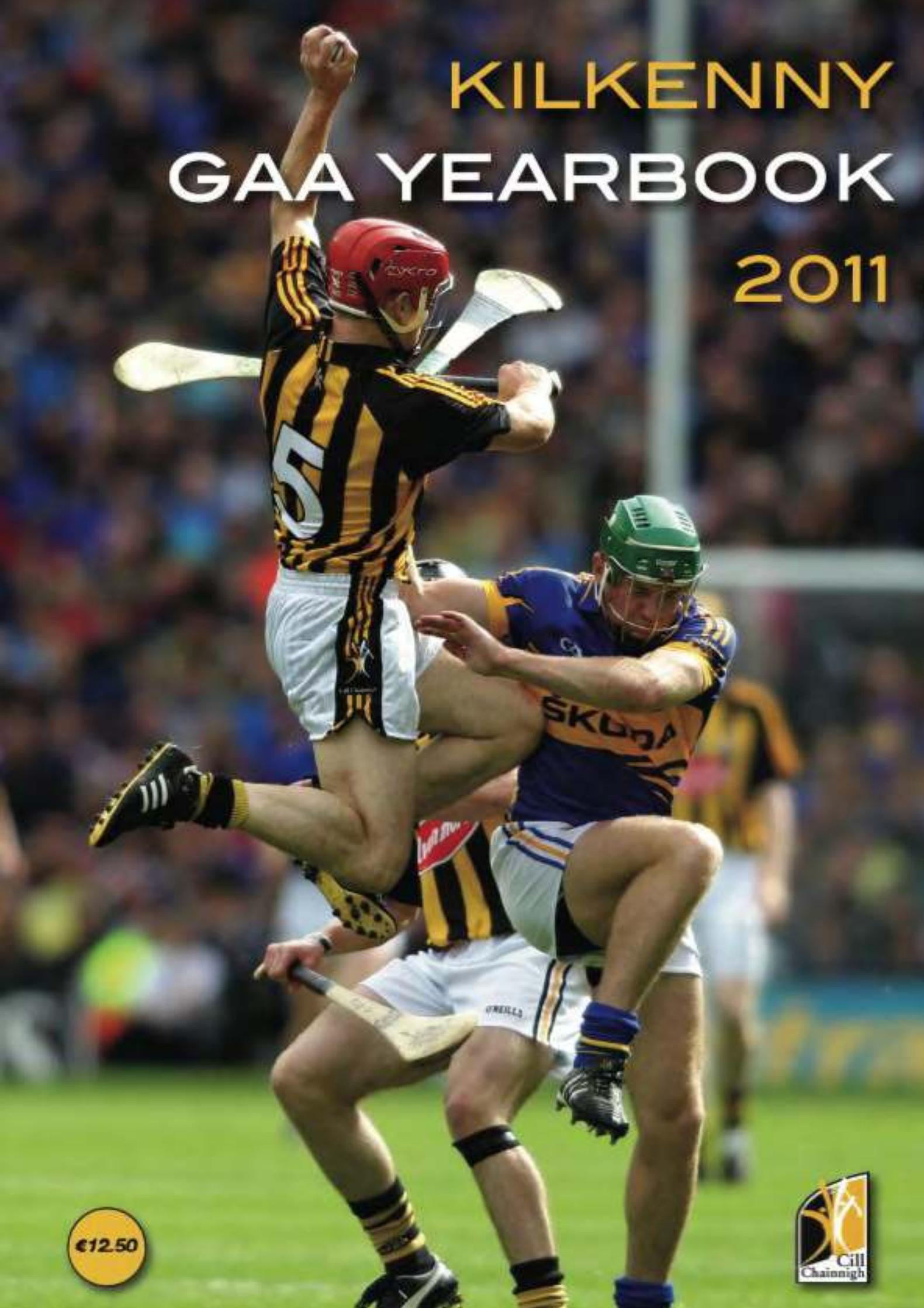


KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2011



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KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2011

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Foreword

A Chairde,

Tá an t-am buailte linn arís chun cur síos ar eachtrai Cumann Lüthchleas Gael anseo cois Fheoire agus tagairt faoi leith a lua ar na gclubanna agus ar na daoine a léirigh go soiléir díúinn chomh tréan is atá ár gcluichi anseo I gCill Chainnigh. Táimid fiorbhuioch do gach éinne a chabhraigh linn chun irisleabhar fiuntach, suimiúil, a chur le cheile. Guim rath agus séan ar ár n-imreoirí agus ár lucht tachaiochta uilig. Go mba fada buan sibh!

2011 will go down as another memorable year in the history of Cumann Lüthchleas Gael here in Kilkenny. Victory in the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final for the fifth year out of six was the obvious highlight, particularly as it was at the expense of great rivals Tipperary. I'd like to compliment the team and team management 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. While we're all aware of their exploits on the playing field I'd also like to compliment them for the way they have represented County, Club and family off the field – surely great example to our youth.

I'd like to thank the players, team managers, selectors and all involved in the 'backroom' teams for their work and achievements in 2011.

I'd also like to pay tribute to our Intermediate hurling team who reached the All Ireland Final only to lose to Clare in a closely contested game, despite being deprived of the services of a few notable players. Thanks also to manager Pat Hoban for his work with this team over the last few years.

At schools level, pride of place must go to St. Kieran's College on winning the Senior Colleges title – well done to all concerned. I'd like to acknowledge the immense contribution of both our Primary and Secondary schools to the Kilkenny success story. This work is also replicated by the people who work so diligently at juvenile level within our clubs. We are so lucky to have so many making so great a contribution.

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 St. Patrick's, Ballyragget every success in the All Ireland Junior Hurling Championship.

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 Wexford in the L.J.F.C. in Nowlan Park was a great boost for the game. Our club football fixtures were completed on schedule with some equally exciting games, belying the low status of Kilkenny football.

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 staging of the All Ireland Juvenile Finals. Congratulations to all who achieved success and well done to the dedicated people who coach and administer the game in Kilkenny. Camogie also enjoyed success in 2011. Congratulations to all who continue to work at developing the game and I'm sure that we can look forward to Senior All Ireland victory in the near future. Thanks and best wishes to Ann Downey - her contribution as player and manager has been immense.

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 Glanbia Plc is vital in helping us to maintain the success we've enjoyed over recent years, while St. Canice's Credit Union, J.J. Kavanagh & Sons, Iverk Produce, Mí Lyng Motors, The Citroen 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.

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 2012 with further hope and anticipation.

Slán agus Beannacht.

Pol Cinsealach

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Editorial



KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 2011

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FRONT COVER:

Tommy Walsh (Kilkenny) soars over Noel McGrath (Tipperary) in the All Ireland SH Final
John McIlwaine

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Michael Fennelly
Paul Mohan/SPORTSFILE

I mentioned in last year's Editorial that I had met a former great outside Croke Park after the Final against Tipperary, and even though, like us all, he was disappointed, he philosophically remarked, "sure there's always next year".

How right he was, and how quickly the seeds of time germinated. And what a Final win!

You know, Kilkenny supporters are still bristling with the theatre of the first Sunday in September. Not in a magniloquent or boastful way, more a serene, smiling way. It could have been tinged with relief, even with delight, a delight that some pre-match doubts had been put to bed.

Whilst our senior team brought us on a grand journey, sometimes stuttering a little, other Inter-County teams did not exactly burn the bushes. Our Intermediate team deserve great credit as they went to the All Ireland Final with a completely new team, having won the title in 2010. Our Minor and under-21 teams came a cropper early in their races. That was disappointing.

But there was a little tinge of silver under the greying clouds. St Kierans again were kings of the Colleges scene, winning every competition they entered, including a second successive Blue Ribband title after a nail-biting contest in Semple Stadium against Ardscoil Ris. A last minute goal by "Tucker" O'Hanrahan gave them a two-point win.

Speaking about Colleges, Loreto College blazed a marvellous trail through all opposition to register another senior All Ireland camogie Final to make it a two-in-a-row. They also won the junior All Ireland Title for the third time in a row, and for good measure, they stitched yet another All Ireland seven-a-side Title to all of the above. That sevens victory was a five timer!

Our three County Champions won Provincial titles, but couldn't get their hands on the All Ireland Cup. O'Loughlin Gaels failed against Galway Champions, Clarenbridge. Dicksboro were agonisingly caught with a sucker goal in added time by Ballymartle (Cork), while John Lockes from Callan town were well outclassed by Meelin (Cork) in their All Ireland Final.

Our local Championships provided plenty of excitement, drama, joy and abject disappointment.

The senior Championship went to a replay with James Stephens coming out on top having survived a heart-stopping draw on one of the most abysmal Sundays ever seen in Nowlan Park.

On the same day, famed Bennettsbridge of the 60's were honoured. That was a great day, as their very youthful minor hurlers fought a tremendous draw with Thomastown, again in dreadful conditions. The "Bridge were to win the replay in extra time in an equally thrilling game.

One member of the Bennettsbridge team who was not able to keep the appointment was the great Mickie Kelly, that wonderful All Ireland winning captain of 1957. Mickie passed to his eternal reward four days later after a short illness.

Kilkenny were sad to bid a fond farewell to the illustrious Martin White who passed away at his home in Glasnevin after a long, very healthy life of 102 years.

We remember them, and all the rest of the great Gaels who have passed into a better place, and we have paid our respects with obituaries at the rear of our publication.

The pages of this Yearbook are bulging with great stories, photographs, statistics, and folklore. It could not have been produced without the enormous teamwork of people like Pat Henderson (Chairman), Gerry O'Neill (Origination) Tommy Lanigan (Clubs), Conor Denieffe (County Board PRO), Conor Brennan, Jimmy Walsh, and Ned Buggy.

I acknowledge sincerely the courtesy and co-operation of all of our photographers whose work are a magnificent enhancement to the Yearbook. I wish to say go raibh mile maith agaibh to Ray McManus and his Sportsfile Staff, Eoin Hennessy (Kilkenny), John McIlwaine (Ballymena), Charlie Maher and our own Jimmy Walsh.

Thanks to our County Chairman, Paul Kinsella, and our very helpful County Secretary, Ned Quinn.

Finally I exhort you all to support our advertisers whenever possible, without whose support we might not have been able to complete this, our 22nd Edition.

May you all enjoy our efforts. May you all enjoy the Festive Season, and may you all enjoy continued good health until we meet again.
Slán go foill.

Barrie Henriques

(Editor)



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David Buggy, KIA Motors, with the help of his senior salesman Conor Buggy, presents the keys of a KIA Cee'd to Kilkenny Senior Hurler, J.J. Delaney.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

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A Year of Perfection

-started very early.

Barrie Henriques reviews

Kilkenny's Senior Hurling Year.

There was something surreal about the entire approach to the 2011 campaign that we hadn't seen before. The battered and bruised warriors of 2010 had elected to get their holiday out of the way early. They took their usual ten-day stint in Orlando, but were back home in time to buy the Christmas pressies, do the festive festivities, and were then ready to get into training as soon as the four-minutes a day extra daylight became apparent. It would not be politically correct to say that they were on a revenge mission, more a mission to restore the natural order of things. Sure, they were hurting, and their reputations were dented somewhat, but their resolve was still intact.

O'Loughlin Gaels (Senior), Dicksboro (Intermediate) and John Lockes (Junior) had won their Provincial crowns, and had set out on the road to wherever it would take, with the Boro travelling to London for their Intermediate quarter-final game against Kilburn Gaels in mid January. Kilkenny faced NUIG in the Walsh Cup in Ballyraggett, Saturday January 22.

They won, but what a strange Kilkenny team togged out as they won 3-16 to 2-12!

The Kilkenny scorers were; Rory Hickey (1-7), Padraig Walsh (2-0), Cathal Kenny (0-3), Joe Brennan (0-2), Richie Doyle, Joe Lyng, Canice Maher, Paul Guinan (0-1 each)

The following Sunday in Rathdowney Kilkenny played Laois in the semi-final.

This was Brendan Fennelly's first game against his native County as the new Laois Manager. His two nephews, Michael and Colin were in black and amber jerseys.

New kids on the Kilkenny block, Paul Murphy, Colin Fennelly, Colin Herity, Matthew Ruth, Conor Fogarty, availed of the opportunity to impress. One wondered how many would still be in situ later in the season.

Richie Hogan bagged 2-6; Aidan Fogarty grabbed 1-2, Paddy Hogan, and Colin Fennelly (0-2 each), Michael Fennelly, John Mulhall, Eoin Larkin, and Matthew Ruth scored a point apiece.

Allianz National League.

**Tipperary V Kilkenny Thurles, Sat Feb 12th
Kilkenny 1-17 Tipperary 1-12**

Remember the corresponding fixture the previous year? Remember the on/off/on saga? Remember the snow?

Talk was of revenge, of making up for the All Ireland defeat, of showing Tipp who the top dogs were in hurling. Brian Cody played it down with the offering that there is no All Ireland won in February, and anyway, nobody, least of which himself and his players were talking All Irelands. Some astute redeployment of the forces on the pitch just before the break worked wonders for Kilkenny. Michael Fennelly-moved to midfield from centre forward-reigned supreme. His partnership with Michael Rice was very powerful. At half time Kilkenny led by 0-13 to 1-7. A tremendous solo goal by Colin Fennelly within two minutes of the restart sealed Tipp's fate. They were never to recover.

Conditions were dreadful with driving rain, and high wind, but still Kilkenny made light of all of that.

Kilkenny: David Herity, John Dalton, JJ. Delaney, Paul Murphy, Tommy Walsh (0-1), Jackie Tyrrell, PJ.Delaney, John Mulhall (0-2), Michael Rice, Richie Hogan (0-10, eight frees), Michael Fennelly (0-1), Aidan Fogarty (0-2), Colin Fennelly (1-0), Eddie Brennan (0-1, TJ.Reid.

With a tongue in cheek remark afterwards, Brian Cody answered, "It was too cold and wet" when asked why he didn't bring on subs.



**Paddy Hogan in action in the League Final
John McIlwaine**

**Kilkenny V Cork Nowlan Park, Sun Feb 20th
Kilkenny 0-14 Cork 1-10.**

In front of 5750 patrons Kilkenny breathed a big sigh of relief, as a last second converted free by Richie Hogan gave them a victory that some might argue, they scarcely deserved. From cruising 0-10 to 0-2 at the break, they were hanging on for dear life at the finish. Their cause was not helped with the dismissal of their sterling defender, JJ.Delaney in the 62nd. minute for a second bookable offence. As against Tipp, young Hogan was the star man, grabbing ten points, but the Kilkenny defenders, JJ.Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, PJ.Delaney and Tommy Walsh were also very important in defending their goal area. Michael Fennelly grew into the game at midfield, and his power was a huge problem for the Corkonians.

Kilkenny: David Herity, Conor Fogarty, JJ.Delaney, Michael Kavanagh, Tommy Walsh, Jackie Tyrrell, PJ.Delaney, Pat Hartley, Michael Fennelly (0-1), John Mulhall (0-1), Michael Rice (0-1), Aidan Fogarty, Colin Fennelly, Eddie Brennan (0-1), Richie Hogan (0-10, four frees, one '65). Subs used: TJ.Reid, Paddy Hogan, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick.

It was a great weekend for Kilkenny as County Champions, O'Loughlin Gaels beat Loughgael Shamrocks by 3-10 to 0-10 to qualify for the All Ireland Club Final on Patrick's Day in Croke Park

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Walsh Cup Final V Dublin Parnell Park, Feb 27th
Dublin 2-17 Kilkenny 2-13

Games were coming fast and thick now. The Walsh Cup Final was accommodated between rounds of the Allianz National League. Dublin were posting notice that they were a team to be reckoned with. They took their chance against Kilkenny in Parnell Park, and won. "Are Kilkenny slipping?", Are Dublin becoming Kilkenny's main Leinster rivals?", mused the pundits.

This was a very un-Kilkenny like performance, particularly in the first half which saw Dublin lead by 1-11 to Kilkenny's 0-2 at the break. Kilkenny managed a single point from play in the half. At one stage in the second half, Dublin led by some 15 points, but a few marquee substitutions by Brian Cody improved matters considerably, but not sufficiently to deny Dublin their second Walsh Cup.

Kilkenny: Colin McGrath, John Dalton, Noel Hickey, Michael Kavanagh, Paul Murphy, Jackie Tyrrell, Conor Fogarty, Michael Rice (0-1), James "Cha" Fitzpatrick (0-1), John Mulhall (0-1), Patrick Hogan, Niall Walsh (0-1), Matthew Ruth, TJ.Reid (1-6, 1-3 frees, one '65), Eoin Guinan (0-1).

Subs (used): Michael Fennelly (1-0), Eddie Brennan, Aidan Fogarty (0-2).

Kilkenny V Wexford Nowlan Park Sun Mar 6th
Kilkenny 2-16 Wexford 0-17

Colm Bonner was looking forward to this game as a barometer on the progress of his squad, given that they had won promotion from Division 2. His side showed commendable effort, and in truth the five-point differential was no more than they deserved. They were lively, and full of enthusiasm for the work in hand. Kilkenny showed better form than in the previous outing against Cork. Eoin Larkin made a welcome return, and was impressive. James "Cha" Fitzpatrick came in at corner forward, and he looked good. PJ Ryan was back in goal, and Noel Hickey was also back. But the big hitters for Kilkenny were Michael Fennelly, Jackie Tyrrell, Paul Murphy (again), John Dalton and Colin Fennelly (again). Kilkenny led at the break 2-9 to Wexford's 0-6.

Kilkenny: PJ.Ryan, PJ.Delaney, Noel Hickey, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, John Dalton, Paul Murphy, Michael Rice, Michael Fennelly, Colin Fennelly (1-3), TJ.Reid (1-3, two pointed frees), Eoin Larkin, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick (0-2), Eddie Brennan (0-2), Richie Hogan (0-6, five frees).

Subs used: Pat Hartley, Eoin Guinan.

Galway V Kilkenny Pearse Stadium Sun Mar 20th
Galway 4-14 Kilkenny 3-13

The St Patrick's weekend didn't start too well for Kilkenny hurling. Clarenbridge, the Galway Champions took out O'Loughlin Gaels in the All Ireland Club Final, and worse was to follow over in Salthill when Galway opened up the League again with a very convincing win over the Noresiders.

It looked an odds-on win for Kilkenny when they blistered the home side with an opening salvo of five scores (2-3). By half time Galway were well back in the game. By the 52nd minute, they had effectively turned a nine-point deficit into a nine-point lead. Kilkenny had a very good closing ten minutes, but they could never quite regain the lost ground.

Kilkenny: Colin McGrath, Conor Fogarty, John Dalton, Paul Murphy, Tommy Walsh, Jackie Tyrrell, JJ.Delaney, Michael Fennelly (1-2), PJ.Delaney, Colin Fennelly (1-0), Eoin Larkin (0-2), TJ.Reid (0-2), Eoin Guinan, Eddie Brennan (1-0), Richie Hogan (0-6, three frees, one '65). Subs used: James "Cha" Fitzpatrick (0-1), John Mulhall.

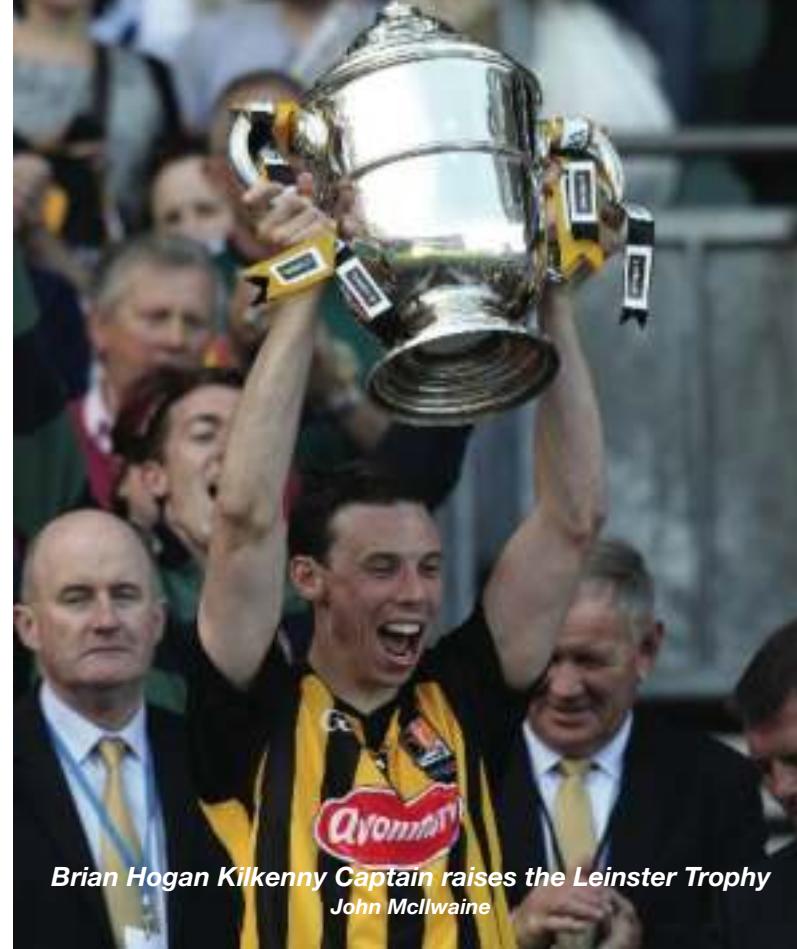
Kilkenny V Waterford Nowlan Park Sun Mar 27th
Kilkenny 2-16 Waterford 1-13.

Little did we know at the time that this pairing would contest one of the All Ireland semi-finals later in the Championship. Brian Hogan, the skipper was back, and made a very definitive statement. Noel Hickey was at number 3, but still no sign of Richie Hogan. Kilkenny lost Tommy Walsh and JJ.Delaney during the game with injury. They were in front at half time by 0-10 to 0-6.

They were not too impressive.

The second half was a big improvement.

The Kilkenny spirit got them over the line in front. It was not the last time



Brian Hogan Kilkenny Captain raises the Leinster Trophy
John McIlwaine

that such spirit was in evidence.

Kilkenny were forced to line out without Michael Fennelly and James "Cha" Fitzpatrick.

Kilkenny: Colin Herity, Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey, John Dalton, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, JJ.Delaney, Eoin Larkin (0-1), Pat Hartley, Aidan Fogarty (0-3), TJ.Reid (1-2), John Mulhall, Eddie Brennan (0-1), Richie Hogan (0-7, five frees, one '65), Colin Fennelly (1-2).

Subs (used): PJ.Delaney, Matthew Ruth, Paul Murphy, Conor Fogarty.

Dublin V Kilkenny Croke Park Sat Apr 2nd
Kilkenny 3-11 Dublin 1-17.

Both sides were short of established stars. Kilkenny needed a draw at least to qualify for the Final, given that they would be odds-on to beat Offaly two weeks alter on home turf. They got their draw, but it was by no means a shoe-in for the cats. Dublin, a far different Dublin than heretofore, brought a brave, composed, hardened game to Croke Park, and in truth it took every ounce of Kilkenny resolve to get the point. It took the visitors until the 57th minute to pass the Dubs for the first time. Kilkenny were in front by three points with added time to be played. They were delighted to get out with the draw.

Matthew Ruth grabbed a couple of great goals. Eddie Brennan was back to his brilliant self, clattering home a terrific goal when Kilkenny badly needed one. Noel Hickey was getting better, as was Eoin Larkin. Good news for Kilkenny supporters.

Kilkenny: David Herity, Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey, John Dalton, Paddy Hogan, Brian Hogan, Conor Fogarty, Paul Murphy, Eoin Larkin, Richie Hogan (0-5, three frees), Michael Fennelly (0-2), Colin Fennelly, Matthew Ruth (2-1), Eddie Brennan (1-2), Aidan Fogarty (0-1).

Subs used: TJ.Reid, John Mulhall, PJ.Delaney.

Kilkenny V Offaly Nowlan Park Sun Apr 17th
Kilkenny 1-27 Offaly 1-19

An early goal by Eddie Brennan set Kilkenny on the road to a victory that would give them a place at the League Final table. It was a win however that proved rather costly as Michael Fennelly was added to the worrying injury list, and Aidan Fogarty was a far more serious injury worry as he was taken by ambulance to hospital after the game with an ankle injury. John Dalton too failed to see out the full seventy minutes due to yet another ankle injury.

Kilkenny led comfortably by 1-15 to 0-10. Both sides quarrelled twelve points in an interesting second half that never seemed likely to end in anything but a Kilkenny victory.

Kilkenny: PJ.Ryan, Paul Murphy, Brian Hogan, Jackie Tyrrell, Paddy Hogan (0-2), John Dalton, Richie Doyle, TJ.Reid (0-9, four frees, one '65), Michael Fennelly (0-1), James "Cha" Fitzpatrick (0-3), Michael Rice (0-3), Eoin Larkin (0-1), Matthew Ruth (0-2), Eddie Brennan (1-3), Richie Hogan (0-3).
 Subs used: PJ.Delaney, Aidan Fogarty, John Mulhall, Conor Fogarty.

Injuries to Tommy Walsh, Richie Power, Michael Fennelly in addition to the above mentioned Aidan Fogarty saw a depleted Kilkenny go down badly to Dublin in the decider.

**National League Final.
 Dublin V Kilkenny Croke Park May 1st
 Dublin 0-22 Kilkenny 1-7.**

Before an attendance of 42,050, Kilkenny fans saw their side go down tamely to a rampant Dublin. In the words of Diarmuid O'Flynn (*Cork Examiner*)

"It wasn't pretty, it wasn't very competitive — in fact, truth be told, this was an ugly beast of an Allianz Hurling League Division 1 final in Croke Park yesterday, a one-sided affair that never got off the ground."

Oh, this is a new Dublin, and though this was as poor a Kilkenny team as has taken the field in the Cody era, a team decimated by injury (they lost JJ Delaney yesterday to go with nearly a dozen others already out — they also lost Eoin Larkin, in the 26th minute, to a straight red card for retaliation after he had been fouled and John Dalton might now also be in trouble, for an incident at the half-time whistle), let no-one or nothing take from the win — Dublin are up there with Tipperary as the team to be taken in this year's championship."

Kilkenny Scorers: P Hogan 0-1 (0-1f), TJ Reid 0-5 (0-5f), M Rice 0-1, E Brennan 1-0.

Kilkenny: D Herity; J Dalton, B Hogan, N Hickey; P Hogan, J Tyrrell, JJ Delaney; TJ Reid, M Rice; J Fitzpatrick, M Ruth, E Larkin; C Fennelly, E Brennan, R Hogan. Subs: M Kavanagh for JJ Delaney '57, J Mulhall for C Fennelly '58, P Murphy for M Ruth '65.

The Championship

It had all the hallmarks of an interesting Championship in Leinster, with Galway – which Galway? – Antrim, and the very threatening National League Champions, Dublin, seeking to lower the colours of the reigning Provincial Champions.

Dublin were to face Offaly in a first-round game, while Galway were to take on the winners of the Carlow/Westmeath first round clash. The winners of that quintet would face the winners of the Kilkenny/Wexford/Antrim or Laois quartet in the Provincial Final.

Most were talking a Galway/Kilkenny Final, but the Dubs were not subscribing to such projections.

In Croke Park, Dublin (2-21) for all of the expectations won a difficult game against Offaly (1-20). Antrim (1-21) defeated Laois (3-12) in their own back yard in O'Moore Park, while Westmeath (4-10) defeated Carlow (1-14).

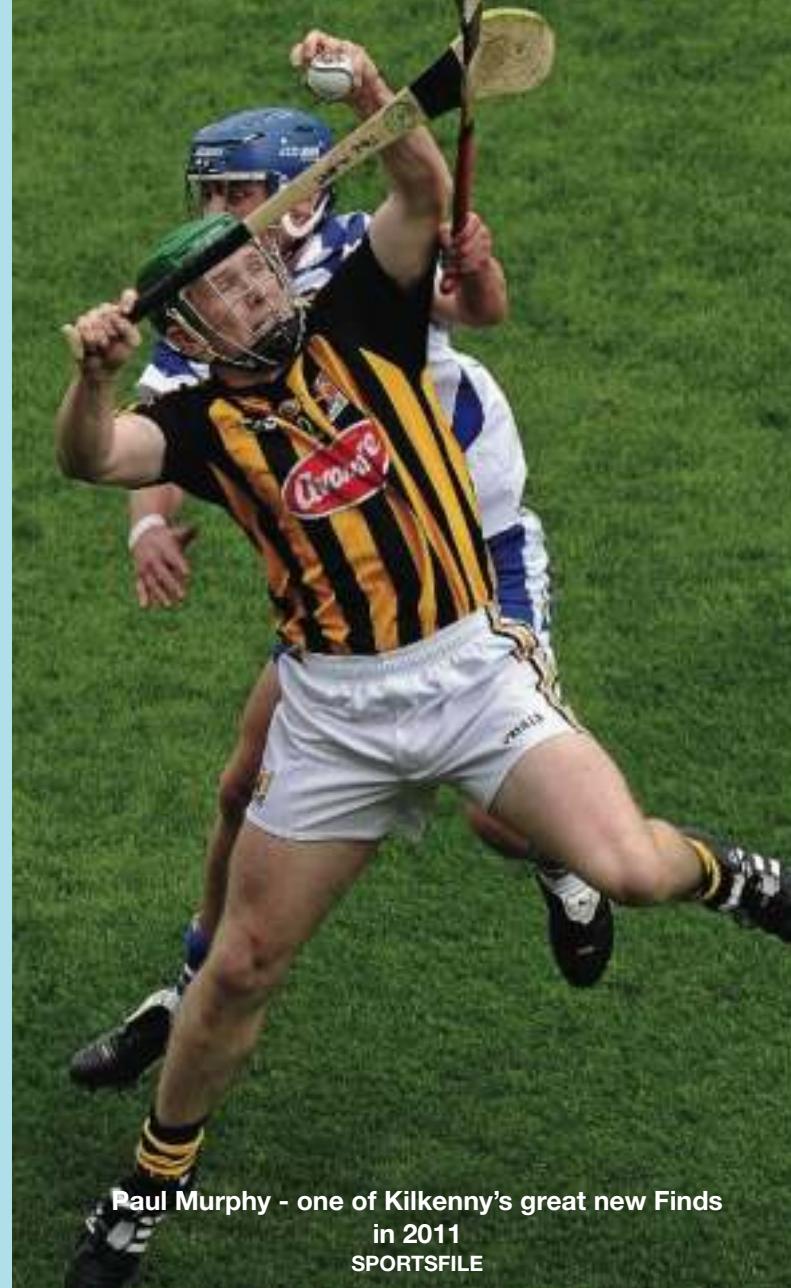
Wexford (3-16) were first into the Leinster semi-final with a very impressive demolition of Antrim (1-11) in Croke Park.

On the same day in Thurles, Tipperary (3-22) made small potatoes of Cork (0-23) in the Munster Championship.

In Mullingar, Galway (4-17) didn't have it all their own way against Westmeath (2-14), depending on a late flurry to get them over the line in front.

**Leinster semi-final. Wexford Park, Sat 11 June
 Kilkenny 1-26 Wexford 1-15**

For the first time, Wexford hosted the Leinster semi-final in their own well-presented Park in Wexford town. On a sunny Saturday evening,



Paul Murphy - one of Kilkenny's great new finds in 2011
SPORTSFILE

there was a very decent crowd (16,500) gathered as Brian Hogan led out his side in a Provincial semi-final.

Kilkenny had four young bucks making their Championship debuts. They certainly gave Brian Cody the kind of headache he loves. Colin Herity was immaculate between the posts. Paddy Hogan, Paul Murphy and Colin Fennelly were better than good. They didn't only survive, they flourished.

Richie Hogan got a fabulous solo goal in the first half that had the place buzzing. He nearly got a better one in the second, but the ball came back of an upright.

Henry Shefflin was back. He looked sharp. He led with great conviction. Richie Power too was back to his marauding, speedy best. The travelling Kilkenny hordes returned home with joy in their hearts. The defence was a little off kilter, but we knew it would get better.

At half time Kilkenny led by 1-14 to 1-9.

Michael Fennelly knocked the Wexford second-half surge sideways when in the 42nd minute, he steamed through from midfield, took a super pass from Richie Hogan, and left Breen in the Wexford goal helpless.

Game, set, and match to Kilkenny.

Kilkenny: David Herity, Noel Hickey, JJ.Delaney, J.Tyrrell, Paul Murphy (0-1), Brian Hogan (capt), Michael Fennelly (0-2), TJ.Reid (0-3), Michael Rice (0-4), Richie Power (0-4, one free) Richie Hogan (1-1), Henry Shefflin (0-9, six frees, two '65), Colin Fennelly (0-1), Eoin Larkin (0-1), Richie Hogan.

Subs used: Michael Kavanagh, Eddie Brennan, John Mulhall.

Dublin took care of the Galway challenge with a very convincing score line of 0-19 to 2-7.

All was set for a repeat of the National League Final.

Leinster Final Sunday July 3rd
Kilkenny 4-17 Dublin 1-15

Brian Cody said the attitude, spirit, and approach was right, and they were key to winning Kilkenny's record seventh Provincial title on the trot. The *Kilkenny People* roared across one of its pages, "Cats claw Dublin to shreds".

It appeared that instead of giving the Dubs confidence, their 2011 record of two wins and a draw against Kilkenny seemed to inhibit them. They were jittery in every aspect of the game. Gone were their flamboyance, and their tenacity. In its place rested uncertainty, and a mental fear of not doing the right thing. In fairness to them, the injury problems were now reversed and they had to field without Ryan O'Dwyer and Tomás Brady, key men in their League Victory, while Kilkenny were more or less back to full strength.

On the other hand, Kilkenny took off like a circus cannon gun. They nearly killed each other in trying to get to the ball. Henry Shefflin returned to the scene of his 2011 grief in all his old glory. He belted over two early frees, as the Kilkenny momentum caught fire. Dublin were paralysed.

At half time Kilkenny were ahead by 2-10 to Dublin's 0-7.

Kilkenny were home and hosed bar a fall.

They didn't even look like falling. They cruised home, thanks to sterling work by the likes of David Herity, Brian Hogan, JJ.Delaney, an ever-improving Paul Murphy, Michael Fennelly, and Henry Shefflin.

One down, two to go to an All Ireland Final.

Kilkenny: David Herity, Noel Hickey, JJ.Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan (0-1), Paul Murphy, Michael Fennelly, TJ.Reid, Michael Rice (1-2), Richie Power (0-1), Henry Shefflin (1-9, 0-8 frees), Colin Fennelly (1-0), Eoin Larkin (1-2), Richie Hogan (0-2).

Subs used: Patrick Hogan, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick, John Mulhall, Matthew Ruth.

All Ireland Semi-Final Croke Park Sun Aug 7th
Kilkenny 2-19 Waterford 1-16

After their demolition against Tipperary in the Munster Final, many were surprised that the Deise got as far as the All Ireland semi-finals. But

they did, and presented a very serious challenge to the Leinster Champions who were starting to simmer.

Many would have given Waterford more than a sniff of a chance, but there were more astute patrons that felt that the Kilkenny Cats were champing at the bit, and looked on Waterford as an impediment along the road to a possible decider against Tipp.

In the belief that semi-finals are for winning, and not showboating, Kilkenny did the business without looking too convincing.

Too many of their stars were lukewarm, but they still possessed enough quality to grab the ticket. David Herity was a mighty defender. He could do nothing about the John Mullane rasper. Tommy Walsh was in flying form from the bell, as was Jackie Tyrrell. Paul Murphy too had a smashing game, and probably nailed down his starting place for the Final. Richie Hogan grabbed two marvellously courageous goals, while Henry Shefflin still showed elements of huge improvement.

At half time, Kilkenny led by 2-10 to 1-7. It didn't look good for Waterford. John Mullane was in inspirational form, but the problem for Waterford was that a John Mullane was needed in too many places at the same time.

A week later Tipperary edged Dublin out of the way, winning by 1-19 to 0-18.

Kilkenny: David Herity, Paul Murphy, Noel Hickey, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan (0-1), JJ.Delaney, Michael Fennelly (0-3), TJ.Reid (0-1), Michael Rice (0-1), Richie Power, Henry Shefflin (0-7, four frees), Colin Fennelly (0-2), Eoin Larkin (0-2), Richie Hogan (2-0).

Subs (used): Patrick Hogan (0-1), Eddie Brennan (0-1).

ALL IRELAND FINAL SUN SEPT 4TH CROKE PARK

Kilkenny 2-17 Tipperary 1-16.

The final score line is not a true reflection of the most powerful, fulfilling, sweetest victory in history, as Kilkenny bagged their 33rd Liam McCarthy.

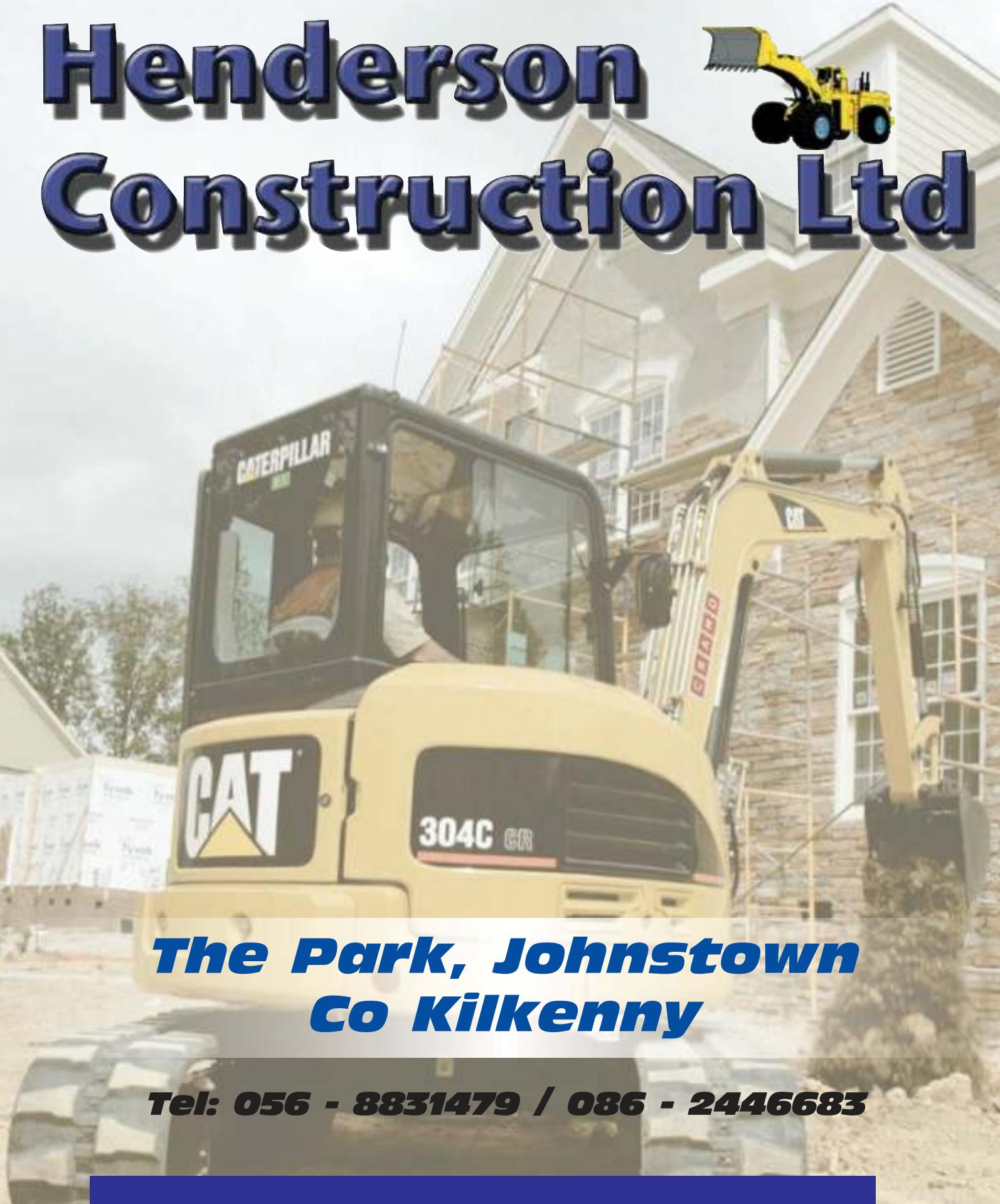
A man coming out of Croke Park opined, "The worst Kilkenny player was never worse than good, and the other fifteen were astonishing"

You can read other opinions on the game by our Professional Journalists elsewhere in this book.



**A Jubilant County Secretary,
Ned Quinn waves the McCarthy
Cup with Denis Cody in the
Dressing Room after the match
Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE**

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**Well Done JJ, PJ and PJ and all Kilkenny's
Heroes of 2011!**

Was that Ever the Year

Enda McEvoy (Irish Examiner)

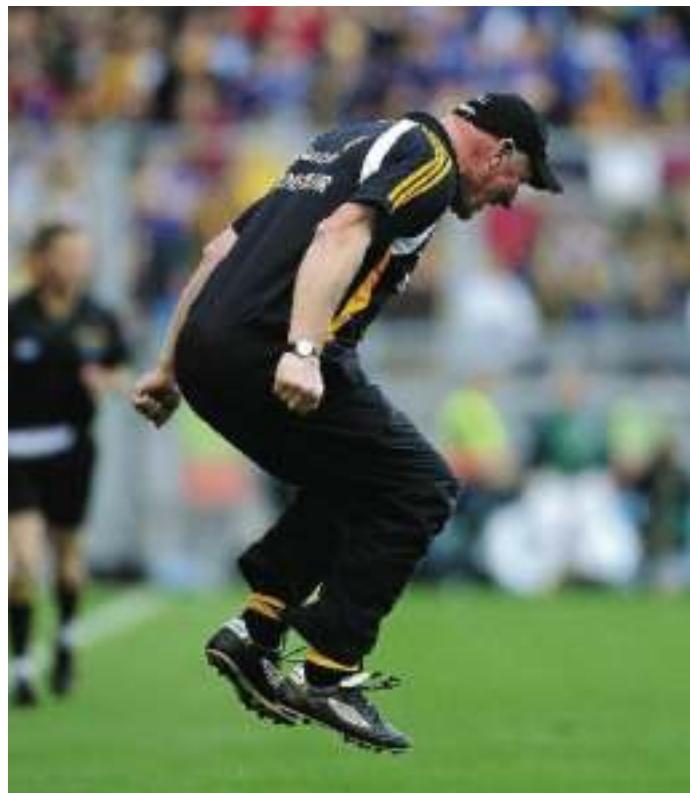
venue was the Left Bank on the Parade in Kilkenny, the time around gin o'clock on the Friday before not the 2011 All Ireland final but the 2009 All Ireland final. There was me and Dinny Ella shooting the breeze, and on our way out we ran into two great Kilkenny hurling supporters, Billy Lahart and Seamus McGarry. Obviously there was only one subject to talk about. By the time the conversation was over the four of us were in agreement: Kilkenny would never play a more important match – in our lifetimes anyway - than the one they'd be playing against Tipperary two days later.

That remains the case, but only just. As it happens I wasn't in the Left Bank at gin o'clock the Friday before this year's All Ireland final (although I was in a buzzing Langton's for lunch and the feeling of quiet confidence was palpable – as that redoubtable O'Loughlins pair Jamesie Holohan and Paul Cleere will confirm if you care to ask 'em). But if I had been and had run into Billy Lahart and Seamus McGarry again we might well have had much the same conversation as we'd had two years earlier. For while no Kilkenny game of modern times will ever be as important again as the 2009 All Ireland final, the 2011 equivalent was shaping up as being not a million miles off it in terms of significance and implications.

Not to get into an existentialist debate here, but whereas some All Irelands are important in the rear-view mirror because they've marked a turn in the road – witness the 2006 All Ireland decider, now a milestone final because of everything that flowed from it – others are already important as they loom into view before us through the windscreen. Thus the 2009 All Ireland final, with Kilkenny going for four in a row, assumed even greater import the nearer it approached. And for all that Brian Cody would say that his team were going out to win the game, nothing more, the reality is that more than merely the outcome of the 2011 championship was at stake last September.

Had Kilkenny lost, the four in a row would be tarnished forever. Had Tipperary won, the new reading of recent history would go roughly as follows: "Tipp were robbed in 2009, would have won three in a row if they hadn't been and therefore were the equal if not better of Kilkenny. Simple as." Now you can take issue with that as much as you like, yet such is more or less the way the new narrative would have read. Simplistic, yes, but not outrageously unfair either.

Seventy minutes can change everything. By winning on September 4th 2011 Kilkenny validated September 6th 2009. Tipperary were no longer their equals or even potential betters; instead Tipperary went back to being a one in a row team and Kilkenny reverted to being a four in a row team, their achievements enshrined forever. Now the four in a row was safe, unimpeachable, free from the slings and arrows of future hurling historians and bar-stool experts in a way it wouldn't and couldn't have been had Kilkenny fallen to Tipperary for a second year in succession. The footnote that now surrounds the three-part September saga with the Blue and Gold is not Kilkenny's penalty in 2009 but Kilkenny's injuries in 2010. That in turn may sound harsh on Tipp, who hurled superbly in two of the three finals, but if there's one lesson the deposed champions will take from 2011 it's one that their opponents learned (painfully) a long time ago: coping with success is more difficult than coping with failure.



Brian Cody celebrates after the final whistle. GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship Final, Kilkenny v Tipperary, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Matt Browne / SPORTSFILE

In truth there were no what-ifs or might-have-beens about September 4th. The only matter for debate afterwards was why Kilkenny won by four points when on the balance of the proceedings they'd been eight points a better team. There's an easy answer to that one. Had Michael Fennelly taken his point instead of going for the jugular when the challengers were seven up midway through the second half there would have been no Pa Bourke goal moments later at the other end and no squeaky-bum closing few minutes for their supporters. In racing terms it was a case of "made all, never troubled". Tipp for the hurlers and Kilkenny for the men, to invert the cliché? That may be pushing it, but it was none other than the man from the Tipperary Star who wrote afterwards that the defending champions "lacked the stomach for the fight". Mick Roche, a Tipp hero of a bygone era, was the one who put the most perceptive finger on it beforehand when he declared that "we have wonderful ball players but Kilkenny have wonderful ball winners". There is no reason why Tipperary won't be back, wiser and hungrier, in 2012; certainly Declan Ryan and Tommy Dunne, a debutant manager/coach duo (and it showed), will have learned the lesson that the primary duty of a backroom team is to prepare the side to produce a performance that meets the requirements of a big day and to do so every day. The last time a team of Brian Cody's didn't produce a performance that met the requirements of a big day was, famously, the afternoon of the 2001 All Ireland semi-final against Galway. They haven't won every match they've played since then, but the ones they lost weren't squandered as a result of a failure to perform. Ten seasons and not a dud display therein: it is quite a record. And the thinking and coaching that went into the underdogs' gameplan for the 2011 final – the structured short passes off the stick, Tommy Walsh's crossfield laser for *that* Shefflin point, the choreography for Michael Fennelly's goal - was thinking and coaching of a high de-



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KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 2011

Back: Lester Ryan, James Fitzpatrick, Paddy Hogan, John Tennyson, Conor Fogarty, Eoin Murphy, Richie Doyle, John Dalton, Kieran Joyce.
Middle: T.J. Reid, Jackie Tyrrell, Richie Hogan, Eoin Larkin, Michael Rice, David Herity, P.J. Ryan, Aidan Fogarty, J.J. Delaney, Colin Fennelly,
Michael Fennelly, Matthew Ruth.

Front: Richie Power, Eoin Murphy, Noel Hickey, Michael Kavanagh, Brian Hogan, Eddie Brennan, Henry Shefflin, John Mulhall, Tommy Walsh.

Photo Eoin Hennessy



Noel Hickey, Kilkenny, in action against Eoin Kelly, Tipperary. GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship Final, Kilkenny v Tipperary, Croke Park, Dublin.
Picture credit: Barry Cregg / SPORTSFILE



4 September 2011; Michael Fennelly, Kilkenny, celebrates after scoring his side's first goal. GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship Final, Kilkenny v Tipperary, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

gree. Cody, Dempsey and Fogarty have never had a finer hour. Which, you'll agree, is saying something.

True to form, Cody's Kilkenny being Cody's Kilkenny, the challengers didn't go out to play the 2010 All Ireland final all over again. Next ball, next match, next season. (We went out to win the only All Ireland we could win, etc.) To speculate about what might have been different last year had Henry not gone off injured is to do an injustice to the verve and imagination of Tipperary's attacking play on the day. But Kilkenny with Henry and Kilkenny without Henry are two very different beasts (the first one is feral, the second one house-trained), and only Henry could return from a second cruciate operation and make the process look like an inevitability. What eased the burden on him this year, mind you, was the switch of Richie Power to centre-forward, a move that set in train a necessary change of attacking emphasis and led to an altogether subtler approach with Power the oil in the engine, ever probing and prompting. The most interesting pass – interesting because illustrative of this new dispensation - by a Kilkenny forward all season was not that by Eddie Brennan to Richie Hogan in the All Ireland final but the looping handpass Power swung out to his right in the Leinster final into acres of space for Colin Fennelly to run onto and go through for a goal. On which point, someone suggested on these pages last year that Kilkenny rethink their attacking strategy from scratch and begin with the foundation stone of Richie Power in the number 11 shirt. Wonder whose suggestion it was. Hmm...

Naturally it also helped that Cody was in a position to field three inordinately accomplished debutants who between them gave his troops an injection of freshness and, critically, pace. David Herity was a rock from the night in Wexford Park onwards and never more reassuring than when commanding his domain with aplomb against Waterford in the All Ireland semi-final; goalkeeping is about far more than shot-stopping. (Manchester United's new Spanish goalkeeper was bought not for his shot-stopping but for his footwork.) Had it not been for his failure to stop Pa Bourke's shot in the All Ireland final, Herity would have had a perfect year. Paul Murphy fulfilled another critical role, offering speed to the point of breakdown in the full-back line – a fire-brigade service that was lacking against Tipperary in 2010 – and frequently doing Noel Hickey's running for him. Bar a torrid 15 minutes on the admittedly unplayable John Mullane in the semi-final, Murphy was superb all summer. And Colin Fennelly completed the trifecta by providing the team with young legs and new options up front, sometimes going down the touchline and cutting in himself, sometimes playing with his back to goal and drifting infield to help stitch movements together. Richie Hogan played his position on the left side of the Kilkenny attack and occupied himself with scoring goals; Fennelly frequently played the entire flank on the right and made himself busy opening up space and laying off possession to colleagues. The balance was just right.

What can one say about the aforementioned Noel Hickey? Like Frank Cummins before him, this man was not born but quarried. (Fair is fair. If I'm to brag about Richie Power at centre-forward I have to admit to wondering in print about Hickey's future in the aftermath of the 2004 All Ireland final. Oh dear. Moving along...) And what of Eddie Brennan? In 2009 he'd needed two touches to get up a ball in the second half of the All Ireland final. In 2010 he'd needed three touches and he still couldn't get it up. If ever a man looked to be in decline at an alarming rate it was Brennan: the same Brennan who was chosen out of the blue for the day of days in September, who paid his way with a point in the first half and who, 11 years after his All Ireland baptism, turned back



Eddie Brennan, Kilkenny. GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship Semi-Final, Kilkenny v Waterford, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Ray Manus / SPORTSFILE



Richie Power (Kilkenny) is challenged by Michael Walsh (Waterford) during the Senior Hurling All-Ireland Semi-Final in Croke Park.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

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the clock with that lungbursting run – nothing less than a dagger to Tipperary's heart - and pass for Richie Hogan's goal in the 49th minute. Foolish people, some of them journalists, babble on about Brian Cody's "ruthlessness", ignoring the reality that Cody could not possibly have kept so many people within the tent for so long if he didn't possess pragmatism, common sense, flexibility, the ability to blend carrot and stick and a firm grasp of the dynamics of human relationships. Why shout when you can speak softly and simply point to the big *bata* you carry? By returning to the colours when both could have been forgiven for shuffling off into the twilight, medals clanking in their pockets, Eddie Brennan and Michael Kavanagh bore glowing testament to their manager and the spirit of brotherhood he sought to create from his first day in the job.

So there you have it. The year in one game. Off-Broadway there was less of note occurring than usual. St Kieran's came at the death to defeat a painstakingly prepared and highly motivated Ard Scoil Ris of Limerick in the All Ireland colleges' final, largely because their technique and ability to do the simple things properly all the time stood up when the pressure was at its height. O'Loughlins scored a famous victory at Feile na nGael and returned to the football Feile shortly afterwards to win their division there too. The minors of Bennettsbridge and Thomastown were a breath of fresh air. Eoin Larkin's display in the replayed county final will still be talked about in a hundred years' time. Looking ahead, 2012 is already shaping up as a critical year for the county in the context of the under-21 team. Still, sufficient onto the festive season, etc.

If you're stuck for something to do over Christmas, by the by, you might try arranging Kilkenny's eight All Ireland triumphs under Brian Cody in order of satisfaction. Naturally the victory over Cork in 2006 will have many advocates. But 2011 won't be short of supporters either. I wonder what Billy Lahart and Seamus McGarry think...

Hurler of the Year: Michael Fennelly

Young Hurler: Liam Rushe

Match: Limerick versus Cork under-21

Goal: Richie Hogan, All Ireland final

Bet I'm sorry I didn't have: Michael Fennelly at 33/1 early in the year to be Hurler of the Year

Team: Gary Maguire (Dublin); Paul Murphy, Paul Curran (Tipperary), Peter Kelly (Dublin); Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, Padraig Maher (Tipperary); Liam Rushe (Dublin), Michael Fennelly; Michael Rice, Richie Power, Henry Shefflin; John Mullane (Waterford), Lar Corbett (Tipperary), Richie Hogan.

Enda McEvoy is a columnist with the Irish Examiner

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I Saw History Being Made

Diarmuid O'Flynn (Cork Examiner) on how Kilkenny confirmed their Status

Sunday September 4th 2011, All-Ireland senior hurling final between the holders, Tipperary and the team they had dethroned, Kilkenny. For those of who were neutral it was supposed to be something of a nightmare scenario, the third year in a row in which these two giants of hurling had met in the All-Ireland final. It had all become a bit too predictable, went the wisdom, a bit too tired and worn.

Personally, and unlikely a scenario as it was, I wanted to see Cork in that final, and of course winning that final. Failing that, my preference was to see two new teams contest hurling's biggest day, ANY two teams, though of course a Dublin win would have brought massive positive publicity to hurling. You don't always get what you want, however (some of us even less fortunate than most!), but even with my first two preferences gone, that was still a final I could still look forward to, and with probably more anticipation than any I can think of in which my own Cork were not involved. Kilkenny, with an opportunity to prove beyond doubt that they were the best team of all time; Tipperary, with an opportunity to prove they were no flash in the pan last year - what was there not to like, what was there not to relish even, in that prospect?

Then there was that other prospect, the greatest prospect of all, that of seeing Henry Shefflin join Christy Ring and John Doyle on that exclusive list of players to have won eight All-Ireland senior hurling medals on the field of play. True Eddie Brennan also had that opportunity, and fast Ed has been a fantastic player for the past dozen seasons or so with Kilkenny, a fantastic servant to the game. He is up there among the finest forwards hurling has seen, one of the most lethal finishers of all time but – and I say this as both friend and admirer – while Eddie has his own proud place in hurling's pantheon, it's not up there with the likes of Ringey, the Doyles, Keher, Mackey, Keane et al. Henry though – different story.

I didn't see Mick Mackey nor John Keane, but I am old

enough to have seen Christy Ring just at the end of his career, when he was long past his best, but even then I could see why people were mesmerised by his magic. I've always said, however, that the best I've seen at his peak was Eddie Keher, with DJ Carey next in line. That was until the couple of years. I'm still kinda torn – Eddie was big and powerful as Henry but had a better burst of speed, was deadly from placed balls, was also a big-game player, but I now believe that he has been surpassed by Henry, not just as the greatest championship scorer of all time, but the greatest player I've seen in my time.

So, a chance to see him equal Ring and Doyle on the roll of honour, a chance also to see him go out on his own in the All-Star stakes (an All-Ireland win almost guaranteeing him a tenth gong), a chance to see history being made – all on its own that would have made this All-Ireland final special. Worthy of mention also, the opportunity to see Brian Cody prove his management skills yet again by bringing this team back from what many saw as their extinction as a top force.

But I was torn. Who did I want to win? Kilkenny, for all the reasons cited above, especially for the simple and simplified reason that if they lost again to Tipperary fingers would have been pointed at this team, their greatness questioned, beaten twice in three years by a Tipperary team still in the making. That would have been a pity, it would have been wrong, but it would have been a reality. I'm one of those who, even before last year, said this was the greatest team of all time (and your own Michael Walsh will also testify that back in 2006, after Kilkenny beat Cork, I predicted this team would win three-in-a-row, and said they could even go on to do five!); I'd have hated to see that status then questioned.

But, there was the Tipperary factor, and specifically, the Tommy Dunne/Eoin Kelly factor. Eoin is a guy for whom I have the utmost respect as a player, a guy I'd rate as coming within a whisker of the status now enjoyed by Henry; had he been with Kilkenny during the last decade (and he did win his first All-Ireland title with a Kilkenny team, St. Kieran's, in 2000!) I'm sure he'd have made that leap. He was with a struggling Tipp side, however, often carrying them, and often even on those occasions also carrying a debilitating back injury. He persevered, however, got his reward

in 2010, as team captain to boot, and I would love to have seen him capture his third senior medal.

Then there was Tommy Dunne. Tommy had joined the new Tipperary management team led by Declan Ryan, who I wouldn't know nearly as well. Having taken over a winning team, they were under serious pressure to deliver another All-Ireland title for Tipperary, Tommy the coach. As with Eoin Kelly, Tommy is a guy for whom I'd have serious admiration, a top-class individual on and off the field. For his sake alone I'd have cherished a Tip-



Managers, Brian Cody and Declan Ryan shake hands after the Senior Hurling All-Ireland Final in Croke Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

perary win. And there were others – the Tipperary setup, from PRO Ger Ryan across the board, players, management and county board officials, were a dream to deal with for the last three years. You don't want to see that kind of effort fail.

Above all I wanted to see a good game, and given the classics of the previous two years, I felt confident this was going to be the case. So it was that I headed for Croke Park with heart aglow, knowing that no matter the result, I couldn't lose. Shallow, I know, bandwagon jumping in advance, perhaps far too ready to hail the winners, whoever they might turn out to be. But isn't the beauty of being a neutral – the consolation of only being a neutral – that you avoid the pain of defeat? And when Kilkenny won, yes I felt sorry for Tommy, for Eoin, for all the other Tipperary lads, but yes also, I saw history being made; I saw Cody's Cats confirm their status as the best ever, I saw Henry crowned King. I was there, and privileged indeed I was to be there, to witness all that.



Henry Shefflin -
8 All Ireland Medals
10 All Stars
Ní heicfimíd....

John McIlwaine

THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS.....

Damien Lawlor
Sunday Independent
Reviews the Hurling Year



ANOTHER hurling season passes with Kilkenny on top and still the neutral cries out for a team to emerge from the ashes, someone to upset the big two dining at the top table.

Not that the majority of readers of this publication will give one hoot what the neutral is looking for! The bottom line is that Limerick, Offaly, Wexford, Galway, Cork, Waterford, Laois and Antrim are all facing a 2012 campaign with new managers – that's a remarkable turnover and a massive challenge for all concerned. There is only so much progress these incoming gaffers can make in one season and so there's every chance we'll see Brian Cody and Kilkenny back in Croke Park on the first Sunday of next September. That's for another day, though, and if the 2011 league and championship were beneficial for any team except Kilkenny it would be Dublin.

“there’s every chance we’ll see Brian Cody and Kilkenny back in Croke Park on the first Sunday of next September.”

They climbed the ladder further despite having three key central defenders sidelined, and enduring the subsequent loss of Conal Keaney. They'll surely be in a position to crack the last four again in 2012, maybe add a provincial title along the way, though they still have much work to do.x

While their defence was eye-catching and their All Star goalkeeper Gary Maguire went up another notch in terms of performance, their forward play sometimes left a bit to be desired as summer bloomed with a lack of cohesion in that department sometimes obvious. They were much too dependent on Paul Ryan from the placed ball and not enough came from Dotsy O'Callaghan or Alan McCrabbe in terms of scores, although their adopted son Ryan O'Dwyer settled in quite well, it has to be said.

But we expect the graduation of Shane Stapleton and the re-emergence of David Treacy next season and they are probably the nearest challengers to Tipp and Kilkenny now. With a passionate, organised manager and a serious backroom team they can certainly put hurling's current duopoly to the sword in a few years.

Limerick also made progress, although not enough, in 2011.

Kevin Downes, Padraic Mahony, Declan Hannon and midfielder Donal O'Grady were outstanding at times but just as they were getting used to embracing the short-passing game under their manager he walks away. John Allen will try to embrace the same principles that O'Grady preached and Allen laid down an early marker by quickly jettisoning seven of the existing panel. Still, losing the Sunday Game analyst was a definite setback for a county in need of stabilisation more than most.

The Cork team, however, will be thrilled to have JBM back on board.

The manner of their championship exit to Galway was embarrassing and they looked bereft of ideas. Recalling Sean Og O hAilpin is not going to help in the long-term either. The Leesiders have a long way to go to match the lofty standards of their past and you wonder if they have enough upfront to threaten. But at the very least JBM will get them – and their fans - going again.

Galway were Galway in 2011, utterly unpredictable.

There comes a time when the media (myself included) has to stop pumping them up and realise that they are as prone to playing without heart as they are of lighting up a field with dashing skill and pace. Too many players went missing at vital times in championship matches and that's not something a new manager will easily fix. Again, the hurling pool is so small that it's dangerous to write them off but too often they've flattered to deceive. They'll concede that themselves.

As for Waterford, they were never going to make a breakthrough playing just two men up front and depending heavily, almost solely at times, (apologies to Shane Walsh) on John Mullane who has accounted for 145 points worth from play since 2004. The defensive system forced upon them didn't suit a mercurial, off the cuff team and it duly showed.

Wexford's Gareth Sinnott stood out in their championship campaign but at the time of writing they have no manager. You suspect they're waiting to get Liam Dunne, which would be a great move if they could land him.

You'd also wonder if the likes of Offaly have the manpower to get back into the top six or seven teams in the country. Sadly, those neutrals we talk about could be a long time waiting for the likes of Offaly to bounce back.

All things considered then, it was no great surprise Tipp and

Kilkenny met in the All-Ireland final for the third time in a row and as we suggest it will be no massive shock if they meet again next season.

Cody's men only conceded in the region of 1-16 in each of their four games and as usual registered at least 19 or 20 points with nine goals coming in their four outings. They brought new blood in, as is their form, and All Star Paul Murphy and David Herity were thoroughly dependable all the way through the season.

What won the All-Ireland was their blistering, hungry approach to the game. Back in 2007 they blew Limerick off the field in the opening exchanges and while the 2011 decider wasn't as brutal a demolition job they laid down a marker against Tipp in similar enough fashion.

“ This time there was little or no hype in the lead up to September, no Nowlan Park circus outings..... ”

Cody, the greatest hurling manager the game has ever seen, got his match-ups right; Jackie Tyrell was possessed and didn't allow Larry Corbett a sniff; Noel Hickey was entirely comfortable on Eoin Kelly, while John O'Brien, although good in the air, was not allowed wave the wand of creation.

At the other end, Tipp's go-to man Padraig Maher was surrounded by at least two black and amber shirts each time he got possession of the ball and thus supply to the premier's forwards was limited.

Eddie Brennan, a man criticised by many, including plenty of Kilkenny supporters, rolled back the years, played with the intensity of a championship newcomer and put in an incredible shift in the final, while Eoin Larkin started and ended that game with crucial scores. Larkin's days as a high-intensity, penetrating intercounty half forward might be at an end but around the full forward line he still has the brains and experience to create havoc.

Kilkenny's midfield were too far on top for Tipp to gain any foothold while 10-time All Star Henry Shefflin must have looked twice at young John O'Keeffe, who was amazingly sent over to mark him from the start, and wondered if this rookie was really going up against him.

This time there was little or no hype in the lead up to September, no Nowlan Park circus outings, no massive injury worries save for Colin Fennelly, who actually helped set the tone in the final by using his head to block a Tipp clearance. On the day, all over the field, Kilkenny simply looked stronger and fitter. Even when Tipp came roaring back at the end, they looked capable of tacking on the points they needed to steer them home.

Were Tipp cocky? Not a chance. Were they confident? They certainly were and maybe too relaxed. They started the game in lack-lustre fashion and showed very little in the first half to suggest they could stack titles back to back.

Before the game, I firmly believed that this Tipp team could defeat Kilkenny for the second year in a row. That wasn't the misty-eyed optimism of someone who hails from Kilruane in the north of the county, I had watched Kilkenny all season long and even though they were comfortable against Wexford they looked unsure at the back, with Gareth Sinnott, especially, on fire.

They owed Dublin a leathering and duly delivered that, hitting 4-17 in the process, so I didn't pay all that much heed to the result. Yet, when Tipp labored to a scrappy win against the Dubs a few weeks later warning signs should have been signalled. Then again, the Cats weren't all that impressive against Waterford either.

I just felt Tipp had momentum but not for the first or last time I was wrong.

Kilkenny never allowed them time or space and instead got off to a great start themselves, they bossed their rivals around, peaked at the right time and learned from the mistakes of last year.

“ Before the game, I firmly believed that this Tipp team could defeat Kilkenny for the second year in a row. ”

Tipp weren't allowed throw the ball about, there was little space for the off the ball movement they thrived on. Instead, Michael Fennelly's crucial goal was like something Corbett would have conjured up in 2010.

As we say, Herity and Murphy added a new dimension, Michael Rice was excellent at wing forward, Richie Hogan stepped up a level, in terms of play-making and scoring, Eoin Larkin, too, was better this year than last, while the presence of a fit-again Shefflin steadied the ship.

Subsequently it hasn't been the best of winters for Tipp with Benny Dunne retiring and their highly-rated trainer Cian O'Neill moving to Mayo.

But whatever about the Munster men's chances of making it back to the final next season, you could nearly put your NAMA stake on Kilkenny getting back there.

That's just the way it is.



I'll have that! Kilkenny left-half-back JJ Delaney rises above Tipperary's Seamus Callanan to win possession during the All Ireland Senior Hurling final .

John McIlwaine



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COLIN PROUDLY FOLLOWING IN THE FAMILY TRADITION

Richard Holden

It all changed in December 2010, when Colin Fennelly got a phone-call from Brian Cody inviting him onto the Kilkenny senior hurling panel. By his own admission, things had gone a bit quiet on the hurling front with Kilkenny's Under-21's losing to Dublin in the Leinster semi-final and the Shamrocks losing to O'Loughlin Gaels in the county semi-final. When he got that phone-call, his passion for the game was re-ignited. 'I felt my game was slipping a bit but the call was the lift I needed and I was determined to give it my best shot.'

How did he find the transition from senior club to senior county? 'It was very tough initially but having players like Richie Power around you in the forwards would give you great confidence. There was a massive step-up in the level of fitness required. Brian (Cody) is a big believer in forwards tracking back and winning the ball off the other team. His mantra would be that if each forward gets the ball off a back three times during a match then we would go a long way towards winning the game.'

Colin pinpointed the League Final defeat to Dublin as the main point in their season. 'We thought going into that game that we would win, specially having drawn with them in an earlier round. However, we were hammered on the day and it proved to us that we weren't fit enough and that we would need to improve on this considerably for the championship.'

Going into the Wexford match (Leinster semi-final), we felt that we had the work done and were back on track. We knew exactly what we were doing going into the game.' Kilkenny advanced to a Leinster Final clash with Dublin, thus setting up a repeat of the League Final. 'To be honest, going into that game I was worried about losing my place but thankfully Brian kept faith with me and I scored a goal.' It was one of Colin's trademark efforts; he turned the corner back and made an incisive run along the Hill 16 endline before firing to the net. Kilkenny then saw off Waterford by seven points in the All-Ireland semi-final to set up an All-Ireland Final against great rivals Tipperary.

In the lead up to the Final, Colin tore his hamstring in a club match and feared the worst. 'I thought I was gone but lucky enough I was brought straight to the cyrotherapy chamber in Wexford and got to work on it straight away. I was advised to take a week off work, and that proved a great help to me in getting back for the Final. I was able to go into Nowlan Park every day and use the gym and the ice baths, and work with the physio Kevin Curran.'

How did Kilkenny approach the Final? 'We watched all the matches in the lead up and everyone knew what they had to do. We held meetings and players were encouraged to speak up more and share their ideas. We saw how Dublin played Tipperary in the semi-final and felt it was vital that we didn't let their forwards score and also not to allow their backs any space to clear the ball. For a game which I felt we were always in control of, we could still have ended up losing it. When Tipp got the goal, we went back to basics and just worked on putting the ball over the bar.'

Colin is a member of the famous Shamrocks club, and like his father Michael and uncles Kevin, Liam, Dermot, Sean, Ger and Brendan, has achieved much success winning four senior county titles and two All-Ireland club titles. His brother and county colleague, Michael (Jnr.) has also played a big part in these successes. The 2010 All-Ireland Final win over Portumna ranks as a particular highlight. 'Beating Portumna was a huge thing, specially after losing to them in the semi-final the year before. It was a huge thing to beat them, and an amazing feeling to win it out after such a long year.' Colin revealed that he actually broke his wrist in the first-round win over Oulart-the-Ballagh and played on with it until after the Final. 'I went in for the operation the next day. I still

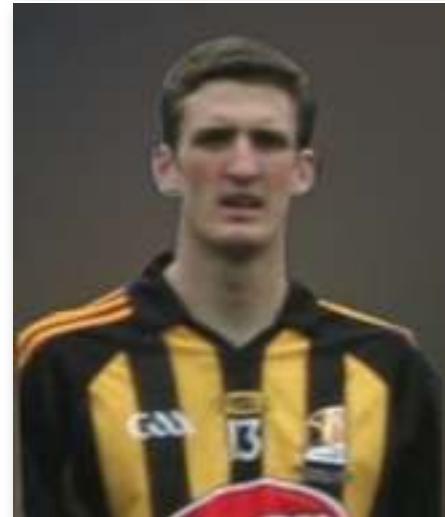
wouldn't have full movement on it.'

I asked the flying wing/corner forward about this year's county Final defeat to their great rivals James Stephens. 'The conditions the first day were the worst I've played on, I just wasn't able to turn on the ground and run. James Stephens had their homework done on us the second day and we were well marked.'

Colin was sent-off in the replay along with county colleague Jackie Tyrell - what was his take on the incident? 'It was just heat of the moment stuff with Jackie. I think he was getting me back for the shoulder I gave him in the first-half. I was a bit mystified to be sent-off as originally when the free was given against me there was no action taken. I kept asking the referee for a reason but got no answer.'

What advice would he pass on to young players? 'The main thing is not to be afraid to make mistakes, and to learn from them. Also, catching the ball is a massive thing now in the game and a skill well worth perfecting.' Colin said to watch out for his young cousins who play with the Shamrocks. 'I went to see them in a match the Saturday before the All-Ireland and you should have seen some of the skills they showed that day!

We wish Colin all the best for 2012 and look forward to him continuing on in the same rich vein of form as this season.



An illustration of a spiral-bound notebook. On the left page, there is a large rectangular area with horizontal lines, labeled 'Factfile' at the top in blue ink. To the right of this area, there are several lines of blue text listing Colin's achievements. The background of the page is a light grey color.

Age: 22

Occupation: Student in Construction Management,
Cork IT

Honours: 1 Leinster and All-Ireland SHC

2 Leinster and 1 All-Ireland HC

1 Leinster MHC

3 Leinster Club SHC and

2 All-Ireland Club SHC

4 Co. SHC

5 Co. SHL

4 South and Co. U-21HC

1 JFC

1 Leinster JH

(Scoil Aireagail, Ballyhale)

HAPPY FANS



OUT ON HIS EOIN!

County SH Championship Report by Tommy Lanigan



James Stephens - County SH Champions 2011 (Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Francis Cantwell, Ben Lahart, Patrick Butler, Anthony Lawlor, David Hennessy, Shane Campion, Paddy Duggan, Conor McQuillan, Robbie Hayes, Mick Morris.

Centre: Richie Hayes, Keith Mulcahy, Niall McQuillan, Jackie Tyrrell, Eamon Sheehy, Ray Coady, Eoin Larkin, Matthew Ruth, David Walton, Luke Hickey, Tomás O'Dowd, Eoin McCormack, Keith Ryan, Gary Whelan, Donncha Cody.

Front: Niall Lanigan, David McCormack, Niall Tyrrell, Philip Larkin, Derrick Brennan, Jack McGrath, Tomás Keogh, John Comerford.

Absent: Diarmuid Cody.

This year's senior hurling championship will be remembered for many things, not all pleasant. The most outstanding feature was the extraordinary display of Eoin Larkin throughout that campaign but particularly in the county final replay. The score of 1-11 from twelve attempts in itself is an exceptional achievement given the quality of the opposition. It only tells part of the story, the rest is about pace, grace, guile, nous, and the ability to operate in a different time warp than other mortals. Over the years we have seen supernal exhibitions by individuals on behalf of their parish, most notably Carey in 2002 and Keoghan in '94 who were masters of all they surveyed. Larkins' performance at least equalled them.

James Stephens captured their ninth county senior title in considerable style on 30 October with a comprehensive victory over old rivals Ballyhale Shamrocks on a 1-20 to 0-15 scoreline. This victory levelled their final contests at two each since 2005 but this was the most emphatic performance of those contests.

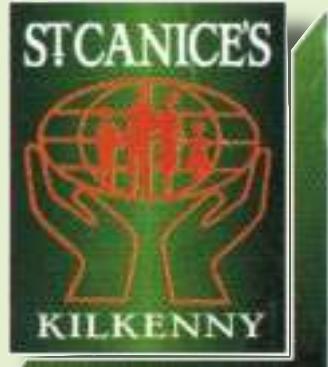
The first game of the final on 23 October ended in a draw 1-8 to Shamrocks 0-11 and was memorable for the wrong reasons. The weather was truly horrendous, driving rain, swirling wind and a sodden pitch making it impossible for Ireland's best practitioners to play hurling. Striking, lifting, controlling were all reduced to a lottery and, despite the Village feeling robbed at the end, both sides deserved a better day to show their real abilities. It need two late pointed frees from Henry Shefflin to level the game and create a 'you don't catch the Shamrocks a second time' mantra in anticipation of the replay. The Village players and management certainly didn't buy into that one. Great credit was due to all players on that first day for their commitment and restraint in coping with conditions and officialdom.

The replay was a different matter. At times it was niggly and

raw, each side trying to bully the other. A bit of magic by Eoin Larkin just before the interval when he conjured a wonder goal from an unlikely scenario gave James Stephens a slender one point lead at the break. Three minutes into the second half all hell broke loose and Jackie Tyrrell received his walking papers followed by Colin Fennelly. The city side reacted best to adversity. Despite losing their talisman they hurled with fluency and craft to sweep to a 1-20 to 0-15 victory. When did we last see Ballyhale failing to goal in two consecutive games? When were they last a beaten docket with ten minutes remaining?


John McIlwaine
This is a relatively new James Stephens team, only six starters survive from their 2005 All Ireland club title as they have introduced several talented newcomers. Their age profile suggests they may be a force for a while if their hunger persists. Shamrocks on the other hand have more concerns about the talent pool available to them as some older legs creaked when most needed during the year. But they continue to possess many wonderful hurlers who will be in contention for many years to come.

The warning signs were there for Ballyhale through the league and championship. They topped the league unconvincingly and won a characteristically poor league final against James Stephens. It took two outstanding games before they got the better of Carrickshock in the championship quarter final and the 'Shocks could feel unlucky on both occasions. They remain a potent and skilful force.



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James Stephens Captain, Jackie Tyrrell, is presented with the Senior Hurling cup by Michael O'Reilly, St. Canice's, Kilkenny, Credit Union and Paul Kinsella, Chairman, Kilkenny County Bord, after the Senior Hurling Final in Nowlan Park.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

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Ballyhale - County SH Finalists 2011 (Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Ger Holden, Eoin Knox, Keith Nolan, Enda Fitzpatrick, Michael Dermody, Gavin Butler, Kieran Grace, Donnacha Fitzpatrick, James Walsh.

Middle: Colin Fennelly, Liam Grant, T.J. Reid, Joseph Holden, Conor Walsh, Eoin Reid, Eamonn Walsh, Aidan Cummins, Henry Shefflin, James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick, Alan Cuddihy.

Front: Patrick Reid, Paul Shefflin, David Hoyne, Richard Reid, Bob Aylward, Michael Fennelly, Mark Aylward, Tom Coogan, Sean Malone, Ger Fennelly.



St Martin's - Kilkenny Senior Hurling Championship Semi-Finalists 2011 (Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Luke Maher, Brendan Maher, David Breen, Brian Byrne, Canice Maher, Shane Coonan, James Maher, Kieran Kelly.

Middle : Damien Maher, Niall Moran, Ollie Walsh, Eoin Cadogan, Pádraig Haughney, Mick Morrissey, Shane Cadogan, Robert Shore, Eoin McGrath, Aidan Lawlor.
Front: Brian Mulhall, John Mulhall, John Maher, Thomas Breen, Patrick Nolan, Joe Maher, Colin McGrath, James Dowling, Ronan Maher, Paul Maher, Alan Murphy.

Shamrocks leaked three late goals to O'Loughlins in the semi-final, a sure sign they were entering a county final in less than perfect condition as their defence continued to concede high scores. James Stephens trounced Graig-Ballycallan by 1-18 to 1-8 in a tough quarter final before alternating between mediocre and brilliant in the semi against St. Martins. The 'Martins men had shown much promise this year and were seven points ahead of the Village after forty minutes with every chance of winning the game against a Village side in which only Eoin Larkin and Jackie Tyrrell seemed to know how to win a game. 'Martins collapse thereafter was alarming, losing by nine points and they must learn much from the lesson if they are to prosper. They have lots of talent. Their first round match where they hammered Fenians by 1-16 to 0-6 was no

preparation for a semi-final as the Johnstown men seemed happy to fulfil the fixture having escaped relegation by winning their first round. A dangerous game.

One of the real surprises of the championship was the tame exit of Erins Own. Having been unlucky in a thrilling semi-final last year much was expected of a young and talented team. On form they should not have come unstuck against Fenians but their ultra defensive set up is unlikely to pay dividends in championship hurling.

O'Loughlins had far too much for Dicksboro both in league and championship but the St. John's men seemed to have suffered a hang-over from their All Ireland club campaign. The 'Boro achieved their main task by surviving their first year back in senior ranks. They should be bet-

ter for it and did well to get past Clara in the first round, showing more grit than the countrymen.

Dunnamaggin have always been better than the sum of their parts and they gave Carrickshock a real fright in the first round though reduced to 14 men for a long time. They too remain a stubborn opposition.

What of Tullaroan? They lost all their league games, some narrowly, displaying mixed form and then lost a torrid first round game they could have won against Graig-Ballycallan. But if there is one team nobody would wish to meet in a relegation scrap it is Tullaroan. With the relegation final balanced going into the last ten minutes their indomitable spirit and some canny defending ensured they retained senior status for one more year. Clara must return to intermediate ranks and de-



Philly Larkin and Ray Cody (James Stephens) jump with Eoin McGrath (St. Martins) during the SHC Semi Final clash in Nowlan Park.

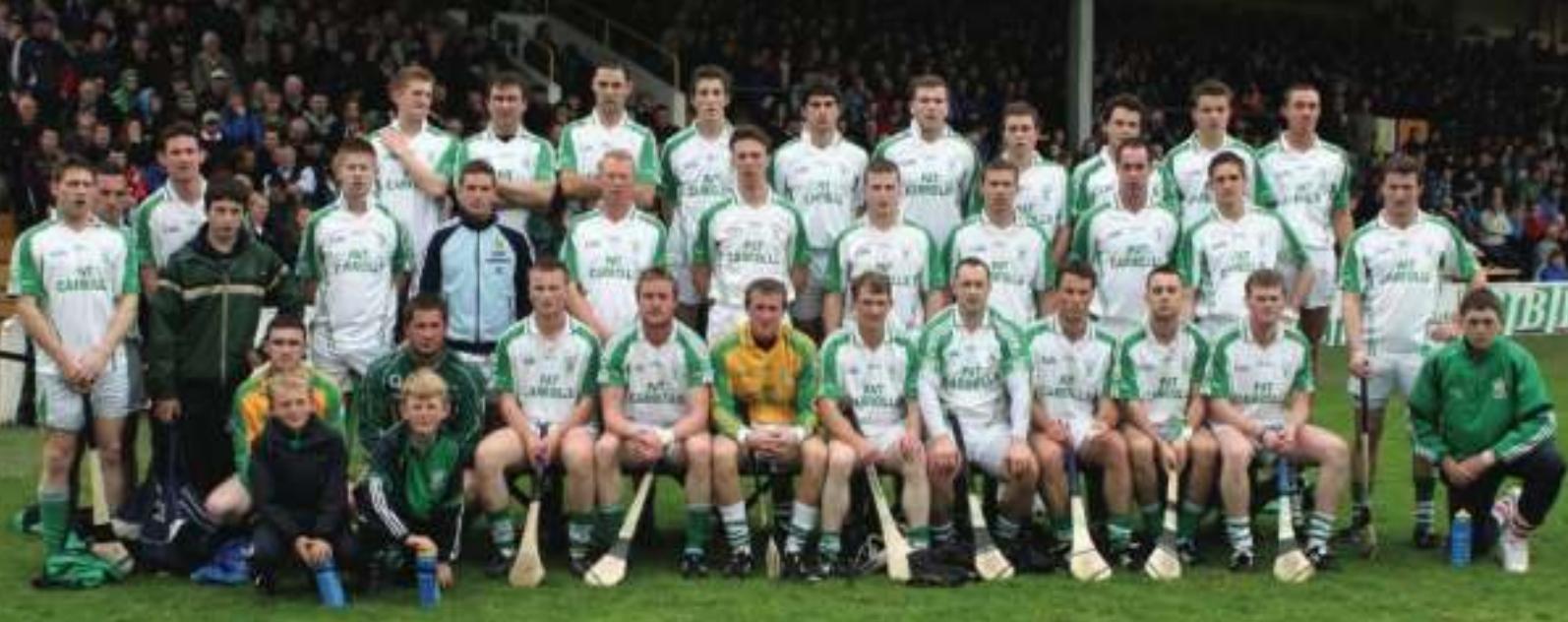
(Eoin Hennessy)



Bob Aylward and T.J. Reid (Ballyhale Shamrocks) fight with Mark Bergin (O'Loughlin Gaels) for the loose sliotar during the SHC Semi Final clash in Nowlan Park. (Eoin Hennessy)



James Stephens players celebrate at the end of the SHC Final replay in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



O'Loughlin Gaels - Kilkenny Senior Hurling Championship Semi-Finalists 2011

Back: Daniel Lenihan, Brian Murphy, Paddy Cantwell, Michael Hennebry, Andy Cantwell, Jason Quan, Jack Nolan, Richard Moylan, John Doyle, David Bourke.

Middle: Davy Broderick, Brian Dowling, Martin Comerford, Luke Leydon, Paddy Butler, Danny Loughnane, Sheamie Cummins, Brian Hogan (Capt.),

Eddie Kearns, Alan O'Brien, Niall McEvoy, Mark Kelly, Andy Kearns.

Seated: Sammy Johnston, Rick Leydon, Mark Bergin, Peter Dowling, Stephen Murphy, Brian Kelly, Alan Geoghegan, Niall Bergin, Conor Bergin, Maurice Nolan,

Danny O'Connor.

Boys in front: Micky Butler, Jamie Malone. (Eoin Hennessy)

**ST CANICE'S CREDIT UNION
SH CHAMPIONSHIP 2011**

Scoreboard

1st Round

Carrickshock	0-19	Dunnamaggin	1-14
G/Ballycallan	1-12	Tullaroan	1-11
Dicksboro	0-17	Clara	1-14
Dicksboro	2-16	Clara	1-17
Fenians	0-9	Erin's Own	0-7

2nd Round

St Martin's	1-16	Fenians	0-6
Ballyhale S.	2-17	Carrickshock	3-14
Ballyhale S.	2-18	Carrickshock	1-17
J Stephens	1-18	G/Ballycallan	1-8
O'Loughlin G	2-11	Dicksboro	1-10

Semi-Finals

J Stephens	3-16	St Martin's	2-10
Ballyhale S.	2-18	O'Loughlin G	3-12

Final

J Stephens	1-8	Ballyhale S.	0-11
J Stephens	1-20	Ballyhale S.	0-15

Relegation Final

Tullaroan	0-15	Clara	0-14
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velop a hard edge if they wish to bounce back to the top grade.

There are teams who could win a championship and far more teams who find it difficult to put more than two good championship performances together. However, our championship prospers because no one team can take any other for granted. Long may the ferocity of the contest remain.

(James Stephens, minus Jackie Tyrrell, were beaten by Wexford champions Oulart the Ballagh, in the opening round of the AIB Leinster Club Championship by 2-12 to 0-15. The crucial goals came either side of half time and proved too much for a James Stephens team which looked tired after its exertions of the previous two weekends.)



Eoin Larkin is lifted high after the SHC Final replay in Nowlan Park.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

The following players took part in the 2011 Kilkenny SH championship.

Ballyhale Shamrocks: Richard Reid, Paul Shefflin, Aidan Cummins, Ger Fennelly, Joseph Holden, Eamon Walsh, Bob Aylward, James Fitzpatrick, Michael Fennelly, Colin Fennelly, Henry Shefflin, T. J. Reid, Mark Aylward, Eoin Reid, Patrick Reid, David Hoyne, Conor Walsh, Alan Cuddihy.

Fenians: P. J. Ryan, Cathal Ryan, J. J. Delaney, J. P. Graham, John Henderson, Conor Tobin, Declan Brennan, Kevin Power, Ciaran Behan, John Broderick, Kevin Reid, Eoin Shiel, William Brennan, Darragh Tobin, Paul Quinlan, Kieran Grehan, Diarmuid Broderick, Jason Ryan, Eoin Phelan.

Carrickshock: Patrick Farrell, Niall Tennyson, John Dalton, David Franks, Darren O' Dwyer, John Murphy, Luke Gaule, Michael Rice, Shane Power, John Power, Jamie Power, Mark O' Dwyer, Michael Rohan, Richie Power, Andrew Power, John Cahill, William Hoyne, Paddy Mulcahy, John Butler.

Graigue Ballycallan: P. J. Trant, Adrian Bourke, Dermot Hoyne, Darragh Egan, James Ryall, Michael Hoyne, Darragh Walton, Ciaran Hoyne, Paddy Kennedy, Niall Millea, Eddie Brennan, Jimmy Smith, John Hoyne, Kevin Cleere, John Purcell, Jimmy Murphy, Shane Murphy, Dermot Heafey, Bob Murphy, James Young.

Clara: Kevin Nolan, Dermot Nolan, Shane Prendergast, Sean O' Shea, Neal Prendergast, David Langton, David Prendergast, Eoin o' Shea, Christopher Bolger, James Nolan, Lester Ryan, Liam Ryan, Keith Hogan, Conor Phelan, Cillian Phelan.

James Stephens: Derek Brennan, Philip Larkin, Jackie Tyrrell, John Comerford, Eamon Sheehy, Tomas Keogh, Donnacha Cody, Niall McQuillan, David McCormack, Niall Tyrrell, Gary Whelan, Eoin Larkin, Jack McGrath, Matthew Ruth, Diarmuid Cody, David Walton, Eoin McCormack, Conor McQuillan, Ray Cody, Richard Hayes.

Dicksboro: Cillian Breathnach, Danny Kenny, Kieran Cuddihy, Philip Hogan, Michael Fagan, David Glynn, Enda Malone, Eddie O'Donoghue, Martin Gaffney, Derek O'Gorman, Oisin Walsh, Ollie Walsh, Paul O'Flynn, Adrian Stapleton, David Ryan, Conor O'Loughlin, Shane Maher, Kevin Nolan, Cillian Starr, Eoin Goff.

O'Loughlin Gaels: Stephen Murphy, Brian Kelly, Andy Kearns, Eddie Kearns, Alan O'Brien, Brian Hogan, Niall Bergin, Peter Dowling, Maurice Nolan, Alan Geoghegan, Martin Comerford, Niall McEvoy, Danny Loughnane, Mark Bergin, Conor Bergin, Brian Dowling, Mark Kelly, Seamus Cummings.

St. Martin's: Colin McGrath, Niall Moran, Paddy Nolan, Shane Cadogan, Alan Murphy, James Dowling, Ronan Maher, Tom Breen, Damien Maher, John Mullhall, Eoin McGrath, Joe Maher, Paul Maher, Robert Shore, Shane Coonan, Canice Maher, Bryan Byrne, Brendan Maher.

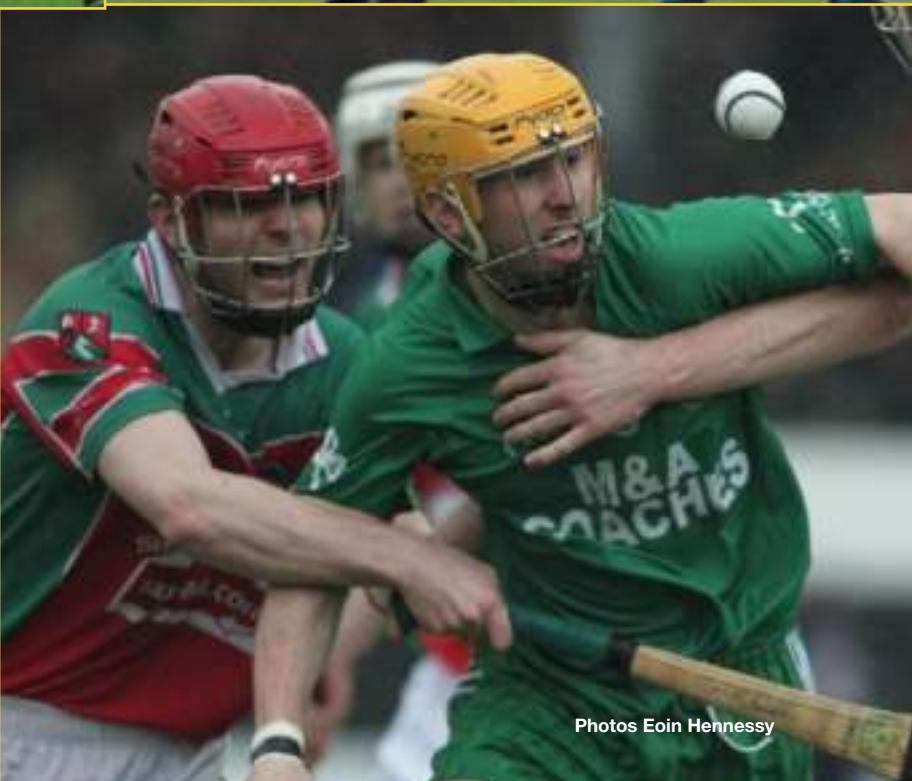
Tullaroan: Richard Holland, Paddy Campion, Eddie Campion, Paul Glennon, Michael Maher, Stephen Maher, David Dowling, Ken Coogan, Tommy Walsh, Mark Walsh, Jimmy Coogan, Padraig Walsh, Martin Walsh, Eamon Brennan, Paul Buggy.



Matthew Ruth (James Stephens) is challenged by Paul Shefflin (Ballyhale Shamrocks) during the SHC Final replay. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



SH CHAMPIONSHIP ACTION



Photos Eoin Hennessy

The Last Leaf Falls

Martin White RIP



On October 14th 2011, Kilkenny's oldest surviving All Ireland winner died at the great age of 102. Martin was a member of the famous Kilkenny team of the 1930's, winning All Ireland medals in 1932, 1933 and 1935. He also played on the 1931, 1936 and 1937 losing teams. His last championship game was the drawn Leinster Final of 1938. He was a member of Kilkenny's first NHL winning team of 1932/33 and won a Railway Cup medal with Leinster in 1936.

Tullaroan was his club and with them he won County medals in 1930, 1933 and 1934. Martin enjoyed good health right to the end and followed the fortunes of Kilkenny from his home in Glasnevin with the greatest interest. He took enormous pleasure in the success of the present Kilkenny team and was especially delighted with this year's win. Martin visited Croke Park before this year's All-Ireland final and was presented with a copy of the 1939 All-Ireland final programme.

The following profile of Martin White by Enda McEvoy appeared in the 2002 Kilkenny GAA Yearbook under the title of "A Man for All Seasons"

Now:-

Ninety-three years young, he tends his garden in Glasnevin in Dublin with loving care, clips the hedges, does his best to keep the jackdaws at bay. He enjoys TV sport, including the golf (he took up the sport at the age of 50 at Donabate, where his first handicap was nine), plus the nature programmes on the Discovery Channel. Every morning he drives to Mass in Ballygall church nearby and gets the messages and the paper afterwards. On Mondays he's always a little late back to Peg, his wife of 55 years. Well, the post-mortem on the previous day's matches with his cronies after Mass does take time, he points out by way of mitigation.

" May you live in interesting times," as the Chinese curse has it. Martin White has. Through the War of Independence, the Civil War, two world wars, seven children, 12 grandchildren and three All Ireland senior hurling medals in the black and amber. The first of them was won 70 years ago, in 1932.

Then-

Martin White was 23 years old. One of a family of 14 children from Bonnetstown near Tullaroan, working in Clover Meats in Waterford, staying with the Misses Murphy in 6 Wellington Street. You started off an apprentice at £1 a week. Next up the scale was £2-8, a shilling an hour. Next after that was £2-15. Martin eventually took over as manager of the tanning factory on £5 a week - "a good wage then"

County training meant travelling to Kilkenny in Tom Blanchfield's hackney car. They'd stop at Tory Hill to collect Jack Duggan. Neddy Doyle would get in at Mooncoin. Occasionally they'd pick up the Carrickshock contingent if a car was unavailable there. It was a long evening, and invariably Martin wasn't back in his lodgings in Waterford until after midnight. No fun when he had to be into work at eight o'clock next morning.

The training itself rarely varied, though the pace was upped approaching the All Ireland final, Dublin having been disposed of by four points in the provincial decider. Some hurling, a practice match, a couple of circuits of Nowlan Park, sprints. Afterwards there was a meal in Dunnes' of James's Street, the Langtons' of the era "and a great house on a fair day".

That far-off September weekend began for him and the Mooncoin players at the railway station in Waterford on the Saturday afternoon, the rest of their colleagues boarding the train in Kilkenny. Up into and through Carlow, the necklace of small rural stations of the era full of young people waving and shouting their support. The

team stayed in the Ossory Hotel in Gardiner's Row, a couple of doors down from Barry's Hotel and owned by a man from Castlecomer. "It was a good hotel for food. Comfortable. What more would you want? The only drawback was that the Sunday morning was a bit long, waiting for the match." For eve-of-the-final relaxation Martin went to the pictures in the Savoy in O'Connell Street. A good cowboy film, that's what he liked. Or maybe a gangster movie with the one and only Jimmy Cagney. Or something with Clark Gable, Loretta Young, "all those ladies". The next morning he went to Mass in Gardiner Street. On his return he found Gardiner's Row a sea of humanity, with gangs of people gathered outside the hotel.

The 1932 final pairing was a unique one, unrepeatable until the next century. Clare had claimed their first Munster title since 1914 by defeating Cork, the All Ireland champions, thanks to a four-goal blast from the talismanic Tull Considine. But Kilkenny, who'd lost to the Leesiders in the legendary three-part final the previous year,

possessed in Lory Meagher, Podge Byrne and Peter O'Reilly a number of loyal servants nearing the end of the line; Mattie Power, a winner with both his native county in 1922 and Dublin in 1927, was the only member of the team who possessed an All Ireland medal. "The older players were anxious to get an All Ireland medal before they retired," Martin recalls. "That inspired the younger lads to do their best for them. Everybody played for it. Also, we wanted to make up for 1931."

Martin, 10 years younger, had admired his near-neighbour Meagher from afar as a boy; their parents

were firm friends. "He always seemed to know where the ball was. He was so graceful. A beautiful follow-through on a stroke. Great body, great shoulders, powerful arms although he was light-limbed. It wasn't until the 1931 All Ireland final, when he was 32, that everyone recognised Lory's talent. But we'd seen him play in his mid-20s and that was the time he was really good."

Watched by a record attendance of 34,692 which yielded gate receipts of £2,999 1s 3d, the first half was a dour affair. Clare led by 0-3 to 0-2 at the break. Power hit a goal for Kilkenny shortly after the resumption. Then Meagher and White, the Tullaroan clubmates, linked up and turned the game on its head.

Twice in the space of four minutes Meagher flighted sideline balls

in head-high towards the Railway End goalmouth, the first from under the old Hogan Stand, the second from the opposite wing. Twice White, lurking with intent, was on hand to connect. Twice Dr Tommy Daly, Clare's fabled goalkeeper, was beaten. Kilkenny led by eight points and looked home and hosed.

It wasn't over yet, however. The Munster champions rallied in the closing quarter and hit two goals to cut the leeway to two points. They would have been closer still, Martin believes, had they not employed Mick Falvey at right-half forward. "He was a natural mid-fielder and kept dropping back there. He would have made a difference had he been there the whole time."

"I got a bit jittery when Clare came to within two points of us." Jimmy Walsh said, "We'll have to do something about this." Mattie Power did, got a point that made the gap three points." Famously, Clare had a chance of levelling when Considine gained possession in the dying minutes. Looking on from full-forward at the far end of the field, Martin was sure that Considine would score. But Podge Byrne intervened and gave him a nudge. "Tull only barely touched the ball in trying to connect with it, more or less hit fresh air. Podge got it and cleared it. That was the winning of it." The final whistle sounded with Kilkenny 3-3 to 2-3 in front.

Sadly, Clare were not to pass that way again for another 63 years. Next morning Considine told White and Paddy Phelan that they were young enough to win another medal. "I'll never win one now," he added wistfully. "I'm gone too far." In later years, Phelan publicly stated that losing to Clare in 1932 wouldn't have broken his heart. Martin isn't sure he'd have been so magnanimous. "Certainly we'd have begrudged it to them at the time. I was young, it was my



Brian, Cody, Tommy Walsh and Liam McCarthy visit Martin White on his 100th birthday in 2009.

first All Ireland medal, I couldn't be sure I'd win another one. But looking back, you wouldn't have minded so much."

The new champions travelled home by train on the Monday evening. They reached Kilkenny "with fog signals going off by the new time" and were carried shoulder-high the long way around town, via Greensbridge and Irish-town and up High Street, to be received at City Hall by the members of the Corporation. Our man was relieved simply to get there, for his circuit of the city had been painful in the extreme. "A big guy under you on one side, a small guy under you on the other side. Murder. It was Kilkenny's first All Ireland win in 10 years. There were an awful lot of young people who had never seen one before, so the crowds were huge,

on the platforms of the stations on the way home as well as in the city itself. Why it was so good was because people had wondered if our form in 1931 was a flash in the pan. The '32 final proved that it wasn't."

Different times, different hurling. "There was a lot of centrefield play because of the heavy ball. That's why you had so many good centrefield men. Timmy Ryan of Limerick, Jim Hurley of Cork, Mick Gill from Galway, Lory. Lots of overhead striking, which used to be lovely. Aerial hurling from one backline to the other backline. But the lads today have to be very fit because the ball travels so fast, and I like that too."

Martin was sufficiently versatile to line out in all the forward positions during his intercounty career. In the 1935 All Ireland final against Limerick he featured in three different positions, starting off at left-half forward on Mickey Crosse and moving to top of the right in direct opposition to Mick Kennedy after Johnny Dunne was in-



Kilkenny SH Team 1937
Back Row: Jimmy Morrissey, Jack Duggan, Paddy Dowling, Larry duggan, Jimmy O'Connell, Eddie Byrne, Paddy Phelan, Podge Byrne.
Front Row: Matty Power, Val Madigan, Paddy Larkin, Mick Tyrrell, Peter Blanchfield, Martin White, Billy Bourke.

jured before fetching up for the second half at centre-forward on Paddy Clohosey. "They were no easy men to mark. We beat a better team than ourselves that day. Limerick were at their peak." One of Kilkenny's goals in their 2-5 to 2-4 victory the same sodden afternoon was scored by Martin, from ^ yes ^ a Meagher lineball from under the Hogan Stand. Martin caught it on the 21-yard line but, crucially, hesitated. As he did so, the Limerick defenders moved out and let their guard down. He let fly with a drop-puck "and knew it was in because I saw the rain falling off the net. Had I hit it instead of waiting, they would have stopped it."

And now again-

After ten years in Waterford, he moved to Cork in the summer of 1939 and hurled with Blackrock, then on to Dublin in 1948, upon which he became a baker. (First a butcher, then a baker. One of these days he'll probably get around to candlestick-making.) But he's never forgotten where he comes from; the sight of the black and amber continues to warm his heart. His nephew Mick Crotty won four All Ireland medals with the county in the 1970s, and Kilkenny matches in Croke Park remain a cause for pilgrimage. The usual gang from Tullaroan ^ Billy Gaffney, John Walton, Dick and

Eamon Holland ^ call up to him in Glasnevin beforehand, maybe have a drink, bring him down to Croke Park and drop him home afterwards.

There is nobody better equipped to trace the lineage of modern-day Kilkenny hurlers. Take John Hoyne, for instance. Easy one. Martin knew his great-grandfather Paddy well. "Bonnetstown had a team in 1935. John Hoyne, Paddy's son, was in goal. A good goalie too. They won the junior championship, beat Slieverue in the final. The following year they reached the intermediate final and lost to Slieverue. My brother Michael (the long-established High Street chemist) was on the same team." Purely in the interests of accuracy, dear Yearbook reader, we checked the records in Tom Ryall's Kilkenny: The GAA Story. Those two finals did have those very outcomes. Foolish of us to have even bothered.

Any ambitions, Martin? "I can't say I have. Well, maybe to live another couple of years. They tell me I'm on bonus time!"

Some bonus time. Some life. Some man.

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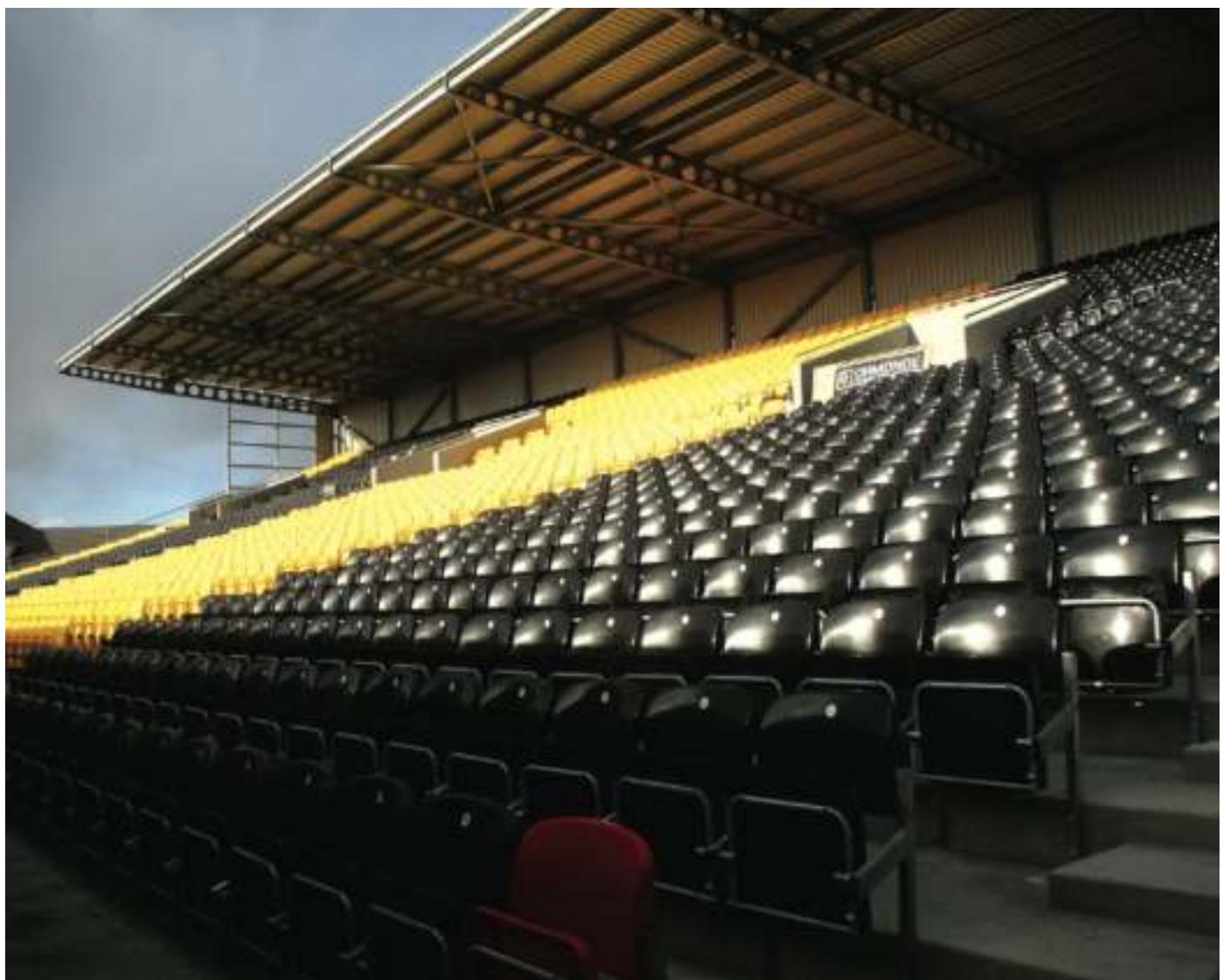
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Some Positive Moments

All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship 2011 by Conor Brennan

An All-Ireland quarter-final defeat at the hands of Waterford brought a disappointing end to the ESB Minor Hurling championship of 2011 for Kilkenny, but despite the low key exit, a few flickering moments of positivity can be garnered from the mire. A number of players showed their potential to compete at the highest level, particularly those who will continue in the minor grade in 2012. Meanwhile, the newly appointed team management of Adrian Ronan, Br. Damien Brennan, Barry Power and Niall Lacey will have a better understanding of the different requirements they will need to meet when Kilkenny tackle for honours once again next season. One could never doubt that honest endeavour was in plentiful supply with the Kilkenny minors of 2011, but what was lacking was a real consistency throughout the team, which, one surmises, will only come to this particular group of players with further experience at this level.

The season began in earnest for the minors on May 7th as they travelled to Westmeath to take on the home side in Cusack Park in Mullingar in their first game of the Leinster championship. The home side would have held little fear of the Kilkenny challenge, having shown in previous years that this particular generation of players have serious potential, as well as defeating Carlow and Offaly in the Leinster championship up to that point. Therefore, Kilkenny should have been wary of their opponents and the possibility of being under some strong pressure during the game.

They seemed to have been well primed for the Westmeath challenge, judging by their performance in the opening half. The defence was well led by Eoin McGrath, a member of last year's All-Ireland winning team, who was performing well on Westmeath's dangerous attacker, Aonghus Clarke. The attack was also sharp, and they were awarded with goals on two occasions, both very well-taken by Johnny Hayes and Kevin Kelly. The latter was proving to be the key player in the Kilkenny forward line, and had managed to secure a personal tally of 1-3 by the half-time break. This contributed to Kilkenny having a nine point advantage at the half-time break, leading by 2-5 to 0-2. With the slight breeze in Kilkenny's favour for the second half, it seemed that Kilkenny need only maintain their dominance at their ease and ensure their safe

passage to the next round.

But, Westmeath had other ideas, and came thundering back into the game in the second half. Buoyed on by the vociferous home support, they scored five consecutive points to close the gap, and eventually tied the game with ten minutes to go with a well-taken goal (2-8 to 1-11). Fortunately for Kilkenny, however, they could not maintain their composure in that crucial period, while they themselves were able to grab a couple of crucial scores when it mattered most. Kevin Kelly again proved his worth with a fantastic score from 70 metres out, while substitute Robert Moran soon followed this with another point at the death, ensuring Kilkenny staggered over the line on a 2-10 to 1-11 score line. It was far from pretty in the end, but victory was secured.

The team management clearly felt there was more within their panel of players that what was produced on that opening day, and so made a number of switches for their Leinster semi-final clash with Wexford in Wexford Park, which took place after the examinations break. Wexford, like Westmeath before them, had high aspirations of making an impact at minor level, and with the home field advantage, were confident of putting up a serious challenge to Kilkenny.

But it was clear from an early stage that Kilkenny had their homework done on their opponents. They enjoyed a good start with a well taken goal from Conor Martin, but the home side were gaining confidence as the first half went on. They replied with a goal of their own from a 21-yard free, and scored another goal with an emphatic finish to gain the lead. However, the game then swung dramatically back in Kilkenny's favour when Wexford were reduced to 14 men just before half-time. Though they led by 2-10 to 1-8 at the interval, Wexford now had to face into the second half at a numerical disadvantage as well as playing into a stiffening breeze. To their credit, Kilkenny used the advantage to full effect, employing Ciaran Doyle as the spare man in defence and he performed in that position admirably. When Kevin Kelly managed to scramble a breaking ball to the Wexford net, Kilkenny snatched the lead and never let go of it from there until the finish. Wexford battled very



Kilkenny MH Team 2011

Back: David Kearns, Peter Kenneally, Conor Martin, Kevin Walsh, Diarmuid Cody, Jack McDowell, Owen McGrath, Conor O'Shea, Jack McGrath, Peter Vickery, Johnny Hayes, Eoin Moriarty, Kevin Kelly, Mark Mansfield.
Front: Darragh Egan, Ciaran Doyle, Aaron Duggan, Thomas Hanrahan, Chris Bolger, Richie Reid, James Maher, Luke Hickey, Robert Moran, Enda Morrissey.
(Eoin Hennessy)

hard but were unable to get the scores to endorse that effort. In the end, though it possibly flattered them, Kilkenny had six points to spare, winning 2-19 to 2-13.

The Leinster Final with Dublin was expected to be a tougher proposition, and it proved to be that. Like Wexford, the Dublin minors had high aspirations towards this campaign and they would have held little fear for Kilkenny. This was reflected without question in the opening half. Dublin always seemed to have the ability to stay a point or two ahead of Kilkenny and when their most dangerous forward, Cormac Costello, scored a goal late in the half, it meant Kilkenny had an uphill battle on their hands, as they went in at half-time 1-9 to 0-7 behind.

The second half saw Kilkenny try as hard as they could to close the deficit, but the closest they got to that was the goal that continued to separate the sides. Both sides did shoot some excellent points during the half, but Kilkenny just could not salvage enough. A late goal from impressive substitute James Maher did push Kilkenny closer, but Dublin had enough composure to see off their opponents, as they advanced to the All-Ireland semi-final on a 1-14 to 1-11 score line.

This result now meant that Kilkenny had to face defeated Munster finalists, Waterford, in a do-or-die All-Ireland quarter final. Waterford were fortunate to secure home venue, so both teams faced up to each other in Walsh Park. Kilkenny went into the game under no illusions that they would be entering a somewhat hostile venue. And so it proved as Waterford were quicker to settle and led by 0-5 to 0-1 after the opening quarter. But Kilkenny soon closed the gap to a point and showed great composure in doing so. But Waterford, who had a strong physical presence through the spine of their team, recovered to eventually lead by 0-9 to 0-4.

Kilkenny now had to chase the game and against a resolute home defence, this was a tough task. But they persisted and again closed the gap to three points. But the extra kick that may have come through a goal never came, and the more time elapsed, the more confident Waterford became and the more desperate Kilkenny did likewise. Waterford patiently added to their points tally, until eventually, they once again had six points to spare (0-15 to 0-9). This was the score line when the final whistle was blown, and condemned Kilkenny's chances of minor success for another year.

The full panel of players who saw action during the 2011 championship were:

Aaron Duggan (Dicksboro), Ciaran Doyle (Barrow Rangers), Jack McDowell (John Lockes), Eoin Moriarty (Emeralds), Jack McGrath (James Stephens), Eoin McGrath (John Lockes), Diarmuid Cody (James Stephens), Chris Bolger (Clara), David



Jack McDowell and Aaron Duggan (Kilkenny) jump with Emmett O'Conghaile (Dublin) during the Leinster Minor Hurling Final in Croke Park.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

Kearns (Mooncoin), Richie Reid (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Kevin Kelly (St. Patrick's), James Maher (St. Lachtain's), Thomas O'Hanrahan (Thomastown), Conor Martin (Emeralds), Peter Vickery (Conahy Shamrocks), Shay Dempsey (Kilmacow), Enda Morrissey (Bennettsbridge), Kevin Walsh (Piltown), Luke Hickey (James Stephens), Johnny Hayes (Kilmacow), Peter肯neally (Dunnamagggin), Mark Mansfield (Mullinavat), David Burke (O'Loughlin Gaels), Robert Moran (Erin's Own), Dara Egan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Conor O'Shea (Clara), Willie Brennan (Fenians), Danny Lenihan (O'Loughlin Gaels).

Team Management: Adrian Ronan (Manager), Br. Damien Brennan, Barry Power, Niall Lacey (Coach).



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Eamon Hennessy RIP

Eamon Hennessy, who died on March 22nd 2011, was immersed in GAA matters all his life. A member of a famous Kilkenny hurling family, his love of the game began in early childhood under the influence of his greatly respected father, Paddy, whose work with juvenile hurlers in St Canice's and St Mary's endeared him to a generation of young city boys. Eamonn served the GAA as a player, County Board member (he was County Registrar in the eighties), but he is mainly remembered for his indefatigable work with Kilkenny Supporters club where he served in several capacities over many years. right up to his death. Jovial and popular, he maintained huge contacts with the association in America and was as well known in New York circles as he was in his native city.

The sympathy of the County Board is extended to Eamon's wife, Mary and to his children, Patrick, Lisa, Maria and Liam.

The following is an excerpt from the tribute read at his funeral Mass by his great friend and brother-in-law, Frank Morrissey.

During the last few weeks we were lucky enough to have the chance to create some new memories with Eamonn. We sat around the table, drank tea, tea and more tea, sampled numerous cakes and tarts and reminisced about the all good times we had and all the humorous things that happened over the years. Only last Thursday night, St. Patrick's Night, Eileen and Sheila dressed up in Irish dancing outfits and were marched into the kitchen by Leo playing the Bodhrán. When I married into this family 30 years ago little did I know what I was getting myself in for. I got a wife, 6 brothers and a sister. But most of all great friends in Eamonn and Mary. I found out in the last few days things Eamonn did for people in a bit of bother. He did it quietly and without anyone knowing. That's the kind of man he was. Mary described him yesterday as the Quiet Man. A man of few words. There was no bull. But when he spoke you listened, because it was worth listening to.

First and foremost he was a family man. A great husband, father, brother, uncle and godfather; Grandfather to Ethan and Drew, he was proud of them all. And was in the process of doing a family tree.

His other great passion in life was Hurling, and Kilkenny hurling in particular. Now when it came to that he wasn't a quiet man. He could talk for hours about it and never tired of it. He was the proudest Kilkenny man I ever knew and when the Rose of Mooncoin was sung, he stood to attention, chest out and insisted and singing all the verses. He came from his father Paddy's school of Hurling hopefuls travelling by Rolls Royce i.e the Scuttruck from the Butts to far off places like Gort Co. Galway. Later in life he was influenced by the Paddy Grace style of administrators where the players are the most important ones. That tradition is still carried on today and we are reaping the rewards of it. There

was nothing he loved better than to be with the Kilkenny hurlers. A highlight of his year would always be the Kilkenny team holiday. He travelled on these holidays from the 1970s to the present day, starting in New York with his friend Dick Lyons. On these holidays he was Mr. Fix It, any problems that arose Eamonn sorted it, always looking out for the players. In the early 80s, along with Eamonn Langton, Jim Langton and John Knox, Eamonn formed the Friends of Kilkenny Hurling to raise funds for team holidays. He served as Registrar and Development officer on Kilkenny Co. Board in 1983-1986. And was involved with the successful U-21 team in 1999. He has served as treasurer of the Kilkenny GAA Supporters from 1995 to the present day and only last Friday summoned myself, John Mackey and Jim Freeman to Nowlan Park to discuss arrangements for the coming year and of course what improvements can be made to the Wanderly Wagon shop, as we call it. On behalf of Eamonn, I want to thank all the hurlers for the pride and enjoyment they gave him and the rest of us over the years.

On the playing field, he was part of the Dicksboro minor team that won a championship in 1969. His brother Kevin told us yesterday that he played against him. Kevin, with the Village and Eamonn with O'Loughlins. In 1977 he was a founder member of St. Marys Riochs. He played two years in the Junior Championship with

them and had the rare distinction of being sent off twice in one match. When Leo asked him about this recently he said he just refused to go the first time. When Leo asked about the second time Eamonn replied "Ah well I deserved to go then." I think after this he decided his real club was Kilkenny Hurling.

He also loved music, particularly the ballads. He sat at the kitchen table at night time, drinking his mug of tea and maybe smoking the odd cigarette, listening to the local radio or listening to The Dubliners, WolfeTones or Christy Moore on CD. Eamons nephew Ross is a member of Na Fianna, but Ross you weren't the first Hennessy to be a member of a band. Eamonn with his friends Benny Walsh, Luke Roche, Tommy Roche and Pat Kelly formed a group called Kelly's Crew back in the late 60s. If anyone has any of their L.P.'s hold on to them as they are a collectors item and are probably very valuable.

Now all that's left to say is thank you to Eamonn for your friendship and all the great memories. We will never forget you, and tell them all up there we were asking for them.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



Eamon's Wanderly Wagon

Early Call to Arms as Wexford Win Out in Injury Time

All-Ireland U21 Championship 2011 by Jimmy Walsh

An early call to arms saw the under twenty one side promoted to represent Kilkenny in the Walsh Cup Senior Hurling tie against NUIG (Galway) on January 23rd. Having defeated Offaly in the preliminary round, the visitors with local goal scorer, Shane Brennan on board, found Kilkenny too hot to handle in Ballyragget after the game was moved from the All-weather pitch in Heywood College owing to fog. On the day Richie Doyle showed his credentials at centre back as Rory Hickey, Padraig Walsh, Cathal Kenny and Joe Brennan headed the scoring list as they won by 3-16 to 2-12. After Kilkenny reverted to the senior side for the semi final, Conor Fogarty carried the under twenty player's mantle as the side recorded a win over Laois before going down by Dublin in the final. Elsewhere the newly appointed selection team of David Buggy and Liam Sutton and Manager Michael Walsh sat down to plan to build a championship-winning side. With the Provincial draw breaking a four-in-a-row of first round appearances against Offaly, and with the holders Dublin in the other side of the draw, the team's sights were set to play Wexford away. Following a series of challenge games that included Waterford, Tipperary and Cork where the latter sides were showing good early season form, a strong side was put in place for a visit to Wexford Park on the second Tuesday evening in June.

Last minute drama in Wexford Park

After a slow start in the Bord Gais Energy Leinster quarter final, the side found themselves four points behind a wind-assisted home side after just six minutes. Within minutes Kilkenny rallied and a Ger Aylward goal set them on a path that was to see the sides tied 2-12 to 1-15 with just a minute to go. On the way an exchange of goals saw Wexford's Paul Morris regain his side's four points lead before Thomas Breen netted to leave the minimum in it at the end of the first quarter. After Wexford added three further points the advantage quickly swung Kilkenny's way as Wexford were reduced to fourteen men after a double yellow card incident. Before it impacted on the game,

another double yellow from a total of the nine awarded, saw both sides down a man as the half time score read 1-11 to 2-4 in Wexford's favour. On the restart Kilkenny were flying and were on level terms within five minutes as Eoin Murphy, Cathal Kenny, Walter Walsh and substitute Michael Moloney pointed. Two quick Wexford points in reply saw them go two ahead as the next four points were shared in an exciting game to leave the score 2-10 to 1-15 with just five minutes to go. Late points by Cathal Kenny and Walter Walsh saw extra time beckoning as Kilkenny's last attack fell short and the keeper's long clearance was fouled at the opposite end of the field. The resultant free stroke almost sixty meters out on the sideline was taken by Emmet Kent in the sixty first minute and sailed over the bar to give Wexford a single point victory and a place in the semi final with Laois.



Cathal Kenny (Kilkenny) holds off Sean McCormack (NUIG) during the Walsh Cup match in Ballyragget. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Thomas Breen (Kilkenny) in action against Wexford in the Leinster Quarter Final in Wexford

Scorers: Kilkenny: T Breen 1-1, G Aylward 1-0, E Murphy 0-5, (0-4frees), C Kenny 0-3, M Moloney 0-2, W Walsh 0-1. Wexford: P Morris 1-1, J Leacy 0-3, E Kent 0-3 (frees), L Og McGovern 0-3, S Tomkins 0-2, M O'Regan 0-1 (free), S Murphy, H Kehoe, P Doran 0-1 each. *Kilkenny: Dylan Walsh Thomastown, Ian Duggan Mullinavat, Michael Walsh Young Irelands, Aidan Moran Erin's Own, Jerry Callinan Erin's Own, Richie Doyle Barrow Rangers, Conor Fogarty Erin's Own, Joe Lyng Rower Inistioge, Ollie Walsh Dicksboro, Thomas Breen St. Martin's, Cathal Kenny Barrow Rangers, Eoin Murphy Glenmore, Ger Aylward Glenmore, Walter Walsh Tulloher Rosbercon Joe Brennan St. Patrick's Subs: Michael Moloney Blacks & Whites for Moran, Brian Kennedy St. Lachtain's for Callinan, Padraig Walsh Tullaroan, James Gannon St. Patrick's. Also, Eoghan Mealey Erin's Own, Sean Phelan Lisdowney, Luke Harney Kilmacow, Martin Gaffney Dicksboro, Stephen Crowley Mooncoin. The extended Panel Members were James Cassin Rower Inistioge, Enda Malone Dicksboro, Rory Hickey Lisdowney, Geoff Brennan St. Patrick's, Pádraig*



Michael Walsh

Gahan Mullinavat, Conor Tobin Fenians, Shane Norton Emeralds, Tommy Flynn St. Lachtain's, Danny Kenny Dicksboro and Danny Purcell Mooncoin.

For the Record

Walsh Cup details:

Kilkenny 3-16, NUIG 2-12

Kilkenny: Dylan Walsh, Ian Duggan, Michael Walsh, Alan Cuddihy, David Healy, Richie Doyle, Brian Kennedy, Luke Harney, Joe Lyng, Cathal Kenny, James Gannon, Rory Hickey, Canice Maher, Joe Brennan, Padraig Walsh. Subs: Ger Aylward, Paul Guinan, Padraig Gahan, Joey Holden. Scorers: Rory Hickey (1-7, goal penalty, points frees), Padraig Walsh (2-0), Cathal Kenny (0-3), Joe Brennan (0-2), Richie Doyle, Joe Lyng, Canice Maher, Paul Guinan (0-1 each)

Breaking News

In recent days Team Manager, Senior All Ireland winner and All Star Michael Walsh stepped down after a four year term in charge of the team. In his term he guided the side to complete the clean sweep of the intercounty hurling titles with a win over Tipperary in Croke Park in 2008. The following year his side went down by a single point to Clare in the All Ireland Final. Last year the victors, Dublin, also went on to contest the All Ireland Final whilst many of Michael's players progressed to step on to the plate to win both Senior All Ireland medals and All Stars this year

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INTERMEDIATES NEARLY DEFY THE ODDS

All-Ireland Intermediate Hurling Championship 2011 by Conor Brennan

All-Ireland Intermediate County Hurling Championship 2011

Though it may have been heartening to secure a fine victory over Cork in last year's intermediate All-Ireland Final under the Semple Stadium floodlights, it immediately made the challenge of retaining the title in 2011 a major challenge for Kilkenny manager Pat Hoban and his management team. The reason for this is the fact that all of last year's participants were ineligible as a result of their success. In spite of this, the entire Intermediate panel and their management deserve great credit for rising to this challenge with great gusto and ultimately coming as close as they did, losing a tight game to a strong Clare team in the All-Ireland final. Once again, some individual players did their further inter-county aspirations no harm at all, which can only be promising for next season and beyond.

It was a shorter season for the 2011 squad than in previous years with only two competitive games in their campaign. The Leinster Final against Wexford in Nowlan Park on July 6th was expected to be as close as previous encounters between the two teams, with results having gone both ways over the years. On this occasion, Kilkenny were the team who enjoyed the better start. But Wexford soon responded with a goal from Tomas O'Leary to take the lead. Kilkenny did manage to show good composure in responding to this setback, with Eoin Murphy and Adrian Stapleton showing well in the Kilkenny attack. The former broke through the Wexford defence to emphatically shoot to the net which saw Kilkenny grow in confidence to such an extent that they eventually led 1-9 to 1-3 at the half-time whistle. The second half saw Kilkenny maintain their lead for the opening minutes until Wexford's Nigel Higgins scored their second goal to cut the gap to two points. But that was as good as it got

for the Model county, as Kilkenny once again found another gear to respond in fine style. Ger Shelley was on hand to score a vital goal which commenced a period of Kilkenny dominance as the points flowed from John Joe Farrell, Simon Burke, Walter Walsh and Seoirse Kenny, together with pointed frees from Eoin Murphy. Wexford could only respond with a single pointed free as Kilkenny eventually strolled to victory on a 2-18 to 2-9 score line. With that, a place in the All-Ireland Final was secured.

Kilkenny's All-Ireland opponents, Clare, had enjoyed a number of fine victories on their way to the final and with players such as the experienced Niall Gilligan and Tony Carmody among their major names, they were not short of ability. Kilkenny were also hamstrung by the absence of three of their key players, Richie Doyle, Kieran Joyce and Eoin Murphy due to their commitments with the Kilkenny senior panel.

But this seemed to matter little during the opening exchanges as Kilkenny raced into a 1-1 to 0-0 lead. Paul O'Flynn was the scorer of the Kilkenny goal, running onto a breaking ball and finishing well to the net. Clare were also missing opportunities at the other end which further unsettled the Banner men. Yet, they soon found their range with points from Shane Golden and Niall Gilligan and this was soon followed by a goal from Tony Carmody after a barnstorming run through the Kilkenny defence. Kilkenny were now themselves guilty of spurning some scoring opportunities while Clare continued to increase their lead. When the half-time break arrived, they had secured a four point lead (1-8 to 1-4).

The opening minutes of the second half was when the game was ultimately won and lost. Though there was no score from either side in the opening five minutes, Clare eventually struck a



Kilkenny - Leinster IH Champions & All Ireland Finalists 2011 (Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Kieran Cuddihy Dicksboro, Paul Morrissey John Lockes, Luke Harney Kilmacow, Seoirse Kenny St. Patrick's, David Power Windgap, Michael Grace Mooncoin, Simon Burke John Lockes, Eddie Hickey Lisdowney.

Middle: Michael Moloney Black and Whites, Richie O'Neill Kilmacow, John Joe Farrell Thomastown, Kieran Joyce The Rower, Richie Doyle Barrow Rangers, Walter Walsh Tullogher, Ger Shelly John Lockes.

Front: Ian Duggan Mullinavat, Sean Phelan Lisdowney, Willie O'Dwyer Mullinavat, Adrian Stapleton (Captain) Dicksboro, PJ Rowe Mooncoin, Conor Conway Mullinavat, Michael Walsh Young Irelands, Stephen Byrne Young Irelands, Eoin Murphy Glenmore.

number of killer blows when firstly Joe O'Connor and then Niall Gilligan scored two further points. Then immediately afterwards, Daire Keane broke through the Kilkenny defence once again to flick the ball to the net and open up a nine point lead for the Banner men (2-10 to 1-4). To Kilkenny's credit, they never gave up trying, and managed to score a number of excellent points to reduce the deficit. Stephen Byrne, PJ Rowe and Sean Phelan fought hard in the Kilkenny defence, while Michael Grace gave his all at midfield. Substitute Ger Aylward also made a very positive impression when introduced and was central to a lot of Kilkenny's best plays. But Clare could not be denied their victory and their first taste of success at this level, eventually winning 2-13 to 1-11. Disappointment may have been the major over-riding emotion for the Kilkenny men, but if this panel can be maintained for 2012, they can be strongly optimistic of going one stage further next time around.

The full Kilkenny Intermediate hurling panel was as follows:

Richie O'Neill (Kilmacow), Willie Phelan (Dunnamaggin), Michael Walsh (Young Irelands), Sean Phelan (Lisdowney), Luke Harney (Kilmacow), PJ Rowe (Mooncoin), Stephen Byrne (Young Irelands), Michael Grace (Mooncoin), Willie O'Dwyer (Mullinavat), Paul O'Flynn

(Dicksboro), Seoirse Kenny (St. Patrick's), John Joe Farrell (Thomas-town), Ger Shelley (John Lockes), Eddie Hickey (Lisdowney), Adrian Stapleton (Dicksboro), Paul Morrissey (John Lockes), Kieran Cuddihy (Dicksboro), Geoff Morrissey (St. Patrick's), Philly Lonergan (Windgap), Conor Conway (Mullinavat), Stephen Quinlan (Clara), Ollie Walsh (Dicksboro), Simon Burke (John Lockes), Ger Aylward (Glenmore), Nicky Kenny (Piltown), Robbie Walsh (Danesfort), David Power (Windgap), Gary Delaney (Cloneen), JJ Lennon (Young Irelands), Kieran Delaney (St. Patrick's), Enda Malone (Dicksboro), Michael Moloney (Blacks and Whites), Daragh Wafer (Bennettsbridge), Martin Gaffney (Dicksboro), Eoin Murphy (Glenmore), Richie Doyle (Barrow Rangers), Kieran Joyce (Rower-Inistioge).

Management Team: Pat Hoban (Manager), PJ Kenny, Paschal Connolly, Donal Carroll, Pat O'Grady (Coach).

Pat Hoban, the most successful manager ever with the county intermediate team, has stepped down from the job. The Mullinavat clubman served during five trophy-filled seasons. He took on the job in 2007 and, after losing to eventual All-Ireland champions, Wexford, that sea-



Pat Hoban
(Eoin Hennessy)

son, he guided the Cats into four national finals subsequently, winning the title in 2008 and 2010.

On top of that, four successive Leinster championships were won



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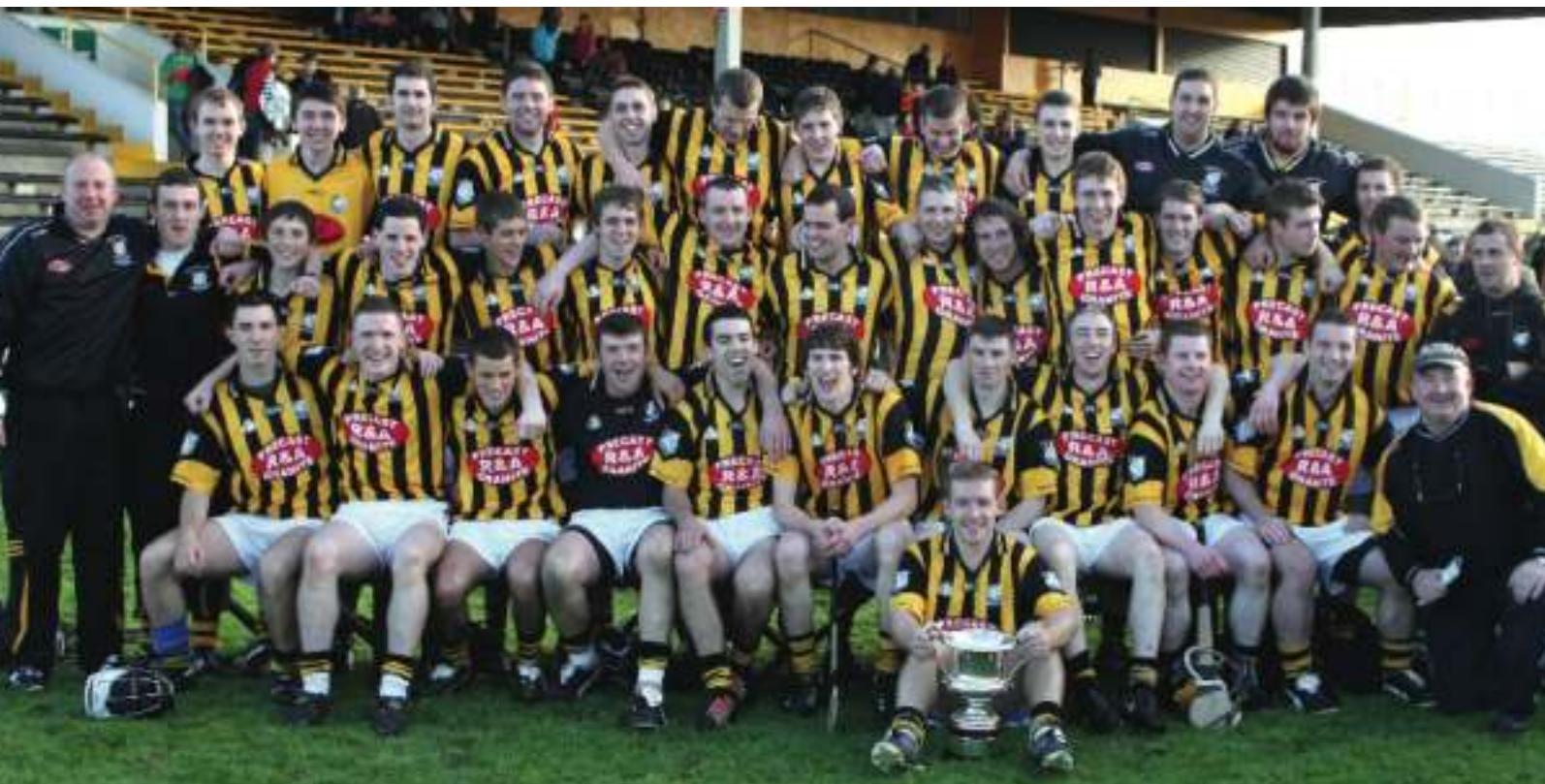
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DANESFORT GO SENIOR!

Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling Championship 2011 by Conor Brennan



Danesfort - County IH Champions 2011 (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

Back: Darren Knox, Patrick Tynan, Liam Forristal, Jonathan Ryan, Frank Ryan, Pádraig Forristal, James Cunningham, Michael Maher, Darren Booth, Shem Hurley, Liam Phelan, Davy Forristal.

Middle: Derek Dooley (Sel), Cathal O'Neill, Patrick Hickey, Ciarán Treacy, Jack Bruton, Oisin Daly, Michael Cunningham, Philip Walsh, Johnny Doheny, Michael Moylan, Ben O'Connor, Tommy Ryan, Paddy Hogan, Ciarán Walsh, Garry Ireland.

Front: Richard Troy, Paul Murphy, Cillian Treacy, Frank Minogue, Robbie Walsh, Stephen Duncan, Gavin O'Keeffe, Tony Woodcock, Martin McMahon, Michael Saunders, Joe Tierney (Sel). Richie Hogan with cup in front.

At the beginning of this season's Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling Championship, there were many pretenders, contenders and so-called "dark horses", but ultimately, we saw a team, namely Danesfort, rise to meet the expectation heaped on them over previous seasons and make the jump to the senior grade. That expectation, which had built up through under-age success and junior success at All-Ireland level, would have surely weighed heavily on the Danesfort players, but to their credit, they faced it head on, and showed the mark of true champions.

And what of the pretenders and contenders? The lead candidates, as has happened in previous year, once again this year's finalists, Rower-Inistioge. They are another team who had enjoyed under-age success, but as of now, must wait another year to make it to the top level. But one senses everyone involved with the Southerners will see this year as a major opportunity spurned. Other teams, such as St. Lachtain's, Glenmore, Mooncoin and Mullinavat, will not like to be written out of the equation just yet either. Each of them has their own strengths, and together with the return of Clara to the intermediate grade, it promises to be another intriguing campaign in 2012.

As for this year's fare, the early rounds of the league produced some results which followers might as perceived as predictable, though there were a number of eye-catching outcomes in either league grouping. Newly promoted junior champions, John Lockes, showed their intent with a couple of good victories, particularly over St. Lachtain's in the opening round. Little separated a number of teams in both groups as the league rounds were played out to the conclusion. When this arrived, it was Danesfort and Rower-Inistioge who topped each group, closely

followed by Mooncoin and Glenmore respectively. The resulting two league finals saw Rower-Inistioge secure a 2-16 to 1-14 victory over Danesfort, while Glenmore saw off a disappointing Mooncoin challenge in the shield final by 2-12 to 1-5.

The championship's opening round draw ensured match-ups that one may have thought were quite even, but arguably with the exception of one game, the results were quite definite. The most exciting and noteworthy result was the victory of St. Lachtain's over their near neighbours Emeralds in a typically robust game in Johnstown. The Freshford men could count themselves reasonably fortunate to come out on the right side of the result, as the Urlingford men held a six point lead at half-time (1-9 to 1-3). What dramatically turned the game in favour of St. Lachtain's was the sending off of an Emeralds player, which completely disorientated the Urlingford men and allowed the Freshford men take full advantage. Goals from the Guinan brothers, Eoin and Paul, ensured St. Lachtain's won out in the end, on a score line of 3-12 to 1-13.

Conahy Shamrocks and Tulloher-Rosbercon had been regular opponents in the past in both junior and intermediate grades, and this meeting saw both teams desperate for a victory, having had disappointing league campaigns up to that point. Conahy started the game well with a goal from Peter Vickery, and with full-forward Paul Buggy a constant thorn in the side of the Tulloher defence all through, Conahy were fully deserving of the lead they held from start to finish. The Southerners did manage to score a goal with the final action of the game, but by then, the result was certain as Conahy advanced to the quarter-finals on a 1-16 to 1-10 score line.

As stated earlier, John Lockes had shown during the league



The Rower/Inistioge - IH League Champions 2011 (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

Back: Conor Lyng, Robert Grace, Padraig Tierney, PJ Wilmott, Michael Cassin, Padraig Ryan, Sean Lyster, David Tennyson, David Murphy, George

Allen, Toby Kavanagh

Middle: Nicky Kenny, Luke Tennyson, James Roche, James Doyle, Eoin Doyle, Neil Lyng, Sean Cummins, David Lyng, Tadgh Leahy, Kieran Joyce,

Richard Ryan, Tom Murphy, Paudie Fleming, Paul Flood,

Front: Padraig Grace, Tommy Grace, Ruairí Galavan, James Cassin, Paul Sheehan, Michael Grace, Liam Tierney, Mark Moore, Conor Joyce, Sean

Grace, Joe Lyng, Danny Cotterell.

rounds that they were more than capable of holding their own in the higher grade. In facing Graignamanagh, they were coming up against a side that had just about managed to hold onto their intermediate status last year, but were once again facing into the perils of relegation, having failed to win a game in the league. The exchanges between the two sides on this occasion reflected the major difference in confidence levels. Graignamanagh did hold the lead at half-time (0-7 to 0-6), but this was with the benefit of a very strong breeze. One did not have to be an expert to realise that this was not going to be enough. As expected, the Callan men made far better use of the elements. Goals from Simon Burke and Ger Shelly were the key scores and John Lockes galloped away to a comprehensive 2-16 to 0-10 victory.

The final first round game between Mullinavat and Young Irelands saw two teams who would have genuinely been disappointed with the league form up to that point. Luck played a major role in the game's outcome, and it surely came down in Mullinavat's favour in the early minutes. A ball was fumbled in the Gowran defence and corner-forward Ger Malone was on hand to finish to the net. This gave the Southerners great confidence as they put strong pressure on the Gowran goal, aided by the hefty breeze. They shot some excellent points from all distances, and so they led by 1-10 to 0-4 at half-time. Young Irelands, sensing that they had nothing to lose, started the second half in far better fashion, and were rewarded with a goal from David Carter. But it was not enough to ruffle the Southerners, who bounced back in fine style to increase their lead. Try as

Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling Championship 2011

Results

1st Round

Mullinavat 1-16, Young Irelands 1-10

St Lachtain's 3-12, Emeralds 1-13

Conahy Shamrocks 1-16, Tullogher Rosbercon 1-10

John Lockes 2-16, Graignamanagh 0-10

Quarter-Final

Rower Inistioge 2-13, Mullinavat 1-12

Danesfort 2-11, John Lockes 0-6

St Lachtain's 3-13, Mooncoin 0-13

Glenmore 0-11, Conahy Shamrocks 0-11

Glenmore 3-13, Conahy Shamrocks 1-7

Semi-Final

Rower Inistioge 0-15, St. Lachtain's 0-13

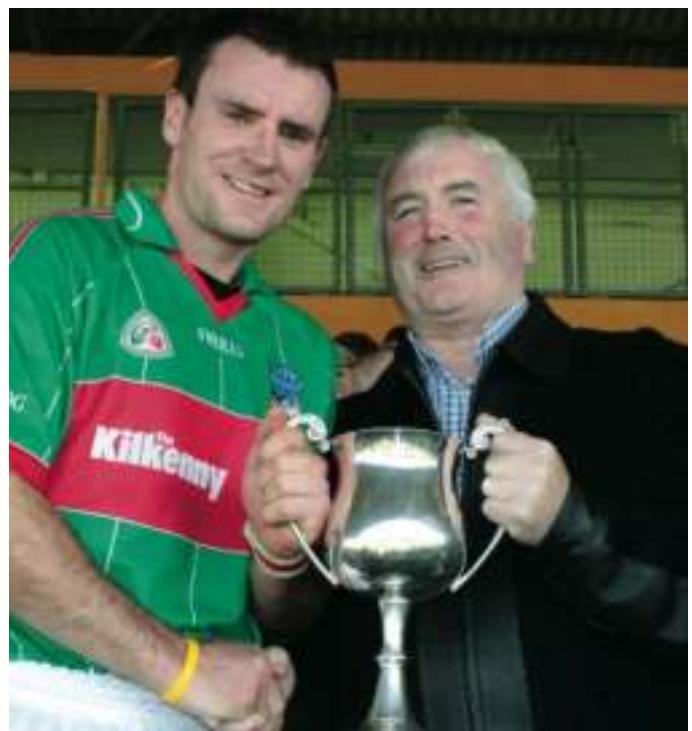
Danesfort 1-13, Glenmore 1-11

Relegation Final

Tullogher Rosbercon 1-21, Graignamanagh 1-9

Final

Danesfort 2-11, Rower Inistioge 0-11



Kieran Joyce receives the Intermediate Cup from Michael Lyng, Michael Lyng Motors, after Rower/Inistioge defeated Danefort in the Intermediate Hurling League Final in Nowlan Park.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

The Following Players took Part in the 2011 ML Lyng Motors IH Championship

Conahy Shamrocks: Andrew O' Keeffe, Seamus Og Brennan, David Healy, Thomas Nolan, Denis Kelly, Kieran Mooney, Padraig Harding, Gavin Nolan, Garry Kavanagh, John Wallace, Declan Buggy, Peter Vickery, Michael Lawlor, Paul Buggy, Alan Healy, Padraig Nolan.

Danesfort: Frank Manogue, Philip Walsh, Ciaran Treacy, Michael Cunningham, Tony Woodcock, Paddy Hogan, Gavin O'Keeffe, Paul Murphy, Martin McMahon, Robbie Walsh, Stephen Duncan, Oisin Daly, Cillian Treacy, David Forristal, Richard Hogan, Darren Booth, Padraig Forristal, Ben O'Connor, Liam Forristal.

Emeralds: Alan Guilfoyle, Pa. Doheny, Damien Fitzgerald, Ken Hughes, Padraig Phelan, Derek Lyng, Joey Doheny, Aidan Fogarty, Shane Norton, Conor Martin, Eamon O' Gorman, Jamie Ryan, Eoin Moriarty, Ian Grant, Brian Campion, Ray Moriarty.

Glenmore: Paul Fitzgerald, Michael Cody, Mark Phelan, Colm Foran, John Cody, Paddy Mullally, Darren Aylward, Ciaran Foran, Emmett Vereker, Ger Aylward, Michael Phelan, Mark Aylward, Eoin Murphy, Shane Doherty, Ben Doherty, Sean Kirwan, Ken Cotteral, James Cody, Fergal Freyne David Beirne, Richie Mullally.

Graignamanagh: Seamus Kavanagh, James Meany, James Cahill, Leonard Blanchfield, Ger Dowling, Diarmuid O'Neill, Eddie Dowling, Paul Hamilton, Ger Walsh, Eddie Walsh, Nigel Flynn, Ronan Dowling, Lee Kinsella, Cathal Dunne, James Doyle, Paul Whelan, Jim O' Donnell.

John Lockes: Paul Morrissey, Michael Gordan, Michael Roche, James Power, Jason Corcoran, John O'Neill, Michael Hartly, Owen McGrath, J. P. Corcoran, Jack McDowell, Matthew Holohan, Paddy Kennedy, Simon Burke, Shane Bergin, Ger Shelly, Cathal Byrne, Niall Hennessy.

With the quarter-final pairings now decided, Glenmore, Mooncoin, Danesfort and Rower-Inistioge entered the championship fray. Glenmore would have been extremely wary of the challenge posed by their opponents, Conahy Shamrocks. The Northerners defeated them in the league and were full value for their victory. This championship meeting was a far more even affair, with little separating the sides all through. First Conahy, then Glenmore, looked like they had victory within the grasp within the final quarter. However, it took a free with the last puck of the game from Paul Buggy to ensure a share of the spoils (0-11 each). The replay was played in atrocious conditions in Ballyhale and on this occasion, Glenmore were far and away the superior side. The return of the experienced Richie Mullally, who missed the drawn game, was a major boost for Glenmore. Two Ger Aylward goals in the second half, together with the accuracy of Eoin Murphy, killed off the Conahy challenge, as Glenmore strolled to a 3-13 to 1-7 victory.

St. Lachtain's were looking like they were approaching the best form at just the right time as they disposed of Mooncoin in their quarter final clash. Mooncoin did start the game with the elements in their favour and shot some excellent points as a result. But the key score for the Freshford men came midway through the half when, as a result of a Robbie Dowling shot being well saved by Mooncoin goalkeeper Niall O'Hanlon, Johnny Fitzpatrick was on hand to finish the rebound to the net. This ensured that Mooncoin only held a slender one point lead at the break (0-11 to 1-7). They suffered a big body blow early in the second half when Bill Beckett scored a well taken goal and this was compounded further when a long range free from Brian Kennedy managed to find its way to the net. Try as they might, Mooncoin could not reduce the Freshford lead to any great extent. This was mainly thanks to James Meagher in the St. Lachtain's goal, who was extremely sharp. In the end, it was a bigger victory than maybe was justified, as the Freshford men won out by 3-15 to 0-15.

Mooncoin: Niall O'Hanlon, Alan Walsh, Cormac Daly, Niall Mackey, P. J. Roe, Eddie Mackey, Sean Wall, Thomas Henneberry, Seamus Kearns, Diarmuid Mackey, Aidan Walsh, Keith Kirwan, Stephen Crowley, Eoin Henneberry, Michael Grace, Thomas O'Hanlon, Danny Purcell, Ray Wall, Eamon Henneberry.

Mullinavat: James Culleton, Ian Duggan, Seamus Farrell, Joe Fennelly, Michael Malone, Walter Burke, Tony Duggan, Padraig Gahan, Jamie Fennelly, Joe Gahan, Dinny Butler, Michael Murphy, Conor Conway, Willie O'Dwyer, Ger Malone, Nicky Anthony, Damien Aylward.

Rower Inistioge: Liam Tierney, Eoin Doyle, Mark Moore, James Doyle, Tadgh Leahy, Sean Cummins, David Lyng, Joe Lyng, Kieran Joyce, Sean Grace, James Cashin, Ruari Galvan, Michael Grace, Conor Joyce, Paul Sheehan, Padraig Tierney, Padraig Grace.

St Lachtain's: James Maher, Michael Kavanagh, Seamus Hayes, Tomas Flynn, Michael Cormack, Niall Phelan, Paul Mullan, Noel McGree, Brian Kennedy, John Wallace, Davy Brennan, Michael Farrell, John Fitzpatrick, Eoin Guinan, Barry Hughes, Noel Hickey, Paul Guinan, Shane Donnelly, Bill Beckett, Robbie Dowling, Stephen Farrell.

Tullogher Rosbercon: Martin Roche, Garry Roche, John Hartly, Declan Grennan, Ian Power, John Grennan, John Cotteral, Richard Dolid, Peter Meggs, Walter Walsh, Liam Barron, Pat Hartly, John Barron, Eoin Mullally, Edmond Cullinane, Moling Cotterall, John Murphy.

Young Irelands: Martin Carey, Niall Walsh, Willie Bolger, Ciaran Carroll, Jonathan Dunphy, Michael Walsh, J.J. Lennon, Frankie Farrell, Paul Holden, Jody Foley, Dick Carroll, David Carter, John Morris, Paul Keogh, D. J. Carey, Chris Nolan, Charlie Carter, Tom Drennan.

On a difficult day for hurling, Danesfort battled their way to victory against John Lockes in their quarter-final in Palmerstown. The Callan men will look back with regret on their opening half performance, as they failed to register a single score. Despite this, they were holding the Danesfort attack to few scores until the final minutes of the first half. Then some indiscipline let them down and Richie Hogan duly punished them, ensuring a 0-7 to 0-0 lead at the break. They looked like they would kick on from there, but the Callan men showed their mettle and attempted to fight back. But for some more composure in front of goal, they might have even managed it. As it was, the Danesfort men were always capable of holding on, and thanks to the performances of their main men, Paddy and Richie Hogan and Paul Murphy, they did just that, winning 0-11 to 0-6.

A southern derby between Rower-Inistioge and Mullinavat had the makings of a very interesting game. The two teams had enjoyed a number of close battles over recent seasons and this game matched those levels of intensity. If the Rower were planning on proving their ability to make a serious charge towards success, this game was to be vitally important. Mullinavat, like previous years, had aspirations of success and seemed to have found a good balance through the team. But on this occasion, it was the Rower who got the nod, pipping the opponents at the post by 2-13 to 1-12. The strength of Kieran Joyce and Sean Cummins, allied with the sharpness of the Rower attack, were key factors in their victory.

The first semi-final between St. Lachtain's and Rower-Inistioge was equally mouth-watering and the result was always in doubt right up until the end. The Freshford men, as stated earlier, had progressed well to this stage but they were coming up against opponents who, under Pat O'Neill's guidance, were highly motivated and high in confidence. The game was tight and tense throughout, with the Southerners had the greater reserve, as they qualified for the final on a 0-15 to 0-13 score line.

The second semi-final between Danesfort and Glenmore saw

both teams serve up a great semi-final in Nowlan Park. Little separated the sides for the majority of the game. The Southerners, to their credit, showed real battling qualities in spite of being considered the underdogs by many observers. Yet, the little extra bit of luck that they needed evaded them at the most crucial time, as well as having some key decisions going against them in favour of Danesfort. The aforementioned took full advantage of these calls, and when the final whistle blew, the score was in their favour (1-13 to 1-11), and the place in the final was theirs too.

And so, the climax of the championship arrived, and the two form teams of the league, Danesfort and Rower-Inistioge, were once again the last two teams standings. As with county finals of the past, the major challenges are dealing with rising expectation and also the tempo and intensity that only a county final can provide. Danesfort had experience of this before, having been defeated by Erin's Own in 2008. The Rower has come close in the past, and this was a new scenario to them, and having to deal with this would be of primary concern to them. In the early stages of the game, it looked like they were under pressure straightaway. Danesfort raced into a 2-2 to 0-1 lead. Goals from Richie Hogan and Robbie Walsh gave them a

dream start and the Rower completely rattled. But, give them credit, the Southerners bounced back with three Paul Sheehan frees and could have got more if Sean Grace's effort had not only just missed the target. The remainder of the half saw each side match each other score for score, as Danesfort retained the lead at half-time (2-6 to 0-7).

Danesfort had now re-sited Paul Murphy to full-back to curtail Conor Joyce, the Rower full-forward, and this was having a telling effect. What could have been a mortal blow for Danesfort arrived soon into the second half when Paddy Hogan was red-carded for an altercation with Paul Sheehan. But rather than instilling hope into the Rower's challenge, it galvanised the Danesfort men to an even stronger level. The Rower did make a valiant effort to close the gap, but Danesfort were resolute in their defending, with even the forwards, including Richie Hogan at certain stages, funnelling back to do their bit. Though the same player could have scored a third goal from a penalty but instead only scored a point via deflection, his colleague Robbie Walsh came to the fore with two points to secure victory on a 2-11 to 0-11 victory. Considering the circumstances, they deserved it, while for the Rower, it was merely a case of what might have been.

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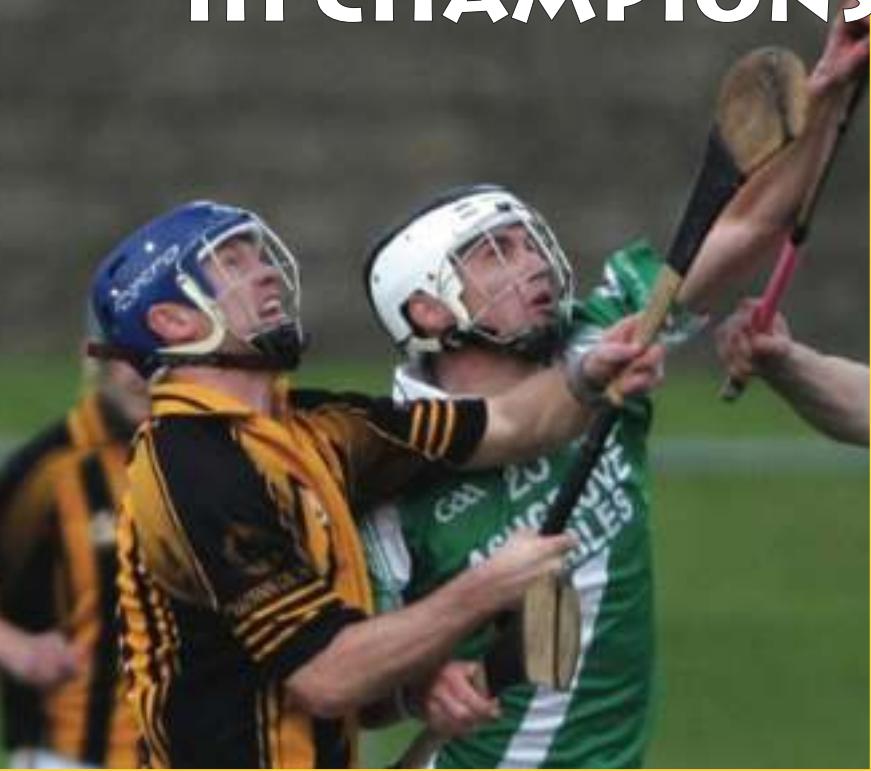
SENIOR HURLING	DATE	VENUE	TIME
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Westmeath v Antrim	19.5.2012	Mullingar	
Laois v Carlow	19.5.2012	Carlow	
Quarter-Finals			
Laois/Carlow v Dublin	2.6.2012	Tullamore	
Offaly v Wexford	2.6.2012	Tullamore	
Galway v Westmeath/Antrim	3.6.2012	Mullingar/TBA	
Semi-Finals			
Galway/Westmeath/Antrim v Offaly/Wexford	17.6.2012	Portlaoise	
Laois/Carlow/Dublin v Kilkenny	23.6.2012	Portlaoise	
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The Winning Team!



Frank Manogue and Richie Hogan (Danesfort) receive the Intermediate Hurling cup from Paul Kinsella, Chairman, County Bord and Michael Lyng, sponsor, Michael Lyng Motors in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

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Welcome Return by St Pat's

County JH Report by Jimmy Walsh



St Patrick's Ballyragget - County JH Champions 2011 (Eoin Hennessy)

Front: James Morrissey, J.J. O'Sullivan, Paddy Cahill, Conor Delaney, Michael Brennan, John Mooney, Michael Gannon, Kieran Delaney, Bill Staunton, Brian Phelan, Geoff Brennan, James Gannon, Liam Lacey
Middle: Maurice Walsh, Jodie Phelan, Sean Mooney, Donal Brennan, Steven Staunton, Kevin Kelly, Jeff Morrissey, Seoirse Kenny, Dermot Brophy, Steven Roberts, Joe Brennan, Mark Staunton.
Back: Paddy McEvoy, John Holland, Brendan Dooley, Conor Foley, Alan Ruth, Robbie Healy, Conor Bolger, Brian Mulhall, Brian Tom Phelan, Eoin Bergin

A New Era as Junior Championship Comes of Age

The evolution of the Junior championship reached a new level as this year's competition saw many new innovations. Building on the tried and tested sixteen year old All County Junior Hurling League model the year commenced with a Kilmacow proposal led by Paul Long for an All County Junior Championship on the line of the current Senior and Intermediate Championships. After it was honed and fine tuned in the run up to the Divisional and County conventions its proposal by Paul was accepted and its implementation immediately followed.

The new format was to be a voyage of discovery for the Junior clubs as the cut and thrust of championship ties that replaced the easy pace of the early season league competitions when teams traveled outside of their division. Played at home venues it brought championship games into the four corners of the county where the clubs proudly responded with excellent facilities, improved gates and in many cases excellent programmes and after match tea and sandwiches. With twenty two teams participating the new competition was run in four league groups with two groups comprising of six junior sides each and two groups of five containing the second teams of Senior and Intermediate clubs. In addition relegation became a key component for the first time in both Junior and Junior "A" as clubs focused simultaneously on both the top and bottom of their respective league tables. As ever in hurling surprises were the order of the day as sides both surpassed and played below them selves. With extremely positive feedback from clubs and players, regarding issues became almost a thing of the past as the championship gave over six months of competitive action. With the games sharing the same weekend fixtures bill with the senior and intermediate championships it also helped solve some problems for the various county selection teams.

St. Patrick's Ballyragget make welcome return to Intermediate grade after a twenty four year break

After the fifty three league game programme commenced in the end of April the new competitive format was quickly evident as the formbook was almost shredded and twenty-one of the twenty-two teams involved went on to record league points. Showing early season form Lismore and Galmoy headed their Junior proper groups along with Senior sides Clara and James Stephens. Among the many surprises were the slow starts of the previous years County finalist's Barrow Rangers and the Blacks and Whites who had campaigned in the Intermediate grade in 2010 as both were placed well down their respective league tables. With the Championship road like a two tier motorway it was marked with many milestones as the final destination of the Bob Aylward Cup commenced with the knockout stages for the Junior teams of the Senior and

Intermediate Clubs in the middle of August. In the Preliminary rounds as the potential losers were conscious of a relegation battle in hand it took O'Loughlin Gaels two games to defeat St Lachtains as Dunnamaggin had just a single score a goal to spare over the Dicksboro. In the first round five points was the largest winning margin as The Fenians, O'Loughlins, Mooncoin and Erin's Own progressed. The semis saw O Loughlin Gaels record a good win over the Fenians and Mooncoin having a goal to spare over the Village. With a junior county semi final place on offer O'Loughlins consistently high scoring rate in the earlier rounds held up to see them qualify with a 3-12 to 1-10 win over Mooncoin. In the relegation section of the group Dicksboro evaded the relegation final when they saw off St. Lachtains.

In the section for Junior Clubs proper the first round clashes on the third and All Ireland football weekend of September had almost the same as ever line up for most of the teams as their league placing saw them face sides from their own divisions. The sole exception was the North South meeting of Slieverue and Cloneen in the relegation semi-final clash. The competitive ties saw St. Patrick's record the biggest win of the round over Bennettsbridge as Cloneen, Blacks and Whites, Windgap, Kilmacow and Barrow Rangers exited the championship race by five points or less. In the second round that was in effect, three quarter finals, Lismore, Piltown and St. Patrick's had clear wins over Galmoy, Slieverue and Thomastown respectively. With O'Loughlins qualifying to finalize the quartet from the Senior-Intermediate section the first ever double bill of the Junior county semi finals was scheduled to be played in Nowlan Park.

On semi-finals day St Patrick's and Piltown qualified easily for the County Final as they both amassed a goals and points total of twenty three points. In the Piltown versus Lismore game Mark Culleton made a return to his side at full forward and with two first half goals put his side well on the way. Leading 2-9 to 0-5 at the break the side maintained its momentum to overcome Lismore by 2-17 to 1-8. In the second semi final between St. Patrick's and O'Loughlins a first half Kevin Kelly goal gave his St. Patricks side a 1-13 to 0-4 half time lead. After the break they went on to build on it to record a 1-20 to 2-9 win.

In the final a young St. Patrick's side were fast out of the blocks and after creating a handful of early goal chances and facing an alert James Norris in the Piltown goal they had to settle for a half time lead of 0-8 to 1-3. The second half saw the Ballyragget side add three points to increase their lead by two to four after thirty seven minutes. From their to the end they had to withstand a Piltown comeback that was hampered at times by their accuracy from play and placed balls. Entering the final minute a Piltown free reduced the lead to a dangerous two points before Brian (Brooky) Phelan pointed to make the score line safer as they went



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St. Patrick's Captain, Kieran Delaney, is presented with the Junior Hurling cup by Paul Kavanagh, sponsor, J.J. Kavanagh & Sons and Paul Kinsella, Chairman, County Bord, in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

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**Official Carriers to all Inter-County
Hurling and Camogie Teams**



Piltown - County JH Finalists 2011 (Eoin Hennessy)

Back Row: Jamie Phelan, Shane Doody, Niall Kinsella, Neil Kelly, Thomas Talbot, Kieran Norris, David Burchill, Martin Power, Daniel Norris
Middle Row: Pa Connolly, Conor Nugent, Mark Culleton, Michael Burchill, Shane Kinsella, John Brophy, Kevin Brophy, Kevin Walsh, Paul Kirby, Andrew Norris, Seamus Norris,

Front Row: James Connolly, Nollaig Brophy, Andrew McCarthy, Brendan Norris, James Norris, Richie McCarthy, Peter McCarthy, Robbie Culleton, Brian Farrell, Philly Kenny, Nicky Kenny.

on to take the title by 0-14 to 1-8.

After Paddy Neary's final whistle team Captain Kieran Delaney collected the cup that was presented in honour of Bob the father of his side's trainer Maurice Aylward.

Relegation

On the inaugural relegation front St. Lachtains who initially took semi-finalists O'Loughlins to two first round games faced Cloneen who had been caught at the post by a last minute goal by Sliieverue in their game. In the relegation final played in Comer the Clogh men led by scorer in chief Graham Lawlor recorded a comfortable victory over St. Lachtains to retain their Junior status by a 1-10 to 0-3.

Tullaroan promoted to Junior as St. Martins hold on to Junior "A" status

Having reached the Northern final in 2010 Tullaroan went a step further in a straight knockout competition when they captured this years Martin Egan Cup. In the semis they had a point to spare over the Emeralds whilst Graigue Ballycallan had three to spare over Lisdowney. In the final Tullaroan took the title in a hard fought high scoring local derby over Graigue/Ballycallan by 3-12 to 2-13.

Down South after sixteen league championship games Thomastown proved to be the surprise packet as they had two points to spare over Carrickshock in the semi-final. The result saw them qualify to play last years beaten finalists the Rower Inistioge who had edged Piltown out by just a single point. In the Southern final the Rower Inistioge went up a step to take the title over their close neighbours Thomastown on a 2-12 to 2-9 scoreline

In the County Final Tullaroan took the honours and the Shem Lalor Cup when they won the JJ Kavanagh & Sons Sponsored title by 1-13 to the Rower Inistioge's 0-13. The achievement also gave them the honour of having a Senior and Junior team competing in next years championships for in first time in ten years

Relegation

At the other end of the grade the competition was equally as keen as the retention of status became of vital importance to the competing clubs. In the final St. Martin's remained in the Junior "A" grade when they recorded a 3-16 to 2-12 over John Lockes who will now compete in Junior "B" in 2012.

Conahy Shamrocks win Promotion and Dick Dunphy Cup with "B" Championship win

After twenty league games and nine knockout ties two new teams appeared in the Southern Junior B Hurling Championship final after Glenmore defeated Windgap and Mooncoin had defeated Kilmacow in the semis. In the Country Style sponsored Final Glenmore took the honours and a place in the county final with a 2-18 to 1-19 win over Mooncoin. In the Northern Division played on a straight knockout format the penultimate games saw the three city teams in the running as Conahy Shamrocks beat the Boro and The Village had just two points to spare over

their Johns Park rivals O'Loughlin Gaels in a high scoring game. The results provided two new finalists to combat for the Johnny Ivory Cup which saw Conahy Shamrocks collect the trophy with 2-12 to 2-10 win over James Stephens

In the County Final for the Dick Dunphy Cup Conahy Shamrocks won promotion from the grade for the third time in their history with a 4-14 to 0-6 win over Glenmore

New Junior League County titles won by Lisdowney and Clara

In the newly formatted Junior Hurling League championship two finals were played, the first between the top teams in the two Junior groups and the second between the leaders of the groups for Junior sides in the Senior and intermediate clubs. These replaced the now customary final between the winners of the Northern and Southern divisional leagues. In an unforseen combination both finals became all Northern affairs.

Following the sharpening of skills and improved fitness levels since the first round commenced in the end of March the "B" final was contested by the Junior sides of Senior clubs Clara and James Stephens. Played in Bennettsbridge in late August it saw Clara with seven scorers to the James Stephens three record a 1-14 to 2-9 victory over the city side. The "A" final saw a clash of Lisdowney and Galmoy who both headed their groups for Junior Sides. In the game played on the eve of the All Ireland Hurling Final in Freshford Lisdowney the holders of the 2010 Divisional version of the title played faced a strong breeze and led by 0-8 to 0-7 at the break. Second half goals from Laurence Carroll, Patrick Bowden and Eoin Delahunt saw them win the latest model when they defeated Galmoy 3-11 to 1-11

New and Old Junior championship Formats provide the same pairings as St. Patrick's and Piltown win Divisional titles

With the advent of the new all County Championship the traditionally highlight of the season the "Divisional Junior Finals" remained on board on the fixtures list as a knockout competition on a Divisional basis only. The Southern competition provided a shock in Piltown as Mooncoin who had had been taken to a second game by Dunnamaggin qualified for their first Southern final since 1965 with a well deserved victory over Windgap. In the other side of the draw Piltown saw off Thomastown by a point. In the final in Kilmacow the Iverk men led by top scorer Richie McCarthy took their sixth title on an impressive 4-20 to 1-6 scoreline. Up North there were no such surprises as it took eleven games before Galmoy and St. Patrick's accounted for Clara and St. Martins respectively to qualify for the Northern Final. On the day Ballyragget with Brian (Brook) Phelan scoring five points from midfield recorded a three point's victory 0-19 to 2-10 over a Galmoy side short their injured scoring star Phil Russell.

Both finals attracted fine crowds and little was it to be known when they were played that the old ways of the divisional championships would produce the same two teams as the new all county system. For the sides and supporters there would be a further two months waiting to see who the Junior standard bearers for the County would be.



Galmoy - Northern Junior Finalists 2011

Back: Frank Phelan, Eoin Glendon, Stephen Delaney, Tom Corcoran, Liam Drennan, Phil Brennan, Eamonn Corcoran, Michael Harte, Brendan Phelan, Donncha Gray, Jason Stanley.
Front: Michael Brennan, Micheal Phelan, Tom Phelan, Gavin Doherty, Martin Phelan, James Dunne, Phil Russell (Capt.), Niall Doherty, Noel Doherty.



Mooncoin - Southern Junior Finalists 2011

Back: Richie Doyle, Johnny Phelan, Shane Wash, Billy Ryan, Niall O'Hanlon, David Kearns, Aidan Walsh, Padraig Doody, Shane Walsh, Tomas Kearns, David O'Brien, Ethan Ryan, Front: Dick Mackey, JP Purcell, Liam Walsh, Sean Wall, Paddy Kinsella, Tommy O'Hanlon, Ray Wall, Alan Hennebry, Tommy Walsh, Frank Law.

Carrickshock take Junior "A" League County Title

Carrickshock beat the divisional title holders Mullinavat and the Rower Inistioge beat Tullougher Rosbercon in two derby semi finals after twenty three games were played in the Junior "A" league in the South. In the final the Shocks took the honours by two points 0-18 to 1-13 in Ballyhale to qualify for the county final. Another twenty-three league games in the North saw Carlow town Hurling Club and Saint Martins out score Graigueballycallan and Young Irelands in the semi-finals. At headquarters in Nowlan Park St Martins took the Northern title with a 0-19 to 1-11 win. In the County Final Carrickshock had a comfortable victory by 3-10 to St Martins 0-13

recorded a four point win over Conahy by 1-15 to 0-14

In the county final O'Loughlin Gaels continued their high scoring ways when they recorded 5-12 against Glenmore's equally impressive tally of 2-12 to take the league title.

Mount Leinster Rangers win their Fourth All County League in Style

Twenty-five teams including Carlow sides Naomh Bríd, Naomh Moling and Mount Leinster Rangers lined up in five groups for the start of the All County League that commenced on April 1st. Widely taken as a form marker for the championship in recent times Blacks and Whites, Thomastown, Mount Leinster rangers, O Loughlins Gaels, St. Patrick's Ballyragget, Piltown, Kilmacow and Lisdowney had qualified for the quarter finals by the end of June. In the knockout stages Mount Leinster rangers recorded a single point win over Thomastown as Piltown had a goal to spare over St Patrick's in a high scoring tie. In the other games Kilmacow had a good win over Lisdowney whilst Mount Leinster Rangers travelled to Piltown who were in their third successive semi-final and recorded an away victory. The final in Nowlan Park saw the then aspiring Carlow Senior Hurling champions record a 1-14 to 1-7 victory over Kilmacow to take the title for a record fourth time.

Naomh Moling take the Paddy Cahill Cup to Carlow for the first time

With the 2010 Cahill Cup final between O'Loughlin Gaels and St. Martins still on hold, Cloneen, Galmoy, Naomh Moling and Naomh Bríd won the quarter final ties in this years Paddy Cahill Cup for the teams placed



Carrickshock Southern Junior A League Champions 2011 (Photo Charlie Maher)

Back: Liam Barron, Gary Fitzpatrick, Gerry Mulcahy, Edward Dunphy, Tommy Hearne, Kieran Holden, Shane Power, Dan O'Brien, Michael Rohan, Darren O Dwyer, John Butler, Jimmy O Shea.

Front: John Power, Damien Walsh, Eamon Foley, Larry O Shea, Chris Price, Seamus Millea, Sean Gibbons, Jim Rohan, Tommy Murphy.



Mount Leinster Rangers - All County Junior Champions 2011 (Photo: Tony Maher Photography)

Back: James Hickey, Gary Kelly, Denis Roche, Brian Nolan, David Phelan, Frank Foley, Denis Murphy, Edward Byrne, Edward Coady, Karl Lawlor, Richard Kelly, Derek Byrne, Padraig Nolan, Gary Doyle.

Front: Seamus O'Brien, Colm O'Byrne, Seamus Kelly, Hugh Paddy O'Byrne, David Grennan, Richard Coady, John Coady, Paul Coady, Jack Murphy, Diarmuid Byrne, Willie Hickey.

in third and fourth positions in the All County Junior Hurling league. With the Carlow sides outscoring their Kilkenny counterparts in the semi-finals they set up a unique all Carlow Final. With the winners being the first side to take the cup outside of the county the final was played in Tom Walsh Park in Skoughvasteen. In the game the St Mullins based Naomh Moling went on to defeat Naomh Bríd by 3-9 to 1-9. The St. Molings team in the final lined out as follows 1 Mark Ryan 2 Michael Dreehan 3 John Doran 4 Michael Kehoe 5 Seamus Jordan 6 Thomas Doyle 7 Paul Kehoe 8 Jack Kavanagh 9 Darren Whelan 10 Paudie Kehoe, 11 John Murphy 12 Paddy Walsh 13 Marty Kavanagh 14 Walter Coady 15 Chris Kiely 16 Kevin Kehoe 17 Sean Gahan 18 James Coady 19 Sean Murphy 20 John Walsh, 21 Thomas Coady 22 Gary Bennett 23 Peter Fortune

Barrow Rangers win Kevin Fennelly Cup

The eight team Fennelly Cup competition made up of the fifth and sixth placed sides participating in the All County league saw Dunnamagglin and St Lachtains with two point wins in high scoring games join Barrow Rangers and Windgap in qualifying for the semi finals. Played in Tom Ryall Park and Bennettsbridge the north versus south games saw victory go to the two first team Junior sides. In a repeat of their well contested league championship tie the Paulstown side dominated the game all through before a late rally by the holders Windgap saw them come within three points at the final whistle. The final score was Barrow Rangers 1-13 Windgap 0-13. To complete the roll of honour it is hoped to have the outstanding 2009 final between Bennettsbridge and St. Martins played in the 2012 season

Joe Walsh Cup goes to Conahy and Graiguenamanagh in the one year

The outstanding 2010 Joe Walsh Cup Final for Junior "B" Hurling sides was resolved early in the year as Conahy Shamrocks defeated Kilmcow 2-4 to 1-3 in February after the Southerners had overcome Lisdowney a week earlier in the outstanding semi-final. In this years competition Carrigeen and Threecastles were amongst the fourteen Junior "B" sides teams in the Joe Walsh knockout competition where they went down to Bennettsbridge and St. Lachtains respectively. In the semi-final games Graignamanagh defeated Dicksboro and St Lachlain's overcame Blacks and Whites to qualify for the final. Played on the banks of the Nore in the home pitch of Joe Walsh in Thomastown Graignamanagh ran out winners over St. Lachtains by 3-14 to 1-12.

Southern Junior Hurters regain the re-introduced Jim Farrell Cup

After a nine year break the Jim Farrell interdivisional Cup was reorganised by the Divisional Boards and in a ground breaking fixture the game was played under lights for the first time on a Friday evening in Piltown. The appointment of County Intermediate mentors Pat Hoban and PJ Kenny as the respective Southern and Northern team managers added an additional incentive for the players involved. In a highly competitive tie the Southern Junior selection bedecked in the John Lockes colours faced a late Emeralds clad Northern rally to hold out and record a 1-15 to 1-13 victory. Ahead by 1-8 to 0-7 at half time thanks to a John Jo Farrell goal the home side hit a purple patch to stretch the lead to 1-14 to 0-9 after fifty minutes. As the Northern boys rallied the excitement and passion increased as the lead was reined in with four unanswered



Barrow Rangers Winners Of Fennelly Cup 2011

Back: Stephen Dorner, Tom Brennan, Kevin Brennan, Thomas Whately, Liam Walsh, Michael Whately, Thomas Brennan, John Kealy, Derek McEvoy, Jason Holden, David Staunton, Dermot Maher, Patrick Purcell.
Front: Sean McDonald, Martin Bambrick, Kevin McDonald, Joe Hughes, Paddy Barcoe, J J Staunton, Ciaran Doyle, Cathal English, Ian Holden, William Hennessy.

scores that included a Graeme Lawlor goal. With the tally reading 1-15 to 1-12 only a single score remained between the sides and a drawn result entering the final minute. When a twenty one yard free was conceded by the Southerners, thoughts of a replay or extra time immediately sprung to mind. Standing firm on a packed goalline the free was diverted over the bar to give the Southern selection the Jim Farrell Cup on a 1-15 to 1-13 scoreline. Afterwards Piltown Club and the competition sponsors JJ Kavanagh & Sons hosted a reception for both sides. At the event Piltown Chairman Phillip Walsh as MC the Divisional Chairmen Dan Kenny and Paul Kavanagh presented team captain Simon Burke with the Farrell Cup.

Looking over the Year

On the playing fields it was another almost clean sweep of the Roll of Honor that shows a new winner in every competition with only Lisdowney having a slim hope of claiming the retention of a title when they won the County Junior League having captured the older interdivisional version in 2010. At a higher level the 2010 champions John Lockes qualified for the All Ireland Junior Club Final as St. Patrick's carry the best wishes of the county as they follow their path with two wins to date in this years Leinster Junior Campaign. In the coming year Graiguenamanagh will bring huge experience on their return to the grade for the first time since 1972 when they defeated the Emeralds in the County final.

New Faces at Board level

In changing times at Northern Board level PJ Kenny of Lisdowney replaced long serving Northern Secretary Ned Buggy as the Emeralds Paddy Joyce replaced another great servant Richie Stone as PRO. In

the coming year the board will elect a new chairman as a sincere hurling man and valued competitions sponsor Paul Kavanagh has successfully completed his five year term.

Down South Pat Dunphy will evacuate the Southern secretaries' seat having completed his five years. The extremely popular and hard working Carrigeen man has used his vast experience as a player, club secretary, referee and public representative to good stead in the position. With further officer ship changes scheduled for the Southern Board in 2012 the era of change may well continue to see the creation of an All County Junior Board with charge of the County Intermediate Hurling side as well.

Mile Buiochas

Behind the hundreds of games in the fourteen Junior championship, league and Cup competitions organized in the Junior, Junior "A" Junior "B" and Interdivisional grades a special word of praise is due all involved in any way. They include the fixtures committee, clubs, players, gatemen, pitch caretakers, referees, linemen, umpires, scoreboard operators, first aider's county website, the media outlets, PRO's and the many, many more that assist in the participation, promotion and organizing of them. Over the season the games schedule faces into exams times, holidays, second and third level colleges games and intercounty clashes in all ages and codes. Added to the pot are weather anomalies, Church ceremonies, parties, golf classics and dog and stag nights and the added realism of enforced emigration in tough economic times. To all a sincere Míle Buiochas is extended for the part you play in their success.



Graignamanagh Joe Walsh Cup Winners

Back: Alan Foley (Selector) Damien Lyng, Jim O'Donnell, Nigel Flynn, Sean O'Brien, Nicholas O'Donnell, Thomas O'Donnell, Jim Ryan, Eoin Bolger, James Meaney, Seamus Kavanagh, Patrick Dowling, David Redmond, James McCabe, Shane Kavanagh, Ken Morgan, John Meaney (Club Chairman), Syl Cushen (Selector).
Front: John Carroll, Dane Mangan, Paul Hamilton (Capt) Ryan O'Halloran, Ian Kavanagh, Peter Kavanagh, Cathal Roche, Nicky Moylan, Michael Dunne, Ciaran O'Brien.



South Selection - Jim Farrell Cup Winners 2011

Panel: Richie O'Neill (Kilmacow), John Brophy (Piltown), Rob O' Keefe (Kilmacow), David Power (Windgap), Brian Murphy (Thomastown), Philly Lonergan (Windgap), Luke Hanney (Kilmacow), Dylan Waugh (Thomastown), Shane Bergin (John Lockes), Simon Burke (John Lockes), Paddy Kennedy (John Lockes), Nicky Kenny (Piltown), Ger Shelly (John Lockes), Jonjo Farrell (Thomastown), Stuart Waugh (Thomastown), Paul Morrissey (John Lockes), Jamie O' Brien (Sliieverue), James Norris (Piltown), Jamie Carroll (Carrigeen), Shane Gaule (Kilmacow), Adrian Rockett (Sliieverue), Richard McNamara (Kilmacow), Cian Tyler (Sliieverue), Darren Burke (Thomastown), Eugene O' Neill (Carrigeen).



North Selection Jim Farrell Cup Runners Up 2011

North Panel: Gary Delaney (Cloneen), Kevin McDonald (Barrow Rangers), Geoff Morrissey (St Patrick's), Darragh Weaver (Bennettsbridge), Niall Doherty (Galmoy), Martin Phelan (Lisdowney), James Gannon (St Patrick's), Martin Phelan (Galmoy), Seoirse Kenny (St Patrick's), Cathal Kenny (Barrow Rangers), Eddie Hickey (Lisdowney), Graeme Lawlor (Cloneen), Noel Doherty (Galmoy), Ruairi Hickey (Lisdowney), Dermot Maher (Barrow Rangers), Kieran Delaney (St Patrick's), Joe Brennan (St. Patrick's), Michael Gannon (St. Patrick's), Pat Brennan (Cloneen), Martin Bambrick (Barrow Rangers), Kevin Phillips (Cloneen), Jason Holden (Barrow Rangers), Patrick O' Neill (Bennettsbridge), Niall Mackey (Lisdowney) Referee: Paddy Neary (James Stephens).



Conahy Shamrocks Junior "B" Championship Winners 2011

Back: Tony Gunner (Selector), Tom Mullan, Bill Gannon, Brian Muldowney, Stephen Brennan, John Mullan, Eoin Byrne, Martin Fitzpatrick, Darren Leahy, Paul Buggy, Conor Whelan, Gary Kavanagh, Paddy Mullan, Connor Buggy, Eoin Carroll, Peter Mulhall (Selector).

Front : David Baldwin, Connor Brennan, Michael Bergin, Colm Healy, Padraig Harding, Peter Dollard, David Buggy, Peter Harding, Barry Murphy, Andy O'Keefe, Ciaran Muldowney (Selector).



Rower Inistioge Junior "A" County Finalists 2011 (Photo Charlie Maher)

Back: Conor Lyng, Paul Flood, Paudie Fleming, Padraig Ryan, David Murphy, Mark Moore, Richard Ryan, Michael White, PJ Wilmott, David Dunphy, Robert Grace, Peter Barron, John George Butler, Danny Cotterell

Front : Michael Cassin, Thomas Lyng, Toby Kavanagh, Nicky Kenny, Luke Tennyson, Michael Cody, George Allen, Neil Lyng, Michael McDonald, James Roche, Jim Mooney.



Glenmore Junior "B" County Finalists 2011

Back: Michael Cody, PJ Roche, Rory Doherty, Kevin Aylward, David Flynn, Paddy Murphy, Brian O'Donoghue, George Walsh, David Garvey, Denis O'Dwyer, Ben Doherty, Paddy Foran, Darren Aylward, Michael Kelleher, Mark Aylward.

Front: John Caulfield, Beh Maher, Michael O'Connor, Paddy Hennessy, Ken Cottrell, James Aylward, Ray Culleton, Alan Murphy, Sean Kirwan, Anthony Phelan, Sean Duggan, Paddy Connick, Tom Maher, David Boyle, Paul Fitzgerald, Eoin Aylward.

KILKENNY JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP SCOREBOARD 2011

J.J. KAVANAGH & SONS JH CHAMPIONSHIP SENIOR /INTERMEDIATE-(JUNIOR) SECTION		Lisdowney Piltown	1-18 2-21	Galmoy Slieverue	1-11 0-7	Piltown Carrickshock	3-12 1-14	John Lockes Mullinavat	2-8 1-13	O'Loughlin Gaels Dicksboro	1-12 0-14	Danesfort Cloneen	0-9 1-9
Preliminary Round													
Dunmaggin 2-16		Dicksboro	2-13			Semi-finals				Semi-finals			
O'Loughlin Gaels 2-14		St. Lachtain's	1-1			St.Patrick's	1-20	O'Loughlin Gaels	2-9	Rower Inistioge	2-13	Piltown	1-15
O'Loughlin Gaels 2-17		St.Lachtain's	1-17			Piltown	2-17	Lisdowney	1-8	Thomastown	0-16	Carrickshock	1-11
1st Round													
James Stephens 2-14		Dunmaggin	1-13			Final		St. Patrick's	0-14	Piltown	1-8	Thomastown	2-9
O'Loughlin Gaels 0-17		Clara	2-10			Relegation Final		St. Patrick's	0-14			JJ Kavanagh & Sons County Final	
Mooncoin 2-9		Erins Own	2-7			Cloneen	1-10	St. Lachtain's	0-3	Tullaroan	1-13	Rower Inistioge	0-13
Fenians 1-11		St.Martin's	0-9										
COUNTY JUNIOR A HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP													
Semi-Finals													
O'Loughlin Gaels 1-19		Fenians	0-5			Northern Section				Relegation Final		John Lockes	2-12
Mooncoin 2-12		James Stephens	1-12			1st Round		St. Martin's	3-16	St. Lachtain's	2-13		
Final						Lisdowney	2-13	Young Irelands	2-10	Young Irelands	2-10		
O'Loughlin Gaels 3-12		Mooncoin	1-10			Emeralds	4-10	St. Martin's	3-9				
JUNIOR SECTION													
1st Round													
Galmy 1-13		Blacks & Whites	0-12			Graigue Ballycallan	2-13	Conahy Shamrocks	2-23	Graigue Ballycallan	2-7		
Lisdowney 2-13		Barrow Rangers	2-10			Tullaroan	2-7	St. Lachtain's	2-13	St. Lachtain's	2-13		
Thomastown 0-17		Kilmacow	1-11					Danesfort	0-19	Clara	2-9		
St.Patrick's 2-16		Bennettsbridge	1-8							Blacks and Whites	0-7		
Piltown 0-15		Windgap	0-11							Cloneen	1-15		
Slieverue 0-15		Cloneen	1-10							Dicksboro	3-16		
2nd Round													
St. Patrick's 1-16		Thomastown	1-10			Rower Inistioge	0-17	B Shamrocks	0-16	Galmoy	1-15		
						Thomastown	0-24	TullRoberton	2-15	James Stephens	1-16		
Iverk Produce Southern Section													
1st Round													
										Conahy Shamrocks	5-13	St. Lachtain's	3-18
JJ Kavanagh & Sons County Final													



JH CHAMPIONSHIP ACTION



THE 'BRIDGE REMEMBERED

This year Kilkenny County Board welcomed to the County SH Final the surviving members of the Bennettsbridge teams of the 1960's who contested seven Senior Hurling Championship Finals, winning five during this decade. The event was sponsored by the Springhill Court Hotel who afterwards provided a reception for these great players.



Bennettsbridge Men of the Sixties at Springhill Court Reception

Back: Seanie Cleere, Larry Cleere, Pat Lalor, Tom Skehan, Frankie Ryan, Tom Lineen, Paddy Moran.

Middle: Liam Mulhall, Ned Ryan, Liam Cleere, Johnny McGovern, Martin Treacy, John Kinsella, Noel Ryan.

Front: Henry Drea, Paul Kinsella (Cathaoirleach), Noel Skehan, Sam Carroll, Jim Treacy, Martin Hanrahan (Springhill Court Hotel), Mick McCarthy.

(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Bennettsbridge – Kilkenny Senior Hurling Champions 1962

Back: N. Skehan, L. Cleere, J. McGovern, T. Kelly, P. Moran, J. Dowling, S. Cleere, T. Lineen, L. Bennett, T. Kelly, J. Dobbyn.
Front: P. Treacy, R. Carroll, R. Power, M. Treacy, F. Ryan, M. McCarthy, S. Carroll, J. Treacy, M. Kelly.

Mickey Kelly RIP

Mickey Kelly of Bennettsbridge died on 26th October, 2011 just a few days after his colleagues on the great sixties Bridge team were honoured in Nowlan Park. Though not well enough to be present on that occasion, his great contribution to that team was recalled on the day. The following tribute to Mickey Kelly was written by Jim Fogarty.

Imagine you have captained your team to end a senior All-Ireland “famine” of ten years, in a hurling-mad county. Not alone are you captain but you score the winning point! The year is 1957, the county is Kilkenny. You have previously scored four goals for your club in their first senior county final victory for 62 years. The year is 1952, the club is Bennettsbridge. Seven years later you score 3 goals in a senior county final as Bennettsbridge defeat Erin’s Own of Castlecomer by 4-6 to 1-4. You end your career with, in addition to your All-Ireland SHC medal, 3 Leinster SHC medals, a Railway Cup medal, 7 county SHC medals, 2 county JHC medals and a county MHC medal. Could you retain your natural humility and modesty if you were the creator of such wonderful feats?

You certainly could if you were Mickey Kelly, a legend of hurling, who went to his eternal reward on the 26th October 2011. He was never one to mention his wonderful achievements in hurling, even though he must have had an inner glow of satisfaction. He was a very modest man and a thorough gentleman.

John D. Hickey, the doyen of GAA writers described the 1957 All-Ireland senior hurling final thus; “ like the gust of wind that suddenly springs up as a storm gathers new strength and catches one’s breath, the hurling tempest we saw at Croke Park, has left me groping for words to describe it all. I feel a

thrilling glow of satisfaction that I was privileged to see it. Never can there have been a more pulsating final than we saw yesterday”.

Six minutes into the second half came a point which was of the same class as one of Terry Leahy’s points in the 1947 final. Appropriately, it came from the Kilkenny captain. Mickey Kelly dived for the ball which eluded him. He fell to his knees but succeeded in cutting the ball off the ground and it went sailing over the bar for a truly memorable score. In the 27th minute of the second half, Kilkenny captain, Mickey Kelly, fastened on to a long clearance by John Maher and from an acute angle on the left wing the Bennettsbridge farmer reaped a rich harvest with a beautifully judged point, the winning score. Thus did Mickey leave a true captain’s imprint on the final.

Mickey has now gone to join teammates and rival players from opposing clubs and counties, who predeceased him. May the green sod of Bennettsbridge rest lightly on him. Condolences to his wife, his children, brothers and sisters, grandchildren and extended family.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam uasal.



Kilkenny SH Team which drew with Waterford in the 1959 All Ireland Final

Back: Jim "Link" Walsh, Paddy Kelly, Liam Cleere, John Sutton, Tom Walsh, Mick Brophy, Mickey Kelly, Ollie Walsh, Timmy Kelly, John Maher.
Front: Martin Treacy, Tommy O'Connell, Denis Heaslip, Mick Fleming, Sean Clohosey, Mick Walsh, Johnny McGovern, Paddy Buggy, Dick Carroll, Billy Dwyer.

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Game of the Decade!

Bord na nÓg Minor Report by Martin Quilty



Bennettsbridge - Minor "A" County Champions 2011 (Eoin Hennessy)

Front: Eoghan O'Connor, Enda Morrissey, Liam Blanchfield, Dylan Walsh, Micheal Shiel, Hugh O'Neill, Aidan Cleere, Michael Power
Middle: John Brennan, Brian Lannon, Willie Murphy, Cormac Wafer, Sean Morrissey, Shane Nolan, Kevin Blanchfield, Robert Lennon
Back: Paul Whelan, Aidan Byrne, Kevin Brennan, Jason Cleere, Bill O'Neill, Luke Dowling, Shane Byrne, Paul O'Neill (C)

Minor A County Final

This year's Minor A hurling championship county final was the best game of underage hurling played in the last decade. It took over 140 minutes to decide the winner of this year's County Final.

The first game was played in some atrocious conditions in Nowlan Park so much so you wondered when the canoes were going to be brought onto the field. Great credit must be given to both sets of players who produced a classic game of hurling despite the weather, keeping the large attendance on the edge of their seats for the entire game. Thomastown, as they did in the semi-final, got off to a blistering start when they took a substantial lead over near neighbours Bennettsbridge. It took the 'Bridge boys seven minutes to register their first point but by the interval they were only two points behind after playing against a strong breeze in the first half. The second half saw the conditions deteriorate even further with puddles now emerging on the field as the rain belted down on both sets of players.

Nearing the last quarter of the game it really hung in the balance. Both teams exchanged points and neither team really looked like they would run away with the game. Thomastown to their credit did go three points ahead but the 'Bridge never say die attitude kept crawling that lead back until they got the equalising point two minutes into stoppage time. Michael Donnelly had a chance of claiming glory at the death when Thomastown were awarded a free near the sideline. With the wind howling it was always going to be a difficult free to convert and when the ball was struck it just tailed away at the last minute. Just as the ball was pucked out the final whistle blew Thomastown 0-10, Bennettsbridge 0-10.

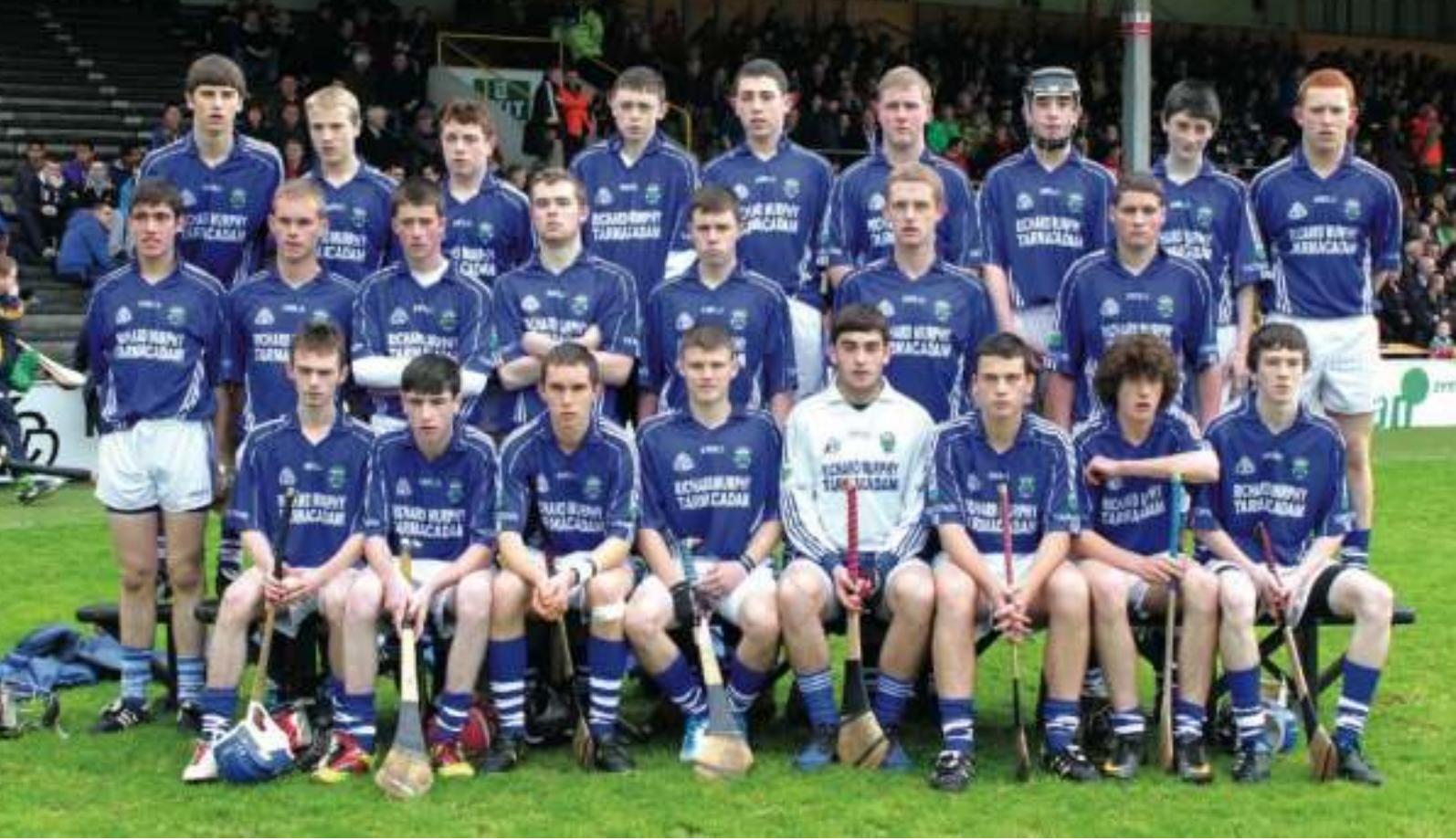
Minor A County Final Replay

Round 2 of this absorbing contest saw weather conditions

slightly better than the week before but the surface was still slippery. It must be said that Timmy Grogan and Mick O'Neill deserve a great deal of credit for having Nowlan Park playable for the replay the following week.

These two finely tuned teams got into position and the ball was thrown in. Could Bennettsbridge start better than they had the previous week? The answer was they could not!! They seemed to be slow starters but as time went on they grew in confidence with every passing minute. Again like the previous week Thomastown built up a small lead and by the interval they lead 0-8 to 0-2 with Thomastown's main scorers being Thomas O'Hanrahan, Michael Donnelly and Adrian Burke while Bennettsbridge scores came from Aidan Cleere and Liam Blanchfield.

The 'Bridge boys came out for the second half with all guns blazing and slowly but surely clawed their way back into the game. This was partially due to an inspired sub, the Bridge brought on corner forward Kevin Brennan who had the ball in the Thomastown net shortly after arriving onto the field, game on 0-8 to 1-3. Further points from Donnelly and a magnificent solo run and point from Thomas O'Hanrahan saw Thomastown push the lead out 10- to 1-3. Tucker was really the main threat for Thomastown and he caused the Bridge defence awful problems. But like I said earlier the Bridge had a never say die attitude and Cleere and O'Connor pointed for the 'Bridge to leave the score 0-10 to 1-5 by the 47th minute. The 'Bridge had a lucky escape in the 54th minute when corner back Sean Morrissey intercepted a ball that seemed sure to hit the back of the net and that could have been game over but they counterattacked and won themselves a 65' which Aidan Cleere duly slotted over the bar to leave the minimum between the teams with only 5 minutes to play. Tucker had won a free in the 58th minute which Donnelly pointed from the placed ball. The 'Bridge boys



Thomastown - Minor "A" League Champions 2011 (Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Barry Whelan, Johnny Barron, Andy Walsh Darragh McGarry, Brian Bradshaw, Jamie Lanigan, Liam Tennyson, James Burke, Thomas O'Hanrahan.

Middle: Michael Donnelly, Gary Lehane, Liam O'Shea, Kieran Treacy, Eddie Corraway, Kevin Butler, Mark Walsh.

Front: Andrew Kehoe, Adrian Burke, Gary Mason, Luke Blanchfield Neill O'Mara, Robert O'Hanrahan, Cian O'Mara, Eoin Manning.

kept plugging away and the equaliser came from Kevin Blanchfield on the 60th minute and then right into injury time Enda Morrissey slotted over the equaliser to level matters Thomastown 0-11, Bennettsbridge 1-8

Extra Time was now necessary and as the players retired to the dressing room for a breather, for the second week in a row they got a standing ovation from the large support both teams had. Five minutes into extra-time Bennettsbridge took the lead for the first time in the two games. This was thanks to a point from Aidan Cleere. Donnelly replied with a pointed free shortly after and Hugh O'Neill pointed a superb effort to leave the 'Bridge ahead at half time in extra time, 1-11 to 0-12. Both sets of players were feeling tired and the leg muscles were aching. 130 minutes of hurling had been played but there were still 10 more to go. It was a real hard fought battle and Thomastown supporters were cheering in the 75th Minute when a 65' from Donnelly dropped short and Tucker flicked the ball to the net. Nowlan Park erupted but it was ruled out by Referee Connolly for a square ball, heartbreak for Thomastown who had battled really hard in the last third of the game. This gave momentum to Bennettsbridge who grew in confidence and tagged on 3 more points from O'Neill, Cleere and Morrissey to leave the score at 1-14 to 0-13. There was still drama into injury time of extra time when Kevin Butler was fouled in the square and this gave Thomastown a slim lifeline but a lifeline just the same. Donnelly stepped up and even though he got a powerful strike on the ball Bennettsbridge goalkeeper Michael Sheil got the vital touch to the sliotar and pushed it away from danger. The final whistle sounded to scenes of jubilation to end what was the best county final played in the Park for a long, long time. Congratulations to both teams on a fantastic game of hurling. They really gave spectators value for money and kept supporters on the edge of their seats for the entire 140 minutes. Thomastown were great battlers but the hungrier team came away with the victory and well deserved at that.

Minor B County Final

This year's Minor B County final saw Mullinavat take on St

Patrick's Ballyragget in Thomastown. Again like most of the county finals this year the weather was appalling and both teams had to endure torrents of rain and strong winds. Mullinavat playing with a gale force wind in the first half needed to be well ahead of St Patrick's who had some tough battles to reach the Final. Mark Mansfield and Liam Fennelly were the main threat to the Ballyragget team and gave the backs a torrid time during the first half pulling defenders all around the park and giving the forwards time and space to take their points. At the interval Mullinavat lead 1-4 to 0-0, the goal coming from Liam Fennelly.

The large crowd was expecting St Patrick's to come at Mullinavat hammer and thongs in the second half with players like Kevin Kelly, Conor Bolger and Eoin Bergin to push the St. Pat's team and try claw the lead back. This, however, was not the case. Kevin Kelly tried to rally his troops but the Mullinavat boys was just far superior all over the park and the defensive line of Mikey Jones, Thomas Aylward and Simon Aylward kept the St Pat's forwards at bay for the entire game almost. It was probably the most one-sided county final that was played in a long time. To take nothing away from the victors they played their hearts out, they pushed on in the second half against the wind and managed to score 1-5. St Pat's in fairness tried their hearts out to get back into the game and even the management team made positional switches and substitutes but all to no avail. They did manage to score 4 points in the second half but it was too little too late as the damage had already being done in the first half.

After the game Chairman of Bord na nÓg Willie Dempsey presented the trophy to the winning captains of Mullinavat Simon & Thomas Aylward.

Teams:

Mullinavat :- Liam Walsh, Mickey Jones, Thomas Aylward, Nathan Malone, Robert Malone, Simon Aylward, Brian Pheylan, John Walsh, John McCabe, Darren Waters, Pat Mulhern, Mark Mansfield, Conor Duggan, Liam Fennelly, Jason Dalton. **St. Patricks :-** Billy Morrissey, Billy Butler, Paddy McEvoy,



Mullinavat - Minor "B" County Champions 2011 (Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Jason Dalton, Michael Jones, Mark Mansfield, Liam Fennelly, Pat Mulhearn, Conor Frisby, John McCabe, John Fitzpatrick, Micheal Reade, Niall Mulhearn.
Front: Conor Duggan, Damien Alyward, Daryl Cass Kennedy, Liam Walsh, Jack Brown, Adam Mansfield, Daren Waters, Ryan Bland, Kevin Howley, Daniel Walsh, Patrick Murphy.

Lying Down: Thomas Alyward, Robert Malone, John Walsh.

Niall Brophy, Mark Staunton, Robbie Healey, Lorcan Price, Jack Ryan, Kevin Kelly, Brendan Brophy, David Kelly, Shaun Gleeson, Shane Glennon, Eoin Bergin, Conor Bolger.

Ref: James Fitzgerald (Piltown)

Minor C County Final

The curtain raiser to the Roinn B County Final was the Roinn C decider between Danesfort and Cloneen. Both teams reached this year's final after beating Dicksboro B and James Stephens B. Cloneen had the tougher of the two semi-finals just narrowly defeating the Village boys by a solitary point. Danesfort had two points to spare over the 'Boro team.

This set things up to be a very close encounter which it proved to be. The weather again was not the greatest to play hurling in but both teams got on with the job in hand. Early on it looked

like it was going to be a day for the free takers but thankfully the game opened up a little. Danesfort led after the first few minutes thanks to a goal after two minutes from Jack Bruton, and a mistake by the Cloneen goalkeeper left Danesfort with a comfortable lead after he allowed the ball drop into the net. Cloneen worked their way back into the game and got their rewards before half time with a goal of their own from Sean O'Neill. The second half was very tight and both sides exchanged points from frees before a high speculative shot from Ger Dunne saw the ball deceive the keeper and hit the back of the net. In fairness Cloneen never lay down and continued to pile on the pressure and take their score when they could. Coming into injury time the score was Danesfort 3-3 Cloneen 2-5 Cillian Treacy had two great opportunities to put the ball over the bar and possibly win the tie but instead went for goals, these ef-



Danesfort Roinn "C" League & Championship Winners 2011 (Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Peter Davis, Fergal Doyle (selectors), Dion Fitzpatrick, Philip Cooney, James Tynan, Eoin Cooney, Gary Tynan, Shane Banahan, Cian Mullally, Stephen McKenna, John Forde, Michael O'Neill, Cillian Treacy, Colm Phelan, Pat Tynan, Angelo Cullen (selectors)

Front: Ryan Bolger, Conor O'Neill, Ger Dunne, Ronan Leahy, Darren Knox, Darragh Sheehan (Capt.), Patrick Tynan, Jack Bruton, Brendan Cullen, Thomas Rossiter.
(Missing from photo Patrick Hickey)

forts were saved and gave Cloneen the platform to keep pressing for the equaliser to bring the game to a replay. This indeed happened two minutes into injury time when Cloneen were awarded a 20 metre free which was put over the bar to leave the scores level. Danesfort 3-3 Cloneen 2-6. The ball was pucked out and referee John Walsh blew the final whistle.

Minor C County Final Replay

The replay was played in a blustery and cold Jenkinstown the following week. Danesfort were on a high coming into the game after winning the Intermediate Final the previous week. Would this give the team the lift they needed to go on and win the Minor decider?

Danesfort were first to register a score with a free right on the sideline by Jack Bruton. Immediately David Wilson had the opposition on level terms after MJ Feehan put the centre forward through on goal with a beautiful flick to his team mate. Wilson then got his second point from a free before Bruton had the teams level again. A foul in the 29th minute on Podge Delaney gave Wilson another opportunity to add to his tally and he duly obliged. Danesfort quickly went on the attack and instead of putting the ball over the bar on a number of occasions went for goals. These shots were blocked down by Sean O'Neill and he gave his defence time to clear the danger. Another shot right on half time was blocked and partially cleared to allow Cillian Treacy put the ball over right on the stroke of half time to leave Danesfort in the lead by the narrowest of margins, 0-4 to 0-3. The ground was greasy and this didn't help either set of players to keep their footing. Scores were very hard to come by and with the slippery conditions came a lot of frees. Cloneen drew first blood in the first half when David Wilson added a further free to his tally after a foul on Paul Kelly. However Danesfort quickly replied and with a shot over the bar Bruton had his fourth point of the day. Cloneen were very wasteful with the pos-

session they had and this gave Danesfort the opportunity to stay in touch with the Northerners. The turning point came midway through the second half, an off the ball altercation saw referee Eugene Ryan consult with his umpires and after the consultation Cloneen had a player sent off, Danesfort quickly set about leaving Paddy Hickey as the spare man and he cleaned up and cleared numerous balls bound for the Cloneen forwards. Danesfort pushed on and with Bruton on fire in the forward line it was clear the plan was to get the ball to him and let him run at the Cloneen defence. The teams were level at 0-7 each before Danesfort forward Bruton received the ball and after making a blistering solo run through the Cloneen defence he found the net. Danesfort never looked back after this although they did have to endure a late scare when Cloneen were awarded a penalty two minutes into injury time. The effort was brilliantly stopped on the line by Patrick Tynan to leave Danesfort victorious. Final score Danesfort 1-10 Cloneen 0-8

Teams:

Danesfort :- Patrick Tynan, Paddy Hickey, John Ford, Darragh Knox, Gary Tynan, Darragh Sheehan, Michael O'Neill, Ronan Leahy, Colm Phelan, Steven McKenna, Ryan Bolger, Ger Dunne, Jack Bruton, Cillian Treacy, Shane Banaghan
Cloneen :- Sean O'Neill, Conor Delaney, Anthony O'Neill, Gearoid O'Neill, Dean Shortall, Paul Kelly, Ciaran Brennan, Mark Maguire, Podge Delaney, MJ Feehan, David Wilson, Ciaran Whelan, Sean Feehan, Eoin Doyle, Brian Mahon
Ref: Eugene Ryan (Fenians)

Danesfort completed the Roinn "C" double when they beat Dicksboro in a refixture on Sunday, November 13th in Bennettsbridge.on a score of 2-12 to 1-7. The original game was abandoned due to an injury

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Bennettsbridge captain, Paul O'Neill, receives the Minor Hurling "A" cup from Willie Dempsey, Chairman, Bord na nÓg and John O'Neill, Kilkenny Citroen Centre, sponsor, in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.chp.ie)

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The Amazing Story of the 1951 Minors



Kilkenny - 1951 Leinster MH Champions

Back: Richie Brennan, Mick Doyle, Simon Cleere, John Doherty, Nicky Teehan, John O'Rourke, Mick Brophy, Jim (Link) Walsh, MickRowe, Sean Dunne, Dermot Donleavy, Joe Maher.

Front: Sam Carroll, Mick Gardiner, Billy Fitzgerald, Jack Dunphy, Paddy Hoban, Paddy Johnston, Seanie O'Brien, Paddy McCarthy, Eddie Delehunty, Tom Walsh.

Kilkenny won the 1951 Leinster Minor Hurling Final beating Dublin by 5-11 to 2-2. It was their fourth successive title, and, in the previous year, they had gone on to win the All Ireland final. They were now pitted against Galway in the All Ireland semi-final fixed for Croke Park on It was from this point on that events took a strange turn.

Kilkenny looked certain winners at half time in the semi-final. Playing with a good breeze, they piled up score after score in the first half and led by what seemed an unassailable sixteen points at the interval, the half time score standing at –

Kilkenny 5-3, Galway 0-2.

After the interval, however, things changed drastically. The second half was all Galway's as they tore through the Kilkenny defence, scoring goal after goal, the last of which came in the final minute when, after a terrific tussle, a Galway '70 finished up in the Kilkenny net for the equalising score. Kilkenny had only managed two points in that second half, while Galway's tally was six goals and no points. The final score was –

Kilkenny 5-5, Galway 6-2.

The replay, again fixed for Croke Park, was every bit as bizarre. This time, in an extraordinary reversal of events, Galway completely dominated the first half and now it was they who led at the interval by sixteen points, the half time score, again amazingly, standing at –

Galway 5-3, Kilkenny 0-2.

Now it was Kilkenny's turn to fight back and this they did with great spirit. They scored four goals and four points without reply,

the fourth goal coming from a brilliant Paddy Johnston free in the 55th minute, levelling the match.

That, however, was as good as it got. In the final minute a Paddy Johnston free was struck low and grabbed by the Galway defence. The resulting clearance eventually finished up in the Kilkenny net, securing for Galway a last minute victory with their only score of the second half. The final score was –

Galway 6-3, Kilkenny 4-6

Galway went on to play Cork in the All Ireland final where they were beaten on a score of 4-5 to 1-8.

Thus ended the extraordinary odyssey of the 1951 Kilkenny minor team in their quest for All Ireland glory. It must have been around that time that the expression "a game of two halves" was coined!

The Kilkenny team for the drawn game was:-

J Dunphy, E Delehunty, J Walsh, M Rowe, J Doherty, M Brophy, P Hoban, P Johnston, J O'Rourke, D Donleavy, S Cleere, P McCarthy, S O'Brien, S Dunne, W Fitzgerald.

For the replay, the lineout was:-

J Dunphy, E Delehunty, J Walsh, M Rowe, J Doherty, M Brophy, P Hoban, J O'Rourke, D Donleavy, M Gardiner, P Johnston, P McCarthy, S O'Brien, S Dunne, W Fitzgerald.

The above photograph was taken at half time in the drawn game. It was kindly provided by midfielder on the team, John O'Rourke, who purchased it twelve months after the game, by sending 7/6d to the Irish Independent with a description of the game and the date.

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Ray McCarthy, Ray McCarthy Electrical, signs a new sponsorship deal with Fenians GAA, pictured are J.J. Delaney, James Tobin, Chairman, P.J. Delaney, J.P. Grehan, Seamus Beahan, P.J. Ryan, Clodagh Ryan, Sophie McCarthy, Aobha McCarthy and Grace McCarthy. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

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GER HENDERSON

A Fenians Man, First Last and Always

By Kieran Cuddihy

Some families have had such an impact on Kilkenny hurling that their names read like a history of the sport in the county. Henderson is just such a name. Pat, John and Ger, the three brothers from Johnstown have 11 All Irelands and 8 All Stars between them.

Ger, the middle of the trio, was born on May 5th, 1954. He grew up in Johnstown watching his older brother Pat develop the skills that would see him become centre-back on the Kilkenny team from 1964 to 1978. With an example like that, there was very little doubt that Ger would follow in his older brothers footsteps.

"Ah sure we were always hurling in our house, always. I suppose it was never going to be any other way, especially with Pat ahead of me. Myself and John would have always been watching him."

“

Today if you gave me a choice between Kilkenny winning an All Ireland and Johnstown winning a championship, I'd pick Johnstown every time. That's just what the club means to me.”

Ger grew up playing with his local club Johnstown before the formation of the Fenians in 1968. After a steady rise through the underage ranks, he was part of the team that clinched the last of the three County Championships in a row in 1974 with a win over Bennettsbridge by 10 points to 6. With 2 Hendersons on the starting 15, the Fenians went on that year to become the first Kilkenny club to win a Leinster Club Championship when they beat St. Rynagh's of Offaly by a goal. Cork's St. Finbarr's eventually beat them in the All Ireland decider but Ger still remembers those days as some of the best in his career.

"I would always pick winning with my club over anything else. All players would be the same. You know you start out hurling with guys when you are a kid and you go through school with them and start hurling around U14 with them and you go up all the way along together."

"I started hurling with that Senior Team when I was about 18 and it was great team. The County Championship teams in '74 and '77 were great teams and I was lucky that I came along at just the right time to be a part of them. They would be the two wins that I would look back on most fondly, most guys would love to win a championship with their club, any championship but especially a senior championship. It's equal to an All Ireland for most lads."

A prodigious talent, with the name Henderson and playing with the top club in the county at that time, it is no wonder that Ger was involved on Kilkenny minor and under-21 teams. In 1972, he played his part on an All Ireland winning panel that was dotted with names that would go on to become household names across the country.

"When we won the Minor All Ireland in 1972, I was a sub on the team but you had some players who were going to go on become great. You had Brian Cody, Ger Fennelly, Kevin Fennelly and lads like that. Plenty of players from that team went on and played with the Kilkenny Senior Team after that. The quality of players coming through at the time meant that Mick McCarthy from Freshford scored three goals in the final, so obviously he was an important player, but he never went on and played

senior with Kilkenny."

"We beat Galway in that final by 13 points but I don't actually remember a whole lot about that day, probably because I was a sub. You just don't seem to get as carried away with a big occasion like that when you are not playing yourself."

"But I do remember the two under21 All Irelands in a row that we won in '74 and '75. We beat Waterford in Thurles in '74 and beat Cork in Dungarvan in '75. They were brilliant days. There were a lot of lads from that minor team in '72 that were still together and were playing like Cody, Fennelly, Joe Hennessy, Billy Fitz."

With a minor All Ireland medal in his pocket and a member of a strong under21 side, Ger made his senior debut with Kilkenny in 1974 against Offaly. His first game, in Croke Park, was marked by a comfortable victory and the side lined out three weeks later against Wexford in the Leinster final. Unfortunately for Ger, that would be his last involvement on the first 15 for almost two years.

"When I first started in '74, I wasn't really nervous. We played Offaly in my first game and but for some reason I just started to lose form. I was taken off in the U21 Leinster Final and I was in a bit of a rut after that. I was dropped after the senior game against Wexford. Tom McCormack took my place for the rest of the year and for 1975 so it took me nearly two years to work my back on to that team."

"I hated that time being on the bench and I always said that if I was ever dropped off the team again, I would retire. I would just have no interest in sitting on the sidelines and watching the team play, waiting for someone to tell me it was time to give up. So when I was dropped in '89, I said that was enough for me. There is nothing like playing, you just don't get the same buzz sitting on the bench."

When Ger worked his way back into the starting lineup in 1976, he found himself surrounded by a team in transition. The great players of the 60's and early 70's like Eddie Keher and Pat Delaney were coming to the end of their careers and the younger players like Ger that had come through had yet to firmly stamp their authority.

In that light, 1976 was a year of mixed fortunes. Having won the National League, Kilkenny kicked off their Championship campaign with a comprehensive win over Westmeath in Mullingar. Two weeks later they lined out against Wexford in the Leinster Final in Croke Park. As Ger recalls, it was not one of their better days in GAA HQ.

"We got a fierce hammering in the Leinster Final against Wexford. They beat us by 17 points. That kind of marked the end of what had been a really great team. What I remember most is the black shorts that we wore. It was the first time we wore black shorts that year and we never wore them after that. Look back at any of the photos and you know straight away what ones were from '76 because of those black shorts."

Wexford were once again to prove their foil in 1977 and Ger thinks that the Wexford team of the mid 70's was very unlucky not to win an All Ireland. "That Wexford team in those years should really have won at least one All Ireland, they had wonderful players but just came up short on the big day a few times. They had great players in the Dorans, the Quigleys, Mick Butler and the likes."

After the heartache of losing out two years in a row to Wexford, Ger and his teammates eventually overcame them in 1978. Since Fenians were reigning County Champions, the honour of captaining Kilkenny fell to Ger and it remains one of the most significant frustrations of his career that he didn't get the chance to lift the Liam McCarthy.





13 July 1980, Brendan Birmingham Offaly in action against Ger and John Henderson Kilkenny, 1980 Leinster Hurling Final, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture Credit: Ray McManus/SPORTSFILE

"We got beaten in the final by Cork by 4 or 5 points and that is one of my biggest disappointments. I suppose to win an All Ireland as captain would be the ultimate achievement and to come so close was disappointing. It would have been nice to be an All Winning captain but it wasn't to be. But look at that Cork team, they had Jimmy Barry Murphy, Gerald McCarthy, Martin Doherty. That was the three in a row team. We didn't play too badly on the day but we just weren't good enough to beat them. It was as simple as that."

"Funnily enough, my biggest memory of that All Ireland is coming out of the tunnel on to the pitch. It was my first time to play in an All Ireland and the roar when you come onto the pitch was so loud. It was my first experience of anything like that and it was some buzz. I'll never forget that noise."

"Luckily I didn't have to wait too long for my first All Ireland because we got over the disappointment of losing to Cork and came back to beat Galway the following year. It was an awful wet day and maybe we were lucky to beat them because we got an awful lucky goal at the end. That was a great Galway team too, sure they went on to win it in 1980."

In 1979, Ger had the added pleasure of playing under the management of his brother Pat, who was over the team with Eddie Keher. By 1982, Pat was the sole man in charge and Ger remembers that year and the following year as his best spell of hurling in black and amber.

"'82 and '83 were special years because not only did we win the All Ireland but we won the League both years as well so we did the double double. That was my best time hurling with Kilkenny."

"We were very unlucky not to win three in a row back then. We had the players and we felt that we could do it but injuries caught up with us in 1984 and it wasn't to be."

Ger was to have six more years with Kilkenny but there would only be one more appearance on hurling's biggest occasion, when the team lost to Cyril Farrell's Galway in 1987.

Considering his impressive hall of medals, his 5 All stars and not to mention a Texaco Hurler of the Year award, the most cherished aspect of Ger's career was the company he kept along the way.

"Looking back on all my time with Kilkenny, I'd have the main highlight is the great players I got to train with, the likes of Eddie Keher, Pat Delaney, Ciaran Purcell, Noel Skehan, Billie Fitz, Mick Crotty and their likes. They were part of an exceptional team in the 1970's and it was a real thrill for me to come along and be part of it. That team was very unlucky not to do four in a row even, getting caught by Limerick in 73. They really were an exceptional team."

"I couldn't pick out one player as being the best I ever played with, it's too difficult when you go through the names that I have mentioned."

And how do those stars of the past compares to Brian Cody's men today?

"The players now are bigger and fitter men than we were and the game is an awful lot faster. Coming up to an All Ireland we probably trained as hard as any team now would train but the set up was completely different to what it is now. There is so much focus now on strength and diet and all that. And it's a case if one team is doing it, they all have to do it."

"But even with all that training and fitness, the number one thing in hurling is your first touch and what you do with the ball when it comes toward you. No matter how fit and strong you are it doesn't matter if you don't have a good first touch. That is what is so brilliant about this current Kilkenny team. It's not all the fitness work they do, because every team is doing that as well. It's their basic skills. Especially their skills in the air. They are so strong in the air."

"We are so lucky today with the players we have. Shefflin is one of the best players I have ever seen but so are Tommy Walsh and JJ Delaney. I really think that DJ was also by far one of the greatest players to have played the game."

And what of the future? Will Brian Cody stay on? Will 2012 herald a 34th All Ireland? Well for Ger, these are somewhat secondary issues for a man for whom the Fenians are still his prime concern.

"Today if you gave me a choice between Kilkenny winning an All Ireland and Johnstown winning a championship, I'd pick Johnstown every time. That's just what the club means to me."

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3 FINALS BUT NO SUCCESS

Three Kilkenny Clubs reach the AIB Finals in Croke Park



John Lockes in Croke Park. All Ireland Junior Final against Meelin (Cork). (Photo: SPORTSFILE)

Back: Liam Kennedy, JJ.Corrigan, PJ.Cody, Michael Roche, Cathal Byrne, John O'Neill, Paddy Kennedy, Adrian O'Sullivan, PJ.O'Keeffe, Robbie Jackman, David Phelan, John Paul Corcoran, Brian McCann, Michael Hartley, Jack McDowell.
Front: Michael Gordon, Jason Corcoran, Owen McGrath, Paul Morrissey, Simon Burke, Shane Bergin, Ger Shelly, James Power, Matthew Holohan, Declan Roche, Eoghan Fahy.

JOHN LOCKES:

John Lockes from Callan town stormed out of the County to compete in the Leinster Junior Club Championship. Their first outing faced them off against Laois Champions, Ballyfin in Timahoe, with the Callan men emerging victorious by 0-12 to Ballyfin's 0-6.

On a sunny Sunday 14 November, they again had to travel to play the Wexford Champions, Adamstown. This was a very tough, uncompromising encounter, with the better hurling Callan outfit getting home by a single point, John Lockes 0-11, Adamstown 0-10. They easily won the Leinster Final when accounting, with facile ease, for the Offaly Champions, Drumcullen. They set an early pace, took the lead after four minutes, and sailed to an Historic Provincial Championship win by 2-14 to Drumcullen's 0-4. The game

was played in Rath (Offaly) on Sunday Jan 16th.

In the All Ireland semi-final, they found some difficulty against Inniskeen (Monaghan), but they made a very determined drive towards glory inside the final ten minutes, and won quite easily by 3-12 to 1-9.

Callan town emptied as every human, capable of putting two legs under him, went to Croke Park for the Final against Meelin from Cork. John Lockes failed to ignite, and they paid a heavy price. The game was won in the middle third of the field, and Meelin were superior in that area. The Final score read, Meelin 0-12, John Lockes 1-5.

John Lockes panel: P Morrissey, Michael Gordon, Michael Roche, James Power, Adrian O'Sullivan, John O'Neill, Michael Hartley, John Paul Corcoran, Matthew Holihan, Robert Jackman, Paddy

Kennedy, Owen McGrath, Ger Shelly, Simon Burke, Shane Bergin, Jason Corcoran, PJ. Cody, Declan Roche, Bill McCormack, Liam Kennedy, Eoghan Fahy, Brian McCann.

DICKSBORO:

The Intermediate Champions had a very nervy, narrow opening victory over Bunclody in their first-round game in Palmerstown. It took them all their time to get home in front winning by 4-8 to Bunclody's 0-19. Their Leinster semi-final against Kildalkey from Meath in Nowlan Park was much easier, as they won with plenty in hand. The final score reading, Dicksboro 8-7, Kildalkey 1-14. In the Leinster Final again in Nowlan Park, Dicksboro collected the cup with a very convincing win, 5-9 to 0-8, against Celbridge from Kildare. They were then



Dicksboro All Ireland Intermediate Final against Ballymartle (Cork).

Back: Shane Maher, Martin Gaffney, Tom Manning, Michael Rafter, Paddy Henderson, Cillian Breathnach, Philip Hogan, Brian Dollard, David Glynn, Michael Fagan, Kieran Cudihy, Oisín Walsh, David Carroll, Kevin Nolan, Darragh Buggy, Evan Guilfoyle, Danny Kenny.
Front: John Traynor, Mark Nolan, Eddie O'Donoghue, Adrian Stapleton, Derek O'Gorman, Sam Morrissey, Conor O'Loughlin, Paul O'Flynn, Cillian Starr, Ollie Walsh, Enda Malone, David Ryan. (Photo: John Glynn)



O'Loughlin Gaels v Clarinbridge of Galway in the AIB All Ireland ClubSH Hurling final at Croke Park on St Patrick's Day. (Pic by John McIlwaine)

Back: Jason Quan, Sammy Johnston, Anthony Forristal, Nigel Skehan, Conor Bergin, Brian Hogan, Paddy Cantwell, Evan Walsh, Eddie Kearns, Eoghan Grant, Niall Mc Evoy,

Peter Dowling, Paddy Butler, Alan O'Brien, Bryan Skehan, Martin Comerford, Andy Kearns, Seanie Cummins.

Front: Jack Nolan, Brian Murphy, Rick Leydon, Brian Kelly, Brian Dowling, Alan Geoghegan, Stephen Murphy, Maurice Nolan, Mark Bergin, Danny Loughnane, Kevin O'Brien, Niall Bergin, Andrew Cantwell.

faced with a trip to London against Kilburn Gaels. This was a fixture that was fraught with uncertainty, and danger. The Boro won by 2-13 to Kilburn's 2-4, but it was not as easy as it looked. St. Johns from Belfast were their opponents in the All Ireland semi-final. That was played in Mullingar, and a huge crowd from the North came down to Cusack Park. The Boro won by 0-16 to 1-9, but they were pushed all the way by a very determined, and gallant Belfast outfit.

The All Ireland is probably best forgotten. The Kilkenny Champions played Cork Champions, Ballymartle. They were vastly superior to the Cork men for long periods. They should have won with a leg tied up, but an added time goal robbed them of a victory that looked so certain with eight minutes remaining.

Ballymartle 3-15, Dicksboro 1-21.

Dicksboro panel: Sammy Morrissey, David Glynn, Kieran Cuddihy, Philip Hogan, Michael Fagan, Danny Kenny, Enda Malone, Tom Manning, Ollie Walsh, Paul O'Flynn, Martin Gaffney, Shane Maher, Cillian Starr, Eddie O'Donoghue, Adrian Stapleton, Cillian Breathneach, David Carroll, Paddy Henderson, Michael Rafter, David Ryan, Gary Gaule, Evan Guifoyle, Darragh Buggy, Jesse Waters, Derek O'Gorman, Conor O'Loughlin, Oisin Walsh, Cillian Buckley, Kevin Nolan.

O'LOUGHLIN GAELS:

O'Loughlin Gaels, hoping to emulate the Kilkenny teams who had previously won the All Ireland Club Championship, had a rather easy opener in the Leinster Championship when defeating Rathdowney/Errill away by 3-16 to 0-14.

It was much tougher against Ballyboden St.Endas in the semi-final. The Kilkenny side struggled for a long period, but eventually accounted for the Dub's challenge, winning by 1-21 to 3-11. That game was played in Nowlan Park, and it was worrying for the O'Loughlin mentors that the visitors found goal getting easier than scoring points.

In a very tough, dour Leinster Club Final in Dr.Cullen Park, O'Loughlins collected the cup, but Oulart the Ballagh pushed them all of the way. O'Loughlins won by 0-14 to Oulart's 1-8.

The All Ireland semi-final against Loughiel Shamrocks (Antrim) was a well-contested game for a long time, but eventually the Kilkenny Champions pushed on from the 50th minute to win by three clear goals, O'Loughlin Gaels 3-10, Loughiel Shamrocks 0-10.

In the All Ireland Final against the Galway Champions, Clarenbridge, the Kilkenny Champions never really got out of traps, and paid a big price. Clarenbridge were masters all over Croke Park, and certainly deserved their victory. They won by 2-18 to O'Loughlin's 0-12.

Panel: Steehen Murphy, Brian Kelly, Andy Kearns, Eddie Kearns, Alan O'Brien, Brian Hogan, Niall Bergin, Peter Dowling, Maurice Nolan, Niall McEvoy, Mark Bergin, Alan Geoghegan, Brian Dowling, Martin Comerford, Danny Loughnane, Sammy Johnston, Brian Murphy, Conor Bergin, Eoghan Grant, Seanie Cummins, Rick Leydon, Jack Nolan, Anthony Forristal, Nigel Skehan, Brian Skehan, Paddy Delaney, Jason Quan, Paddy Butler, Pat Cantwell, Kevin O'Brien, Evan Walsh, Andy Cantwell, Mark Kelly.



O'Loughlins Captain, Martin Comerford with the Leinster trophy
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

2010 U21 Finals

The U21 Hurling Championships, normally played late into the year at the best of times, were not completed until March of this year, due to the severe winter. Mooncoin took the Roinn "A" title on Jan 23rd with an exciting win over Erin's Own. (Final score Mooncoin 1-15, Erin Own 2-8.) The Roinn "B" title went to John Lockes who took two days to beat Barrow Rangers, the replay taking place on March 12th. (Drawn game - John Lockes 2-9, Barrow Rangers 0-15: Replay - John Lockes 0-15, Barrow Rangers 1-11.)



Mooncoin under-21 hurling team 2010 Roinn 'A' Champions (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

Back Row: Ian Walsh, Tommy Walsh, Chris Norris, Tomas Healy, Niall Dowling, Liam Walsh, Richie Doyle, Eoin Crowley, Ethan Ryan, Brian Meade
Middle Row: Mark Sullivan, Nicky Hennebry, Mark Fitzgerald, Aidan Walsh, Tomas Kearns, Shane Walsh, Eamon Hennebry, Niall Madden, Stephen Crowley, Colm Walsh.
Front Row: David Kearns, Seamus Kearns, PJ Rowe, John Healy, Cormac Daly, Niall O'Hanlon, John Patrick Purcell, Danny Purcell.
Mascots Niamh Crowley, Sean Sutton



John Lockes_ Roinn B under-21 Champions 2010. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Ryan O'Dwyer, Eoin McGrath, Emmett Nolan, Jason Nugent, Mark Laffin, Cathal Byrne, JJ Corrigan, Tony Delaney, Sean Bryan, Niall Hennessy, Brendan Grace, Jack McDowell, Dan Doheny, Jason Corcoran, Matthew Holohan
Front: David Phelan, Brian Hartley, James Power, Alan Bergin, DJ Bergin, Simon Burke, Shane Bergin, Dan McCormack, Niall Maher.

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MAIN



DEALER

Kilkenny – from there to here

By: Enda McEvoy (*Irish Examiner*)

"It's not today's men who have made Kilkenny famous. It's the men of years ago."

Bill Sullivan, the front bar in Langton's, last Sunday night

In July 2011, Enda McEvoy received the McNamee Award in the top National Media section for this article published in the Sunday Tribune on the morning of the All Ireland Hurling Final 2010.

There was once a county that got so many things wrong down the decades it's a wonder they ever won anything at all. One year for an All Ireland final they managed to ignore the claims of a man who eventually decamped to Wexford, where he won three All Ireland medals and ended up on the Teams of the Century and the Millennium; another year they were reduced to paralysis and peremptory defeat when the opposition unveiled a three-man midfield in an All Ireland semi-final. One year their full-forward was booed at the All Ireland homecoming on the Monday night; another year one of their players threw a punch at a colleague during a National League match. One year they drew with Kerry in the league; another year the minors were knocked out of the Leinster championship by Antrim at Nowlan Park. Nor can every misstep and blunder be dismissed as relics of a less streamlined age, for only three years have passed since the county minor manager of the day, on seeing his team beaten by the reigning champions in an All Ireland semi-final, blithely attributed the reversal to the fact that "Tipperary are used to winning and we're not".

This county have been beaten 80 times or more in the championship. They were the first county to be beaten twice in the same championship. They've been beaten in successive All Ireland finals on four occasions. They've managed the sum total of 0-9 – a bad football team's score - in not one but two All Ireland finals during the past quarter of a century. Time after time they've lost and gone home with tail between legs. Sometimes they've sulked for a while and sometimes they've sulked for ages. Sometimes they've learned their lesson quickly and sometimes they've taken years to learn it. But in the end they've always looked in the mirror and they've always itched to bounce back and they continue to nourish a tradition that allows them to do nothing less. Consequently they've never ever let defeat go unavenged, no matter how long it has taken them.

And that is why they succeed.

Why Kilkenny? Why was it they rather than Limerick, the other titans of the 1930s, who built modern hurling's empire of empires? Why they and not Wexford, who won more All Irelands in the 1950s? Two reasons. Two men. Paddy Grace and Fr Tommy Maher. Between them they served the county for 57 years on the administrative and coaching side. The ripples of that joint service continue to be felt.

They were not chips off the same block, their membership of the team defeated by Tipperary in the 1945 All Ireland final apart. Maher was a forward, Grace a defender. Maher's career was cut short by the call of the cloth; Grace went on to win his second All Ireland medal in 1947 before becoming county secretary the following year. Maher was a priest and teacher, Grace an insurance agent. Maher was intrigued by hurling as a science and brought all his powers of analysis and documentation to bear on it; Grace's calling was to make Kilkenny great and keep them great.

Grace was, as scores of former local heroes will attest, the ultimate players' man. "He looked after us, he did what he could for us," says Seamus Cleere, the 1963 All Ireland-winning captain who still recalls the ticket arrangements for that final: six tickets per player, with an option to buy four more. "He left a legacy of looking after players and Ned Quinn [current county secretary] has driven that on further," says Pat Henderson. "We don't have discontent in Kilkenny because the players come first always. That's down to Paddy Grace."

Grace knew who to give All Ireland tickets to because he knew the lads who went to matches and, equally importantly, he knew the lads who didn't go to matches. He knew what players needed a few bob now and then and he knew what players were trying it on with him. On the big day he preferred to travel to Dublin with the minors rather than with the seniors. He had a healthy contempt for the suits in Croke Park. Although there is no room for a Paddy Grace in the GAA of 2010, for the time that was in it he was emphatically the right man in the right place.

Paddy Grace and Fr Tommy Maher pre 1957 All Ireland Final





Fr Maher with Tef Carroll, Tom Murphy and Eddie Keher in the 1960's

To him the world was lived in two colours, black and amber. One Friday evening he was in Lenehan's pub near Nowlan Park when a couple of men down the far end of the counter were engaged in a loud argument about the best hurlers in the country. Not a single Kilkenny player featured in the discussion. Grace grew more and more irked until he couldn't contain himself any longer. He went out to the car, opened the boot, came back with the MacCarthy Cup, drop-kicked it down the bar and announced, "That'll stop yer effin' arguing." It did.

If Grace was unapologetically a Kilkenny hurling man, Maher was a hurling man of the world. By the time he returned to St Kieran's to teach maths in 1956 he had his credo formulated. The manifesto fined down to one word. (itals) Think. (close itals) At training in Nowlan Park during his own day Maher had seen the steam literally rising from enough toiling players to realise that there had to be a better way. It wasn't about size. It wasn't about strength. It wasn't about brute force. It was about skill. More precisely, it was about skills: the skills of the game, which could be broken down, analysed, practised – practised properly, which was the crucial part - and perfected. Maher thought, therefore he was. One wonders if he would have placed such a premium on the finer points had he been a defender rather than a forward.

Thus, under Maher, Kilkenny went digital where other counties stayed analogue. Corner-forwards were told that one of their primary duties was to prevent the ball going out over the endline. Outfielders were warned to keep their eye on the opposition goalkeeper as he pucked out, on the basis that every so often a puckout would be mishit. Pat Henderson learned about the importance of trajectory and how to clear the sliotar so that it would travel faster and arrive to the advantage of the forwards. Donie Nealon, Maher's confere on the famous Gormanston coaching courses, had never realised beforehand that the handpass could be used to such effect in making the transition from defence to attack. Tommy O'Connell, the three-goal hero of the drawn 1959 All Ireland final, remembers Maher's advice on sideline cuts: don't worry how far you hit it as long as you don't hit it to an opponent – and this 15 years before Kevin Heffernan

surprised the Dublin footballers by telling them he'd prefer a kickout went 20 yards to the corner-back rather than 50 yards to one of the other crowd.

As a schoolboy in St Kieran's, Eddie Keher was instructed in the mechanics of freetaking – the stance, the striking action, the follow-through – and was constantly reminded never to forget the first and most important element of the process: rising the sliotar properly. Keher and his fellow students often heard Maher express the wish that the Kilkenny selectors would pick the team earlier prior to a game so that he'd have more time to coach the players in their positions. "Getting possession from the puckout and directing it to the forwards – that was what it was all about," Keher recalls. "Now that might seem like old hat today, but at the time it was almost revolutionary. Up to then fellas just hit the ball. With Fr Maher it was a possession game. Get the ball. Retain it. No wild shots. People complain there's no overhead striking any more, but overhead striking was two guys pulling on the ball and God directing it."

Paddy Grace died in office aged 68, much too young, in 1984. He has two grandsons playing today, one in the minor final and one in the feature event. Donal Óg Cusack's line about Kilkenny being a "land of milk and honey"? That's another of Grace's legacies. The kids pucking around at half-time during matches in Nowlan Park? Still another. Tommy Maher remains with us and his testament is carved in stone, for every All Ireland-winning Kilkenny manager since his retirement – Keher, Henderson, Ollie Walsh, Brian Cody – hurled under him. Another disciple, Diarmuid Healy, coached Offaly to their first two All Ireland titles.

It's not only today's men who have made Kilkenny famous.

The evil day has been put off as long as it possibly could be. Whether the primrose path ends today or in time to be, it will not be because Kilkenny have stood still. At one of their first gatherings this year they were shown clips of the 2009 All Ireland final, clips of Tipperary gobbling up PJ Ryan's puckouts and generally running rings around them. The manager did not have to beat his troops over the head with

the message that what they'd got away with in 2009 they would not get away with in 2010. In other counties, with other managers, four All Irelands in a row would suffice. Not with this manager. Could we have possibly expected it to be otherwise?

If Kilkenny under Cody have dealt superbly with defeat, they've dealt with success even better. Among his most notable achievements has been the banishment of the conceit that a couple of All Irelands per decade was enough and that after winning that couple of All Irelands the county would inevitably be required to wait their turn until the wheel spun around again. He has taken the concept of the fallow years out of the Noreside cycle. There are no excuses for conspicuous underachievement or for pardoning failure with a resigned, "Ah, we'll be back in a few years' time."

Among his less heralded achievements, but a significant one nonetheless, has been to eradicate the parochial and the petty from the local scene. Two years ago in the All Ireland under-21 final Kilkenny brought on a chap who promptly sank without trace. They weren't slow about taking him off, the ultimate embarrassment for a substitute. A generation ago the incident would have been the first item of business at the next county board meeting. In the event, there wasn't a peep from either the chap's family or his club. Call it the Cody effect. Similarly, where Ballyhale Shamrocks' dominance in the previous generation was the source of endless jealousy and spleen, their current dominance has caused no such bad blood. And a quarter of a century ago every second youth around the streets of Ye Faire Citie wore a scowl and a Jesus and Mary Chain t-shirt. These days every second youth seems to carry a hurley.

Where to from here? Well...

How can they replace Cody when the day comes? Correction: how *will* they replace Cody? On a related point, the current panel contains not a single player under the age of 22; whence issues the next wave? The influence of the development squads has been overstated, moreover; Tommy Walsh and Cha Fitzpatrick, for instance, had both won their Feile na nGael medals before the squad system was established.

"Of course the development squads have had a huge impact, but remember where the players are coming from in the first place," says Richie Mulrooney, the manager of the Kilkenny minor team today. "They've been nurtured in their primary schools and particularly in their clubs by hardworking volunteers." It's not Mulrooney's place to say it, but the fact that an inordinate proportion of recent Kilkenny minors have hailed from junior and intermediate clubs contains obvious implications concerning the suitability of a swathe of potential senior candidates in the medium term.

Whatever about the Tipperary hordes currently massing at the gates, at least the empire will not crumble as a result of licentiousness within the walls of the citadel. Pat Henderson cites the dangers of "complacency and sentiment" before adding that he hasn't seen any warning signs to date. For his part Mulrooney calls for realism. "Whether the five-in-row is won or not, we can't keep the run going. Tipperary, with all the wonderful work they've done underage, are the likely ones to take over. But whoever succeeds Kilkenny, we then become part of the chasing pack. That's when it'll be up to everyone here to make sure we become competitive almost immediately. Being competitive at all levels is what matters. Winning is a nice bonus."

It's tomorrow's men who must keep Kilkenny famous.



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St Kieran's College - All Ireland Senior Hurling Champions 2011

St Kieran's 2-10, Ard Scoil Rís 1-11

Back: Sean O'Dwyer, Michael Brennan, John Power, Eoin Gough, Cillian Phelan, Ger Teehan.

3rd Row: Patrick O'Carroll, Aidan Cleere, George Allen, Michael Donnelly, Niall Walsh, Cillian Buckley, Robert Lennon, Mr. Ken Archbold (trainer).

2nd Row: Mr. Philip Walsh (trainer), Tom Brennan, Hugh O'Neill, Peter English, Thomas O'Hanrahan, Richie Reid, Robert O'Hanrahan, Peter Kenneally, Cillian Treacy, Diarmuid Cody, Mr. Tom Hogan (trainer).

Front: Cormac Wafer, Enda Morrissey, Jack McGrath, Luke Hickey, William Phelan (captain), Sam Johnston, Patrick Butler, Jack Nolan, Cathal O'Neill, Conor O'Shea.
Absent from photo: Ciaran Prendergast and David Bourke

St Kieran's won their second successive All Ireland SH Colleges Final in 2011. Darren Gough's condensed report on their campaign follows.

Early on in Year

After the All-Ireland winning success of last year, the St Kieran's College senior hurling panel was picked and ready for training by mid October and quickly made it to the Leinster League Final, beating Castlecomer CS on a scoreline of 4-06 to 1-07.

When the league ended, the training intensified as players came back from injury and competition grew for places on the first fifteen ahead of the opening championship match against Dublin South on 3rd February. Three goals from Thomas O'Hanrahan and one from Jack Nolan sealed a 4-13 to 1-06 victory over the Dublin side on a difficult day for hurling in Dr. Cullen Park.

Good Counsel, New Ross proved to be tough opposition in the semi-final three weeks later in Carlow Town Hurling Club and after a closely fought first half St Kieran's showed a lot of character to stay in the game. It was only in the last ten minutes, when Thomas O'Hanrahan, Cathal O'Neill and Cillian Buckley all got goals in quick succession that we took control. The match ended 4-11 to 1-12 and allowed St Kieran's to continue to the Leinster Final to face old rivals Castlecomer Community School.

Leinster Final

There was a 2,000-plus crowd gathered in Nowlan Park on Wednesday 2nd March to see St Kieran's win their 51st Leinster Colleges "A" Senior Hurling title by defeating Castlecomer CS, 3-7 to 0-7, in a closely fought match.

All-Ireland Senior Hurling Semi-Final 2011

St Kieran's College played Charleville CBS in their All-Ireland semi-final on Saturday 19th March in Tipperary Town and after an efficient first half performance which left them 1-07 to 0-03 ahead at the interval, they went on to win the game 3-10 to 0-07 to set up a date in Thurles with old enemies Ardscoil Rís.

Although they won the match quite easily there was still a huge amount to work to do and a big increase in both physicality and work rate needed if the Kieran's team were to have any hope against a much fancied Ardscoil Rís side in the All-Ireland final.

All-Ireland Senior Colleges Hurling Final 2011

In the two week period between the semi-final victory over Charleville and the All-Ireland final, one of the things that was said to the panel of players during the preparations was that in order to beat a much talked about and highly fancied Ardscoil Rís team we would have to answer the question, "Are we as good as men as they are?", in other words, we knew that we had enough skill and athleticism to win but all year we hadn't played to our full potential for 60 minutes and what we needed to do was to step up to the mark in terms of physicality, work rate, grit and hunger.

This question was answered by four o'clock on Saturday 2nd April 2011 in Semple Stadium, Thurles.

St Kieran's looked ready for a battle and played the first half against the wind to try and counteract Ardscoil's knack for quick starts. Thomas O'Hanrahan scored twice early on followed by points from Michael Brennan and John Power (free) to leave the defending champions 0-4 to 0-3 ahead after 20 minutes. At the same time the defence was giving nothing away with William Phelan and Pat O'Carroll dominating at full and centre back respectively. This was the best Kieran's had played all year and it continued when, after a great hook and block in the corner by O'Hanrahan and Jack Nolan, the ball was half-cleared out to Cillian Buckley who played it into Micheal Brennan. Brennan got caught up by a defender and gave a lovely handpass into the path of Thomas O'Hanrahan who duly finished to the back of the net. Kieran's went in at half time deservedly ahead 1-4 to 0-4.

Ardscoil got the perfect start to the second half with a goal from Oisin Hickey after only twenty seconds. St Kieran's kept their composure and over the next ten minutes led once again 1-8 to 1-4 thanks to three John Power points and one from Michael Brennan. The tables turned, however, and Ardscoil fought their way back into the match through frees from Shane Dowling and a great point from Alan Dempsey. William Phelan converted a free from his own half in the 49th minute but this was followed by a fourth and fifth free from Dowling to put the Limerick school two points ahead with only injury time left on the clock.

Any other team might have panicked but Kieran's focused on creating one more chance and it came in the 62nd minute when Buckley won a puck-out, passed to Conor O'Shea, who ran down the line, shipped a heavy challenge on the shoulder he had dislocated only weeks previously, and delivered the ball across the 14 yard line where Thomas O'Hanrahan was in position to control and flick it to the Ardscoil net. St

Kieran's were now one point up with only seconds left but Richie Reid was still alert enough to catch a short puck-out, turn and hit the ball high and over the bar to put us now two points ahead.

There was still drama left when Ardscoil were awarded a free on the Kieran's 20 metre line but it was missed, the whistle was blown and St Kieran's College had won their 18th Croke Cup and their second in two years.

The victory would not have been possible without the hard work and hunger of the players and panel and the work of the management team of Mr Tom Hogan, Mr Philip Walsh and trainer Mr Ken Archibald who put in a huge amount of time and effort in order to see another All-Ireland title return to the College Road.
A special word of thanks to Mr Billy Bolster, Mr John Quan, Mr Michael Rice and Mr Brian Cody who all contributed to the success of this year's team.



St Kieran's - Leinster Juvenile Hurling Champions 2010-2011
St Kieran's 2-10, St Peter's 0-11

Back Row: Conor Phelan, Joe Connolly, Eoin Delaney, Michael Cody, Richie Leahy, Gavin Costigan, Niall Walsh, Kevin Brennan.

Third Row: Mr. Ken Maher (Trainer), Eddie Delaney, Jack Keoghan, Billy Hanlon, Gary Tynan, Philip Dreeling, Darren Mullen, Daniel O Connor, Mr Richie Ruth (Trainer)

Second Row: Mr. Liam Smith (Trainer), Michael Cody, Jason Cleere, Eoin Walsh, Philip Cooney, Tadhg O'Dwyer, Noel Whelan, Billy Ryan, Eoghan Kearney, Ray Lahart

Front Row: Sean Morrissey, Jimmy Brennan, Eamon Hennessy, Kevin Mullen, Jason Barcoe, Liam Blanchfield, Jason Byrne, Greg Aylward



St Kieran's - Leinster Juvenile Football B Champions 2010-2011
St Kieran's 3-12, Kilcock 0-4.

Front Row: Niall Walsh, David Mullins, Aidan Nolan, Niall Brennan, Jason Byrne (Captain), Alan Hayes, Sean O Neill, Conor Phelan, Mark Dowling, Kevin Brennan.

Second Row: Jake McDonald, Darragh O'Connor, Eoin Kelly, Luke Dowling, Gary Tynan, Edward Moylan, Michael Cody, Conor Byrne, Joe Connolly, Billy Ryan.

Third Row: Gary Kehoe, Tom O'Keeffe, Aaron Casey, Jason Cleere, Sean O'Farrell, Tadhg O'Dwyer, Kevin Maher, Richie Leahy.

Back Row: Mr Paul Fitzgerald, (Trainer), Eoin Walsh, Billy Hanlon, Liam Blanchfield, Kevin Mullen, Daniel O'Connor, Jack Keoghan, Mr Niall Connolly (Trainer).

SECOND LEVEL GAA

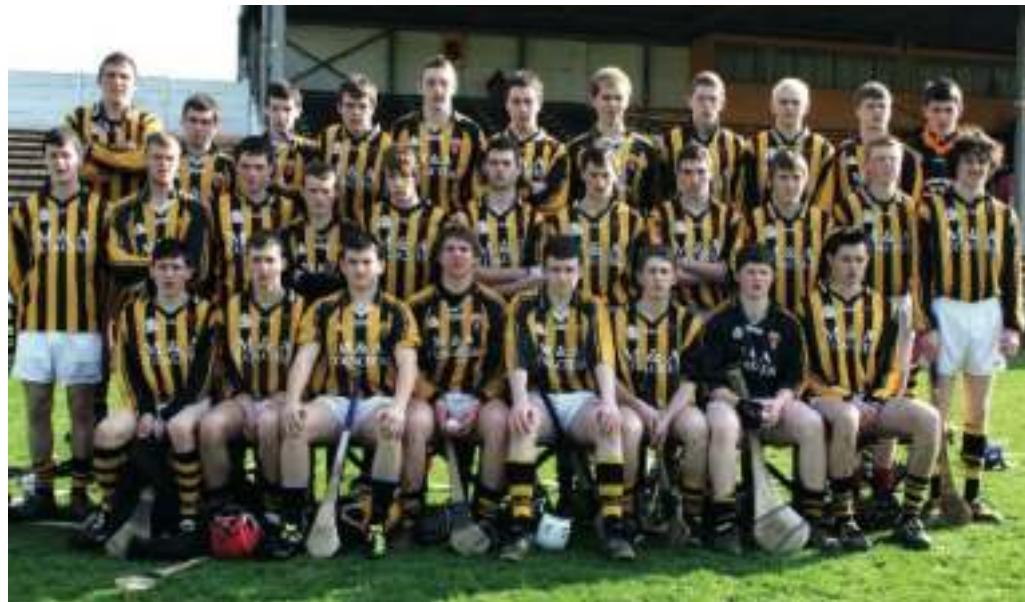
CASTLECOMER CS

Our senior hurling team did very well this season but unfortunately had no silverware to show for their tremendous efforts. Pre-Christmas wins against Dublin South, Westmeath Colleges and Enniscorthy C.B.S. saw them qualify for a League Final which they lost to St Kieran's. Post Christmas knock-out championship wins against Coláiste Eoin (Dublin) and a narrow victory against Dublin North in the semi, saw them qualify for the Leinster Final against St Kieran's College. A brave effort on the day saw our lads claw back an interval deficit to two points with eight minutes to go and looked poised for an upset. However, two late goals from St Kieran's were enough to see the eventual All-Ireland winners through on the day.

Our U-14's had a good year all in all. Between League and championship they lost matches to St Kieran's and Westmeath, but had good victories over Coláiste Eoin, Dublin North and St Peter's Wexford. They were rewarded for their efforts with a Leinster semi-final spot against St Kieran's. However, a plague of injuries hit them hard in the run up to this match in which they were well beaten after a spirited performance.

Our U-16's also had a mixed bag of results. They lost out to St Peter's and St Kieran's before beating Birr Community School. These results put them out of contention for the Leinster Championship proper, but was enough to qualify them for the shield final, which they won against Coláiste Eoin on a scoreline of 4-12 to 2-10 after extra time.

On the camogie front 2011 proved to be a momentous year for our school. This years girls



Castlecomer CS - Senior Colleges A Leinster Finalists in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)
Back: Sean O'Neill (Cloneen), Liam Barrett (Erin's Own), MJ Feehan (Cloneen), Dean Shortall (Cloneen), Sean McDermott (Erin's Own), Eoghan Mahony (St Martin's), Jim Buggy (Erin's Own), Ciaran Brennan (Erin's Own), Conor Bolger (Ballyragget), Andrew Carron (Erin's Own), Padraig Delaney (Conahy) Middle: Eoin Bergin (Ballyragget), Eoin Carroll (Conahy), Liam Wallace (Erin's Own), Shane Egan (St Martin's), Kevin Delaney (Cloneen), Brian Cahill (Cloneen), Declan Dunne (Conahy), Ruairí Kinsella (St Martin's), Brendan Brophy (Ballyragget), Thomas Walsh (Erin's Own), Luke Maher (Erin's Own). Front: Noel Callinan (Erin's Own), David Moran (Erin's Own), Stephen Daly (Erin's Own), Charles Dwyer (Ballinakill), Padraig Keating (Erin's Own), Robert Healy (Ballyragget), David Breen (Erin's Own), Robert Moran (Erin's Own).

brought back our first ever All-Ireland crown to the school when they won the Division C Title. Wins over Johnstown in the Leinster Final and Cabra in the All-Ireland semi-final saw them through to the final which they won with an injury time goal from Edel Coonan. In October of this year our Junior girls continued the trend winning the All-Ireland seven-a-side competition. Having won all of the games in the group stages of the competition Castlecomer Community School were favourites to take the final.

Their opponents from Carrigtwohill in Cork fought bravely but could not stop the on-form forwards Edel Coonan and Cliona Quirke who scored 10 goals between them in the final. These two players were provided with plenty of ball from the hard work of the backs and midfield players. Ample reward for Ted Browne who has been looking after camogie teams in the school for nearly thirty years now!



Castlecomer CS - 2011 All Ireland and Leinster Camogie Champions Roinn C
Back: Ted Browne, Shauna Doyle, Rebecca Comerford, Anita McMahon, Margaret O' Neill, Grainne Kenny, Nicole Walsh, Kelly Comerford, Aileen Cass, Seamus O'Connor, Principal.
Middle: Pauline Lambe, Kelly Dowling, Tamara Agar, Sinead Brennan, Eilis Regan, Cliona Quirke, Edel Coonan, Katie Nolan, Grace Deevey, Sarah Molloy, Margaret Nolan, Aoife Jacob.
Front: Niamh Brennan, Emma Baldwin, Mairead Daly, Orlaith Walsh, Aisling Brennan, Maeve Mansfield, Tracy Farrell, Mary Buggy, Noreen Murphy.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

Also we are in the all-ireland final of a newly formed U-17 Community Schools competition on tuesday of mid term, if we could get in a little bit about that (a sentence or two even, it would be great). Also, i have asked Pat Tynan to forward you a picture of the U-16 shield winners, I hope it is compatable and that you have space. If space has run out/the deadline is up then we understand.

COLÁISTE MHUIRE

Junior Hurling

The Coláiste Mhuire junior Hurling team had another very successful year retaining the Leinster Colleges title and the Leinster Vocational title. The year began with victories over Abbey C.C., Borris V.S. and then Heywood C.S. in the Leinster final. The final played in Nowlan park was a classic match and was decided by a dramatic late goal by Jason Stanley. A highlight of this game was the excellent play from the St Lachtains man Shane Donnelly who tormented the Heywood defence throughout the game. The team was captained by Kevin Sweeney who had come into the game with a serious hand injury.

In pursuit of the elusive All Ireland title the panel put in a tremendous effort training in all types of weather and throughout the holidays. They began their defence of the Leinster title with a comprehensive victory over Borris V.S. Thomas Moriarity had an excellent game and he was ably assisted by Michael Drennan and Kieran Skehan in defence, while in attack Kevin Sweeney, Eoghan Vaughan and Shane Donnelly were the chief tormentors of the Carlow defence. In the Leinster Final, played in Heywood on the all weather pitch, the Johnstown team played their near neighbours St Fergals from Rathdowney. In a very high scoring contest Johnstown prevailed by 5 points thanks mainly to Eoin Lyons in goals who made a string of outstanding saves at crucial times in the game.

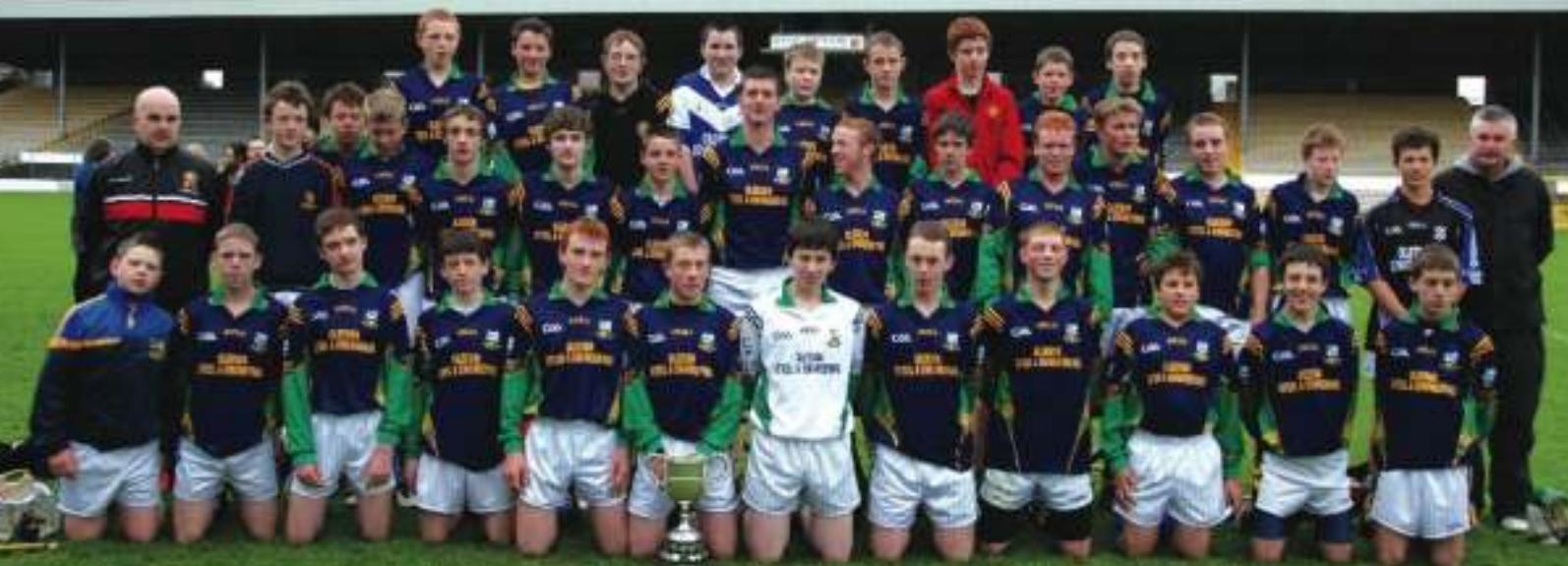
Coláiste Mhuire met old rivals Loughrea in the All-Ireland Final in Banagher but went into the



Castlecomer Community School - All Ireland Roinn C Seven a-Side Camogie Champions 2011
Back: Amy Morrissey, Grace Deevy, Edel Coonan, Kelly Commerford (captain) Cliona Quirke, Grainne Kenny, Avril Delaney.
Front: Sarah Molloy, Katie Nolan, Mary Buggy, Amy Finn, Eilís Regan.



Coláiste Mhuire - Senior Camogie Leinster Finalists 2011
Back: K. Kilkenny (Manager), Aideen Beahan, Grace Murphy, Lisa Hickey, Shonagh Ahern, Jessica Ryan, Shauna Geoghegan, Aishling Webster, Niamh Dunne, Michelle Hickey, Rebecca Pembroke, L. Halley, E. Hughes (Assistant Trainers).
Front: Davina Tobin (Captain), Mary Corcoran, Sarah Whelan, Siobhán Corcoran, Rebecca Phelan, Bríd Moore, Sarah Dermody, Chelsea de Paor, Sarah Moriarty O'Connor.



Coláiste Mhuire - Leinster Junior Colleges B & Vocational A Hurling Champions & All Ireland Finalists 2010/2011

Back: Tadhg Fitzpatrick, Edward Connery, Thomas Walsh, Tim Molloy, Pat McCormack, Michael Grehan-Carroll, Jack Dunphy, Darragh Carroll, Cian Hynes.

Middle: Comerford (Manager), Peter Walsh, Richard Saunders, James Sweeney, Niall O'Gorman, Luke Hughes, Paul Coss, John Bergin, Brian Webster, Shane Donnelly, Shane Moriarty, Jason Stanley, Michael Drennan, Cieran Murphy, Cameron Murphy, D. Maher (Manager)

Front: Andrew Morgan, Mark Webster, Eoin Wilson, Eoghan Vaughan, Rory Doyle, Kevin Sweeney, Eoin Lyons, Thomas Moriarty, Frank Phelan, Séan Fitzgerald, Darren Brennan, Darragh Quinn.



Coláiste Mhuire - Leinster Juvenile Colleges B Winners 2011

Panel: Liam Dunphy, Dean McCuin, Killian Hughes, Shane Fitzpatrick, Séan Tobin, Niall O'Gorman, Ciaran Costigan, Jack Dunphy, Jamie Moriarty, Shane Madden, Darragh Quinn, Darren Brennan, Darragh Carroll, Paul Coss, Willie Kenny, Conor Bergin, Shane Curran, Karol Collins, Sean Power, Johnny Doyle, Padraig Sweeney, Darragh Mackey, Jason Dermody, Mick Morgan, John Brennan, John Bowden, Aaron O'Neill, Brandon Phelan, Justin Cleere, Liam Dunphy, Eoin O'Sullivan, Ciaran Dawson, Kieran Phelan, David Doheny, Niall Mullins, Jack Saunders, Jack McEvoy, Harry Burke, Jack Delaney, Adam Garett, Séan Murphy, Morgan G Cassin, Liam Dillon, Chris McGarry.



Abbey Community College - South Leinster Juvenile C Hurling Champions

Back: Alex Grant, Jack Wicks, Kyle Malone, Michael cooke, Micheal Boyle, Isaac power, Aran Gallagher, Andrew Minogue, MJ Sutton (capt), Luke O'Donovan, Ollie Mullally, John Mulcair, Donnacha Griffin, Jack Rea, Maurice Costello, Sean Walker, Shane Harney, Diarmuid O'Dwyer, John Keane (manager).
Front: Brian Ennet, James Freyne, Shane Meagher, Sean Moore, Pweter Tobin, Paul Carew, Killian Power, Ben Alcock, David Irish, Eamon Phelan, Jack Frisby, David Atkins, Jonathan Browne, John Aherne, Joe O'Brien, Tiarnan Morrissey, Colm Fleming.

game with serious injuries to key players Jason Stanley and Kevin Sweeney. Johnstown dominated the first half with both Stanley and Sweeney outstanding but somehow trailed by a point at half-time. Loughrea were much more prominent in the 2nd half and increased their lead to 6 points but Johnstown responded with a great Darren Brennan goal. The move of Jason Stanley to full forward and Kieran Skehan to centre back was paying dividends however Johnstown were rocked by a fortuitous Loughrea goal. Stanley again responded with another goal but eventually ran out of time. Both teams deserve great recognition for the outstanding quality produced on the day. There is no doubt that this panel will bring All-Ireland glory back to Coláiste Mhuire in the near future

Juvenile Hurling

The Coláiste Mhuire Juvenile hurlers had a wonderful year. The side lead by Captain Ciarán Costigan remained unbeaten in all competition throughout the year. Old rivals Callan CBS provided the competition in the South Leinster Final in a very windy Nowlan Park the Johnstown based team ran out easy winners with sterling performances from Jamie Mori-



Coláiste Éamonn Rís - Leinster Juvenile Colleges B Finalists 2011

Panel: Nathan Coffey, Eoghan Scriven, Ryan Bergin, Oisin Teppan, Emmet Landy, Darragh O'Shea, Billy Rowe, Kieran Lanigan, Sean Power, Lee Doheny, Keith Fitzpatrick, James Power, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Peter Hennessy, Christian Houlihan McGrath, Niall Butler, Robbie Corcoran, Joey Brennan, Nicholas Larkin, Dylan Lanigan, Sean Buggy, Niall Buggy, Jason Shiels, Ciarán Phelan, Robert White, Aidan Cleere, Cian Bogue and Jim Power.

arty, Cillian Hughes, Niall O'Gorman and Darragh Quinn. In the Leinster Final, Coláiste Mhuire faced Dublin side Coláiste Éana. An early goal from Niall O'Gorman set the tone of the game. Further goals from Shane Madden, Darragh Carroll and Karl Collins saw off the Dublin challenge rounding off a great year for the team.

COLÁISTE EAMONN RÍS

Peter Funchion and Sean Foley, representing Colaiste Eamann Ris, Callan, Co. Kilkenny won out the All Ireland 40 x 20 Senior Doubles Handball Final in Kingscourt, Co. Cavan on Saturday 12th February, 2011.

Having played numerous handball matches before winning the Leinster Final, they went to Kingscourt in Co. Cavan. In their All Ireland Semi Final they beat Cian Connolly and Mark Nally, Roscommon, who beat Peter and Sean in the All Ireland 60 x 30 Final of the 2nd Level Colleges in 2010. In the first game Peter and Sean beat Roscommon on a score line of 21-10. In the second game Roscommon came out with a different game plan and were leading 18 - 3 when Funchion and Foley got into gear and came back to win 21-18, which was a brilliant achievement for these two lads, who kept their head and with great skill overcame a good Roscommon pair.

In the All Ireland Final they met Terry McElvaney and Christopher McKenna of Monaghan. In the first game Peter and Sean were trailing 4 aces to 11 aces, but they composed themselves and with both displaying skill and coolness they came back to win 21-12. In the second game they got stuck in straight away and were winning by a score of 13 aces to 3 aces and went on to win 21 - 12 to overcome a strong Monaghan pair. Well done and congratulations to both Peter Funchion and Sean Foley on a fantastic achievement for both themselves and their school Colaiste Eamann Ris, Callan.

Juvenile Hurling.

Our juvenile hurlers reached the Leinster Final. The road to the final saw them beat Heywood Community School, Ballinakill and St. Fergals Rathdowney and St. Mary's Enniscorthy. Unfortunately they were beaten by Coláiste Mhuire, Johnstown in the final.



Peter Funchion and Sean Foley, Colaiste Eamann Ris, Callan,
All Ireland 40 x 20 Senior Doubles Handball
Champions 2011.



Grennan College - South Leinster Schools Senior Hurling C2 Winners 2011

Back: Tony Whelan, Cian O'Mara, Gary Lehane, Liam O'Shea, Jamie Lanigan, Gary Mason, Kieran Treacy, Sam Whelan, Barry Whelan (Capt) Luke Blanchfield, Jason Cummins.
Front: Jack Walsh, Ciarán Sutton, Billy Ryan, Darragh McGarry, Anthony Quirk, James Leahy, Paddy O'Carroll, Eoin Manning, Andy Walsh.



'LIAM MAC' VISIT TO KILKENNY C.B.S.

Kilkenny C.B.S. Principal Tom Clarke, Matt Ruth, JJ Delaney, Brian Hogan, Jackie Tyrrell, Richie Doyle and John Mulhall.

KILKENNY CBS

LEINSTER 'A' JUVENILE FINAL AGONY FOR C.B.S.

Kilkenny C.B.S. Juvenile Hurlers lost their Leinster 'A' Final to a talented St. Kierans College in a pulsatingly entertaining Final in Nowlan Park in May. C.B.S. stormed into the match and blitzed Kierans with a flurry of early goals playing with the wind. Kierans clawed their way back but still required a late point to force extra-time. An injury to C.B.S. star Robbie Buckley hampered prospects of victory as Kierans hung on for victory. Credit must be attributed to both teams for the manner in which they went at it, honestly and with abandon. It was a match that was all about pure and unadulterated hurling and there will be many battles to look forward to in the coming years.

On Friday September 17th members of the victorious Kilkenny Senior Hurling

Panel arrived in the school with the Liam McCarthy Cup and were greeted in rapturous and exuberant fashion by a wildly enthusiastic student population. The visitors included Kilkenny Captain Brian



Junior Hurler of The Year, Kevin Kenny with the Declan Byrne Memorial Trophy.

Hogan, All-Ireland Final Man of the Match JJ Delaney, Jackie Tyrell and former Kilkenny C.B.S. students Matthew Ruth, John Mulhall and rising star Richie Doyle. Principal and Tipperary native Tom Clarke graciously paid a glowing tribute to the efforts of all connected to the Kilkenny victory and in particular to the three former students of the school. A few short years ago Matthew Ruth was a fresh-faced youngster starring on C.B.S. teams but last Friday he stood on stage and addressed hundreds of boys as a member of the teaching staff and as an All-Ireland Senior medalist.

KILKENNY C.B.S. LEINSTER JUNIOR 'A' COLLEGES WINNERS 2012.

Following a pulsatingly close Final against St. Kieran's College at a blustery and sodden John's Park, the Kilkenny C.B.S. Junior Hurlers outfought their opponents and battled their way to a thoroughly deserved 10 points to 9 victory in a match where nobody was ever going to leave early. Very little separated two excellent teams where the biggest lead at any stage was a mere three points. The cornerstone for this famous victory was the refusal of the C.B.S. rearguard to allow the Kieran's attack any loose ball or space. Danny Bolger, J.P. Treacy and the classy Evan Cody were the main men in



Kilkenny CBS players celebrate their Leinster Junior "A" Colleges victory

a watertight defence. Captain Niall Mullins and Corey Cahill were immense in the midfield engine room and in attack all six starters registered scores but Robbie Buckley, Matthew McWey and Paddy Cahill were most prominent. There were wild scenes of unbridled joy when Joe Pyke presented the Fr. Cosgrave Cup to Niall Mullins. Ar aghaidh le Scoil na mBraithre. Team; Daragh Houlihan, Dylan Scott, Evan Cody, Kevin Galvin, Gary O'Brien, JP Treacy, Danny Bolger, Niall Mullins, Corey Cahill, Mathew McWey (0-1),

Cathal, McGrath(0-1), Luke Scanlon(0-1), Robbie Buckley(0-2,1F), Paddy Deegan(0-1), Paddy Cahill(0-4,1F). Subs used Paul Delahunt and Sean Moran. Subs not used John Hanrick, Paddy Mullanilly, Hugh Lawlor, David Sweeney, Michael Dunne, Jim Moore, Eoin McGovern, Jamie Kavanagh, Brian Fitzpatrick, Vinny Wallace, Bob Cuddihy, Bill Cudihy, Diarmuid Doheny, Fergus O'Neill, Adam Butler, Gary Kelly.

Mentors: Ger Morrissey, Paul O'Flynn, Niall Tyrell.



Kilkenny County Board acknowledged the wonderful work being done in the promotion of gaelic games in Second Level schools at a dinner and presentation held in the Springhill Court Hotel on Friday Nov 11th. Representatives, including teachers and Principals, from twenty five secondary schools in and bordering County Kilkenny were present at the event.

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MICHAEL RICE

by Mark Townsend

An Réalt is Fearr

Pick a player, any player, that best epitomises the current Kilkenny team. Go ahead, pick one.

Henry seems the obvious choice. Tommy maybe. JJ? Perhaps the perfect embodiment of the iron fist in a velvet glove approach

Ask a Kilkenny supporter the above question and it'll probably take a minute or two before the name of Michael Rice is mentioned. It's true, we don't write his name in lights, or dedicate songs in his honour. He hasn't got the flamboyance of Tommy, the colossal strength of Jackie, the king-like status of Henry. He hasn't even got the benefit of a catchy first name like the aforementioned trio. A fine hurler-doubtless, but an artisan, not an artist. An Indian amongst chiefs.

And yet, and yet...

Think back over the course of the championship. After the horror show that was the league final who set the tone in the first round in Wexford Park, scoring four points from right half forward? Who scored the vital fourth goal in the Leinster Final, killing off the game after Paul Ryan's netted free had hinted at a Dublin renaissance? In the All-Ireland who got on the ball more than anyone, delivering missile after missile into the Kilkenny forward line, one of which resulted in the all important second goal? Michael Rice.

Maybe, because we're so accustomed to his quiet consistency, we've never fully appreciated the merits of Michael. For years now, versatility has been his calling card. When he first appeared in Black and Amber colours in Croke Park he was a dashing right half back on the Kilkenny minor team of 2001. The following year, in perhaps his most natural position of midfield, he captained the side to All-Ireland success. Then when he broke onto the senior team around the mid point of the last decade he flirted between half forward and corner forward, before his breakthrough season in 2009, winning an All-Star at centre field. This year he was on the move again, winning another All-Star award at right half forward.

Push him as to his favourite position and his response is circumspect, while trying to avoid the stock 'I'll play anywhere I'm let' response. "I like to be anywhere the ball is hopping around. That usually is around midfield, half back, half forward. Then again I was loving corner forward for a while until I was taken off in an All-Ireland semi final after half an hour(2006 v Clare)". Nothing like a chastening substitution to take the wind out of a young hurler's sails. And no better man than Brian Cody to give it.

Thankfully Michael hasn't suffered too many of those experiences. For the majority of his hurling career he has been accus-

tomed to success. Even as a youngster he was part of a Carrickshock team featuring John Dalton, John Tennyson and Richie Power that cut a swath through the county, winning underage title after title.



Talk of the club brings mixed emotions. On one hand, it's been the scene of his greatest triumphs, on the other, perhaps his deepest regrets. On the plus side, the victory he cherishes above all others came in the 2001 county minor final. A fabulous game, and an all round performance that delighted the ultimate team player . "I've always said it, when we won that minor final it was the so called lesser lights that won it for us. We had Richie Power snr and Jimmy Sheehan training us. They got 100% out of those lads. We were doing training sessions, and there wouldn't have been a minor county team doing the amount of ball work we were doing"

On the flip side then comes last year's county final against O Loughlin Gaels, a dispiriting day for Carrickshock and for

Michael personally, who was forced off with injury in the first half. "I had tears in my eyes coming off. It's such a big day for the club. That was a massive disappointment. But I think we were better this year than last year. We got to a county final last year and only played one good championship match(against James Stephens in the quarter final). We played two good matches this year against probably the best team ever in club hurling."

Ballyhale Shamrocks. The vanquished team in that minor final of 2001. But if the recent history of the clubs could be surmised by the "Two roads diverged into a wood" poem of Robert Frost, there's no denying which road the Shamrocks have taken, while Carrickshock are still waiting. "After winning minor 2001 and 2002, We lost 2 or 3 players at under 21 and we weren't getting the level of training(as off Richie Power and Jimmy Sheehan), that's what killed us in terms of turning minor success into senior success. All the while Shamrocks were gaining players rather than losing players, they

won four in a row under 21 county and they're still bearing the fruits of that now"

When one looks at the roll call of Michael's medals over the last decade(5All-Ireland Senior, 2 Under 21, 1 Minor)they may assume things have come easy for him, but his body betrays the sacrifices he has made. The ash guard glove he wears on a continuous basis bears testament to the shattered finger he suffered in 2004 that ruled him out for six months. Also, he constantly sports a black bandage on his knee to allay tendinopathy, an injury that affects tennis star Rafael Nadal amongst others. "Trying to get enough time to get rid of it is the problem. It needs a certain amount of rest. But sure I can rest when I'm 35."

Those same sacrifices have been made in his work life as well. Back at the start of his inter county career Michael tried juggling

hurling with work at a chartered accountants in Price Waterhouse Coopers. But taking into account the nature of the job and the long hours it entailed he decided to leave it behind. Now he teaches Irish and Economics full time in St Kierans College, his old alma mater , and a place unparalleled in understanding the needs and demands of inter county hurlers.

But if someone is looking to hear gripes, you won't get them from this parish. "People talk about sacrifices, but I don't care whatsoever. Jesus, I'm doing something I always wanted to do since I was a young lad. I really appreciate it. If someone told me I can't go out for nine months that's grand. I mean, The X factor is ok too"

Unassuming, uncomplaining. Just wanting to play for as long as he can and win as much as possible while doing so. It's funny, the more you think about it, Michael Rice has Brian Cody's Kilkenny written all over him.



Michael Rice is lifted in celebration by Jackie Tyrrell after the final whistle. in
the All-Ireland Final, Kilkenny v Tipperary.
Matt Browne / SPORTSFILE

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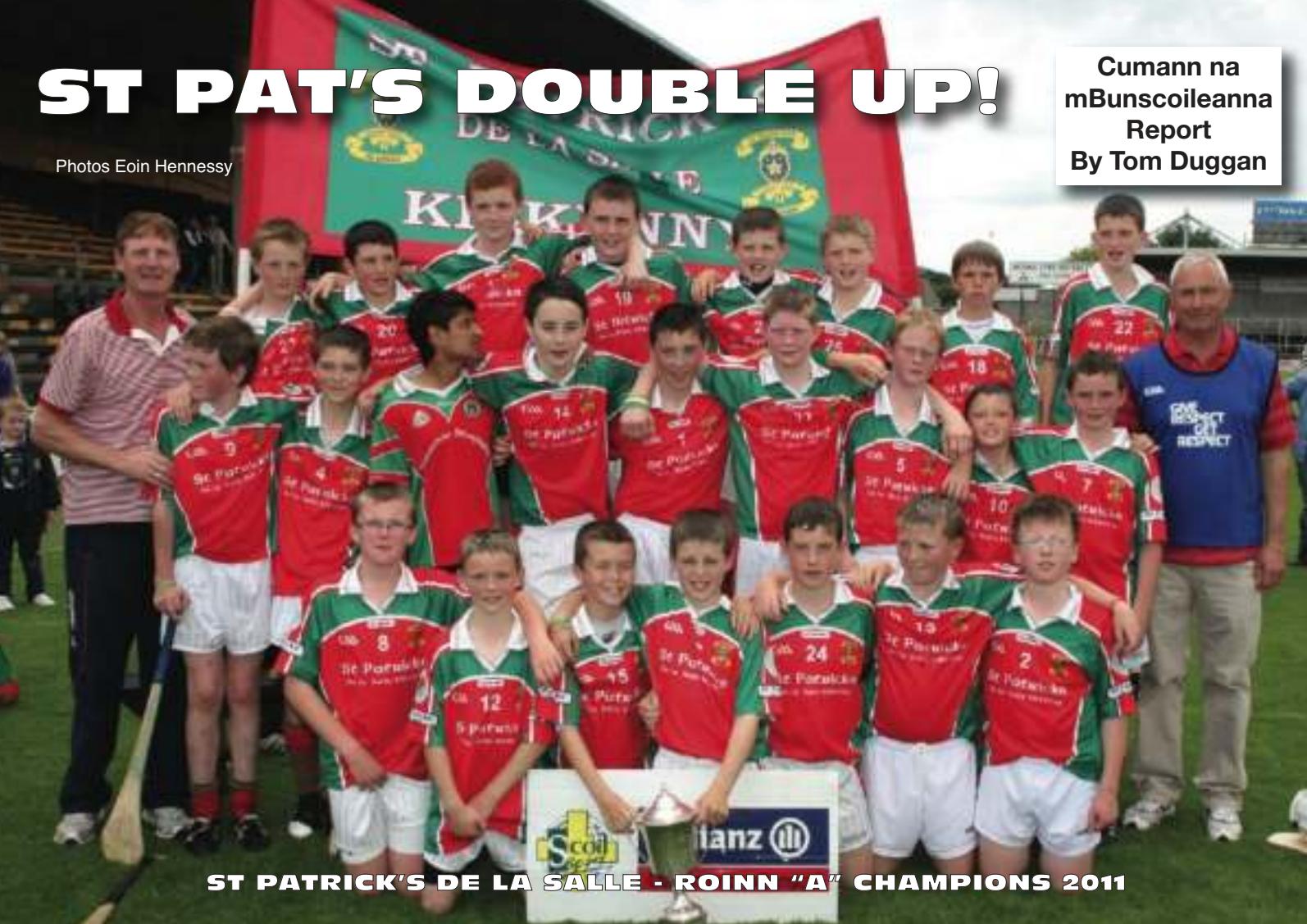
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ST PAT'S DOUBLE UP!

Photos Eoin Hennessy

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Report By Tom Duggan



ST PATRICK'S DE LA SALLE - ROIINN "A" CHAMPIONS 2011

ROIINN A FINAL

St. Patrick's 3-12 St. Canice's 3-5

The Allianz Primary Schools' Hurling finals got underway at Nowlan Park and in the opening game St. Patrick's De La Salle regained the Educational Supplies Roinn A hurling league in a classic encounter. The defending champions went into this game as hot favourites having gone through the league unbeaten but they had to pull out all the stops to get past a magnificent St. Canice's side who earned the admiration of all present for the courageous display they put up. This was a game of the highest quality, certainly one of the best primary schools finals seen in recent years. The standard of hurling, particularly of blocking and hooking was of the highest order. St. Canice's had the wind advantage in the first half and set about their task from the start. Peter Henebry drove forward and was fouled. Peter Collins pointed the free. Canice's keeper Conor Heary then made the first of many fine saves at the expense of a '65 which Ross Whelan duly pointed to level the score. Ross added another point from a '65 a minute later. The St. Pat's half back line was now dominant and the pressure on the Canice's defence was immense. Centre back Naimul Hossain drove forward from his own half back line and pointed to edge his side further in front. Back came St. Canice's and when Brian Cleere was fouled Peter Collins pointed. Adam Cummins then scored a wonderful point to level the game when he pulled first time on a ground ball from 40 metres out and it sailed over the crossbar.

The large crowd was being treated to a super display of all the skills of hurling and it was wonderful to watch. Conor Heary then brought off a fantastic point blank save from Liam Rafter. Ross Whelan then edged St. Pat's in front with a pointed free. Peter Collins levelled the game again with a free from 50 metres. Robert Butler put St. Pat's in front with an excellent point. Ross Whelan added another point but Canice's had the final score of the first half with a point from Peter Henebry. St. Pat's got off to a dream start as they added 1-2 in the opening minutes of the second half, with Andrew Parsons finding the net and points

from Naimul Hossain and Andy Walsh. St. Canice's refused to surrender and Brian Cleere burst through for a great goal. Ross Whelan soloed in and scored a goal for St. Pat's and all this in the opening five minutes of the second half. Back came St. Canice's again and Joe Sheehan forced the ball over the line to leave just a goal between the sides. St. Pat's went on the attack again and scored three points without reply from Andy Whelan, Ross Whelan and Andy Walsh. St. Canice's came storming back and were awarded a penalty when Harry Duggan was fouled. Captain Peter Collins buried the sliotar in the net to reduce the deficit to a goal once again. With the wind at their backs, St. Pat's were gradually beginning to get on top and the St. Canice's boys were fighting tooth and nail to repel the attacks. Andy Whelan added a goal and a point for St. Pat's and still St. Canice's came surging forward in search of scores. However they could not break down a determined St. Pat's defence in which Naimul Hossain and Sane Donohoe were hugely influential and when the final whistle sounded the title went deservedly to St. Pat's but they were pushed right to the line by a super display from St. Canice's.



St. Patrick's: Jack Smith, Diarmuid Phelan, Shane Donohoe (Capt.), Eamonn Fennelly, Tommy Walton, Naimul Hossain, Ryan Scanlon, Andrew Parsons, Ross Whelan, Cian Kenny, Liam Rafter, Eoin Wall, Andy Whelan, Robert Butler, Andy Walsh.
Subs: Killian Duffy, Ian Clifford, Paul Hayden, Patrick Parle, Jason O Keeffe, Eric Kearney, Tom Kennedy, Jake Bourke, Dylan Gleeson.

St. Canice's: Conor Heary, Liam Stynes, Cian Lyng, Eoghan Moylan, David Ryan, Peter Collins, (Capt.), Liam Brennan Smith, Johnny Manogue, Mark Nolan, Adam Cummins, Peter Henebry, Sean Boyd, Brian Cleere, Cillian Timmons, Harry Duggan.
Subs: Joe Sheehan, Conor Cantwell, Evan Clarke, Gavin Byrne, Lee McEnroe, Kevin Cleere, T.J. Stynes, Jack Connolly, Shane McGahey, Kevin Walsh, Kevin Power.

Referee: Sean Cleere

ROINN B FINAL

Kilmanagh 2-9 Thomastown 4-3

The Toymaster Roinn B hurling final was even more exciting than the Roinn A final because the issue was in doubt right up to the final seconds. Thomastown looked to have earned the title when they edged ahead in the final minutes but Kilmanagh's never say die attitude earned them a second chance as Killian Egan scored a wonderful point in the dying seconds to level the game. These two teams served up a thriller, full of good hurling of a very high standard. Both teams looked as if they are good enough to be in Roinn A such was the skill level they displayed.

Thomastown got off to a flying start when Brian O Hanrahan fielded a high delivery from Brian Staunton and finished to the net in the second minute. Kilmanagh were back on level terms within minutes through points from Jesse Roberts (2), Sean Ryan. Thomastown went in front again in the eighth minute when David Barron forced the ball over the line. Evan Walsh replied with a good point for Kilmanagh. Thomastown scored their third goal when Stephen Wemyss finished to the net after fifteen minutes. Kilmanagh went on the attack and Sean Ryan pointed a free close to the sideline. Kilmanagh were now driving forward and Thomastown were defending brilliantly with every player battling for all their worth. Just before the break Thomastown keeper Adam Power made an outstanding point blank save to deny a certain goal.

Half time score: Thomastown 3-0 Kilmanagh 0-5

Thomastown got off to a dream start in the first minute when Brian O Hanrahan showed great composure to bury the sliotar from a difficult angle after Kilmanagh keeper Aaron Brennan had made an excellent save. Kilmanagh's response was instant and they had the ball in the net within a minute through Jamie Lawlor. James Everard and Jesse Roberts added great points to leave just two points between the sides. Rory Monks scored a super point for Thomastown when he flicked on a delivery from Brian O Hanrahan. Stephen Donnelly added another as Thomastown surged ahead. Jesse Roberts reduced the deficit to a single score with a great point in the sixteenth minute. Kilmanagh were really applying the pressure now and when a 20 metre free was saved Killian Egan was on hand to force the ball over the line. It was now all square and everything to play for with seven minutes left. Brian Staunton looked to have earned the title for Thomastown when he scored a wonderful point from midfield but with seconds left on the clock Kilmanagh's Killian Egan levelled the game with a point. It was a fitting end to an outstanding contest. Full marks to both sides for a fabulous game.

Referee: Paschal Connolly.

ROINN B FINAL REPLAY

Kilmanagh 2-11 Thomastown 1-4

Kilmanagh may have had to rely on a last minute equaliser to earn a replay of the Roinn B Toymaster final but they made no mistake in the replay on the following Monday night. Although they trailed Thomastown by a goal at half time, they turned up the heat in the sec-



ST CANICE'S - ROINN "A" FINALISTS 2011



KILMANAGH - ROINN "B" FINALISTS & COUNTRY CUP FINALISTS 2011



THOMASTOWN - ROINN "B" FINALISTS 2011

ond half to run out convincing winners in the end.

Thomastown got off to a dream start with a goal in the second minute. Rory Monks sent a lovely crossfield ball and David Barron finished to the net. Sean Ryan replied with a point for Kilmanagh. Brian Staunton then pointed a free for Thomastown from midfield. Kilmanagh were applying strong pressure at this stage and the Thomastown defence was working hard to keep them at bay. David Barron added a point for Thomastown and the last score of the first half came from a '65 scored by Jesse Roberts. Half time score: Thomastown 1-2 Kilmanagh 0-2

Kilmanagh came out in determined fashion after the restart and Killian Egan latched on to a high delivery from Jesse Roberts and finished to the net in the first minute. Thomastown's reply came immediately through a point from a free from Brian Staunton. From the puck out Jamie Lawlor scored a wonderful point and this score really lifted the Kilmanagh boys. They added four points without reply to open up a four point lead. Thomastown keeper Adam Power made a brilliant double save to deny Kilmanagh. Thomastown were finding it difficult to get past a determined Kilmanagh defence but Brian Staunton pointed a free to give them some hope midway through the half. Kilmanagh upped their game again and tacked on three more points to give them a six point cushion. Thomastown were not going down without a fight but were now forced into going for goals as time was running out. Killian Egan finally sealed the issue when he goaled two minutes from time and fittingly Jesse Roberts, the man of the match had the final score with a point from midfield in the final minute.

Scorers: Kilmanagh Killian Egan (2-1) Jesse Roberts (0-5), Sean Ryan (0-3), Jamie Lawlor (0-2).

Thomastown: David Barron (1-1) Brian Staunton (0-3)

Thomastown: Adam Power, Cian Kelly, Jack Delahunt, Ivan Waugh, Ned Kirwin, Brian Staunton, Colin Whelan, Jack Cullen, Stephen Donnelly, David Barron, Tom Lawlor, Luke Gibbons, Rory Monks, Brian O'Hanrahan (Capt.), Stephen Wemys.

Subs: Jordan Butler, Shane Butler, Stevie Norton, Brendan Fitzpatrick, Eddie O'Hanrahan, Conor Kearney, Conor McDermott, Shane Maher, Michael Murphy, Darragh Galway, Jack Holden, Cian McCormack.

Kilmanagh: Aaron Brennan, Luke O'Brien,

Tom Dunphy, George Murphy, Ciarán Hogan, Colum Prendiville (Capt.), Ger Doheny, Jesse Roberts, Tommy Ronan, Sean Ryan, Evan Walsh, James Everard, Jamie Lawlor, Killian Egan, Daniel Young.

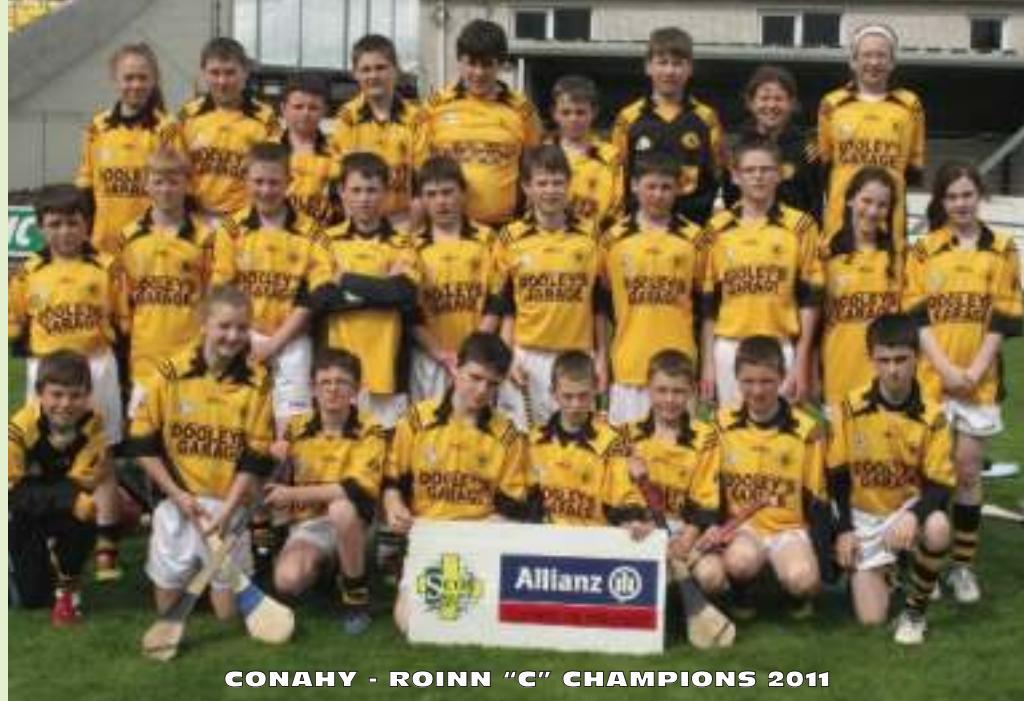
Subs: David Maher, Peter Murphy, Billy Brennan, Simon O'Dwyer, Adam O'Brien, Finn Lanigan, Lee Ronan, Alex McCluskey, Daniel Lawlor, Alan Wall.

Referee: Paschal Connolly.

ROINN C FINAL

Conahy 6-6 Lisdowney 5-7

In a nail-biting encounter, Lisdowney took on Conahy in what proved to be a fast-moving game from start to finish. Lisdowney had a good start with Brian Kavanagh's solo run resulting in the opening point, which he followed up with a point from a free.



CONAHY - ROINN "C" CHAMPIONS 2011



LISDOWNEY - ROINN "B" FINALISTS & O'BRIEN CUP CHAMPIONS 2011

However, Conahy quickly fought back when Danielle Morrissey found the back of the net. Brian Kavanagh, who had an outstanding game, scored a great point from play and capitalised with another point from a free. Brian was then unlucky when his shot at goal from play went narrowly wide.

Conahy charged ahead with a goal from John Byrne, which was followed shortly after by another point from Brian Kavanagh. Lisdowney then piled on the pressure even further and James Phelan attempt at goal skimmed the side of the post to go wide.

Jack McGree's fantastic goal for Lisdowney then put the blues and whites firmly back in the driving seat with a two point lead. Conahy took on the challenge and responded with a point by James Bergin. Brian Kavanagh's point was followed by a third goal for Conahy. Conahy goal keeper Ethan Butler then saved James Phelan's shot at goal, leaving Lisdowney trailing by a point at half time.

Lisdowney started the second half confidently

with a point by Brian Kavanagh from a free but, yet again, Conahy responded with a goal from Bill Murphy. Another goal and a point from Conahy left the black and ambers with a seven-point lead.

It was at this point that the first of two changes were made on the Lisdowney team when Eoin Delaney replaced Eimear Walsh. Brian Kavanagh then scored a fantastic goal from a free and Conahy matched it with a point. Aidan Tallis then replaced Jack McGree at right corner forward.

Niall Brennan's goal put Lisdowney back in the game with Conahy in the lead by just two points. Yet again, Conahy came back with a point. Brian Kavanagh then scored another great goal to leave the sides level. Conahy really upped the pace in the last ten minutes of the game with a point, followed by a goal and another point.

When it looked as if Lisdowney's chances were slipping, a 65 taken by Stephen Delaney was cleverly dropped into the front of the goal

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and Brian Kavanagh found the back of the net yet again. Despite valiant efforts by the Lisdownderry team to get that final score, it was not to be and Conahy were victorious by two points when the final whistle blew.

Scorers: Conahy: Bill Murphy (3-0), Danielle Morrissey (2-0), James Bergin (0-3), Darragh Dooley (1-0), Eoin Cahill, (0-2), John Byrne (0-1)

Lisdownderry: Brian Kavanagh (4-7), Jack McGree (1-0)

Conahy: Ethan Butler, Frank Gunner, Padraig Gunner (Capt.), Laurence Feehan, Niall Walsh, Justin Brophy, Geoffrey O'Shea, Leon Butler, John Byrne, Conor Blanche, James Bergin, Eoin Cahill, Danielle Morrissey, Bill Murphy, Karl Downey.

Subs: Vincent Brophy, Darragh Dooley, Cian Harding, Caoimhe Bergin, Tommy Hennessy, Paul Healy, Evelyn Phelan, Aisling Maher, Siobhan Mullan, Emma Cahill, Conan Dunne, Thomas Rice.

Lisdownderry: Martin McEvoy, Eimear Walsh, Ben Tallis, Conor Tallis, Ewan Hills, Stephen Delaney, Laurence Campion, Mark Fitzpatrick, Aoife O' Carroll, David O'Carroll, Brian Kavanagh, (Capt.), Niall Brennan, Jack McGree, James Phelan, Gary O'Sullivan.

Subs: Eoin Delaney, Luke Campion, Aidan Tallis, Eoin Kenny, Emma McEvoy, Rhea Grace Cashin, Aoibheann Murphy, Claire O' Carroll, Holly Moore, Stevie Dunne, Sean Keyes, Rory Kenny, Hugh Murphy, Eddie Cahill, Mairéad Kennedy.

Referee: John Minogue.

CORN DE BHALDRAITHE FINAL

Ballyhale 2-9 Kilmanagh 0-3

Ballyhale retained the Corn De Bhaldraithe trophy with a convincing win over Kilmanagh in a match played in atrocious weather conditions in Nowlan Park. Ballyhale were in control throughout the game and never looked like losing from the opening minutes. Kilmanagh were playing their fourth game in a week and the busy schedule clearly took its toll on these boys as they appeared tired from the outset. Kilmanagh had to go to a replay before clinching the Roinn B title earlier in the week and then had to play a semi final in this competition. By contrast their fresher opponents had



BALLYHALE - CORN DE BHALDRAITHE CHAMPIONS 2011



GRAIGNAMANAGH/SKEOUGHVOSTEEN CORN DE BHALDRAITHE FINALISTS 2011

an easier preparation and made light of the difficult conditions with an excellent display of hurling. One had to admire the first touch of the Ballyhale outfit and their fantastic hooking and blocking which made it extremely difficult for their opponents to mount any sort of challenge..

Ballyhale were quick out of the traps and Martin Davis volleyed the ball to the net in the second minute. Eoin Cody then pointed after he had blocked down a clearance. Adrian Mullen added a point following a good pas from Dylan Aylward. It was all Ballyhale at this stage and Kilmanagh were finding it difficult to gain any sort of foothold in the game. Evan Shefflin, Martin Davis and Adrian Mullen (2) added points as the Ballyhale half back line totally snuffed out the Kilmanagh challenge. The Kilmanagh defence was under siege and were it not for Colum Prendiville and Aaron Brennan performing heroics the game would have been over at this stage.

Half time score :Ballyhale 1-6 Kilmanagh 0-0 Kilmanagh needed a good start to the second half but it was Ballyhale who were first to score

and what a delightful score it was. Eoin Cody showed great skill to expertly pick the ball on the run, solo through and finish to the corner of the net. Adam Brenner added a point for Ballyhale in the fifth minute. Kilmanagh had shown their battling qualities earlier in the week in the Roinn B final and they were not going to go down without a fight. Jesse Roberts who was battling for all his worth landed a point from a '65 and Sean Ryan added another shortly afterwards. Ballyhale responded well with points from Eoin Cody, Adrian Mullen and Darragh Corcoran to put them firmly in command.

Colum Prendiville added a third point for Kilmanagh from a '65 in the dying minutes but there was no denying the winners. Kilmanagh can be proud of their achievements too with their excellent victory in the Roinn B final on Monday.

Scorers: Ballyhale: Eoin Cody (1-2), Martin Davis (1-1), Adrian Mullen (0-4), Evan Shefflin (0-1), Darragh Corcoran (0-1)

Kilmanagh : Jesse Roberts (0-1), Sean Ryan (0-1), Colum Prendiville (0-1)



Ballyhale: Dean Mason, Enda Kenneally, Patrick Hearne, Keelan O'Donoghue, Eoin Walsh, Dylan Aylward, Adam Brenner, Evan Shefflin, Eoin Kenneally, Martin Davis, Adrian Mullen, Darragh Corcoran, Eoin Cody, Andrew Moran (Capt.), Kevin Fennelly.

Subs :Ronan Haye,, Jason Devereux, Conor Doyle, John Shortall, James Reid, Christopher Coady, Tom O'Dwyer, Cian Cullen, Stephen Barron, Edmond Fitzpatrick, Reece Anderson, Casey Corcoran.

Kilmanagh: Aaron Brennan, Luke O' Brien, Tom Dunphy, George Murphy, Ciarán Hogan, Colum Prendiville (Capt.), Ger Doheny, Jesse Roberts, Tommy Ronan, Sean Ryan, Evan Walsh, James Everard, Jamie Lawlor, Killian Egan, Daniel Young.

Subs: David Maher, Peter Murphy, Billy Brennan, Simon O'Dwyer, Adam O'Brien, Finn Lanigan, Lee Ronan, Alex McCluskey, Daniel Lawlor, Alan Wall.

Referee: Podge Butler

Tommy O'Brien Country Cup Schools Final (Roinn B)

Lisdowney 10-3 Graig/Skeough 3-2

Lisdowney put their mark on the board within a minute of the whistle when Stephen Delaney passed to Mark Fitzpatrick and on to Brian Kavanagh who lodged it in the net.

Moments later when Laurence Campion blocked down a Graig sideline a free was awarded and Jack O'Carroll opened Graig's account with a point. The puck out was won by Lisdowney and it was Mark Fitzpatrick who dropped this neatly over the bar. Laurence Campion won this puck out but when he returned it to the forwards Graig's Dean Culleton was there to replay it back up the field where Lisdowney were awarded a free. The free and next long ball in both went wide for Lisdowney. Terry Dreeling won the second puck out but was blocked down by Ewan Hills, who assisted by Aoife O'Carroll and Laurence Campion challenged again and again to prevent Jack Carroll, Terry Dreeling and Shane Byrne claiming the ball until James Phelan broke away from the pack with the sliotar, and worked it forward with the help of Aoife and Niall Bren-

nan to set up a goal for Brian Kavanagh. Graig were eager to retaliate but Stephen Delaney foiled Terry Dreeling's shot which went wide. One on one battles resulted between Laurence Campion and Michael Walsh, and Aoife O'Carroll with Emmett Coakley before the ball went wide. Laurence's side line was intercepted by Michael Barcoe who barely knew what hit him when Brian robbed the ball but sent it wide.

Again Lisdowney were there for the puck out with Mark Fitzpatrick claiming the ball to start an attack with Aoife, James Phelan and Eimear Walsh getting the ball to Brian who took a direct shot at goal, this was ably blocked by Aaron Foley but the clearance was poor and the ball was again netted, this time by Niall Brennan for Lisdowney.

Aoife was in the thick of it again then when she robbed Shane Byrne only to be challenged by Emmett Coakley. Stephen Delaney was in then to assist her and with the help of Mark Fitzpatrick they worked the ball up to David O'Carroll who scored a very accurate point. Graig's Shane Byrne placed a perfect sideline in the hands of Terry Dreeling who produced Graig's first point from play 10 minutes into the game.

Aaron Foley's puck out found Joe Dowling but David O'Carroll was in quickly for the break, and despite the efforts of Dean Culleton and Killian Phelan he still managed to claim his second point of the day.

When Richard Foley looked to be in for a certain goal for Graig Conor Tallis gave his all to block him down, himself and Laurence Campion then gave a display of how to defend when they blocked several point attempts by Niall Hayden and Michael Walsh before they earned a free which was sent up field to David O'Carroll who turned and pointed again for Lisdowney.

A fast pass by Emmett Coakley, who won the puckout, was put wide by Terry Dreelan and this was probably the point were Graig's chances of recovering from their 13 point deficit were spoiled.

Terry's next 2 attacks were blocked down by Ben Tallis and subsequently found Brian Kavanagh who converted both to goals inside a minute. Eimear Walsh who was making her debut appearance in the forward line for Lisdowney, having played as an effective back all season doubled on a low ball in from Jack McGree to sail past the keeper into the net.

Graig only put on pressure once more in this half when Shane Byrne won a sideline ball and passed to Richard Foley, but Laurence Stephen and Aoife were in en force again to send the ball forward to David O'Carroll to add another goal to his tally of the day.

Going in at half time Lisdowney were comfortable on an 8:3 to 0:2 lead.

The game was effectively over at this stage, but Graig came out with a positive attitude and did not let Lisdowney run amuck as they had in the first half.

The first five minutes of this half saw Graig on constant attack. Michael Barcoe and Jack Carroll had 2 shots go wide when Ewan Hills and Ben Tallis hassled them in defence. Emmett Coakley and Jack Carroll were winning much of the ball in midfield and using Aaron Foley, who was now in the full forward position they

made 3 serious attempts on the Lisdowney goal. Marty McEvoy in the Lisdowney goal produced a few savage saves but 5 minutes into the half after Marty had made his third save Niall Hayden was there to strike the rebounding ball and give Graig a much needed goal. The following 5 minutes were dominated again by Lisdowney. Gary O'Sullivan set up Aoife O'Carroll for a point from way out on the wing. Seconds later Brian Kavanagh struck on an incoming ball nearly ripping the nets as it sailed into the goal, and Jack McGree followed with a goal.

After another free for Brian Kavanagh went wide Stephen Delaney got the ball up to Gary O'Sullivan, who's next two shots at goal were blocked away by Ben Savage now in goal for Graig. Graig's team changes at half time seemed to have paid off then when another goal shot by David O'Carroll was saved by the keeper. A Joe Dowling attempt at goal was blocked then by Lisdowney keeper. It was Joe Dowling then who won the puck out, found Aaron Foley and blasted home Graig's second goal.

Richard Foley was next to take a shot at goal but it went wide while Terry Dreelan's next shot at goal was blocked by the Lisdowney keeper, but the rebounding ball was sent straight back into the net by Graig substitute Paddy Heffernan to produce the last score of the match. The teams lined out as follows:-



Lisdowney: Martin McEvoy, Ewan Hills, Ben Tallis, Conor Tallis, James Phelan, Stephen Delaney, Laurence Campion, Mark Fitzpatrick 0:1, Aoife O'Carroll 0:1, David O'Carroll 2:2, Brian Kavanagh 5:1, Niall Brennan 1:0, Jack McGree 1:0, Eimear Walsh 1:0 and Gary O'Sullivan. Aidan Tallis and Stephen Dunne came on as substitutes and also on the panel were Mairead Kennedy, Claire O'Carroll, Rhea Grace Cashin, Emma McEvoy, Eoin Delaney, Luke Campion, Eoin Kenny, Aoibheann Murphy, Holly Moore, Eddie Cahill, Hugh Murphy, Rory Kenny, Sean Keyes and Lee McCann. Graigue/Skeough: (who did not tog out as per the programme) were Aaron Foley, Thomas Doherty, Dean Culleton, Killian Phelan, Shane Byrne, Michael Barcoe, Seamus Lannigan, Emmett Coakley, Joe Dowling, Eoin Cullen, Terry Dreeling, Michael Walsh, Richard Foley Niall Hayden, Sean Holden, Jack Carroll, Ian Foley, Ben Savage, Sean Walsh, Paddy Heffernan, Oisin Aylward, Steven Cahill, Danny Sheehy.

Fantastic Year For O'Loughlin Gaels



Bord na nÓg U14
Report by
Conor Denieffe PRO
Kilkenny County
Board

O'Loughlin Gaels U14 Hurling & Football League & Championship Winners, Féile na nGael Roinn "A" and Féile Peil Div 5 Champions 2011 (Eoin Hennessy)
Back: Kevin Murphy, Jordan Molloy, Sean Bolger, Peter Collins, Thomas Gleeson, Lyndon Brannigan, Robbie Murphy, Garry Gleeson, Steven Scallan, Joseph Banville.
Middle: Mark Bergin, Niall Bergin, Robbie O'Driscoll, Shane Fahy, Cian Loy, Jack Lawlor, Thomas Wadding, Jay Leahy, John Dillon, Kevin Rowe, David Doyle, Maurice Nolan, Sean Cleere.
Front: Shane Mahony, Patrick Clifford, Daniel O'Connor, Gary Bryan, Robbie Buckley, Shane Maher, Ross Butler, Sean Kiely. (Missing: Marcus Stapleton)

Duggan Steel Under 14 Hurling Championship Roinn A

The year 2011 at Under 14 Roinn A level in Kilkenny belonged to O'Loughlin Gaels as they amassed an impressive collection of silverware taking the Kilkenny Roinn A hurling title in both League and Championship in addition to the Roinn A county football title. At national level this talented group won a first Féile na nGael A hurling title for their Club and went back a week later to win a Féile Peil na nÓg football title, a feat not achieved previously in the same year by a Kilkenny club. The Kilkenny Roinn A hurling championship was contested by eight teams with Thomastown, Rower Inistioge, Clara, John Lockes and Glenmore joining the three city teams, O'Loughlin Gaels, Dicksboro and James Stephens to seek the Tom Ryall Cup. In the two preliminary round games Thomastown defeated Glenmore while the Rower Inistioge accounted for Clara. The quarter finals saw James Stephens prove too strong for Thomastown while John Lockes had a convincing win over the Rower Inistioge. The first semi-final put great city rivals O'Loughlin's against James Stephens and the St. John's Park based team reached the final on a 0-12 to 0-7 score line. The second semi-final was a closely contested encounter with John Lockes eliminating Dicksboro by the narrowest of margins, 2-5 to 1-7. John Lockes began well in the final played in Nowlan Park on Saturday 24th September and had four points registered before O'Loughlin's opened their account. However the

city team then enjoyed an extended scoring burst which saw them hit 1-6 in the next thirteen minutes, the goal coming from Peter Collins. The Callan team had the last score of the half with a James Power point to leave his team four points in arrears at the interval 1-6 to 0-5. While O'Loughlin's seemed in control for the most of the third quarter John Lockes stayed in touch but a second goal for the city team, this one scored by Cian Loy after forty eight minutes and O'Loughlin's pulled away to win by 2-13 to 0-9. Teams and scorers were

O'Loughlin Gaels; Thomas Wadding, Shane Fahy, Patrick Clifford, Jay Leahy, Jack Lawlor, Gary Bryan, Thomas Gleeson, Shane Maher, Ross Butler 0-1, Shane Mahoney, Daniel O'Connor 0-1, Cian Loy 1-2, Sean Bolger, Robbie Buckley 0-9 (0-1 65', 0-3 frees), Peter Collins 1-0. Subs: Marcus Stapleton, Sean Kiely, John Dillon, Robbie O'Driscoll, Robbie Murphy, Lyndon Brannigan, Kevin Rowe, Gary Gleeson and Jordan Molloy.

John Lockes: Eoin Byrne, Eoghan Scriven, Ryan Bergin, Lee Doheny, Dylan Kavanagh 0-1, Brian Kavanagh, Dylan Roche, Jack Lynch, Sean Power, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Cathal Mc Grath 0-3, Patrick Vaughan, Padraig Purcell, James Power 0-5 (0-2 frees), Conor Murphy. Subs: John Byrne, Cian Bogue, Luke Komar, Nicholas Butle and Robert Kerwick.

The Roinn A Shield final was won by Glen-

more who defeated Clara by 1-3 to 0-3. The same eight teams contested the Roinn A League and the final of this competition saw O'Loughlin Gaels defeat Dicksboro 3-12 to 1-7. In the football League Championship the same two sides also contested the Roinn A final with O'Loughlin Gaels winning by 3-9 to 2-4 in the final played in Bennettsbridge on 29th April.

Duggan Steel Hurling Championship Roinn B

The Duggan Steel Under 14 Roinn B Championship and League were both dominated by one team Sliieverue who captured both titles. Thirteen teams took part in the Roinn B championship. The preliminary round saw Ballyhale Shamrocks defeat Graigue Ballycallan, Tullaroan account for Tulloher Rosbercon, Conahy Shamrocks prove too strong for Erin's Own and Kilmacow have a convincing win over Lismidowney while Mooncoin finished St. Lactain's interest in the competition. This brought the competition to the quarter final stage where Tullaroan had a one point victory over Conahy Shamrocks, Mooncoin had a two point win over Piltown, Ballyhale Shamrocks defeated Kilmacow and Sliieverue accounted for Barrow Rangers. The first semi-final between Ballyhale Shamrocks and Mooncoin was a close encounter with Mooncoin just edging out their southern rivals by a single point. The other semi-final was more clearcut with Sliieverue defeating Tullaroan by seven points. The county final was an all south affair and in it Sliieverue proved too strong for Mooncoin,



Slieverue - Roinn B U14 Championship & League Winners 2011 (Charlie Maher)

Back: Colm Fleming, Ethan Walsh, David Irish, Joe O'Brien, John Mulcair, Jack Frisby, Peter Murphy (Captain), Dylan O'Keeffe, Eoin Freyne, Matthew Gaynor, Luke O'Donovan, Michael Irish, Michael Egan.

Front: Sean Moore, William Mullally, Oisin Buggy, Eamon Phelan, Gavin Morrissey, Ben Alcock, Gavin Grant, Aaron O'Brien, Cillian Power.

winning by 3-9 to 0-5 on 25th August in Mullinavat. The match itself was played in strong wind and rain and while Slieverue played against the elements in the first half they led at the interval by 1-5 to 0-3. Mooncoin never gave up the challenge to the end but could not establish a foothold in the game and Slieverue took the title.

The Slieverue panel was Sean Moore, Cillian Power, Ben Alcock, Joe O'Brien, Eamonn Phelan, Luke O'Donovan, Óisin Buggy, Michael Irish, Eoin Freyne, Jack Frisby, Aaron O'Brien, Gavin Mor-

rissey, Michael Egan, Peter Murphy, John Mulcair, Dylan O'Keeffe, Ethan Walsh, Mathew Gaynor, Gavin Grant, Colm Fleming, David Irish, William Mullally, David Corrigan and Stephan Roache. The Mooncoin panel consisted of Niall Quinn, Fergal Lawrence, Ciarán Walsh, Eoin Corcoran, Padraig Gannon, Eddie Doherty, James Delahunt, Kevin Crowley, Mark Kearns, Kevin Dowley, Paul Henebery, Patrick Walsh, Bill De-lahunt, Niall Brophy, Ryan Croke, Evan McGrath, Michael Fewer, Gary Walsh, Luke O'Keeffe, Ger Holton, Eoin Walsh.

The Under 14 Roinn B Hurling League title also went to Slieverue when they defeated St. Lachtain's in the final winning by 2-13 to 0-8 while Tullogher Rosbercon won the Roinn B football title with a convincing 8-12 to 3-6 win over Lisdowney.

Duggan Steel Under 14 Hurling Championship Roinn C

St. Martin's completed a double when they won the Duggan Steel Under 14 Roinn C Hurling and Football championship titles.



St Martin's - Roinn C U14 Champions 2011 (Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Seamus O Keeffe, J.J. Kelly, Brandan Sheehan, Loughlin Hogan, Eoin Murphy, Tommy Quirke, Conor Dowling, Patrick Darcy.
Middle: Conor Fahy, Jack Manning, Ciaran Brennan, Sean Maher, Robert Reid, Colm O'Neill, Finn Dowling, Tommy Quirke, Paddy Heffernan.
Front: Evan Stapleton, Ciaran Coady, Adam Comerford, Jack Nolan, Adam Kelly, Padraig Buggy, Conor Dreeling.
Selectors: Micheal Brennan, Martin Stapleton, Ger O'Neill, Andy Dowling, John Kelly.



John Lockes - U14 Roinn A Championship Finalists. (Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Sean Power; Ryan Bergin; James Power; Jack Lynch; Cathal McGrath; Dylan Kavanagh; Dylan Roche; Brian Kirwan; Lee Doheny; Eoghan Scriven.
Front: Cian Bogue; Conor Murphy; Luke Komer; Nicholas Butler; Owen Byrne; Billy Power (Mascot); Kevin Fitzpatrick; Padraig Purcell; Robert Kerwick; Patrick Vaughan; John Burns.

Sixteen teams in total took part in the hurling championship and after the preliminary round Dicksboro, Emeralds, James Stephens, Young Irelands, St. Martin's, Dunnamaggin, Galmoy/Windgap, and O'Loughlin Gaels had all progressed to the quarter finals at the expense of St. Fiacre's, St. Patricks Ballyragget, Mullinavat, Fenians, Danesfort, Bennettsbridge, Cloneen and Carrickshock respectively. In the quarter finals Dunnamaggin accounted for Young Irelands, Galmoy/Windgap edged out Dicksboro by a point, St. Martin's had a convincing win over O'Loughlin Gaels and Emeralds defeated Dicksboro. The semi-finals saw Emeralds finish Galmoy/Windgap's interest in the competition while St. Martin's beat Dunnamaggin to secure the other final spot. On then to the final which was

played in Nowlan Park on 24th September. The game began with great defensive play from both sides and it took ten minutes before the first score was registered. St. Martin's enjoyed a half time lead of four points but after the break they moved up a gear and took all their opportunities to finish winners on a final score of 3-15 to 2-4.

St. Martin's: Ciarán Brennan, Seamus O'Keeffe, Paddy Heffernan, Tommy Downey, Conor Dowling, Robert Reid, Jack Manning, John Joe Kelly, Eoin Murphy, Finn Dowling, Loughlin Hogan, Sean Maher, Colm O'Neill, Brandon Sheehan and Tommy Quirke.
Subs: Adam Kelly, Conor Fahy, Padraig Buggy, Evan Stapleton, Jack Nolan, Conor Dreeling, Patrick Darcy,

Adam Comerford, and Kieran Cody.

Emeralds: Gearóid Troy, James Hayes, Justin Cleere, Ciarán Dawson, Eoin Doyle, Darragh Plelan, Brendan Fitzpatrick, Michael Troy, Sean Power, J.J. Mc Loughlin, Andrew Morgan, Gavan Mc Carthy, Liam Grant, Jack Kavanagh, Ollie Kenny. **Subs:** John Mc Garry, Matthew Keating, Kieran Norton, John Phelan, Darren Quinlan, Harry Kavanagh, Luke Phelan, Christy Webster, Calvin Ryan.

The Roinn C Hurling League final was contested by Danesfort and Dunnamaggin with the Danesfort team winning by 5-8 to 1-6. St. Martin's won the Roinn C Football title defeating Young Ireland's of Gowran in the final by 3-11 to 0-4.



Tullogher/Rosbercon U14H Roinn B Shield & U14F Roinn "B" Champions 2011 (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Bill McGrath (Trainer), Paul Manning, Mark McGrath, Thomas O'Connor, Jack Byrne, Jack Kennedy, Daire McGrath, Richard Gill, Jason Shiely, Stephen Lawlor, Mark Forristal, Martin Fitzgerald (Selector).
Front: David Walsh, Aidan O'Neill, Paudie Walsh, Tarek O'Connor (Capt), Conor Hennessey, Shane Lyng, Niall O'Beirne, Liam O'Neill, Evan Fitzgerald (Mascot)

Drive for Liam Quiz

At the August County Board Meeting the call went out to Clubs to play their part in helping finance the considerable cost of preparing the senior team for the 2011 All-Ireland. A number of suggestions were aired and the County executive was greatly impressed by the genuine debate and commitment from the club delegates. A week later the challenge was put to a number of volunteers to organise a Radio Quiz in the hope of raising a couple of thousand euro for the cause. The "Drive for Liam" Quiz was born and the small sub-committee of Seamus Reade (Thomastown), Noel Doherty (Glenmore), Lilian Holohan (St Martins), Jim Fennelly (Danesfort) and Luke Roche (O'Loughlin Gaels) set about the mammoth logistical task with a mere 2 week timescale. "Bible" author Gerry O'Neill set the questions and John Walsh chipped in with an Audio set.

The County Board came up trumps by providing an incredible first prize of 8 All-Ireland tickets, 8 Banquet Tickets and overnight accommodation for 8 at City West. KCLR agreed to broadcast the quiz and allocated a 2 hour plus slot on Thursday 25th August and nominated the very popular John Walsh to host the event. The Vintners Federation also rowed in and spread the word among their members. Every Club in the County responded positively with the result that the event was staged in 55 venues throughout the City and County with upwards of 2500 participants. An army of approximately 500 volunteers staffed the venues. The County's IT Committee was brought on board to circulate answers via text and website simultaneously to all venues from the nerve centre at the Radio Station. John Walsh was a superb anchor man and linked supporters from every part of the county in a very special "Drive for Liam".....Roll on 2012!



The Coordinating Team in KCLR on Quiz Night with John Purcell (Station Manager), Edwina Grace and John Walsh (Presenter)



Graigue Ballycallan First Prize Winners
Darragh Egan, Joe Ryan,
Brendan Hayes, and Milo Hennessy

James Stephens
2nd Prize Winners,
Gerry Kirby
Tom O'Shea, Mark
Dowling, Val Malone
(Club Organiser)
Ger O'Reilly



Threecastles Team
Third Prize Winners:
Mick Doheny
Leo Hennessy
Diarmuid Grace
Nicky Grace
Jim Campion (Club
Organiser)



Boro Avenge League Defeat

Bord na nÓg U16 Report by Richie Stone



Dicksboro - County Under-16 Roinn "A" Hurling Champions 2011 (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Mark McGarry, Jason Carroll, Sean O'Neill, John Harrick, Aaron Purcell, Ronan Butler, Dion Guilfoyle, Brian Comerford, Liam Walsh, Frank Nolan.
Middle: Richie Mulrooney, Eddie Holohan, Paddy Grace, Billy Rowe, Paddy Boyd, Thomas Carroll, Aidan Walsh, Darragh Holohan, Paddy Cahill, Mark Slater, Dylan Scott, Stephen Farrell, Kevin Kenny, Brian Fitzpatrick, Paddy Cahill.
Front: Evan Rowe, Justin Cahill, Jamie Byrne, Shane O'Brien, John Curtin, Cory Cahill, Evan Cody (Eva Cody), Marc Cudmore, Michael Phelan, Robbie Fitzpatrick, David Kenny, Pat Cody. In front with cup: David Mulrooney.

Under 16 Roinn A Championship

After excellent league campaigns champions both James Stephens and their city neighbours Dicksboro who were runners up were many people's fancy to make the closing stages of the Duggan Steel sponsored Under 16 hurling championship.

James Stephens began their campaign with a narrow 0-14 to 0-11 victory over Rower/Inistioge while league runners up Dicksboro made their intentions very clear with a resounding 7-11 to 1-11 win over their cross city neighbours O'Loughlin Gaels. The other teams to reach the semi finals were St Lachtain's (Freshford) and Erins Own (Castlecomer) who beat Glenmore and Mooncoin respectively. In the semi final James Stephens continued their impressive start to the year with a 1-16 to 0-5 victory over Erin's Own while Dicksboro had a 4-11 to 0-7 win over St Lachtain's in a game played at Páirc Lachtain in Freshford.

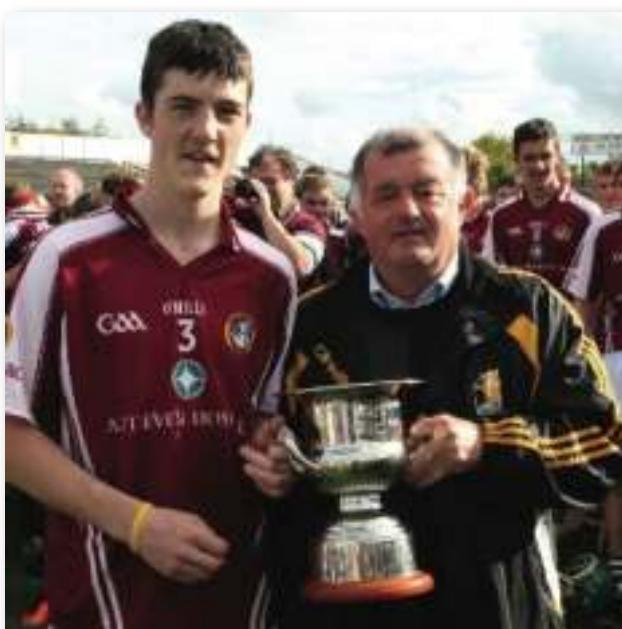
That set up a repeat of the league final in which James Stephens were victorious by double scores 6-10 to 3-5.

This time Dicksboro were determined to avenge that league final defeat. However it was the Larchfield side that looked to be on their way to victory when they led 1-4 to 0-3 after just ten minutes of play at a well attended Nowlan Park. Their goal came from Killian Cantwell who fielded a high ball, took on the defence and unleashed an unstoppable shot past 'Boro goalie Darragh Holohan. Dicksboro's reply was instantaneous. From the puck out a good move involving Aidan Walsh,

Kevin Kelly and Patrick Cahill ended with Cahill scoring the 'Boro's first goal. Cahill followed up that goal with a point to level it all up after seventeen minutes. A minute later Dicksboro were in front for the first time in the match when Jamie Byrne goaled after good work by Aidan Walsh. By the half time break Dicksboro

boro's third goal to put them 3-9 to 1-7 in front and suddenly James Stephens were in big trouble. 'Stephens battled hard to stay in the game but Dicksboro were now in the driving seat. Further goals followed from Jamie Byrne and Patrick Cahill both of whom were causing huge problems for the 'Stephens' defence.

Matthew McWey hit a consolation goal for James Stephens in the closing stages but on a day when everything went right for them Dicksboro had the final say when full forward Kevin Kenny struck for a goal in injury time. A notable feature of the game was that all the winner's scores came from open play.



Evan Cody, Dicksboro Captain, receives the U16 Championship Trophy from Joe Pyke (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

had established a 2-7 to 1-7 lead.

Dicksboro began the second half with a point from Jamie Byrne. However at this stage there was little to indicate what was to come. Then in the 40th minute Jamie Byrne scored Dicks-

boro's third goal to put them 3-9 to 1-7 in front and suddenly James Stephens were in big trouble. 'Stephens battled hard to stay in the game but Dicksboro were now in the driving seat. Further goals followed from Jamie Byrne and Patrick Cahill both of whom were causing huge problems for the 'Stephens' defence.

Matthew McWey hit a consolation goal for James Stephens in the closing stages but on a day when everything went right for them Dicksboro had the final say when full forward Kevin Kenny struck for a goal in injury time. A notable feature of the game was that all the winner's scores came from open play.

Dicksboro. Darragh Holohan, John Curtin, Evan Cody, Thomas Carroll, David Kenny, Robbie Fitzpatrick, Dylan Scott, Corey Cahill, Marc Cudmore, Aidan Walsh (0-1), Stephen Farrell (0-2), Shane O'Brien (0-2), Jamie Byrne (3-3), Kevin Kenny (1-2), Patrick Cahill (2-3)

Subs – Frank Nolan (0-1), Mark Sleator, Paddy Boyd, James Stephens

Alan O Byrne, Ben Hickey, Tom Cudihy, Dylan Drennan (0-1), Cormac Connolly, James Tyrell, Luke Scanlon, Niall Mullins (0-3 frees), Ricci Drennan, Tadgh O'Dwyer, (0-2) Matthew Mc Wey (1-2), Killian Cantwell (1-0), Cian Morton, Sean Moran, Dean Connally.

Subs – James Byrne, Ray Lahart.

The Roinn A shield final was won by Dicksboro who beat St Lachtain's (Freshford) 4-11 to 0-7



James Stephens - County Under-16 Roinn "A" League Champions 2011 (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

Back: James Tyrell, Ray Lahart, Dylan Drennan, Sean Moran, James Rafter, Dean Cornally, Ricci Drennan, Matthew McWey, Tom Cuddihy, Adam Butler, Conor Browne, Gavin Costigan.

Front: Tadhg O'Dwyer, Ben Hickey, Luke Scanlon, Niall Mullins, Cian Morton, Brian Fitzpatrick, Cormac Connolly, Eoin Delaney, Patrick Gallagher, Dylan Hillman, Brian Busher.
Missing Alan O'Beirne, Killian Cantwell



Ballyhale Shamrocks - Roinn "B" U16 Champions 2011 (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Patrick Mullen, Kevin Mullen, Brian Coady, Tom O' Keeffe, James Deasy, Brian Butler, Patrick Malone, Ronan Corcoran, Joseph Cuddihy, Darren Mullen.
Front: Dylan Aylward, Adrian Mullen, Luke Donnelly, Mark Phelan, Conor Reid, Conor Phelan, Shawn O'Keeffe, Eugene Aylward, John Hession, Patrick Doyle.

Under 16 B Championship

Twenty four teams set out in pursuit of honours in the Duggan Steel Under 16 B championship which began at the end of July. Eight preliminary rounds saw Galmoy/Windgap, St Martin's, Ballyhale Shamrocks, Bennettsbridge, Piltown, Conahy Shamrocks, Thomastown and Danesfort make it through to the quarter finals. The quarter final draw Bennettsbridge overcame Danesfort 2-14 to 0-10, Ballyhale Shamrocks easily beat St Martin's 5-21 to 2-5. Thomastown had to battle hard to get the better of Conahy Shamrocks 2-10 to 1-8 while Galmoy/Windgap defeated Piltown 3-14 to 1-10.

The semi finals paired Bennettsbridge and Thomastown together with Thomastown recording an eight point win over their near neighbours 0-17 to 0-9. In the other semi final Ballyhale Shamrocks ended Galmoy/Windgap's involvement with a ten point win 2-19 to 2-9.

The final proved to be something of a disap-

pointment with the Ballyhale side in control for most of the game eventually winning 2-19 to 2-8.

The comprehensive margin was deserved. While Thomastown fought to the end, the outcome was never really in doubt following a two-goal blast by Patrick Mullen who scored a total of 2-5 during the opening seven minutes. Those goals helped the Ballyhale side to a 2-9 to 1-5 interval lead.

Ballyhale dominated the second half and never looked like losing as they ran out easy winners on a 2-19 to 2-8 score line.

Scorers –

Ballyhale Shamrocks Patrick Mullen 2-9 (0-4 frees), Ronan Corcoran 0-4, James Deasy 0-3, Brian Cody 0-2, Kevin Mullen 0-1.

Thomastown Adrian Burke 0-6 (5 frees), Robbie Donnelly 1-0, Jamie Lanigan 1-0, Liam Tennyson 0-1, Andy Walsh 0-1.

Ballyhale Shamrocks Conor Reid, Conor Phelan, Brian Butler (captain), Seán Don-

nely, Patrick Malone, Darren Mullen, Eugene Aylward, James Deasy, Kevin Mullen, Brian Cody, Ronan Corcoran, Joe Cuddihy, Luke Donnelly, Patrick Mullen, Mark Phelan.
Subs: Tom O'Keeffe for Mark Phelan (43m), Patrick Doyle for Luke Donnelly (47m), Adrian Mullen for Joe Cuddihy (58m), Dylan Aylward for Conor Phelan (60m), John Hession for Patrick Mullen (60m).

Thomastown Darragh McGarry, James Burke, Liam Tennyson, Ciarán Sutton, Cian O'Meara, John Murphy, Craig Butler, Adrian Burke, Andy Walsh (captain), Bobby Joe Walsh, Dylan Caulfield, Johnny Barron, Robbie Donnelly, Jamie Lanigan, John Donnelly.

Subs: Danny Monks for Bobby Joe Walsh (41m), Éamonn O'Donnell for Johnny Barron (53m).

In the Roinn B shield final Graigue/Ballycallan beat Clara 3-9 to 0-8.

Under 16 Championship Roinn C

Emeralds, Fenians and Carrickshock came through the preliminary rounds of the Duggan Steel Roinn C championship to reach the quarter finals of what was expected to be a competitive competition. In the quarter finals Emeralds beat Young Irelands 2-13 to 1-7 and Carrickshock edged out Tullaroan 3-6 to 2-6. Dunnamaggin recorded a huge win over Dicksboro's second team 6-22 to 3-4 while Tullogher/Rosbercon beat Fenians 1-10 to 1-5. The semi final draw pitted Dunnamaggin against Emeralds while Carrickshock took on Tullogher/Rosbercon. Once again Dunnamaggin were in top form scoring 6-11 to 3-4 for the Urlingford side to qualify for the final against a Tullogher/Rosbercon side who were just as impressive against Carrickshock whom they beat 4-10 to 0-5.

The final between two of the highest scoring teams in the competition, Dunnamaggin and Tullogher/Rosbercon, promised to be a cracker and so it proved. Tullogher/Rosbercon looked to have missed their chance when despite some heroics from goalie Richie Power they trailed by two points as the game went into injury time. Then Cian O'Donoghue, one of



Lisdowney - Under 16 Roinn "B" League Champions

Michael Maher, Alan Murphy, Danny Phelan, Ciaran O'Carroll, Brian O'Carroll, Eoin Walsh, Michael Kenny, Paul Cos. Morgan Grace Cashin, Daragh Mackey, Dean McCann, Jack Dunphy, Peter O'Sullivan, Edward Connery, Niall Buckley, James Murphy, and kneeling - Darren Mullins, Kevin O'Sullivan, John Brennan, Brian Kavanagh, Kieran Skehan, Willie Kenny, Dylan Jordan, Ian Buckley, Conor O'Carroll, Liam Dunphy and Stephen Delaney.



Thomastown - Under 16 Roinn "B" Finalists 2011

Back: Craig Butler, Colin Corraway, Robbie Donnelly, Johnny Barron, Mark Costigan, Dylan Caulfield, Adrian Burke, Jamie Lanigan, Cian O'Mara, John Murphy, Liam Tennyson, Pete Blanchfield, Dylan Murphy.

Front: Peter Prendergast, John Donnelly, Bobby, Joe Walsh, Danny Murphy, Eamon O'Donnell, Darragh, McGarry, Melvin Benny, Ciaran Sutton, Andy Walsh, Paul Burke Kelly, James Burke.



Tullogher/Rosbercon - U16 Roinn "C" League & Championship Winners 2011

Back row left to right; Billy McGrath (Trainer); Tony Cotterell (Selector); Anthony Cotterell; Liam Walsh; Chris McKeown; Rory Byrne; Paudie McGrath; Jack Byrne; Richie Power; Conor Purcell; Billy Ryan; Cian O'Donoghue; Kevin Hennessey; Donnacha O'Connor; John Ryan (Selector & Juvenile Chairman) Front row left to right; Jason Shiely; Daire McGrath; Sean Murray; Mark Forristal; Paudie Walsh; Stephen Lawlor; Richard Gill; Tarek O'Connor; Conor Hennessey (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



St Lachtain's - Leinster U16 Leinster Champions 2011 ©Terry Campion

Back: P. Maher, C. Hughes, H. Burke, P. White, Middle Row L/R S. Boland, A. Rafter, R. Walsh, J. Quinn, P.J. Dalton, J. Bowden, D. Brennan, B. Lyng, J.O' Brien, L. Walsh, S. Bergin.

Front : N. Maher, J. Boland, E. Hennessy, D. Cleere, J. Maher, J. Bergin, E. Hughes, D. Quinn, C. Corcran, C. Bergin, D. Walsh, P. White.

their leading forwards, fired home a goal with practically the last action of the game to snatch a dramatic victory on a 2-9 to 1-11 after a terrific struggle.
Tullogher thus completed a double having earlier in the year beaten Fenians (Johnstown) 2-8 to 1-4 in the league final

*Tullogher/Rosbercon Panel
Richie Power, Liam Walsh, Sean Murray,*

Chris McKeown, Conor Hennessey, Anthony Cotterell, Kevin Hennessey, Paudie McGrath, Billy Ryan, Cian O'Donoghue, Donnacha O'Connor, Tarek O'Connor, Jason Shiely, Rory Byrne, Daire McGrath, Conor Purcell, Stephen Lawlor, Jack Byrne, Paudie Walsh, Mark Forristal, Richard Gill, Paul Manning

Dunnamaggin
Adam Keneally, Brian Farrell, Eoin Kearney,

Stephen Lawlor, Michael Cody, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Jack Brett, Alan Doherty, Ronan Coffey, Ryan Thomas, Paul Kirwan, Christopher Keane, Morgan Thomas, Ray Cody, John Fitzpatrick.

The Roinn C shield competition was won by St Patrick's (Ballyragget) who beat a gallant Slieverue 2-16 to 2-12 in the final.



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Liam Keoghan

By Mark Townsend

The Man Of Ash From “The Sash”

Tullaroan. It doesn't matter where you go in the country, the word is synonymous with only one thing. From Lory Meagher and Paddy Phelan of yesteryear to Tommy Walsh today you can't name-check Tullaroan without automatically mentioning hurling

Amongst this heaving mass of All-Ireland winners and team of the century members stands another man, less lauded but no less influential: Liam Keoghan. Possessing courage, tenacity and no little skill, he was an automatic choice on the Kilkenny half back line throughout the nineties, a bundle of energy in a yellow helmet.

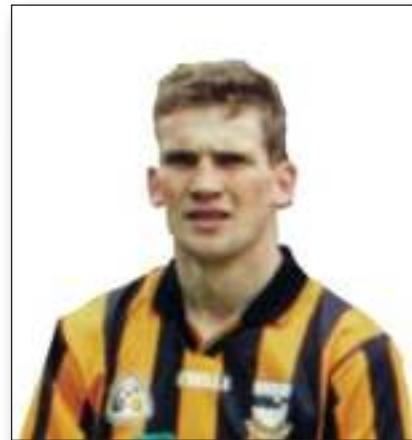
Not that he saw it that way. If he had a calling card during his tenure, modesty was it. “You must have no one else to talk to” he said, when the request for the interview was made “Sure I was only an average hurler”. In his opinion maybe, but the records would beg to differ.

Perhaps the humility is due in part to his background, Liam Keoghan was a hurler for whom respect was earned, not granted. He struggled growing up, playing on a Kilkenny minor team beaten by Offaly in a Leinster final, being part of an under 21 side “hammered” by Cork in an All-Ireland Under 21 final, nothing was handed to him on a plate.

He was well into his twenties before getting the call from the county selectors, but after rising to prominence in Tullaroan's march to the county final in 1992, and due to an injury to the incumbent right half back Liam Walsh, he was drafted into the side for the first round of the championship against Offaly in 1993.

Things happened quickly from there. After defeating Wexford in the Leinster final, Kilkenny found themselves in an All-Ireland

against Galway. It was a cracking match, but due to the impressive resilience of the Kilkenny defence and the match-winning performance of championship newcomer PJ Delaney, Kilkenny emerged victorious by five points with Liam being memorably seen clutching the match ball at the final whistle.



The aftermath of the victory was marred by a row over Eddie O'Connors winning speech in which he demanded a team holiday. Looking back on it now, Liam can see the funny side of it. “We eventually got to go the Canaries for a week.

It must have seemed obvious then, with an All-Ireland secured in the debut season, that further success would be imminent, but the next seven years were to be a barren period for the county. A league title was procured in 1995, A Leinster in 1998 and, from a personal perspective, an All-Star was appreciated in 1997, but no other Celtic cross would cross the Keoghan threshold in the intervening years. Was there any year he looked back on with any sense of regret?

“98 we could have won. If Brian McEvoy hadn't hurled so well on Brian Whelehan, he would have stayed in the backs. He went up into the forwards then and Whelehan and Joe Errity destroyed us. But I loved playing Offaly. Brian Whelehan was a smashing hurler, a real stylist, and a real nice fella too.”

Looking back on his time as an inter county hurler he has nothing but fond memories. “I really enjoyed my time, playing, going into training with Bill Hennessy. DJ was brilliant, he was so quick, and he was always able to give a great hand pass. But



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 1993

Back: Michael Phelan, John Power, Pat Dwyer, Liam Simpson, Eamon Morrissey, Pat O'Neill.
Front: Adrian Ronan, Liam Keoghan, PJ Delaney, Willie O'Connor, Eddie O'Connor (Capt), Michael Walsh, DJ Carey, Bill Hennessy, Liam McCarthy.

Pat O'Neill probably had better wrists, better control, he was a super hurler."

He bowed out of inter county hurling at the start of the 1999 season ("I was losing my pace big time, not that I ever had much to begin with") just as a certain B Cody was putting his stamp on the team. Taking into account this relative lack of success, one wonders if he would have preferred to have hurled inter county in the past decade, Or would he be fearful a certain other Tullaroan half back would have blocked his passage onto the team? Typically, he is diffident when responding.

"I don't know if I would even have made the panel now. The competition is unreal. The likes of JJ and Tommy. They're just a super bunch of hurlers. And then they have a brilliant manager to keep them all together"

For all the accolades bestowed on Tommy over his career, it is arguable he is missing the one title he truly covets: A Kilkenny Senior Club medal. Liam won one, and boy did he earn it. In what was the lowest scoring final of the 20th century, Liam Keoghan was the powerhouse centre back behind Tullaroan's 1-6 to 0-6 win over Dicksboro in 1994. It was a monumental showing, similar to Claus Dunne's performance for Mooncoin in 1965 or DJ's virtuous display in guiding Young Ireland's to victory in 2002 against Dunnamaggin. Not that he would ever admit to that of course.

"It was a windy day, a day for backs. We were lucky that we got a goal very early on, Barry Teehan, our quickest player got it. And we were able to hold out afterwards. I was centre back, Vinny Norton beside me and Pat Fennelly, oh God he was some man to catch a ball. We had Bill Hennessy and Derek Gaffney, it wasn't a bad team now"

And what about that famous 80 yard point he scored in the second half? "I don't know if it was that far out now. But as the weeks went on it was getting longer and longer alright!"

Despite his modesty, he has no qualms in selecting the win as the highlight of his career "When I won the All-Ireland it was my first year on the team, I probably didn't fully appreciate it because I thought we might win another one or two. Whereas the county final I was with all my own friends, It was just a super feeling"

Having been so dominant in the first half of the twentieth century, that title in 1994 bridged a 36 year gap. However "The sash" are now almost half way through a similar famine. Given the relative downturn in the club's fortunes since (they were involved in this year's Senior Relegation final) does he conceive another time in the near future when they will return to their position of pre-eminence?

"We've a good bunch of players, but we just have to start winning, we're not winning enough matches. If you start winning matches, you stay winning and we're not doing that now, we're training as hard as any other team and it's just not falling into place. I'd say we could do well in the next few years, we've some good lads coming on now again, and some good underage teams, I think we'll be a force to be reckoned with in the next few years"

It is time for me to leave the Keoghan household but not before Liam gives one last chance to demonstrate his humility. "I hope you don't have a big write up on me now. You can leave that to the stars". Maybe he fails to see his own true worth. But in our eyes, he was as much of a star as any of the rest of them.



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LISDOWNEY SEVENS

Eamonn Dunne (Sevens PRO).

"We have here an enduring competition, begun 30 years ago by Larry Hamilton, Eamonn Dunne and Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola)," said Thomas McEvoy, Lisdowney Bórd na nÓg Chairman, at the conclusion of the 30th annual Lisdowney Coca-Cola Sevens. "Thanks to the hardworking Club members it continues to flourish and command respect from many other counties as well as Kilkenny."

Teams from Clare, Laois, Kildare, Tipperary and Kilkenny competed for the Sweeney Cup, while the first round losers took part in the Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield competition. Many of the participants are now household names as most of the Kilkenny seniors and other grades of recent years have taken part in the Sevens. In fact, this year's county finalists, Ballyhale and James Stephens, dominated the Sevens in the 1990s.

The finals were noteworthy for the fact that no city team contested either one. The Shield final saw Danesfort emerge victorious over Galmoy by 3-7 to 3-2. Danesfort led by 3-5 to 2-0 at half time and held out for victory over a gallant Galmoy fight back. Danesfort had earlier beaten Camross and Naas while Galmoy had accounted for St. Lachtains, Mooncoin and James Stephens.

Barrow Rangers were no match for a rampant Conahy in the Sweeney Cup final. The victors led by 2-4 to 0-2 at half time and continued to a 5-8 to 0-4 scoreline at the final whistle. On the way to the final Conahy had victories over Galmoy, Graigue-Ballycallan and Clarcastle while Barrow Rangers defeated Young Irelands, Emeralds, Moycarkey-Borris and Lisdowney.

There was some consolation for Barrow Rangers when Mark Drennan was presented with the Coca-Cola Best Player award. He played a leading part in their path to the final. The ever-popular local Parish Sevens reverted to a very successful one-day Blitz. After the preliminary rounds the final results were: 1st – Brian Kavanagh 2-2 Stephen Delaney 1-4. 2nd – Aoife O'Carroll 5-3 Kevin O'Sullivan 3-0. 3rd – Liam Dunphy 3-2 David Fitzpatrick 2-1.

The Cup, Shield and trophies (sponsored by Coca-Cola) were presented by Catherine Nolan (Coca-Cola Operations Manager), Barry Hickey, Joe Pyke, Tom McEvoy and Tim Brennan (Club Chairman).

Speaking on behalf of the Co. Board, Treasurer Barry Hickey complimented the Lisdowney Club for yet another successful tournament. He had the height of praise for all the young hurlers as well as their managers and parents. He said the structures for under age players were second to none.

Larry Hamilton (Sevens Sec.) thanked Co. Board representatives Paul Kinsella (Chairman), Barry Hickey (Treasurer) and Joe Pyke (Bórd na nÓg Treasurer) for their continued support of the tournament. He thanked Club officers Tim Brennan and PJ Kenny (Chairman & Secretary), Tom McEvoy and Vincent Dunphy (Chairman & Secretary Bórd na nÓg), Tom Carroll (groundsman) and all the club members (young and old) for their continued help. He also had special praise for the local media and for referees Podge Butler, Eamonn Mansfield, Peter Burke and John Guinan.



Conahy – Sweeney Cup Winners

Front: James Bergin, Eoin Cahill, Geoffrey O'Shea, Edmond Delaney (capt), Bill Murphy, Ethan Butler.

Middle: Niall Walsh, John Byrne, Donal Cass, Pádraig Gunner.

Back: Larry Hamilton (Sevens Sec.), Eamonn Dunne (Sevens PRO),

Barry Hickey (Co. Board Treasurer), Joe Pyke (Bórd na nÓg Treasurer), Martin Byrne (Conahy), Eamonn Nolan (Coca-Cola), Catherine Nolan (Operations Manager, Coca-Cola), Eamonn Delaney (Team Manager).



Danesfort – Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield Winners

Front: Jack Tynan, Diarmuid Phelan, Tom Whitty (capt), Conor O'Keeffe, Padraig Mullen.

Back: Barry Hickey (Co. Board Treasurer), Conor Morrissey, James Mullally, Conor Hackett, Sean Nolan, Jake Cullen, Catherine Nolan (Operations Manager, Coca-Cola).



Best Player Award: Mark Drennan (Barrow Rangers), Fr. Pat O'Farrell PP.

YOUNG GAELS CREATE HISTORY

Historic Double by O'Loughlins Under 14's By Nigel Leydon



O'Loughlin Gaels - Division 5 Féile Páil na nÓg Champions 2011

Back: Sean Kiely, Patrick Clifford, Ross Butler, Cian Loy, Thomas Wadding, Gary Bryan, Marcus Stapleton, Daniel O'Connor, Robbie Buckley, John Dillon, Shane Fahy, Joseph Banville, Jack Lawlor.

Front: Robbie Murphy, Shane Mahony, Jay Leahy, Shane Maher, Paddy O'Reilly, Garry Gleeson, Sean Bolger, Kevin Rowe, Peter Collins, David Doyle, Steven Scallan.

The all conquering O'Loughlin Gaels Under 14 team of 2011 created history by claiming all six titles up for grabs! The young stars captured The Kilkenny Paddy Grace Féile, the Division 1 All-Ireland Féile na nGael, the Division 5 All-Ireland Féile Páil na nÓg, the Roinn 'A' Kilkenny Hurling League and Championship and the Roinn 'A' Kilkenny Football Championship.

This remarkable year began on a sunny weekend in April when the Paddy Grace Kilkenny Féile na nGael took place. The winners of this tournament, of course, booked their ticket to the National Féile na nGael in Galway. O'Loughlins were in action in Clara on Saturday April 16th and the boys easily accounted for St. Lachtains, Thomastown and Clara. This ensured a semi-final spot against John Lockes on Sunday April 17th in Thomastown. The O'Loughlin's boys exploded into life from the first whistle and raced into a three goal lead. It was a lead that the boys never surrendered and as a result they set up a mouth watering final against city rivals James Stephens who overcame Dicksboro in their semi-final. After a titanic battle the St. Johns crew emerged victorious on a scoreline of 2-8 to 1-8. The three winning points, scored from the sticks of Robbie Buckley and Daniel O'Connor will live long in the memory. The victorious captain, Buckley, proudly accepted the Paddy Grace Shield on behalf of his team mates. And so for the second year in a row frantic calls were being made, by parents and supporters alike, to book accommodation in Galway for the weekend of Féile na nGael 2011 on June 24th-26th.

NATIONAL FÉILE NA NGAEIL

After meticulous preparation and training the outstanding O'Loughlin Gaels team departed St. John's Park early on Friday June 24th for Galway. Many of these boys were part of the panel who lost the Féile quarter final the previous year. This experience really drove the boys on in 2011 and they knew exactly what they had to do. Our host club was St. Thomas' and they proved to be outstanding hosts over the weekend. When we arrived in Castledaly (St. Thomas') we were greeted with gale force winds and heavy rain. The boys quickly adapted to the weather conditions. Our campaign began at 3pm on Friday June 24th against our hosts St. Thomas'. Right from the start one could see the O'Loughlin's boys were playing with a ferocity and determination that showed that they meant business. The boys over-powered their hosts on a scoreline of 6-16 to 0-1. After that excellent start it was a case of drying off and heading to one of the highlights of the weekend, the Féile parade. Despite the inclement conditions, every member of the O'Loughlin's panel and mentors proudly wore the club colours and carried the club banner, flag and indeed county flag, through the streets of

Loughrea.

After the parade it was early to bed for everyone as we all knew the following day was going to be the key to the weekend. The lads awoke on Saturday to miserable conditions but once again they weren't fazed as they knew the task ahead. On pulling in to the St. Thomas' grounds on that Saturday morning one was struck by the sheer volume of support the O'Loughlin's boys had. It really was St. John's on tour!

The boys faced Gort at 10.00am and once again proved far too strong for their Galway counterparts and won on a scoreline of 4-13 to 1-1. Winning was obviously vital but the boys attitudes and levels of performance were just as important as we all knew what lay ahead. Our last group match against the famed Blackrock club from Cork effectively became an All-Ireland Quarter Final. This game will live long in the memory as it threw up the game of the tournament in atrocious conditions. Blackrock, playing with a gale force breeze, raced into a 1-4 to 0-1 lead but O'Loughlins refused to buckle and on the stroke of half-time a Cian Loy goal proved to be a major turning point. The heart and commitment shown by the O'Loughlin's boys in that first half was incredible as the easy thing to do was to throw in the towel. This continued in the second half and gradually the Gaels began to wear down a physically bigger Blackrock side. With two minutes to go the scoreboard read 1-8 to 1-8 but two Robbie Buckley frees in the dying minutes sent O'Loughlins to victory. It really would be unfair to single out any individual as the boys produced a fantastic team performance. Indeed the feeling of pride amongst the O'Loughlin's supporters was immense at the final whistle. The players, however, had no time to bask in the glory of this victory as a semi final against the Wexford champions Taghmon/Camross awaited in Athenry. This is where the experience of last year kicked in as these O'Loughlin's boys knew they had nothing won yet. The players spirit and attitude once again shone through and they won out on a scoreline of 2-12 to 0-1. Goalkeeper Thomas Wadding and all six backs deserve huge praise for their performances in this game as does Daniel O'Connor who was exceptional in the forwards.

Tired and weary, but extremely happy, the O'Loughlin's troops hit their beds early, safe in the knowledge that they were waking up to an All-Ireland Final the following day. In 2002, an excellent O'Loughlin Gaels team lost a Féile Final in Casement Park, Antrim. The significance of this was not lost on the current bunch of U14 hurlers, as one of their management team was involved that very day. On Sunday June 26th our U14's were determined to create history for the club. The final pitted O'Loughlins against Na Piarsaigh, Limerick in Pearse Stadium, Galway. Once again a great start by the O'Loughlin's boys laid the foundations for victory. After ten minutes the scoreboard read 1-3 to 0-0, the goal

coming from Buckley. Inspirational performances by Gary Bryan, Ross Butler, Shane Maher, Thomas Gleeson and Jack Lawlor meant that O'Loughlins went in at half-time four points up, playing against a considerable breeze. The players were determined not to let this golden opportunity slip and further goals by Cian Loy and Sean Kiely ensured the Gaels would run out comfortable winners on a scoreline of 3-6 to 0-4. Emotional scenes greeted the final whistle, as the players were swamped by the huge O'Loughlins support. These boys had the honour of landing O'Loughlins Gaels first All-Ireland crown. Uachtarán Cumann Luathchleas Gael, Christy Cooney, handed over the Christy Ring trophy to captain Robbie Buckley and Robbie O'Driscoll, who had picked up an unfortunate injury earlier in the year, amidst scenes of unconfined joy. This Féile weekend will go down in O'Loughlin's folklore and every single O'Loughlin's player, parent and supporter have memories that they will cherish forever more. The players and the Christy Ring Trophy received a hero's welcome when they returned home to St. John's Park that night. An all-round team effort could certainly be used to describe the feats of this team over the weekend when they scored 16-57 and conceded a mere 2-15.

The victorious O'Loughlin's panel was: Thomas Wadding, Patrick Clifford, Shane Fahy, Jay Leahy, Jack Lawlor, Gary Bryan, Thomas Gleeson, Shane Maher, Ross Butler, Shane Mahony, Daniel O'Connor, Peter Collins, Sean Bolger, Robbie Buckley, Cian Loy, Marcus Stapleton, Sean Kiely, Robbie Murphy, John Dillon, Gary Gleeson, Robbie O'Driscoll, Kevin Murphy, Jordan Molloy, Kevin Rowe, Steven Scallan, Joseph Banville and Pat O'Reilly.

FÉILE PÉIL NA NÓG

Just five days later the O'Loughlin Gaels U14 Gaelic Football team set off for Cork, to represent Kilkenny in the Division 5 Féile Pét na nÓg. To say that preparations were a little more relaxed would be an understatement, but we knew that these boys would give it their all and be very competitive. Little did we know that All-Ireland title number two would be secured in Páirc Uí Chaoimh less than a week after the Christy Ring trophy arrived in St. John's Parish. Our campaign began against our host club Carrignavar. Unsurprisingly the boys took to the larger ball with ease! We then played Clyda Rovers and once again an emphatic victory ensued. Next up, on Friday morning was Lancashire from England. This game proved to be the toughest group match but again when the game was there to be won, it was the O'Loughlin's boys who grasped victory. Our final group match was against Aghabullogue, who prior to the game, honoured the Féile Hurling champions with a guard of honour – a much appreciated gesture by the Cork boys. Having won all four group games, we were back in a National semi-final against Leitrim champions, Mohill. Supporters and management expected a step up in class and this certainly happened, but it was the O'Loughlin's boys who produced an outstanding display of football, winning out on a scoreline of 4-7 to 0-5. This victory set up a final against Wolfe Tones from Clare in Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Saturday morning. The talk was that it was a fantastic achievement to get to the final and that this game was to be a step too far but the O'Loughlin's boys certainly didn't read that script! Our footballers outshone their Clare counterparts on a scoreline of 1-6



Uachtarán Cumann Luathchleas Gael, Christy Cooney, hands over the Christy Ring trophy to captain Robbie Buckley and Robbie O'Driscoll.



O'Loughlin's captain, Daniel O'Connor accepts the Féile Peil trophy from Uachtarán Cumann Luathchleas Gael, Christy Cooney.



Celebration Time after the Féile Peil victory

to 0-2 to send the considerable travelling support into raptures! Another O'Loughlin's captain, Daniel O'Connor, walked up the steps of Páirc Uí Chaoimh to accept the second piece of silverware from Uachtarán Cumann Luathchleas Gael, Christy Cooney. From Captain Daniel O'Connor, who started off the campaign as our centre back but finished as our goalkeeper, to Thomas 'Gooch' Wadding and to our subs, each and every O'Loughlin Gaels player was outstanding and they all played their part in another fantastic weekend. For the record the panel was: Daniel O'Con-

nor, Marcus Stapleton, Jay Leahy, Robbie Murphy, Jack Lawlor, Shane Fahy, Peter Collins, Gary Bryan, Ross Butler, Shane Maher, Robbie Buckley, David Doyle, Thomas Wadding, Cian Loy, Sean Bolger, Patrick Clifford, Joseph Banville, Garry Gleeson, John Dillon, Shane Mahony, Sean Kiely, Kevin Rowe, Steven Scallan, Pat O'Reilly. A unique double achieved, from Pearse Stadium to Páirc Uí Chaoimh, what a week in the lives of these talented young men and indeed what a week in the history of O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Club.



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Welcome
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Nowlan Park May 2011



KILMANAGH

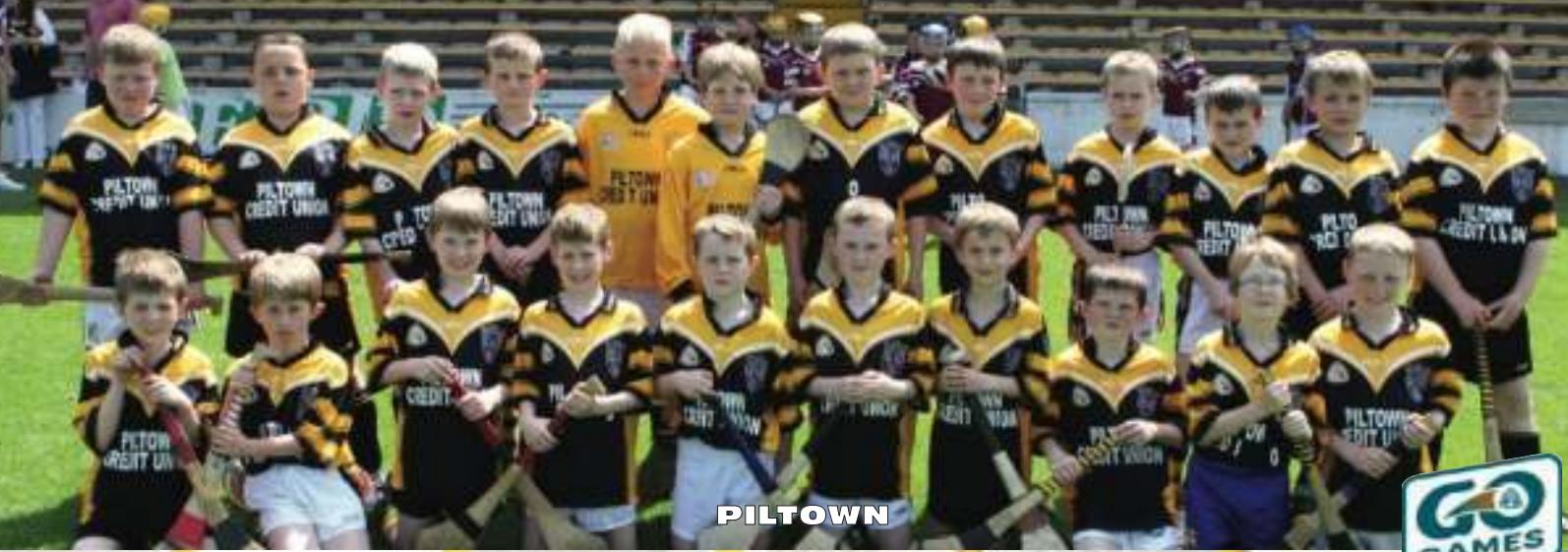


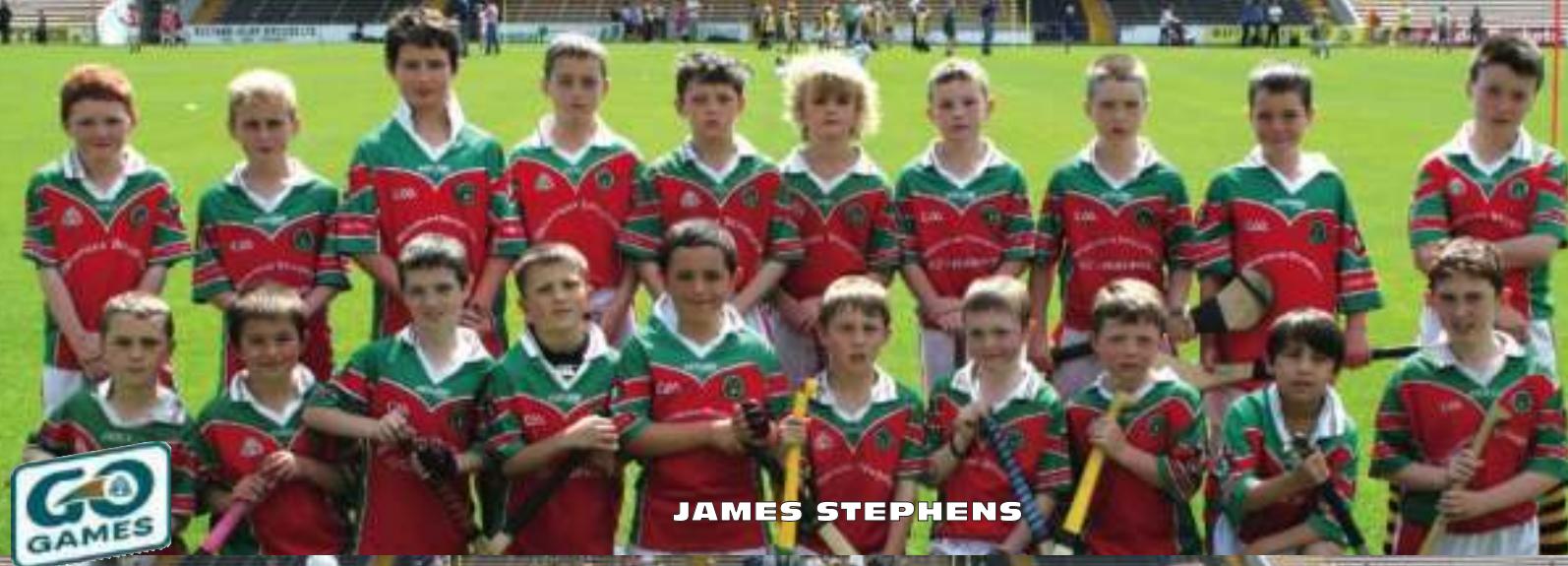
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MARTIN FOGARTY

The Thinking Man's Selector

Over the past decade or more of unprecedented success Brian Cody has noticeably, and justifiably, received most of the plaudits for Kilkenny's victories. However during this time, the role of his two right hand men has been somewhat overlooked. Just what is it that they do? With Michael Dempsey, often seen charging across the field delivering instructions on match day, the answer may appear obvious. He's the team's physical trainer, and a highly effective one at that. But the other man, the smaller, more thoughtful looking figure on the sideline, remains something of an enigma.

Castlecomer's Martin Fogarty made his name as the Kilkenny under 21 manager of the successful 2003 and 2004 All-Ireland winning teams. In the former year, an unheralded panel, fated as the only minor team of the previous decade not to win a Leinster title, emerged victorious with a win over Galway in Thurles. The following year was even more impressive, culminating in a memorable defeat of Tipperary by 21 points in Nowlan Park. That winter Brian Cody invited Martin and Michael Dempsey to be involved in the senior set up and the rest as they say....

But in the intervening time he has still managed to keep a low profile. In his All-Ireland winning speech Brian Hogan gave an insight into the virtues of Fogarty as a man "to always give a quiet word when things aren't going well". He also referred to him as "Statto", a moniker Martin was bemused by. "We don't do stats, despite what Hogan might think". Then why would he refer to you as that? "I don't know, I don't know where he got the name, must be some of them cartoons them boys play".

Maybe he doesn't do stats, but as a noted deep thinker on the game, his influence is clearly felt. Rightly or wrongly over the last number of years, Martin has been credited with helping introduce some of the tactical innovations into the Kilkenny panel, the compression of space in the backline, the targeting of specific opposition players (see Martin Comerford on Ken McGrath in the 2008 All-Ireland final) to negate their influence in big games.

In particular I was interested in asking him about this year's All-Ireland final. To myself, and a number of others, it appeared that all of the Kilkenny backs were assigned specific man-marking jobs for the game, Jackie Tyrrell on Lar Corbett, Noel Hickey on Eoin Kelly and so forth. When I broach this topic with him I am met with a wry smile. He brings up the subject of Donegal's Kevin Cassidy (dropped from the county panel during the week this interview took place, due to revealing

by Mark Townsend



Eoin Hennessy

too many insights into team preparation). Needless to say, if he was privy to such strategic planning he is not going to divulge it.

"A lot of stuff I'd read in the papers, about plans, I'd marvel at it. You take the All-Ireland this year, Jackie did pick up Lar, he did pick him up, and stayed with him, but the rest transpired. We don't do too much plotting like that, I wouldn't be breaking ranks by saying the players themselves sort it out. It's not unusual in our last training session for Brian to say 'It's over to ye now we're irrelevant'. If there's something standing out at mile you might point it out but in the main the 15 players on the field are given total responsibility. Sure what could you tell Tommy Walsh and J.J. Delaney about how to hurl? Who knows better?"

The role of the media is one issue that is a bone of contention with Martin. On one hand he appreciates the job they have to do, on the other he is continuously flabbergasted by their desire for outlandish headlines. "No disrespect to yourself, but the



Kilkenny manager Brian Cody, right, celebrates during the lap of honour with mentors Michael Dempsey, and Martin Fogarty, left. GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship Final, Kilkenny v Tipperary, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Daire Brennan / SPORTSFILE

media go crazy. Sure you go back to after the league final, the onslaught from the media was amusing. You see Cliona Foley in the Irish Independent (with her headline) "Croker Chokers". "Croker chokers"? After winning more All-Irelands than anybody? After losing one match in Croke Park in six years? But we don't mind it. We probably didn't read a paper from the League final to the All-Ireland, because there's only a load of rubbish written in them anyway"

In spite of this, he acknowledges that that de-

feat and the one also suffered in last year's All-Ireland final were a major spur for the remainder of the year "For sure getting beaten last year would double your effort, Now the effort is always max, but somewhere deep inside of you, when you're hurt you do find that little bit more. Whereas when you win, you always want to guard against complacency"

Complacency. If there is one word that has been obliterated from Kilkenny's vocabulary during Cody's tenure that is it. But the continuous shield against such a condition is monitored every night on the training field by the selectors themselves "A millimetre of complacency can destroy a team. If one player backs off it's like a chain. That's why right up to the last training session is hugely important, we would have had teams in our heads leading up to several important games and we would have changed them on the last night of training, based on a player looking particular sharp or particularly blunt "

Talk of team selection reveals another fascinating insight into the Kilkenny set up. One may expect that Brian Cody, such a forceful personality in his own right, to make the majority of the decisions. But Martin is at pains to stress this is not the case:

"To be fair to Cody, you won't believe it, he would never push his own opinion strongly. It might be taking from his character to say that. You've three lads sitting around a table, two guys could initially have one guy in mind and one lad could have someone else and we'll run with that, because that person might feel much stronger about that decision than the other two. One of his (Brian Cody's) absolute strengths is to take the opinion of other people that might not necessarily be his own. And if it was any other way I wouldn't be involved, and Mick Dempsey

certainly wouldn't. We would debate it and we would always reach a consensus. We could have a team for an All-Ireland picked in five minutes and we could spend three days picking a team for the first round "

Given his integral role in the success of the county over the last seven years, it seems obvious that one day he would see himself as in line for a promotion to the hot seat. Is that something that would interest him? "I wouldn't waste brain time thinking about it. I live for today, I don't ever look down the line too much, because you don't know what's down there. A guy asked me in Nowlan Park after the '04 All-Ireland final (under 21) would I be interested in the senior job if Cody stepped down, I said the guy will probably be there for the next 20 years so I'll have plenty of time to think about it. There's a long way off twenty yet"

But is he enjoying his current role as selector ? "I've always said the day you stop enjoying it is the time to get out of it. I suppose being a selector by its very nature it's something I don't like, because you're leaving off lads, nobody enjoys leaving players off teams or panels. But to be involved with these fellas and watch them training and hurling, there's huge enjoyment in it. I'd be coming out of training some nights and I'd be marvelling at what some guys did, and that could be something as simple as lads pucking in two's. And of course when you win and you see the guys who have worked so hard for it getting rewarded, that's hugely enjoyable"

The day after this interview took place Martin Fogarty was ratified for another year as county selector. Clearly he is enjoying himself. Just so long as you don't call him Statto.



Development Camp Group Picture Caption :

Pictured above are the group at Kilkenny GAA's Hurling Development Camp held in Slieverue GAA during the Summer on "Club jersey" day. Also included are the Kilkenny based Coaches attending the BA in Sport and Exercise (GAA) Course in Carlow IT, who coached the young hurlers during the week : PJ Ryan (Fenians) Brian Young (Erin's Own) Richie Doyle (Barrow Rangers) Martin Hawley (Erin's Own) and Ollie Walsh (Dicksboro).

Kilkenny GAA Pilot Hurling Development Camp Secondary School Students and Club U-14 Players

This year, for the first time Kilkenny GAA Coaching and Games Committee in conjunction with the Kilkenny Development Squads Committee, organised an U-14 Hurling Development Camp, with the expertise of Kilkenny based Students attending the GAA Course in Carlow IT.

It was decided by the Committee to target players who were in the Secondary School system, as the VHI GAA Cul Camps were in place for those children attending Primary Schools.

Contact was made with the Bord Na Nog Secretaries in South Kilkenny Clubs, whose role was to arrange players to represent their clubs at the camps.

Like any new initiative in the county, feedback will be gathered, both positive and negative and the Camp activities will be "tweaked" to ensure the players benefit most from the week.

Michael Rice, Kilkenny Senior Hurler attended, and passed on his advice and the activities arranged by the Coaches proved to be a "step up" from the Primary School Camps.

We would hope that this Pilot venture will be expanded in the coming season and plans will be put in place to hold another camp next year, in the North of the county, if the interest is forthcoming from the clubs.

ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

Handball Report 2011 by Ciarán Neary P.R.O.



What a Year 2011 has been another tremendous year for Kilkenny handballers in every age bracket. Overall it was one of the most successful years to date and long may it continue.

All Ireland Successes

During the year Kilkenny players were in contention for All Ireland titles ranging from Under 21 to the Diamond Masters grade.

Michael "Ducksie" Walsh collected his fifth master's singles crown in a row in both the 40x20 and 60x30 courts as well as collecting the 60x30 Doubles with Kilkenny hurling Legend DJ Carey. In the 60x30 singles final he beat Tipperary's Martin McInerney 21-12 21-4 in his home court in Ballina. The Talbots Inch man took his time getting going in the first game but once he did the Premier man had no answer and could only manage four aces in the second game in front of a packed gallery. In the 40x20 Cork's Stephen Palmer had no answer to Walsh and he cruised to an easy two game victory.

Patrick and Peter Funchion won the Under 21 Doubles Final overcoming the challenge of Tipperary's Fergal Collins and David Hardy 21-19 21-12. This was an excellent win for the Callan men who never dropped a game all year and made light work of all their opponents in their Leinster campaign. Patrick has now won an Under 21 All Ireland in both the 40x20 and 60x30.



Peter and Patrick Funchion Under 21 Champions

Billy Bourke and Phil Parsons collected their second Silver Masters A Doubles crown when they beat Roscommon's Anthony O'Donnell and Cormac O'Brien 21-16 19-21 21-6. Both lads performed well all year and produced the goods on the big day. Nicholas Reilly and David Clifford won the Masters B Doubles. The Talbots Inch/Saint Canices' partnership used all their experience to come through a tough battle against Mayo's Jason Judge and Patrick Foy. The first game could have gone the way of either county with scores level all the way up but the local men kept their nerve and won 21-20. The Mayo men came out fighting again in the second and showed no signs of lying down. Scores were hard to come by and every point was more or less a rally. With scores level at 19-19 the lads found their range and finished the game off to win 21-19. This was an excellent win for the newly formed partnership. Joe Walsh had an exceptional year in the 40x20 court winning two All Irelands in the Silver Masters B grade. In the singles he defeated John O'Brien of Tipperary 21-11 21-16. Liam Law partnered Joe in the doubles and they became a steady force over the year notching up some great wins on their way to the final. Nothing changed in the final and the Mullinavat pairing came out worthy winners to put them into the A grade next year.



Mary Phelan, Ciara Mahon, Rachel Hogan, Marie Walsh, Rebecca Mulholland.



Seamus Reade and Paddy O'Reilly



Phil Parsons and Billy Bourke



Jim Dooley

Paddy Reilly and Seamus Reade won the 60x30 Diamond Masters Doubles Final beating their Mayo opponents 21-19 21-10. This was some consolation to Paddy who also contested the singles final but unfortunately he never got going and lost out to his Mayo rival. Jim Dooley collected his first singles All Ireland crown when he beat Tipperary's Andy Purcell 21-2 21-11 in the Diamond Masters B Singles. Jim had lost the singles final last year by the narrowest of margins but he came back stronger this year and made up for lost time. In the 40x20 Jim lost out in the doubles final where he was partnered by Michael Dalton. Jim also lost out in the 60x30 final where he was partnered by Gerry Murphy. It was a year of mixed emotions for Kilfane's Rachel Hogan who competed in four All Ireland Finals. In the

40x20 court Rachel contested the Junior B Singles and Doubles but lost out to Mayo opposition on both occasions. However Rachel was back in her home and favorite 60x30 court and she left no stone unturned. In the singles final she got revenge for her defeat to Mayo's Ciara McManaman earlier in the year winning 21-12 21-11. Rachel's serving and retrieving was of the highest standard on the day. Rachel and Marie Walsh then completed a double when they beat Mayo opposition in the final. Brian Minogue and Nicholas Anthony lost out in the 40x20 Intermediate Doubles Final to Clare's Diarmuid Nash and Niall Malone in a three game thriller. The Kells/Mullinavat partnership won the first 21-10 but the second game was a much closer battle with the local men going down 21-17. It was all down to the third game where aces were hard to come by and scores were level on numerous occasions. The banner men got a run of aces at the right time and came through on a 21-17 victory. Ger McGrath lost out in the under 21 60x30 Singles Final to Tipperary's Fergal Collins while Tom Dooley found the going too tough against Joe Dowling. Eamonn Purcell from the Windgap Club came up a an ace short when he lost the final of the Golden Masters B Singles to Pat Donnellan of Clare in a three game thriller 21-9 21-13 21-20. This is Eamonn's second final to lose so he will be gunning for success next year. Sean Quigley and David Clifford lost out the Over 35 B Doubles final to Limerick opposition. Sean had already lost out in the club team All Ireland earlier in the year and he will be looking to strike gold next year. Rebecca Mulholland contested the Intermediate All Ireland Final. She had a tough task on her hands in this final. Amy Corrigan (Mayo) had just a week earlier won the Senior Doubles. And she continued on her winning ways proving to be too strong for the O'Loughlin Gaels challenger. Rebecca battled right up to the finish and no doubt will have learned a lot from this game. Rebecca lost 2-0 but it was one of the strongest intermediate championships in recent years.

Juvenile



Aisling Maher and Denise Love

On the juvenile front Aisling Maher and Denise Love won the girls All Ireland Under 15 Final. Both girls played very well to overcome the challenge of a good Clare opposition. This was a massive win as the Kilkenny girls got revenge for their 40x20 defeat to the same pair earlier in the year. This is the second year in a row that Kilkenny have won this title and hopefully it will remain Noreside for the next few years. In the under 16 Girls final, last years under 15 doubles winners Catherine Foley/Mary Buggy put in a fine performance against Galway's Roisin Ni Chonghaile/Mary

Fahey. On the day the Galway girls were the inform pair and ran out 2-0 winners. Catherine and Mary can be proud of their effort as they fought hard all the way.

Our Minor Singles finalist Ciara Mahon (Clogh) representing Kilkenny put in a fine performance against Catriona Casey (Cork). The Cork girl is one of the best young players to come on the scene in recent times and has already established herself on the senior stage. Ciara was always going to start as under dog but she battled hard throughout the game and put the Casey under pressure on numerous occasions. Casey had to pull out all the stops to take this title from a very hard working Ciara Mahon who eventually lost 21-14 2-10. The Under 21 Doubles Final saw Graham Clifford/Chris Dawson up against Limerick's C.J Fitzpatrick/Padraig O'Carroll. The Kilkenny lads played some great handball and again like the girls before them they tried all the way throughout the game. From the word go Kilkenny were under pressure from these two talented Limerick players. Graham and Chris showed some delightful touches but the power and skill from the Limerick lads proved too much. It is a great achievement for these players to reach the All Ireland Final. And all of them can hold their heads up high as they played their hearts out and left everything in the court.

Joe Maxwell Tournament

The Joe Maxwell A 60x30 Juvenile tournaments was held in Talbots Inch, Kilkenny. Kilkenny were represented in the final by two teams. In Under 11D Ciaran Cooney Clogh and Eoin Brennan Kells played for Team 1 and they went into battle against Robert Dowling Mothel and Mark Nolan Talbots Inch from Team 2. This game started off at a great pace with the four lads displaying some great serving, rallies and kill shots. Ciaran and Eoin won 15-2, 15-4. In Under 13D Shane Dunne and Marc Purcell Clogh from team 1 played Roy Cullen Kells and Dion Bourke Mothel from team 2. This game was a very closely contested game with all four lads displaying some great handball, Shane and Marc won 15-10, 15-10. The Under 15D partnership was JJ English Goresbridge and Emmet Landy Windgap from team 1 and they played John-Walsh Mullinavat and Brian Mahon Clogh. Even though team 1 had the final won John and Brian never gave up winning the first game 15-4. In the second game JJ and Emmet came out fighting and all four lads contested this game to the bitter end with JJ and Emmet winning 15-2. Team 1 came out on top winning 79 - 43. Well done to all the lads for displaying a great final and it is great to see so many talented young Kilkenny handballers coming through.



Joe Maxwell Team Winners and Runners Up

Team of Six/Four Finals

The Under 12-13 team of 6 was contested between Kilkenny and Tipperary. First pairs up

for Kilkenny were Shane Dunne and Dean Farrell and they played Jason English and James Princely. The Premier pair got off to a great start winning the first game but the Kilkenny duo fought hard in the second with both Shane and Dean serving well and they sneaked the second game. The next pairing for Kilkenny were Dion Bourke and Ciaran Cooney who played Colin Ryan and Gerome Cahill. The first game got off to a bad start for the Nore men with Tipperary winning the first game convincingly. In the second game the Kilkenny pair fought hard but unfortunately came up short again. The third pair for Kilkenny was Roy Cullen and Conor Condon who played Adrian O'Flaherty and Kevin Shinnors. The Kilkenny boys played well all the way through in both games and came out winning both games. Subs for the Kilkenny team on the day were Marc Purcell and John Delaney. Kilkenny were unfortunate to be beaten 66 points to 62 points but they will have been to gain the experience of playing in an All Ireland Final. Well done to all the lads who did their best and they can look back at the great achievement of reaching the All Ireland Final. A big thank you also to their coaches Brendan Hosey and Sean Walsh for all their hard work

won 15-11. The second pair for Kilkenny was Ronan Egan and Eoin Doyle. Both pairs played well and fought hard but unfortunately the Tipp pair won 15-7. The score was Tipperary 41 points Kilkenny 22 Points, the last game was only played to 11 as Tipperary at this stage had won the final but the Kilkenny pair never gave up and won 11-7. It was a great achievement on reaching the final and well done to all the lads and to their coaches Martin Lalor and John Doyle who can be very proud of their efforts.



Under 12/13 Finalists



Under 14/15 Team of 6 winners



Under 16/17 Team Finalists

Feile 2011

It was an all Kilkenny final in the Division 2 Feile with Clogh coming out victorious against Talbots Inch. It was great to see two traditional 60x30 clubs in the final and it shows that the game is still alive in Kilkenny.



Winning Clogh Feile team with Brendan Hosey

The Clogh team was captained by Padraig Cooney who also won a silver medal in the skills competition the same weekend. Other members of the team were Ciaran Cooney, Shane Dunne and Mark Purcell. Brendan Hosey coached the team and huge credit must go to Brendan as he is putting in a massive effort both for Clogh and Kilkenny to promote and coach juvenile handball. The Talbots Inch team was made up by Conor Doheny, Robert Crotty, Evan Carroll and Chris Kavanagh. Fergal Lalor was the coach of this team. It is great to see someone as young as Fergal getting involved in coaching players and getting a team as far as they did.

What a Year for Ciara

Ciara Mahon of both the Loreto Secondary School Kilkenny and Clogh Handball Club collected the All Ireland Ladies Senior Singles

Colleges Final and Ladies B Title at the 40x20 Nationals in Wexford. Ciara came up against Cork's Aisling O'Keeffe in the semi final. This was the third time in three weeks that these girls had encountered each other on the court. The first game started at a frantic pace with O'Keeffe using her experience of final appearances going into an early 9-1 lead but Ciara was not fazed and she fought her way back only to lose out by the narrowest of margins 15-14. Ciara knew what she had to do in the second game and she set the pace from the early stages. With the score at 14-8 the result look ominous for the Cork girl but she battled back and applied some serious pressure on Ciara but the Loreto girl stuck to her task to win a nerve wrecking tie 15-13. It was all down to the decisive third game.



President Tony Hannon, Róisín Ní Chonghaile, Ciara Mahon and Brendan Hosey.

With the nerves well settled Ciara improved with each game and she knew she had the measure of the Leesider. Ciara took over the third game with some excellent serves and a great all round game to win 15-7. This was a special win for Ciara who had been second best to Cork in two Minor finals earlier this year so she was delighted to get some sweet revenge. In the final Ciara faced Rosin Ni Chonghaile from Galway. She was always in control from the start and never gave the Galway opponent a chance winning 15-1 15-0. This was Ciara's first All Ireland Colleges win and anytime you win a senior title it is one to treasure. Ciara also had major success in the Irish nationals as you will read later on.

Funchion/Foley Dominate Snr Colleges

Having played numerous handball matches before winning the Leinster Final, Peter Funchion and Sean Foley representing Colaiste Eamann Ris, Callan went to Kingscourt in Co. Cavan to contest the All Ireland Championship. In their All Ireland Semi Final they beat Cian Connolly and Mark Nally, Roscommon, who beat Peter and Sean in the All Ireland 60 x 30 Final of the 2nd Level Colleges in 2010. In the first game Peter and Sean beat Roscommon on a score-line of 21-10 however in the second game Roscommon came out with a different game plan and were leading 18 – 3 before the lads got into gear and came back to win 21-18.



President Tony Hannon, Sean Foley and Peter Funchion.

This was a brilliant achievement for the two lads, who kept their head and with great skill overcame a good Roscommon pair. In the All Ireland Final they met Terry McElvaney and Christopher McKenna of Monaghan. In the first game Peter and Sean were trailing 4 -11, but

they composed themselves and with both displaying skill and coolness they came back to win 21-12. In the second game the Callan/Windgap partnership got stuck in straight away and were winning by a score of 13-3 and went on to win 21 – 12 to overcome a strong Monaghan pair.

Intervarsity Roundup

40x20 - Patrick Funchion representing Waterford Institute of Technology and from the Kells Handball Club, won out the Men's A ICHA 40 x 20 Singles Intervarsities Handball Competition held over the weekend of the 3rd to 6th February. In his first round, which was played in Kells, Co. Meath, he defeated Tommy McGrath (UCC). He then moved to play in Kingscourt, Co. Cavan where he beat Mark McGowan (UCD) who had defeated Ciaran Neary (DCU) in an earlier round. He then met Cathal Hannan (UL) who had earlier defeated Peter Hughes (DCU). The Men's A Final was held in Kingscourt, Co. Cavan on Sunday 6th February, 2011 where he met Niall O'Connor (IT Tallaght) and of Leixlip Handball Club, Co. Kildare and defeated him in 2 straight games 21-5, 21-12.

USHA Collegiates - Paul Holden claimed his first USHA title at the World Collegiate Championships which was run by the WPH in Tempe, Arizona. Holden who plays for the Kilfane handball club but was representing University of Limerick overcame the challenge of Tralee ITs Danny Riordan in a thrilling three games decider. Paul had been in fine form all week and although he was nursing a groin injury this didn't stop him from taking the honours. Along the way he accounted for players from University of New Mexico, in the quarters and in the semi final he beat opponents from the University Of Minnesota and then it was down to Kerry and Tralee's Danny Riordan. The UL man won a very tight first game 21-19 with both players showing early signs of nerves. In the next set Paul never got going and was well behind early on and lost 21-5. The opening points in the tie break where hard to come by with both players not making any mistakes but Paul who had been excellent off the backwall all week took his chances and went on to win 11-5. Paul's teammate John Fitzgerald lost the Mens B Doubles final partnered by Kerry's Colm O'Luing 21-20 21-4 to Lake Forest, Chicago. He also reached the quarter finals of the Division 2 B but lost out in a tie breaker. Other Kilkenny representatives were UCC's PJ O'Brien who lost out in the quarter finals of the Division 3 C grade. DCU's Ciaran Neary lost out in a tie break in the Mens A singles quarter final and also lost out in the open doubles semi final to eventual winners Lake Forests Nick Nahorniak and Victor Perez.

60x30 - In the 60x30 Intervarsities which were held in Kilkenny Ger McGrath won the Mens A Singles Final. In the final he beat Galway's Martin Mulkerrins who was representing UCD. The game went down to the deciding set with Ger pulling through 11-6. Hazel Cuddihy of the Kells club won the Ladies B also in a tie breaker when she beat Aileen Fitzgerald of University of Limerick. Nicholas Anthony was going for his fourth title in a row but he came up short against Under 21 champion Fergal Collins in the final 21-16 21-20. Talbots Inch is a happy hunting ground for Collins who has now won three All Irelands in the court.

60x30 Teams - The All Ireland Intervarsity's 60 x 30 A Team Championships was held in Thurles on 17th September, 2011. In the Semi Final the WIT (Waterford Institute of Technology) Team of Patrick Funchion, Peter Funchion, Ger McGrath and Nicholas

Anthony defeated the DIT team of Stephan Cooney, Seamus Casserly, Shane Heraty, and Chris Gavaghan 74-46. In the other semi-final the DCU Team of Brian O'Sullivan, Ciaran Neary, Peter Hughes, Terry McElvaney defeated the UCD team Martin Mulkerrins, Michéal Busher, Kevin Mulligan, Sam Temple 64-40. In the Final WIT defeated DCU 69-59. This is the 3rd year in a row that Waterford Institute of Technology have won the A Team All Ireland Final in the 60 x 30 Intervarsity Team Championship.

Irish 60x30 Nationals

A brilliant display of 60x30 handball by Mary Phelan/Ciara Mahon (Clogh) led them to victory against the cream of Irish Girls handball in the inaugural girls Under 17 Doubles National title. Their first opponents were Jennifer Fahy/Lauren O'Riordan (Connacht). The local girls put in a tremendous effort to win this game in a tie breaker. In their next game the local girls went into battle against the hard hitting Martina McMahon and Aoife Landers (Munster). The girls put in a huge performance and brushed aside the Munster pair to win this prestigious title in two games. The Cooney brothers also from Clogh won the under 13 plate competition. In the first game Padraig/Ciaran Cooney played Shane Dunne (Clogh) and Dion Bourke (Mothel). It was a pity that these two pairs ended up meeting in the first round. There was some great serving and shots from both sides with the Cooney brothers coming out on top. The next game for the Cooney pair was against Thomas Hall and Adam Hanrahan from Wexford. This proved to be a very close game right to the end with the Wexford pair coming out on top 21-19. The Wexford pair also came up against Shane Dunne and Dion Bourke. The two Kilkenny boys gave their all and played some great handball but unfortunately were beaten by Wexford. Padraig and Ciaran Cooney went to the plate final against Fergal Coughlan and Jack Hayes Clare. In the first game the Clogh pair won 15-5. The second game saw the Clare boys take an early lead and were 13-7 up when the Cooney brothers got them out.



Chris Curran, Mary Phelan and Ciara Mahon



Brendan Hosey and Andrew Lawlor

The local lads showed some great serving, displayed some great shots and even a few kills to win the second game 15-13. Both Kilkenny pairs performed very well and represented their clubs and county with pride. Kilkenny were also represented in the Mens C grade by Andrew Lawlor and Brendan Hosey. In their first match Brendan Hosey and Andrew

Lawlor had too much experience for the Kilkenny/Kerry combination of John Fitzgerald and Colm O'Luing. In their 2nd match they snuck out a one ace victory against local contenders Peter Flanagan and Eugene O'Reilly 31-30. In their semi final they accounted for the Clare duo Aenghus/Patrick Frawley. They played Barry Devlin & Shane O'Neill in the Final and this went all the Way to the wire with the Younger pair of O'Neill/Devlin winning out in a tie break. The lads can take huge encouragement from this tournament as one the Northern pair later went on to win the All Ireland Junior Singles Final. Well done to the lads for a great display over four long hard games. Seamus Reade and Paddy Reilly also reached the Golden Masters Doubles Final but lost to a younger pairing of Jimmy Reilly and Anthony McConnell. The two veterans had two great wins on the Saturday but the weekend took its toll in the final against the hard hitting Meath pair.

Irish 40x20 Nationals



Ciara Mahon Ladies B Champion

Kilkenny had a number of representatives in the 40x20 nationals but only provided one winner. Clogh's Ciara Mahon again added another trophy to the cabinet winning the Ladies B Grade. This was a tremendous achievement for her as she is still only 17 and was competing against girls 10 or more years her senior. However Ciara never showed any sign of being the youngster in the grade and from her first game she looked the winner. In the final she blew away Marguerite Gore 21-1 21-2 to move up to the Ladies A grade. Nicky Anthony (Mullinavat) competed in the U23 A category and also progressed to the final at the expense of Jamie Lynch (Clare) whom he defeated in straight. In the final he was up against Killian Carroll (Cork) who in the weekends beforehand won the Minor Singles and Minor Doubles All Ireland. Nicky playing great handball won the first game. However Carroll came back strong in the second using his array of kill shots to force the game to another tie break. Nicky unfortunately suffering with cramps in both legs by this stage could not keep up with Carroll and lost out the tie break 11-2. Dan Breen (Kells) received a w/o in his semi final and thus qualified for the final of the U23 B where he played Shane Briody (Cavan). Dan took the first game 21-10 and looked strong going into the second game. However lady luck deserted him on this occasion and he lost 21-9 and in a gripping tie-break lost 11-9. This was a grueling game of handball and the large crowd in attendance applauded both players on a great game. Hopefully Dan can bounce back next year in the grade where he is still underage for two years. In the Mens B Ciaran Neary (Talbots Inch) came through a tough field to qualify for the semi final of Mens B where he lost out to eventual winner Jerome

Willoughby(Wicklow) in two tight games. Hopefully next season Ciaran can go a step further and make it to the final of this tough grade.

Irish One Wall Nationals

The Irish One Wall Nationals were held in Breaffy House, Mayo from the 29th-3rd of July. Kilkenny were represented by Stephen O'Dwyer in the Under 18, Ger McGrath in Mens C, Dan Breen and Shane Walsh in U23 B Grade and in the Men's Challenger grade by John Fitzgerald and Mark O'Donovan. Stephen O'Dwyer was unlucky to come up against U17 World One Wall Champion and eventual champion Joshua Garcia (USA) in his first round but gave a great showing. This was great experience for Stephen as he is minor next year. Ger McGrath came through a huge field in Mens C. He defeated Danny Reilly (Dublin), Brendan McDonagh (Roscommon) and pulled out a top drawer performance to defeat Peter Flanagan (Meath) 17-8 to qualify for the final. Unfortunately he found Daniel Fenlon (Carlow) too hot to handle and was defeated 21-12 in the final.

In the Under 23 B grade Dan Breen and Shane Walsh competed. Dan played Murtagh Condon(Kildare) in his 1st round winning 25-2, he then played Mark Quinn (Longford) and beat him 17-9 to qualify for the National Final against Shane Walsh(Windgap). Shane Walsh started off well when he recorded wins over John Kerreher and Niall Mannion (Roscommon) in the early rounds on Saturday. In the semi-final he beat Christopher McKenna from Monaghan.



Dan Breen with Paul Brady

This win set up Shane to meet Dan in an all Kilkenny final. Dan proved to be strongest on the day winning his first ever Singles Final having lost out in the Under 23 B Irish Nationals final in April. John Fitzgerald of Thomasstown reached the men's Challenger plate final where he was defeated by Edward McCavitt (Armagh).

USHA Nationals

This years USHA Nationals took place in Fridley, Minneapolis from 22nd-26th of June. Kilkenny were represented by Jim and Ciaran Neary in the Diamond Masters B Singles, Mens A Singles and the Mens A Doubles.



James Coronado, Juan Uribe, Jim Neary, Ciaran Neary.

It turned out to be a week of coming up an ace short for the local men who reached three finals. Ciaran played Niall O'Conner in the singles final. This was a great battle which went

right down to the wire. The Kildare man won the first game 21-19 but then Neary replied by winning the second game 21-20. It was all down to the decisive tie breaker and O'Conner established an early 6-1 lead but it was clawed back to 6-3. he then pushed on to 9-3 ahead but Ciaran kept his cool and after a string of great serves and killing of the ball the Talbots Inch man moved into a 10-9 lead. Neary served match point but the ace was replayed after some confusion with the referee and O'Conner got him out and won 11-10. It was more of the same style in the doubles final with Jim and Ciaran taking the first game 21-20 against James Coronado and Juan Uribe. The Santa Barbara men then won the second 21-12 so it was again down to the tie breaker. The US partnership ran into an early lead but Jim got a great three wall serve going into the right corner and Uribe began to crack under pressure. With scores levelled at 10-10 the experience of Coronado began to come through and he sealed the victory with some excellent shots. Jim also reached the consolation final of the Mens 55-60 grade where he was beaten by home town player Mike McQuillan 21-12 21-20. Overall it was a great tournament with some excellent handball on show for the week.

Tommy O'Brien Tournament a Huge Success

The 2nd Annual Tommy O'Brien Tournament, played at Talbot's Inch, was a huge success with the cream of Irish Handball on display during the week long event. Remembering a man who gave a lifetime of service to Handball at all levels in Ireland, the top exponents of 60 x 30 Handball converged on the Inch to celebrate his contribution. Over the 5 days of Handball, Talbots Inch hosted tournaments at Intermediate/Senior and Open levels, while on Saturday and Sunday, Juveniles from Kilkenny and Meath played out a challenge match, with Girls Juveniles from Kilkenny also putting on an exhibition.



Ciaran Neary, Seamus Reade and Ger Coonan

Starting on Tuesday night, the Intermediate / Senior tournament proved to be a very competitive event, with players from Kilkenny, Wexford, Tipperary and Carlow taking part. The quarter finals were played over two nights, with the semi-finals and final completed on Friday night.

Beating all before them, and playing some outstanding handball along the way, Ciaran Neary (Talbots Inch) and Ger Coonan (Tipperary) were deserving winners. In the decider they proved too strong for Nicky Reilly (Talbots Inch) and David Clifford (St. Canices), winning 21-15, 21-13.

Open

With the action starting early on Saturday morning, the cream of Irish Handball converged on Talbots Inch to put on some brilliant displays. First quarter final winners were Duckie Walsh and Tom Sheridan (Meath) who disposed of the challenge posed by the Limerick / Tipperary combination, C.J. Fitzpatrick and Fergal Collins, 21-4, 21-4 They were quickly

followed into the semi finals by Michael Gegan (Wicklow) and Michael Finnegan (Cavan), who accounted for Gavin Buggy (Wexford) and David Maloney (Tipperary), 21-12, 21-14. In the early afternoon matches, Barry Goff and Colin Keeling (Wexford) defeated Tommy Hynes (Wexford) and Carl Brown (Meath), 21-2, 12-21, 21-10, while Robbie McCarthy (Westmeath) and Brian O'Carroll (Meath) advanced to the semis when beating Dominic Lynch (Kerry) and Paul Mullins (Tipperary), 21-15, 21-15.

Late on Saturday evening the two semi final matches resulted in wins for Ducksie and Sheridan when they beat Gegan and Finnegan, 21-13, 21-11, while Goff and Keeling got the better of McCarthy and Carroll, 21-15, 21-19.

In the eagerly anticipated final on Sunday morning, the talk was whether the veterans, and defending champions, Ducksie and Sheridan would hold off the challenge of the Wexford duo, Barry Goff and Colin Keeling. Scores were close for the first half of the opening game, before the Slaneysiders opened a 19-11 lead. The Kilkenny/Meath combination rallied to 18 but failed to prevent Goff and Keeling finishing the game to seize the initiative.

With Ducksie nursing an injury sustained in the semi final win, the elder statesmen of Handball made all the running in the second game and were soon well ahead, 14-4. However the efforts of the weekend began to take its toll on them, and they were soon railed back to 14 all, before the Wexford pair closed out the match, 21-14, to add new names to the Tommy O'Brien trophy.

Many thanks must go to all the players that travelled for the weekend, to organisers, Ducksie Walsh, Seamus Reade, Jimmy Neary and Michael Reade, Talbots Inch club, the O'Brien family and to all the ladies who provided magnificent catering over the weekend. - Roll on 2012.

Tommy O'Brien Senior Results;

(Kilkenny unless stated)

Timmy Clifford / David Clifford bt Ger Anthony / Joe Walsh 2-0

Paul Lambert (Wexford) / John Ryan (Carlow) bt D.J. Carey / Seamus Kavanagh 2-0

Ciaran Neary / Ger Coonan (Tipperary) bt Johnny Brennan / Martin Lalor 2-1

Eddie Bourke / Joe Hennessy bt Nicky Reilly / William Love 2-1

Semi Finals

Nicky Reilly / David Clifford bt Paul Lambert / John Ryan 2-0,

Ciaran Neary / Ger Coonan bt Eddie Bourke / Joe Hennessy 2-0

Final

Ciaran Neary / Ger Coonan bt Nicky Reilly / David Clifford 21-15, 21-13.

Ducksie and Sheridan reign supreme in Mullinavat

Michael Ducksie Walsh and Tom Sheridan are the 2011 Eamonn Law Memorial Open Doubles Champions after they overcame the challenge of current Senior Singles champion Robbie McCarthy and Meath's Brian Carroll. The game went the full distance with Ducksie and Sheridan winning a very close first game 21-19. McCarthy and Carroll got into their stride in the second and won 21-10 so it was all down to the deciding set. Many people would have fancied the younger legs to pull through but the two Masters players stuck to their task well and came out on top 21-12. The game had everything from kill shots to passing shots to the odd argument and joking. The packed gallery saw the legends of 60x30 handball against the future of 60x30 and they were surely treated to a feast of great handball.



David King, John Ryan, Johnny Brennan, Nicky O'Reilly, Joe Anthony.

In the senior final the Kilkenny partnership of Johnny Brennan and Nicky Reilly went down to Carlow's John Ryan and David King. Nicky and Johnny picked up some great wins on their way and had no easy game. With Nicky comfortable no matter where the ball went and Johnny providing the cuteness in the right cor-

ner it was always going to be a tough task trying to beat them. The two days of handball looked to have caught up on both players in the final as they lost out the first game 21-12. Johnny was not killing the ball as prolifically as he was in the earlier rounds. However in the second game they both upped their performance and got a great lob serve going. Nicky had the Garryhill/Borris boys moving all around the court while Johnny tipped down any chance of a kill. It looked as if a third game was ominous as the lads lead 17-12 but the Carlow boys clawed the lead back and leveled at 17-17. Nicky and Johnny had four hands at 17 but could only make one ace and the Carlow men closed out the game 21-18. The senior tournament is one of the hardest to win and proof of this is that the same names have only appeared twice on the shield in the last five years. On the Saturday night John Walsh was presented with the Eamonn Law Player of the Year award. Nobody could deny that John was the worthy winner as he won county titles, Leinster titles and All Ireland titles in various age groups and is a pure credit to his family and the Mullinavat club.



John Walsh Sports Star of the Year.

Anyone who attended this year's Eamonn Law Memorial was treated to a feast of handball over the five days which Eamonn would have been proud of. Huge credit has to go to the Law family, Ducksie and the Mullinavat clubs for making the tournament go from strength to strength each year and thanks to the Rising Sun for a great meal on the Saturday night. Everyone one is already looking forward to next year.

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FOOTBALL GALLERY



Kilkenny Junior Football team who defeated Wexford in the Leinster Junior Football Championship (Photo: Jimmy Walsh)
Back row: L to R: Manager D.Mullins, M.Sanders, F.McEnroe, J.J Grace, D.Grennan, D.Prendergast, S.Mooney, J.Fennelly, T.Maher, R.O' Keeffe.
Centre: M.Dowling, B.Keogh, P.Raftice, M.Malone, M.Mahony, J.J Dunphy, J.Cullinane, J.Mackey, D.Garvey, J.Culliton
Front row: Jim O'Connor Trainer, T.Keohe, D.Fitzpatrick, M.Duggan, E.Vereker, R.Shore, J.J O'Sullivan, P.Donnelly, S.Kenny, John McGrath Selector.



Kilkenny Management Team
Jim O'Connor, Dick Mullins and John McGrath. (Photo: Jimmy Walsh)



Elated Kilkenny Junior Football players after their defeat of Wexford (Photo: Jimmy Walsh)



Richard O'Hara (Kilkenny) v Sean Gannon (Carlow) during the NFL clash in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Conor Quigley (Fermanagh) v Paul Mullins (Kilkenny) in Jenkinstown. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Action from the Kilkenny v Leitrim NFL clash in Ballyragget (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



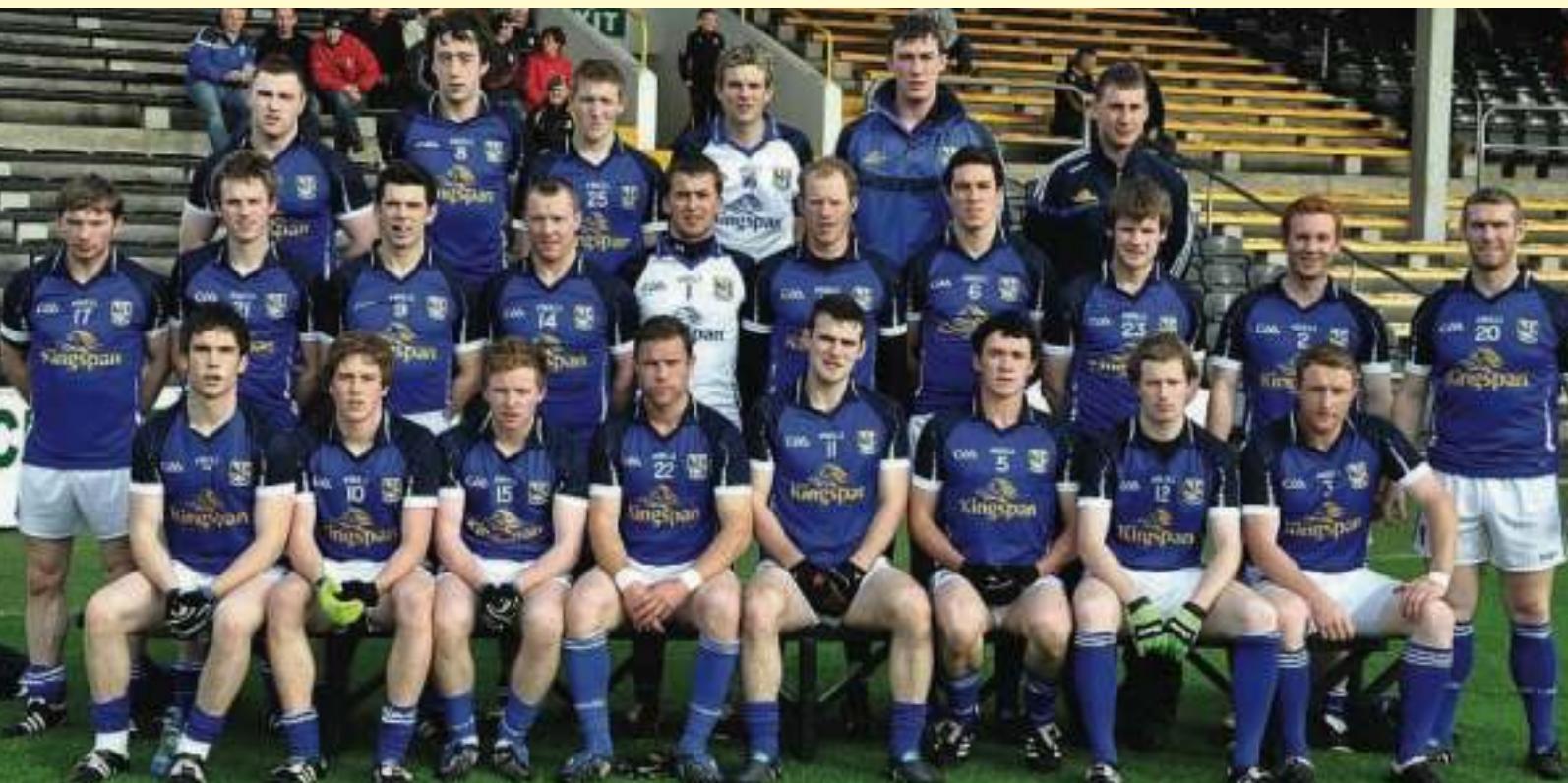
Seasoned spectators, Alan Murphy, John Mulhall, Liam Dowling and Fr Martin Ryan at the Leinster Junior Football Championship in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Jimmy Walsh)



Michael Mahony (Kilkenny) runs past Anton O'Reilly (Cavan) during the Leinster Junior Football Championship in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Even more seasoned spectators at the Leinster Junior Football Championship in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Jimmy Walsh)



Cavan football team who played Kilkenny in the Leinster Junior Football Quarter Final in Nowlan park (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

ANOTHER CLEAN SWEEP FOR LORETO CAMOGIE 2010/2011



Loreto Senior Team - All-Ireland Colleges' Roinn A Champions 2011, for the Second Year in a Row

Back: Kate Holland (Lisdowney), Tracy Brennan (Lisdowney), Niamh Byrne (Clara), Emma Comerford (Gowran), Grace Walsh (Tullaroan), Aisling Curtis (Clara) {Captain}, Sarah Ann Quinlan (Young Irelands), Nicole Lawlor (James Stephens), Orla Ryan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Aoife Nolan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Noelle Maher (Tullaroan), Kirsty Maher (Dicksboro), Lydia Fitzpatrick (Freshford), Tara Hogan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Sarah Dunphy (Graigue-Ballycallan), Ciara Byrne (Clara), Aoife Murphy (Lisdowney).
Front: Claire Phelan (Lisdowney), Orla Hanrick (Dicksboro), Sonia Buggy (Dicksboro), Miriam Walsh (Tullaroan), Róisín Breen (Paulstown), Jenny Clifford (Dicksboro), Rachel Lynch (Dicksboro), Stacey Nugent (Graigue-Ballycallan), Marie Doheny (Graigue-Ballycallan), Niamh Browne (Dicksboro), Maureen Walsh (Freshford), Dervla Gannon (Lisdowney).

We had yet another extremely successful year in Loreto on the Camogie fields of Ireland with all of the school's teams remaining unbeaten during the year. We managed to repeat the grand slam of last year, by winning the Junior, Senior and 7-a-side All-Ireland Colleges' Roinn A Finals yet again, in addition to retaining Leinster Colleges' Roinn A titles in senior, junior, minor & 7-a-side while retaining the Kilkenny Colleges' first year championship.

Our 7 a-side team, captained by Miriam Walsh, got the ball rolling. The team beat Callan in the Leinster final and proceeded on to the All-Ireland series in Blanchardstown. Loreto were up against the best teams from all over Ireland; St. Patrick's Maghera, St. Brigid's Loughrea and St Flannan's. The odds were against us but we made it to the final against Loughrea. The final was a hectic affair and at full time both sides were level. Only one puck of the ball separated the two teams after extra time and luckily Loreto were the ones to come out on top, winning the 7-a-side title for the 5th time in a row.

The seniors had a fantastic year, also winning the All-Ireland for the second year in a row. Captained by Aisling Curtis, our year started off with matches against Borris and Enniscorthy. Beating both of these teams with ease, we progressed to the Leinster final where we faced Callan. The match took place in Callan and was a poor match for the spectators. However it ended with a victory for Loreto.

In the all Ireland semi-final Loreto came up against Loughrea and we had home advantage as the match took place in Palmerstown.



Loreto Seven-A-Side Team - All-Ireland Colleges' Roinn A Champions 2011, for the Fifth Year in a Row

Back row: Kirsty Maher (Dicksboro), Nicole Lawlor (James Stephens), Lydia Fitzpatrick (Freshford), Tracy Brennan (Lisdowney), Kate Holland (Lisdowney).
Front row: Orla Hanrick (Dicksboro), Rachel Lynch (Dicksboro), Miriam Walsh (Tullaroan, Captain), Ciara Byrne (Clara), Jenny Clifford (Dicksboro).

This was a very close and exciting affair. We were improving as the season progressed, but we were really put to the test in this match. We took the pressure in our stride and survived by one point to gain the golden ticket into the All Ireland final on the 12th of March.

The All Ireland final was against the by now familiar Maghera side. The match was expected to be a tight game but Loreto pulled away in the early stages and Maghera couldn't catch up. Loreto put on a fantastic display of skilful

and intelligent camogie, and we were definitely deserving of the All- Ireland title beating St. Patricks Maghera by 4-10 to 1-6.

The junior team, captained by Lydia Fitzpatrick, were out for the 3 in-a-row title and they too were successful. Their couple of matches leading up to the Leinster final were won with ease defeating Borris and Enniscorthy. The Leinster final was against great rivals, Presentation. It was a great match for the spectators and ended with a scoreline of 4-7 to



Loreto Junior Team - All-Ireland Colleges' Roinn A Champions 2011, for the Third Year in a Row

Back: Nicole Lawlor (James Stephens), Anna Brennan (Lisdowney), Ann Marie Byrne (Young Irelands), Kate Walsh (O'Loughlin Gaels), Sarah Lanigan (Freshford), Megan Foley (Lisdowney), Róisín Breen (Paulstown), Niamh Browne (Dicksboro), Danielle Kenny (Dicksboro), Kirsty Maher (Dicksboro), Rachel Lynch (Dicksboro), Lydia Fitzpatrick (Freshford) (Captain), Amy Bryan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Niamh Leahy (Emeralds), Ciara Tyrrell (Dicksboro), Anna Buggy (Conahy Shamrocks), Aoife Butler (James Stephens), Chloe Power (James Stephens), Katie Doheny (Freshford), Clodagh Power (Freshford).

Front: Sarah Kent (Danesfort), Ciara Phelan (Emeralds), Ciara Byrne (Clara), Lauren Dermody (Freshford), Eva Maher (Dicksboro), Rebecca Holden (Paulstown), Jenny Clifford (Dicksboro), Laura Murphy (O'Loughlin Gaels), Megan Walsh (Danesfort), Lucy Teehan (James Stephens), Laura Greene (O'Loughlin Gaels), Aoife Prendergast (Dicksboro), Róisín Kealy (Clara), Miriam Walsh (Tullaroan), Fionnuala Quinlan (Young Irelands).

2-4 to Loreto. The junior team then travelled to Loughrea to play the All Ireland semi against Loughrea. Loreto came out on top in this match, winning 2-10 to 1-5. A great game, but there was better to follow.

The All Ireland Final was against St. Patrick's Maghera (again). This match took place in Blanchardstown on the 2nd of April. Loreto beat the Northerners 3-11 to 0-7, but despite what the scoreline may suggest, this was a very close affair throughout. Loreto played with such skill and teamwork that they were going to be very difficult to beat. This victory was our third in a row in this grade - what an achievement!

Our minor team have also been successful this year. Captained by Jenny Clifford, they reached the Leinster final, defeating Enniscorthy and Borris along the way. They faced our local rivals, the Presentation, and came out on top in Nowlan Park with another victory for the school.

The first year team had a great day out competing in a blitz which took place in Presentation. Castlecomer, Borris and Johnstown, along with two teams from Presentation, were competing. Loreto were slow to get going but made it to the final against Presentation. Being underdogs going into the final, Loreto were really determined. The girls gave it their all and ended up beating their rivals by two goals, and Lauren Dermody brought the cup back to Loreto to complete our clean sweep.

Orla Hanick (Dicksboro, fifth year student in Loreto.)



Loreto's senior captain, Aisling Curtis (Clara), receives the cup from the President of the Camogie Association, Joan O'Flynn.



Loreto senior players with the cup after their glorious victory in the All-Ireland Colleges' Roinn A Senior Camogie championship.

Heartbreak For Minors And Under-16s as wait for senior All-Ireland continues

Photos Eoin Hennessy



CAMOGIE REPORT
by Michael O'Leary PRO

Kilkenny Senior Team 2011

Back: Katie Power, Noelle Maher, Anne Dalton, Shelley Farrell, Kelly Hamilton, Deirdre Delaney, Edel Maher, Ruth Jones, Marie O'Connor, Catriona Ryan

Middle: Edwina Keane, Sarah Anne Quinlan, Claire Phelan, Aine Kinsella, Aine Fahey, Aisling Dunphy, Elaine Aylward(captain), Denise Gaule, Niamh Phelan, Miriam Walsh, Siobhan Murphy,

Front: Keeva Fennelly, Marie Dargan, Collette Dormer, Lizzie Lyng, Grace Walsh, Jacqui Frisby, Catherine Doherty, Michelle Quilty, Aoife Neary. Photo Eoin Hennessy

Senior

Kilkenny began the year with changes to the managerial set-up after Paul Murphy and John Lonergan had stepped down to work commitments having been involved since 2005.

Into the breach came Cork native Frank Flannery and Gowran native Alan Roche, as Kilkenny were hoping to win the O'Duffy Cup for the first time since 1994.

Kilkenny began their campaign up in Croke Park against Dublin on February 26th, the weekend when the General Election was dominating coverage across the nation.

The match preceded as curtain raiser to the Dublin and Kerry National football league clash, and Kilkenny easily crucified Dublin winning 7-16 to 0-5 with Shelley Farrell grabbing a hat-trick of goals.

Kilkenny secured at least play-off spot in the league, as they held off a spirited fightback against Tipperary to win 2-11 to 2-8 having led 2-9 to 1-2 at the interval.

They secured the point needed to top the group and reach the semi-final stage, as they drew a thrilling hard fought game with Cork down in Bishopstown. 0-10 each.

Kilkenny had home advantage for the semi-final clash with Galway, but they were somewhat understrength without the injured Catriona Ryan, Anne Dalton, Michelle Quilty and Edel Maher.

Katie Power went off injured after sustaining a knee injury at half-time, and Kilkenny having led 2-7 to 0-9 entering the closing quarter, were thwarted by a late Galway surge, as Veronica Curtin scored the winning point with the Tribesladies coming out on top winning 0-14 to 2-7.

Kilkenny travelled to Wexford to play the eventual All-Ireland champions in the Leinster semi-final, and despite their best attempts and having led 1-6 to 1-2 at half-time, they eventually lost 2-8 to 1-8.

The new look championship saw 8 teams play each other over 7 consecutive weekends in a gruelling schedule.

Kilkenny began their championship adventure against senior championship newcomers Offaly who won the Intermediate All-Ireland last year adding to the Junior title in 2009.

Despite the Midlanders best attempts, the experience of Kilkenny proved too strong, as championship top scorer Michelle Quilty was razor sharp scoring 2-7.

Kilkenny's first home game against Dublin saw victory safely negotiated thanks to goals from Aoife Neary and Aine Fahey.

Defeat followed against Wexford 1-14 to 1-89, before a scintillating closing 20 minutes saw them overcome Tipperary 4-9 to 0-12 with Shelley Farrell, Aine Fahey, Michelle Quilty, and Aoife Neary banging in the goals.

A semi-final place was virtually assured with a 2-15 to 2-8 victory over a hard battling Clare with a late goal from championship newcomer Grace Walsh sealing a vital brace of points.

They were defeated 0-12 to 0-9 in Galway, but both teams prior to the game had already qualified for the semi-final.

Victory was assured in their final round robin game defeating Cork 2-16 to 1-13 in Jenkinstown.

Immediately afterwards, the semi-final draw was made, and Kilkenny were drawn against Galway in a repeat of the epic 2009 semi-final contest.

Having already lost to Galway twice previously this year, would it be third time lucky?

Unfortunately not, as despite goals from Aisling Dunphy and Edel Maher, Galway were way too strong and 5 points from play in an exceptional individual display by Niamh Kilkenny sealed Kilkenny's fate in which truthfully, they should have been defeated by a far greater margin and would have been only for some wayward Galway shooting.

Anne Downey has stepped down as senior manager having been involved as manager for the last 4 years, and a selector under the reign of Bobby Jackman since 2006.

At time of writing, the search for a new manager is currently ongoing.

Intermediate

The Intermediate began the year under the management of Mattie Butler of Tullaroan and he was joined by selectors Paddy Kelly, manager of the Inter-county under-16 team and Sheamie Cummins of O'Loughlin Gaels.

The year began positively with victories over Tipperary and Limerick before drawing away to Waterford.

However, a heavy defeat down in Cork ended their league prospects, but overall it was a positive league campaign.



Kilkenny Under 16 County Team 2011

Back Row: Paddy Kelly(manager), Catherine Foley, Niamh Dermody, Edel Long, Deirdre Walsh, Ciara Holden, Mary O Connell, Sarah Whelan, Niamh Sweeney, Ciara Byrne, Christine Lyng, Julianne Malone, Lydia Fitzpatrick, Noelle Murphy, Ailish Butler, Niamh Donnelly, David Hogan(selector), T.J. Bryan(selector).
Front Row: Niamh Leahy, Meighan Farrell, Aine Gannon, Lorraine Long, Kate Nolan, Siobhan Corcoran, Kate Doheny, Rachel Lynch (capt), Amy Bryan, Mary Corcoran, Michaela Kenneally, Lauren Barcoe, Ciara Farrell, Miriam Walsh
Photo Eoin Hennessy

The championship proved a severe handicap to their prospects, as any player who had featured in a senior championship game was deemed ineligible to feature for the Intermediates.

A heavy defeat against Derry 5-14 to 1-8 severely hampered their prospects, and their championship ambitions were ended in the Ragg two weeks later against Tipperary. They led 0-9 to 0-2 at the interval with Emma Carroll giving an exhibition of point taking from play.

Tipperary fought back, and an Aoife Ryan goal in the last 10 minutes snatched victory as a Marie Dargan penalty deep into injury-time was well blocked, and Kilkenny's championship ended.

Minor

Kilkenny began their minor championship campaign against Clare in Tom Ryall Park, Kilmanagh without starting 5 of their inter-county senior panellists.

A disappointing display saw Kilkenny lose out 1-9 to 0-8, which meant they had a quarter final date with Derry on the agenda. Kilkenny easily annihilated the Northern contingent 6-12 to 0-0 to set up a semi-final showdown with defending All-Ireland champions Galway.

A magnificent display from Kilkenny with all their senior guns returning saw them dethrone Galway 3-16 to 3-9 with Claire Phelan top scorer with 0-7.

Goalscorers were Sarah Anne Quinlan, Aisling Curtis and Aoife Murphy set up an All-Ireland final showdown with Tipperary in Semple Stadium, Thurles.

Kilkenny appeared to have their name on the cup at half-time as playing with a strong wind-advantage, they were in complete control leading 2-6 to 1-0 at half-time courtesy of goals from Claire Phelan, and Orla Hanrick.

However, Kilkenny should have been further ahead only for some wayward shooting. It would subsequently proved costly.

Tipperary grabbed a brace of goals early in the second-half, as the introduction of substitute and player of the match Anna Evison proved significant to a dramatic turnaround. Goals from Sarah Fryday and Michaela

Graham left the score at 2-6 to 3-2, Kilkenny responded and a brace of points from placed balls by Lydia Fitzpatrick stretched Kilkenny's lead to three entering the final 10 minutes.

Tipperary struck level courtesy of a Nicole Walsh goal, before fellow substitutes Sarah Anne Quinlan and Alice Fogarty exchanged points entering the closing stages. It was Kilkenny who were to suffer heart-break though, and a Nicole Walsh pointed free snatched a dramatic victory as Tipperary added the minor to the Under-16 All-Ireland earlier in the year in which they also defeated Kilkenny by a solitary point.

Consolation for the minors as they won the Leinster championship with a hard fought 2-12 to 2-7 win over Dublin

Kilkenny Team All-Ireland minor final v Tipperary: Aine Kinsella(Mullinavat), Niamh Phelan(Windgap), Jennifer Cunningham(Danesfort), Laura Norris(Piltown), Megan Farrell(Thomastown), Grace Walsh(Tullaroan), Noelle Maher(Tullaroan), Kate Holland(Lisdowney), Kelly Hamilton(Rower-Inistioge), Lydia Fitzpatrick(St. Lachtains, Freshford) (0-02 0-01 free 0-01'45), Claire Phelan (Lisdowney) (1-01 0-01 free), Miriam Walsh (Tullaroan) (0-02), Aisling Curtis(Clara) (0-02), Orla Hanrick(Dicksboro) (1-01), Aoife Murphy(Lisdowney)
Sub: Sarah-Anne Quinlan(Young Irelands, Gowran) (0-01) for Curtis

Under-16s

Kilkenny Under-16s began the year on the 5th of March drawn in a difficult group against last years All-Ireland finalists Galway and Tipperary.

Up first was Tipperary in the Ragg, and in a hard fought game, Kilkenny were trailing 1-7 to 0-7 with just three minutes.

However, a 1-2 in the space of two minutes from Julie-Anne Malone completely changed the game around, and Kilkenny held out to win 1-9 to 1-8.

Galway were up next in Tom Ryall Park, Kilmanagh, and first-half goals from Niamh Dermody and a Lydia Fitzpatrick free along with a brilliant heroic display with Megan Farrell sensational gave Kilkenny a well-

earned 2-10 to 0-10 victory.

A semi-final place was assured, and Kilkenny rounded the group series with a resounding 5-23 to 1-2 victory over Derry. Kilkenny easily won the Leinster championship with a 4-15 to 0-3 win over Wexford, before a brilliant display and 1-4 from Miriam Walsh gave Kilkenny a 4-15 to 3-6 win over Dublin in the Leinster final on a boiling hot April Sunday afternoon. Next up was an All-Ireland semi-final clash against Clare on Easter Saturday, and Kilkenny took control from an early stage with two goals from Mary Corcoran.

Second-half goals from Julie-Anne Malone,

Miriam Walsh and Lydia Fitzpatrick completed the rout as Kilkenny won 5-17 to 0-8.

An All-Ireland final date against Tipperary was next on the agenda, and it was played on the 7th of May at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick.

Kilkenny dominated possession in the first-half, and a wonderful exceptional point taking display from Miriam Walsh who scored 0-5 gave Kilkenny a 0-10 to 0-5 lead at the interval.

However, the game completely changed in the opening 10 minutes of the second-half as goals from Mairead Teehan and Jenny Grace suddenly opened up a 4 point lead. 2-8 to 0-10.

The premier youngsters didn't score over the last 20 minutes, as Kilkenny dominated possession.

However, they only scored 0-3, as missed frees from Lydia Fitzpatrick proved costly, as well as a Miriam Walsh point that blazed inches over the crossbar with the goal at her mercy.

It was a heartbreaking defeat for the brave battling youngsters who deserved to win over the hour.

Kilkenny Team All-Ireland Final:

Kilkenny: Noelle Murphy(Lisdowney), Deirdre Walsh(Mooncoin), Catherine Foley(Windgap), Katie Doheny(St. Lachtains, Freshford), Meighan Farrell(Thomas town), Mary O'Connell(Clara), Rachel Lynch(Dicksboro), Miriam Walsh(Tullaroan), (0-06) Niamh Leahy(Emeralds), Lydia Fitzpatrick(St. Lachtains, Freshford), (0-02 frees) Michaela Kenneally(Windgap), (0-01)



St Lachtain's - County Senior Camogie Champions 2011

Back: Paul Buggy(team trainer), Teresa Dillon, Esther Kennedy, Seamus Costelloe, Majella Colclough, Catriona Meagher, Aine Connery, Denise Daly, Cora Dowling, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Marie O'Connor, Deirdre Delaney, Imelda Kennedy, Maureen Walsh, Gillian Dillon Maher, Marie Meagher, Maura Costelloe, Shelia Dowling
Front :: Ann Dalton, Sinead Connery, Claire Dermody, Katie Doheny, Lydia Fitzpatrick(captain), Fiona Dowling, Helen Burke, Megan Coogan, Michelle Kileen, Patrick Kileen
Darragh Maher, Jack Hickey, James Costelloe, Caoimhne Hickey, Jordan Burke, Courtney Burke, Ellen Gunner, Richard Costelloe.



Dicksboro - County Intermediate Champions 2011

Back: Saoirse Fennelly, Niamh Browne, Niamh O'Connor, Claire Nolan, Sonya Buggy, Sarah Bawle, Geraldine Kelly, Lisa Hanrick, Sinéad Maher, Niamh Kelly, Helen Byrne, Aisling O'Grady.
Front: Alex Horan, Rebecca Knox, Rachel Lynch, Nicola Tynan, Jennie Dillon, Sarah Kennedy, Mairéad Dowling, Anne Marie Hoyne, Orla Hanrick, Áine Maher, Niamh O'Donoghue, Emer Tynan (Capt.).



Thomastown - Senior League Winners 2011

Back: Grace Clarke, Maeve O'Connor, Sinead Stapleton, Cathrine Walsh, Lisa Carey, Aine Manning, Ailish Butler, Meg Farrell, Chloe Conway, Niamh Whelan, Amy Maher, Katie Walsh, Cathrine Treacey (Capt),
Front: Kate McDonald, Ciara Farrell, Shelly Farrell, Nicole Conway, Anna Farrell, Jenny Reddy, Sarah Walsh, Sally Teehan, Niamh Donnelly, Sarah Walpole.

Julie-Anne Malone(Mullinavat), (0-03 0-01 free) Aine Gannon(Rower-Inistioge) (0-01), Niamh Dermody(Piltown), Mary Corcoran(St. Annes)
Subs: Niamh Donnelly(Thomastown) for Dermody 37 minutes, Ciara Farrell(Thomas-town) +Ailish Butler(Thomastown) for Corcoran + Leahy 59 minutes

Club Championships Review

Lachtains ladies emphatically regain top standing of camogie queens

Senior championship review

After losing out at the death to Mullinavat in last years County senior final, one was beginning to wonder were the Freshford ladies finished as a top force in Camogie as they lost out their three matches in the group stages of the league to Mullinavat, St. Martins and Lisdowney.

However, all those defeats were by less than a three point margin, so they were still a competitive force, and all they needed was one win to get their season up and running.

Their season took off when knowing well they were involved in a relegation semi-final, but any lingering dreaded prospects of that happening were eased when they defeated St. Brigids 0-20 to 1-11.

A hard fought 2-7 to 1-4 victory over St. Martins was secured, and even then, one couldn't have foreseen what was about to happen.

Defending champions Mullinavat had been showing inconsistency, and following a defeat to Lisdowney in round two of the league, their league hopes ended when they were defeated by Windgap 3-8 to 1-10. Windgap set up a league final showdown with Thomastown.

A thrilling contest played in underfoot conditions saw no more than two points separate the side, and it was Jenny Reddy who scored the crucial goal in the 50th minute to seal victory and claim their first league title. Intermediate champions Lisdowney made eyecatching progress as the year went.

Following a first round 10-point defeat to St. Martins in the league, where they appeared favourites to return straight to Intermediate, a shock victory over Mullinavat 0-10 to 1-5 changed their fortunes, as they defeated St. Lachtains 3-11 to 1-14 in the final round of group games.

That set up a first round clash with Ballyhale Shamrocks not eased of relegation worry. However, a hard earned 2-8 to 1-8 victory over Ballyhale Shamrocks secured their senior status for 2012, as it was the South Kilkenny girls who were eventually relegated losing 1-6 to 0-5 to St. Brigids in the relegation decider.

Lisdowney's senior adventure for 2011 ended when they were emphatically defeated 5-126 to 2-4 by Mullinavat who laid their intentions very clear that they were serious of retaining the championship.

Onto the semi-finals, and Mullinavat produced a towering hard-working display as goals inside the first 10 minutes from Leanne Fennelly and Michelle Quilty proved decisive to securing a 2-10 to 0-6 victory over Thomastown played in deplorable underfoot conditions in Kilomacow.



Kilkenny Minor Team 2011

Back: Emma Kavanagh, Niamh Bambrick, Sarah Ann Quinlan, Lydia Fitzpatrick, Aisling Curtis, Niamh Phelan,

Orla Walsh, Orla Ryan, Claire Phelan, Aoife Lyng.

Middle: Miriam Walsh, Jennifer Cunningham, Laura Dunne, Jane Cullen, Kelly Hamilton, Orla Hanrick, Meighan Farrell, Aoife Murphy, Niamh Donnelly, Kate Holland.

Front: Grace Walsh, Laura Norris, Rachel Hogan, Emma Comerford, Noelle Maher, Niamh Dowling, Sonia Buggy, Tracy Brennan, Aine Kinsella Photo Eoin Hennessy

The following day in Tom Ryall Park, Sinead Connery was in scintillating stunning goalscoring form as they destroyed and shocked Windgap 6-17 to 5-4.

That set up a repeat of the final pairing from the past two years, as St. Lachtains set their intentions clear of retaining the title. An even first-half saw the Freshford girls lead 0-6 to 0-5, before early second-half goals from Sinead Connery and the irrepressible Lydia Fitzpatrick kill off Mullinavat hopes.

A second Connery goal late on was the icing on the cake, as St. Lachtains proved they were back following a wonderful team performance in which none shone brighter than player of the match Imelda Kennedy who scored 0-7 – 4 from play -.

Intermediate

Dicksboro and Tullaroan would prove to be the two form teams at Intermediate in 2011. In the league semi-finals, Tullaroan defeated Paulstown 8-8 to 6-11 in a wonderful absorbing 14-goal classic, as Dicksboro easily defeated Piltown 6-9 to 0-4.

However, the scheduled league final showdown between Dicksboro and Tullaroan still has to be played at time of writing.

Rower-Inistioge hopes were ended losing 2-8 to 1-4 to Paulstown in the quarter-final.

It was the same 4 semi-finalists for the championship as well as the league, and it also proved to be the same pair of finalists. Tullaroan easily accounted for Piltown 5-13 to 2-11 in awful downpour conditions in Windgap, while an early second-half goal blitz including a wonderful solo effort from Orla Hanrick saw Dicksboro overcome Paulstown 3-9 to 2-7.

The championship final was a magnificent contest decided by a moment of cruelty. The sides were level at 2-3 each, and a low scoring second-half saw the boro ladies on the verge of victory with 5 minutes remaining as they led 2-7 to 2-4.

However, Aine Fahey single-handedly took the game by the scruff as she pointed four times in succession including one wonder solo effort as they snatched the lead by the 3rd minute of injury-time. 2-8 to 2-7.

There was still time for Dicksboro to conjure up one last gasp attack as Niamh O'Donoghue sent a shot from the right-wing near the sideline goalwards.

Tullaroan goalkeeper Noreen Delaney had possession and she was about to clear. However, her attempted clearance was blocked by Lisa Hanrick, who had the luxury of an open goal, and she applied the finishing touch by sliding the faintest of touches with her side-foot to squeeze the slithar over the goal-line and stun a shocked and dumbfounded Tullaroan.

What a horrible way it was for Tullaroan to lose.

Junior

Following last year's heartbreaking final defeat to Tullaroan where a five-point was wiped out eventually losing by a solitary point, Young Irelands of Gowran were amongst the favourites for Junior honours in 2011.

They won the league final defeating Danesfort 3-5 to 2-5.

They reached the championship final again when defeating neighbours Blacks and Whites 3-10 to 1-9.

Tullogher were slow to start the start, but with players returning to full strength, they slowly gathered momentum, and they defeated Danesfort 2-8 to 1-9 to set up a final showdown with the Gowran girls.

Despite Young Irelands's best attempts, it was the experience of Tullogher that proved too strong with the Cotterell's Joanne, Kelly-Anne and the brilliant Lynda playing a leading part as they ran out 2-10 to 0-8 as they attempt to return their towards the senior ranks.

Junior B

O'Loughlin Gaels comfortably defeated Carrickshock 3-9 to 2-4 in the semi-final, as Conahy Shamrocks in their first year as an adult Camogie force secured a 3-8 to 1-8 victory over Emeralds avenging their league defeat as Miriam O'Keeffe scored a wonder goal.

The first-half of the final was tight contest as the sides were level at 0-2 each approaching half-time.

An Amy Byran goal divided the teams at the interval, and she repeated the dose with a second goal early in the second-half, as despite Conahy's best attempt, O'Loughlins easily won out 2-8 to 0-5

Minor

At the time of writing, the A final between Windgap and Dicksboro still has to be played.

The B final produced one of the greatest minor finals ever as Danesfort and Young Irelands Gowran served a wonderful memorable epic battle.

Danesfort appeared to be on their way to victory as they led 2-8 to 0-7 early in the second-half.

However, the Gowran girls inspired by Sarah Anne Quinlan rescued the situation, and having survived numerous missed frees from Danesfort in the last 10 minutes, they still managed to force extra-time as the sides finished level at 2-11 to 1-14.

A second goal from Laura Dunne in the first period of extra-time proved decisive, as Danesfort goalkeeper Rosiin Walsh gave a wonderful heroic display pulling off a string of superb saves as they held out for a precious one point victory. 3-11 to 1-16.

The C final was a game of two halves. St. Annes led Piltown 1-5 to 0-1 at half-time on a wet miserable evening in Clara. However, Piltown responded with Edel Long and Laura Norris dominating in midfield. Goals from Niamh Darmody and Sinead McCarthy were decisive as they ran out 2-8 to 1-6 winners.

Ballyhale Shamrocks easily destroyed Kilmacow in the D final.

Under-16

Thomastown produced a second-half blitz with Niamh Donnelly scoring 2-5 and team captain Megan Farrell giving a wonderful exhibition display as they easily Dicksboro in the A final 3-14 to 1-2.

Piltown added further silverware to their under-age collection as they easily defeated Danesfort 6-14 to 0-4 in the Roinn B final,



Tulloher County Junior Champions 2011

Back: Stephen Cotterell, Sarah Phelan, Emer Malone, Aine Murphy, Sarah Ryan, Catriona Ryan, Elaine Mullally, Lynda Cotterell, Joanne Cotterell, Stephanie Cotterell, Aishling Phelan, Marie Ryan, Michael Murphy,
Front: Sarah Hennessy, Siobhan Murphy, Siobhan Ryan, Margaret Walsh, Susan Cullinane, Lisa Ryan, Siobhan Dollard, Kellyanne Cotterell, Maria Rockett, Niamh Barry, Katie Quigley, Vivienne Forristal.



Emeralds All-County Junior league Champions 2011

Back: Michael Troy, Shona Ahern, Jessie Ryan, Briana Norton, Sinead Costelloe, Shona Power, Brid Leahy, Orla Gleeson, Clodagh Cleere, Mary Burke, Siobhan O'Hara, Mary Clohessy, Niamh Leahy,
Front: Laura Kavanagh, Sinead Curran, Davina Tobin, Sarah Kavanagh, Eilis Brennan, Selina Power, Klara Martin, Siobhan O'Hara, Katie Joyce

while in the C decider St. Annes easily defeated Emeralds 3-10 to 2-2.

Paulstown struck late to defeated O'Loughlin Gaels 1-8 to 0-8 in the D decider.

Under-14

Thomastown reached the semi-finals of the National Feile, and that was after defeating St. Brigids in a thrilling Kilkenny decider 1-5 to 2-1 in which Aoife Farrell scored a late injury-time point to snatch victory.

The championship final was one of the greatest games of Camogie played in Kilkenny.

St. Martins and Thomastown served up a wonderful classic, and despite Eimear Donnelly grabbing a hat-trick of goals, Edel Coonan went one better striking four times as St. Martins memorably won 5-4 to 4-4. Glenmore easily won the B final against St. Brigids 4-8 to 2-2.

Marguriete Hoynes was the star on show scoring 2-5 while Grace Roche grabbed a brace of goals.

O'Loughlin Gaels easily won the final with full-forward Bronagh Cleere scoring 3-3 as they easily Kilmacow 7-5 to 1-5.

Ballyhale Shamrocks struck 9 goals as they easily won the D final against Castlecomer.

County final Teams:

Senior championship final

St. Lachtains – Helen Burke, Denise Daly, Gillian-Dillon Maher, Claire Dermody, Fiona Dowling, Deirdre Delaney, Katie Doheny, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Anne Dalton, Imelda Kennedy, Cora Dowling, Esther Costelloe, Marie O'Connor, Sinead Connery, Lydia Fitzpatrick,

Sub: Aine Connery.

PS: team captain Aoife Fitzpatrick didn't play in the final due to injury

Mullinavat – Brid Aylward, Joanne

Quinn(captain), Sinead Aylward, Elizabeth Cunningham, Paula Butler, Elaine Aylward, Claire Aylward, Aine Kinsella, Amy Butler, Angela Kenneally, Julie-Anne Malone, Miriam Frisby, Rebecca Haberlin, Leanne Fennelly, Valerie Law,

Sub: Marie Murphy

PS: Michelle Quilty didn't play in the final due to injury

Senior league final

Thomastown – Grace Clarke, Chloe Corrway, Aine Manning, Nicole Corrway, Megan Farrell, Sarah Walsh, Sally Teehan, Anna Farrell, Aislish Butler, Shelley Farrell, Jenny Reddy, Catriona Treacy(captain), Ciara Farrell, Niamh Donnelly, Catherine Walsh, *Sub: Lisa Carey,*

Windgap – Laura Walker, Julie Walsh, Alison Walsh, Phena Heffernan, Laura Moore, Elaine O'Shea(captain), Nicola Moore, Suzie Dunphy, Lisa Phelan, Eleanor Downey, Catherine Foley, Denise Gaule, Sarah McCarthy, Anne-Marie Phelan, Niamh Phelan, *Sub: Niamh Bambrick, Claire Grace,*

Intermediate championship final

Dicksboro – Sarah Bawle, Helen Byrne, Niamh Kelly, Niamh O'Connor, Emer Tynan(captain), Sorcha Fennelly, Sarah Kennedy, Sonya Buggy, Aine Maher, Niamh O'Donoghue, Lisa Hanrick, Anne-Marie Hoyne, Aisling O'Grady, Orla Hanrick, Jenny



Mullinavat Primary School Team who beat the Rower in the Roinn "B" Final 2011



Feile Skills Camogie winner Chloe Blackmore is presented with her plaque by Martin Quilty, Vice-Chairman, County Board, also included are: Niamh Delaney, Katie Nolan, Aoife O'Carroll, Grainne Walsh, Aoife Brassil, Laura Greene, Ciara Murphy, Deirdre Purcell, Edel Coonan, Kellyann Doyle.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

Dillon,

Sub: Rachel Lynch

Tullaroan – Noreen Delaney, Carmel Breen, Anne-Marie Young, Elaine Maher, Claire Walsh, Grace Walsh, Jenny Martin, Olivia Maher(captain), Rachel Dowling, Clodagh Kenny, Aine Fahey, Niamh Dowling, Miriam Walsh, Noelle Maher, Lorraine Maher
Sub: Patricia Mullally

Junior Championship final

Tullogher – Catriona Ryan, Vivienne Forristal, Elaine Mullally, Stephanie Cotterell(captain), Niamh Barry, Siobhan Murphy, Siobhan Doherty, Lynda Cotterell, Sarah Hennessy, Maria Rockett, Marie Ryan, Kelly-Anne Cotterell, Sarah Phelan, Joanne Cotterell, Katie Quigley,
Subs: Aisling Phelan, Susan Cullinane Young Irelands (Gowran): Orlaith Byrne, Mary Carroll, Anne Drea, Kelly Treacy, Mairead Fogarty, Maggie Simpson, Niamh Quinlan, Emma Comerford, Lizzie Byrne,

Sarah Anne Quinlan, Cara O'Neill(captain), Aisling Carey, Paula Farrell, Nessa Farrell, Eibhlín Fogarty
Subs: Ruth Loughlin, Laura Fennelly,

Junior B Championship final

O'Loughlin Gaels – Lizzie Kavanagh, Laura Butler, Stephanie Buckley, Katie Nolan, Shauna Drennan, Rebecca Cleere, Ena Kearns, Annie Dunne, Karen Galvin(captain), Samantha McGuni, Aisling Butler, Sarah Bourke, Sarah Buckley, Aoife Nolan, Amy Byran.
Subs: Jane Maher, Karen Cleere, Margaret Shorthall

Conahy Shamrocks – Jane Comerford, Patricia Cass, Mariga Nolan, Caroline Mullins, Lorraine Cass, Mairead Lawler, Aine Phelan, Miriam O'Keeffe, Noreen O'Keeffe, Noelle Corrigan, Sinead Corrigan(captain), Aileen Cass, Anna Buggy, April Purcell, Suzanne Randle,

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AT UNDERAGE

Ladies Football report by Noelle Curran PRO



Thomastown Senior Champions 2011

Back: Aisling Costello, Lisa Carey, Sheila Sheehy, Nicola Dunphy, Leanne Walsh, Jessie Carroll, Nelle Henderson, Aine Manning, Breena Fennelly, Claire Nolan, Sarah Walsh, Aine Lannon, Ailish Butler.

Front: Aine Sheehy(capt), Sinead Stapleton, Joanne O Hanrahan, Jenny Reddy, Shauna Carroll, Niamh Whelan, Sally Teehan, Grace Brennan, Niamh Donnelly, Missing from photo: Fiona Sheehy, Mary O'Connell,

THOMASTOWN TAKE SENIOR LEAGUE TITLE

The junior and senior sides combined to contest the county league and Railyard, Thomastown and Freshford finished level after five rounds. Thomastown beat holders Railyard in a play off to set up a league final with Freshford. The southern side were ahead 4-04 to 0-01 at the break and continued the rout through Player of the Match Jenny Reddy to claim their first senior title 6-09 to 1-02.

MULLINAVAT CLAIM JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Mullinavat ladies dropped from intermediate to junior at the end of last year but were on the way back up when a late goal snatched victory from James Stephens in a thrilling junior final. Ruth Jones was the heroine for 'Vat with three goals including the winner in the dying minutes for a 3-4 to 1-09 victory. Niamh Butler was named as Player of the Match after a solid display at centre back for James Stephens.

Mullinavat: Emily Dermody, Marie Murphy, Clodagh Corcoran, Laura Whelan, Catherine Freyne, Catherine Connolly, Joanne Quinn, Hazel Butler, Aisling McDonald, Ruth Jones, Kate Kelly, Shauna Kenneally, Sarah Kelly, Esther Hendrick, Susan Dunphy, Lisa Phelan, Julie Ann Malone, Amy Butler, June Grennan, Claire Aylward, Emma Nolan, Deirdre Dempsey, Claire Kelly, Paula Butler, Michelle Bricks, Carol Culleton, Leanne Fennelly, Ellen Grant, Sinead Phelan. Management: Paul Whelan, Richie Windle, Pat Murphy. James Stephens: Kate Hennessy, Maria Twomey, Sarah Morris, Siobhan Magner,



Kilkenny Ladies Gaelic Football under-12 team who won the Leinster Blitz in Carlow.

Sharon Rafter, Niamh Butler, Lydia Phelan, Emily Ann Gilligan, Elena Byrne, Deirdre Phelan, Bronagh Neary, Aoife Gorey, Elaine Martin, Vicky Cahill, Orla McCormack, Emily Ryan, Cliona Fennelly, Bronagh Kelly, Maria Treacy, Aisling Gaule, Deirdre Ryan, Bronagh Cadogan, Laura Hanlon, Ciara Kelly, Serina Fogarty, Lisa Foley, Maria Cuddihy, Maeve O'Flynn, Aoife Prendergast. Management: Eoin Hennessy, Shay Lawlor.

Referee: Pat Moran (Graiguecullen) Mullinavat made the trip to north Dublin to face St. Sylvester's in the first round of the Tesco Leinster junior club ch'ship but were outclassed by a formidable side lead by All Star Sinead Aherne. The Dublin side went on to claim the Leinster

club title and are favourites to add the All Ireland junior club crown.

THOMASTOWN CROWNED SENIOR CHAMPIONS

Thomastown aimed for a league and championship double and were on their way when they defeated four times champions Railyard 3-7 to 1-10 in the senior semi final while holders Freshford accounted for Muckalee 2-5 to 1-5. Freshford made a lightening start to the final and lead 1-04 to 0-01 at halftime but the revival began with three goals from Jenny Reddy. A titanic battle ensued in the closing stages and Thomastown held on to claim the senior championship 3-5 to 1-5. Thomastown wing forward Sara

Walsh was named as Player of the Match.

Thomastown: Sheila Sheehy, Nelle Henderson, Aine Sheehy, Leanne Walshe, Sinead Stapleton, Aine Manning, Jessie Carroll, Sally Teehan(0-1), Niamh Whelan, Sarah Walshe, Aine Lannon(0-1), Shauna Carroll, Joanne O'Hanrahan, Jenny Reddy(3-1), Grace Brennan, Fiona Sheehy, Breena Fennelly, Nicola Dunphy, Lisa Carey, Claire Nolan, Mary O'Connell, Niamh Donnelly(0-1), Ailish Butler, Aisling Costello. Management: Brendan Cooke, Joe Walshe, Joey O'Hanrahan, Freshford scores: Fiona Dowling (1-0), Yvonne McGrath (0-2), Sinead Corrigan (0-1), Cora Dowling (0-1), Lydia Fitzpatrick (0-1). Referee Pat Moran
Thomastown travelled to Kileen in Laois to contest the first round of the Tesco Leinster intermediate club championship but succumbed to a stronger home side on a 3-11 to 4-4 scoreline.

COUNTY SCENE

After the All Ireland triumph of 2007, Kilkenny spent three years battling some football powerhouses at intermediate level before returning to junior in 2011. Eoin Hennessy, Adrian Weldon and Shay Lawlor took over as management. In round 1 of the Bord Gais Energy National League the cats faced a strong Roscommon intermediate side but the loss of established players brought a heavy 3-14 to 0-4 defeat. In round 2 Louth needed late scores to defeat the cats 1-12 to 1-05. Eventual All Ireland intermediate champions Westmeath were next to visit and although just six points separated the sides at half time, the Lake county profited from a gale force wind for a 3-17 to 1-03 win. In round 4 Kilkenny travelled to Carlow and came away with a 3-4 to 1-09 victory. Derry handed Kilkenny a walkover but trips to Offaly and Antrim yielded defeat for the cats. After tough opposition in the league the girls prepared well for the Leinster junior championship but met a powerful Wicklow side who were on route to claiming the All Ireland title. An early exit from the provincial campaign pitted Kilkenny against Carlow in the TG4 All Ireland series at Tinryland but this time the home side were better prepared. A 3-12 to 4-02 defeat saw Kilkenny needing a win against Louth to stay in the series. The cats lost four players with injury days before the game and were no match for last year's beaten finalists who gave an exhibition of point scoring to win 2-20 to 2-02 and progress to the All Ireland semi final.

While juvenile football development is progressing in the county a lot of work is needed at adult level with a pool of only about 60 adult players to pick from. However that determined and ambitious streak remains, and the senior club championship has become more competitive. With the right level of commitment and positive approach by clubs Kilkenny



Thomastown Ladies Football team who defeated Gowran in the Roinn A Primary Schools Final in



Gowran Ladies Football team who were defeated by Thomastown in the Roinn A Primary Schools Final



Kilmanagh Ladies Football team who defeated KSP in the Roinn B Final in Palmerstown.

ladies are well capable of matching the best in next year's All Ireland series.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AT UNDERAGE LEVEL.

2011 has been the most progressive year

at underage level in ladies football with the birth of a new club in Kilkenny City while Thomastown continue to thrive at u14 and u16 level. Piltown - now in their second year, created a stir in Tipperary reaching the u16 semi final. With just

three underage teams in the county competition had to be sought in Carlow, Wexford and Tipperary, but in 2012 that could be set to change. The eight week Gaelic for Girls programmes in Graiguenamanagh and Castlecomer were launched in October with 130 girls aged 9-13 attending between both venues. Under 13 county development training also got underway in September with 80 girls turning up weekly. This level of interest must be progressed and the formation of two or three new clubs in 2012 could see the future of football secured.

2010/2011 PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Twenty four schools took place in the 2011 Primary Schools league which is now in its sixth year and continues to unearth some exciting talent for the future. Many of the girls in recent years have gone on to win provincial silverware at u12 u14 and u16 level.

Roynn A Final:

Thomastown 5-8 Gowran 1-1

Thomastown; Niamh Sheehy, Bláthnáid Galway, Mary Kate Walsh, Ashleigh Morrissey, Deirdre O Donohue, Orla Gardiner, Aoife Holden, Rachel Walsh, Ashling Barcoe, Fern Van Rooyen, Saidhbhe Behan, Laura Buckley, Niamh Costigan, Rachel Murphy, Eimear Farrell, Iona Gardner, Ailis O' Shea, Jill O'Neill, Ciara Gardiner, Tara O'Neill, Rebecca Walsh, Jennifer McGuinness. Mentors; Breda O Shea, Fiona Power

Gowran; Ruth Brennan, Ashleigh Booth, Charlotte Booth, Leah Brennan, Charlotte Kehoe, Ellen O'Donnell, Stephanie Fitzgerald, Anna Felix, Christine O'Donnell, Mary Dreeling, Grace O'Donnell, Sarah Gittens, Aoife Naddy, Heidi Sheridan, Claire Farrell, Laura Nevin, Rebecca Nevin, Sarah O'Neill, Kate Drennan, Emer Naddy, Nicole Carter, Tiffany Fitzgerald, Hannah Brennan.

Mentor; Claire Hoare. Referee; Sean Cleere.

Player of the Match

Ailis O Shea (Thomastown)

Roynn B Final:

Kilmanagh 1-5, KSP 1-3.

Kilmanagh; Christine Caldbeck, Kayleigh Nolan, Celine Dwyer, Sarah Ging, Anna Robinson, Maggie Delaney, Aideen Murphy, Niamh O Connor, Emer Keoghan, Siun Corcoran, Amy O'Brien, Rebecca O'Neill, Therese Purcell, Lisa Hogan, Aimee Muldowney, Rachel Maher, Claire Kelly, Shauna Muldowney, Katie Brennan, Maeve Ging, Leah Lanigan, Shauna O'Brien, Laoise Prendiville, Claire Quigley, Tara Walsh. Mentors; Elaina Byrne, Kathleen Cahill.

KSP; Derbhla Donnelly, Niamh Mc Mullan, Catherine Fortune, Isabella Carey, Alannah Blackweir, Abigail O Keeffe, Liza Hurley, Gaia Mazzarello, Beth Behan, Andi Snyder, Jenny Murphy, Nancy Mc-



KSP Ladies Football team who were defeated by Kilmanagh in the Roynn B Primary Schools Final



Owning/Templeorum Ladies Football team who defeated KSP in the Roynn C Primary Schools Final



Carrickshock Ladies Football team who were defeated by Owning/Templeorum in the Roynn C Primary Schools Final

Donagh, Sophie Treacy, Sian Fitzpatrick, Eva Carrigan, Aine O'Neill, Chloe Dalton, Holly Smith, Sinead Crowley, Kirsty Gornicka.

Mentor; David Weadick.

Referee; Sean Cleere.

Player of the Match

Niamh McMullan (KSP).

Carthy, Laura Cullen, Catherine Hearne, Aoife Doyle, Emer Long, Laura Power, Sophie Holden, Fiona Long, Amy Walsh, Sara Jane Brophy, Niamh Foley, Anna Frisby, Megan Byrne, Hayley Starr, Laura O Dwyer, Katie Grey, Clodagh Butler, Laura Dwyer, Marie Beth Kirby.

Mentor; Pat O Gorman

Carrickshock; Jenny Fennelly, Holly Moore, Emer Foran, Mairead Barron, Aoife Walsh, Leanne Murray, Kiah Dwyer, Samira Fitzpatrick, Andrea Hughes, Niamh Dunphy, Orla Grace, Grace Aylward, Margaret Irish, Hannah O Connor, Roseanne Tennyson, Shauna O Dwyer,

Shauna Dwyer.
 Mentor: Tom Duggan.
 Referee: Sean Cleere
 Player of the Match
 Emer Long (Owning/Templeorum).

Roynn D Final:

Windgap 3-8, Tullaroan 1-7

Windgap; Lisa Houlihan, Emma Slevin, Margaret Purcell, Zoe O Gorman, Aine Dunne, Caoimhe O Shea, Allanah Dunphy, Lisa Power, Niamh Moran, Mia Travers, Molly Walsh, Emer Dunphy, Lucy Culleton, Aoibheann Lynch, Jessica Butler, Laura Wall, Sara Cashin, Nikita Watters, Sara Power, Niamh Doyle, Karen Phelan, Katy Slattery, Aisling Lynch, Lucy White, Ciara Smith, Heather O'Brien, Tara Hayes, Jade O Gorman, Leah Murray, Wiktoria Rusack, Ailish Hickey.

Mentor: Deirdre O Shea



Windgap Ladies Football team who defeated Tullaroan in the Roynn D Primary Schools Final



Tullaroan Ladies Football team who were defeated by Windgap in the Roynn D Primary Schools Final

Tullaroan; Alice Walsh, Aine Lanigan, Maureen Hennessy, Ciara Walsh, Emer Lanigan, Lorraine Hoyne-Casey, Roisin Treacy, Charlotte Sealey, Eva Walpole, Sinead Keoghan, Niamh Brennan, Emily Grace, Ciara Breen, Lindsey Guthrie, Caoimhe Maher, Rebecca Cuddihy, Caoimhe Holland, Ailish Hennessy, Beth Grace, Laoise Holland, Anna McCabe.

Mentor: Breda Holmes.

Referee: Paul Whelan.

Player of the Match

Eva Walpole (Tullaroan)

OUR FIRST FEILE PEIL NA N-OG FINAL

The first Kilkenny Ladies Football Feile Peil na n-Og final took place in May at Bennettsbridge between Thomastown and newly formed side Kilkenny City. Thomastown under 14s have represented Kilkenny at Feile on four occasions being the sole juvenile club in the county, but this year they well and truly earned the right to represent the county

with a clinical but hard fought 4-7 to 0-3 victory over the new city side. The experience of Thomastown was to the fore in the second half and they were worthy representatives at the national finals in Cork. The Player of the Match award went to Kilkenny City corner back Lauren Valentine.

Thomastown gave another great display at the national finals winning their first two games and drawing with Clann Eireann to finish joint top of their group. The Armagh side qualified for the semi finals on score difference and went on to win the Division 3 final which testified how close Thomastown had come to their second national title.

Thomastown; Niamh Sheehy, Laura Tenynson, Aine Butler, Ellie Barcoe, Maeve Egan, Eimer Corr, Megan Conlan, Sarah Walsh, Ailish O Shea, Becky Walsh, Eimer Donnelly, Aoife Farrell, Bonnie Comerford, Enya Foley, Ciara Nevin, Rachel Walsh, Ava Comerford, Rebecca Nevin, Eva Walpole, Blainaid Galway, Deirdre Donohoe, Niamh Farrell, Aoife

Farrell, Ashling Cullen, Tara Treacy, Ashleigh Morrissey, Ria Lawson, Sadbhe Behan, Ciara Gardener, Orla Gardener, Sinead Fitzpatrick, Katie Quinlan, Kelsie Rice, Zoe Walsh, Aoife Holden, Aoife Naddy, Caitlin Skehan.

Kilkenny City; Claire Curtain, Ciara Brennan, Tara Callaghan, Anna Myles, Michelle Burke, Lauren Valentine, Shauna Valentine, Michelle Teehan, Ciara Deely, Ciara Delaney, Hannah Scott, Karen Lynch, Eimear McCormack, Órlaith Ní Bheaglaoich, Lucy Teehan, Niamh Deely, Aoife Cantwell, Saoirse Comerford, Neasa Galwey, Sophie O'Dwyer, Ava O' Gorman, Ally O'Keeffe, Jenny O'Keeffe, Rachel Tyrell, Laura Tynan, Jenny Murphy, Ciara Malone, Niamh McMullan, Doireann Mulhall, Sophie Molloy, Rachel Kelly, Hannah Kelly, Shannon Holohan, Aisling Cashin, Jennifer O'Keeffe, Aoibheann DePaor, Rebecca Roche, Isabella Carey, Niamh Butler. Referee: Maurice Flynn



Kilkenny Team which won Leinster C Ladies Under 16 Football final at Graiguecullen defeating Offaly on a scoreline of 4-7 to 3-4



Kilkenny City U13's Carlow League Champions

Kilkenny City Win Carlow U13 League

Many of the girls who contested the Feile final came face to face again during the summer when Thomastown and Kilkenny City Girls competed in the Carlow u13 League. The city side went unbeaten in six rounds while Thomastown finished second in their group resulting in the two sides meeting in the semi final. On this occasion the City girls were well on top winning 4-9 to 1-0 and went on to beat Bennekerry/Tinryland in the final 1-8 to 1-4 to claim the Carlow U13 title in their maiden year.

THOMASTOWN CONTEST WEXFORD U16 A' FINAL

Thomastown have worked hard at development in recent years at schools level and their success at the national Feile competitions gave them the confidence to compete with the best when they entered Division 1 of the Wexford u16 championship. The Kilkenny side turned a few heads when they qualified for the final but lost narrowly 2-7 to 2-5 to Kilmore in a hotly contested final in September.

Piltown Girls in Tipperary Semi Final
Piltown Ladies Gaelic Football Club's

second year showed continued expansion by entering minor and Under-16 teams in the Tipperary league/championship with the Under-16 team reaching the Roinn C semi final in a county who were runners-up at All-Ireland Under-16 level. Under coaches John Kavanagh and Seamus Norris, the players continue to develop, as the fledgling club works in conjunction with a successful Camogie Club and is based on the foundation of successful primary schools teams. This year five of the club's under-16 players were on the victorious Kilkenny Under-16 panel that beat Offaly in the Leinster C' Championship final. 2011 also saw a fifth Primary Schools county title in four years come to the parish as Owning and Templeorum schools combined to win the Roinn C county final following on from the success of Piltown NS in recent years.

U12 GIRLS WIN LEINSTER DIVISION 3 BLITZ

Pride of place this year went to our u12 county side who stunned all before them in the Leinster U12 blitz played in Carlow in June. This side emerged from a very successful u13 recruitment campaign and with many of the girls still under 12 they

entered the Leinster blitz with most playing competitive football for the first time. In round 1 the Kilkenny girls defeated Wexford 1-4 to 1-1 before accounting for Kildare 1-7 to 0-0 and topped the group with Carlow to ensure a local derby final. Kilkenny lead 2-0 to 0-1 at the break but Carlow fought back to finish level at 2-0 to 1-03. The winner was decided by a five point shootout with the possibility of sudden death! The young Kilkenny girls were not fazed while the excitement on the sideline among parents was fever pitch. Kilkenny pointed their first three shots while Carlow failed to convert and a loud cheer erupted as Kilkenny were crowned Division 3 blitz champions after a superb day's football.

U12 Leinster blitz champions; Laura Tynan, Shauna Valentine, Neasa Galwey, Ciara Deely, Lauren Valentine, Aobha O Gorman (capt), Jennifer O'Keeffe, Niamh Deely, Ciara Delaney, Rebecca Nevin, Kate Drennan, Saoirse Comerford, Hannah Scott, Niamh Costigan, Iona Gardiner, Danielle Morrissey, Karen Lynch, Michelle Burke. Mentors:Eoin Hennessy, Noelle Curran



Mullinavat Intermediate Champions 2011

Back:Emily Dermody, Marie Murphy, Clodagh Corcoran, Laura Whelan, Catherine Freyne, Paul Whelan(Manager), Catherine Connolly, Joanne Quinn, Hazel Butler, Aisling McDonald, Ruth Jones, Kate Kelly, Shauna Kenneally, Sarah Kelly, Esther Hendrick, Pat Murphy (Selector)
Front:Richie Windle (Trainer), Susan Dunphy, Lisa Phelan, Julieann Malone, Amy Butler, June Grennan, Claire Aylward, Emma Nolan, Deirdre Dempsey, Claire Kelly, Paula Butler, Michelle Bricks, Carol Culleton, Leanne Fenneally, Ellen Grant, Sinead Phelan

U16 C' LEINSTER CHAMPIONS

When Kilkenny claimed the Leinster u14 title last year hopes were high for a good progression to u16 level and a 4-08 to 0-08 win over Westmeath saw the girls contest the U16 provincial decider against a fancied Offaly side. The sides were level 1-03 to 0-06 at half time and a hard working display saw the cats maintain that lead to claim the Leinster crown 4-7 to 3-5. Jessie Carroll was named as Player of the Match scoring 2-3 from play while PJ Whelan and Barry Hayes received the credit they deserved having moulded this team through u12 and u14 level in recent years.

Kilkenny U16; Enya Foley; Jennifer Norris, Nelle Henderson, Maeve O'Connor; Anna Walpole, Aine Gannon (capt), Emer Fitzpatrick; Niamh Nolan, Alish Butler; Sinead Whelan (1-3), Mary O'Connell, Jessie Carroll (2-3), Jane Walker, Claire Nolan (0-1), Joanne O'Hanrahan (1-1). Subs: Alice Carey for Joanne O'Hanrahan; Niamh Quigley for Claire Nolan; Niamh Bolger for Jessie Carroll, Sarah Murphy, Ellie Barcoe, Antonio Power, Orla Butler, Jenna Power, Ciara Farrell, Caitlin Phelan, Niamh Donnelly.



Thomastown under 14 Ladies Gaelic Football team who defeated Kilkenny City Ladies Gaelic Football team in the Kilkenny Feile Final in Bennettsbridge.

KILKENNY HOMECOMING 2011

The story of Kilkennys all Ireland Homecoming has been recorded in full colour by three outside broadcast cameras on DVD. Commencing with the teams arrival with the Liam McCarthy Cup at McDonough Junction it covers the parade through the City. Travelling via John Street and High Street it includes spectacular scenes of the City and the thousands of supporters lining the route. Over an hour long it ends with the introduction of the players in the Market yard. The Brophy Butler production in association with Kilkenny County Board is on sale for €15 at all local outlets or from (056) 8832285. It also includes photos by Eoin Hennessey and Donal Foley and musical accompaniment by Na Fianna

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BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS CAMOGIE CLUB



Ballyhale Shamrocks U10 Camogie Team



Ballyhale Shamrocks U8 Camogie Team

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BLACKS & WHITES CAMOGIE CLUB



Victorious U14 Shield Champions



Junior trainer Denis Carroll with his daughter Denise Carroll with the U14 County Shield



1989 Junior Co Champions:

Back Row: Mary Murphy, Teresa Aylward, Stella Carroll, Margaret Nolan, Eva Mc Donald, Mary Aylward, Seamus Murphy (Trainer), Breda Aylward, Nancy Moloney, Kathleen Farrell, Mrs. Pat Nolan, Anne Carroll

Middle Row: Margaret Whelan, Catherine Whitty, Eileen Huff, Bernie Byrne, Stella Nolan, Marie Whitehead

Seated: Kathleen Whitehead, Mary Lyng (Capt.), Mrs Dillon (Co Board), Anne-Marie Lennon.



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CARRICKSHOCK CAMOGIE CLUB



Carrickshock Camogie club sponsored walk
The juniors members of Carrickshock Camogie club lead the charge up Kingmountain !



Carrickshock camogie u-12 County Champions.

Included: Seamus Aylward (mentor), Ciara McDermott, Eimear Foran, Kerri-Anne Power, Samira Fitzpatrick, Caoimhe Mackey, Katelynn Roche, Kiah Dwyer, Hannah McGuirk, Margaret Irish, Hannah O'Connor, Niamh Dunphy, Edwina Aylward, Orla Grace, Sinéad Crowley, Grace Aylward, Shauna O'Dwyer, Christy Dwyer (mentor).



Carrickshock u8 camogie team who competed in the u8 camogie blitz 2011



The club hosted 19 teams during the Drive for Liam quiz.
Pictured are Mairin Aylward, Pat Dwyer, Grainne Brennen and Deirdre Brennen - one of our teams



Carrickshock Cheltenham Challenge, chairman John Barron gets some advice on the geeges from young punter Moya O Shea



CLARA CAMOGIE CLUB



Theresa Aylward, Chairperson Clara Camogie Club presents Cathal Nolan with signed hurl following the Hurlathon in Wallslough.



The U8 players pictured at a Go Games Match
Included are: Erin O'Connell, Rachel Heenan, Caryn Phelan,
Peig Carrigan, Siobhan Treacy, Sinead Twomey, Katie Ryan, Rachel Whelan,
Emma Shortall, Laoise Nolan, Keara Ryan, Grainne Glynn.



Clara Intermediate Camogie players, Maria Murphy, Grainne Byrne & Roisin Byrne, wool handling at the International Sheep Shearing Competition in Cillín Hill.



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CONAHY SHAMROCKS CAMOGIE CLUB



Conahy Shamrocks under-12 camogie team, who captured the under-12 camogie title this year, the club's first county success since its formation. They beat Clara (Conahy Shamrocks 3-5, Clara 1-0) in the final.



Conahy Shamrocks under-8 camogie team



Conahy Shamrocks under-10 camogie team



DICKSBORO CAMOGIE CLUB



Dicksboro camogie team who won the James Stephens under-14 tournament in Larchfield. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

Back: Elaine Cullinane, Aine Fennelly, Emma Bawle, Ciara O'Connor, Michaela Delaney, Kirsty Maher, Pauline Ryan, Eadaoin Doheny, Anna Walsh, Jenna Raggett, Leah Murphy, Olivia Fahy.
Front: Hannah Lacey, Bevin Holohan, Ciara Phelan, Jenny Clifford, Amy Delaney, Hannah Butler, Sorcha Ryan, Eva Minogue.

Missing from photograph: Alex Lawless, Claire Kelly, Ciara O'Connor, Annie O'Connor, Katie Dubrowolska, Meabh O'Reilly, Emma Mullan, Annie Byrne.



Dicksboro under-8 Camogie team who took part in the Field day in Kilmanagh.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Dicksboro U6's who won the Kilkenny County Board Blitz this year.



The U12 Group 3 winners who won out their group this year.



Dicksboro U10's who won the Kilkenny County Board Blitz this year.



GLENMORE CAMOGIE CLUB



Glenmore Schools Camogie Team
Winners of the Roinn B Championship
beating Carrickshock in the final.

Acknowledgements

Well done to Ruth Jones(Senior) & Claire Aylward(Intermediate) on representing the club at County Level this year. The Senior panel were unfortunate not to reach the All Ireland Final after been beaten in the Semi Final. Well done to Marguirette Hoynes, Nicole Garvey, and Mia Griffin who represented the club on the u14 County Team & Bridget Fitzgerald, Emma Hoynes and Katie Foran who represented us on the Kilkenny Development Squad.Thanks to all trainers/selectors for your hard work & commitment : Alan Boyle, Andy Doherty, Elaine Nolan, Tommy Jones, Kenneth Cotteral..... & the many more who helped throughout the year including our Kit woman Mary Long. Thanks as always to the Glenmore GAA for their continued support.



Glenmore U12 Camogie Team
Winners of the Division 5 County Championship beating
Danesfort in the final.

All of the work that has been put in down through the years into the Juvenile Club is paying off with huge rewards, & we are delighted with their success again this year. With silverware for the U14's who beat St Brigid's in the Roinn B final, U12's who beat Danesfort in their final, and the Schools Team who beat Carrickshock in their final. Our u6 - u10 teams competed very strongly in all their blitz's this year & well done to you all. This is a fantastic achievement for the club well done to all the players, and thanks to all of the trainers, selectors, parents involved.

New Club Grounds Parc na Ratha - As many Clubs are now aware Glenmore GAA have moved to their new premises during the year - Thanks to all for your hard work & continued support, the facilities are fantastic and once fully completed will be one of the best around.

The Camogie Club would like to extend sympathy to those who suffered any loss throughout the year.



Glenmore U14 Camogie Team
Winners of the Roinn B Championship beating
St Brigid's in the final.
Our Minor girls competed in the 11-aside campaign this year, trained & worked very hard throughout the year. The u16's competed with great spirit, worked hard and reached the semi final but were unfortunately beaten by O'Loughlins on the day. At time of print the U21 championship is still ongoing, with one win and one loss so far, best of luck to the girls.



GRAIGNAMANAGH CAMOGIE CLUB



U10 Team which played Final Blitz Day in Danesfort
Included are: Diane Foley, Elise Holden, Tara O'Brien, Hannah Burke, Darcy Bolger, Niamh Fogarty, Ellen Delaney, Ciara Lyng, Gemma Dunne, Emma Doherty, Eimear O'Shea, Brid O'Dwyer & Eimear Holden.



U8 Team which played Final Blitz Day in Gowran -
Included are: Zoe Foley, Eimear Ryan, Laura Neville, Amy Drea, Joanne Staunton, Ciara Cushen, Jade Barron, Leah Doyle, Fiona Lyng, Hannah Burke, Aimee Connolly & Jodie Bolger.



U12 B Final Play-off Winners -
Included are: Ciara Lyng, Eimear O' Shea, Emily Murphy, Aisling Prendergast, Rachel Fenlon, Hannah Moran, Tori Crean, Abbie Bolger, Gemma Dunne, Diane Foley, Denise Byrne, Emma Fox, Sinead Lanigan, Ellen Delaney, Emma Brooks, Maeve Ryan, & Colleen Whelan.



JAMES STEPHENS CAMOGIE CLUB



James Stephens U8 Blitz Team
The club hosted 2 successful blitzes at u8 and u10 level and these blitzes were very well attended and supported. In addition an u14 blitz was held which was sponsored by AP Systems. Teams from Kilkenny and Dublin competed in this u14 blitz and it is planned to make this an annual event.

Despite the economic downturn we managed to secure sponsorship for our juvenile teams (u12, u14 and u16). The juvenile teams are sponsored by O'Dwyer Autos and this has brought an important dimension to the club which we will build on in the coming years. We wish to thank O'Dwyer Autos for their sponsorship and look forward to working with them on a collaborative basis into the future. Many thanks also to AP Systems who stepped in this year and sponsored our u14 blitz which was won by Dicksboro & St. Vincent's Dublin won the Shield



James Stephens under-14 camogie team who are sponsored by O'Dwyers Auto Centre who competed in the first James Stephens tournament in Larchfield. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Participating teams in the U8 Blitz Final.



JOHN LOCKES CAMOGIE CLUB



John Lockes Camogie U16 team after winning the shield final
Back: Aislinn McGrath, Bairbre Carroll, Eva Foley, Rachel Buckley, Andrea Nugent, Claire Bryne, Katie Delaney, Chantelle Komer, Becky Freaney, Jade Butler, Kira Laffin.
Middle: Emma Wall, Laura Hennessy, Caitlin Moore, Sarah Bergin, Victoria Dul, Linda Byrne, Aisling Butler.
Front: Caroline Murphy and Michelle Dwyer.



John Lockes U10 Camogie Team:
Included are: Aoife Butler, Sophie Burke Saidhbhinn Reid, Elizabeth Keher, Julie Green, Erin Morrissey, Ciara Bryne, Molly Fitzpatrick, Laoise Hennessy, Bo Connery, Niamh Hogan, Orla O Malley Davis, Derval McGrath, Clodagh Lynch, Sarah Roche, Hannah Keher.



John Lockes U8's Camogie Team.
Included are: Bo Connery, Laoise Hennessy, Eva Foley, Abbie Kearney, Molly Fitzpatrick, Katie Henriques, Hannah Keher, Sophie Burke, Erin Morrissey.

Well Done Kilkenny!

**Special Congratulations to
Henry on his 8th!**



Liam Aylward, MEP

Greetings to all my Supporters



KILMACOW CAMOGIE CLUB



U8 Group

Included are: Rose Sheridan, Eve Connolly, Abbie Murphy, Tara Ryan, Katie Larrissey, Marie Rockett, Daire Dowling, Saoirse Allen, Ella Doherty, Riona Kinsella.

Not Shown: Ciara McKenna.

2011 our fifth year since formation of the club, was a big year for Kilmacow, the Club fielded U8, Minor and Junior teams for the first time. Membership grew to just short of 100 members with a committee of 20 including 15 trainers. While the illusive first county title was not achieved this year, major progress was made by all teams and great fun was had by all along the way.

The many off the field activities the Club took part in included: A trip to the Rock of Cashel and a game in Boherlahann, Co. Tipperary, Trip to Kilkenny Training Session the week before the All Ireland Final. The Kilmacow Annual Fun Fiesta, Gaultier, Co. Waterford and Clane, Co. Kildare Blitz's. We provided Catering and Parking facilities at Kilmacow's Annual Point to point and once again our Annual Awards Night was a great success.

This year the Club also formed a Junior team for the first time, the girls decided not to enter the Championship this year and spent the year training hard in preparation for next year's championship.



U14 Group

Back: Claire McEvoy, Roisin Dennehy, Kirsten Maher, Sheonagh Croke, Daniella Dempsey, Avril Williams, Eimear Dolan, Anne Hayden, Niamh Kelly, Anne-Marie Kearney, Mairead McGuire

Front: Ciara Doody, Jessie Walsh, Allana Dowling, Becky Dowling, Aisling Walsh, Tara Lacey, Fiona Doyle, Mollie Harney.

With a large U14 panel we were lucky to have our U13 girls represent us in the U14 11-aside County League, where they won all their group games and went on to beat Carrickshock with a great team display in the Final in September. The U14 girls went a step further this year in moving up a grade and reaching the county final only to be beaten by a very strong O Loughlin Gaels team. The girls also entered the Annual Gaultier Blitz in County Waterford where they played teams from Wexford, Waterford, Kilkenny & Tipperary. After a number of outstanding team performances they went on to win the Shield Title. Special



Minor Group

Back: Toby Vereker, Kate Hennessy, Bernadette Deegan, Megan Butler, Amy Williams, Beibhinn O Neill, Ciara Vereker, Grainne Dolan, Grainne Langan, Siobhan Power, Ciara Kelly, Mickey Lannon.

Front Row: Kate Kelly, Kate Irish, Shannon Walsh, Leanne Purcell, Sinead Doody, Claire Purcell

The girls deserve great credit for turning up for training and matches while many of them were busy studying for exams. This was our first year fielding a Minor team and they went on to the County Final where they were beaten by Ballyhale.



LISDOWNEY CAMOGIE CLUB



U14 Lisdowney Camogie team photo 2011

Back: Emma McEvoy, Ria Grace-Cashin, Aoife O'Carroll, Jasmine Walsh, Niamh Kenny, Rosemary Brennan, Alicia Brennan, Ashling Phelan.

Front: Aoibhinn Murphy, Laura O'Sullivan, Holly Moore, Claire O'Carroll, Aimee Dunphy, Emer Kenny, Ellen O'Carroll, Chloe Mullins.

Missing from Photo Eimear Walsh, Sarah O'Gorman, Mairead Kennedy, Mairead McCarthy and Katelyn Ivory.

U21

We met Gowran in the quarter final. Every effort was put in from all the girls despite weather conditions they committed themselves well. In true Lisdowney fashion a slow first half but put a great performance in the second half to booked their place in the semi final of Rionna A against Piltown.



U8 & 10 Teams

Included are: Rachel Qually, Emer O'Carroll, Niamh Holohan, Kara Phelan, Sarah Phelan, Eva Tallis, Grace Fogarty, Eimear Tallis, Niamh McEvoy, Caoilinn Kenny, Aine Kenny, Chloe Delaney, Anna Scott, Stevie Cahill, Emily Grogan, Aoife Grogan.

Missing from photo are Emily Bergin and Miriam Fitzpatrick.



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O'LOUGHLIN GAELS CAMOGIE CLUB



U-16 ROIANN D COUNTY FINALISTS AND CORCORAN CUP BLITZ WINNERS 2011

Back row L-R Lizzy Twomey, Kelly Dowd, Chloe Tyrell, Aoife McKiernan, Kathryn Leahy, Aine Coogan, Tara Conry, Amy Bryan, Grainne Walsh, Kate Walsh, Niamh Phelan, Sophie Stapleton, Eimear Daly.
Front row L-R Shauna Conry, Caoimhe Treacy, Aoife Whelan, Danielle Randle, Laura Greene, Bronagh Cleere, Laura Murphy, Saoirse Claffey, Sinead Ryan, Becky Doyle, Alice Nolan



ST CANICE'S KILKENNY CREDIT UNION JUNIOR B CAMOGIE COUNTY CHAMPIONS AND ST CANICE'S KILKENNY CREDIT UNION JUNIOR CAMOGIE ALL COUNTY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2011

Back row L-R Richie Delaney, Phil Twomey, Tara Conry, Sam McGuni, Ena Kearns, Laura Butler, Aoife Nolan, Lizzie Kavanagh, Eimear Rodgers, Shauna Brennan, Aisling Butler, Jane Larkin Flynn, Amy Bryan, Kate Walsh, Seanie Cummins, Gerry Buckley.
Front Row L-R Aeron Maher, Karen Cleere, Sarah Burke, Mags Shortall, Karen Galvin, Rebecca Cleere, Annie Dunne, Brooke Flynn, Sarah Buckley, Stephanie Buckley.



O'Loughlin Gaels Junior Camogie Team at the O'Loughlin Gaels Awards Dinner. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



PAULSTOWN CAMOGIE CLUB



Sport in St. Bridget's Secondary School, Goresbridge 1937 to 1939

Back: Josie Lawlor, Castletkelly; -----, -----, Mary Cass, Rabhán; -----, Annie Buggy, Uppergrange.

Middle: Maeve O'Neill (Hughes), Mary Mullins, Muriel Hogan, Biddy Kirwan, Janet Drennan, Gowran.

Front: Maura Donohoe, Mary Foley; Josie Dalton, Neigham; Kathleen Murphy, Annaleck; Maura Murphy, Corner House; Kitty Kelsey, Kelsey's Cross; Bridie Somers, Josie Murphy Annaleck; Margaret Drennan, Gowran; Mary Kent, Townahaha; Gretta Walsh, Doninga; Eva Walsh, Gowran; Katty Walsh, Courtnaboughilla; Bridie Dowling Annaleck; Eilea Dunne, Barrowmount.



Paulstown/Goresbridge Roinn D Under 16 Champions 2011

Back: Katie Hanlon, Miriam Bambrick, Lauren Blake, Roisin Breen, Clodagh McDonald, Elaine Brennan, Alana Fitzgerald, Katie Mullins, Lauren Barcoe, Chloe Doyle, Paul Hunston (Trainer)
Front: Michelle Kealy, Brianna Walsh, Grace Hennessy, Becky Murphy, Sarah Kelly, Rebecca Holden, Aideen O'Connor, Sarah Hunston, Samantha Tomane, Nicole Dwyer



PILTOWN CAMOGIE CLUB



U16 Roinn C Co Champions
Back:- Seamus Dunne, Mairead Power, Sinead McCarthy, Siobhan Dermody, Jennifer Norris, Laura Foley, Jean Power, Edel Long, Sorcha Phelan, Niamh Dermody, Laura Norris, Brid O'Shea, Ashling McGowan, Jessica Norris, Eamon McGowan
Front:- Jean Power, Sarah Murphy, Lorraine Long, Kate-Lynn Phelan, Ellen Commins, Debbie Phelan, Alice Talbot, Leanne Dunne



U8 Piltown Blitz Winners
Included are: Grainne Coffey, Amy Grace, Patsy Kenny, Jessica Kelly, Aine Doyle, Fiona Downey, Alanna Curran, Mia Norris, Aoife Doyle, Ellen O'Keefe, Roisin McEmery, Molly O'Dwyer, Melissa Byrne, Ciara Dunne,



U16 Roinn B Co Champions
Back: Aine Power, Chloe Holden, Siobhan Dermody, Mairead Power, Jennifer Norris, Ellen Commins, Ciara Phelan, Jean Power, Chloe Blackmore, Edel Long, Niamh Dermody, Siobha Phelan, Antonia Power, Sarah Murphy
Front: Sinead McCarthy, Kelly-Anne Doyle, Lisa McCarthy, Lorraine Long, Kate-Lynn Phelan, Debbie Phelan, Alice Talbot, Aoife Norris, Sinead Walsh, Nicola Phelan, Fiona Long, Shauna Cody

Kilkenny U12 Mini League B series winners

Included are: Teresa Kirby, Andrew McCarthy, Tom Holden, Maura-Beth Kirby, Sophie Holden, Michelle O'Shea, Laura O'Dwyer, Hilary Balding, Catherine Di-neen, Marie Phelan, Alana Gallagher, Marlise Flynn, Sheila Norris, Niamh Foley, Emily McCarthy, Jenny O'Dea, Sara Tobin, Anna Frisby, Megan Byrne, Anna Dowley, Aoife Doyle, Olivia Roman, Sarah Brophy, Lisa Norris, Caoimhe O'Callaghan, Chloe Power, Emer Long.





ROWER INISTIOGE CAMOGIE CLUB



Under 14 Team

Back: Aoife Deevy, Laura Hackett, Aideen Foskin, Catriona Meaney, Deirdre O Neill, Claire Lyng, Rachel Dwyer, Laura Lyster, Sarah Ryan.

Front: Lily O Keeffe, Megan Whelan, Roisin Leahy, Grace Malone, Jo-Anna Galavan, Sarah Grace, Aisling Kelly, Ciara Foskin, Mary Walsh, Sinead Kelly.

Beaten in semi final by O Loughlin Gaels.
Team Captain: Shared among all the girls throughout the year.

Team manager and selectors: Anne Grace, Anna Galavan, Francis Walsh and Deirdre Brennan.



Primary School Team

Included are: Aoife Bolger, Hollie Cullen Fitzpatrick, Sinead Kelly, Lily O'Keeffe, Grace Malone, Megan Whelan, Laura Hackett, Dearbhail Kelly, Joanna Galavan, Ciara Foskin, Aoife Burke, Roisin Leahy, Laura Nolan Breen, Sarah Grace (Cpt), Mary Walsh and Niamh Fogarty.



Under 21 Team

Back: Gerry Lyng, Donal Kavanagh, Bridin White, Andrea Lyng, Kelly Hamilton, Lisa Gannon, Michelle Murphy (Captain), Aoife Hanrahan, Emma Kavanagh, Jane Cullen, Bridgette Doyle, Ciara Lyng, Aoife Lyng, Nora Hanrahan, John Doody. Front: Mairead Kennedy, Tara

Kennedy, Mairead Grace, Christine Lyng, Fiona Carroll, Elaine Fleming, Aine Gannon, Debbie O Mahoney, Laura Muldoon, Aoife Hanrahan, Eadaoin Leahy, Michael Doyle.

The club won the 2010 county final in April this year. They defeated Paulstown on a score line of 2-7 to 1-6. Team captain was Shelly Murphy. Team manager and Selectors: Donal Kavanagh, Michael Doyle, Gerry Lyng. Team Physio: John Doody.



Under 12 Team

Beaten by Thomastown in Final.)

Included are: Lily O'Keeffe, Sarah Codd, Olivia Brennan, Emma Tennyson, Ciara Foskin, Joanna Galavan, Dearbhail Kelly, Laura Hackett, Laura Nolan Breen, Laoise Woods, Ann Whelan, Mary Walsh, Caoimhe Flanagan, Niamh Fogarty, Sinead Kelly (Cpt), Aoife Burke, Hollie Cullen Fitzpatrick and Roisin Leahy.

Team manager and Selectors: Anne Grace, Anna Galavan, Francis Walsh and Deirdre Brennan.

Intermediate:

The intermediate progressed to the All county league Final, but were unfortunately defeated by a point by Dieskboro. In the championship, the girls were beaten in the quarter final stages by Piltown. Team captain: Emma Hynes. Team manager and selectors: Michael Doyle, Gerry Lyng & Donal Kavanagh. Team Physio: John Doody.

Representatives at inter county:

Under 16: Defeated by Tipperary in the All Ireland Final: Aine Gannon and Christine Lyng.

Under 18: Who were beaten in the All Ireland Final by Tipperary: Jane Cullen, Kelly Hamilton, Emma Kavanagh and Aoife Lyng

Senior Level: Defeated by Galway in the All Ireland Semi Final: Kelly Hamilton and Lizzie Lyng.

The club would like to extend a big *go raibh Mile* to all players, managers, trainers, selectors, physio, first aid, and officials who gave huge commitment throughout the year to the camogie club. All this work is done on a voluntary basis and it is so much appreciated. We would also like to thank local pubs for hosting various fundraisers, and of course thank you to the supporters who came to such events and games during the year.



ST ANNE'S CAMOGIE CLUB



U-16 Leinster Champions 2011- St.Anne's panel members
Siobhan Corcoran , Sarah Whelan, Mary Corcoran and Niamh Sweeney



U-16 County Champions 2011
Back: Alannah Purcell (Trainer), Alison Muldowney, Chloe Purcell, Rachel Dermody, Laura Whelan, Sarah O'Sullivan, Kieran Brophy (Selector), Ellen Fitzpatrick, Sabrina Quinlan, Meabhdh Ryan, Karen Brennan, Danielle Neary, Lauren Stanley, Aoife Sweeney, Deanna Phelan, Sarah Dermody (Trainer)

Front Row- Sarah Phelan, May Doyle-Ryan, Caoimhe Glendon, Mary Corcoran, Niamh Sweeney, Siobhan Corcoran, Maria Cullinane, Edel Hughes, Amy Keelan, Marion O'Connell



Minor 2011 St. Anne's
Back: Deanna Phelan, Karen Brennan, Chloe Purcell, Meabhdh Broderick, Sarah Dermody, Siobhan Corcoran, Eimear Grace, Sarah Whelan
Front: Edel Hughes, Maria Cullinane, Marion O'Connell, Niamh Sweeney, Mary Corcoran, Niamh Cullinane



St. Anne's U-8
Included are: Katie Ryan, Mille Doyle-Ryan, Kevin Cullen, Nonnie Lavelle, Sarah McCarthy, Eve Walsh, Emer O'Loughlin, Roisin Mackey, Laura Phelan, Aoife Whyte, Kate Doyle, Kady Downey.



Intermediate Team 2011
Back Row Laura Murphy, Sinead Doherty, Jean-Anne Phelan, Niamh Cullinane, Tara Warren, Caitriona Brennan, Sarah Dermody, Marion Holohan, Claire Hughes.
Front Row Eimear Grace, Meabhdh Broderick, Catherine Doherty, Claire Phelan, Edel Maher, Marion Ryan, Siobhan Corcoran, Orlaith Curran.



ST BRIGID'S CAMOGIE CLUB



St Brigid's U14 picture Féile Runners Up

Names as follows for the pic

Bk Row: Denis Nolan (Trainer), Therese Purcell, Celine O'Dwyer, Lisa Hogan, Christine Caldbeck, Anna Robinson, Emma Wall, Caoimhe Murphy, Ciara Murphy, Ashling Kelly, Ann Doheny, Margaret Delaney, Helen Murphy (Trainer)
Fr Row: Kayleigh Nolan, Katie Cahill, Sarah Ging, Aimee Muldowney, Rebecca O'Neill, Niamh O'Connor, Eadaoin Murphy, Clair Kelly, Siún Corcoran, Eimear Keoghan, Charlotte Mccluskey

The club had two County U14 Players - Ciara Murphy and Ann Doheny and congrats to Ashling Dunphy who was nominated for an All star award.



St. Aidans National School - Primary school Roinn A champions 2011

Included are:

Niamh O'Connor, Clair Kelly, Eimear Keoghan, Siún Corcoran, Aimee Muldowney, Sarah Ging, Rebecca O'Neill, Therese Purcell, Celine O'Dwyer, Caitlin O'Keefe, Margaret Delaney, Eadaoin Murphy, Kayleigh Nolan, Lisa Hogan (C), Anna Robinson, Christine Caldbeck, Amy O'Brien, Shauna Muldowney, Helen Murphy Teacher + (Manager)



St. Brigid's under-8 Camogie team who took part in the Field day in Kilmanagh.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Sarah Harrison, Patrick Dowling, Lucy Egan, Mollie and Bill Guiry at the Field day in Kilmanagh. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



WINDGAP CAMOGIE CLUB



Windgap National School Cumann Na Mbun Scoileanna Roinn "D" Camogie team under trainers teacher Deirdre O'Shea and Kathleen Purcell. The school also won the county football final. The squad was: Jessica Butler, Mya Travers, Margaret Purcell, Niamh Moran, Lisa Power, Molly Walsh, Caoimhe O'Shea, Alanna Dunphy, Aine Dunne, Lucy Cullen, Lisa Houlihan, Zoe O'Gorman, Laura Wall, Nikita Watters, Sarah Cashin, Katy Slattery, Niamh Doyle, Sarah Power, Karen Phelan, Aoibheann Lynch, Emma Slevin, Aisling Lynch, Heather O'Brien, Emer Dunphy, Leah Murray, Jade Travers, Ciara Smith, Tara Hayes, Lucy White, Aloise Hickey.



Windgap Under eights at blitz in Piltown includes Sarah Cullen, Aoibheann Holden, Nathania Jackson, Niamh Walsh, Mya Boyce, Victoria O'Brien, Cliodhna O'Shea, Sarah Gleeson, Orlaith O'Shea, Sontae Jackson Ciara Fleming, Eimear Smith



Tullahought Camogie Team Mid 1940's:
 Back: Ettie Walsh Ballyeas Lane, Kitty O' Shea Clashnasmwth, Mickie O' Sullivan, Kitty Maher Poulrone, Kathleen Quinn Poulrone.
 Middle: Margaret Crowley Kilmacoliver, Lena O' Shea Clashnasmwth, Eileen Norris Lamogue, Josie O' Shea Birchwood, Clare Purcell Baunreigh.
 Front: Josie Butler Inchnagloch, Ita O' Shea Clashnasmwth, Mary Crowley Tullahought.
 Colours worn were Orange with Green Sashes.



Windgap Senior League County Finalists:
 Back: Anne Marie Phelan, Denise Gaule, Eleanor Downey, Phena Heffernan, Terri Mackey, Aisling Cody, Elaine O'Shea, Niamh Phelan, Leanne O'Neill, Joanne Cody, Catherine Foley, Clare Grace.
 Front: Laura Moore, Susie Dunphy, Sarah McCarthy, Julie Walsh, Laura Walker, Nicola Moore, Gemma Long, Alison Walsh, Niamh Bambrick, Lisa Phelan.



Windgap Minor County players with the Leinster Trophy
 Niamh Phelan, Laura Moore, Captain,
 Niamh Bambrick



YOUNG IRELANDS CAMOGIE CLUB



Junior League Champions 2011:

Aoife Connolly, Mary Evelyn Drennan, Elaine O'Neill, Niamh Quinlan, Lizzie Byrne (Vice Capt), Kelly Treacy, Mary Carroll, Aisling Carey, Mag Simpson, Mairead Fogarty, Miriam Holden, Elaine Rudkins, Sarah Ann Quinlan, Ber Nolan, Ann Drea, Quinlan, Fionnuala Quinlan, Janet Hutchinson, Aisling Hennessy, Emma Comerford, Kay Drea, Nessa Farrell, Paula Farrell, Cara O'Neill (Captain), Eibhlín Fogarty, Amy O'Neill, Orlaith Byrne. Trainers: Alan Doyle, Suzie Kennedy, Joe Horgan.

In 2011, Young Irelands Camogie Club also reached the the Junior A County Final, the Junior B All County Final and the Under 18 Roisin B Final.



Under 6's Final Day of Coaching '11:

Ellie Murray, Aisling Fitzpatrick, Ava Timmins, Ruth Kavanagh, Marie O'Keeffe, Ciara Bryan, Julie Lennon, Katie Pitt, Ella Kate Convery, Robin O'Brien, Aine Delehanty, Jayne Farrell, Roisin Brennan, Abi Delaney, Georgina Dunne, Ella Middleton, Zara Carey. Coaches: James Bryan, Brian Corbett & Declan Timmins



Under 8's Final Day of Coaching '11:

Emma Farrell, Stephaine Dunne, Rebecca Lennon, Maeve O'Neill, Peig Keating, Niawh Corbett, Alicia Brennan, Rose Prendergast, Marie O'Keeffe, Ciara Jolley, Julia Patterson & Shannon Crosbie. Coaches: Mary Higgins, Mary Evelyn Drennan & Pat Farrell.



Under 10's Final Day of Coaching '11:

Sarah O'Neill, Lisa Prendergast, Roisin Jolley, Aisling Rudkins, Amy Lennon, Zoe Fenlon, Laura Nevin, Miriam Brennan, Rachel Doyle, Orla Byrne, Ciara O'Keeffe, Anna Patterson, Sarah O'Donnell, Heidi Sheridan, Leah Brennan, Laura Langton, Aoife Farrell, Eimear Naddy, Tiffanie Fitzgerald, Taylor Manley, Saoirse Smith, Meighan Darcy, Reece Carter, Leah Phelan, Aisling Kavanagh, Maddy Lawson, Maria Nolan, Louise Kelly, Hannah Brennan, Eva O'Donnell. Coaches: Billy O'Keeffe, John Byrne, Paul O'Donnell & Bernie Fitzgerald.



Under 14 Team who were defeated by Blacks & Whites in the Roisin C Shield Final 2011: Kate Drennan, Bonnie Comerford, Michell Kehoe, Louise Walsh, Linda Delaney, Niamh Walsh, Ava Comerford, Charlotte Booth, Charlotte Kehoe, Roisin Bolland, Megan Ryan, Ashley Booth, Aoife Naddy, Roisin Byrne, Darragh Brown, Aine Smith, Katie Quinlan, Rebecca Nevin, Steffi Fitzgerald, Katie O'Neill, Nicole Carter.



Club Gallery



BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS



Facing the Elements before Drawn County Final 2011 (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

While the Senior panel were fortunate enough to make the County Final, the replay saw them fall to James Stephens.

The Special Junior A panel, looked after by John Drennan (Manager), Michael Hoyne and Ger Fennelly Sr, exited the championship at quarter-final stage. They were defeated by The Rower-Inistioge after extra time by a mere point, 0-17 to 0-16, when a last second piledriver of a free by Eoin Doyle was deflected over the bar. That this team was not far off was underlined when these opponents went down by three points to Tullaroan in the County Final.

SPECIAL JUNIOR Eoin Knox, Ger Holden, Michael Dermody, Tom Coogan, Keith Nolan (captain), Kieran Grace, Willie Coogan, Joey Holden 0-2 (1f), Seán Malone, Liam Grant, Ger Fennelly 0-2 (1f), Michael Carroll, Conor Walsh 0-1, Donnchadh Fitzpatrick 0-2, Enda Fitzpatrick 0-8 (5f, 1 65). Subs: Brendan Costelloe for Seán Malone (38m), Richard Deasy [inj], Steven Donnelly for Liam Grant (ht et), Eoin Doyle 0-1 (f) for Tom Coogan [inj] (9m), Martin Healy, Michael O'Sullivan, Richie Reid (unavailable).



Ballyhale Shamrocks Hurling Teams at the Go Games in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

The Juvenile section, under new Chairperson Noreen Malone, enjoyed a satisfactory season, earning some silverware along the way. A highlight was the visit of Mourne GAA Club in July. Mourne are trying to spread the gospel of hurling in parts of County Down known only for football. The club was honoured to receive their request and the visit went off in fine style.

The U8s, mentored by John Corcoran (Manager), Enda Fitzpatrick and Noel O'Keeffe, had a busy season. Lots of good work was done and they participated in the Danesfort and Dicksboro tournaments.

The U10s were equally busy. Mentored by Paul Coady (Manager) and Jimmy O'Dwyer, with the help of Brian Cody and Patrick Mullen, they participated in the Bord na nÓg League and the Slieverue Tournament. Playing at home in the Kitty Aylward Memorial Tournament, they were defeated by eventual winners Thomastown United.



Duggan Steel Kinn B Hurling Championship U16 Winning Team, with the cup after their win over Thomastown in Mullinavat. (Photo: Liam Maher (WMCM Photography).)

The Juvenile highlight was triumph at U16HC B, a panel looked after by Michael O'Sullivan, Seán Reid (Manager) and Jimmy Walsh. Having lost a league semi-final to Conahy Shamrocks, this team went up several gears for the championship and were decisive winners in all subsequent ties. The County Final saw Thomastown United defeated by 2-19 to 2-8.

U16 Conor Reid, Conor Phelan, Brian Butler (captain), Seán Donnelly, Patrick Malone, Darren Mullen, Eugene Aylward, Kevin Mullen 0-1 (f), James Deasy 0-3, Brian Cody 0-2, Ronan Corcoran 0-4, Joe Cuddihy, Luke Donnelly, Patrick Mullen 2-9 (0-4f), Mark Phelan.

Subs (all used): Tom O'Keeffe for Mark Phelan (43m), Patrick Doyle for Luke Donnelly (47m), Adrian Mullen for Joe Cuddihy (58m), Dylan Aylward for Conor Phelan (60m), John Hession for Patrick Mullen (60m).

The Minors, with the same men at the helm as at U16, were somewhat unlucky in going down by a point to Mullinavat at quarter-final stage, 3-11 to 1-16. Their opponents enjoyed a comprehensive win over St Patrick's in the County Final.

MINOR Liam Elvidge, Patrick Malone, Brian Butler, Eugene Aylward, Steven Donnelly, Eoin Doyle, Seán Malone, Kevin Mullen, Conor Walsh 0-2 (1 65), James Deasy 0-1, Richie Reid (captain) 0-1 (9f), Ronan Corcoran, Brian Cody, Patrick Mullen 1-2, Dylan Doran.

Subs: Seán Donnelly, Tom O'Keeffe, Mark Phelan.



Mourne Hurling Club from County Down with some players from Warrenpoint on their first visit to Ballyhale Shamrocks, pictured with Senior Kilkenny Hurlers, Henry Shefflin and T.J. Reid. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

The U12s, mentored by Eddie Devereux, Michael Kenneally, Paul O'Donoghue, Tommy Shefflin (Manager) and John Shortall, played many challenges and were active from early in the season. They won the Richie Young Perpetual Shield, a league run by Tulloher-Kosbercon.

The U14s, looked after by Enda Fitzpatrick, Séan Holden and Patrick O'Sullivan (Manager), lost to Mooncoin by a point after extra time in the championship semi-final. The disappointment was severe but the overall curve of the season was upward, with the team winning all its league ties.

U14 Conor Reid, Enda Kenneally, Patrick Doyle, Patrick Hearne, Adrian Mullen, Conor Phelan (vice captain), Dylan Aylward, Luke Donnelly 0-1, Kevin Fennelly, Evan Shefflin 1-0, Joe Cuddihy (captain) 1-0, John Hession, Adam Brenner, Darren Mullen 0-9 (5f), Eoin Kenneally.

Subs: Eoin Cody for Eoin Kenneally (39m), Darragh Corcoran 1-0 for Adam Brenner (39m), Martin Davis, Conor Doyle, Paul Holden, Dean Mason, Andrew Moran, Keelan O'Donoghue, Eoin Walsh.



Club Gallery



BARROW RANGERS



Paulstown/Goresbridge Juveniles Under 16 Hurling League Champions 1977

Back: Michael Whitley, Dick Donohue, Tony Butler, Joe Meaney, John Whitley, Michael Brennan, Kevin Mahon, Pat Purcell, Pat Holmes, Tony Davitt, Seamus Mullins.
Front: Charlie Purcell, Michael Nolan, Michael Hennessy, John Brennan, Martin Dalton, John Brennan, Joe English, David Holmes, John English, Martin Donohue, John Barcoe, Dan Murphy.



Barrow Rangers Hurling Teams at the Go Games in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Richie Doyle, a member of Kilkenny senior All Ireland winning Panel. Richie has the distinction of being the first Senior All Ireland Hurling winning medalist from the club.



Men from Mahers Pub (left) and Blakes Pub (right) take the strain at the Goresbridge Field Day.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Adam Barcoe throwing horse shoes at the Goresbridge Field Day.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Club Gallery

BENNETTSBRIDGE



Bennettsbridge U12's 2011

This year the club had a thriving juvenile section with teams competing at under 6, 8, 10, & 12. Great work is being done with all these teams as is seen with the under 10's reaching the final of the Thomastown tournament and the under 12's reaching the final of the Conahy Tournament



Bennettsbridge U14's 2011

The under 14's had an eventful year and just didn't get the breaks when it mattered going down to Dunnamaggin in the championship.



Some of the kids having a great time at the Bennettsbridge Fun Day. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Kilfane HBC Feile na nGael

The club was well represented at the Feile na nGael by five handballers from the Kilfane club. They were very narrowly defeated by Mallow in a playoff.



Young Kilkenny fans from Bennettsbridge shouting on the cats to an All-Ireland victory. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Club Gallery

BLACKS & WHITES



Blacks & Whites Blitz U8 Team



Blacks & Whites Blitz U10 Team



Blacks & Whites U11 Team in Ballingarry Blitz



Blacks & Whites U8 Team in Croke Park



Blacks & Whites U11
Camaint 1999

Back: C. O'Grady, J. Lennon, P. Murphy (capt.), J. Savage, F. Ryan, R. Kirwan, D. O'Dowd, D. Joyce, E. Ryan, J. Foley, M. Moloney.

Middle: A. Kelly, C. Cleere, M. Whelan, A.M. Lennon, M. Savage, R. Barcoe, M. Barcoe. Front: K. Doherty, J. Lennon, J. Kennedy, A. O'Dowd.



Club Gallery

CARRICKSHOCK



U6 Carrickshock team 2011
Pictured at a blitz in Windgap Summer 2011



U10 Carrickshock team 2011
Pictured at a blitz in Windgap Summer 2011



Carrickshock senior team collect the first silver wear of 2011 season beating winning the Mick Kelly tournament hosted by St Mollerans, Carrick on Suir.



U8 Carrickshock team 2011
Pictured at a blitz in Windgap Summer 2011



Declan Lennon and Padraig Crowley pictured with the u10 Carrickshock team at Nowlan Park during the go games blitz



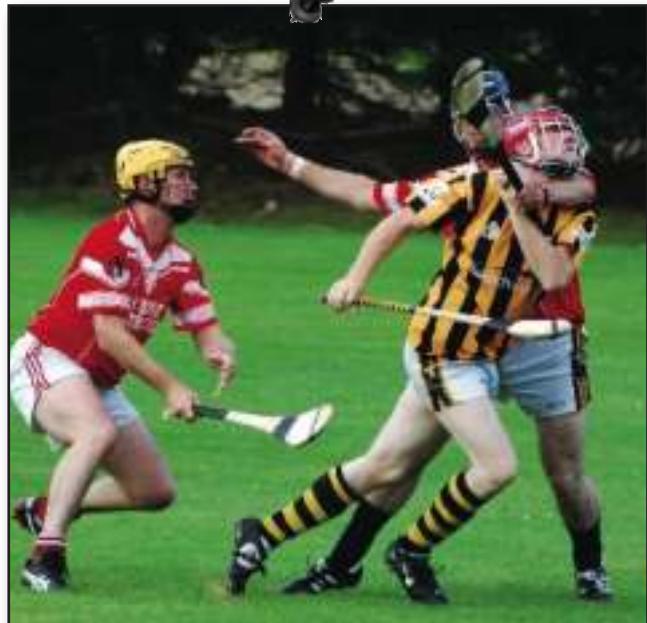
Pictured at Callan golf club, Sharon Ireland, Liam Duggan, our guest for the weekend Mick O Dwyer and our own legend Richie Power.



Club Gallery



CARRIGEEN



Fintan Dermody tearing for the goal: Carrigeen v Windgap / Hugginstown
24th July 2011.



Kevin Kennedy surrounded by Borris-on-Ossory hurlers with Chris O'Hanlon and Paddy Moran awaiting the outcome...



Getting ready for the fray: Carrigeen v Windgap / Hugginstown / 24th July 2011.



Carrigeen Committee; guess the year!



Carrigeen and Borris-on-Ossory GAA club gather at Bob O'Keeffe's homestead in Glengrant, Carrigeen.



Carrigeen v Windgap in Hugginstown: Southern Quarter Final Junior B. Carrigeen 0-9 / Windgap 1-12 / 24th July 2011

Back: Walter Morahan, Adam Skehan, John Jacob, Stephen Blackmore, John Hearne, Paddy Moran, Chris O'Hanlon, Richie Roche, Kevin Kennedy, Vinnie Power, Geoffrey Dobbyn, Michael Doyle, Eugene O'Neill.

Front: Fintan Dermody, Ivan Tobin, Patrick Dalton, Kevin Law, Jamie Carroll, Cathal O'Keeffe, Paul Walsh, Kevin Murphy, Hilary Óg Delahunt, Pa Walsh.

Carrigeen began their championship by drawing with Carrickshock. They followed this up with a narrow three point loss to Mooncoin in Asper Park. Next was a win against The Rower Inistioge followed by another win; this time against Mullinavat in Asper Park. The club was knocked out by Windgap in the Southern Quarter Final.



Club Gallery

CLARA



The Under 10 Team that played in Nowlan Park and the O'Loughlin Gaels Tournament. Members of the team were: Brandon Ryan Cathal Nolan, AJ Dobbyn, Jack Murphy, Dara Glynn, Charlie Ryan, Shane Staunton Craig Cummins, Jason Doheny, James Casey, Evan Whearty, Luke Whelan, Paul Cody, Conor Cody, Patrick Phelan, Ben Prizeman and Ruairí Breen.

The Under 12 Team that played in Nowlan Park. Members of the team were: Leo Barco, James Bergin, Jordan Brennan, Bill Cody, Patrick Darcy, Joe Delaney, Luke Dobbyn, Killian Fitzgerald, Glenn Fornley, Eoin Hardling, Brian Harrington, Alex Johnston, Harry Jordan, Conor Kealy, Jim Kehoe, Dylan Kinchella, Luke Kinchella, Jack Carrigan, Jack O'Connell, Martin O'Connell, Rory O'Keeffe and Jack Walpole.



Some players that took part in a 12 hr hurl-a-thon this year. All money raised at this fundraiser went into the Camogie and Hurling club for the upgrade and development of new and existing facilities.



The Clara Senior Hurling Team who won the 1986 County final. Members of that team were: Back Row L. to R: Tom Ryan, Tom Lennon, Stephen Whearty, Brian Barco, Paddy Prendergast, Gerry Nolan, Anthony Prendergast, Liam Ryan. Front Row L. to R: Lester Ryan, Harry Ryan, Tom O' Shea (capt.) Johnny Ryan, Kevin Ryan, Tony Byrne, Pat Campion.

Tom O' Shea lifts the Tom Walsh Cup after Clara beat Ballyhale Shamrocks 3-10 to 4-5 in the 1986 Kilkenny County Final. This year is the 25th anniversary of that great win.



Club Gallery

CLONEEN



Chris Curran presents Ladies Minor Doubles winners Ciara Mahon and Mary Phelan, Ladies Minor Doubles Winners with their trophies



Clogh entered 2 teams in this years Feile na nGael in Galway, 1 boys teams in 60x30 and 1 girls 40x20 teams. The boys 60x30 team won the Division 2 final beating Talbots Inch (Kilkenny) in the final. Padraig Cooney was runner up in 60x30 skills.Picture Shane Dunne, Paudraig Cooney, Brendan Hosey (Coach), Marc Purcell and Ciaran Cooney).



Cloneen U8's in Croke Park on Leinster Final day
Included are: D. Brennan, A. O'Neill, M. Flattery, S. Kelly, A. Rowe, P. Bolster, D. Buggy, S. Buggy, S. Geoghegan, C. Mooney, A. O'Neill, Calum Fogarty, Harry Roche, Ella Crennan, A. Brennan, J. Brennan, D. Kelly.

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Club Gallery



CONAHY SHAMROCKS



Blast from the Past- 25 Years On
Team captain Geoff O'Shea lifts the Hanrahan Cup as the intermediate hurlers capture the county title of 1986, defeating Piltown in the final by 1-10 to 1-7. It was the club's fourth intermediate title, having previously won in 1932, 1934 and 1977.



Kilkenny star Tommy Walsh tries his hand at the Poc Fada competition as part of the Conahy Shamrocks GAA Fun Day, organised by the Bórd na n-Óg section of the club. The day proved to be a great success with many activities for adults and children alike. There was also a Vintage car and tractor display organised by Conahy Vintage club together with an open-air market where many different items were sold. Congratulations to the Bórd na n-Óg for organising the event and to the many people who helped out on the day.



Juvenile Success
The club continues to make great progress with more numbers of children than ever being coached from under-6 to minor level. There were many highlights throughout the season, the under-13's capturing the Lismore Coca-Cola Sevens, the schools team winning a thrilling county final against Lismore, and the under-6's, under-8's and under-10's enjoying great successes in all their matches. The under-12's, pictured above, also performed superbly in winning the Jim Cowenford memorial tournament final in the Polo Grounds. Sincere thanks to all the coaches who worked tirelessly throughout the year.



Social Initiative
As part of a national Social Initiative designed by the GAA, Conahy Shamrocks GAA Clubhouse played host to a Social Initiative night which was organised by the club's social committee. The initiative is aimed at providing older people in the community, particularly men, with an opportunity to meet and socialise with other members of the locality in an enjoyable, relaxed manner. As part of the club's social night, the clubhouse welcomed former Kilkenny greats Pat Henderson, Eddie Keher, Fan Larkin, Noel Skehan and Pa Dillon who enjoyed a lively discussion, chaired by M.C. Barrie Henriques.



Club Gallery

DANESFORT



Danesfort were outright winners of the Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield in the Lismore Sevens Hurling Competition. Galway were the opponents in the final. Full time saw Danesfort win the shield on a score of 3-6 to 3-2.
 Back: John Nolan & Richie O'Keeffe (selectors), Pauric Mullen, Sean Nolan, Conor Hackett, James Mullally, Eoin O'Neill (selector), Tom Whitty (captain), Jake Cullen, Conor Morrissey, Frank Manogue (selector).
 Front: Eoin Brennan, Daire O'Neill, Diarmuid Phelan, Conor O'Keeffe, Jack Tynan, Conor Condon, Christy Wallace (selector). Well done to all players and mentors involved with the Danesfort minor team who beat Clonmel in the Rinn C County Final. The minors are chasing a League and Championship double as they have still to play the re-fixed league final against Puckabone at the time of going to press.

Congratulations to the Danesfort Intermediate team on winning the county championship for the first time in 80 years. Details in the club championship section of the yearbook. Well done also to Richie Hogan and Paul Murphy on becoming the first Danesfort clubmen to win All-Star awards. The two, along with Paddy Hogan, also won senior All-Ireland medals this year with Kilkenny.



Pictured above are the victorious Danesfort minor camogie team following their brilliant win against Gowran in the Rinn B County Final. It was a very good year for the camogie side of the club. Thanks to all players, parents, trainers and mentors for their work with the clubs various camogie teams during the year.

Back: Anthony Dunne (selector), John Fennelly (selector), Maggie Byrne, Orla Doyle, Jennifer Cunningham, Cliodhna Mullen, Mick Maher (selector), Eimear Brennan, Caroline Booth, Maria Woodcock, Eimear Fennelly, Aileen Troy, Shawna Donohue, Aoife Jone, Ali McCarthy, Rachel Phelan, Billy Ayres (selector).
 Front: Laura Dunne, Grace Brophy, Eibhlín Maher, Deirdre Phelan, Emma Ayres, Aoife Brennan, Rachel Hogan, Roisin Walsh.

Future Danesfort hurlers Noah Manogue (left) and Patrick Kelly test out the site for the new pitch. It's hoped that the new Danesfort GAA pitch will be ready for use in time for next year's championship.

Thanks to all club members and volunteers who have contributed to the development through the Danesfort Parish and GAA Lotto, fund raising and so on, your help is much appreciated.



Club Gallery

DICKSBORO



London calling - Shouting on the 'Boro in Ruislip, London, in the All-Ireland Intermediate hurling semi-final v Kilburn Gaels in February (l.-r): Pat Moylan, Jimmy McGarry, Martin Gaffney, Sam Dunlop, Frank Morrissey, Seamus Rochford, Johnny Campion, Simon Walton and Jim Murphy.



Dicksboro Club Chairman Eddie Holohan, Michael Devane, accompanied by hurling and camogie club members, officially open the new Hurling Wall (built from the proceeds of the 'King of the Castle' fundraising campaign in 2009) during Dicksboro's Lá na gClub on Sunday, 26th June 2011.



Dicksboro supports local Kilkenny City Charities - Dicksboro U8, U10 and U12 young hurlers and mentors present the proceeds of the respective Dicksboro underage tournaments to Therese Buckley (The O'Neill Centre), Anne Bawle (The School of the Holy Spirit) and Kate Walsh (The Mother of Fair Love School).



Face painting and fun at Dicksboro's 2011 'Lá na gClub' at Palmerstown on June 26th.



Dicksboro Girl Power - Dicksboro's newly founded 'Gaelic 4 Mothers' team, coached by Sean Keane, in their first ever game v. James Stephens at Palmerstown.



Club Gallery

DUNNAMAGGIN



The Juvenile Club were very lucky to have special guests Tommy Walsh and Noel Hickey attend their medal presentation in The Priory Bar Kells at the end of last year. Tommy and Noel presented the medals to the winning teams and both gave special words of encouragement to the juvenile members in attendance.



The annual award for Clubman of the Year (Shirley Cup) was awarded to Billy Heffernan. Player of the Year award went to Ken Moore who received the Rev. P. O'Neill trophy from Michael O'Neill. Club Chairman, Rev. Nicholas Flavin presented dual All-Ireland medal winner, William Phelan, with a special award from Dunnamaggin Club. William won all-Ireland medals with St. Kieran's College and Kilkenny Minors in 2010.



On Saturday 22nd Jan the parish website www.DKK.ie was officially launched. This website was developed by the GAA club and contains all information you might require about the club. It is also a portal for everything about and going on in Dunnamaggin, Kells and Kilmoganny. Pictured are committee members with local web designer Francis Nesbitt of Croan.ie



The Dunnamaggin U8 team played got a chance to play in Croke Park on July 11th where they beat Ballacolla of Laois.. The players got to walk up the famous steps and were presented with a trophy. A great day was had by all. The trip included a stop in McDonalds in Dublin and the Castle Park back in Kilkenny on the way home. Gavin Cleere, Joe Fitzpatrick, Shaun O'Keeffe, PJ O'Keeffe (trainer), Aidan O'Neill, Mickey Thomas, Denis Walsh, Daragh Walsh, Colin Fitzpatrick, Jimmy O'Neill, Jamie Cashin, Richie O'Neill (trainer) Aaron Moore, Tom Lodge, Ben Kinsella are all pictured.



Fresh from their All-Ireland victory Noel Hickey and David Herity called into the last training for U6, 8 and 10s on Saturday the 1st October . All the age groups had a chance to train, play games and have their picture taken with their heroes and got goodie bags to take home.

Obituaries

Dunnamaggin GAA club extends its condolences to all club members who suffered bereavement during the past year, especially the families of Brendan Delahunt, Paddy Phelan "Kipper" and Sean Treacy. All three men had played for the club in the past. The club would also like to extend its sympathies to the family of Mgr. Pat O'Neill, who had strong ties to the club and whose cup "The Rev P. O'Neill Trophy" is presented to Club Player of the Year annually.

May they rest in peace.



Mower the Merrier

The world record for the most ride-on lawn mowers cutting grass simultaneously in the same place for at least one minute was set at 696 mowers in Dunnamaggin on Sunday 24th July. This was the largest fundraiser Dunnamaggin G.A.A. Club has ever undertaken and the Club would like to express their sincere thanks to all who participated in the event and to all their sponsors especially the main sponsor Husqvarna. The proceeds of the event will support the Camphill Community in Ballytobin which is in Dunnamaggin parish and Dunnamaggin G.A.A. Club which is in the process of developing facilities in Kilmoganny to cater for the ever increasing needs of club members in the parish.



Club Gallery



EMERALDS



Paddy Ryan accepting his cheque from John Holohan and Chairman Tom Phelan, Secretary Brendan Coady and Treasurer Thomas Kavanagh for guessing the score of the all ireland Final. Over 4000 was raised in aid of Temple St. Children's hospital.



LOCAL HERO ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT:

In November 2010, Derek Lyng announced his retirement from inter-county hurling after ten years with the Cats. Derek made his senior debut with Kilkenny in 2001 and in the following 10 years became one of the county's key players winning 6 All Ireland senior titles, 4 National League titles and two All Star Awards, in addition to his haul of 9 Leinster titles, Railway Cup and Walsh Cup titles. He also had the honour of representing his country in two annual shinty/hurling compromise rules competitions.

Derek's commitment and work rate on the field of play allied to his skill made him a favourite of Kilkenny supporters and admired by all others in a wonderful career. Derek was and always will be a sporting hero among the young of his club and county. We wish him all the best in his intercounty retirement and look forward to him representing his club for many years to come.

Field Developments
 We undertook a lot of development work this year with the main features being:
 We established a fully equipped gym
 Developed end of our field resulting in extra training area.
 We ran a very successful Lord mayor competition with Fergus Qually the winner. He was presented his chain of office in a Field Day.
 We raised €4200 in association with John Holohan for Temple Street hospital. Most of this came for guess the score cards for the All Ireland which Paddy Ryan won.
 We have our 5 year strategic plan nearly finalised and will be presented at this year's AGM.
 We were delighted to have Aidan Fogarty picking up another All Ireland Winners medal and look forward to him winning many more.
 Lotto: our Lotto was won twice this year contrats to all.
 Monies given out: Clomanagh Squash Club: €1000., Emeralds Soccar Club: €1000.
 Ongoing funds given out each year include the St. Patricks Day Parade, Urlingford & Grain graveyard committees, Tuesday Club.
 Emeralds Gaa Club would like to thank everyone who supported our club this year and to all the people who help us out during the year.



U10s at the go games finals in Nowlan park and official opening of Johnstown Voc School astro turf

The Club would like to thank anyone who assisted with training and coaching this year - too numerous to mention. Our club was represented at County Level in the Minors by Conor Martin, Eoin Moriarty and Brian Troy. At U-17 level by Thomas Moriarty and Brian Troy. At U-15 by Niall O'Gorman and U-14 by Michael Troy. Darragh Phelan took part in the Feile in Handball.



Club Gallery

ERIN'S OWN



Mixed bag of Hurlers and Golfers

As part of Erin's Own 125 celebrations the local hurlers took on the golfers in a "match" on the 10th Hole in Castlecomer Golf Club. You will notice many great names from past glories giving the hurling one last go.



Under 12 team

Erin's Own U12 team participating in one of the many arranged tournaments for underage teams this year. The club have invested a lot of time and coaching resources into underage recently and the benefits are starting to reap rewards.



Ladies G4M team plus mentors that played in Croke park this year. Erin's Own ladies G4M travelled to Croke park this year and played a match at half time during the Senior Football Final. These ladies represented the club and won their match on the day v Antrim opposition. They have a membership of almost 70 and are going from strength to strength.



Sean Smith, Grounds man for Erin's Own retires this year after many years of great service and hard work. Sean's hard work has helped make Ballycoomey one of the best surfaces in the County.



Club Gallery

FENIANS



Fenians Hurling Teams at the Go Games in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Fenians Dinner Feb 2011 Presentation of JH "B"medals:
Jimmy Brennan (Trainer), Michael Tobin (Club Chairman),
Paul Phelan (Captain)
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Some of the students from Coláiste Mhuire, Johnstown wearing their teams colours to raise money for Goal. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

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Club Gallery



GALMOY



A snapshot of car trailers of chopped timber lined up in Galmoyle Village during our annual Club Auction in February 2011. We in Galmoyle GAA Club have been running this very important Club Fundraiser since 1999. It has been a very important source of income which peaked in 2005 when the auction yielded in excess of 15,500 euro. It is an occasion when the whole parish become involved and as can be seen from the trailers of timber in the photo, a large number of club members spend many days out cutting down trees and chopping the timber in the weeks preceding the auction. We are indebted to all our volunteers and sponsors as well as everyone who turns up on the day of the auction.



The Ladies Committee are a very important section of Galmoyle GAA Club. On many occasions during the season, particularly when hosting visiting Juvenile teams, the Ladies provide teas and food to the highest standards. One of our catering highlights in the summer of 2011 was when Galmoyle hosted Windgap in the County Junior league. After a very competitive encounter, both teams and a huge number of supporters all went upstairs in the pavilion and were excellently catered for by the Galmoyle Ladies. The accompanying photo includes Back: Hannah Drennan, Eileen Phelan, Avril Phelan, Triona Drennan (with her daughter Niamh) and Kathleen Grace. Front: Marian Grace, Ashling Delaney (with her daughter Helen) and Mary Phelan.



Galmoyle GAA Club Groundsman Nicholas Ryan fills up the club tractor with diesel before he sets out to mow the GAA Pitch. Nicholas has been doing this job for many many years and the club grounds are always in immaculate condition thanks to the care and attention given by Nicholas. During the summer months, Nicholas often mows the pitch as many as three times per week and this job takes in excess of two hours each time. Not only does Nicholas cut the playing pitch, but he also mows the grass in the adjoining Galmoyle Primary school and all green areas around the GAA Pitch. Nicholas meticulously cares for the field, but he also shows the same care for the club tractor and mower. Nicholas and his late brothers Murt and Mick all played for Galmoyle GAA Team during their careers.



The Galmoyle Club Officers pictured after the Club AGM last January 2011
Back: Jerry Drennan (PR.O. and Bord Na nÓg Rep), Sean Doherty (Co Board Rep), Phil Brennan (Northern Board Rep), Leo Doherty (Joint Treasurer)
Front Row: Liam Drennan (Secretary), Brian Doherty (Chairman) Nicky Maddock (Vice Chairman and Joint Treasurer)



The Galmoyle U-13s created their own little bit of history on August 6th 2011 when they reached the final of the shield competition in the Lisdowney Sevens Tournament for the first time ever. In the first round proper of the Lisdowney sevens Galmoyle came up against the eventual competition winners Conahy Shamrocks and having been beaten by Conahy were then qualified for the Shield competition. In the first round Galmoyle beat Mooncoin 4-14 to 1-3 and then in the semi final Galmoyle came from behind to beat James Stephens 4-5 to 2-6. In the final Galmoyle were pipped by a very good Danesfort team. The Galmoyle U-13 panel were, Eavan Morrissey, Conor Grace, Conor Drennan, Cathal Phelan, Conor Kelly, Brandon Phelan, Oisin Phelan, Billy Drennan, Jack Delaney and Ryan Murphy.



On Tuesday July 12th 2011 the Galmoyle Under Eights became the first Galmoyle team ever to play in Croke Park, when they took part in the Leinster Clubs Day. Thanks to an invitation via Kilkenny Games Coach Brian Ryan, the Galmoyle U-8s along with a large number of parents and supporters travelled to Headquarters to play against Lismagh from Offaly and emerged victorious after a very entertaining game. The club held a Table Quiz in Maguire's Lounge Galmoyle to raise funds to cover the expenses for the day and to provide a meal for the young hurlers after the game. The Players who took part included, Billy Drennan (Captain), Callum Lonergan, Matthew Delaney, Darren Kelly, Rohan Lonergan, John Dermody, Daniel Hanrahan, David Sherman, Niall Drennan, Gearoid Phelan and Jay Maguire.



Club Gallery



GLENMORE



Glenmore Under 12 Waterford City League Division 2 Winners



The Goalposts are up - the game is on!



Glenmore - 2011 SF League Champions

Back: Michael Phelan, Fergal Freyne, Darren Alyward, Kevin Alyward, Colm Foran, Richard Mullally, Emmet Vereker, Mark Alyward, Mark Phelan, John Paul Kiely, Paddy Mullally.
Front: Ger Alyward, David Flynn, Paddy Murphy, Ciaran Foran, David Garvey, Paul Phelan, Ken Cottroll, Eoin Murphy, John Cody.



Glenmore U14 Shield Final
September 2011



Working on the new Pitch



Left: U14 champions 2009
played belatedly in 2011!!!



Club Gallery

GRAIGNAMAGH



U8 Luke Roche Memorial Tournament Winners 2011

Kilkenny captain, Brian Hogan was on hand after the final whistle to present the Luke Roche Memorial Cup to the Graignamanagh joint captains Cian Murphy and Tom O'Shea. Congratulations to all the players and coaches on a well deserved victory. Team: Oisin Kelly, Ultan Irwin, Sean O'Neill, Tom O'Shea, Stephen Foley, Michael Sheehy, Cian Murphy, Mikey Fogarty, Fintan Gahan, Conor Byrne, Keelan Byrne, Dylan Drea, Patrick O'Neill, Phillip Byrne. Trainers: Darragh Kelly, Peter Murphy, Ger O'Reilly.



Sponsored Cycle to Croke Park.

In November 2010 "A sponsored Cycle to Croke Park" for the 2011 Leinster Final was launched. The brainchild of Club Secretary Jim Whelan turned out to be a very enjoyable and important fundraiser for the Club.

Names for attached Cyclists Photo on the steps of the Green Isle Hotel:

Back: John O'Byrne, Martin Bolger, Ger Dowling, Rebecca Foley, Daryl Flynn
Middle: Mark Bolger, Gerry Cosgrave, Lorraine Bolger, Shearon Holden, Roisin Sheehy, Ken Walsh & Raul

Front: Derek Butler, Alan Foley, Terry Whelan, James Phelan and Jim Whelan.



The U10's participated in Tournaments in St. Mullins, Young/Irelands, Mt. Leinster Rangers and Callan and competed strongly in all their games.

Names for U10 Team attached
Sean Cosgrave, Jason Byrne, Sean Langan, Eri Reddy, Oran Canning, Dylan Cahill, Michael O'Neill, Greg Hoban, Riley Smith, Ben Savage, David Doherty, Liam Cahill, Pierce Blanchfield, Declan Moylan, Fionn Mangan, Jack Ryan, Joseph O'Neill.



The U12's had a very good run and reached the final of the Tulloher/Rosbercon Tournament only to be defeated by a skilful free scoring Ballyhale Shamrocks side. They also won out their section of the Go Games in Nowlan Park and competed well in the Leinster League, this competition was never completed.

Michael Walsh, Shane Byrne, Niall Hayden, Dean Cullen, Sean Holden, Joe Dowling, Killian Phelan, Jack Moylan, Jim Lyng, Thomas O'Neill, Oisin Aylward, Sean Dempsey, Sean Cosgrave, Brian Bolger, Eoin Byrne, Sean Walsh, Stephen Cahill, Denise Byrne, Richard Foley, Danny Sheehy, John Cahill, Jason Byrne, Mitchell Maher, Ben Savage.



Club Gallery

GRAIGUE BALLYCALLAN



The Future



8 Time All Ireland Medal winner and club stalwart Eddie Brennan with the stars of the future,
Graigue Ballycallan U12's at Tom Ryall Park, Kilmanagh



All Ireland Bale Rolling 2011b: Competitors finish the first ever All Ireland Bale Rolling Competition at Tom Ryall Park, Kilmanagh.



The Future, Graigue Ballycallans youngest team, the U6s at Tom Ryall Park Kilmanagh



Families enjoying the many activities at the Graigue Ballycallan GAA Club Family Fun Day 2011, another huge success.



Kilmanagh V Ballycallan: Ryans Kilmanagh take on The Pound Ballycallan in an inter parish Tug of War Competition at this years Family Fun Day. Ballycallan were victorious, ensuring bragging rights for another year.



Graigue Ballycallan U8s Team Picture 2011.



Timber!! Godfrey Greene starts the bidding at the Monster Timber Auction 2011.



Club Gallery

JAMES STEPHENS



Ten Village All Stars and Guests

Back: Paul Kinsella, Chairman, Kilkenny County Board, Brian McEvoy (1999), Peter Barry (1999/2000/2002), Brian Cody (1975/1982), Phil 'Far' Larkin (1973/1974/1976/1978),

Eoin Larkin (2008/2009), Jackie Tyrrell (2007/2008/2009/2010) and Michael Ó Muirceartaigh

Front: Philip Larkin (2002), Mick Crotty (1974), Jimmy O'Brien, Chairman, James Stephens, Liam 'Chunky' O'Brien (1973/1974/1975/1979) and Joe Hennessy (1978/1979/1983/1985/1988).



Kells Road Development - Signing the Contracts

Back: Billy Walton, Cllr. Joe Reidy, Keith Kinchella, Martin Peters Associates, Robert Nolan, Nolan Construction, Liam Tyrrell, Andy O'Keefe, Auctioneer, Kieran McQuillan, Michael Moore.

Front: Martin Gittens Architect, Phil Hogan, Minister for the Environment, Jimmy O'Brien, Chairman, Ronan Thornton, Michael Boland Contractors, Emer Foley, Reidy & Foley Solrs.



Paddy Mullen Tournament

Theresa Mullen makes a special presentation to Val Malone who has been secretary of the Paddy Mullen Tournament since its commencement in 1991



Launch of Senior Club Sponsorship for 2011 by Taxback.com
Fran Whelan, Selector, Adrian Finan, Selector, Terry Clune, Taxback.com, Jackie Tyrrell, club captain, Eoin Larkin, Richie Hayes.



Club Gallery

JOHN LOCKES



In 1978 John Lockes purchased the present John Lockes site. At the signing of the contract, and financial arrangements in the AIB Office in Callan were:

Paddy Maher (RIP), Jack Lyons (RIP), Finbar Hazel (AIB), Bill O'Connor Manager (AIB Callan) (RIP), Tom Donovan, Paddy Ryan, E.J. Ryan, Joe O'Dwyer, Johnny Wall, Paddy Stapleton (RIP), John Roughan (RIP), John Stapleton, Tom Ryan, Morgan Doyle (AIB), Barry Hickey (John Locke Secretary, and AIB), Paddy Grace (County Secretary) (RIP), Barrie Henriques (John Lockes Chairman), Canon John Kennedy (PP Callan) (RIP), Paddy Buggy (Chairman Leinster Council), Valerie Hassey (AIB Callan), Fr. Liam Cassin (CC Callan), Mick O'Neill (Chairman Kilkenny County Board) (RIP).



On the road to Croker for the All Ireland Final.



Noelle Morrissey, Claire Henriques-Kirwin, Lyndsey Dunne, Keith Doheny, Kathleen Doheny before the match..



John Walker (Chairman), Tommy Sullivan (Junior Selector), Simon Burke (Captain, under-21), Robbie Jackman (Captain, Junior), Bobbie Jackman (Manager, Junior) and Pat Purcell (Selector Junior) at the John Lockes Dinner Dance in the Springhill Hotel. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



John Lockes May 1970 on Fair Green Callan (including supporters):
Back: Gar Freaney, Pat Murphy, Liam Delaney, Marty Roche, Milo Condon, Martin Cuddihy, Tom Donovan, Tom Cahill, Pat Lannon, Eamor Condon, Jimmy Coffey, Martin Murphy, Davy Kelly, Dixie Lanigan, Morty Leahy, Richie McCormack, Billy Laffin, Paddy Donovan, Pat Guiton, John Kirwan, Seanie Walsh.
Front: Pat Keating, Michael Sullivan, Tony Condon, Paddy 'Nobby' McCormack RIP, John Gardiner, Johnny Freaney, Tom Townsend, John McCormack, Tommy Rochford, Paddy Leahy, John Brennan.



Club Gallery

KILMACOW



Kilmacow U8's above, setting out for Croke Park and (below) on arrival.

Included are: Lorean Suffin, Robbie Corcorn, Donnacha Williams, Jack O'Neill, Nicky Cass, Fionn Walsh, David Williams, Tom Buckley, Josh Maher Mate, Dev Lowe Jnr, Darragh Kelly, James Foot, Adam Thompson, Evan Walsh, Sean Dowling, Ted Doyle, Niall Vogelaar, Mark Wallace, Nick Kleijn, Liam Lacey, Ciaran Murray, Paddy Regan.



Dermot Haberlain and his son Stephen at the launch



Senan Cooke author, Fr. Brian Flynn PP Kilmacow, Michéal Ó Muircheartaigh, Richard Dowling chairperson of Kilmacow GAA Club at the launch of "A history of the GAA in Kilkenny 1884 - 2010" in the Community Hall Kilmacow

The launch of "A history of the GAA in Kilkenny 1884 - 2010" turned out to be a huge success and a great occasion that will be remembered for many years when over four hundred people attended the launch in the Community Centre recently. Written by Senan Cooke and his team of researchers the book of almost nine hundred pages covers the Hurling, Camogie,

Football, Handball, Athletics and Social History of the area.

Its cover of Green, Red and Blue stripes encapsulates the colours of many of the teams including the Undefeatable, Dunkitt Ramblers and Grannagh that represented Kilmacow down through the generations. The club wishes to thank all of its members and supporters that were involved in any way with the production and occasion



Club Gallery



LISDOWNEY



Under 6 boys at end of year coaching day:
 Aaron Fenlon, Timmy Brennan, Ben Phelan, Diarmuid Langton, Luke Phelan, Tristan Nolan, Darragh Travers, Bobby Brennan, Cian Kenny, Darragh Doyle, Mikie Keating, Richard Nolan, Luke O'Donnell, Cian Phelan, David Langton, Jake Byrne, Andrew Corbett, Eoin Brennan with coaches Ciaran Phelan, Ann Drea, Tim Brennan, Annette Nolan & Fergal Byrne



Running alongside the Parish Sevens which caters for 3rd class to first years, a mini blitz was played off for all younger children, a nice way to fill the gaps in the day



Under 16 Roinn B league Champions
 Kieran Skehan, captain with Joe Pike.



Lisdowney GAA Pitch Development

The committee has worked hard this year in obtaining a strip of land for development adjacent to our current pitch. Work started on the last day of Saturday morning juvenile training, and the children were thrilled to hear that, because so many of them come to hurling training, we now need to expand. Tommy Walsh was there to meet the children, and to turn the first sod on the new land.



Charlie Carter came on board in 2011 to train the junior team, starting the year by presenting medals to the previous U14 team who had a good run in hurling and football the previous year.



The local parish sevens has taken a new format in the last few years. Due to the large number of underage matches in September, the Club Sevens has moved forward to the beginning of the season, and is now run off in one Saturday. This worked well and Brian Kavanagh's winning team this year was made up of Conor Tallis, Emma McEvoy, Eimear Walsh, Laurence Campion, Brian Kavanagh and Eoin Delaney



Annual Day out to Tayto Park
 Bord na nÓg organised a trip away to Clann na nÓgel Club in Athboy Co Meath where our Under 12s, 10s, 8s and 6s all got a match. This was followed by a fun day out in Tayto Park in Meath. It was a tremendous success, but the biggest success is the fact that as many as 100 children (registered) under the age of 12 turn up on the pitch on a Saturday morning, showing that with the help of all the parents involved, we are doing something right.



Club Gallery



MOONCOIN



Liam O'Neill Uachtarán Tofa CLG officially opening the 125 celebration and unveiling the plaque.



Large crowd in attendance at the 125 event



Cormac Daly, Captain, Mooncoin, is presented with the 2010 under-21 Roinn A hurling cup by Paul Kavanagh, Sponsor, in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



J.P. Purcell (Mooncoin) is held by Martin Hawley (Erin's Own) during the under-21 Roinn A hurling Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



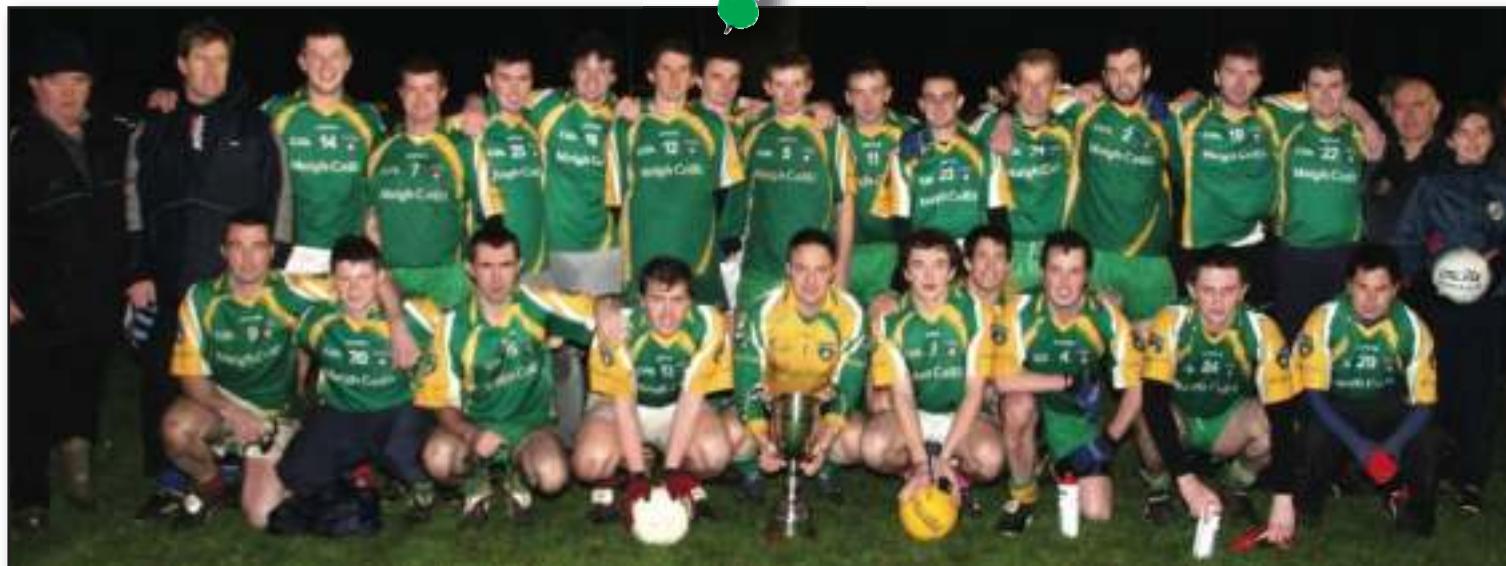
Mooncoin IH League Champions 1992

Back: Ger O'Shea, Mi Walsh, Pat Hogan, Vinny Holden, Domo Connolly, Jack Kearns, Tom Murphy.
Front: Johnny Kearns, Eamon Delehanty, John Mahon, Mark Tyler, Jimmy Dunphy, Tomás Kearns, Joe Murphy, Paddy Crowley. (Photo Gerry Deegan)

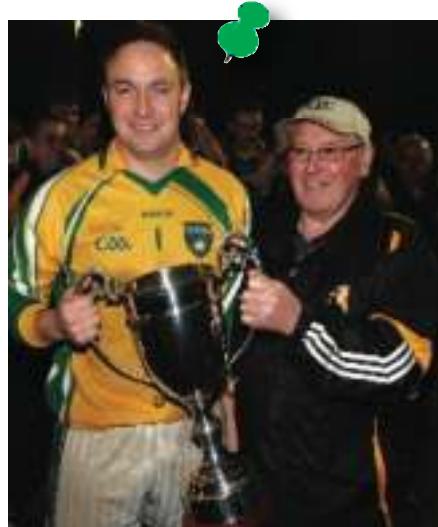


Club Gallery

MUCKALEE FOOTBALL CLUB



Muckalee Senior Football team who retained the County SF Title defeating Kilmoganny in the final in Ballyragget. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)
Back: Lar Maher selector, Tom Cullen Manager, Brian Byrne, Martin Dowling, Damien Tynan, Luke Maher, Shane Coonan, Canice Maher, Mick Morrissey, Robert Shore, James Dowling, Tom Morrissey, James Maher, Noel Darcy, Eugene Maher, Martin Dowd selector, Helema Dowd.
Front: Paul Maher, David Breen, John Maher, Colin McGrath, John Coonan, Joe Maher, John Mulhall, Aidan Murphy, Ronan Maher, Brian Cadigan



John Coonan, Muckalee Captain receives the trophy from Tom Brennan, Football Board Chairman.



Some members of the 2010 Muckalee Football team who were presented with their medals in the Cave Bar.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Fr. Martin Ryan who trained the first Muckalee Senior Football Champions in 1968 with three members of the panel, Eamonn Morrissey, Nicky Morrissey, Captain and Martin Morrissey at the medal presentation night in the Cave Bar to the 2010 Senior Champions, also pictured are Tom O'Kelly, Secretary, Football Bord, Tom Brennan, Chairman, Football Bord and Paul Kinsella, Chairman, County Bord. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Club Gallery

MULLINAVAT



Where are they now? A blast from the past a schools 7 a side football team with School Principal Mr Tom O'Brien, School Liaison Officer Liam Kenneally and Pakie Wall.



Mullinavat Under 10 team winners of the Eamon Donovan tournament organised by the Slieverue G.A.A. club.



Good Counsel college 1999 All Ireland champions who played Mullinavat senior footballers in a match to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the untimely death of Mullinavat clubman Keith Madigan who was a member of this winning team.



The under 11 team that played in the ground hurling competition organised by Kilkenny Bord Na nÓg.



The Mullinavat junior hurling team 1961 which features two stalwarts of the club who passed to their eternal rewards during the year Matty Woods middle of the back row and the late Jack Frisby far right in the back row. May they rest in peace.



Club Gallery

O'LOUGHLIN GAELS



Brian Hogan and club president Eamon Doyle present Liam MacCarthy to O'Loughlin Gaels supporters.



Kilkenny Captain Brian Hogan presents The Liam MacCarthy Cup to O'Loughlin Gaels Club President, Eamon Doyle to add to the clubs trophy cabinet.



Michael Fennelly gives some tips at the O'Loughlin Gaels Summer Camp. The ever popular, Niall Bergin organised O'Loughlin Gaels Gaa summer camp, this year took place in St. Kierans College, due to the pitch improvements in St. John's Park. Over 200 boys and girls enjoyed the, MacDonagh Junction sponsored, fortnight which was visited by Brian Hogan, Tommy Walsh, Michael Rice and Brendan Cummins of Tipperary. The club owes Niall and his loyal team a huge debt of gratitude for undertaking such an important exercise every year.

The new St. John's Park will be opened and ready for hurling on for the start of the 2012 season. Over €300,000 will have been spent on phase 1. This will give O'Loughlin Gaels two full size "Croke Park" style pitches as well as a juvenile pitch and a floodlight winter training area.

When fully complete the development will also include a floodlight skills wall area and an all weather floodlight hurling arena.



O'Loughlin fans who travelled to Croke Park to cheer on their team. L-R. Lizzie Thomey, Charlotte Carson, Orla O'Neill and Kelly Dowd. Pic by John Mellwaine



Young players at the MacDonagh Junction O'Loughlin Gaels Summer Camp in Kierans College. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Club Gallery

PILTON



Under-14 Roinn B Champions
Beat Young Irelands in Thomastown by
4-9 to 2-3 After Extra Time
Played 23/1/2011

Back Row: Tom Whelan (Mentor), Ian Long, Michael Dineen, Shane Walsh, Francis O'Brien, Dylan Kirby, Richard Brophy, Shane O'Dwyer, David Norris, Martin Kirby, Richard Norris, Conor Friend, Aidan Nugent, Liam Ryan (Mentor)
Front Row: James Kirby, Peter Tobin, Darragh Walsh, Michael Dunne, John Kenny, Tom Kenny, Thomas Murray, Aran Gallagher, Ronan Ryan, Jamie Norris, Michael O'Dwyer, Jim Norris (Mentor)



Under-12 Mooncoin Tournament Winners
Beat Mooncoin 3-4 to 2-6

Included are: Scott Bourke, Oisin Coffey, Nobby Coffey (Mentor), Billy Morahan, Conor Kinsella, Sean Power, James Phelan, Conor Whittle, Aaron Kinsella, Kieran Flynn, Robert Tobin, Alex Byrne, Darragh Walsh (Capt), Cian Kinsella, John Kenny, Adam Grace, Oran Brophy, Andrew Long, Declan Duggan, Jimmy Power, James Norris (Mentor)



Five Piltown Girls who were part of the Kilkenny Under-16 team that won the Leinster "C" Championship.
Left to Right: Jean Power, Jennifer Norris, Katelynn Phelan, Sarah Murphy, Antonia Power.

Piltown Ladies Gaelic Football Club's second year showed continued growth and expansion by entering minor and Under-16 teams in the Tipperary league/championship with the Under-16 team reaching the Roinn C semi final in a county that was runners-up at All-Ireland Under-16 level. Under coaches John Kavanagh and Seamus Norris, the players continue to develop progressively as the fledgling club works in conjunction with a successful Camogie Club and based on the foundation of successful primary schools teams. This year five of the club's under-16 players were on the victorious Kilkenny Under-16 panel that beat Offaly in the Leinster "C" Championship final. They were Jennifer Norris, Sarah Murphy, Katelynn Phelan, Jean Power and Antonia Power with the former on the starting line up.

Officers

Chairperson	Sheila Norris
Secretary	Fran McGrath
Treasurer	Siobhan McCarthy
PRO	Seamus Norris

2011 also saw a fifth Primary Schools county title in four years come to the parish as the Owning and Templeorum combined National Schools beat Carrickshock in the Roinn C county final. This follows their 2010 Roinn D title and Piltown National School's hat trick of titles in Roinn A (2010 and 2009) and Roinn B (2008).

Can any other parish claim such a record in any GAA Code?

As the enthusiasm and interest among the young girls continues to grow with many attending Under-13 development squad, the challenge for 2012 will be to grow the adult support for these girls.



Under-13 "B" South League (Glenmore Tournament) Winners
Beat Kilmacow 3-5 to 0-4 in Glenmore

David Tobin, Jamie Norris, John Kenny, Andrew Long, Robert Tobin, Conor Friend, Oran Brophy, James Kirby, Adam Grace, Evan Murphy, Darragh Walsh, Ronan Ryan, Cian Kinsella, Oisin Brophy, Alex Byrne, Richard Norris, Sean Power, Kieran Reid



Club Gallery



RAILYARD



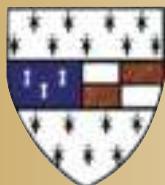
The Patrick Dowd Memorial Cup winners Railyard Football Club:-
Included are: Darragh Delaney, Diarmuid Rowe, Jack Brennan Michael Doyle, Brandon McCarthy (capt), Conor Byrne, Adam Maguire, Kyle Dunne, Thomas Brennan, Joseph O'Keeffe, James Love, Tom Buggy, Eanna Ryan.
Mentors: Paul Maguire, David Buggy.
Sponsor: Michael Dowd.

Sincere thanks has to be given to the Dowd Family who sponsored the cup which was handed over to the Railyard winning captain Brandon McCarthy by Michael Dowd, brother of the late Patrick Dowd. The cup was given by the Dowd family in memory of their late brother, Patrick, who was a great supporter and mentor of the Railyard Football Club. Patrick was hugely involved at under age levels for many years with the Club and he will be greatly missed by all.

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Club Gallery

ROWER INISTIOGE



President Opens GAA Community facility in Inistioge.

Members of The Rower-Inistioge GAA Club Committee welcome President Mary McAleese and Martin McAleese upon their arrival to officially open the Cois Abhann centre in Inistioge.



Rower-Inistioge Under 8 Team.

Included: Mark Flood, Ruaidhri Delaney, David Prendergast, Oisin Whelan, Dean Cummins, Brandon Kelly, Eoin O'Brien, James Murphy, Michael Moffit, Joshua Kennedy, Will Lanigan, Michael Savage, Emmet Rice, Rory Flanagan, Sean Lee McTigue

Activity and games were a plenty in 2011 for all of the teams from U-6 to U-12. Our U-8 team was in Croke Park for the one day blitz and together with the U-9 team they also participated in the annual Roanmore tournaments. The U-10 team played in the Caulfield's league, while at U-11, 12 and 13 we competed in many tournaments including the Glenmore U-13 tournament where we lost out to Slieverue in the final.



At the opening of the GAA Community facility in Inistioge, Sean Cummins presents President Mary McAleese with a Hurley, also in photo is Martin McAleese, Michael Byrne (Chairman of Bord N Nog) and Breda English (Secretary of Bord Na Nog).



Bereavements.
During 2011 the Club lost two of its former players when Eamon Flood and Patrick (Puds) Murphy passed away - both members of the team that won the Senior County Final in 1968. To the families of Eamon and Puds and to all Club Members who suffered bereavements in 2011 we offer the Club's sympathy.

Rower-Inistioge under 16 Shield Winners in 2011.
Back L to R; Tony Whelan, Sean Grace, Darragh Joyce, Willie Allen, Shane Foskin, Patrick Lyng, Claran Ryan, Kieran Meaney, Cathal Bolger.
Front; Diarmuid O'Brien, Dylan Kehoe, Jim Murphy, Thomas Allen, Kevin Murphy, Pat Lyng, Shane Ryan, Richie Leahy & David Kelly.

Congratulations to all the players who represented the Club at Intercounty level in 2011 and on the many colleges teams. Congrats to Kieran Joyce who won an All Ireland Medals as a member of the Kilkenny Senior Hurling panel in '11.



Club Gallery

SLIEVERUE



Slieverue Gone to The Dogs!!!
On the October Bank Holiday weekend Slieverue GAA had a night at the Dogs in Kilcohan

Par

This was the club's major fund raiser this year and probably more importantly it also doubled up as a great social occasion for all club members young and old

Mary Rockett (Club Secretary) presenting door prize winners cheque to Sinead Duggan, also attending is Dawn Kiely (Waterford Greyhound Stadium) and Michael Freyne (Chairman organising Committee)



Presentation of Jerseys
It's with great gratitude that we were the recipients of a generous donation of a set of 25 jerseys for our younger members this year from Celtic Anglian Water based down in the South East. Special words of thanks to Liam Knox in securing this valuable and generous offer. "Go Raibh Maith Agat"

Our Photo shows Company Director Declan Maguire presenting the Jerseys to Club Officers and also the children from various age groups who will proudly wear them.



Eamonn O'Donovan U10 Tournament. (Group photo with ladies and photo with Marty/Ciara/Kate & Amy in the shop)

Over 128 players from 8 clubs took part in the U10 Memorial Tournament this year on Saturday 24th Sept. It was a great day's hurling played in glorious sunshine. We would like to thank all the parents who made refreshments and brought them to the field on the day, to the tea ladies who kept all the supporters hydrated and fed! The shop assistants the stewards and Refs and umpires. This is a very special day in our Club and its reflected by the large amount of volunteers who give great assistance on the day. The cup was won by Mullinavat after a great final v Glenmore, & Piltown won the shield after another great final v Ballyhale Shamrocks.



Parish Astro League:
After an absence of 20 years a Parish Astro Turf League for Juvenile members was started up in early February and finished up on Saturday the 5th of March with our finals been held in front of a large audience. The matches were held over 5 weeks on our "New" Astro Turf facility under lights with two games been played on both Tuesday and Wednesday of each week. A total of 20 games were played and up to 67 players involved in many an entertaining match. On the finals day our special guest Eoin Larkin presented the specially commissioned souvenir medals for all participants and also presented medals/cups from 2010 to groups U12 Carrigeen Tournament /U13 City League/U14 Co league.



U13 South Glenmore Tournament Div. 'A' Final Winners

The panel was: Conor Galvin, Conor Wall, Mark O' Donovan, Callum Walsh, Danny Moore, Gavin Grant, Aaron Redmond, Evan Cullen, Mark Keogh, Stephen Mulally, Daniel Byrne, Craig Phelan, Aaron O'Brien, Gavin Morrissey, Ben Alecock, Jack Frisby, Michael Irish, Eamonn Phelan, Paul Kellis, William Mullally, Paddy Dowling, Cillian Power.



Club Gallery



ST. FIACHRA'S



St Fiachra's U21 Team 2011

Back: Sean O'Brien, Thomas Joyce, Michael Maloney, Aidan O'Dowd, Michael Doyle, James Meaney, James Doyle, Eoin Bolger, Bernard Hennessy, Nicholas O'Donnell, Patrick Dowling, Niall Foley.
Front: James McCabe, Dane Mangan, Thomas O'Donnell, Ryan O'Halloran, Emmet Foley, Garry Maher, Ciaran O'Brien & Joe Kelly.

This is the first year that Graignamanagh & Blacks/Whites have fielded a combined team at U21 Level with St. Fiachras.
This is the fourth year of the amalgamation of Graignamanagh and Blacks and Whites underage teams from Minor down to U14 and the Club has gone from strength to strength with the
Minors adding the Roinn B Hurling League to the Roinn C Championship won in 2010 and also minor Football Championship 2010



Liam O Shea, presents a new set of Jerseys to The St.Fiachra's U21 and Minor team.
Included in the Picture are L-R Gerry Murphy, Sean Doyle, Michael Moloney, Liam O'Shea (O'Sheas Bar Graignamanagh) John Meaney, Bernard Hennessy, Sean O'Brien, Front: L_R Patrick Nolan Syl Cushen and Pat Nolan.



Lee Kinsella., St Fiachra's Captain receives the County MH "B" trophy from Willie Dempsey, Chairman, Bord na nÓg



Club Gallery

ST LACHTAIN'S



Club Officials
E. Hickey, P. White, J. Fitzpatrick, C. Dermody.



Easter Camp 2011
Back: M. Colclough, B. Barnaville, S. Farrell, M. Power, D. Condon, D. Killeen.
Middle: M. Walsh, C. Dermody, A. Dawson, S. McGrath, J. Power, I. Bergin, M. Neary, T. Campion.
Front: P. Campion, S. Donnelly, K. Doheny, L. Fitzpatrick, E. Fitzpatrick, A. Condon, D. Daly, L. Dawson.



Paddy Butler on match day duty



Intermediate Team
Back: G. Dalton, P. Campion, D. Fitzpatrick, D. Rafter, J. Costelloe, M. Kavanagh, R. Dowling, N. Hickey, B. Quinn, S. McGree, M. Burke,
Middle: L. Kennedy, M. Kavanagh, D. Deegan, P. Guinan, M. Farrell, D. Brennan, B. Beckett, N. McGree, N. Phelan, K. Hughes, D. Lennon, J. J. Phelan.
Front: S. Donnelly, P. Mullan, B. Kennedy, B. Hughes, S. Hayes, J. Fitzpatrick, J. Meagher, M. Cormack, T. Flynn, E. Guinan, S. Farrell.



Minor Team
Back: O. Waldron, R. Hughes, C. Bergin, C. Corcoran, D. Allen, P. Campion, B. Quinn, F. White, S. Donnelly, D. Lennon, J. Cleere, J. Maher, S. Rafter, J. O'Brien,
Front: A. Rafter, M. Neary, S. Burke, J. Boland, D. Brennan, E. Hennessy, D. Quinn, L. Maher, P. White.



Club Gallery



ST MARTIN'S



U6 Team who took part in Blitz in Conahy



The U8 panel that took part in the Leinster Play & Stay hurling Blitz in Croke Park. They had a good win over Marshalltown of Wexford.



U10 team who won the Fr. Delaney Tournament beating Portlaoise in the final.



10 local kids enjoyed coaching tips from Henry Shefflin and John Mullane in Nowlan park on Saturday. It was part of the Centra hurling Skills tour. A good time was had by everyone.

The lucky ones were: Ciaran Brennan, Jack Nolan, Laura Tynan, Clodagh Hanlon, Oisin Kelly, Ronan Shore, Grainne Kelly, Emma Kelly, Andrew Buggy, Rory Buggy.



U14 Koinn 'C' County Football Champions 2011

Back: Jack Nolan, Cian Morrissey, Seamus o Keeffe, Colm O Neill, Tommy Quirke, Finn Dowling, John Joe Kelly, Brandan Sheehan, Tommy Downey, Loughlin Hogan, Conor Dowling, Eoin Murphy, Paddy Heffernan.

Front: Evan Stapleton, Sean Maher, Dean Farrell, Ciaran Brennan, Robert Reid, Conor Fahy, Jack Manning, Padraig Buggy, Adam Kelly, Adam Cowenford.

ST PATRICK'S



The opening of the new Club House facilities at St. Patricks GAA Club in Ballyragget.
From left: Michael McCraith, Club President, Martin Skelly, Chairman Leinster
Council and Liam O'Neill, Uachtarán CLG
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

St Pat's Selectors 2011
Tom Phelan, Mark Swan, Maurice Alward, Matt Ruth.



Joe Brennan (St. Patricks) celebrates with match sliotar in hand after the Junior Hurling County Final in Nowlan Park.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

St Pat's Juniors 1970
Back: Tom Doheny, Michael Butler, Sean Treacy, Ted Ruth, Pat Morrissey, Joe Maher, Mick O'Shea, Tom Phelan, Johnny Gorman
Front: Ned Brophy, Liam Brophy, Seanie Butler, Tommy Roberts, Shem Brophy, John Walsh, John Lacey



Presentation of Street League Medals
Included are: Eve Hegarty, Aaron Powis, Eamonn Glennon, Joshua Wallace, Karen Delaney, Dylan Lawless, Natasha O'Brien, Ciaran Burke, Kevin Butler, Roisin Waters, Tara Kelly, Matthew Lawless.



St Pat's Minors 1984
Back: J Phelan, T Phelan, K Butler, D Foley, P Brennan, M Gannon, G Kenny, M Healy,
Front: L McEvoy, Trainer, M Devlin, N Bolger, T Roberts, A Dowling (Capt), M Waters, J Sheils, M Phelan, G Doyle
Absent: D Butler, J Holohan



Club Gallery

THOMASTOWN



Treasurer and Groundsman Seamus Reade



Liam Quirke relaxing after annual tractor run in aid of club



Chairman Michael Mahony presents Fr Leonard Forristal with photo to mark his long association with the Thomastown Club.



Thomastown U6 hurlers had a very enjoyable year. They played games in the Bennetsbridge and Thomastown Field days. They also played 10 other practice games against different clubs. The improvement in their skill level as the year progressed was great to see. Under the watchful eyes of their coaches Conor Wilson, Donal Farrell, Paul Treacy & Tom O'Keeffe they will continue indoor hurling for the winter months.



Thomastown U8 players had a very successful year. One of the major highlights in the year was their trip to Croke Park. Pictured are just a few of the group who enjoyed the day in Inistioge as part of the Luke Roche Memorial tournament.



Children enjoy Sack Race on Family Fun Day



Thomastown Gaelic4Mothers
2011 saw the formation of a Gaelic4Mothers Team in Thomastown. The mothers trained under the watchful eye of Kerry man Jim O'Connor and the latter stages under Dublin man Brendan Cooke. The highlight of the year was when they along with 71 other teams from all over Ireland competed in a national blitz in Portmarnock on October 15th.



Anyone for burgers? Ada Doyle cooking up on Family Fun Day



Club Gallery

THREECASTLES



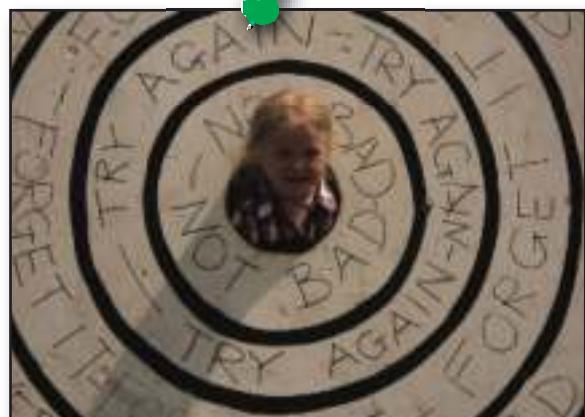
Chairman, Eamonn Hennessy, making a presentation to Ciara Trait in recognition of her great success in the Special Olympics.



Martin Comerford presenting the Cup to Conahy Shamrocks at our Annual U14 Hurling Tournament was held during July and August 2011. Eight teams participated - Barrow Rangers, Bennettsbridge, Conahy Shamrocks, Dicksboro & Galmoy/Windgap, Graigue/Ballycallan, St. Lachtain's and Young Irelands. Conahy Shamrocks emerged victorious in the Cup Final beating Galmoy/Windgap. Congratulations to Conahy Shamrocks on a very impressive performance to take the honours and thanks to great kilkenny stalwart Martin Comerford who presented the trophy and medals to the winners. In the Shield Final, Graigue/Ballycallan beat Barrow Rangers in a very entertaining game.



Ross Walsh, David Cleere, PJ Dalton, Daniel Rafter, Eamonn Hennessy having fun at our Sports Day.



Sarah Whearty having fun at our Sports Day



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Club Gallery



TULLAROAN



TV4 filmed a piece about the club for their All Ireland Nuacht preview in August, this picture shows Mark Walsh being interviewed in the village. They also featured the Lory Meagher centre and the club grounds. There was a great buzz of excitement for this visit around the parish.



Under 6 team this year included in this photo is Adam Coyne, Charlie Bibby, James Walton, Keelan Brennan, Colm Fitzgerald, Bill Coogan, Matthew Mulligan, Daire Treacy, Josh Tallis and Billy Keogh



One of a number of successful fundraisers for the club during the year was the Hoolie in the Hills held in September in the hurling grounds.



Martin White Tournament held in the local grounds annually last May. The teams are made of local underage hurlers



Our Under 8 team participated in a number of tournaments around the county this year





Club Gallery

TULLOGER ROSBERCON



Memory Lane

Tullogher SF Team

1930 Football County Champions 1930-1931-1934
 Back Row: T Malone, P Gaule, L Roche, M Malone, M Purcell.
 Middle Row: E Conway, R Barron, L Gaule, M Malone, J Handrick, MJ Malone.
 Front Row: T Bird, J O'Dwyer, J Barron, J Maddock, W Ryan, P Barron, P Malone.



Group of Guests at clubhouse opening in October last year



U10 team picture taken at Final Day in Nowlan Park



model of clubhouse that was used all this year for the 1st time



U8 team that took part in the Luke Roche Memorial Tournament in Inistioge



Club Gallery

WINDGAP



Windgap Junior Hurling Silver Jubilee County Champions:

Back: Christy Cody, Tommy Hearne (Trainer), Jimmy Walsh (0-1), P.J. Egan, Richard Cronin, Michael O'Shea, Tommy Lanigan, James Phelan, Ger Doyle, Brian Hickey, Val Óg Murray, Eamon Cronin (0-1), Pat Hayes, Denis Foley, Jim Phelan R.I.P., Bobby Jackman, Jimmy Purcell (1-0), Christy Whelan (Asst. Trainer).

Middle: Pat Foley (0-1), Matt Doran, Eamon Murray, Pat Walsh (0-1), Simon Brophy, Joe. O'Shea (0-7, frees), Seamus Power, Brendan Cronin, Paul Doran, Seamus Norris.

Front: Pat Moore, Alan Hearne (Mascot). Not in Picture Dan Cronin, Dermot Houlihan.



Inspirational visitor Carl McCabe, Naomh Eanna, Owagh on his charity cycle for suicide from Windgap to his Bearna Na Gaoithe school in North Belfast



Galmoy/Windgap U14 Team

Back: Josh Price, Niall Walsh, Robert White, Eavan Morrissey, Sean Phelan, Cathal Phelan, Conor Kelly, Jack Delaney, Brandon Phelan, Conor Grace.

Front: David Doyle, Oisin Phelan, Pat Callaghan, Shane Culleton, James Culleton, Conor Drennan, Ryan Murphy, Pat Grace, Colm Smith.



On the boards in the Watergate Theatre Pat Hayes and Larry Cunningham and clubs Concert organisers



Windgap GAA Clubs Social Initiative delegates meet President Mary and Martin McAleese at Aras an Uachtaráin. Included Club president Dan Phelan, Eamon Doyle and Helen Walsh



Féile Handball teams with Glanbia Co op jerseys James Culleton, David Doyle, Pat Grace, Niall Walsh, Deirdre Purcell, Margaret Purcell, Caoimhe O'Shea, Áine Dunne.



Club volunteers who were involved in woodcutting. Others were involved erecting floodlights in Tullahought Sportsfield, collecting scrap, developing pitch and creating new Amenity Area



Club Gallery

YOUNG IRELANDS



Under 6 boys at end of year coaching day:

Aaron Fenlon, Timmy Brennan, Ben Phelan, Diarmuid Langton, Luke Phelan, Tristan Nolan, Darragh Travers, Bobby Brennan, Cian Kenny, Darragh Doyle, Mikie Keating, Richard Nolan, Luke O' Donnell, Cian Phelan, David Langton, Jake Byrne, Andrew Corbett, Eoin Brennan with coaches Ciaran Phelan, Ann Drea, Tim Brennan, Annette Nolan & Fergal Byrne

Under 8 boys at end of year coaching day:

Reece Nolan, Barry Dunne Padraig Naddy, Leonard Farrell, Jamie Middleton, David Drennan, Brogan McAvinney, Séan Fitzpatrick, Ray Lawson, Charlie Fitzgerald, Charlie Brennan, Ben Higgins, Luke Doyle, Michael Knox, Matthew Holland, Jimmy Murphy, Rory Farrell, Patrick Langton, Killian Carey, Jamie Carter, Jimmy Lennon, Tommy Phelan with coaches Paul Farrell, Martin Carey & Cathal Fitzgerald.



Under 10 boys at end of year coaching day:

Sean Middleton, Kieran Carey, James Drennan, Lee Hehir, Jason Brennan, Dan Nevin, Jack Kennedy/Byrne, Myles Kehoe, Ciaran Byrne, Conor Fitzpatrick, Eddie Gittens, Jack Nolan, Cathal Darcy, Lee Crosbie, Daniel Middleton, Patrick Brennan, David Holland, Cormac Brogan, Tadgh O'Brien, Eoghan Bolger, Andy O'Donnell with coaches Padraig Brennan & Conor Fitzpatrick

Winners of Dicksboro U12 Tournament:

Seamus Farrell, Padraig O'Neill, Ted Drea, Jack Brennan, Robert Dunne, Mikie Carey, Damien Cahill, Conor Dwyer, Conor Ryan, Sean Middleton, Jason Brennan, Dylan Carey, Cormac Nolan, Jack Blagriff & Brian Doyle.



U14 Roinn C Football Finalists:

Shane Nolan, Tyler Lennon, Eoin Twomey, Jamie Bryan, Jeremy Farrell, Jeff Brennan, Robert Dunne, Sean Carey, Ted Drea, Jamie Mahoney, Adrian Nolan, Mikie Carey, Pat Farrell, Kevin Brennan, Dylan Carey, Padraig O'Neill, Tommy Byrne, Philip O'Donnell, Padraig Healy, Daniel O'Connor & Brian Rudkins (Capt)

GOLD WATCHES & SUIT LENGTHS

The Era of the Great Tournaments by Kieran Cuddihy

About 10 miles south west of Waterford stands the small village of Dunhill. About one mile outside the village you will find the playing fields of the local GAA Club. While the well manicured grounds may seem unremarkable now, 50 years ago they regularly hosted one of the most hotly contested hurling tournaments in the country.

Players now have league games, Byrne Cups, Alway Cup and other challenges to keep them occupied until the championship kicks off in earnest but that wasn't always the case. Before the introduction of league hurling at club level, teams might only have played between 4 and 5 games every year in order to win a local championship. If they were unlucky enough to be beaten in an early round, that spelled the end of their competitive hurling until the following summer.

In an effort to increase the amount of games in the club calendar, tournaments began to be organised in the late 1940's that enticed the leading club sides from across all the hurling counties with promises of top prizes for the winning team.

Dunhill held just such a tournament and double All Ireland winner Johnny McGovern remembers competing there every May with Bennetsbridge from 1957 to 1963.

"The big one was in Dunhill and there was some great teams playing at that tournament. Tommy Glasheen was a marvelous organizer and he used to get the top teams to compete every year like ourselves, Mount Sion, Eire Og, St Aidan's of Enniscorthy, St Finabarr's and Glen Rovers."

"I hurled senior with the 'Bridge from '52, mostly from left half back. There were 12 teams playing in Kilkenny at Senior at that time, the same as now. But the difference was that you only played maybe 3 or 4 games because there was no League or Byrne Cups or that sort of thing. That is how the tournaments started actually, they were something to do on all those weekends when there were no other matches. They filled a gap."

"There was a great interest in the tournaments because all of the top stars would be playing. The intercounty players would always play if they could so you had the likes of Christy Ring competing. That meant people were happy to travel from all around to the games. At Dunhill there would be huge crowds, it really would be packed."

What attracted clubs to the tournaments, aside from the chance to compete against the best other counties had to offer, was the calibre of prize up for grabs. In Dunhill, the winning team all won Hogan Stand tickets for the next ten years of hurling and football All Irelands.

When Thomastown began to host tournaments, they offered gold watches to the winners. Martin Treacy, another double All Ireland winner from the 'Bridge remembers well how prestigious it was to win such a prize.

"Thomastown held the gold watch tournaments and we did the double out there in 55 and 56. GL Ryan used to supply the watches and I still have them, they were a very precious thing to win."

"What would happen is the club hosting the tournament would pay for the prizes and then put them on display in local shops and pubs in the weeks leading up to the tournament. This created great interest in the tournament and I have to say we were delighted to have won those watches on both occasions."

"I remember one of the best prizes we won though was at a tournament in Ballincurry in Tipperary, the home of the great runner John Joe Barry. We won an electric razor there and these were very rare back then, very few people would have had electric razors. We won that twice, once against St Aidan's and the other time against Callan."

In Cahir, they offered suit lengths to the victorious team but there was a catch. "After you won it, you still had to go and find a tailor to make up the suit. That probably cost about one week's wages to get that done" remembers Johnny. "The problem then was that everyone on the team had the same suit so when we turned up at a wedding or a funeral we looked like we all part of a big band or something".

The tournaments also provided a great opportunity of raising funds for local projects. "Down in Cork at that time, Dr Lucey had a Church Restoration Fund and he ran tournaments to raise money" says Martin. "When we were going to more local games, there were two Hackney Cars out in the Bridge at the time. They were owned by James Hayes and Mikey Wymess and later Seamus Lawlor. But if we were going down to Cork, Cody's Hotel of John Street used to drive us down in a bus."

"We would have to start getting togged out on the bus when we were about 20 minutes outside Cork and then we would play down in the Mardyke. We were very well looked after down at those tournaments, they wined and dined us at the Imperial Hotel."

The quality of prize and standard of opposition meant that the tournaments were always more than mere exhibition games and competition was fierce. The format was usually that about 8 teams would be invited to play and on the same day every week for three or four weeks, the host club would stage a round of games culminating in a final.

"The tournaments were very competitive, we picked our championship team based on the tournaments" recalls former Waterford captain Joe Condon. "They became our training every week for the summer. Because you had the top players in the country involved, you always did your best to beat them. I can tell you, there was absolutely no holding back in those games whatsoever."

"I played in tournaments in Waterford and Wexford a lot but the best tournaments I played in were always in south



Martin Treacy



John McGovern

Kilkenny, especially Mullinavat. There were unbelievable teams down in south Kilkenny then. Take Kilmacow for example, they had 15 players that could have all made a county team. Hurling was their life."

"Kilmacow, Mooncoin, Glenmore and Sliieverue all had great senior teams in Kilkenny and we loved playing against them. Kilmacow had Mike Flemming and Charlie and Pat Forristal and Glenmore had the Barrons and Sliieverue had the Walshes, Donovan and Rocket."

It wasn't only players that were starved of action. Fans responded enthusiastically too to these new tournaments. Buses would be organised to ferry people around the country and many people even took to their bikes in order to get to games.

"On the roads up to the pitch there would be piles of bikes all along the ditches. And there was a great atmosphere" remembers Joe. "There would be a big carnival around the tournaments. Clubs would have made big money by running them and would have wanted to attract as big a crowd as possible. I remember that Glenmore used to have a van up in the corner of the field selling drinks and snacks because there was no pub in the village back then. It was a different time".

Frankie Walsh, Waterford's All Ireland winning captain in 1959 once played in a final in the Dunhill Tournament "in front of at least 10,000 people. They had tractor trailers all



Frankie Walsh



Joe Condon

around the pitch for people to stand on so they could see. And that size of a crowd wasn't that unusual."

"With so many people coming to watch the games, it promoted hurling in a big way. When else would you have the top stars of the game competing in all these small little parishes around the country."

Alas the popularity of the tournaments were to prove their downfall. The GAA became concerned that the prizes on offer meant that the game was becoming semi-professional. There were also worries that clubs were beginning to prioritise the tournaments over local championships. In and around the mid 1960's, county boards began to introduce a league structure. These additional games squeezed the tournaments out of existence and by the late 70's they were no more.

Johnny McGovern feels that the end of the tournaments was a loss to hurling in general. "These tournaments were great for players like me to play in. I got to cut my teeth against the likes of Christy Ring and the Rackards and all the great players of the time."

"When the tournaments ended, it was a terrible blow. Not just to the players, but to the clubs who hosted them and to all the fans who used to love packing up every week and going to see their teams play."

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Mooncoin Celebrate 125 years of History in Style.

Barrie Henriques

Mooncoin have a penchant for celebrating their own with style, grace, and ceremony. Recently they honoured all who have brought their club along the yellow brick road of success, joy, remorse, failure, achievement, and National acclaim. Over a very special weekend in August (20-21), they converted their spacious premises into a veritable Aladdin's cave of celebration and memory. There were medals of National and County interest. There were artefacts like hurleys used by hurling giants dating back to the great eras of the 30s and 40s. There were cups of varying size and importance. Hurleys, jerseys, boots, and one-off creation trophies abounded. The entire surfaces of the huge Community complex were lined with display cases carrying the many photographs, media accounts of events around the Parish, hurling folklore, fishing, ploughing, and greyhound archives. Uachtarán Tofa CLG, Mr. Liam O'Neill honoured the occasion by Officially unveiling a wall plaque commemorating the occasion. The Historical origins of the club are well documented from its inception in 1886 under the stewardship of its first President, Richard Dunphy, and its first Vice President, Jack Walsh from Portnascally, endearingly known as Jack na Cuille. Jack was an Irish weight throwing Champion, and his record of throwing the sixteen-pound weight up and over is still recorded in the annals of Irish Athletics.

As one perused the many documents, one was struck by the names; names that are still very much at the coalface of the Mooncoin club to this present day. Names like Doyle, Dunphy, Comerford, Walsh, and Crowley are still driving the club. Some of the medals are worth the mentioning. The fame, and memory of the Doyles from Dournane were again perpetuated by a display of their medals, loaned by their grand nephew, Pat Hogan. All Ireland medals from the Dunphy clan, Jimmy Kelly, and the Holden clan were on display too. The oldest medal was the one won by Pat Fielding when Kilkenny won their very first senior All Ireland in 1904. Watt Hennebry was the first Mooncoin man to win an All Ireland minor medal with Kilkenny in 1935, and that too was there. The original Bob O'Keeffe cup for the Leinster senior hurling Championship was brought from the Croke Park Museum for the occasion, as were all of the County Championship cups. Of course, pride of place was reserved for the Liam McCarthy. In 1933, Kilkenny won the National League and All Ireland double. That achievement was all the more notable, being the first such double ever acclaimed. Eddie Doyle, the Kilkenny captain, was presented with a very special cup, a memento of the historic achievement. That too was on display.

The photographic displays were extraordinary by any standards. Much hard work and determination was put into getting the pictures, and then presenting them to their best advantage. There was a photograph of ever All Ireland winning Kilkenny team that ever won an All Ireland. The crowds, and they were enormous, well beyond expectancy levels, were four deep, as they passed from one display unit to the next.

When you consider the numbers of Kilkenny teams at all levels, in both genders that collected Celtic crosses, you have a huge amount of pictures to look at. Lucy Quinn and Pat Hogan whose remit covered the PR section of the exhibition asked everyone to seek out the pictures.

"The response was stunning, and generous", she told us.

"People scoured through shoe boxes, attics, and tea chests for photographs, and whilst we had some duplication, the response was truly amazing", said Pat Hogan.

Billy O'Keeffe located hurleys used by Drug Walsh and Pat Fielding in the 1904 All Ireland Final. Paddy Crowley presented a hurley used by Tommy Carroll in the three games it took to decide the 1931 All Ireland Final to the club. A Munster Express account of the County Final of 1887 between Tullaroan and Mooncoin was loaned to the exhibition by Ned

O'Keefe. He found it "in an ould scrap book".

There were players from different winning Club Championship teams presented with specially inscribed parchment scrolls in memory of the occasion. So too were the many camogie players who brought fame and glory to the Parish similarly honoured.

On the Sunday it was all about hurling with underage teams from under 6 playing for their own Townland- that was the way things were in 1884.

A senior challenge between Tullaroan and Mooncoin was also played, again to commemorate the first County Final ever played in Kilkenny.

Thousands were wined, dined, entertained, and spoiled for a weekend the memory of which will remain long after the dust has settled.

As the Fear a' Ti, Ned Quinn summarised, " This was a tremendous celebration of Mooncoin, because it transcended the club, and the entire weekend was a success story of great magnitude. It also helped to bind the Parish still tighter, and it was enormously pleasurable, and gratifying to meet the Mooncoin Diaspora that came long distances to celebrate with their own".

It sums it all up perfectly.



Mooncoin 125 Organising Committee
Back: Seamus Comerford, Ned O'Keeffe, Ned Quinn, Ned Doyle, Pat Hogan.
Front: Billy O'Keeffe, Lucy Quinn, Joe Dunphy, David McGrath.
(Photo: WMCM Photography)

KILKENNY GAA SUPPORTER'S CLUB

BEFORE YOU BUY, GIVE THOSE WHO SUPPORT HURLING A TRY"

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP LOGO (CAR STICKER)

This year the Supporters' Club expanded its Business Membership Scheme for two main reasons:

We believed that there was a desire amongst Business people to have a vehicle to publicly show that they supported our hurling teams.

We strongly believed that those businesses needed the support of the GAA community to help lift them out of the current recession.

It has to be acknowledged that there is no organisation in this country that is so deeply rooted in every Parish in Ireland than the GAA.

The GAA Clubs, through their members, have a profound effect and influence in a very positive way in every Community in the country.

GAA people go about their business of running their Club, putting teams on the field (and all that entails), and being available, or putting their facilities available to the Community when the need arises.

It may have been the late Pat Fanning, former President of the GAA who described the GAA as a "Sleeping Giant", ready to be awoken to answer a call to serve the Community.

GAA members and supporters, this is one such time. We need you to support local businesses now.

Our initial idea was to produce a sort of "Golden Pages" type Directory, but with modern technology, a categorised Directory of Services on the internet was deemed to be the way to go.

This can be accessed through the Kilkenny GAA Website at www.kilkennygaa.ie.

GAA Members and Supporters, when making a choice to purchase goods or services, please refer to this website to give first choice to those Businesses who are supporting our games.

For Businesses, this is the most cost effective way of reaching your potential customers. €200 gives you ongoing advertising for 12 months!

To become a Business member, and get your firm on the Directory, call Jim Freeman, Secretary 087-2551507, or any member of the Committee.

Of course, the Business Membership Scheme, and the personal Memberships generated the most money for us to enable us to carry out our programmes and supports for hurling and other GAA activities in the county.

The All Ireland weekend Discos at Langtons and City West hotels, and our Shop also contributed handsomely to our funds.

We make no secret of the fact that most of our financial support goes to our Senior hurlers and other teams representing the county. We believe strongly that these lads are our greatest asset in promoting our games, and in inspiring and encouraging our young hurlers for the future.

The performance of our Senior team in September will live long in the memory. What a performance of skill, determination and courage to wrestle back the McCarthy Cup from our great rivals. Full marks to Brian, his Selectors and all the backroom team and the County Board, who had the leadership qualities to sit down and plan their strategy immediately after the 2010 defeat, and to the team for carrying out the plan in such an outstanding manner. We would like to think that our financial support of the Training Weekends Away in preparation for the big games contributed somewhat to the success.

We wish them all the best for a great well-deserved holiday, which we are happy to support also. We look forward now to a plan for 2012!

We, of course supported also the County Coaching Schemes, the Hurley Grants for Schools, and the U 14 Development Squads. These Schemes help to ensure that there will be an ongoing supply of young talent to hopefully bring further honours to our county in the years ahead.

We also supported the St. Kieran's All Ireland Senior team, and salute them for their great win in the final.

Our very active Kildare Branch also supported O'Loughlin Gaels, Dicksboro and John Lockes in their quest for All Ireland Club success. They all won the Leinster trophies, but our teams were beaten in the All Irelands.

We were also glad to spend some funds on the Texting System to ensure that our Members are amongst the first to be informed of the team selections on Friday nights before the games.

Other activities included, selling tickets for the Hurlers Training Fund Draw, and the Holiday Fund organised by the County Board. Also Committee members helped with the organisation of the All Ireland Banquet at City West, and the Corporate Night at Langtons.

We also initiated the production of a book on the great Fr. Tommy Maher, the Godfather of Coaching, from whose great work for Kilkenny hurling and successes in the 50's 60's and 70's inspired our subsequent Managers and hurlers to bring Kilkenny to the top of the hurling tree. Enda McEvoy is writing it, and the launch will be eagerly awaited in March 2012

We hope that the foregoing gives a taste of the Supporter's Club activities during the year.

We would like to thank all the people who became members, and therefore played no small part in the successes of our teams, and we look forward to your continued support in 2012.

As usual, we now have our very popular Christmas Cards on sale, and if you are trying to think of a Christmas present, the beautifully framed photograph of the 2011 All Ireland Champions would be well received in any business or household. These can be bought from any of the committee.

kilkennygaa.ie - A One-Stop Shop

Barrie Henriques does a "Website for Dummies" Crash Course

One of the great tools of communication of the modern era is the web page. It is far reaching, all encompassing, and the solution to many demands---- or so they say.

Now if you are like me, and you are having problems even maximising the capabilities of a TV remote control gismo, then it is a fair bet that you have not ventured beyond stage one, maybe two, of the web site of any organisation.

However if one is to believe the scribes who write these things, it would appear that the Kilkenny GAA website is among the best of its kind in the land.

Impressed?

I went in search of one of the people so charged with getting the Kilkenny website close to the realm of satisfying all needs.

Jimmy Walsh is Chairman of the Committee so charged. He has been involved at Provincial level, but now takes his acumen to the highest seat in the land, to Croke Park.

"Some five years ago, I was asked by Leinster Council to survey the levels, if any, the Counties had progressed their IT programmes. It was new-age stuff as far as I was concerned, but having completed the survey, I realised that my own County was dropping off the IT pace set by others, and that was alarming. I remember saying to Ned Quinn at the time that we were less and less conspicuous in the IT field of doing our business. I remember Ned saying to me, "well what are you going to do about it? So, a few short years ago, the PR/IT Committee took over a site from Martin Fogarty. We sought assistance from programmer Ilya Burkov in Carlow IT. We have been developing it as a resource for the County ever since. The input and development ideas are provided by the members of the committee Conor o'Denieffe, Aodán O Ruairc, Liam Dewberry, Gerry O'Neill, Ned Buggy, Seamus Reade and Michael Shortall"

For people who may not be computer literate, or who might not be au fait with computer speak, how simple is it to manipulate the web?

"We decided fairly early in our deliberations that we would try to make it as comprehensive, and as easy as possible", said Jimmy. "Basically, it is a one-stop shop, where every facet of the life of Kilkenny GAA, and need, can be explored at the touch of a single key. No matter where in the World Kilkenny people find themselves, they can make to connection with home, and GAA news".

What is the most popular page in the system?

"Undoubtedly, the fixtures, and results pages are hugely popular. The fixtures are updated within minutes of being fixed or altered. Similarly, the results are up and the league tables updated within minutes of the end of the games. Referees text the results through instantly, and that makes for the immediate posting of the result on site".

Apparently all fixtures within the County, at all levels, in all competitions are on the web page as the fixtures are made before the start of the season. Likewise referees are confirmed, and many of the venues are also ascribed to the games. People can plan their holidays, and recreational time for the entire year.

"In truth, Liam Dewberry does a magnificent job with the fixtures, and results for us. It's a one-man job, and he is the only man that can do it as well as it is. As a result of such efficiencies, our information is available to the Press (Radio/Papers/TV) at all times for their convenience", he said.

The site carries an Archive facility, where anyone can source the results

of all Kilkenny games over the past five years. Truly amazing!

Now amazingly, the web has the facility of providing the contact details of every County Board, and Club official. It carries a link to every club in the County, where Histories can be perused, where photographic material can be viewed, and where news and information can be read. The amazing point about all of this information is that it is available twenty four seven.

Obviously the Web is a tremendous advertising, promotional tool for all sorts of activities. It is ideal when it comes down to the promotion of the games per se. It will carry the relevant news about team announcements, coaching seminars, games development programmes, inter-County calendar of events, Development Squad training and fixtures etc.

Amazingly, the Strategic Plan for County Kilkenny is there for all to see. Modern thinking dictates that every club in the Country should have their own plan. The County Board Officers would certainly encourage clubs to plagiarise their plan, or at least some of it, to compose their own Strategic Plan. It is mandatory that all clubs should have their own Plan, which is very much a needs-must when going for funding to Banks and other Financial Institutions.

I asked about the availability of a Facebook resource, or a Twitter facility (I really was showing off now).

"No" said Jimmy emphatically. " We feel that we have published so much contact information that people who wish to enquire about any development, or look for information, will have no problem in contacting the relevant personnel".

The site carries an extraordinary Archival records

page. Every Kilkenny team that ever won an All Ireland, at any level is pictured. Every National Award won by a Kilkenny hurler is recorded. The Kilkenny Bible, written and updated by Gerry O'Neill is also on the Web.

As I stated earlier, the Web has marvellous potential of selling, and advertising. For instance you will find this Yearbook advertised on it. You will find a facility to subscribe to the Kilkenny County Board Lotto, or the Hurlers Co-op Draw or the Supporters Club all-online. Many business houses in the County find it profitable to advertise their Companies on the Kilkenny GAA Web. It certainly doesn't cost an arm or a leg to do so, and the repeat adverts are indicative of the value it returns.

"Presently we are carrying ads for 200 Intern jobs for people with GAA backgrounds. All the jobs are in coaching or Games Development, and it is most commendable of the GAA to be taking that route to sorting out in a little way the dreadful drain of our youth to foreign places for work", said Jimmy. Other important elements of our Association including Handball, Camogie and Ladies' Football have their activities well documented on the Web. So too are the activities of the Kilkenny Supporters Club is there. All the Development Squads personnel are there somewhere, together with photos of supporters, a video tour of Nowlan Park and hundreds of other nuggets of information.

Do you know? It aint so complicated after all, and given the amount of information encased in the site, wouldn't it be a dreadful waste of the energy of great men, if I didn't get more familiar with it?



The fixtures, and results pages are hugely popular

Kilkenny's 8 All Stars!



KILKENNY GAA HURLING ALL-STAR AWARD WINNERS 2011

The 2011 GAA GPA All Star Kilkenny Hurlers of the Year, front row, from left, Paul Murphy, Tommy Walsh and Richie Hogan with back row, from left, Michael Rice, Henry Shefflin, Michael Fennelly, Brian Hogan and Richie Power at the GAA GPA All-Star Awards 2011 sponsored by Opel. National Convention Centre, Dublin.

Picture credit: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

Camogie All Stars for 2011

Goalkeeper

Susan Earner, Galway

Backs

Claire O'Connor, Wexford
Catherine O'Loughlin, Wexford
Lorraine Ryan, Galway
Ann - Marie Hayes, Galway
Therese Maher, Galway
Anna Geary, Cork

Midfield

Niamh Kilkenny, Galway
Jill Horan, Tipperary

Forwards

Kate Kelly, Wexford
Una Leacy, Wexford
Jennifer O'Leary, Cork
Katrina Parrock, Wexford
Ursula Jacob, Wexford
Brenda Hanney, Galway



GAA GPA All-Star Hurler of the Year Michael Fennelly, Kilkenny, at the GAA GPA All-Star Awards 2011 sponsored by Opel. National Convention Centre, Dublin.

Picture credit: Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE

GAA/GPA Hurling Team of the Year 2011

Goalkeeper

1. Gary Maguire (Dublin)

Full-Backs:

2. Paul Murphy (Kilkenny)
3. Paul Curran (Tipperary)
4. Michael Cahill (Tipperary)

Half backs

5. Tommy Walsh (Kilkenny)
6. Brian Hogan (Kilkenny)
7. Pádraic Maher (Tipperary)

Midfielders

8. Liam Rushe (Dublin)
9. Michael Fennelly (Kilkenny)

Half forwards

10. Michael Rice (Kilkenny)
11. Richie Power (Kilkenny)
12. Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny)

Full forwards

13. John Mullane (Waterford)
14. Lar Corbett (Tipperary)
15. Richie Hogan (Kilkenny)

Obituaries



Paul Harrison

Paul Harrison the last surviving member of the Harrison family of Crohill, Freshford passed to his eternal reward on Monday 17th October in the loving care of St Catherine's Nursing home where he had been for the previous six months. Prior to that he spent twelve years in Prague House where he received great care and attention from the Sisters and staff. Paul, who was in his 97th year was a loving, kind, good living and inoffensive person. He loved his Sunday Mass and even when he was in Prague House and in failing health he would make the short journey with the help of his walking aid to attend Sunday mass at St Lachtain's church. He was predeceased by his two sisters Hennie, (Henrietta) Ninnie (Mary) and his brother Nicholas popularly known as "Joker". With his brother and sisters he farmed extensively at Crohill for many years. On the morning Paul died his first cousin Martin White Kilkenny's oldest All-Ireland medal winner was being laid to rest in Dublin.

The Harrisons were great patrons of sport and the fine expanse of grassland on the Clinstown Road was used for many different sports. It was freely given for pony racing, athletics, coursing and even hot rod racing, but it was for hurling that this famous venue will be best remembered.

It was never called the "Hurling" or "GAA Pitch". It was simply called "Harrisons". It came into use during the late twenties. By the end of the thirties "Harrisons" had become firmly established as the regular GAA ground. It was regarded as one of the driest surfaces in the county due mainly to its fine sandy soil. It became the central venue for all club championship matches in North Kilkenny and Sunday after Sunday it staged great contests witnessed by huge crowds standing three or four deep outside the timber railings which were erected in the late forties.

In 1984 suitable land adjacent to the school and village became available and was purchased and developed into the fine facilities that St Lachtain's GAA Club now own. In 1990 the curtain finally came down on "Harrisons" as a GAA venue. The local GAA Club together with the various

GAA Boards will always be in debt to the Harrison family for their great generosity.

A guard of honour was formed at the removal by members of the GAA and coursing clubs. At the funeral mass which was concelebrated by Fr. Pat Comerford PP and Fr Joe Campion CC Castlecomer, the words of the second reading were reflective of Paul's life "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith". Paul was interred at St Lachtain's cemetery. May the sod of St Lachtain's cemetery lie lightly on his breast.



Tommy Kelly

The death occurred on 13th January 2011 of Thomas (Tommy) Kelly, Abbeyview, Knocktopher, Co. Kilkenny after a brief illness, aged 62 years. Tommy was the son of the late James and Julia Kelly, Conahy, Ballyragget.

Tommy came to live in Knocktopher after his marriage to Alice (Fitzpatrick) in 1973; He was father to Liam and Tomas.

Tommy was a quiet and unassuming gentleman with many and varied interests. Being a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather, he derived great consolation and enjoyment from all aspects of family life.

Tommy was employed by Kerry Foods and Freshways for the last ten years, and previously worked for various companies as a Van Salesman. He was a deeply conscientious worker and he deservedly commanded the respect and admiration of colleagues, management, and customers alike, being recognised for what he undoubtedly was - a dedicated employee.

One of his greatest interests was Gaelic Games, he started playing hurling with his beloved Conahy in the 1960s. In his adopted parish, Ballyhale, he was involved with Ballyhale Shamrocks at different levels and he took great pride in their many achievements. He also held different posts at county level, being involved with Bord na nÓg until his passing. His interests embraced soccer and refereeing in earlier years. He took immense pride in the involvement of his two sons hurling with Ballyhale Shamrocks.

Tommy had many strings to his bow and was engaged in various organisations - always willing to help whenever he was called upon, especially in his local community. His jovial way and smile was infectious and he was a great friend to many. During his leisure time, Tommy loved to play cards. He travelled to many card venues with his wife, Alice, for a game. He loved social occasions and enjoyed the company of his many friends.

It is difficult to express in words alone the depth of sadness that enveloped the entire community and far beyond at his passing. He truly will be missed. The measure of esteem in which Tommy was held was reflected in the hugely representative crowd that paid their respects over his wake and funeral.

Tommy is survived by his wife, Alice, sons Liam and Thomas, daughters in law Grainne and Marie, grandchildren Shannon and Liam, father-in-law Bill, brothers Seamus, Joe and Gerard, Ballyragget,



John Walton 1926-2010

John Walton passed to his eternal reward on December 22nd 2010 aged 84 years. Great sadness was felt by all in Tullaroan and beyond with the announcement of Johns death.

John was a great family man and always put them first. He was born on April 6th 1926 and lived and farmed all his life in Reimeen. John had a great passion for hurling. He loved under age hurling and he would have served as a selector on every under age team in the club right up to Under 21. He served as chairman of the club in the late 80's and his proudest moment during that term was to see Tullaroan regain Senior status in 1988.

John won a senior championship with Tullaroan in 1948. He attended all Tullaroan matches at all levels and with his great friends Eamon and Dick Holland and the late Billy Gaffney he travelled to all Kilkenny matches the length and breadth of the country. He got great enjoyment out of Kilkenny's success in recent years.

At his funeral Tullaroan Hurling club formed a guard of honour of which he would have been very proud.

Johns passing is a great loss to Tullaroan Hurling club, his family and many friends.

Ar dheis De go raibh se.

sisters Mary Ryan, Dublin, Breda Kelly, Roscommon, Margaret Stratford, Ballyragget, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nephews, nieces and a large circle of relatives, friends and neighbours.

Ar Dheis Dé go Raibh a Anam.



Paddy Hennessy 1925-2011

After a short illness Paddy Hennessy died on June 5th this year. Even though he had been unwell for the previous two months, he was always optimistic that he would regain full health. Paddy had many interests and made many friends from all walks of life and this was demonstrated by the large crowds that attended his funeral mass and burial.

Paddy was particularly attached to his late wife Margaret, who pre deceased him in 1998 as well as all his family. He loved a game of cards and with the emergence of Sky Sports he became a great follower of darts, Snooker and Football. However all paled into significance when it came to hurling. Paddy loved the game and was initially involved in many capacities with the old Ballycallan hurling team throughout the 50s & 60s and was a founder member of Graigue Ballycallan GAA Club in 1969. Paddy served as a selector with the club in the early years, reaching the County Junior Final in 1970. With the emergence of his own sons Gerard, Kevin and Milo onto the team in the early to mid seventies, he stepped down as a selector but continued to follow the club up until his passing.

Paddy took great pride in the achievements of the club and in particular when he saw his sons win a County Junior Title in 1985 and an Intermediate Title in 1987. He was extremely proud when his son Kevin won an All Ireland Junior medal in 1986 defeating Limerick in the final in Thurles, Kevin also won Man of the Match in that game, an achievement that added further to what was a great day for Paddy.

When Graigue Ballycallan contested 4 county finals in a row, winning two between 1998-2001, Paddy had realised a dream of seeing his beloved club reach the pinnacle of Kilkenny Hurling. While disappointed when the club lost the All Ireland Club Final in 2011, it did not diminish in any way his pride in the Club or the players who had given so much.

As an appreciation for Paddy's work for the club, he was made an Honorary Life President, a position he held for many years up until his passing. A man that gave so much, his contribution to Graigue Ballycallan will never be forgotten.

Ar dheis dé go raibh se.



William (Billy) Fennelly

Great sadness was felt throughout Kilmanagh and beyond on Sunday 28th of August when news of Billy Fennelly's death reached the parish. He was the last member of the Fennelly family from Graigue Cross – a family steeped in the GAA tradition.

Billy was an avid GAA supporter and followed all Graigue Ballycallan teams from Senior down to under-age levels. He was a lifelong member of the local Graigue and later Graigue Ballycallan club. The Graigue club was formed in 1943 at the family homestead at Graigue Cross and his late father Edward Fennelly was one of the founder members. Ballyline club had disbanded and a number of its younger players continued to train in Morris's field until the Teehan family in Shipton kindly facilitated them with a field and this was used until the Tom Ryall Park was opened in Kilmanagh in May 1996.

Billy was active in the club as treasurer and secretary and was an honorary president up to his death. His involvement with the club played a huge part in his life and brought him great joy and fulfilment. He played on the Junior team that won the 1946 County Championship and played in goal in the early rounds of the 1947/48 Senior Championship. His brothers Paddy, Jack, Tom and Ted also made a huge contribution to the Graigue hurling club. His mother Johanna and sisters Bridget, Kit and Margaret were also great club supporters.

It was a great delight to Billy that his strong GAA interest passed on to his sons and daughters and he was proud when his sons lined out with the local hurling teams. He took great pleasure in his grandchildren who have continued this great gaelic tradition representing their clubs and counties in Kilkenny and also in Kildare, Wicklow and Tipperary in the codes of hurling, football, handball, camogie and ladies football. Throughout the years Billy followed Graigue's successes with a passion and he was so proud when a club player donned the black and amber jersey. He hadn't attended matches for a few years due to failing eyesight but continued to be an ardent follower through radio and television.

Billy was first and foremost a family man. He was a devoted husband to his wife Peggy(nee Dalton) who predeceased him in April 2010. He will be sadly missed by a wide circle of family and friends but particularly by his 5 sons Eamon, Liam, Seán, Pat and Tom and 5 daughters Joan, Brigid, Margaret, Mary and Betty, his sons in-law and daughters in-law, his 21 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. His family

are blessed to have had his love and presence in their lives for so many years. Rest in Peace Billy.

*Love all whom you hold dear
Precious is the time you share
Do not wait for tomorrow
For tomorrow may not be.*

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis



Paddy Clohosey

2011 witnessed the passing of Paddy Clohosey from Tullaroan. Paddy gave a lifelong commitment to hurling at all levels.

His involvement in hurling was inspired by his own father, Patrick who hurled for Tullaroan & Kilkenny in the early 1900s. Growing up with 6 brothers and one sister, hurling dominated their lives. He took great enjoyment watching his brother Sean play for Kilkenny and win 2 All Irelands in 57 & 63.

Paddy was part of the 1948 and 1958 Tullaroan teams that won the county championships.

He enjoyed a great friendship with Lory Meagher and took over as chairman of Tullaroan club when he stepped down. Over the many years he served as chairman one of his proudest achievements was securing the hurling pitch for the parish. He spent many a happy day pitch side watching the young hurlers evolve from underage to senior ranks. He rarely missed a training session and never missed a game.

During his lifetime he took on many roles for the club: chairman, treasurer, selector and fund raiser. In the early 90s he was selector for the Kilkenny Intermediate hurling team. He was well known for his love of hurling and the Tullaroan club. He was a great raconteur and shared many hurling stories and anecdotes.

Paddy was also chairman of Tullaroan Creamery and a member of the Kilkenny Mart Committee.

He is sadly missed by his family, friends and all who knew him.



Paddy Teehan 1919-2011

Paddy Teehan returned for the last time to be interred with his parents in the old Tullaroan Church graveyard. The grave was undisturbed since the 1940's. It was as if the Tullaroan soil had waited for him and held a place of final rest in her bosom.

Paddy was born on 12th March, 1919 in the townland of New England in the hills overlooking Tullaroan village. The youngest child of Ned and Bridget Teehan, he was born into farming stock. Along with his sister Maggie, brothers Dick and Todd, Paddy had a happy and hard working youth.

However, with the formation of the Irish nation the times were turbulent. This was evidenced by the shooting of two Flying Column volunteers by the Black and Tans close to the Teehan household. The Knocknagress monument attests to that event. The family never forgot the bullets from the skirmish flying through the farmyard and the investigations by the Black and Tans that day.

The Teehan family were staunch proponents of the game of hurling. In 1884 Paddy's father Ned tackled his pony and trap and along with Henry Meagher (Lory's father) and Jack Hoyne he set out to attend the inaugural meeting of the GAA at Hayes Hotel, Thurles. Ned was a member of the Tullaroan teams that represented Kilkenny in the late 1800's and early 1900's and was with the first All Ireland team to play at Jones Road, now Croke Park. Paddy himself represented Kilkenny at Junior level.

Paddy played with Tullaroan teams of the late 1930's until the 1951 Senior County Final. He was a doughty corner back playing with great local names of Tullaroan hurling including Meagher, Hogan, Walton, Walsh, Clohosey, Hennessey, Cleere, Dowling and Malone. Paddy played in five Senior County Finals with Tullaroan from 1947 to 1951 but only winning in 1948 against Carrickshock and losing out to Graigue by 1 point in 1949.

Paddy had a distinctive style and outgoing personality. He always wore a colourful tartan cap in his later years. Paddy met his future wife Mary Hurley at the Threecastles' dance board. They married in 1956 and settled in Ballywaters near Callan.

In 1961 they moved to Nottingham, England where Paddy spent the rest of his life in the suburb of Stapleford. He had two daughters Patricia and Rosemary.

Paddy worked into his seventies in the road building industry and he had a lot of Irish and English friends. Political opinions were aired and debated and interestingly the latest trends in farming methods.

However, he never forgot Tullaroan and Kilkenny.

He would watch and discuss with his friends all the hurling matches he could. Before television and Irish sport became widely available he would climb the highest hill to get a good reception so he could listen to the All-Ireland final on his radio. He and Mary kept themselves informed on Kilkenny matters through the Kilkenny People. Tullaroan was in his heart and he returned religiously to Tullaroan every year until he was about 85 years old for the 15th of August Pattern celebrations.

He was the gentle, hard working Irish man and shall be sorely missed by all.

With sadness his Irish relatives learned of Paddy's unexpected death, he died at 8 am on 13th October 2011. The word was passed around that Paddy was returning for burial in Tullaroan. Preparations were made and finally Paddy arrived in Tullaroan on Thursday 27th October, 2011 in the company of his family, relations, friends and the Tullaroan people. From the funeral home in Freshford Paddy's coffin was brought to his village. In the presence of the Hurling Club guard of honour his coffin was draped with the Tullaroan jersey before proceeding to the Church of the Assumption.

After fifty years away he had received a wonderful welcome back.

Ar dheis lamh De go raimh a anam dilis.

asm and her desire to see progress in all aspects of life, even in her final illness, was an inspiration to all who came in contact with her.

She will always be remembered by her many friends as a person of great integrity and courage. To her husband Gerard, sons Eoin and Gerard, her sister Margaret and all her extended family, our deepest sympathies.

May she rest in peace.



Billy Cleere 1958-2011

The untimely death took place on June 3rd of Billy Cleere, St Marys Avenue, Urlingford and formally of Canverstown, Tullaroan. Although Billy lived in Urlingford for almost 30 years, he always thought of himself as a proud Tullaroan man and was a keen supporter of both Tullaroan and Kilkenny up to the time of his passing.

During his playing days, Billy lined out Tullaroan at all levels from U12 to Junior. He played for Kilkenny at Under 14 level winning a Leinster Championship and Vocational Schools All Oireland medal.

Billy was a very popular person and was renowned for his good humour which he never lost, even during his sickness. He was also a noted craftsman especially at stone masonry.

A testament to his character was the crowds that turned out at his funeral. Billy would have been very proud to see his remains being carried shoulder high from his home to the church in Urlingford by his family and friends, draped in the white and green of Tullaroan and black and amber of Kilkenny, accompanied by a guard of honour from Tullaroan Hurling Club.

Billy is survived by his wife Biddy, son Vinny, daughters Rowena, Rebecca and Lauren, son in law, daughter in law, grandchildren, brothers, sisters and extended family.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dilis.



Cepta Brennan

The sad passing of Cepta Brennan in July was a great loss to her family and her many friends in Piltown GAA Club.

She was the first female officer in Piltown GAA Club where she served as Treasurer for seven years and was still Assistant Treasurer of the Juvenile Club up to the time of her death. She was very much involved in all aspects of the GAA in Piltown and at County Board level, particularly by her dedicated stewarding in Piltown and in Nowlan Park on match days. She always made herself available for collecting at gates and helped out at functions in the GAA Complex on a regular basis.

She was a great supporter of all Piltown GAA teams from Juvenile level upwards and she made every effort to attend every match even during her illness. Her support of the GAA did not stop at Piltown as she was a staunch supporter of the Kilkenny Hurling teams. The esteem she was held in was very evident at her funeral by the large attendance both on the evening of her removal and on the day of the burial. Her infectious enthusi-



Mary Coogan

A great sadness and loss filled the hearts and lives of Tullaroan and far beyond on the 4th of August 2011 when Mary Coogan of Lates, Tullaroan left us to return home to God's heavenly house.

Mary was born on the 29th of May 1948, the eldest of the Cleere family with six brothers and two sisters – Milo, Tom, Gerry, Neddy, Paddy, Billy (RIP), Biddy and Margie. Mary was not only a big sister but a great friend to her siblings whom she truly loved and adored.

Mary married in 1973 to what one could only describe as her true soul mate, Jim (Jimmy) Coogan, originally from Uskerty in the parish of Muckalee. The love and adoration they shared for each other can only be described as breath taking. They really were the perfect couple and a true inspiration and aspiration to us all.

Mary's life was completed when she had her three boys, Jimmy, John and Ken, to whom she devoted and committed her life to. Although Mary never had a daughter she had the three perfect daughters in law that she would ever have wished for, as all Mary ever wanted, was to know her boys were happy and loved by another girl as much as she did.

However the two most important girls in Mary's life were her grand daughters, Mary was so proud of her little ladies, Ellie and Grace. They really were her precious little girls, who loved their Nanny Mary as much as her them.

Mary's other main joys in life were fashion, politics, current affairs and sports, quite a combination but she really was outstanding in all regards. Mary always displayed a true flare for fashion, ensuring the shoes, handbag and jewellery, perfectly accessorised to complete all outfits with style and grace.

Mary really was an exceptionally intelligent lady, she really had an unbelievable knowledge for everything. One would always have seen Mary with the Independent in one hand while still keeping a watchful eye on the television ensuring to catch all the news updates throughout the day.

Mary had a great love of all sports watching every type of sporting activity, but her true graft was for hurling. She had a huge sense of pride and love for her parish of Tullaroan, being a dedicated supporter of Tullaroan hurling throughout her life. Mary was so proud to witness her three sons represent her beloved Tullaroan and to also wear the famous black and amber at various age groups and levels.

Although Mary is no longer here with us in

body there is no question she is here in spirit watching over her family and friends, as she always did.

Mary, a true lady, a loving wife, devoted mother, big sister, mother-in-law, doting grandmother, aunt, godmother, loyal friend. Mary really was so much to so many and will always be so sadly missed but will always be kept in our hearts and thoughts.



Phil Cashin

Phil Cashin was devoted to hurling and camogie throughout his life. He could be seen on any road in any county going to or coming from a game of hurling or camogie. He could name players, dates and years off the top of his head. Phil played the game of hurling himself. He was proud to have played for his beloved Graigue Ballycallan, while he also lined out for Mahon McPhillips when he worked for the company.



Dick Roche (Stoneyford)

Dick Roche, born in Gowran, but a naturalised Stoneyford man for many of the 70 years he spent in this World, sadly passed away on December 11th 2010. After a determined battle against a dreaded illness, Dick bade farewell to his wife, Maura, his sons, Declan and Oliver, his grandchildren, relatives, and a wide host of friends. His passing will have caused a huge void in the many local developments in which he was hugely involved. But it was the game of camogie that really took care of most of his spare time down Carrickshock way. He was all things to all men, and women in the game. He selected, trained, cajoled, scolded, encouraged, advised, and administered to a huge number of players over a very long number of years. His Mirafiori was the camogie bus. It was said that if you didn't get a seat in the overflowing Mira, you were destined for the substitutes bench. He practically transported the entire team in that motor car.

He was a GAA man to the core. He played for Young Irelands even when he moved to Carrickshock, and friendships fashioned in his new domain were cast to the side as Dick always gave of his best for the sake of the little village. He was totally dedicated to the Carrickshock camogie cause, and woe betide any outsider who was critical of his charges, or endeavoured to put them down in any sense.

He carried his allegiances on his sleeve, and his passing will be sorely missed by all who ever had dealings with him, on or off the pitch.

To his wife Maura, and his sons, Declan, and Oliver, to his daughters-in-law, his Grandchildren, friends and relatives, we offer our sincerest sympathies.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.



Mick Moore

The Members of Graignamanagh G.A.A Club were sad to hear of the passing of one of its founder members and first Chairman of our Club Mr. Michael Moore. A native of Tullogher /Rosbercon Michael arrived in Graignamanagh in the 1940's as a young and enthusiastic Primary School Teacher at a time which coincided with the re-organisation of the Cumann Na Mbun-Scoil (Primary Schools League) which had been suspended during the war.

Master Moore entered the boys in the Hurling and Football Leagues and this instilled in them a love of our native games. The clubs records seem to indicate that all was not to pleasant in Graig GAA circles around 1953 and a group of angry young men met to rewrite the history of G.A.A in Graig-namanagh .

Michael was elected Chairman of the first Committee of St. Vincent's Hurling Club now Graig-namanagh GAA Club and served in the job with great pride for 3 years until 1955 and the Club went from strength to strength. Although Mick moved from the area, in latter years he was always very interested in the affairs of the club and our results. Our club would like to pass on our sympathy to Mick's Family and Friends and to G.A.A Gaels who knew Mick.

"Ar Dheis De go raibh a anam dilis".



Peter Sarty Tallis

The family, friends, Lisdowney GAA and the wider GAA community were devastated by the sudden death of Peter Tallis earlier this year. He was a great servant to Lisdowney GAA, filling many committee positions, including the Chairman for many years. During his time, he oversaw many club developments and achievements both on and off the field.

Probably his proudest moment was winning the Northern Junior Championship against the famed Bennettsbridge in 2008. We subsequently lost the county final to Tullogher but it was our first county final appearance in many decades.

His biggest contribution to the club was undoubtedly in the pitch and club rooms development and maintenance. He brought his extensive grass care skills to immense benefit in this area.

Outside of GAA he was hugely talented like all his brothers. He finally found his calling in the engineering field – started off in construction but never content – sought new opportunities – a man ahead of his time – a true entrepreneur – prepared to take risks, innovative and self-reliant.

He was a young man at heart – wanted to be still out hurling, playing the game he loved so well with his grand children. He related very well to the young. He liked to be in the thick of things whether playing, looking after teams or running the club.

The idea of retiring or slipping into old age – drawing a pension – getting free travel – sitting around watching the world go by would not have appealed to him. He fought the good fight – lived life to the full, reared a good family – set them up for life – did good deeds and did great service in our community.

He always had a smile on his face – looked out for his friends – had no enemies. He is now at peace – up there with the angels – looking down on us with that infectious smile.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



JJ Reddy

The sudden death of JJ Reddy of Farmley, Cuffesgrange on Monday 5th of September shocked the local community and all in Danesfort GAA Club. JJ was treasurer of Danesfort GAA club, a position he held since 2003 up to the time of his death.

JJ lived all his life on the family farm at Farmley. He loved the land and farmed it with great attention with his late father Martin and brother Bartley. In later years JJ diversified and set up a thriving nursery business beside the family home working closely with his mother Mary. JJ was noted for the quality of his nursery and was reckoned as one of the top producers in the region. JJ's bedding plants adorned many homes in the locality as well as many public places in Kilkenny city and beyond. He knew the business inside out and there was no aspect of it that he wasn't knowledgeable about. He was an extremely shrewd businessman and had a wonderful talent for holding and calculating figures in his head.

It was this great skill and talent that JJ brought to Danesfort GAA Club with his election as treasurer 2003, taking over from the late Tommy Murphy under whom he had worked as assistant treasurer. It was in this role that JJ excelled and oversaw the finances of the club.

During his tenure he supervised the setting up of a finance committee to give special attention to fundraising for the club. He was a driving force in selling Piltown tickets for club, along with the Club 500 Draw and other fundraisers which helped to balance the club books annually.

JJ was a key person in the realisation of the club's development plan and was tireless in his efforts to help the club acquire a second playing pitch which has now come to fruition. He was also instrumental in the setting up of the Club and Parish Lotto which ensures the financial security of both club and parish going forward into the future. JJ also had a busy tenure in relation to the distribution of All-Ireland tickets. Both he and his great friend Helen Devane worked closely and tirelessly together in all these club activities.

The day before his death JJ attended the All-Ireland Final with his brother Bartley. It brought him great joy to see three clubmen, Paul Murphy, Richie Hogan and Paddy Hogan win All-Ireland medals and he spoke of this to his mother Mary when he arrived home later that night. In the early hours of Monday morning JJ slipped away peacefully to his eternal reward.

There was a huge attendance at JJ's funeral which spoke volumes of the esteem with which he was held in the local community and beyond. In

a very moving gesture at the reception of his remains at the Church of the Holy Cross Cuffesgrange, the club's three county stars placed the Liam McCarthy Cup on his coffin. He would have been very proud of that.

He would also have been very proud of his club's victory this year in the Intermediate County Final and rising to the senior ranks in Kilkenny club hurling. After the euphoria of celebrations in Nowlan Park team captain Richie Hogan paid a fitting tribute to JJ's memory and what he meant to us in our club in his victory speech. The cup was then brought straight from Nowlan Park to JJ's resting place in Cuffesgrange cemetery by club chairman Martin Tynan, Gerry Doyle, Pat O'Neill and his devoted and loyal friend Helen Devane. There is no doubt that JJ played his own part and used his influence to get us across the line on that day!

JJ Reddy will be sorely missed in the Danesfort GAA Club scene. His legacy of commitment will live on and hopefully not be lost on the present and future club members. We have many good reasons to remember him and we pray that God has reserved a special seat for him in the heavenly stadium.

However great his loss to our club, the greatest loss is to his mother Mary, his sisters Maura and Nora, his brother Bartley, his nieces and nephews, relatives and a multitude of dear and close friends. As a club and as friends and neighbours, we offer our sympathy and continued support to his family. Ní beidh a leitheid arís.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.



Paddy Meagher

Paddy Meagher of Newtown, Kells passed away on June 20th 2011 after a short illness. Born in Drangan, Co. Tipperary in 1919, he moved to Kilkenny at an early age but never forgot his Tipp roots. As a young man he won a couple of county handball medals playing with Newtown in the 1940s. A well-known cards player, he loved the banter involved when playing 25s. Having worked with horses as a young farmer he enjoyed the chance to breed some for racing in later years. A prominent supporter and trustee of John Lockes GAA club, he was actively involved in fundraising to purchase land and develop John Locke Park.

His son Mick played with St. Kieran's and won an All-Ireland Minor with Kilkenny in 1977. He had to support Kilkenny against Tipp in the Under-21 final three years later. Married since 1949, his wife Patricia (nee Hennessy of Rathculbin) passed away a few months earlier on March 6th. He is survived by his sons John, Joe, Kevin, Mick, daughter Joanne and their families. A guard of honour was provided by John Lockes GAA Club at his funeral. He was interred beside his wife, Patricia, in Newtown Cemetery.

Solas na bhflaitheas air.



Kilkenny GAA Results 2011



SENIOR HURLING		UNDER 21 HURLING	
County SH Championship Final	J Stephen's 1-10, B Shamrocks 0-13 J Stephen's 1-20, B Shamrocks 0-15	Roinn "A" U21H Championship Final	Not Finished*
SH League Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-13 James Stephen's 1-10	Roinn "B" U21H Championship Final	Not Finished*
SH Shield Final	St Martin's 1-22 O'Loughlin Gaels 2-15	Roinn "A" U21H C'ship Northern Final	Not Finished*
SH Relegation Final	Tullaroan 0-15 Clara 0-14	Roinn "A" U21H C'ship Southern Final	Rower Inistioge v Mooncoin
INTERMEDIATE HURLING		Roinn "B" U21H C'ship Northern Final	Not Finished*
County IH Championship Final	Danesfort 2-11 Rower Inistioge 0-11	Roinn "B" U21H C'ship Southern Final	Piltown 0-19 Kilmacow 0-9
IH League Final	Rower/Inistioge 2-16 Danesfort 1-14	MINOR HURLING	
IH Shield Final	Glenmore 2-12 Mooncoin 1-5	Roinn "A" MH Championship Final	B'bridge 0-10, Thomastown 0-10 B'bridge 1-14, Thomastown 0-13
IH Relegation Final	Tullogher/Rosbercon 1-21 Graignamanagh 1-9	Roinn "B" MH Championship Final	Mullinavat 2-9 St Patrick's 0-4
JUNIOR HURLING		Roinn "C" MH Championship Final	Danesfort 3-3, Cloneen 2-6 Danesfort 1-10, Cloneen 0-8
County JH Championship Final	St Patrick's 0-14 Piltown 1-8	Roinn "A" MH League Final	Thomastown 1-13 Bennettsbridge 0-14
Northern JH Championship Final	St Patrick's 0-19 Galmoy 2-10	Roinn "B" MH League Final	St Fiacre's 1-9 Mooncoin 0-7
Southern JH Championship Final	Piltown 4-20 Mooncoin 1-6	Roinn "C" MH League Final	Danesfort 2-12 Dicksboro 1-7
All County JH League	Mt Leinster Rangers 1-14 Kilmacow 1-7	UNDER 16 HURLING	
County JH League Final	Lisdowney 3-11 Galmoy 1-11	Roinn "A" U16H Championship Final	Dicksboro 6-14 Jas Stephens 2-8
JH Relegation Final	Cloneen 1-10 St Lachtain's 0-3	Roinn "B" U16H Championship Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-19 Thomastown 2-9
County JH A Final	Tullaroan 1-13 Rower Inistioge 0-13	Roinn "C" U16H Championship Final	Tullogher Rosbercon 2-9 Dunamaggin 1-11
County JH B Final	Conahy Shamrocks 4-14 Glenmore 0-6	Roinn "A" U16H League Final	James Stephens 6-10 Dicksboro 3-5
County JH A League Final	Carrickshock 3-10 St Martin's 0-13	Roinn "B" U16H League Final	Lisdowney 2-17 Conahy Shamrocks 2-8
County JH B League Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 5-12 Glenmore 2-12	Roinn "C" U16H League Final	Tullogher Rosbercon 2-8 Tullaroan 1-4
JH "A" Relegation Final	St Martin's 3-16 John Lockes 2-12	UNDER 14 HURLING	
Northern Junior A Hurling Championship	Tullaroan 3-12 Graigue/Ballycallan 2-13	Roinn "A" U14H Championship Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 2-13 John Lockes 0-9
Southern Junior A Hurling Championship	Rower/Inistioge 2-12 Thomastown 2-9	Roinn "B" U14H Championship Final	Slieverue 3-9 Mooncoin 0-5
Northern Junior A Hurling League	St Martin's 0-19 Carlow Town 1-11	Roinn "C" U14H Championship Final	St Martin's 3-15 Emeralds 2-4
Southern Junior A Hurling League	Carrickshock 0-18 Rower/Inistioge 1-13	Paddy Grace Féile na nGael Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 3-8 James Stephen 2-8
Northern Junior B Hurling Championship	Conahy Shamrocks 2-12 James Stephens 2-10	Roinn "A" U14H League Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 3-12 Dicksboro 1-7
Southern Junior B Hurling Championship	Glenmore 2-18 Mooncoin 1-19	Roinn "B" U14H League Final	Slieverue 2-13 St Lachtain's 0-8
Northern Junior B Hurling League	O'Loughlin Gaels 1-15 Conahy Shamrocks 0-14	Roinn "C" U14H League Final	Danesfort 5-8 Dunamaggin 1-6
Southern Junior B Hurling League	Glenmore 2-14 Kilmacow 0-18	PRIMARY SCHOOLS HURLING	
CUP COMPETITIONS		Roinn "A" U13H Championship Final	St Patrick's 3-12 St Canice's 3-5
Byrne Cup Final	Clara 1-18 Erin's Own 0-17	Roinn "B" U13H Championship Final	Kilmanagh 2-9, Thomastown 4-9 Kilmanagh 2-11, Thomastown 1-4
Aylward Cup Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 3-15 John Lockes 1-19	Roinn "C" U13H Championship Final	Conahy 6-6 Lisdowney 5-7
Paddy Cahill Cup	Naomh Moling 3-9 Naomh Bríd 1-9	Corn de Bhaldraithe	Ballyhale 2-9 Kilmanagh 0-3
Kevin Fennelly Cup	Barrow Rangers 1-13 Windgap 0-13	Corn Uí Bhriain	Lisdowney 10-3 Graig/Skeough 3-2
Joe Walsh Cup	Graignamanagh 3-14 St Lachtain's 1-12	* As of going to press (November 21st 2011)	
Jim Farrell Cup	South Sel. 1-15 North Sel. 1-13	* As of going to press (November 21st 2011)	

SENIOR FOOTBALL		Junior League Final	Young Irelands 3-5, Danesfort 2-5
County SF Championship Final	Muckalee 0-6 Kilmoganny 0-4	All County Junior League Final	Emerals 3-2 Danesfort 0-10
County SF League Final	Glenmore 1-12 Railyard 0-8	UNDER 21 CAMOGIE	
INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL		Under 21 "A" Final	Not Finished*
County IF Championship Final	Not Finished*	Under 21 "B" Final	O'Loughlins 4-10 Danesfort 2-10
County IF League Final	Conahy Shamrocks 3-14 Piltown 1-7	MINOR CAMOGIE	
JUNIOR FOOTBALL		Minor "A" Final	Windgap 3-8 Dicksboro 1-5
County JF Championship Final	Clara 1-8, Railyard 1-8 Clara 2-9, Railyard 1-7	Minor "B" Final	Danesfort 3-11 Young Irelands 1-16
MINOR FOOTBALL		Minor "C" Final	Piltown 2-8 St Annes 1-6
Roynn "A" MF Championship Final	James Stephens 1-3 Thomastown 0-4	Minor "D" Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 7-18 Kilmacow 0-0
Roynn "B" MF Championship Final	Not Finished*	UNDER 16 CAMOGIE	
Roynn "C" MF Championship Final	Not Finished*	U16 "A" Final	Thomastown 3-14 Dicksboro 1-2
U16 FOOTBALL		U16 "B" Final	Piltown 6-14 Danesfort 0-4
Roynn "A" U16F League/Championship Final	Not Finished*	U16 "C" Final	St Annes 3-10 Emeralds 2-2
Roynn "B" U16F League/Championship Final	Not Finished*	U16 "D" Final	Paulstown 1-8 O Loughlin Gaels 0-8
Roynn "C" U16F League/Championship Final	Not Finished*	UNDER 14 CAMOGIE	
U14 FOOTBALL		U14 "A" Final	St Martins 5-4 Thomastown 4-4
Roynn "A" U14F Championship Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 3-9 Dicksboro 2-4	U14 "B" Final	Glenmore 4-8 St Brigids 2-2
Roynn "B" U14F Championship Final	Tullogher/Rosbercon 8-12 Lisdowney 3-6	U14 "C" Final	O Loughlin Gaels 7-5 Kilmacow 1-5
Roynn "C" U14F Championship Final	St Martin's 3-11 Young Irelands 0-4	U14 "D" Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 9-1 Castlecomer 2-4
SCHOOLS FOOTBALL		U14 Féile Final	St Brigids 2-1 Thomastown 1-5
Roynn "A" U13F Championship Final	Not Finished*	UNDER 12 CAMOGIE	
Roynn "B" U13F Championship Final	Not Finished*	Div 1	Carrickshock 7-1 Slieverue 0-0
Corn na Tuaithe	Not Finished*	Div 2	Conahy Shamrocks 3-5 Clara 1-0
SENIOR CAMOGIE		Div 3	Dicksboro B 3-0 St Brigids 1-1
Senior Championship Final	St Lachtains 3-14 Mullinavat 1-8	Div 4	Thomastown 4-4 Rower Inistioge 2-3
Senior League Final	Thomastown 2-7 Windgap 1-8	Div 5	Glenmore 3-11 Danesfort 2-1
Senior/Intermediate All County League Final	Thomastown 3-8 Windgap 0-4	Div 6	St Martins 0-0, Tullaroan 0-0 St Martins 1-1, Tullaroan 1-0
Senior Relegation Final	St Brigids 1-6 Ballyhale Shamrocks 0-5	PRIMARY SCHOOLS CAMOGIE	
INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE		Roynn "A" Final	Kilmanagh bt Thomastown
Intermediate Championship Final	Dicksboro 3-7 Tullaroan 2-8	Roynn "B" Final	Glenmore bt Carrickshock
Intermediate League Final	Tullaroan v Dicksboro	Roynn "C" Final	Mullinavat bt Rower Inistioge
Intermediate Relegation Final	Clara 5-15 James Stephens 0-1	Roynn "D" Final	Windgap bt Kilmacow
JUNIOR CAMOGIE		For outstanding results from 2010 please check Kilkenny GAA Bible or kilkenneygaa.ie	
Junior "A" Championship Final	Tullogher 2-10 Young Irelands 0-8		
Junior "B" Championship Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 2-8 Conahy Shamrocks 0-5		

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