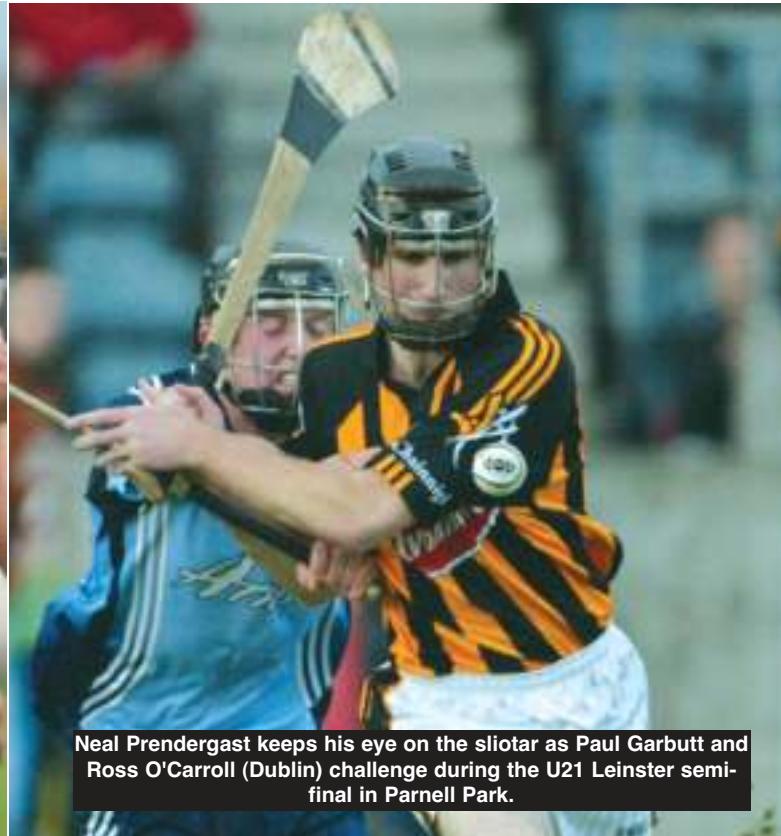
Kilkenny: Colin McGrath, Paul Murphy, Kieran Joyce, Eoin O'Shea, Neal Prendergast , Patrick Hogan, Lester Ryan, James Dowling, Niall Walsh, Colin Fennelly, John Mulhall, T.J. Reid, Matthew Ruth, Nicky Cleere, Richie Hogan. Subs used John Joe Farrell, Joe Maher, Mark Bergin.

Success Story

Behind the final victory was a season of hard graft that had left no stone unturned as two trials a day were held across the County in James Park, Clara and Callan to select a panel. The results were then screened as a dozen challenges from Cashel to Comer as Westmeath,



Colin Fennelly (Kilkenny) holds off the challenge by Ciaran O'Donovan (Galway) during the under 21 hurling All-Ireland semi-final



Neal Prendergast keeps his eye on the sliotar as Paul Garbutt and Ross O'Carroll (Dublin) challenge during the U21 Leinster semi-final in Parnell Park.

Limerick, Laois, Clara, Muckalee seniors, Kilkenny minors and three games with Tipperary were interspersed throughout fifty training sessions to hone a finished product. With the panel in place and fitness and skill levels being worked on the players, hunger and ambition was blended in. For some players it was the drive to wear their first inter-county championship jersey, for most in their final year, it was a last opportunity to finally win an underage All Ireland medal as the sands of time ran out. For others starting out in the grade it was an opportunity to reach a higher level and lay down a mark for the future. Throughout the year, the teamwork was improved and the dreams were nurtured and built on by a management team that had all walked the black and amber walk. As each stepping stone was reached the ultimate goal of being the best in the country was finally achieved in Kilkenny's most memorable hurling year.

Full 2008 Squad

Kilkenny: Colin McGrath (St Martins), Paul Murphy (Danesfort), Kieran Joyce (Rower-Inistioge), Eoin O'Shea (Clara), Neal Prendergast (Clara), Patrick Hogan (Danesfort), Lester Ryan (Clara), James Dowling (St Martins, captain), Niall Walsh (Slieverue), Colin Fennelly

(Shamrocks), T.J. Reid (Shamrocks), John Mulhall (St Martins), Matthew Ruth (James Stephens), Nicky Cleere (Bennettsbridge), Richie Hogan (Danesfort) John Joe Farrell (Thomastown), Mark Bergin (O'Loughlin Gaels), Joe Maher (St. Martins), James Norris (Piltown), Richie Dollard (Glenmore), Martin Walsh (Tullaroan), David Langton (Clara), P.J. Rowe (Mooncoin), Kieran Mooney (Conahy Shamrocks), Brian Healy (Conahy Shamrocks), Paddy Nolan (St. Martins), Mark Kelly (O'Loughlin Gaels), Liam Ryan (Clara) Niall Tennyson (Carrickshock), Kieran Grehan (Fenians), Keith Hogan (Clara), Robbie Walsh (Danesfort), David Lyng (Rower Inistioge), Eoin Cody (Windgap), Michael Murphy (Erin's Own), Kevin Reade (Fenians), Michael Grace (Mooncoin), James Nolan (Clara, Adrian Stapleton (Dicksboro),

Team Mentors

Manager: Michael Walsh (Dicksboro), Selectors: Pat Walsh (Windgap), Pat McCormack (Fenians), Trainer: James Maher (St Lachtain's), Physios: Grace McCormack (St. Martins), Martin Phelan (James Stephens) Team Doctor: Jim Ryan from Callan with Ollie Walsh Jnr. looking after the hurleys.



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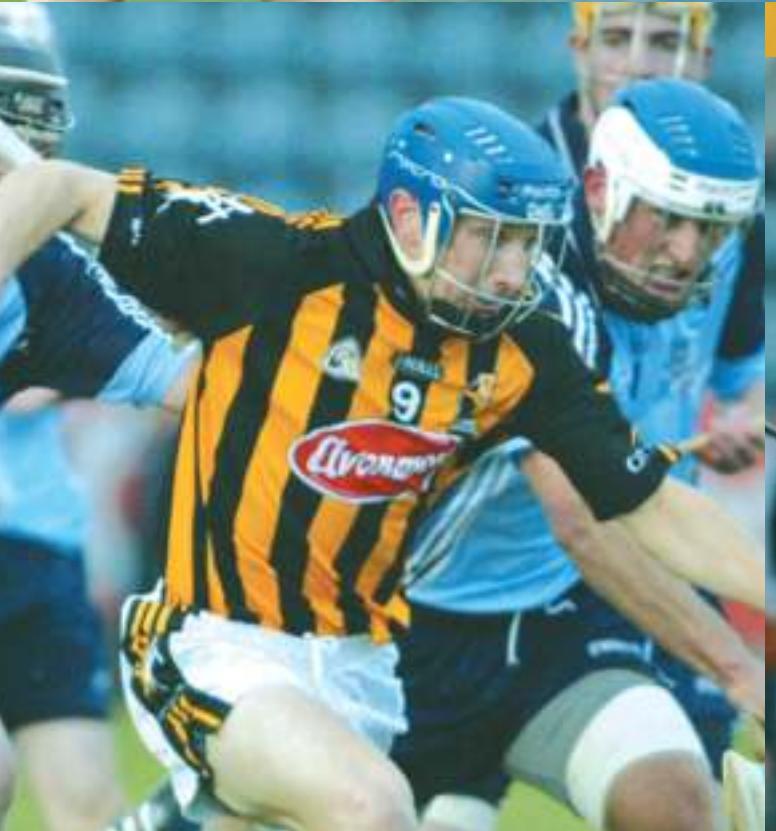


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All Ireland U21H Action

Na Piarsaigh Dreams Shattered!

Inter-County Underage Tournaments

"My Féile Week-end" By Sean Mulholland

On Friday we met at our club headquarters, Larchfield. The air was buzzing with excitement as we wondered what the weekend had in store for us. We hoped that, led by our Captain Mickey Drennan, we would bring the Christy Ring home to Larchfield. Before our 1st game versus our host Roscrea a few inspirational words came from our mentors and the game was on. Scoring ebbed and flowed, however we pulled away from Roscrea. That evening we had the Féile Parade in Portlaoise. We marched proudly wearing the James Stephens colours. An early start on Saturday took us to Birr. The rain was pouring down in buckets. Our first match was against Birr, and once again we succeeded. We dried off and had something to eat during the break, then once again wearing relatively dry gear we ventured out into the wind and rain and met our toughest opponents so far, Kilmacud Crokes (Dublin). Defeating them meant we had reached the All-Ireland semi-final.

We travelled to Rath and here we would face Patrickswell of Limerick. This was a tough battle and our opponents were not as easy to break down as in previous games. After a tough first half we got the vital scores to win out. At the disco that night Cormac Connolly showed his skills on the dance floor!

We returned to our host houses to sleep although this was hard because tomorrow's battle was on our mind.

Following Mass on Sunday, we said our goodbyes to our host families who were very good to us and supported our team through and through.

We headed to Portlaoise, stopping on the way to puck around at a local club Clonad.

Mark Tyrrell gathered us around and gave us a powerful,

inspirational talk, it made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up!

Sitting in the dressing room, nerves were bubbling while we waited to go into battle with Na Piarsaigh of Cork, the great Brian Cody spoke to us. No more could be done, it was up to us. It was a very tight game, our goalie Donagh Carney making great saves to keep us in the game.

Down by two points in the last minute of the game, a 21 yard free awarded to us was saved. Was all lost? Diarmuid Cody won a vital ball and he was fouled, another 21 yard free, our Captain Mikey Drennan stepped up and shattered the roof of the net and Na Piarsaighs dreams.

Thanks very much to our manager Eamonn Tyrrell and his mentors for leading us to Victory! We are Féile Na nGael Champions!!!

Tony Forristal Under-14 Tournament 2008

Kilkenny suffered heartbreak in their attempt to once again win the annual Tony Forristal inter-county tournament in Waterford in August. In a group with Offaly, Galway and Limerick, Kilkenny travelled to St. Saviour's GAA Club in the hope of winning the title the county last won in 2005.

The opening game against Offaly saw Kilkenny make a positive start to their busy schedule of matches with a sound victory. Goals from Diarmuid Cody and Michael Donnelly gave Kilkenny a strong advantage which they held until the finish, winning 3-10 to 0-7.

Their second game against Galway was a highly frustrating affair. Some hesitancy in the Kilkenny defence allowed the Galway men score three goals and left Kilkenny chasing the game. Despite the heroic efforts of Conor Martin, Kevin



Jubilation! James Stephens players celebrate as the Ref blows the final whistle.

Walsh and Jack McDowell in defence, it was a bridge too far for Kilkenny as they lost by 4 points.

Despite this, there was still a glimmer of hope if they managed to defeat Limerick and hope Offaly defeated Galway. Limerick had defeated Galway earlier in the day but had lost to Offaly to the group wide open. But Kilkenny, though visibly tiring after a long day of activity, produced a sterling performance in the second half to overcome a big Limerick side by three points, 2-9 to 2-6. However, Galway proved too strong for Offaly in the final game to edge through to the final on scoring average and deny Kilkenny once again.

The Kilkenny panel for the tournament was as follows: Donagh Carney (James Stephens), Kevin McNamara (Kilmacow), Cormac Wafer (Bennettsbridge), Ciaran Doyle (Barrow Rangers), Ryan McKenna (Kilmacow), Conor Martin (Emeralds), Jack McDowell (John Lockes), Kevin Walsh (Piltown), Rory Glynn (Dicksboro), Mark Mansfield (Mullinavat), Eoin Gough (Dicksboro), Robert Moran (Erin's Own), Dara Egan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Shay Dempsey (Kilmacow), Michael Donnelly (Thomastown), Barry Walsh (Thomastown), Michael Drennan (James Stephens), Diarmuid Cody (James Stephens), Eoin Bergin (St Patrick's), D.J. Bergin (John Lockes), Christopher Bolger (Clara), William Brennan (Fenians), Enda Morrissey (Bennettsbridge), Sean McDermott (Erin's Own).

Tipperary Supporters Club U16 Inter County Tournament

The annual U16 inter county tournament took place in Tipperary during the last weekend in August. It was based in Dolla, home ground of the Silvermines club and there were three sides in the group- Kilkenny; Limerick and Waterford. The campaign began against a decent Limerick side and our boys got off to a good start. An early goal by Michael Brennan settled nerves and he managed to bag a couple of quick points during this period as Kilkenny got on top. However, Limerick rallied and were very much in touch at half time. The Shannonsiders opened the second period brightly and a goal by Michael Ryan reduced the deficit to the minimum. However, they were unable to back up their dominance with enough scores and Kilkenny were able to hang in during this rocky period. When the chances came their way during this closing quarter, Gary Gaule, Ollie Walsh and Cillian Buckley took full advantage of the situation.

Kilkenny had a rest period as Waterford took on Limerick. The major effort the Shannonsiders had put into their previous game told, as Waterford proved the stronger side. The young Cats started the Waterford match well and led on a score line of 0-2 to 0-1 after 6 minutes. It was at this point that Colm Curran rifled a shot to the back of the Kilkenny net to give Waterford the upper hand. However, as half time approached, Kilkenny upped the anti and a goal by Brian Kennedy right on half time left them in a commanding position at the break (K 1-5 W 1-2). The second half was one-way traffic as Kilkenny put themselves into a commanding position mainly thanks to a penalty goal from Ger Alyward. Waterford did make a comeback but a late and speculative long range effort from Jason Corcoran ended up in the back of the net and ensured Kilkenny top spot in their group.

The league stage now completed, the semi finals took centre stage. The advantage of topping the group meant that Kilkenny would play their semi-final in Dolla. News had filtered through that Cork had won Group 4 and that they

would be the opposition. It was going to be a tough encounter as the Cork boys had been victorious in a previous encounter during the year. This was a real classic and really was worth waiting for as both sides displayed their full wares in front of a captivated audience. The opening period belonged to Cork as they took control and, with free taker Jamie Coughlan and full forward Ciaran Buckley in fine form, they led 0-8 to 0-5 at the break.

Kilkenny needed to start brightly but it was Cork who got the break as Brian Hartnett goaled to increase the Cork lead. The game looked to be lost but the Kilkenny lads never gave up. A Brian Kennedy goal brought them back into the contest and a Ger Alyward penalty followed as the young Kittens had their most dominant spell of the game. Jason Corcoran looked to have won it for Kilkenny but a Jamie Coughlan free ensured that there would be extra time. Both sides were now out on their feet and it was a case of fresh legs being used to help keep things going. Kilkenny edged in front thanks to a goal from John Power during the opening period of extra time and led by 4 points at half time. Cork threw everything at them during the 2nd period but they couldn't bridge the gap and Kilkenny won out by 2 points (K 3-13 C 1-17). It was a marvellous game played with great physicality and sportsmanship throughout. The young lads could be proud of their efforts and a final appearance awaited them the following day. The Semple Stadium pitch was in pristine condition as Kilkenny prepared to face a decent Wexford outfit in the final. The young Cats had much the tougher path to the final and this would tell against them during the game. Wexford started brightly and led 0-6 to 0-0 after 11 minutes. A Michael Brennan goal seemed to lift Kilkenny spirits but Wexford never let up and a Lee Devereaux goal after 17 minutes stretched the lead still further. The Wexford dominance continued and they led 1-10 to 1-4 at half time. Kilkenny tried everything in their power to up the anti during the 2nd period but the mountain they had to scale was just too much. Wexford stretched the lead further after half time but an Ollie Walsh goal midway through the 2nd half gave Kilkenny hope. However, in the end, they were unable to haul back the deficit and were defeated on a final score of 1-19 to 2-8. The victors were a well-coached hurling side and prove that Wexford hurling is very much alive and well. Eventually the matches caught up with Kilkenny and they just could not give anymore than they had done – the extra time against Cork proving a major burden. The players can be very proud of their efforts and they represented their county with great pride and honour over the entire weekend. There are certainly a few names here that will appear on the county minor panel next year.

Panel: Dylan Walsh (Thomastown); Eoin Doyle (Rower/Inistioge); Aidan Walsh (Mooncoin); Gary Gaule (Dicksboro); Brian Byrne (St Martins); Luke Harney (Kilmacow); William Phelan (Dunnamagglin); Jason Corcoran (John Lockes); Paul Holden (Young Irelands); Sean Lester (Rower Inistioge); Ger Alyward (Glenmore); Ollie Walsh (Dicksboro); Matthew Houlihan (John Lockes); Cillian Buckley (Dicksboro); Michael Brennan (St Patricks); Cillian Phelan (Clara); Martin Dormer (Barrow Rangers); Ben O'Connor (Danesfort); Brian Kennedy (St Lachtains); Paul Buggy (Tullaroan); John Morris (Young Irelands); Shane Bergin (John Lockes); John Power (Carrickshock); Anthony Forristal (O' Loughlin Gaels)

Mentors: Georgie Leahy (James Stephens); Pat Nolan (Blacks & Whites); Tony Maher (St Martins); Adrian Burke (Thomastown); John Quane.

Sad Loss For Kilkenny Handball

Death of Tommy O'Brien overshadows court successes

Martin Lalor PRO



While Kilkenny Handball can look back on a very eventful year, the death of Tommy O'Brien early in the year overshadows all the on court successes.

As President of the Irish Handball Council from 1984 to 1987, Tommy also served as Leinster secretary for over 30 years, and on many provincial and national committees during this time.

Renowned for his quick wit and tremendous organisational skills, Tommy was known the length and breadth of Ireland.

At local level, he made a huge contribution to Kilkenny GAA in various ways. He served as PRO to the County Camogie Board, was a regular commentator at hurling and camogie matches on local radio and over the years had been involved in the development of two of the city clubs, O'Loughlins and Dicksboro. He also hosted a very popular weekly GAA show on Kilkenny/ Carlow radio and was known to many people as 'Mr Handball'.

In his profession as a school teacher, Tommy received the ultimate honour when he became the first Lay Principal of Kilkenny CBS primary school. His popularity at the school was evident when over 600 people attended his retirement party a number of years ago. His ability to remember and recall statistics regards Handball and GAA matches was almost legendary, and this same remarkable trait applied to his professional career where he knew the name of every boy in his school. On the Handball court, the Talbots Inch club man was a very competitive Doubles player, and won honours at local and provincial level, along with National League titles.

His loss to Handball has left a huge void which will be very difficult to fill, and at his removal, large crowds attended on both days, with supporters of the Handball community travelling from all over Ireland to pay their last respects to a true gentleman of the game.

Champions

On the court, Kilkenny achieved a number of notable successes during 2008. In 60 x 30 Junior B Singles, Ger Anthony (Mullinavat)



Talbots Inch Group 2008

Volunteers who helped to get Talbots Inch back in action after replacing the roof
From Left Martin Lalor, Con Moore, Jimmy Neary, Michael Reade, Pat Savage, Sid Jordan, Ciáran Neary, Paddy Reilly, Nicky Reilly and Seamus Reade, Club Chairman.

won his first All Ireland title, while at Juvenile level, Eoghan Hennessy (Clogh) capped a remarkable year for him when winning the All Ireland 60 x 30 U16 Singles crown. Since Eoghan started competing at Leinster level in the U11 age group he has remained undefeated in the province, a fantastic achievement. Maria Walsh (Kells) also had a brilliant 2008 as she won 40 x 20 Girls U15 Doubles with Rachel Hogan (Kilfane) and then, in the same grade, took the 60 x 30 title with Demi Donovan (St.Canices).

Others points of note during the year were the two U14 Doubles titles won by Ciára Mahon and Mary Phelan (Clogh), while in 40 x 20, Kilkenny produced All Ireland winners in Boys U15 Singles, Peter Funchion (Kells) and Boys U17 Doubles, Keith Burke and Jason Delaney (O'Loughlins).

At Adult level, Ducksie Walsh, as expected, dominated in Masters when taking all four titles, again partnered by Pat Maher (Clogh), while in 40 x 20, Philly Parsons (O'Loughlins) and Martin Lalor (Talbots Inch) were winners in Silver Masters A Doubles.

In the 60 x 30 championships, the Golden Masters B Singles title went to former Kilkenny hurler, Joe Hennessy (O'Loughlins) as he picked up his first All Ireland Handball crown.

Kilkenny also scored All Ireland wins in Junior B Doubles with Stephen Barcoe (Goresbridge) and Eamon Holohan (Kilfane) taking the honours, and in the Silver Masters A championship, Billy Burke (O'Loughlins) was a winner in Singles and Doubles, partnered by Johnny Brennan (Mothel).

Near Misses

During 2008, Kilkenny players won Leinster titles but failed to add All Ireland honours.

Ducksie Walsh contested another 60 x 30 Senior Singles final against Eoin Kennedy (Dublin), losing 21-5, 21-12, while in the Intermediate Singles decider, Nicholas Anthony (Mullinavat) went down to Ger Coonan (Tipperary), 21-1, 21-8.

Kells duo, Ger McGrath and Patrick Funchion lost their 40 x 20 semi final to Tyrone and in the 60 x 30 championships, were beaten finalists against Limerick.

Ulster opposition proved the stumbling block for local players in the 40 x 20 championships, defeating Kilkenny in a number of grades at the All Ireland semi final stage. Local players who lost to Northern opposition included ; Ger Murphy (Goresbridge) and Jimmy Neary (Talbots Inch) in Golden Masters B Doubles, Paddy Reilly (O'Loughlins) and Seamus Reade (Talbots Inch) in Diamond Masters A Doubles, Nicholas Anthony and Ciáran Neary in U21 Doubles, Stephen Barcoe (Goresbridge) in Junior B Singles and Frank and Brian Manogue (Kells) in Intermediate Doubles.

Billy Burke (O'Loughlins) contested the Silver Masters A Singles final against Eamon



Ger Anthony (Mullinavat)
Winner of the 60 x 30 All Ireland
Junior Singles title.

Conneeley (Galway) but had to retire injured



Former Kilkenny Hurler Joe Hennessy
All Ireland 60 X 30 Golden Masters B Singles
Champion for 2008

and in Golden Masters A Singles, Johnny Brennan (Mothel) lost in three sets to Kevin Geraghty (Mayo).

In the 60 x 30 championships, Joe Hennessy and Con Moore (O'Loughlins) were defeated by Mayo in the Golden Masters B Doubles decider, and in Ladies Junior Singles, Marie Therese O'Neill (Clogh) also lost out to Mayo opposition, after losing the Doubles final with Claire Love to Limerick.

Limerick were also victorious in Silver Masters B Singles and Golden Masters A Singles, defeating Eamon Holahan (Kilfane) and Johnny Brennan (Mothel), respectively.

In 60 x 30 All Ireland semi finals, Windgap's Eamon Purcell and John Ryan lost to Down in three sets, in U21Doubles Tyrone again were the winners against Ciaran Neary and Eamon Foley (Kells), and in Diamond Masters A Doubles, Paddy Reilly and Seamus Reade again lost to Cavan.

At Juvenile level, Kilkenny were the dominant county again during the year. Along with the seven All Ireland titles won, there was heartbreak for others in a number of grades.

In 40 x 20, All Ireland defeats were suffered by Eoghan Hennessy (Clogh) in U16S, Luke Greene (O'Loughlins) and Keith Clifford (St.Canices) in U16D, Donal O'Farrell (Kells)



Ducksie Walsh and Pat Maher
completed three in a row All Ireland victories in
the Masters grade in 2008, with the Talbots Inch
star also taking the Singles titles.

in U17S, Megan Clifford and Denise Doyle (St.Canices) in U17D.

Later in the 60 x 30 championships, Kilkenny were runners up in U14D, Dylan Walsh (Talbots Inch) and Cillian Treacy (Kells), U15D, Keith Walsh (O'Loughlins) and Cián Ryan (Windgap), U16D, Keith and Graham Clifford (St.Canices), GU15S, Rachel Hogan (Kilfane), and GU17D, Megan Clifford and Denise Doyle (St.Canices).

Snippets

Other points of interest involving Kilkenny players during 2008, included Ducksie Walsh



Juvenile 40 x 20 All Ireland Winners 2008
included are;Keith Burke (O'Loughlins), Jason Delaney (O'Loughlins), Peter Funchion (Kells),
Ciara Mahon (Clogh), Mary Phelan (Clogh), Maria Walsh (Kells) and Rachel Hogan (Kilfane).



Juvenile 60 X 30 All Ireland winners ;
Eoghan Hennessy (Clogh), Maria Walsh (Kells), Demi Donovan (St.Canices), Mary Phelan
(Clogh) and Ciara Mahon (Clogh)

managing the Irish team at the USHA Juniors in Tucson , Arizona, with fellow county player Eoghan Hennessy part of the official team.

Ducksie also travelled to the USA for the Nationals Championships, coming home as winner of the 40+ Singles and Doubles events, partnered by Egin Jensen (Dublin).

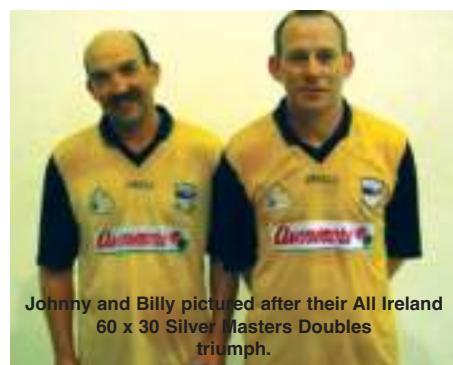
His son, Dylan came third in the 13 and under competition.

At the start of 2008, Talbots Inch club replaced the existing roof on the alley, culminating in a reopening night in early August.

Kilkenny once again hosted a very successful Irish Nationals, the only local winner was Ducksie Walsh as he successfully defended his Masters title, while in the Feile Na Gael competitions, courts in the North of the County played a significant part in the proceedings.

Over the August Bank Holiday weekend, Talbots Inch hosted a 72 Hour marathon, organised by Ducksie Walsh, to raise funds for the Aislinn Addiction centre in Ballyragget, Co.Kilkenny. Supported by clubs and players from all over Kilkenny and the South East, the marathon proved to be a very enjoyable event. The Annual Eamon Law tournament took place at the latter end of the season and was, once again, a huge success.

Defending champions, Tom Sheridan and Ducksie Walsh retained the Senior trophy, the



Johnny and Billy pictured after their All Ireland
60 x 30 Silver Masters Doubles
triumph.

Intermediate honours went to local brothers, Ger and Nicholas Anthony, while the Juvenile tournament was won by Dylan Walsh and Peter Funchion.

At the Golden Gloves tournaments in Belfast in October, Nicholas Anthony was victorious in Mens B, and Johnny Brennan took the Golden Masters title. Ciaran Neary was runner up in the Boys 19 and under grade.

The Clogh team ; Andrew Hosey, Sean Maher, Eoghan Hennessy, Brendan Hosey and William Love, won the All Ireland 60 x 30

Junior club title.

In Colleges Handball, Ger McGrath and Mark O'Dwyer (Scoil Aireagail, Ballyhale) were crowned 40 x 20 All Ireland Senior Doubles champions.

Kilkenny scored a fine All Ireland win in the 60 x 30 U14 / 15 Team championship, the team was; Michael Conville (St.Canices), Enda O'Donoghue (Talbots Inch), Andrew O'Dwyer (Kells), Niall Mulhearn (Mullinavat), Pat Mulhearn (Mullinavat) and Sean Butler (Talbots Inch).



LEINSTER SH CHAMPIONSHIP 2008

KILKENNY'S LEINSTER FIXTURES 2009

Senior Hurling

Quarter-Finals Laois v Galway

Offaly v Wexford

Dublin v Antrim

Kilkenny bye to Semi-Finals

Intermediate Hurling:

Home to Dublin in Semi-Final

Under 21 Hurling:

Home to Laois in Quarter Final

Minor Hurling:

Home to Offaly in first round

Junior Football:

Away to Wicklow in Quarter Final

Under 21 Football:

Away to the winners of Offaly and

Westmeath in Quarter Final

Minor Football:

Home to Wexford in First Round



*Le gach dea-mhéin ó
Chomhairle Laighín CLG*

*Micheál Ó Dubhsálaíne
Runaí*



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Kings of the South Take Title at Last



County JH Championship Report by Jimmy Walsh

Tullogher Rosbercon - County & Leinster Junior Club Hurling Champions 2008

Back: Peter Meggs, John Murphy, Simon Kennedy, Eddie Conway, Walter Walsh, Sean Meaney, Martin Bookle, James Mullally, Joe McCarthy, Willie Ryan

Middle: Donal Phelan, Robert Forristal, Mark O'Brien, Pat Hartley, Declan Grennan, John Barron, Shane Ryan, Richard Dollard, Liam Barron, John Cotterell, Gary Heffernan, Mark Malone.

Front: Thomas Healy, Michael Grennan, Moling Cotterell, Eoin Mullally, Martin Roche, John Hartley, John Grennan, Kieran Barron.

Missing - Edmund Cullinane

Three in a Row played huge part in Tullogher Rosbercon's Title Win

The impending prospect or fear of winning or losing a three in a row can both uplift or weigh heavily on the shoulders of participants. This year it drove Tullogher Rosbercon on to capture the junior title at their third attempt when they defeated a surprise packet, in vastly improved Lisdowney in the County final.

The undisputed kings of the South for the

past two years, Tullogher Rosbercon took a good look at their end of year situation in 2007 and singly focussed their aims on county junior glory. On their own patch in the South the loss of a single league point to Piltown and a fine win over Windgap bode well for their success. In the knockout stages for the last two semi-final places Kilmacow led Piltown by five points after twenty minutes before the Iverk men came good to win comfortably. The other semi-

final saw Tullogher Rosbercon concede an extensive lead to Windgap as Niall Doran brought the tie went to a second outing. Following a similar pattern in the replay Tullogher survived another late rally that left only a single score separating the sides in Piltown. In the final played in Mullinavat in heavy conditions the holders out scored Piltown by six points as the challengers failed to convert sufficient chances to scores.



Piltown - Southern Junior Finalists 2008

Back: Peter McCarthy; James Farrell; Michael Brennan; Seamus Norris; Andrew Norris; Niall Kinsella; James Norris; Andrew McCarthy; Shane Kinsella; Brendan McCarthy; Adam Murphy; Joe Blackmore; Paul Kirby.

Front: Pa Connolly; Peter Kelly; James Norris; Philip Kenny Capt.; Michael Burchill; James Connolly; Neil Kelly; Brian Farrell; John Brophy; Tommy O'Gorman.



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Pat Hartley, Tullogher Rosbercon Captain, receives the Bob Aylward Cup from Paul Kinsella, Chairman CLG, Cill Chainnigh and Sponsor Paul Kavanagh.
Eoin Hennessy

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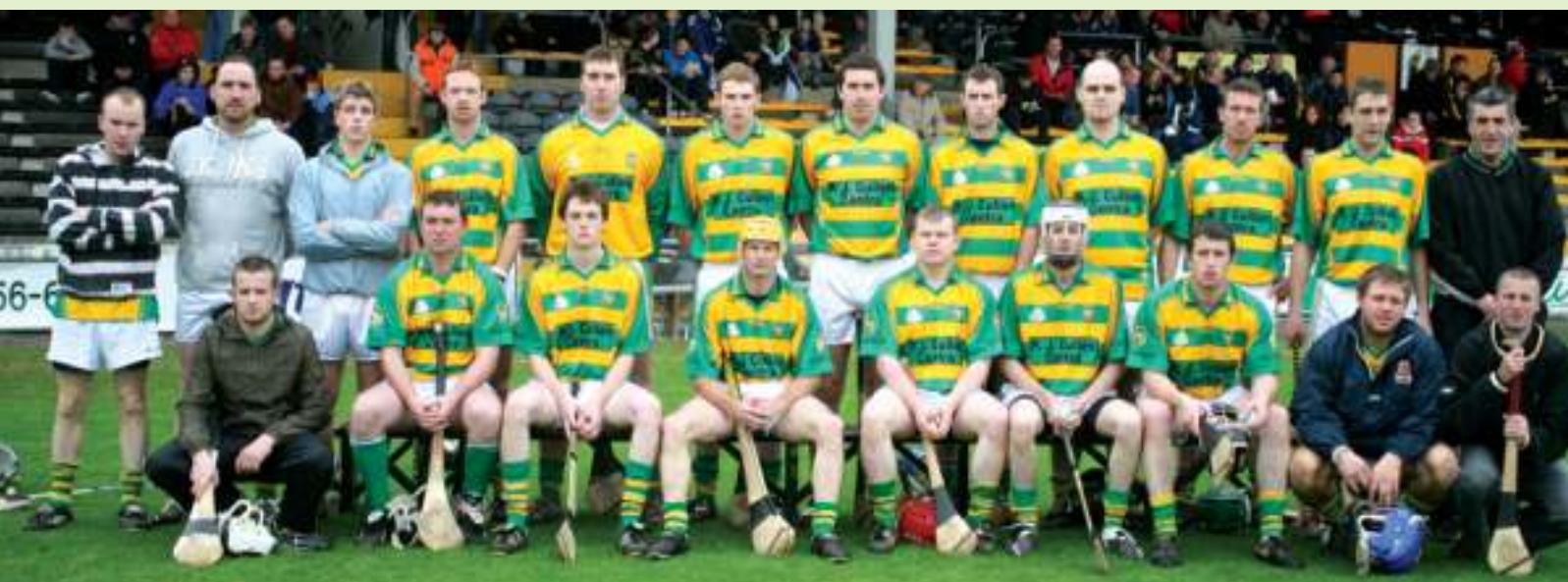


Lisdowney - Northern Junior Champions 2008

Back: Eoin Maher, John Murphy, Ciaran Mackey, Ray Fitzpatrick, Shane Clyne, Micheal Bergin, James Delaney, Owen Delahunt, Jamie Burns.

Middle: Aaron Fogarty, Peter Bergin, Paurac Kenny, Joe Bergin, Brian Purcell, Vincent Fitzpatrick, Rory Hickey, Brian Campion.

Front: Laurence O Carroll, Sean Phelan, Patrick Burns, Martin Phelan, David Dowling, Niall Grogan, Paddy Bowden, Anthony O Hara, Niall O'Hara, Eddie Hickey.



Bennettsbridge - Northern JH Finalists 2008

Back: Conor Bolger, Fintan Cleere, Edward Murphy, Garrett Hickey, Enda Cleere, Patrick O'Neill, Brian Lennon, Nicky Cleere, Johnny Cleere, Gary Hayes, Tim Dooley, Christy Walsh.

Front: John Hayes, James McGarry, Sean Holden, James Dowling, Dara Wafer, Seamus Moran, Edward Fitzgerald, John Lennon, Wayne Dowling.

In the Northern championship the eventual representatives would also have a three in a row goal, this time at the top level after their neighbours Danesfort and Conahy Shamrocks had gone all the way to Croke Park to win All Ireland Club titles. To get there in the counties largest adult championship would be a tough task as the starting line up consisted of thirteen teams. The list included Galmoy who had recently lived the Croke Park dream and had rejoined the junior ranks.

With Bennettsbridge taken to two games by O'Loughlins in the preliminary round, Blacks and Whites outing by Dicksboro was the major quarter final shock. In the semi-

finals Lisdowney ended the City sides run with Bennettsbridge shocking free flowing favourites Galmoy by five points in Jenkinstown.

In the final after a twenty six-year absence Lisdowney had other targets in sight when they led Bennettsbridge by a single point at the break. Thanks to a fine last quarter performance their efforts gave them the Jim Rafter Cup and more importantly a shot at the county title for the first time in forty-eight years.

The County final, which pitted Tulloher Rosbercons vast experience with eight county final appearances since Lisdowneys last, was played in atrocious weather condi-

tions in Nowlan Park. Opening both halves with early goals proved to be the catalyst for a Tulloher Rosbercon victory when the first from Shane Ryan ended a run of wides and saw the side led 1-2 to 0-4 at the break. The second from Walter Walsh after Rory Hickey had equalised for Lisdowney gave his side a wind assisted cushion that saw them go on to win on a 2-10 to 0-8 scoreline.

After the final whistle team captain Pat Hartley collected the coveted trophy as the three in a row burden was lifted and replaced with the immediate aim, to continue the county's three in a row attempt at junior intercounty level.



Galmoy - All County JH League Winners 2008

Back: Willie Drennan(Club President), Niall Doherty(Club Captain), Brendan Delaney, James Dunne, Nigel Stanley, Joe Dollard, Padhric Gray, Stephen Maher, Alan Gray, Liam Drennan, Phil Doyle, Brendan Phelan, David Delaney, Michael Brennan, Aidan Hanrahan(Team Trainer).
Front: Jack Delaney (Mascot), Leo Doherty, Thomas Corcoran, Brian Doherty, Martin Phelan(Vice Captain), Noel Doherty, John Phelan, Conor Drennan(Mascot), Donica Gray, Gavin Doherty, Dylan Gray(Mascot), Paul Delaney, Phil Russell & Phil Brennan. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

Galmoy lay down marker in All County Junior League

This years All County Junior League Final provided a fitting final with one of the games of the season as old rivals Blacks and Whites and Galmoy locked horns and were level for the ninth time with five minutes to go. After well over sixty games and the inaugural floodlit tie when Windgap overcame their hosts in Piltown the knockout stages reflected a seismic shift in junior balance in the county as six Northern clubs, one from Carlow and only one from the Southern Division made the quarter finals. By the semi-finals Piltown were out of title race as holders and Carlow Senior champions Mount Leinster Rangers exited to Galmoy and Graigueballycallan gave way to Blacks and Whites for a traditional final. In the final minutes in Palmerstown, Phillip Russell with a pointed free tucked in between Donnacha Grey and Stephen Maher goals gave Galmoy their first title since 1996 on a 2-17 to 1-13 scoreline.

Dicksboro win their first Junior County League Title

Based on the top pairing in the league section of the divisional championships Piltown represented the South after favourites Tullogher Rosbercon who topped the table with a decisive scoring average conceded the game to them. In the Northern section Dicksboro showed great form to qualify for the final when they had a single point to spare over Barrow Rangers in their second meeting. They were joined by St. Patrick's who overcame their neighbours Lisdowney by two points. In the final the City side showed their class and resilience when they recorded a single point 2-18 to 1-20 win over St. Patrick's. Despite their fortunate arrival in the final, Piltown were in no mood to make up numbers and after a poor start in Nowlan Park they had the resolve to lead at the break. In the second half they had to dig deep again to pull back a two-point lead to draw the tie at full time. In the expected extra time that



Dicksboro - Junior County League & Kevin Fennelly Cup Winners 2008

Back: Mick Byrne, EJ Ryan, Brian O'Donoghue, Eoin Burke, Cillian, Brian Walton, David Glynn, Kevin Nolan, Anthony Martin.
Middle: Paddy Kelly, JJ Hogan, Philly Hogan, Alan Mcintyre, Liam Lenehan, Marco Roussman, Willy Cuddihy, DD Molloy, Ger O'Donoghue, John Kelly, Jim Kerwick.
Front: Peter Tierney, Tom Manning, Niall Morrissey, Killian Starr, Michael Rafter (Capt), Sam Morrissey, Peter Fitzpatrick, Shane Maher, John Fagan, David Ryan.



Windgap - Cahill Cup Winners 2008

Back: Edward Cunningham, Shane Walsh, Vincent Landy, Edmond Meehan, Paidi Bacon, Walter Landy, Vincent Long, Sean Power, Aidan Phelan, Coiln Barry, James Mackey.
Middle: Leo Power, Tommy Lonergan (Jacket), Peter Landy, JJ Phelan, Alan Hearne, Niall Doran, Eamon Hawe, Eoin Cody, Tommy Fleming, David Power, Gerard Purcell, James Murray, Anthony Meehan.
Front: PJ Barron, Aidan Mackey, Dermot O'Shea, Matthew Enright, Phillip Lonergan (Capt.) Connor Lonergan, Noel Power, Tom Egan, Mitchell Murray (Mascot)

turned out to be a replay Dicksboro came from behind at half time to take the title by 2-12 to 0-15 in Ballyhale.

Windgap win Paddy Cahill Cup

Three high scoring close fought quarter finals as Tullogher conceded their tie to Windgap started the competition in style and set up two appetising semi-finals. The games saw newly promoted St. Martins face Mooncoin and Windgap travel to Callan to face James Stephens in a rare battle between the clubs at adult level. In surprisingly one-sided ties the teams operating from the red corners easily qualified for the final. In the game in Bennettsbridge Windgap led by five points at the break and held out against a strong second half St Martins rally to capture their second Cahill Cup by 1-13 to 0-13.

Dicksboro win Kevin Fennelly Memorial Cup

Featuring the two previous winners Slieverue and Erin's Own, it was Kilmacow who appeared to be the strongest team in the starting line up for this years Kevin Fennelly Memorial Cup. In the end they had to give way to the ever improving and eventual Carlow Senior Hurling Champions



Clara - County Jun "A" Champions 2008

Back: Conor Phelan, Patrick Galvin, Pat Bolger, Derek Knox, John Brennan, Brian Prendergast, John Brennan, (Sam Shortall) Robert Shortall, Ger Pender.
Middle: Tom Ryan, Brian O'Se, Mick McDonald, Tommy Dowling, Colm Meany, James Brennan, David Mulrooney, Dan McDonald, Chris Bolger.
Front: Ben Nolan, Thomas Byrne, Declan Rafter, Jody Creane, Tom Brennan, Kevin Nolan, Stephen Quinlan, Liam Ryan, Tom Langton.



Ballyhale Shamrocks - Junior "A" League Champions 2008

Back: Alan Cuddihy, James Walsh, M.P. Drennan, Anthony Walsh, Martin Healy, Joey Holden, Ger Fennelly (Junior), TJ O'Farrell, Tom Coogan,
Front: Tommy Shefflin, Eoin Knox, David Hoyne, Willie Coogan, Liam Grant (Captain), John Dermody, Micheal O'Sullivan, Enda Fitzpatrick, Donnchadh Fitzpatrick.
Missing from Photo: John Paul Fitzpatrick, Ger Holden, John Joe Farrell, Dave Gallagher, Dwayne Holden

Naomh Bríd in a low scoring game, whilst Dicksboro had an easy victory over Slieverue. In the unique final, an inaugural victory went to the City side after they recorded a narrow two-point margin 1-15 to 1-13 over the Carlow representatives.

Clara take Junior A Championship Title

In the Northern division Clara had their work cut out after conceding two first half goals to St. Lacatains. Having come to grips with the game and nullified the lead by the three-quarter stage they outscored the Freshford men by three points to one in the

final quarter to record a 2-12 to 2-10 win. In the semis they were the form teams over Tullaroan and the Emeralds respectively. Down South the preliminary round provided one of the highlight as neighbours and favourites Mullinavat met and overcame League champions Ballyhale Shamrocks to start a roll that saw them overcome another neighbouring side Carrickshock in the semi final. In the other side of the draw Windgap took the Rower Inistoige to a second day. In the final the Paddy Raftice led Mullinavat side continued their roll when they had a fine victory over the Noresiders.

In the county final played in Callan, Clara led by two points at the break before two goals set Mullinavat four points ahead and heading for an apparent victory. Then Clara rallied with heart and determination and went ahead in injury time before a late goal line double block by Keith Nolan and Colin Meaney saved the game for Clara. As the siege was lifted in the final minute they went back up field to score an additional point. to win on a scoreline Clara 2-11 Mullinavat 1-12.

Shamrocks take Junior A League Title

Southern titleholders Ballyhale Shamrocks



Piltown - County Junior "A" League Champions Winners 2008

Back: Eddie Blackmore (Selector) Brendan Norris, Shane McCarthy, Kieran Norris, Brian Farrell, Nigel Brennan, Michael O'Dwyer, Niall Kinsella, Paul Kirby, Tommy O' Gorman, James Farrell, James Connolly, Brendan McCarthy, Paul Friend (Selector)
Pa Dunne (Selector) Maura Brennan (Medical)

Front: Jim Power (Trainer) Robbie Culleton, Peter McCarthy, David O' Shea, Daniel Norris, Adam Murphy, Conor O' Shea
(Captain) Michael Brennan, Fran Duggan, Joe O' Shea and David Kirby.
Children (Left to Right) Michael Dunne, Cian Kinsella, Billy O' Callaghan, Aaron Kinsella, Jamie Power.



St Martin's – JH "B" League Champions 2008

Back: Padraig Haughney, John Haughney, Darragh Callanan, James Kelly, Philip Agar, Keith Davitt , Geoff Doyle, Damien Tynan, Cathal Healy.
Middle: Dermot Comerford, Kieran Kelly, Johnny Walsh, Thomas Dowling, Ciaran Brennan, Gary Brennan, Tom Nolan, Patrick Butler,
David Shore, Philip Shore, Padraig Keegan, Brian Malone.

Front: Richard Nolan (Sel), Niall Clancy, Aidan Murphy, Fionn Lawlor, Nicky Purcell, Mark Murphy, Aidan Lawlor (Capt), Conor Kinsella, Thomas Kinsella, James Maher, Paddy Dowling, Patsy Murphy (Sel), Tom Agar (Sel), Liam Dowling.

ever prominent in the grade in recent years retained their title in Mullinavat when they defeated neighbours and senior rivals Carrickshock. This time they were put to the pin of their collar before three late points gave them a two point victory after the sides had overcome the Rower Inistioge and Ballinkillen in their respective semi-finals. After high scoring Northern semi-finals where Tullaroan out played Young Irelands and Clara had five points to spare over St Lachtains, the sides met in the final.

With four goals apiece saw Tullaroans sixteen points gave them victory as they had five more than the Freshford side at the final whistle. In the final Ballyhale Shamrocks defeated Tullaroan 1-10 to 1-7 in Bennettsbridge.

**Piltown Promoted with Junior B
Championship win**

In a thriller in Windgap, Carrickshocks 3rd. Team pushed John Lockes to within a point of getting a place in the Southern final as Piltown accounted for Graiguenamanagh in

the other.

In the first ever Southern final played in Windgap Piltown led by a point at the break and led by five approaching the final whistle, before a David Lynch goal left two in it at the call of time. On the night the Southern Board organised a ten a side under eight game between the finalists at half time and the host clubs members rendered the national Anthem before the throw in. Up North Graigueballycallan defeated Conahy Shamrocks in the penultimate



Graigue Ballycallan - County JH "B" Finalists 2008

Back: Ian Hennessy, Podge Dermody, Shane Murphy, Philip Heaphy, John Paul Murphy, Richie Ryan, Brendan Hayes, Eoin Doheny, Joe Ryan (Selector),
Centre: James Murphy, Johnny Butler, Ger Ronan, John Paul Dunphy, Robert Dunphy, Robert Murphy, Tomás Ryan, John Cleere, Paddy Dalton, Podge Murphy, Michael Teehan,
Front: Milo Hennessy (Selector), Mark Butler, Thomas Dermody, Kevin Cleere, Tommy Minogue, Gearoid Murphy, Jason Dermody (Capt), Conor Everard, Adrian Ronan.

game before easily accounting for a Galmoy side who in a four game run had defeated high scoring Threecastles 3-13 to 2-13 and then blacks and Whites 2-16 to 2-12 in a semi-final replay. In the county final in Callan Piltown took the initiative and led by five points at the break before early Graigballycallan scores turned the game into an entertaining affair that intensified as Kevin Cleere goaled. As a turnover appeared on the cards Piltown scrambled a crucial goal to claim the title and promotion to the "A" Division with three points to spare.

St. Martins Prevail to take Junior B League Title

Down South John Lockes were back in the final where they met a re-invigorated Thomastown side as Piltown and Mooncoin were left with championship dreams. And what a final with extra time and all it proved to be on a summers evening in Mullinavat. After a gallant comeback the Lockes forced the draw, were behind at the extra time break and then levelled before Thomastown added two crucial scores to take it by 2-19 to 2-17 at the extra time final whistle. In the County final in Nowlan Park the Noresiders led impressively from the gun before being caught and headed as a goal that came too late to matter left just a single point in it 1-10 to 1-9.

Graiguenamanagh win the Joe Walsh Cup

Seventeen teams consisting of eleven from the Northern Division and six Southern sides entered the third playing of the Joe Walsh Cup. In the early rounds, with a

number of teams failing to field, Carrigeen went down to Erin's Own 2-12 to 2-11.

Mullinavat, Graiguenamanagh and Blacks and Whites then joined the Comer side in the semi finals. The games saw near neighbours Graiguenamanagh and Blacks and Whites who had come together at juvenile level qualify for the final. In a high scoring game victory went to the green and white hooped men from "the Village or Valley of the Monks" on a 3-18 to 3-10 scoreline.

Moving on

As the year has rolled past the shortest day and conventions and clubs AGM's dominate the fixtures list, the season's junior roll of honor has seen many changes. Only Dicksboro captured a brace of titles, with Ballyhale Shamrocks coming closest to being the only club to put back to back one of the ten county league and championship titles on offer. They currently await a county finalist to come from the last three teams standing in the 2007 Junior A League.

For clubs, players, supporters and sponsors it was a year of good competitive hurling. For the standard bearers and junior title-holders Tullogher Rosbercon the scéal mór continues as they have successfully carried their flag to the Leinster Junior Club Hurling Final. A provincial final win would see them follow further along the successful path of Danesfort and Conahy Shamrocks and would set the county up for a All Ireland Club three in a row at junior level!

J. J. Kavanagh and Sons Northern Junior Hurling championship 2008 Scoreboard

Preliminary Round
James Stephens 1-15 Cloneen 0-12

1st Round
Bennettsbridge 1-17 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-6
Blacks and Whites 3-9 Erins Own 1-8
James Stephens 1-8 Graigue Ballycallan 0-10
Galmoy 2-23, St.Martins 0-13

2nd Round
Bennettsbridge 1-14 Barrow Rangers 1-10
Galmoy 2-15 St.Patrick's 1-13
Dicksboro 1-14 Blacks and Whites 2-8
Lisdowney 2-13 James Stephens 1-11

Semi-finals
Bennettsbridge 0-17 Galmoy 0-12
Lisdowney 1-17, Dicksboro 1-10

Final
Lisdowney 0-17, Bennettsbridge 0-6

Iverk Produce Southern Junior Hurling championship 2008 Scoreboard

Preliminary Round
Dunnamaggin 1-17, Sliieverue 0-11

1st. Round
Windgap 2-20, Dunnamaggin 2-13
Kilmacow 2-14, Mooncoin 2-8

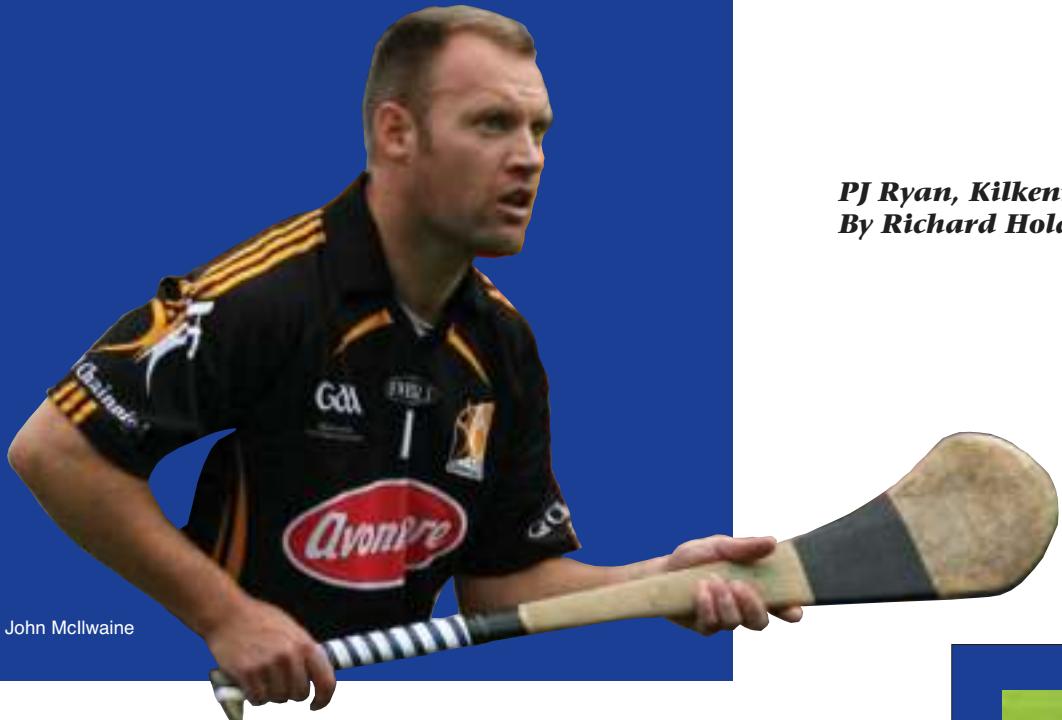
Semi-finals
Piltown 1-14, Kilmacow 2-9
Tullogher Rosbercon 1-16, Windgap 2-13
Tullogher Rosbercon 1-15, Windgap 2-9

Final
Tullogher Rosbercon 1-11, Piltown 0-8

J.J.Kavanagh and Sons junior hurling championship county final
Tullogher Rosbercon 2-10, Lisdowney 0-8



Rock-Solid PJ Hoping for More Gold



Photos - John McIlwaine

Goalkeeping has always been in P.J. Ryan's blood and the Fenians clubman has performed with distinction for the Kilkenny seniors since taking over as first choice from James McGarry last year. P.J.'s father, P.J. Snr., won five county senior titles with the Fenians and also three All-Ireland senior medals in 1974, 1975 and 1979 as sub-keeper to Noel Skehan.

P.J. has not always played in goal. He won a Leinster Under-21 medal at centre-back while for his club, Fenians, he played in two County Finals: at right-half-back against Glenmore in 1995 and centre-back against Graigue-Ballycallan in 1998. 'I didn't mind playing in the backs but I was always interested in playing on goal. My mother wasn't too keen on me playing there – she'd be afraid I'd make a mistake and we wouldn't win – that's why I went in late to the goals!'

Which goalies did he admire? 'Mickey Walsh, Ger Cunningham and Davy Fitzgerald are three that stand out. I learned a lot too from James McGarry, particularly in the way to train. James always went in early to training working on his touch. Everything was done at a hundred miles an hour and he trained as if it was like playing in a match. I've never seen anyone with a better attitude.'

P.J. joined the county senior panel in 2002, though he was sub-keeper for the 1999 All-Ireland Final when called up to replace the injured Martin Carey a few days before the match. He got his chance during the 2003 National League when James McGarry broke his ankle, and played in the Final against Tipperary, bringing off a memorable save from John Carroll as Kilkenny won a brilliant match by a point. A month later, the Johnstown man made his Championship debut against Dublin in the Leinster semi-final but James McGarry took over in goal for the remainder of the

Championship.

How did he find the role of sub-keeper? 'You knew you'd be brought on if anything happened to James – some of the other subs mightn't come on if one of the outfield players got injured or was replaced. I always enjoyed going in training.'

P.J. made the position his own last season after playing well in the League. He suffered a major scare during the All-Ireland semi-final against Wexford when breaking a bone in his left arm but made a miraculous recovery to line out in the Final.

The 31-year-old continued his good form during 2008, and kept a clean sheet in Kilkenny's Championship wins over Offaly, Wexford, Cork and Waterford. In that respect, was he disappointed not to receive an All-Star? 'No, the lads who got them

PJ Ryan, Kilkenny Goalkeeper
By Richard Holden



Factfile

Age: 31

Occupation: Bricklayer

Club: Fenians, Johnstown

Honours:

County:

5 All-Ireland SH,
6 Leinster SH,
4 NHL,
1 Railway Cup,
1 Leinster MH,
1 Leinster U-21H.

Club:

1 Co. MH 'B',
1 Co. U-21H 'B',
1 SHL.

Colleges (Thurles CBS):

1 U-15H (White Cup),
1 U-16H (Dean Ryan),
1 Fitzgerald Cup.



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Liam Aylward, T.D

**Greetings to all my
Supporters**

**Well Done, again,
Kilkenny & Shamrocks!**

Everything under control... the backs watch as PJ Ryan comes out with the ball.

deserved theirs. To be honest, I'd rather get an All-Ireland medal than an All-Star at any time. The All-Ireland Final win this year to clinch the three-in-a-row was one of my best moments in hurling. I never saw so many Kilkenny people at a match and then to see them all on the pitch after, it brings back great memories.'

P.J. was part of Leinster's successful Railway Cup team this year, and would like to see the competition retained. 'It should be continued – you get the chance to play with lads from different counties and get to know them better.'

As for future ambitions, the proud Fenians man would like to keep his place on the county panel and win a senior title with the club. 'We have a new manager for next season, Mick O'Flynn – formerly the physical trainer with the Kilkenny seniors. There are a few good young lads coming through so hopefully we'll keep progressing.'

During his spare time, P.J. likes playing and watching soccer – he supports Manchester United and Celtic - and watching American Football. We wish the Johnstown man all the best for the new season – one which promises more exciting challenges.

1960 All Ireland MH Champions Champions Honoured

On County Final day, 2008, the County Board invited the veterans of the Kilkenny 1960 All Ireland-winning Minor Hurling team to Nowlan Park as special guests at the Senior and Minor finals and afterwards to a reception sponsored by Springhill Court Hotel. Kilkenny defeated Tipperary by 7-12 to 1-11 to take the title, the first of three All Ireland Minor Hurling titles in a row.



Members of 1960 Kilkenny MH Team at Nowlan Park

Back: Seamus Coogan, Jim Lynch, Joe Ayres, Fr Tom Murphy, Sean Murphy, Michael Kelly, Pat Delaney.
Front: Ollie Ryan, Paddy Dempsey, Paul Kinsella (Cathaoirleach CLG, Cill Chainnigh), Billy Grace (Capt), Martin Hanrahan (Springhill Court Hotel), Pierce Freaney, Paddy Ryan.



Kilkenny - All Ireland MH Champions 1960

Back: Pierce Freaney, Billy Grace (Capt), John Nyhan, Sean O'Brien, Paddy Ryan, Denis Kinsella, Alec McGrath.
Front: Joe Ayres, Noel Roughan, Paddy Dempsey, Richie Walsh, Ollie Ryan, Pierce Brett, Tom Murphy, Tom Barry.



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Buddy Blitz Thomastown











Cúl
Camp
Mullinavat

Trying to remember it all

PM O'Sullivan

Hugh: *To remember everything is a form of madness.*
Brian Friel, "Translations" (1980).

There is nothing unusual, all across Ireland, about an interest in the past. History comes in every shape and size. True, there are the versions of history studied first at school and thereafter, by some, at university. This sense of history is the term's most briskly recognized sense: academic history, narratives written from above by professional historians. Truthfully, this sphere leaves quite a few people cold. They find such work daunting to read and far too dry in tone.

Still, history books sell unusually well in Ireland. There is no question but that the Irish public is notably devoted to reading about the world inhabited by its forebears. That 20th-century history has a particular grip comes as no surprise. The lives of many families' grandparents and great-grandparents intersected with the broad currents of Ireland's progress in fascinating ways. Perhaps this dynamic is at its most compelling as it bears on the War of Independence and the Civil War. Most families have a tale to tell in this regard.

Which or whether, the general preoccupation prompts many conversations, whether at kitchen table or pub counter. 'Tracing', the term many people give to knowledge about the seed, breed and generation of families, is still a popular pursuit, if one more associated with older folk. All the same, at around 30 years of age, nearly everyone starts to take more of an interest in their own background, the influences that made them what they are. Often enough, this gravitation goes hand in hand with having a nephew or a niece or a child of your own. Only then does the complex nature of any background strike fully home, only then when the power of the influences a child undergoes in its earliest years are plain to see.

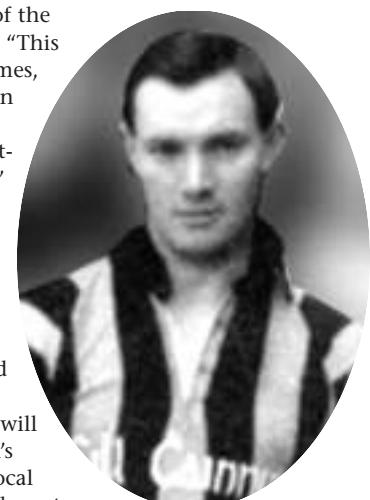
Hurling, especially in Kilkenny, is a large part of these conversations about the past. We value former hurlers no less than those of present summers. There can be few Kilkenny natives, of whatever age, for whom names such as Lory Meagher and Paddy Phelan do not strike a sweet chord. Yet the number of people who actually saw them hurl are very few now and are growing scarcer by the day. This point in time, it is oral tradition and word of mouth that keeps those names ashine.

Personally, as someone born in 1967, I have no knowledge whatsoever of Paddy Phelan's gifts as a hurler. Yet I somehow feel convinced he was the greatest of them all because of the strange note that comes into elderly voices when I ask them about the Sart native. These observers invariably speak of how they cannot do justice to his extraordinary gifts. Martin White, who hurled intercounty with Paddy Phelan for seven dramatic seasons in the 1930s, as well as club with Tullaroan, once described to me a particular clearance that Phelan made in a league tie against Limerick. Martin said no other player, then or since, has had such pure skill. That a stroke of the sliotar in a nigh forgotten match lived on vividly in someone's memory for over 70 years is truly remarkable. Then

again, I imagine that I will, even if I reach a venerable age myself, never forget some of Ger Fennelly's play against Glenmore in the 1985 County Final.

So-called oral tradition is also history, then, but in a special fashion. Much of value is preserved in this medium as well as through paper and ink. It is therefore all the more welcome that the GAA has embarked on a new initiative focused on the organization's contours, an initiative that places said forms of remembrance right at the centre of the undertaking. This work has been named 'GAA Oral History project' and it is worth quoting from the official press release of November 12th last. President Nickey Brennan, a keen advocate of the scheme, is quoted on its ambition: "This is a project about the GAA: our games, our people, our history, our place in Irish life. No sporting organisation anywhere in the world has attempted to do what this project will do."

The release continued: "A questionnaire will be made available to every club, club historian, local history society and Junior Cert teacher, in hard copy and via the Web, to be filled out by or used to interview anyone who has ever been involved with the GAA. This will allow for the recording of the GAA's history at the most personal and local level. In its entirety the project will create a series of books, websites, radio and television programmes, as well as a searchable digital archive which will be permanently housed in the GAA museum." Very obviously, this project is about as laudable as a cultural enterprise gets. Anyone wishing to take part in it can visit www.gaahistory.com, email info@gaahistory.com or call 01-6625055.



Paddy Phelan

The screenshot shows a web page titled 'Our History. Your Story.' with the GAA logo. It includes several survey options:

- HURLER SURVEY:** If you're a former hurler, did you record the hurling possible career of your GAA club? If you moved to other Irish gaels, or made international, why were these career choices? Do you know what you should be asked?
- CLUB SURVEY:** We invite you to fill in this survey of the club's history, traditions and challenges, reflecting the results of the GAA Oral History Project to the present. No club is too small! Your further comments on the survey will be greatly appreciated.
- MEMORIAL SURVEY:** If you would like your memories added to ours part in the GAA Oral History Project (click here).
- MEMORIAL SURVEY:** This can take your as an individual, as a club, volunteer's group or through your club. You can enter your own memories online or via telephone.

All that said, there should be a note of caution. Conor Denieffe, author of *The Continent Abú* (1999), a tremendous history of gaelic games in St John's Parish, noted how the historical record in print often diverged from individual recollection. The very fact that someone remembers a particular game or a specific incident in a certain way does not mean the memory, in and of itself, is entirely correct as regards fact.

Of course, the very phenomenon of recalling events in this partially correct manner is itself of interest. A recent example of this truth came in Michael Moynihan's *Blood Brothers: The Inside Story of the Cork Hurlers 1996-2008* (2008). Therein Sean Óg Ó hAilpín recounts how a Kilkenny mentor allegedly threw a hurl at his brother Setanta during the second half of the 2003 All-Ireland Final, thereby impeding him from taking a score. As the recording of this game clearly shows, no such incident happened. It is very telling that emotion and fact's entanglement can still happen in an era where visual coverage of GAA matches is a commonplace. How much more might this credo be made of pre-television era? With memories of winning and losing, with so many shades of feeling

attendant, there is always room for what might be termed "therapeutic error". Emotion always plays a large part where sport is concerned.

Not that print sources are blemish-free on this front. Far from it, of which more below. I have been thinking a lot about these issues because I was fortunate enough to be commissioned by Gill & Macmillan, last August, to write a history of Kilkenny hurling. This work's emphasis will be on social history, the texture of participants' lives, an emphasis for which oral modes will be a prerequisite. It is not just players and ex-players that will have to be interviewed since the GAA is far more than an aggregate of games held in various codes.



Ger Fennelly

To be honest, there is a kind of vertigo attendant upon this research. That so much of it is so local, so intimate, means that the veracity of any piece of information is difficult to check.

Unforgettable here is a quip made by Hugh, schoolteacher and resident sage, in *Translations* (1980), a play by Brian Friel. Hugh despairs of the Irish obsession with the past. "To remember everything", he says, "is a form of madness."

Nevertheless I persist in believing that every man who played for Kilkenny in the championship, from Minor upwards, deserves the dignity of a first name and a club. However, achieving this end will be a very difficult task.

An example from print sources: press for the Minor sides of 1950, a season when Kilkenny, most unexpectedly, ultimately beat Tipperary in the All-Ireland Final. For the Leinster Final, I noticed in the account of the Kilkenny People that a D. Flynn (Knocktopher) was listed among the subs. The same man did not

feature thereafter, which was not unusual, since Minor panels were subject to quite a lot of flux over the course of a season until quite recent times. Being from just outside Knocktopher, this detail naturally caught my eye. I knew of no such person and so rang the father. I am the eldest of the fifth generation of us in the parish and a good bit of 'tracing' has accrued in family circles. It turned out the hurler in question was a Jim Flynn from Castlecolumb, who emigrated to England in the 1950's.

Given my origins, I would not be au fait with the north of the county. Accordingly, if the player in question had hailed from Ballyraggett, I would have let the error go. Only very specific local knowledge came to my aid. Hence the vertigo. A final example: a granduncle of mine, Joe Lannon from Thomastown, hurled Junior for Kilkenny in 1952. He is both 'Joe Shannon' and 'Joe Lennon' in the Kilkenny People. Again, it is only chance that I am able to amend this kind of error. Names count and count an awful lot. I will have to find strategies to sift these errors from areas outside my own domain.

The history I am writing for Gill & Macmillan will not be a "facts and figures"-type publication. Yet trying to remember all that happened, however impossible the aspiration, is still a form of holy madness. It is a way of paying tribute to those passed and gone, those who gave the same sort of pleasure in their day as granted us today by the present vintage's successes.

Gratitude, end of day, is all.

• PM O'SULLIVAN is researching a history of Kilkenny hurling for publication by Gill & Macmillan in 2010. Anyone wishing to contact him regarding material of any kind (anecdotes, programmes, club/parish history and so on) can do so at 085-7083192 or by email at pmosullivan@gmail.com. He would be particularly interested in hearing from relatives of those who played during the early decades of Kilkenny hurling.



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CMJ End 26 Year Famine

Colleges Report



Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown - All-Ireland Senior Vocational 'A' Champions 2007-2008

Back Row: Niall Mackey, Damien Clyne, Thomas Costigan, Rory Hickey, Aaron Fogarty, Owen Shiels, Owen Warren, Jamie Bergin, Michael Lennon, Martin Gleeson(Trainer) Jason Moore, Stephen Bourke, Vincent Fitzpatrick, Conor Tobin, Brendan Phelan, John Sweeney, Eamon Corcoran.

Sean O'Gorman, Peadar McGeehan, Eamon Marnell(Trainer) Michael Killeen(Vice Principal)

Front: Tom Holohan, James Delaney, Joe Dollard, Danny Dermody, Mr. John Cahill(principal), Nigel Stanley(Captain), Mrs Mary-Hilda Kavanagh (Chairperson B.O.M.), Eoin Glendon, Tom Phelan, Tom Corcoran, Gary Peters. Mascots: Peter Dalton and Robert Fitzpatrick

The Coláiste Mhuire Senior hurlers of 2008 will long live in the memory after bridging a 26-year gap and lifting the Vocational schools "A" title by beating Borrisokane Vocational School in a pulsating final in Nowlan Park.

The title last won in 1982 has had many major disappointments for Johnstown over the years, losing four titles at this grade over the previous eight years, so it was of little surprise the show of emotion and joy amongst players, staff, fellow peers and the faithful gathering of parents, families, past pupils and many more that gathered in Nowlan park on that historic Saturday on 12th April.

Great credit must be given to all players who grasped victory from a Borrisokane team who defeated Johnstown at the same venture two years ago. With ten minutes gone in the second half and seven points down many would have believed that it was not going to be our day, but the players were not willing to dance to the Tipp men's tune and showed the inner belief and strength that epitomises what hurling is about in our local area.

Great credit can be given to all players on the day but big stages are built for big characters and these Coláiste Mhuire had in full back Niall Mackey, Captain Nigel Stanley at centre back, James Delaney who was deserving man of the match recipient at wing back, Eoin Shiels and Daniel Dermody at mid field, Rory Hickey at wing forward Joe Dollard at corner forward, and Owen Warren whose late goal shattered the dreams of a Tipp side with five County Minors.

For this set of players it was little more than they deserved. Who would have believed

when starting training last October and sixty or so training sessions, 15-20 challenge matches and six championship games later that they would have fulfilled a dream that every player dreams of, whether playing for club, school or county. They can be proud of the fact that they represented all with great enthusiasm, fairness and sportsmanship.

Coláiste Mhuire Under 14 Hurling 2007/2008

The under 14 hurling team began the year travelling to Heywood for their first competitive match. On a very wet day the Johnstown team lost out by 3 points. As a result of this defeat Coláiste Mhuire needed

to win the remaining league matches to qualify for the South Leinster final. In their next match they were up against a formidable callan team. After a titanic struggle the Johnstown side won by the narrowest of margins. Johnstown then faced Rathdowney with the winner progressing to the South Leinster final. The Coláiste Mhuire team took command of this match from an early stage and refused to relinquish the lead they had established. This resulted in a final meeting with Callan, going into the match with the Callan team as favourites Johnstown looked like they faced an uphill task. Coláiste Mhuire could have decorated the score board with at least two goals such was their domination in the



Colaiste Mhuire U-14 Winners

Back: Michael Drennan, Kieran Skehan, David O'Gorman, Conor Martin, Ciarán Bergin, Liam Hickey, William Brennan, Thomas Moriarty.

Front: Micheál Phelan, Robert Barnville, Colm Dunphy, Shane Moriarty, Kevin Sweeney, John Muldowney, James Kenny.



Castlecomer Community School U-16 Finalists

Front: Patrick Hanlon, David Moran, David Breen, Brendan Brophy, Kevin Delaney, Thomas Walsh, Sean McDermot, Dean Shortall, Eoin Brennan, James Delaney, Eoin Carroll, Brian Cahill, Eoin Meally, Robert Healy, Padraig Keating, Ruairí Kinsella, Ciarán Brennan, Padraig Curry, TJ Meally,

Back: Brian Allen, Charles Dwyer, Shane Egan, Andrew Carron, Padraig Maher, Adam Smith, MJ Feehan, Noel Callinan, Eoin Bergin, Robert Moran, Declan Dunne, Stephen Daly, Brenáin Buggy, Eamonn Healy, John Brennan, Luke Maher, Liam Barrett.

early parts of this match. In corner forwards Colm Dunphy and Kevin Sweeney they had two gems and as a result the Callan goal was always under threat. The Johnstown diamond of centre back Conor Martin, centre field pairing of Liam Hickey and David O Gorman plus centre forward Robert Barnaville was outstanding and from the throw in Johnstown took control. They were the team with all the style, all the hurlers, all the skill, and they ended up with the trophy being presented to Emeralds man David O Gorman as captain of the victorious Coláiste Mhuire team.

Under 14 football

Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown (CMJ) created history on Wednesday 16th January 2008 winning the South Leinster U14 Football Title for the first time. Having come close at this grade in recent years, the victory was particularly sweet as it came at the expense of defending champions and near neighbours St. Fergal's Rathdowney.

CASTLECOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

2008 will be remembered as a year of near misses for the hurlers of Castlecomer Community School. The senior hurling team started their defence of the Roinn "A" Leinster senior championship with a 4-point victory over a fancied Roscrea side. In the Leinster final When leading by two points in the seventh minute of injury time Kilkenny C.B.S goaled to put them a point ahead, and in a controversial ending, the referee blew full-time.

Our U-16's meanwhile had a near miss when it came to this year's Leinster Championships. They had comprehensive wins over Birr, Good Counsel, and Banagher in the early rounds. In the semi-final they dramatically turned around a 4-point defeat into a 4-point win in the last 2 minutes against St. Peters of Wexford. In a classic final against St. Kierans, Castlecomer were 9 points up after 20 minutes. They continued to lead until the 53rd minute when disaster struck. St. Kierans scored 2 goals in a minute to set them up for a 6-point victory.

Meanwhile the U-14's competed very well in the A championship, although unable



Castlecomer Community School Handball 2008

Back: Padraig Maher, Gary Delaney, Ned Lawlor, Brian Cahill, David Wilson.
Front: Eoin Hennessy, Mary Phelan, Brenáin Buggy.

turn good performances into results against Dublin South, St. Kierans and Good Counsel. They beat St. Peters in the shield semi-final only to be beaten in the final by Birr.

Delaney and Brian Cahill.

ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE

U14 Hurling Blitz

This year the school participated in two U14 hurling blitzes involving teams from all over the county which occurred in April and May. The two competitions mainly comprised of First Years and we had huge participation from everyone. Almost 100 students from St. Kieran's College participated in each competition. Four Kieran's teams were fielded on both days. All students thoroughly enjoyed the blitzes and overall the competitions were a huge success. In September, an inaugural first year hurling blitz for secondary schools in Kilkenny was hosted by St. Kieran's College. Over sixty first year students from St. Kieran's participated on the day with teams from Castlecomer, Johnstown and Kilkenny C.B.S.

Senior Hurling

The Leinster League campaign got underway with a trip to St. Peter's College in

Enniscorthy. Despite having held the upper hand for the majority of the game, an injury time sucker-punch of a goal gave the Wexford outfit a one point victory. St. Peter's then drew with Kilkenny CBS to ensure that qualification from the group and further progress in the competition would be impossible for St. Kieran's.

However, a dream fixture against Kilkenny CBS in the College's newly renovated grounds was still to be played, and in a cracking game, St. Kieran's came out on top by a one point margin.

The serious work began after this game as the team prepared for the Leinster Championship meeting with Dublin Colleges. Going in as underdogs, St. Kieran's found themselves behind at half time. In the second half, after a slow start, a Rick Leydon goal ignited a comeback and our side came within a point, and just as against St. Peter's in the league, a late goal killed off the St. Kieran's challenge just as it was beginning. A huge effort was put in by Mr. Connelly and Mr. Archbald over the past three years as well as the entire panel.
Niall McQuillan (Sixth Year)

U16B Hurling

This was another very successful year for the U16 B St. Kieran's College Hurling team. We were involved again in the Kilkenny league which consisted of all Kilkenny schools both in the city and county. The competition was run on the normal league rules with the two teams who had accumulated the most points at the end making it to the final which was held in Ballyraggett. The team to challenge St. Kieran's on the day was Johnstown Vocational School. The match was played on a wet day in November, conditions for all were tough. Sean McDonald held the backs together in what was a titanic struggle. All forwards scored well with Ciaran Snipe coming off the bench to score the winning point. Richard Deasy lifted the cup for St. Kieran's College which was presented to the team by Brian Ryan.

Historic Achievement

St. Kieran's College is very proud of the achievements of seventeen of its past pupils who were members of the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Panel who won this year's All-Ireland Senior Hurling title.

Congratulations to Brian Cody, also a past pupil of St. Kieran's and all the panel on achieving the historic three in a row. There was great excitement in the school when Brian and the lads visited with the trophy.

Leinster Junior A Hurling Champions 2008/09

The first round of the Leinster championship began for St. Kieran's with a convincing win over Good Counsel, New Ross. In the second round, St. Brendan's of Birr provided the opposition on a cold, damp day in Kinnity, Co. Offaly. After a tough first half battle, the College team began to pull away in the second half to win by 3.13 to 0.07. A good win in demanding conditions. Castlecomer conceded the points in the third round parachuting St. Kieran's into a Leinster semi-final.

The Leinster semi-final was played on 17th



St Kierans - U16 Leinster Hurling Champions

Back: John O'Keeffe [Mentor], Pat O'Carroll, Gavin Butler, John Power, Conor O'Shea, Luke Hickey, David McCormack [Mentor],
3rd Row: John Dunphy, Shane Brennan, Richie Reid, Peter English, George Allen, Jason Nugent, Michael Whitley.

2nd Row: Cathal O'Neill, Declan McQuillan, Michael Drennan, Sam Johnson, Evan Guilfoyle, Paddy Butler, Dylan Walsh, Tom Brennan, Aidan Cleere.

Front: Jack Nolan, Thomas O'Hanrahan, Sean O'Dwyer, William Phelan, Cillian Buckley [Capt], Hugh O'Neill, Danny O'Neill, Michael Donnelly, Noel Kehoe. Missing from Photo: Niall Walsh (Eoin Hennessy)



Cillian Walsh, Captain, St Kierans, receives the U16 "A" Trophy from **Pat Henderson**, Leinster Colleges (Eoin Hennessy)



Distinguished Past Pupils Return to the CBS

Back Row: Richie Mulrooney, John Mulhall, Matthew Ruth, Mark Bergin, Michael Walsh.
Front Row: Richie Doyle, Cathal Kenny, Martin Gaffney, Danny Kenny, Enda Malone
(Eoin Hennessy)

October on a dry day in Portlaoise. It was a fiercely contested match, with huge intensity shown by both teams. Despite chances for each team, neither team could snatch the win. With the score level at the end of normal time, the game went to extra time. An early goal by Thomas O' Hanrahan proved to be the match winning score.

This semi-final brought St. Kieran's a coveted Leinster Final meeting with Castlecomer C.S. After fifteen minutes of the game, it looked like there was no way back for St. Kieran's as they trailed by nine points. Driven on by their fantastic fans, they fought their way back into the final to trail by only two points at half-time. With ten minutes remaining, it looked like the game was slipping from St. Kieran's grasp when John Power scored two goals in the space of one minute to turn the game on its head and effectively win the title for St. Kieran's with a score line of 3.13 to 2.10.

Cillian Buckley received the Fr. Cosgrave Cup on behalf of the team. He along with William Phelan, Conor O'Shea and John Power produced inspirational performances, not only in the final but throughout the championship. That said, it was the depth in the panel that won the U-16 title for St. Kieran's College this year.

KILKENNY CBS

Kilkenny CBS enjoyed mixed fortunes in the 2007 / 2008 Colleges season. The winter was spent in the gym and playing regular challenge matches. The draw pitted CBS against St. Brendan's of Birr and the fixture eventually went ahead in the Clonad grounds outside Portlaoise. The Saffron and Maroons emerged victorious after a dour match. We headed south-east for Round II. A rematch against St. Peters in Bunclody. The outcome was in doubt up to the final minutes but the CBS boys were to fore by 7 points at the final whistle on the scoreline



Falling down - Shaun Murphy (St. Peters) falls to the ground under the challenge of Danny Kenny (Kilkenny C.B.S.) during the Senior Colleges match between Kilkenny C.B.S. and St. Peters in Bunclody. (Eoin Hennessy)

of 1-15 to 1-6. Best performers on the day were Eddie Kearns, Richie Doyle, Brian Kennedy, Martin Bambrick and Oisin Walshe. A semi final spot was secured where we faced local rivals Castlecomer CS. Freshford was to be the stage for an enthralling encounter.

With 'Comer edging into a two point lead and time almost up CBS launched a final attack and up stepped Freshford's Paul Guinan to dramatically snatch a last ditch winning goal. Undeservedly or not, CBS found themselves in their third Leinster Colleges Senior A hurling final in a row. The James's Street boys went in as underdogs against a very strong Dublin Colleges outfit. Played in Dr. Cullen park

The contest was disappointing and the second half was all Dublin who won with ease.

A good crowd, as always for a Kilkenny/Tipperary clash, turned up in large numbers. Wind-assisted, CBS enjoyed the better of the early exchanges but the Thurles boys were responding and didn't allow any big lead to be established. Three glorious first half points by Martin Gaffney put CBS 3 points up at half time but with players like John O'Neill and Kieran Morris demonstrating an ability to score points, there was always, one felt, the likelihood of a backlash. With the strengthening breeze in their backs the Thurles lads took a grip in almost all sectors of the field and picked off point after point. It was one way traffic and there was a ten point gap at the conclusion on a 21 points to 11 scoreline.

There are many survivors from the 2007 / 2008 panel available for the 2008 / 2009



Abbey Community College - Leinster Juvenile C hurling Champions

Back: Ian Williams (Kilmacow), Sean Byrne (Slieverue), PJ Roche (Glenmore), Stephen Quinn (Ferrybank), Dylan Cooke (Kilmacow), Jamie Diggins (Ferrybank), Oisin Mac Caomhaoil (Ferrybank), Kevin McNamara (Kilmacow), Mark Russell (Ferrybank), Jason Grant (Kilmacow), Damien Aherne (Ferrybank), Seamus Burtchaell (Ferrybank), Aaron Cullinane (Slieverue), Ian Aherne (Kilmacow), Darren Hickey (Ferrybank), Dylan Carey (Passage).

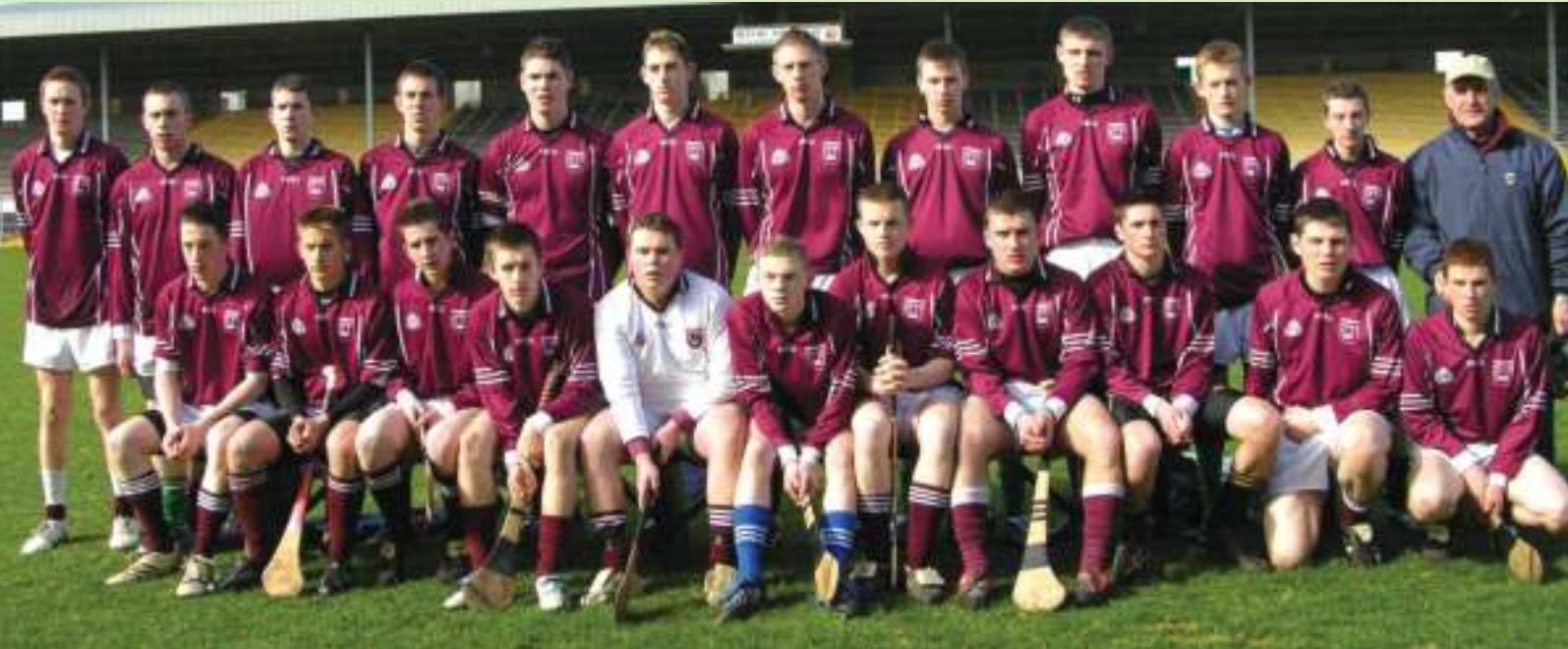
Front: Patrick Heffernan (Kilmacow), Shay Dempsey (Kilmacow), Sean Keogh (Slieverue), Ryan McKenna (Kilmacow), Richard Walsh (Glenmore), Peter Whittle (Ferrybank), Adam Connolly (Ferrybank), Eoin Buggy (Ferrybank), Ryan Dowling (Ferrybank), Luke Walsh (Slieverue).



Grennan College South Leinster U16 Finalists

Back: Denis Doyle[Mentor], Barry Whelan, Mark Walsh, Gary Mason, Eoin Manning, Gary Lehane, Jack McCarthy, Liam O'Shea, Luke Blanchfield, Kieran Treacy.

Front: Kelly Hamilton, Sam Whelan, Jason Cummins, Patrick O'Neill, Shane O'Neill, Eddie Conway, Neil O'Meara, James Leahy, Anthony Greene, Jack Walsh.



Borris - Leinster Vocational Hurling "A" Finalists 2008

Back: John Walsh, Marty Grennan, Paul Kehoe, Padraig Kinsella, Denis Roche, Thomas Kinsella, Denis Murphy, David English, Gary Kelly, Marty Dalton, John Lennon, Mr. Kieran Lucas(Manager)

Front: John Morris, Seamus Kelly, Sean Kehoe, Michael Doyle, Damien Barcoe, Cathal English, Martin Dorner, David Grennan, Daniel Mahon, John Michael Nolan, campaign. A year older and wiser one hopes.

Senior Management 2007 / 2008 :- Ger Morrissey, Paul O'Donoghue, P.J. McCormack

Leinster Senior League 2008

CBS were unbeaten after three rounds of the Senior League with victories over Good Counsel (0-13 to 1-8), North Dublin Colleges (5-11 to 3-9) and St. Brendan's Birr (0-14 to 0-7). However, after a close-fought League Final, they had to give way to Dublin Colleges South on a scoreline of Dublin South 2-16 Kilkenny C.B.S. 0-18 after extra time.

At a highly successful and enjoyable function held in the school recently, we presented awards to Past and Present pupils who won All-Ireland medals for Kilkenny at all grades in 2008. Two managers are also ex CBS. A sizeable gathering of parents and teachers also attended.

Senior :- James McGarry,

Under 21: David Langton, Mark Bergin, John Mulhall, Paddy Nolan, Matty Ruth, Mark Kelly and Manager Mick Walshe.

Minor: Cathal Kenny, Richie Doyle, Danny Kenny, Enda Malone, Murt Gaffney and Manager Richie Mulrooney.

Intermediate: Bill Beckett.



New Ross Vocational College

New Ross Vocational College acknowledge the achievement of Eoin Murphy of Glenmore in winning his minor All Ireland medal with Kilkenny in 2008.

Eoin is very competitive in all school sports and his dedication is recognised by this presentation recently made on behalf of the staff and students of New Ross Vocational College.

Pictured are Mr Jim O'Connor, Ms Suzanne Barrett Principal, Eoin Murphy and Mr Michael Freyne at the College presentation recently

We look forward to a successful year ahead. We wish to thank all the teachers involved and particular thanks to Dicksboro GAA Club for continued use of their excellent facilities.

The school would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the inestimable contribution to GAA affairs in Kilkenny CBS made by retiring Vice-Principal Sean Breatnach. Sean has put in countless hours over four decades to hurling and handball. We wish Sean long life and happiness in the years ahead.

Go raibh saol fada, sona, torthúil agat a Sheain.

ABBEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2008 an outstanding year of success on the GAA fields for Abbey Community College. The Abbey team, captained by Damien Aherne (Ferrybank) won the Leinster juvenile C hurling in most convincing fashion last May. Several of that team later captured the South Leinster and provincial Junior C titles with a series of runaway victories.

Overall 'student of the year' in 2008 was awarded to Richard McNamara (Kilmacow) who was unlucky to have been the star hurler in the school for five years without winning any medals. Richard represented the school on the Kilkenny Vocational Schools team and played a prominent role as they reached the All Ireland final, where they lost to Galway.

Having ended 2007 on a high note by winning juvenile and junior South Leinster C hurling titles, interest in hurling and gaelic football in the school has never been greater. Four members of the juvenile panel represented their counties in the Tony Forristal inter county hurling tournament, Ryan McKenna, Shay Dempsey and Kevin McNamara (all Kilmacow) and Mark Russell (Ferrybank)

The junior hurlers topped off a great campaign by winning the Leinster junior title with hard fought victories against Kilcormac and Presentation Secondary Killina. The team captain was Luke Harney (Kilmacow). In 2008/09 they moved up to B grade at junior and senior level, a significant step up for many club hurlers in the school.

The junior hurlers enjoyed mixed fortunes in the division, having performed well against FCJ Bunclody and Scoil Aireagal Ballyhale they lost to Gorey CS in a Leinster quarter final.

The school competes every year in gaelic football at junior and juvenile level but so far without trophies. Camogie also has proven to be a very popular game and the undoubtedly star of school teams in recent years was Michelle Quilty (Slieverue) who won an All Ireland intermediate medal with Kilkenny in 2008. Her brother Martin, another past pupil is currently Secretary to Bord na nÓg Cill Chainnigh.

BORRIS VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

Borris Vocational School reached the Leinster Final of the Vocational Schools Senior Hurling A competition for the second time. We recorded good wins over Ramsgrange Community College, Bridgetown Vocational School, Scoil



Loreto Secondary School All-Ireland 7-a-side Roinn A Camogie Champions 2009 (3-in-a-row).
Back: Mr Colm Keher (Principal), Lydia Fitzpatrick (Freshford), Claire Phelan (Lisdowney), Sarah-Ann Quinlan (Young Irelands), Mrs Marie Therese Gallagher (Deputy-Principal).
Front: Aoife Murphy (Lisdowney), Noelle Maher (Tullaroan), Emma Comerford (Young Irelands), Niamh Byrne (Clara), Kate Holland (Ballyragget), Orla Hanrick (Dicksboro), Grace Walsh (Tullaroan).
Picture: Michael Brophy.



Loreto Secondary School - Leinster Colleges Minor A Camogie Champions 2008 (3-in-a-row). Back row: Niamh O'Connor (Dicksboro), Tara Hogan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Orla Ryan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Tracey Brennan (Ballyragget), Sarah Dunphy (Graigue-Ballycallan), Claire Phelan (Lisdowney), Isabel Robinson (Clara), Sarah-Ann Quinlan (Young Irelands), Jenny Hayes (Dicksboro). Middle row: Lydia Fitzpatrick (Freshford), Aoife Murphy (Lisdowney), Miriam Walsh (Tullaroan), Anna Buggy (Freshford), Róisín O'Neill (O'Loughlin Gaels), Sonia Buggy (Dicksboro), Katie Doheny (Freshford), Marie Doheny (Graigue-Ballycallan), Rachel Lynch (Dicksboro). Front row: Maureen Walsh (Freshford), Dearbhla Gannon (Ballyragget), Sarah Hennessy (Dicksboro), Noelle Maher {Captain} (Tullaroan), Amy Bryan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Kate Holland (Ballyragget), Orla Hanrick (Dicksboro). Picture: Michael Brophy.

Airgeal Ballyhale and Rathdowney. We came up against a very good team in Scoil Mhuire Johnstown in the Leinster Final. After an excellent game of hurling, Johnstown recorded a two point victory and later went on to claim the All Ireland crown. Best for Borris were backs Padraig Kinsella, Martin Dorner, Michael Joyce centre field David Grennan and forwards Sean Kehoe, Denis Murphy and Denis Roche

GAA pitch in Clonmel with only one mission in mind; to return the Corn Sceilge to Callan where it had been absent for 15 years.

The opponents on the day hailed from Charleville, the highly rated St. Mary's Secondary School

St. Brigid's campaign to victory began back in October with victories over Loreto Kilkenny, Colaiste Brid Enniscorthy, Borris Vocational School and Castlecomer Community School in the Leinster Final. The Presentation Athenry were the opponents in the All- Ireland Semi Final, and with the National Young Player of the Year Jessica Gill on their side, St. Brigid's took no chances, winning the match 3-10 to 0-6.

ST BRIGID'S, CALLAN

March 8th will be a date forever etched into the memory of St. Brigid's Senior Camogie Squad and its spirited supporters. Under the management of Noelle O Driscoll and Pat Power, St Brigid's girls went to Moyle Rovers



St. Brigid's Callan - Senior A Camogie All Irelands Winners 2008

Back: Laura Woodcock, Imelda Alyward, Denise Gaule, Eileen Brennan, Lisa Carey, Emma Boland, Vivienne Ryan, Orla Neary, Joanne Cody, Edel Frisby, Mairead Power, Eleanor Lacey
Middle: Mr. Power, Clodagh Phelan, Aine Manning, Kate McDonald, Nicole Corrway, Jennifer Cunningham, Anna Farrell, Rachael Dowling, Alison Walsh, Doireann Mackey, Laura Dunne, Ms. Noelle O'Driscoll
Front: Dawn Holden, Niamh Phelan, Chloe Corrway, Ciara Holden, Trah O'Hanlon, Leann Fennelly (Captain), Laura Walker, Michelle Farrell, Niamh Dowling, Meighan Farrell, Louise Dunne *Missing from photo: Eimear Roantree*

And so the stage was set for the All-Ireland Final against king pins St. Mary's Charleville.

Two points from Anna Farrell and a point each from Captain Leann Fennelly and First Year Ciara Holden handed Callan the advantage of 3 points by the eleventh minute. Callan's half back line Mairead Power, Kate Mc Donald and Lisa Carey were a robust defence, preventing the Charleville girls from breaking through. Captain supreme Leann Fennelly showed tremendous leadership throughout the game and her presence in mid-field was a key factor in

the victory. Laura Walker in goal was superb; not conceding a goal in either the Semi or the Final. Her full back line of Chloe Corrway, Alison Walsh and Dawn Holden kept the Charleville forwards at bay and never yielded an inch! Sisters Anna and Shelly Farrell showed their skill and speed time and time again , splitting the Charleville defence. Denise Gaule, who worked tirelessly throughout the game was rewarded with a goal after 20 minutes. 5 minutes later, after a spell of pressure from St. Mary's, Anna Farrell went on a lengthly solo run and crashed an unstoppable shot

to the roof of the net.

Forwards including Aine Manning, Eileen Brennan and Denise Gaule wasted no ball and did trojan work to keep the ball in the Callan forward line. Shelly Farrell's lightning fast pace saw her scoring a hand passed goal which was a body blow to Charleville. Aine Manning and Louise Dunne scored two sweet points before Denise Gaule ended the St. Brigid's tally with a pointed free. St. Brigid's loyal supporters stormed the pitch and amidst great cheers and jubilation, proud captain Leann Fennelly received the trophy.



Pictured are the Coláiste Eamann Rís, Callan who were narrowly defeated in the Leinster under 16B final by Coláiste Mhuire Mullingar. Along the way they had victories over Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown, Presentation Bagenalstown , FCJ Bunclody and St Benildus, Dublin.

Pictured in front from left

Niall Maher (John Lockes) D J Bergin (John Lockes) Cian Ryan (Windgap) Shane Bergin (John Lockes) Tony Delaney (John Lockes) Matthew Bergin (John Lockes) Liam Byrne (John Lockes) Sean Foley (Windgap) Adrian Landy (Windgap) Stephen Comerford (Graigue Ballycallan) Mark Shelley (John Lockes) Gary Lyons (John Lockes) Peter Funcion (John Lockes)

Back:: Matthew Holohan (John Lockes) John Kirwan (Dunamaggin) Darragh Egan (GBC) Cathal Byrne (John Lockes) Owen McGrath (John Lockes) Tommy Egan (GBC) P J Trant (GBC) Padraig Tynan (GBC) Jamie Bergin (John Lockes) Michael Power (Windgap) J J O'Keeffe (John Lockes) David Phelan (John Lockes) Shane Carroll (GBC) , Eric Keogh (John Lockes) Eoin Robinson (GBC) Adam Kavanagh (John Lockes) Jamie Hogan (GBC)

WIT - Fitzgibbon Cup Champions 2008



Back: Joe Kelly Wex, JJ Ryan Wex, Timmy Hammersley Tipp, Cathal Parlon Offaly, Eoin Reid Kilk, Kevin Lanigan Tipp, Brian Moroney Tipp, Micahe Kearney Cork, Conor Cooney Clare, Tom Moloney Kilk, Stephen Spillane Tipp,
Middle: Geraldine Kinane GAA Officer, Colm Bonnar Manager, Ed Tobin Kilk, Tim Looby Wat, Aidan Donovan Kilk, James Gahan Wex, Lorcan Mulherne Dub, Jim Dowling Kilk, Pat Hartley Kilk, Ray McLaughney Tipp, Martin McKeogh Tipp, Ronan Good Cork, John Dalton Kilk, Ger Griffey Clare, Shane O Sullivan Wat, John Doran Carlow, Kieran Grehan Kilk, Shane Kelly Cork, Mark Gorman Wat, Alan Roche Selector, TJ Reid Kilk, Citi Rep Sponsor,
Front: Noel Dalton Selector, Adrian Power Wat, John O Farrell Wat, Stephen Lillis Tipp, Fintan O Leary Cork, Kevin Moran Wat, Shane Fives Wat, Colm Gahan Wex, Pat Kelly Clare, Jim Alyward Selector. (*Missing Gavin Nolan Kilk,*)

The Fitzgibbon Cup Hurling championship for the 2007/2008 season was a memorable one for Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) culminating in what was arguably the most memorable Fitzgibbon Cup final ever witnessed, when WIT eventually defeated the Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) after an epic double extra time encounter.

In the Quarter final WIT had a comprehensive victory over Dublin Institute of Technology on a scoreline of 3-15 to 1-7. And so the stage was set for the Fitzgibbon Cup weekend which was hosted by the Cork Institute of Technology. In the semi-finals WIT got the better of UCC on a scoreline of 2-14 to 1-15. While Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) defeated Galway / Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) in the other semi-final encounter.

Fitzgibbon Cup Final

And so to the Fitzgibbon Cup Final and what a game was in store for those in attendance as well as the watching faithful on Live television. Kilkenny were well represented on the team with Eoin Reid, Tom Maloney, Aidan O'Donovan, James Dowling, Pat Hartley, John Dalton, Kieran Grehan (KK) and TJ Reid.

The game was closely contested all through with man of the match Joe Canning (LIT) proving a thorn in the side of the WIT defence all day. Canning was imperious from play, from placed balls and especially from sideline cuts. After a very entertaining match, the sides were level deep in to injury time at the end of normal time. Eoin Reid of WIT tied the game with an equalising point directly from the puck out. It was that sort of game.

The game ebbed and flowed in the 20 minutes of extra time but there was no separating the teams, and another 10-minute period of extra time was needed. In that spell, the WIT goalkeeper Adrian Power broke LIT hearts with two excellent saves. Directly from the second save, WIT worked the ball downfield to set up Eoin Reid for an all important goal which broke the hearts of the LIT team and set the Waterford College en route for victory on a final scoreline of 1-29 to 1-24.

GAA President Nickey Brennan summed up the final with the following words before presenting the trophy - "There are games in your life you'll always remember. This is definitely one of those. It was one of the great hurling occasions and, thankfully, it went out live on TV because people couldn't appreciate it unless they saw it. We had skill, toughness but fairness and it was great to see the stars of today and undoubtedly some of the stars of tomorrow turn in a match of that quality. I'm just so delighted to have been here to witness a truly wonderful game of hurling, and it proved, if proof was needed, that hurling is the greatest game in the world. It also goes to show the importance that the GAA has in third level institutions. There is no doubt about it, there is no sport in third level delivering so much excitement as the Fitzgibbon and Sigerson cups."



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Lisdowney Sevens

The 27th annual Lisdowney Coca-Cola Sevens took place over three Saturdays in September with 32 teams from Clare, Cork, Tipperary, Laois and Kilkenny taking part. Weather conditions were ideal and the young players served up a feast of individual skills and teamwork. Among the "guests" on finals day were the 4 All-Ireland trophies and their Leinster counterparts. This was very appropriate as most of the panels of all four teams, including all 4 captains, had taken part in the Sevens in previous years.

Dicksboro had a convincing win over neighbours James Stephens by 3-8 to 0-3 in the final of the Sweeney Cup after overcoming Clara, Ballyhea (Cork), Barrow Rangers and Borris-in-Ossory in the earlier rounds. James Stephens had previously beaten Mullinavat, Erin's Own and St. Lachtains.

The Best Player award went to Dicksboro defender Stephen Farrell.

The Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield was won by Lisdowney, who had an 8-4 to 1-10 victory over Danesfort. Lisdowney had defeated Ballacolla, Windgap and Mooncoin in their previous matches while Danesfort overcame Harps (Durrow), Galmoy and Ballyhale.

The Lisdowney Shield was a round robin competition for the boys and girls of the 3 schools and after many closely fought contests Ciarán O'Carroll's team defeated Kieran Skehan's team by 9-4 to 6-2 in the final. In the Hennessy Sport Medal final Michael Kenny's team overcame Niall Buckley's team by 8-1 to 5-2.

Conor Brennan praised the officers, members, caterers and young helpers of the Lisdowney club, led by John Delaney (Ch.), Josie Bergin (Sec.) and Statia Kenny (Treas.), PJ Kenny and Tom O'Carroll. He thanked PJ for bringing the Grand Slam Cups to Lisdowney. "These trophies are a sign of the strength of Kilkenny hurling," he said. "We feel we are doing our bit for the future generation of hurlers in Kilkenny."

Chairman John Delaney welcomed all the teams, their mentors and supporters and was fulsome in his praise of organisers Larry Hamilton, Eamonn Dunne and Eamonn Nolan, referees Podge Butler and Sean Brennan and he had a special welcome for early visitor Brian Cody and for Bórd na nÓg Chairman Joe Pyke. He thanked sponsors Sweeney Brothers, Kilkenny Supporters Club and especially Coca-Cola and its Events Team who sponsored trophies for winners and runners-up in all competitions.

Eddie Holohan (Dicksboro) replied on behalf of the visiting teams and was loud in his praise of the smooth running of this very prestigious tournament.

Joe Pyke presented the Sweeney Cup to Dicksboro captain, Marc Cudmore, while Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola) presented the trophies.

Rory Hickey (Co. Minor) presented the Runners-up trophies to James Stephens' players Alan O'Brien, James Tyrell, Catchall O'Neill, Ricci Denman, Niall Mullins, Comic Connolly, Cilia Cantwell, Cain Morton, Sean Snotty and David Maher.

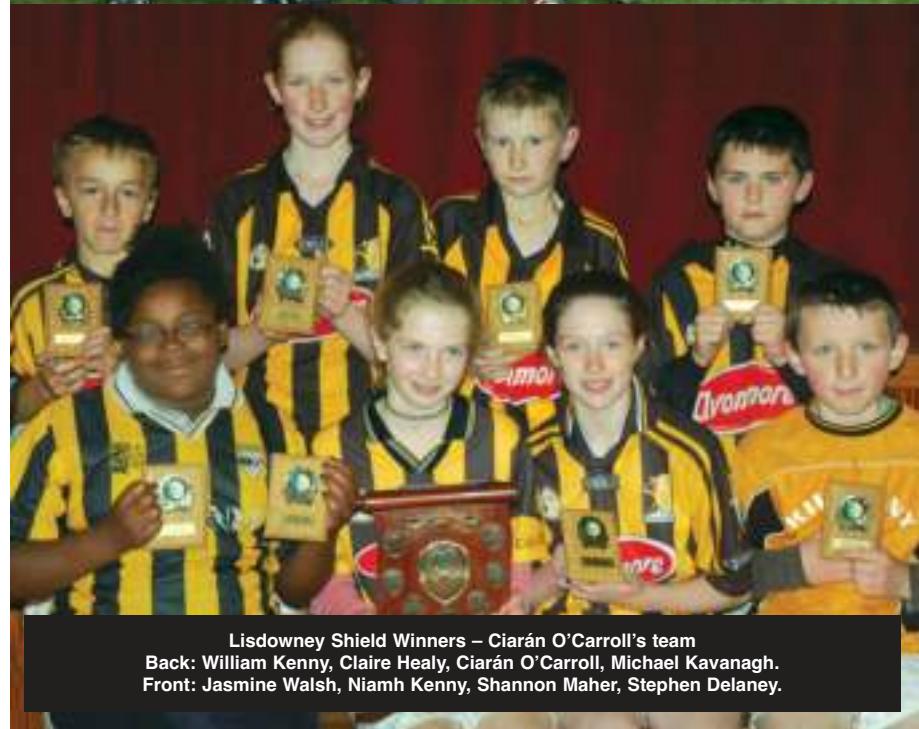
The Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield was presented to Lisdowney captain, Ciarán O'Carroll by Joe Pyke, who also presented the trophies.

Local Co. Minor Sean Phelan presented the runners-up trophies to Danesfort players Ger Dunne, Michael O'Neill, Brendan Cullen, Colm Phelan, Gary Tynan, Brendan Hyland, Josh Haines, James Tynan, Ronan Leahy and Philip Cooney.

The Best Player award was presented to Stephen Farrell (Dicksboro) by Catherine Nolan (Coca-Cola).



Sweeney Cup winners – Dicksboro
Back: Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola), Aiden Walsh, Kevin Kenny, Stephen Farrell (Best Player Award), Evan Cody, Eamonn Dunne (Sevens PRO), Joe Pyke (Ch. Bórd na nÓg), Larry Hamilton (Sevens Sec.), Catherine Nolan (Coca-Cola). Conor Brennan (Sevens Organiser).
Front: Darragh Holahan, Paddy Cahill, Marc Cudmore (capt.), Shane O'Brien, Robbie Fitzpatrick, Frank Nolan.



Lisdowney Shield Winners – Ciarán O'Carroll's team
Back: William Kenny, Claire Healy, Ciarán O'Carroll, Michael Kavanagh.
Front: Jasmine Walsh, Niamh Kenny, Shannon Maher, Stephen Delaney.



Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield winners – Lisdowney
Back: Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola), Larry Hamilton (Sevens Sec.), Eamonn Dunne (Sevens PRO), Conor Brennan (Sevens Organiser).
Middle: Niall Buckley, Michael Kenny, Conor O'Carroll, Darren Mullins, Brian O'Carroll.
Front: Alan Murphy, Edward Connery, Ciarán O'Carroll (capt.), Kieran Skehan, William Kenny.

The Happy Wanderer

The Man who played championship hurling in four different counties....

By Jim Fogarty



This is the story of a brilliant wing forward who played senior club championship hurling in four different counties and played senior inter-county hurling with three of them. He also figured prominently with the American team who toured Ireland in 1911.

Pierce Purcell was born at Bawnmore, Johnstown in the late nineteenth century. After a short period at St. Kieran's College he was apprenticed to the drapery business of J.K. Molony in Thurles.

Pierce got a place on the Thurles Blues (Sarsfields) side at 18 and played beside many hurlers of All Ireland fame including Tom Semple and Hawk O'Brien.

Better prospects were then offered to Pierce by friends in America. During his short time there he played many star matches with Tipperary N.Y. team. In the summer of 1911, Pierce was requested to come home and help on the family farm. In June 1911 Pierce got a telegram to say he was selected on the American representative side to play Wexford. The Irish American side also played Tipperary, Kilkenny, Dublin, Boherlahan, Limerick and Cork.

Back in business in Thurles, Pierce captained a Tipperary Junior Team to win the Munster and All Ireland championship. His most important game of all was the postponed and substitute All Ireland final Tipp v Kilkenny at Dungarvan. Kilkenny won by 5 points

(1911 championship).

After a short spell in Killenaule, Pierce moved to the Monster House, Kilkenny City. He won two county senior championships with Johnstown and Tullaroan. He played with Kilkenny against Laois in the Leinster final of 1915, the year of Laois's only All Ireland to date.

Pierce then transferred to Young Ireland's Waterford having taken up employment in Waterford City. He won two County Championships and played in all Waterford's inter county games until 1921. Pierce got involved in the Irish Freedom Struggle and was imprisoned on Spike Island, Cobh. After escaping and participating in the civil war, Pierce moved to Dublin.

He played his last match with the Draper's Team (C.J. Kickham's). They lost to Garda in the Dublin County championship. Pierce Purcell at 32 years hung up his boots. Thus ended a remarkable career, having played inter-county hurling for Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford and in the American-Ireland internationals.

Reading between the Lines.

By Jim Fogarty

Hereunder is a personal interpretation of some phrases used by the Monday Morning match reporters;

The goalkeeper was "unsighted for the first goal".

He had just spotted his attractive new neighbour taking her seat in the stands.

The right-corner-back "set out his stall early". He upended his opponent before the throw-in.

The full-back "took no prisoners". Grevious bodily harm-yes.

Manslaughter not
gulvut-,:

The left-corner-back was "vigilant all through".

He held his opponent's Jersey for the full 70 minutes.

The right-half-back "made some surging runs".

Usually when the player he should be marking was scoring points.

The centre-back "completely dominated his patch".

Totally unfit he managed to bat a few balls on the 45 metre line.

The left-half-back "showed some deft touches".



Jersey Stretch (Eoin Hennessy)

The corner-forwards "foraged for every ball".

They rooted for the ball so often that they could have competed in the World Ploughing Championship.

The full-forward "needed early ball". He was a half an hour behind the full-back in the chase for every delivery.

The referee "was unobtrusive and contributed to a free-flowing game". His mind being on the post-match reception, he decided that only capital offences should be punished.

Jim Fogarty is the recently retired Kilkenny City and County Librarian.

MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS

2008

ALL STARS



Martin Carey
Young Irelands



Mark Phelan
Glenmore



Eamon Walsh,
Ballyhale Shamrocks



Michael Kavanagh
St Lachtain's



Paddy Hogan
Danesfort



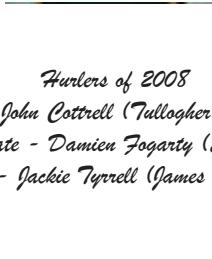
Jackie Tyrrell
James Stephens



Damien Fogarty
Erin's Own



Cha Fitzpatrick
Ballyhale Shamrocks



Hurlers of 2008
Junior - John Cottrell (Tullogher Rosbercon)
Intermediate - Damien Fogarty (Erin's Own)
Senior - Jackie Tyrrell (James Stephens)



John Cottrell
Tullogher Rosbercon



TJ Reid
Ballyhale Shamrocks



Henry Shefflin
Ballyhale Shamrocks



Eoin Larkin
James Stephens



Richie Hogan
Danesfort



Davy Buggy
Erin's Own



Eoin Reid
Ballyhale Shamrocks

Kilkenny Take Nine All Star Awards



Kilkenny hurlers, from left, Tommy Walsh, JJ Delaney, James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick, Noel Hickey, Eoin Larkin, hurler of the year, Henry Shefflin, Eddie Brennan, Michael Kavanagh, and Jackie Tyrrell during the GAA Vodafone All-Stars Awards 2008

Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE

Vodafone GAA Hurling All Stars for 2008:

Goalkeeper

1 Brendan Cummins [Tipperary]

Full Backs

2 Michael Kavanagh [Kilkenny]
3 Noel Hickey [Kilkenny]
4 Jackie Tyrrell [Kilkenny]

Half Backs

5 Tommy Walsh [Kilkenny]
6 Conor O'Mahony [Tipperary]
7 J.J. Delaney [Kilkenny]

Midfielders

8 James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick [Kilkenny]
9 Shane McGrath [Tipperary]

Half Forwards

10 Ben O'Connor [Cork]
11 Henry Shefflin [Kilkenny]
12 Eoin Larkin [Kilkenny]

Full Forwards

13 Eddie Brennan [Kilkenny]
14 Eoin Kelly [Waterford]
15 Joe Canning [Galway]



**Vodafone, GPA and Texaco
Hurler of the Year
Eoin Larkin of Kilkenny**

Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE

GPA GAA Hurling Team of the Year 2008:

Goalkeeper

1 Brendan Cummins [Tipperary]

Full Backs

2 Michael Kavanagh [Kilkenny]
3 Noel Hickey [Kilkenny]
4 Jackie Tyrrell [Kilkenny]

Half Backs

5 Tommy Walsh [Kilkenny]
6 Conor O'Mahony [Tipperary]
7 J.J. Delaney [Kilkenny]

Midfielders

8 James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick [Kilkenny]
9 Shane McGrath [Tipperary]

Half Forwards

10 Ben O'Connor [Cork]
11 Henry Shefflin [Kilkenny]
12 Eoin Larkin [Kilkenny]

Full Forwards

13 Eddie Brennan [Kilkenny]
14 Eoin Kelly [Waterford]
15 John Mullane [Waterford]

Obituaries



Pat Molloy

Pat Molloy

News of the sudden death of Pat Molloy in September 2008 was met with great sadness in the parish of Tullaroan and the greater FAA community in Kilkenny and further afield.

While a promising hurler in his early years, Pat like many others of the time emigrated to England in the late 1950's in search of employment and hurled with Eire Og in Salisbury, Wiltshire with great success. Returning to Tullaroan in 1969 he built a successful business career and continued his playing career until his late thirties. He quickly immersed himself again in local parish and GAA affairs and served the Tullaroan club with distinction in many other roles, including secretary, treasurer, chairman and selector and was the trainer of the 1983 Junior championship winning team.

Pat was a proud Tullaroan man, and delighted with the 1994 senior championship victory after such a long wait, and he was especially moved when the youngsters of Tullaroan were crowned All Ireland Feile na nGael champions in 1997.

Off the field Pat was heavily involved with the arrangements to celebrate the club's centenary in 1984, and worked with many others on the publication of the 'Famous Tullaroan' book, which allowed him to combine two of his greatest interest, GAA and Irish history. He was deeply involved with the development of the Lory Meagher Heritage Centre and GAA museum, where he worked tirelessly with the Hogan family and many others to preserve and restore this wonderful historical building, and was in his element collating the rich GAA history for future generations, from all corners of the country.

Ever the fundraiser, Pat took on the role as chairman and organiser of the Kilkenny GAA Board Lotto since its inception in 1995, which contributed significantly to the funding of the County Board and many individual clubs during this period. Pat was also the chairman of the local Building Development committee and was eagerly awaiting the official opening of this fine complex in the local sports grounds. This

brand new complex will be a lasting testament to his tireless efforts for the community.

For the huge numbers who attended his funeral mass, Pat will be remembered whenever "The Rose of Moocoin" is heard, and he will forever remain in the hearts of his family and friends in the parish of Tullaroan.

captain since the foundation of the G.A.A. He liked nothing better than a good discussion about hurling particularly if Galmoy hurling club was the subject.

The G.A.A. however was only one of his interests. He was involved with the Vincent De Paul in the parish and perhaps the most apt description of him came from a parishioner who described him as a great parish man.

A proud family man and a good friend to many people he took great pride in his three sons achievements with Galmoy. The crowds at his removal and burial bore testimony to the esteem in which he was held, particularly amongst his own people. To his wife Ann, daughter Claire and sons Michael Phil and Charles we extend our deepest sympathy.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Senior with London in the All Ireland "B" Final's of 81 and 82 and collected awards with Windgap, Factory League medals with Grannagh Board and Paper Mills in 68 and 70, London Senior Hurling League, Ryan Cup and a seven a side championship of Britain in 1977.

Having retired playing he continued in the Pub Business and was known as a hard worker with great character and wit. As a tribute past players and members of the now defunct Brian Borus Club gathered from far and wide to hold a guard of honour at his funeral in Greenford North London.

Thomas is survived by his wife Mary his daughter Laura sons Colin and Thomas, brothers Patsy, Eamon, Seamus, sisters Mary, Ellie and Pauline.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilís



Denis Philpott

Denis Philpott 1943-2008

Many people were shocked to hear of the death of Denis on 8 November. Only a few weeks earlier he was on the sideline in Nowlan Park, guiding Dicksboro in the county minor hurling final. While Denis had been ill for some time, characteristically, he had continued his deep involvement as a GAA coach, and mentor of young hurlers.

Born in the Lough, Cork, Denis attended Coláiste Críost Rí and was one of seven pupils of that school who brought Cork their first All Ireland minor football title in 1961.

He represented Cork in junior and senior football in 1963-64. But his greatest contribution in the sixties was his inspiration as manager, coach, and captain of UCC as they won two Sigerson Cups, two Fitzgibbon Cups and four Cork senior championships in a glorious phase for 'College'. His playing career ended prematurely due to injuries.

After a spell teaching in Gorey, Denis moved to St. Kieran's College as a teacher of geography and history in 1970. He re-introduced football to the school (despite opposition) and for the next seven years St. Kieran's became very serious Leinster senior A football contenders, reaching three semi-



Thomas Meehan

Thomas Meehan 1948 - 2008

The news of the sudden death of Thomas Meehan aged 59 a native of Cussane and London deeply saddened all who knew him. In recent years he returned to Butlerswood and had only travelled back to London. Thomas was a prominent hurler and with brothers Patsy, Eamon and Seamus were on the Windgap side that made the historic breakthrough from junior ranks in 1970 and later qualified for the senior quarter finals in 71, 73 and the semi in 74. In 1974 he emigrated to work in construction and joined the Brian Borus club. In defence he won four London Senior Hurling Championships in 1975, 79, 80 and 1982 qualifying for All Ireland Club Championship appearances against Ardrahan, Ballycastle, Blackrock and Moycarkey Borris. Having captained the Brian's he played

finals, a remarkable feat.

He joined Dicksboro when he came to Kilkenny and coached a multitude of teams over many years to county success. He was a selector when Kilkenny captured the 1991 All Ireland minor hurling title. He coached St. Kieran's College to All Ireland senior hurling titles in 1993 and 1996. Later he coached Young Irelands. At all times he was the wise head and the shrewd judge of hurling talent.

Denis was acknowledged widely as an extraordinary motivator, who loved a challenge, who taught his players never to back down. Generations of Kilkenny hurlers knew they were privileged to be coached by Denis because his tremendous enthusiasm and his pithy sayings generated a great sense of fun and positive spirit in every training session.

He knew and coached hurlers in most counties, he was a wonderful raconteur and entertainer, a much loved teacher, a proud republican and a devoted family man. To his wife Catherine, children Una, Joseph, Niamh, Emer and Kieran we offer our deepest sympathy.

Solas na bhflaitheis air.



Shane O'Neill

Shane O'Neill

The community of Danesfort and the GAA world in Kilkenny mourned the sad loss and death of one of its most promising young stars, Shane O'Neill, on 31st March 2008.

Shane had an immense passion for the game of hurling from his earliest days. As a primary school student he played in the Kilkenny City Class Leagues with Gaelscoil Osraí, who had the distinction of never losing a match from 2nd to 6th class. He continued his hurling prowess in St. Kieran's College where in 5th year he became a member of the senior panel and in 6th year played wing forward on the St. Kieran's team in the Leinster Final 2006.

Shane played club hurling with James Stephen's where he won an U-16 Roinn A Championship in 2002. In 2003 he returned to play with Danesfort and was a vital part of the Danesfort team that won the U-16 Roinn B hurling final thus having the unique distinction of winning a Roinn A and a Roinn B hurling title with two different clubs. This was followed by a Division 2 U-16 Football title in the same year. He won U-21 Roinn B Hurling and football Championships in 2005 and a

Junior Championship medal in 2006. Shane studied Civil Engineering at UCD and played at midfield in the 2007 All-Ireland Freshers Final against UCC. Shane's character was hallmarked by dedication and hard work and it pervaded into everything he did, be that work, study or sport. Both on and off the field you could always count on 'The Nailer', as he was affectionately known by his multitude of admiring friends. At Shane's funeral flocks of young people and friends from all over the country paid their respects to Shane at the family home he loved so well.

The greatest loss is to his loving family among whom he was such an important presence and inspiration, his mother Eileen, his father Jim, his sister Lisa and brothers Cathal and Michael.

An té a d'fhulaing páis ar do shon,
Go dtuga sé suaimheas síoraí do.



Jim O'Hara

Jim O'Hara

It was with deep regret that all at O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Club received news of the death of esteemed clubman Jim O'Hara of Leggetsrath, who passed away at lunchtime on Friday 30th May, 2008 at Waterford Regional Hospital following a brief illness.

The Chairman, Committee and Members of the Club extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to his wife Statia, his sons Aidan, Noel, Patrick, Vincent, Liam and their families, brothers Peter and John, sisters Teresa and Nora, and to all his extended family and friends.

Whilst all involved with the club mourned Jim's passing, they took time to remember and acknowledge a remarkable life dedicated to God, Family, Work, Friends and Club. Jim came originally from Tullaroan, but when he married Statia and came to live in Leggetsrath, in St. John's Parish, he became engrossed in the life of his now adopted club, O'Loughlin Gaels, which was then only in its infancy. Over the years, he helped shape its destiny and made an enormous contribution at all levels to its development and success. He was Chairman of the Youth Section for a number of years, served on the Club's Executive Committee, was Selector to many a team and was Club Vice Chairman in more recent times. Whatever the role, whatever the task, his enthusiasm, his time and energies were given wholeheartedly over and over again never counting the cost, making excuse or

seeking recognition. If something needed to be done, his motto was "Let's do it".

Each of us in the Club will cherish knowing him and will recall and share our own special memories. He will be remembered with fondness not only for his various contributions, but for his engaging personality which enabled him to light up any company and enjoy a special friendship with all. Jim was deadly serious about the games and the need for all to perform. His views before, during or after a game were never narrow, unclear or private. Whether you agreed or not wasn't the point, once you knew they were coming from the heart and with only the interests of the Club in mind, it didn't matter. Neither did it matter when they were challenged impishly over a pint or two in the Club by others more interested in the craic than the topic. Well aware of what was going on, Jim enjoyed, indeed revelled in giving as good as he was getting. A man of right spirit is not an easy man to disturb, disarm or subdue. We are all the better for that kind of company. Just as he did in O'Loughlin Gaels, he carried with him that same sense of application, service and integrity to his workplace and employment as a driver with Marble City Transport on the Sion Road. His truck was cared for as if it was his own, tasks were taken in his stride and not many who spent a lifetime driving on our roads as he did, can boast of never having had an accident or being checked for any traffic infringement.

Those close to him will be very aware of his absolute commitment to family and of his faith which helped sustain him in times of difficulty. The exceptionally large turnout at both the removal ceremony and funeral Mass was a fitting testimony to the high regard in which he was held by such a wide community. He will be sorely missed.

The Chairman, Committee and members of the Club extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to his wife Statia, his sons Aidan, Noel, Patrick, Vincent, Liam and their families, brothers Peter and John, sisters Teresa and Nora, and to all his extended family and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam Dilis.



Jimmy Bergin

Jimmy Bergin

Jimmy Bergin, long serving and loyal caretaker of Nowlan Park died in January of this year. A minutes silence was observed for him at the opening County Board meeting

of the new year at which newly-elected Chairman, Paul Kinsella paid tribute to the well-loved groundsman said "He was a part of Nowlan Park," suggested Paul, "He was there longer than any of us. He could be seen, but he was never heard." He said that everyone and every club in Kilkenny was delighted when Jimmy won the top prize of a car in the players' holiday fund raffle on county final day. "The GAA has lost a true friend," he added.

The following is taken from an article by Barry Hickey, published in the 2006 Kilkenny GAA Yearbook.

Jimmy was born in 1922 just outside Kilkenny City. He was the son of a farmer and he always had a great love of the land. He worked on the small farm with his father prior to taking up the position as 'grass cutter' in Nowlan Park in 1952.

In April of 1952 Jimmy was approached by the Secretary of the County Board, Paddy Grace and the famous Jim Langton and he was asked if he would help out with the cutting of the grass in Nowlan Park. Jimmy stated that it didn't take him very long to make up his mind as Paddy Grace and Jim Langton were heroes in Kilkenny that time and he felt honoured to be asked to get involved by them.

As the years rolled on Jimmy became more involved and it meant that he had to be in Nowlan Park up to seven days a week as the demands on the pitch became great. His work had him cutting grass, lining the pitch, putting up goal nets, putting out flags, and cleaning out dressing rooms and toilets. He also operated the scoreboard in the early days for the important games and he stated that this was a difficult task when the weather was wet and cold as the scoreboard was out in the open.

Jimmy has great memories from Nowlan Park of great games and meeting some of the top players in the Country. He spoke especially about former players like Eddie Keher, Christy Ring, Mick Mackey, Frank Cummins and Ollie Walsh. He stated that it always gave him great pleasure getting the pitch ready for players of this calibre. As against that, he stated that the excitement attached to an under 10 game in Nowlan Park is also something which stands out in his mind.

Jimmy Bergin has given his life to the GAA in Kilkenny. He is in his eighty third year this year and if you go along to Nowlan Park you will most likely meet with up with Jimmy as he drops in to see if the 'Park' is being well maintained. Both Timmy Grogan and Mick O'Neill now look after the 'upkeep' in Nowlan Park and they are always very aware that Jimmy still likes to keep 'an eye' on them. Jimmy states that he looks forward to going to Nowlan Park as much now as he did the first day he got the call from Paddy Grace and Jim Langton. Jimmy always speaks very highly of the officers of the County Board who held the positions of responsibility down through the years. He stated that they all deserve great credit for the great work that they do on a voluntary basis for the GAA. He also stated that things have changed for the better along the way and he is happy about that.

In March of 2006, Jimmy and his family, along with some officers of the County Board, attended a function in Croke Park when Sean Kelly the then President of the GAA presented Jimmy with his award. Jimmy was nominated for this

award by Kilkenny County Board and the honour bestowed on Jimmy was very well deserved. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



Con O'Shea

Con O'Shea

CON O'Shea of Vicar Street, Kilkenny and formerly Listry, Beaufort, Co Kerry, died on Sunday morning, hours before his beloved Kerry football team took on Monaghan in the All-Ireland qualifier. He was 88. You can be sure that he was cheering them on from heaven as they won by a goal. He was one of the best known people in the city and county, as a sand and gravel man. Con was deeply involved in Gaelic games, and established a city Gaelic football club, Clanna Gael, which won the senior championship and led in no small way to the formation of O'Loughlin GAA Club. Con was a former president of the Kerry Association in Kilkenny, and representatives from the Kerry Association along with members of the former Clanna Gael team formed a guard of honour at the removal of his remains on Tuesday. Paying tribute to Mr Shea, John Keane, president of the Kerry Association in Kilkenny, said "They broke the mould when they made Con O'Shea. We will certainly never again see anyone like him. He has given us a host of memories and we will never forget the joy he felt when his granddaughter, Orla O'Shea was crowned Rose of Tralee," his long-time friend recalled. "He had been also delighted that the Kerry Association was her sponsor. "Con came to Kilkenny in the mid-1940s and distinguished himself in the great flood of 1947 when his prowess as a boatman on the lakes of Killarney came to great use when many of the houses in the city centre were twelve feet under water. "Con was a legend- a Kerry man to his fingertips- but fell in love with Kilkenny and anyone that met him in Kilkenny fell in love with him," said Minister John McGuinness, whose father had also been a friend and admirer of the Kerrymen. "He was a character larger than life who had strong associations with business in Kilkenny, family in Kilkenny and the Kilkenny beer festival and he will be sadly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family," Minister McGuinness said. The words of Fr Jim Murphy at Con's removal, that Kerry people in Kilkenny had lost their King were absolutely true and reflected the loss felt by Kerry and Kilkenny people alike, added Cllr Seán Ó hArgáin. "Con was the essence of Kerry but loved his adopted city

also", his fellow-Kerry man said.

"Everywhere you met a Kerry person in Ireland and you said you lived in Kilkenny, the first question you were asked was 'Do you know Con?' "He had an infectious sense of humour and you never left his company without a smile on your face. He was immensely proud of his family and their achievements in business, sporting life and the arts in Kilkenny. It is with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to one of Kerry's greatest supporters and one of Kilkenny's greatest characters.

Ni bheidh a leithéid ann arís.

(from *Kilkenny People*, Friday August 8th)



Annie Frisby

Annie Frisby

On the 6th of May 2008 the parish of Mullinavat was in mourning as Annie Frisby was laid to rest in Mullinavat graveyard. Annie was the wife of Tommy Frisby, former chairman and a stalwart member of Mullinavat G.A.A.. Annie was a great supporter of everything Tommy did, not only in his G.A.A. activities but in his business career as well. A most unassuming and welcoming person, Annie did invaluable work for Mullinavat G.A.A. in her own quiet way. She was never one to seek the limelight, or want any praise, for the countless hours she willingly put into the various club fundraising activities she undertook. In addition to this, Annie looked after the club kit for many years and was always at hand to help out, no matter what the job was. Annie died at the all too young age of forty nine, from cancer, and the huge crowds who attended her funeral, bore testimony to the high regard in which she was held. A guard of honour comprising of members of the G.A.A. club and her fellow nurses from Waterford Regional hospital accompanied the hearse as it entered the village. At her funeral mass, Fr. Willie Dalton, and Fr. Liam Baron spoke of the endearing qualities of Annie. They spoke of her generosity, her kind and helping nature, and above all, her welcome to her home, regardless of what time of the day or night it was. To her devoted husband Tommy, her children Michelle, Shane, Tomás, David and Miriam, to her mother and brother, and to the entire Frisby family, we extend our sincere and heartfelt sympathy.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.

Kilkenny GAA Results 2008

SENIOR HURLING		Roinn "A" U21H C'ship Northern Final	Clara v Dicksboro
County SH Championship Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-11 James Stephen's 0-12	Roinn "A" U21H C'ship Southern Final	Rower Inistioge 3-16 Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-7
SH League Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 5-19 James Stephen's 0-13	Roinn "B" U21H C'ship Northern Final	St. Patricks 3-7 Lisdowney 1-8
SH Shield Final	Carrickshock 2-17 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-13,	Roinn "B" U21H C'ship Southern Final	Carrickshock 2-6 Mullinavat 1-8
Byrne Cup Final	Dicksboro 5-19 G/Ballycallan 1-12	MINOR HURLING	
SH Relegation Final	Young Irelands 2-11 Dicksboro 1-11	Roinn "A" MH Championship Final	Erins Own 1-11 Dicksboro 0-11
INTERMEDIATE HURLING		Roinn "B" MH Championship Final	Rower Inistioge 2-8 Young Irelands 0-8
County IH Championship Final	Erin's Own 2-10 Danesfort 1-10	Roinn "C" MH Championship Final	Tullaroan 2-8 Ógra Graig/B & W's 1-9
IH League Final	Erin's Own 1-14 Rower Inistioge 2-9,	Roinn "A" MH League Final	Mooncoin 2-7 Dicksboro 0-10
IH Shield Final	Emeralds 3-16 Conahy Shamrocks 0-14,	Roinn "B" MH League Final	John Lockes 4-10 Young Irelands 2-10
Aylward Cup Final	Mooncoin 2-10, Ballyhale Shamrocks 0-15	Roinn "C" MH League Final	Tullaroan 2-11 Ógra Graig/B & W's 1-12
IH Relegation Final	Glenmore 2-10 John Lockes 1-12	UNDER 16 HURLING	
JUNIOR HURLING		Roinn "A" U16H Championship Final	Dicksboro 1-9 John Lockes 0-9
County JH Championship Final	Tullogher Tosbercon 2-10 Lisdowney 0-8	Roinn "B" U16H Championship Final	Erin's Own 1-12 St Lachtain's 2-8
Northern JH Championship Final	Lisdowney 0-17 Bennettsbridge 0-6	Roinn "C" U16H Championship Final	Young Irelands 1-10 Cloneen 1-6
Southern JH Championship Final	Tullogher Rosbercon 1-11 Piltown 0-8	Roinn "A" U16H League Final	John Lockes 2-8 Dicksboro 0-7
All County JH League	Galmoy 2-17, Blacks and Whites 1-13	Roinn "B" U16H League Final	Bennettsbridge 2-16 R/Inistioge 3-12
County JH League Final	Dicksboro 2-11 Piltown 1-14 Dicksboro 2-12 Piltown 0-15	Roinn "C" U16H League Final	Tullaroan 3-10 Lisdowney 1-10
County JH A Final	Clara 2-11 Mullinavat 1-12	UNDER 14 HURLING	
County JH B Final	Piltown 1-14 G/Ballycallan 1-1	Roinn "A" U14H Championship Final	James Stephens 2-11 Dicksboro 0-5
County JH A League Final	B Shamrocks 1-10 Tullaroan 1-7	Roinn "B" U14H Championship Final	Emeralds 0-14 G/Ballycallan 2-7
County JH B League Final	St. Martin's 1-10 Thomastown 1-9	Roinn "C" U14H Championship Final	B Shamrocks 3-10 Tullaroan 2-8
Northern JH League Final	Dicksboro 2-18 St. Patrick's 1-20	Roinn "D" U14H Championship Final	Graignamanagh 5-13 Fenian's 2-10
Southern JH League Final	Piltown (Walk Over) Tullogher Rosbercon Scr.	Paddy Grace Féile na nGael Final	James Stephens 2-5 Emeralds 0-4
Northern Junior A Hurling Championship	Clara 2-12 St. Lachtain's 2-10	Roinn "A" U14H League Final	James Stephens w.o. Dicksboro scr.
Southern Junior A Hurling Championship	Mullinavat 1-18 Rower Inistioge 1-10	Roinn "B" U14H League Final	Emeralds 2-9 Erin's Own 0-3
Northern Junior A Hurling League	Tullaroan 4-19 Clara 4-10	Roinn "C" U14H League Final	Bennettsbridge 4-9 James Stephens B 1-5
Southern Junior A Hurling League	Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-14 Carrickshock 2-9	Roinn "D" U14H League Final	Graignamanagh 5-13 Fenian's 2-9
Northern Junior B Hurling Championship	Graigue Ballycallan 3-14 Galmoy 0-7	PRIMARY SCHOOLS HURLING	
Southern Junior B Hurling Championship	Piltown 0-12 John Lockes 1-7	Roinn "A" U13H Championship Final	St Canice's 4-4 Gaelscoil 0-2
Northern Junior B Hurling League	St. Martin's 1-15 Lisdowney 1-9	Roinn "B" U13H Championship Final	St John's 1-7 Castlecomer 2-3
Southern Junior B Hurling League	Thomastown 2-16 John Lockes 2-14	Roinn "C" U13H Championship Final	Danesfort 6-5 T/Rosbercon 1-2
UNDER 21 HURLING		Roinn "D" U13H Championship Final	Dunamaggin 3-5 Conahy 2-1
Roinn "A" U21H Championship Final		Corn de Bhaldraithe	Clara 3-5 Callan 2-2.
Roinn "B" U21H Championship Final	St. Patricks 0-13 Carrickshock 2-6	SENIOR FOOTBALL	
Roinn "C" U21H Championship Final	Graignamanagh 1-9 Bennettsbridge 0-10	County SF Championship Final	James Stephens 1-9 Erin's Own 1-8

SF League Final	Railyard 0-11 Mullinavat 1-6	Senior Relegation Final	Emeralds w/o Tulloher scr
SF Relegation Final	Dicksboro 3-16 Kilmoganny 2-1	INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE	
INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL		Intermediate Championship Final	Windgap 2-11 Lisdowney 1-7
County IF Championship Final	Mooncoin 4-9 Thomastown 2-5	Intermediate League Final	Windgap 4-10 St. Anne's 2-5
County IF League Final	Conahy Shamrocks 1-10 Danesfort 0-5	Intermediate All County Final	Clara 4-10 Rower Inistioge 4-4
JUNIOR FOOTBALL		Intermediate Relegation Final	Clara 7-11 Danesfort 0-0
County JF Championship Final	B Shamrocks 3-12 T/Rosbercon 0-4,	JUNIOR CAMOGIE	
U21 FOOTBALL		Junior Championship Final	Piltown 1-8 Dicksboro 1-8 Piltown 1-8 Dicksboro 1-5
County U21F Championship Final (2007)	Muckalee 2-12 Railyard 1-7	Junior League Final	Dicksboro 2-14 Glenmore 0-8
MINOR FOOTBALL		Junior All County Final	Dicksboro 5-3 Young Irelands 1-5
Roynn "A" MF Championship Final (2007)	Thomastown 4-0 Erin's Own 0-4	MINOR CAMOGIE	
Roynn "B" MF Championship Final (2007)	Emeralds v Railyard <i>To be played</i>	Minor "A" Final	<i>To Be Played</i>
Roynn "C" MF Championship Final (2007)	Carrickshock 1-8 Barrow Rangers 1-9	Minor "B" Final	<i>To Be Played</i>
U16 FOOTBALL		Minor "C" Final	<i>To Be Played</i>
Roynn "A" U16F League/Championship Final	John Lockes 0-9 Thomastown 0-6	Minor "D" Final	<i>To Be Played</i>
Roynn "B" U16F League/Championship Final	Glenmore 5-6 Mooncoin 2-5	UNDER 16 CAMOGIE	
Roynn "C" U16F League/Championship Final	Emeralds v Railyard <i>To be played</i>	U16 "A" Final	Windgap 4-9 Thomastown 2-5
Roynn "D" U16F League/Championship Final	Graigue Ballycallan 0-6 Conahy Shamrocks 1-1	U16 "B" Final	Young Irelands 2-6 St. Lachtain's 1-2
U14 FOOTBALL		U16 "C" Final	Rower Inistioge 8-3 Clara 4-5
Roynn "A" U14F Championship Final	James Stephens 7-7 Emeralds 0-4	U16 "D" Final	Danesfort 3-7 St. Anne's 3-1
Roynn "B" U14F Championship Final	Piltown 4-7 Rower Inistioge 0-3	UNDER 14 CAMOGIE	
Roynn "C" U14F Championship Final	Graignamanagh 2-5 Railyard 1-4	U14 "A" Final	St. Lachtain's bt. Windgap
Roynn "D" U14F Championship Final	Tulloher Rosbercon 3-7 Kilmoganny 2-4	U14 "B" Final	Dicksboro 7-9 Mullinavat 1-4
Roynn "A" U14F League Final	James Stephens 7-13 Dicksboro 0-1	U14 "C" Final	Ballyragget 3-8 Young Irelands 4-3
Roynn "B" U14F League Final	Graigue Ballycallan 0-6 Erin's Own 0-3	U14 "D" Final	Paulstown 2-2 Anne's 2-1
Roynn "C" U14F League Final	Railyard 2-8 Graignamanagh 1-9	U14 "A" Shield Final	Clara 2-2 Thomastown 1-3
Roynn "D" U14F League Final	Tulloher Rosbercon 2-7 Kilmoganny 1-2	U14 "B" Shield Final	St. Martins 4-3 Rower Inistioge 2-3
PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOOTBALL		U14 "C" Shield Final	Carrickshock 3-3 O'Loughlin Gaels 3-2
Roynn "A" U13F Championship Final	St. Canices 2-12 Scoil McCauley Rice 3-3	U14 "D" Shield Final	Castlecomer 10-4 Slieverue 0-0
Roynn "B" U13F Championship Final	Ballyhale 3-3 Goresbridge Paulstown 1-3	PRIMARY SCHOOLS CAMOGIE	
Roynn "C" U13F Championship Final	Tullaroan 3-12 Lisdowney 3-4	Roynn "A" Final	Clara 1-4 Thomastown 1-1
Corn na Tuaithe	R/Inistioge 3-3 Thomastown 0-7	Roynn "B" Final	Coon/Muckalee 5-1 Urlingford 0-1
SENIOR CAMOGIE		Roynn "C" Final	Dunamaggin 4-0 Rower/Inistioge 0-0
Senior Championship Final	St Lachtain's 4-10 St Martin's 0-1	Roynn "D" Final	Johnstown 2-0 Callan 0-2
Senior League Final	St. Lachtain's v Mullinavat <i>To Be Played</i>		
Senior All County Final	St. Lachtain's v Thomastown <i>To Be Played</i>		

Kilkenny's Grand Slam Teams 2008

Designed for Cumann na mBunscoileanna and sponsored by Kilkenny Supporters' Club [C](#) (Photos by Eoin Hennessy)



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 2008

Back: Eoin Reid, James Ryall, John Tennyson, Donncha Cody, Canice Hickey, PJ Delaney, Sean Cummins, Michael Fennelly.
Third Row: Richie Hogan, JJ Delaney, Eddie Brennan, John Dalton, Eoin McGrath, Michael Rice, Richie Power, Willie O'Dwyer, Tommy Walsh.
Second Row: TJ Reid, Derek Lyng, Jackie Tyrrell, David Herity, PJ Ryan, James McGarry, Martin Comerford, Henry Shefflin, Aidan Fogarty.
Front: Richie Mullally, Michael Kavanagh, Brian Hogan, Cha Fitzpatrick (Captain), Darragh McGarry, Eoin Larkin, Noel Hickey, Damien Fogarty.



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND U21 CHAMPIONS 2008

Back Row: Joe Maher, Niall Walsh, Eoin Cody, Richie Dollard, Kevin Reid, TJ Reid, John Joe Farrell, Martin Walsh, David Lyng, Kieran Mooney.
Third Row: Robbie Walsh, Brian Healy, Michael Grace, David Langton, PJ Rowe, Paul Murphy, Michael Murphy, Lester Ryan, Kieran Grehan, Eoin O'Shea.
Second Row: James Nolan, Paddy Nolan, Keith Hogan, Calin McGrath, Neil Prendergast, James Norris, Kieran Joyce, Paddy Hogan, Mark Kelly, Pat McCormack, Michael Walsh, Pat Walsh.
Front Row: Mark Bergin, John Mullah, Colin Fennelly, Matthew Ruth, James Dowling (Capt), Nicky Cleere, Richie Hogan, Liam Ryan, Niall Tennyson.



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND MH CHAMPIONS 2008

Back: Canice Maher, Michael Walsh, James Cassin, Aidan Moran, Danny Purcell, Tom Ryan.
3rd Row: Paddy Dowling, Rory Hickey, Cathal Kenny, Danny Kenny, David Glynn, Cormac Daly, David Healy, Sean Phelan.
2nd Row: Enda Malone, Mark O'Dwyer, Mark Fitzgerald, Gary Delaney, Walter Walsh, Eoin Murphy, Nigel Stanley, Joe Brennan, Liam Lacey.
Front: Michael Moloney, Conor Fogarty, Martin Gaffney, Richie Doyle, Thomas Breen, Alan Cuddihy, James Gannon, Peter McCarthy, Geoff Brennan.



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND IH CHAMPIONS 2008

Back: Mark Phelan, Niall Walsh, Sean Cummins, Kieran Joyce, Michael Bergin, David Prendergast.
3rd Row: Anthony O'Hara, James Cahill, Shane Prendergast, Eoin Henebery, Damian Fogarty, Niall Doherty, Patrick Hogan.
2nd Row: Peter Cleere, Niall Kennedy, Derick Brennan, Bill Beckett, Liam Tierney, Eddie Brennan, Alan Healy, Pat Hartley.
Front: Noel Doherty, Philly Lonergan, James Nolan, Conor Phelan, Michael Grace, Cathal Dunne, Paul Buggy.