

# KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK

2012



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GAA



# KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2012

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## Foreword

A Chairde dílis, tá bliain eile thart agus bliainiris eile á failtíú agam chun cur síos ar eachtrai Cumann Lúthchleas Gael anseo cois Fheoire. 2012 was another busy year for Kilkenny GAA and while we were all disappointed that the historic five in a row eluded us in September it was still a very successful year for the county with both our Minors and Intermediate teams recording All Ireland successes. The achievements of these teams are well chronicled by better scribes than me in this publication; however, I'd like to compliment them here on their dedication, effort, teamwork and sportsmanship as they achieved their respective successes.



The past year has seen some wonderful club hurling in Kilkenny with some excellent finals, a fact that shows the current strength of the game in the county. I would like to congratulate the various winners and thank all teams for their cooperation and the sporting manner in which they played the games. I wish the victorious Clubs success in the upcoming club championships while I'd also like to congratulate Ballyhale Shamrocks and St. Lachtain's on their historic successes in the All Ireland Senior and Intermediate Club Hurling Finals in 2010. We should not forget that we have an active Gaelic Football programme in Kilkenny also with our team taking part in the Allianz National Football League and Leinster Junior championship. Our senior and Intermediate Kilkenny football championship finals were quality games and the winners, Thomastown and Muckalee, performed well in the Leinster club competition subsequently.

Kilkenny handball had another successful season with All Ireland victories in a variety of competitions. Congratulations to all who achieved success and well done to the dedicated people who coach and administer the game in Kilkenny. I would also like to compliment and thank the many dedicated people who worked with all of our Camogie teams this year. Congratulations also to St. Kieran's College on winning the All Ireland Senior Colleges title, and to Loreto, Kilkenny on completing a senior and junior All Ireland camogie double.

A feature and an integral part of our yearbook every year is the quality and quantity of the photographs used to bring the colour and excitement of the past year to you. Many thanks to the many excellent photographers for allowing us to use their excellent material.

The running of our County Board is an expensive operation and would not be possible but for the generous support 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, Michael Lyng Motors, J.J. Kavanagh & Sons, Iverk Produce, Kilkenny Citreon and Honda 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.

A substantial contribution is also made to the financing of our teams, by our Supporters Club Branches in Kilkenny, Dublin and Kildare, and I would like to thank these small but dedicated groups for their work.

No doubt this yearbook will find its way to many corners of the globe just as its predecessors have done. Wherever you are, I hope you enjoy reading of the exploits of our sportsmen and sportswomen in 2012. It is appropriate that their achievements and endeavours are recorded here for present and future generations.

I wish to pay credit to the editor, Barrie Henrques, Chairman, Pat Henderson, Gerry O'Neill and the hard working committee for their work in compiling and editing this yearbook which will become a keepsake for Kilkenny people everywhere.

Best wishes to all Clubs, players and supporters in the county and to all Kilkenny Gaels outside their native county. We look forward to 2013 with hope and anticipation.

*Beir Bua, Slán agus Beannacht,*

*Pol Cinsealach  
Cathaoirleach Coiste Contae Cill Chainnigh.*

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# Editorial

## KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 2012

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*When our Committee ponders yet another Yearbook, and its content, our primary charge is to record the annual local competitions in all age groups, in the various grades of each of our games. These are the year-in, year-out, bread and butter issues that reflect the club and parish ethos of the GAA.*

*Having taken care of these, we ask ourselves - have there been special events, momentous occasions, historical moments?*

*How lucky we in Kilkenny have been, in this regard, down through the decades, but especially in the last dozen years. What great moments! What momentous days! What history has been made! What a privilege it has been to be charged with recording those great years - none more so than the year gone by.*

*Our Senior Hurlers continue their marvellous progress through the pages. We salute their National League and All Ireland senior successes, and the march of Henry Shefflin, Noel Hickey and Brian Cody into the history books.*

*Another notable success, albeit not a winning success, was the achievement of Pat O'Grady and his team, Tom Murphy, PJ.Kenny, and Pat O'Neill in getting to the All Ireland Intermediate Final even though constrained by selection limitations. Our minor team lost out to a Dublin team that came within the width of a hayseed of winning the All Ireland Title. Our U21's lost a super final under lights against Clare in Thurles, but the exercise produced a few great prospects.*

*Loreto Kilkenny collected a marvellous third successive All Ireland Senior Colleges camogie title, while taking a record fourth Junior title in a row - a senior/junior double never before achieved.*

*Kilkenny CBS reached the All Ireland Senior Colleges final where they pressed Nenagh CBS right to the end.*

*What a great year it was for the St Patrick's Club in Ballyragget! Winning their Junior County Title propelled them towards a Provincial Title, thence to All Ireland glories, and more importantly onto a terrific nearly-made-it run to County Intermediate honours in 2012.*

*There was limited success for our Camogie girls, but one can see a promising future for this very young outfit in the near future. The underage structures are well grounded. Our footballers still laboured long, hard, but unrewarded, but one must pay due regard to their efforts.*

*Our handballers deserve tremendous acclaim for their efforts in the World Championships in City West, as well as their many All Ireland successes.*

*Our thanks, as ever, to our contributors, from outside and within the county.*

*Mo bhuiochas to our professional photographers, Ray McManus, and his Sportsfile team, Eoin Hennessy, John McIlwaine, and Charlie Maher. Our own Jimmy Walsh, too, has supplied us with many fine photographs.*

*I must acknowledge the support of our Advertisers, and I would urge that you consider them and their products.*

*Thanks to our hard-working Committee, listed, and of course many thanks to you, our loyal readers who continue to support our publication in these pressing times.*

*May you enjoy good health this Christmas wherever this Yearbook finds you and your GAA family.*



*Slán go fóill.*

*Barrie Henriques*

*Editor*



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# **That was the year.... that eventually was.**

**“....Given enough opportunities to decipher the enemy's defensive code, Kilkenny were always going to get them – and to go to town on them when they did. It is the reason why the best team always wins the World Series or the Premier League.....**

**Enda McEvoy, Irish Examiner**



Kilkenny Captain, Eoin Larkin, lifts the Liam MacCarthy cup after the Senior Hurling All-Ireland Final replay in Croke Park.  
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

**E**very now and then we reach expected destinations by circuitous routes. When Eoin Larkin lifted the National League trophy on May 6<sup>th</sup> after Kilkenny's 3-21 to 0-16 evisceration of a fancied Cork, was there a single person watching in Semple Stadium or farther afield who seriously doubted that the James Stephens man would similarly be hoisting silverware in Croke Park come September? Scarcely. Yet was there a single person who could have dreamed that he'd do so as captain of the defeated Leinster finalists, and moreover do it on September 30<sup>th</sup> rather than September 9<sup>th</sup>? Categorically not.

The destination was anticipated. The journey was unimaginable. In the process we got a championship to savour – the first of the levelling-off championships, one might term it - and Kilkenny had an All Ireland triumph to treasure. A back-door title, yes, but an inordinately worthy and well merited one. Let's face it, the county were always going to win a back-door All Ireland at some stage, and it's not being Noreside-centric to suggest that the asterisk that would customarily accompany a back-door success was in this instance effaced by the sheer toil that had to be expended in reaching the summit – and reaching it the hard way. Set 2012 alongside, say, the front-door victory of 2007: there is simply no comparison. The ninth All Ireland of the Cody era was more than just another All Ireland. Far more than just another All Ireland. For that reason, if kudos go to the Kilkenny management and players for getting it right in the end, praise must also be lavished on Anthony Cunningham and his troops. That the Noresiders earned their crown was largely because Galway forced them to. They usually find a way. This time around they had to work a lot harder than normal to find one.

It was a season of contradictions, a summer in which that most reliable of teams mixed the brilliant with the mediocre and occasionally the downright bad. On the one hand there was the first half of the league final, the third quarter versus Limerick, the second half against Tipperary and the whole of the All Ireland replay. (I refuse to cite the Dublin game in Portlaoise on the basis that Anthony Daly's charges didn't turn up. Tellingly, far too many people took the result at face value instead of viewing it for what it really was: an indictment of Dublin rather than a paean to their conquerors, who didn't have to play particularly well to win as they liked. Thus were sown the seeds of their demise a fortnight later.)

When Kilkenny were good they were very very good indeed. If they didn't consistently reach the heights of 2008 again – and, four years on, couldn't have been expected to – they came closer than might reasonably have been allowed. The 4-24 against Tipp. The 3-22 on September 30<sup>th</sup>, the most they'd scored in an All Ireland final under Brian Cody, '08 against Waterford apart. These were magical days to compare with any from the past decade.

And then there were the off-days, and more of them than ever before. The Leinster final, the turgid first-half display against Limerick, the laboriousness and lack of imagination demonstrated in the drawn All Ireland final. Will the Leinster final collapse ever be properly explained? The reasons as to the full extent of it as opposed to the fact of it? Maybe it already has: that Kilkenny had put so much into beating Dublin a fortnight previously as to be lacking adequate fuel in the tank – mental fuel more so than physical resources – for Galway. It was the first time since the 2005 All Ireland quarter-final against Limerick that the county's performance in a championship match wasn't

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up to standard, in itself a tribute to Cody, Mick Dempsey and Martin Fogarty. Look how incredibly long they'd succeeded in putting off the evil day.

#### WELL BEATEN

But at last the afternoon dawned that Kilkenny gave somebody an inch, and Galway, brilliantly prepared, were motivated enough and talented enough to take a mile. Half a step sharper, half a second faster, half a heartbeat hungrier, the underdogs brought the sliotar to ground and won loose ball after loose ball in the rucks. Ten points separated the sides at the end; it might as easily have been 16. Still, being the men they are, the losers died with their boots on. Fourteen down at half-time, they didn't win the match – that was gone beyond recall – but they managed the one and only thing they could manage now: they won the second half. If it was no more than a very small straw to be grasped, it was nonetheless a first step on the journey back to normality.

At the time it looked like the end of the world, or at any rate the end of this team; shades of the 1976 Leinster final, the day that marked the end of the line for a previous great Kilkenny team. But this time, unlike in '76 (as Cody was more aware than anyone else) and '84 and '94, there was a back door.

The trek back was sourced, as these things always are with teams of Cody's, in the power of the collective. Not enough of them played well enough in 2012 for long enough, which explains why there were only five Kilkenny All Stars at the end of the season – well, that and the extent to which they're judged by the standards they've set themselves. Richie Power and Eoin Larkin both looked the Hurler of the Year in waiting during the spring and early summer but lost form thereafter. Tommy Walsh had an indifferent season at the tenth attempt. Richie Hogan was a star in the All Ireland replay but had been misplaced at midfield in the drawn game and had missed the semi-final. Aidan Fogarty was splendid against both Limerick and Tipp but paid the price for his display in the drawn All Ireland, as did Colin Fennelly. One man about whom the qualms disappeared as summer waned to autumn was TJ Reid, who finally became the player he'd long promised, his All Star a richly merited recognition of his overdue arrival. In short, Kilkenny won the All Ireland because they contrived to have a sufficiency of forwards doing the needful on a given day, the Leinster final apart. And on September 30<sup>th</sup>, all of them did the needful.

The other turning point in their year was David Herity's save from Andy Smith's weak shot shortly before half-time on September 9<sup>th</sup>, with Galway four points up. A seven-point deficit at the break and there may well have been no way back for the champions. A five-point deficit was manageable. Yet they still made heavy weather of it. One statistic that retains its power to astonish is Kilkenny's tally after the first quarter of the drawn game. Widely tipped beforehand to have had Galway blown away at this stage with their patented shock and awe routine, the MacCarthy Cup holders had one point on the board after 17 minutes. No point on the board after 17 minutes of the Leinster final was one thing, but – forewarned, forearmed and motivated up to the eyeballs - one point on the board after 17 minutes of the rematch? It defied belief.



Leinster Final Scoreboard after 30 minutes  
John McIlwaine



TJ Reid, who finally became the player he'd long promised, Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE

## IMPORTANT ROLES

They scraped a draw in the end, notwithstanding the management's failure to switch Richie Hogan from midfield to attack. It was a mistake that would not be repeated three weeks later, when Kilkenny got their individual match-ups right and Hogan had far too much guile for Kevin Hynes. A number of non-marquee players, and not just Walter Walsh, deserve much credit also. Kieran Joyce, widely regarded three or four years ago as the coming man in defence but lost in some mysterious Rower twilight zone in the interim, materialised from nowhere to line out in the All Ireland quarter-final and didn't put a foot wrong thereafter. Richie Doyle had had a fine year up to then. Cillian Buckley, who unseen by many had actually hurled a brave and constructive second half in the Leinster final, deserved a second chance and seized it with both hands on the last day of September. It may not have been the all-singing, all-dancing Kilkenny subs bench of yore but in a way it was more substantial. Instead of being composed of lads who caught the eye when coming onto a winning team, it comprised guys who all did a job in less than auspicious circumstances. From midfield up the champions had 12 players who put in productive shifts at various stages, and on September 30<sup>th</sup> all eight who were on the field at the throw-in did so.

Cody has rebuilt, quietly but before our eyes. Eight of the XV that started against Galway in the replay had not started against Waterford four years earlier, and the outcome was a triumph for the management's thoughtful handling of the team during their September hiatus. Nine or ten years ago Cody might have been inclined to flog them around Nowlan Park; this time around he knew better, for which plaudits must go to Mick Dempsey. Less was more. There were fewer sessions, and those sessions were shorter and tapered off at the end. The proof of the pudding was in the attitude and hunger of the players – particularly the forwards – on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

All of this said, the story of Kilkenny in 2012 cannot be told without the story of Galway in 2012. The westerners were the team of the summer under the guidance of the manager of the year. And no, that latter bit is no exaggeration or empty platitude, because Anthony Cunningham's achievements in his first season as manager were magnified by the material he had to work with. Cunningham won a Leinster title, and came very close to winning the All Ireland, with a forward line that twice misfired horribly in September. Four of them failed to score in the drawn game. Not one of the six managed a point from play in normal time in the replay. Two thirds of the same team had died without a whimper against Waterford in the 2011 All Ireland quarter-final. This was straw spun into, if not gold, then silverware.

The challengers were horrendously unfortunate in the replay, of course. James Skehill's shoulder, Joe Canning's injury, Cyril Donnellan's goal that wasn't, Canning's shot off the woodwork, TJ Reid's plethora of steps prior to Walter Walsh's goal. It was a combination of the law of averages and the law of diminishing returns. The more often Galway faced Kilkenny, the more likely

they were to be found out and/or hit a bad day. Thus it happened. Given enough opportunities to decipher the enemy's defensive code, Kilkenny were always going to get them – and to go to town on them when they did. It is the reason why the best team always wins the World Series or the Premier League.

## AND BEFORE I GO...

Two last observations.

For no reasons other than the fatigue of familiarity and their absolute refusal to feck off with themselves, Kilkenny had a harder ride from the more excitable elements of the media this year than would otherwise have been the case. This is understandable; black and amber ribbons on the MacCarthy Cup yet again is the equivalent of dog bites man. Hence the ludicrous concocted fuss over the Cody/Cunningham face-off at the end of the drawn final when the only possible remotely offensive thing about the episode would have been if the pair of them *hadn't* been sufficiently worked up to exchange words. Hence also the fingers wagged at Cody for apparently attempting to influence Barry Kelly in the run-up to the game when in reality he was – understandably in view of the injury suffered by Michael Rice – standing up for his players after the All Ireland semi-final. Naturally the media put their own twist on this, which is what the media do. There are deadlines to be met and headlines to be trumpeted, and all on a daily basis; it is the nature of the beast. Hence too the lack of fuss over the injuries to Rice (a notable exception being Seán Moran of *The Irish Times*, who raised the pertinent matter of Padraig Maher's "duty of care" to his opponent) and, in the final, TJ Reid, when all hell would have broken loose had Kilkenny players been the authors of the blows in question. Being the serial winners they are and look like they'll continue to be, the All Ireland champions will not be the recipients of widespread sympathy any time soon. It will no harm for their supporters to resign themselves to this state of affairs. Different folks, different – ahem - strokes.



Henry Shefflin  
A Name for the Ages

Finally, Henry Shefflin. His longevity (a mindboggling 62 consecutive championship starts for Kilkenny in tandem with the manager), his durability, his common sense, his ability to distinguish between what matters and what is frippery. Living proof that greatness is about so much more than brilliance. He is modest, which is good, without being falsely modest, which is even better. He knows his own talent, his own worth and his own value to the team. It was precisely that knowledge which impelled him to centre-forward in the drawn final and it was his grasp of the percentages that led him to play safe with the penalty. His decision to put his shot over the bar didn't ensure that Kilkenny didn't win (had Barry Kelly blown for either of Cyril Donnellan's two subsequent fouls on Tommy Walsh in quick succession they'd have closed it out), but it ensured that they didn't lose. That last part was the priority at the time. Sometimes genius is not about turning water into wine but about playing the numbers.

*Hurler of the Year. Hurler of the Era. A man in a million.*

# HENRY SHEFFLIN - CHART-TOPPER

Amazing Shefflin Statistics compiled by Leo McGough

1. Most consecutive SHC appearances (62)
2. Most SHC appearances in the black and amber (62)
3. Scored in ALL 62 SHC appearances (100%)
4. Scored a goal in EVERY SHC (14-in-a-row, a record)
5. Most All-Ireland SHC final appearances (13 including replay)
6. Highest scoring SHC marksman of all-time (27-480)
7. Highest scoring SHC sharpshooter of all-time from play (24-132)
8. Highest scoring SHC marksman of all-time from placed balls (3-348)
9. Highest scorer from placed balls in All-Ireland finals (0-63)
10. Most SHC double-figure scoring tallies of all-time (28)
11. Most All-Ireland SHC medals on the field of play (9)

## MOST CONSECUTIVE SHC APPEARANCES

- |    |                             |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 62 | Henry Shefflin (1999-2012)  |
| 60 | Davy Fitzgerald (1990-2006) |
| 56 | Christy Ring (1940-1957)    |

## MOST KILKENNY SHC APPEARANCES

- |    |                            |
|----|----------------------------|
| 62 | Henry Shefflin (1999-2012) |
| 57 | DJ Carey (1990-2005)       |
| 52 | Sim Walton (1900-1919)     |
| 52 | JJ Delaney (2001-2012)     |
| 50 | Jack Rochford (1901-1916)  |
| 50 | Eddie Keher (1959-1977)    |

## MOST APPEARANCES IN ALL-IRELAND SHC FINAL (including replays)

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 13: | Henry Shefflin: 1999, '00, '02, '03, '04, '06, '07, '08, '09, '10, '11, '12 x 2 |
| 11: | Mattie Power: 1922, '27, '31 x 3, '32, '33, '35, '36, '37                       |
| 10: | Christy Ring (Cork): 1941, '42, '43, '44, '46, '47, '52, '53, '54, '56          |
| 10: | Eddie Keher (Kilkenny): 1959, '63, '64, '66, '67, '69, '71, '72, '74, '75       |
| 10: | Pat Henderson (Kilkenny): 1964, '66, '67, '69, '71, '72, '73, '74, '75, '78     |
| 10: | Frank Cummins (Kilkenny): 1969, '71, '72, '73, '74, '75, '78, '79, '82, '83     |
| 10: | Michael Kavanagh (Kilkenny): 1998, '99, '00, '02, '03, '04, '06, '07, '08, '09  |

## SIX GUN SALUTE – ALL-TIME SHC TOP SCORERS

Total	Hurler/County	Score	Games	Avg	Era
561	Henry Shefflin	27-480	62	9.04	1999-2012
439	Eddie Keher	35-334	50	8.78	1959-1977
422	Eoin Kelly (T)	21-359	57	7.40	2000-2012
305	Christy Ring	33-206	65	4.69	1940-1962

288	DJ Carey	34-186	57	5.05	1990-2005
270	Nickey Rackard	60-90	35	7.74	1942-1957

Note: All bar Ring went to secondary school in famed Kilkenny hurling nursery St Kieran's

## SHARPSHOOTING SEXTET – TOP 12 SHC SCORERS FROM PLAY

Total	Hurler	Score	Games	Average
204	Henry Shefflin	24-132	62	3.29
192	Eddie Keher	19-135	50	3.84
188	Christy Ring	26-110	65	2.89
186	Nickey Rackard	44-54	35	5.31
180	Tony Doran	41-57	40	4.50
178	John Mullane	15-133	49	3.63

## OFF THE GROUND – TOP 6 SHC SCORERS FROM PLACED BALLS

Total	Hurler	Score	Games	Average
357	Henry Shefflin	3-348	62	5.75
256	Eoin Kelly (T)	4-244	57	4.49
247	Eddie Keher	16-199	50	4.94
163	James Young	6-145	34	4.79
159	Paul Flynn	11-126	46	3.45
150	DJ Carey	7-129	57	2.63

## MOST SHC DOUBLE FIGURES (eg 0-10, 1-8, 2-6)

- |    |                |
|----|----------------|
| 28 | Henry Shefflin |
| 24 | Eddie Keher    |

## MOST ALL-IRELAND SHC MEDALS (ON THE FIELD OF PLAY)

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 9: | Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny): 2000, '02, '03, '06, '07, '08, '09, '11, '12 |
| 8: | Christy Ring (Cork): 1941, '42, '43, '44, '46, '52, '53, '54            |
| 8: | John Doyle (Tipperary): 1949, '50, '51, '58, '61, '62, '64, '65         |
| 8: | Eddie Brennan (Kilkenny): 2000, '02, '03, '06, '07, '08, '09, '11       |

8: Noel Hickey: 2000, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2012

(+ 1 as a non-playing sub in 2009)

7: Frank Cummins: 1969, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1979, 1982, 1983

(+ 1 as a non-playing sub in 1967)

6: Noel Skehan: 1972, 1974, 1975, 1979, 1982, 1983

(+ 3 as a non-playing sub in 1963, 1967, 1969)

# ALL IRELAND SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2012

LEINSTER		
<b>Preliminary Round</b>		
July 20	Wexford	0-10 1-12
July 21	Carlow	0-10 2-11
July 22	Laois	0-10 1-12
July 23	Offaly	0-10 1-12
July 24	Meath	0-10 1-12
July 25	Monaghan	0-10 1-12
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Back: Paddy Hogan, JJ Delaney, Walter Walsh, Thomas Breen, Aidan Fogarty, Michael Fennelly, Colin Fennelly.

Third Row: William Phelan, Joe Brennan, Lester Ryan, John Tennyson, Mark Bergon, Michael Rice, Richie Doyle.

Second Row: TJ Reid, Richie Power, David Herity, Paul Murphy, Cillian Buckley, Eoin Murphy, Kieran Joyce, Conor Fogarty.

Front: Matthew Ruth, Jackie Tyrrell, Henry Shefflin, Eoin Larkin (Captain), Noel Hickey, Brian Hogan, Tommy Walsh.

(Eoin Hennessy)

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**Well Done JJ and all Kilkenny's  
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# Kilkenny take their 2012 Allianz National Hurling League in some style

EARLY SEASON INTER COUNTY SH REPORT by TOMMY LANIGAN

The year began with an 'experimental' team, consisting mainly members of the U-21 panel drawing with NIUG (0-13 to 0-13) in the Walsh Cup. The experiment continued against Westmeath with a better overall performance, winning by 1-23 to 1-16. There was less experiment in the team that was chosen to play Galway in the final. Eight of September's All Ireland team (and nine of Galway's) contested the early season warm up.

Kilkenny triumphed in Pearse Stadium, Salthill by 2-20 to 1-14 as the Bord na Mona sponsored cup returned to Noreside for the eighteenth time. Kilkenny led throughout the game having enjoyed a great start with Richie Hogan and Richie Power shooting scores from all angles to lead at the interval by 1-13 to 1-7. Richie Power was Man of the Match by a mile and Kilkenny easily resisted a Galway comeback in the latter stages to win by 2-20 to 1-14 and give Eoin Larkin some practice at raising trophies.

Kilkenny: David Herity, Noel Hickey, JJ Delaney, Paul Murphy, Paddy Hogan (0-1f), Brian Hogan, Conor Fogarty, Lester Ryan, Michael Rice, John Mulhall (0-2), Richie Power (0-11), Eoin Larkin (1-1), Colin Fennelly (0-2), Richie Hogan (1-3), Aidan Fogarty. Subs: Michael Fennelly for Rice, Jackie Tyrrell for Murphy, Tommy Walsh for Ryan, Cillian Buckley for Colin Fennelly, Willie Phelan for Hickey.

## Allianz National Hurling League Round 1 26 February 2012

Kilkenny 2-17, Tipperary 0-15

A mouth-watering clash with Tipperary was the opening game in a newly restructured NHL in Nowlan Park. There was controversy over the groups being reduced to six teams but the new structure was a huge success with every game being very well contested in both Div 1A and 1B and increased attendances at most games. Supporters were bemoaning the retirement of Michael Kavanagh (expected) and John Dalton (quite unexpected).

Tipperary began with nine survivors from the All Ireland final of 2011 and paid a heavy price as Richie Power continued his great vein of form, well supported by Eoin Larkin. One does not visit the 'Park with an experimental team and hope to do well. Kilkenny started with twelve of last year's All Ireland winning team and the difference in strength in depth of both sides was apparent from the throw-in. Kilkenny began impressively. They shot points from all angles, unsettling the Tipp defence with strong running and confident shooting and led comfortably by 1-10 to Tipperary's 0-8 at half time. A fine solo goal by Eoin Larkin early in the second half at a time when it seemed that Tipp were mounting a comeback settled the result comfortably in



Kilkenny Captain, Eoin Larkin raises the NHL Cup  
John McIlwaine

Kilkenny's favour. The contrasting fortunes of the counties in the opening round were to become manifest as the championship season progressed.

**KILKENNY:** David Herity, Jackie Tyrrell, JJ Delaney, Noel Hickey, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, Paul Murphy, Paddy Hogan, Michael Fennelly, TJ Reid (0-1), Michael Rice (0-2), Eoin Larkin (1-2), Colin Fennelly, Richie Power (1-11, 1-2f), Matthew Ruth (0-1). Subs: Conor Fogarty for JJ Delaney, John Mulhall for Colin Fennelly, Richie Doyle for Paddy Hogan.

## Allianz National Hurling League Round 2 11 March 2012

### Kilkenny 2-21, Waterford 1-15

Kilkenny registered a second successive win in Division IA of the Allianz Hurling League with an impressive second half showing in the local derby against Waterford at Walsh Park. Played in sunny though cold conditions before a

large and enthusiastic crowd, the first half was a very lively affair with the Deise giving as good as they got. A 27<sup>th</sup> minute Matthew Ruth goal nudged Kilkenny into a 1-10 to 1-9 interval lead they scarcely deserved.

But Kilkenny improved their game substantially and a second Ruth goal followed by another scatter of Richie Power points eased Kilkenny into a comfortable victory. The warning signs were evident for Waterford who depended for most of their scores from placed balls and a great display of long range frees from veteran Tony Browne.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, JJ Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, Paddy Hogan, Conor Fogarty, Michael Fennelly (0-1), Richie Doyle, TJ Reid (0-2), Richie Power (0-10, 7f), Eoin Larkin (0-3), Colin Fennelly (0-2), Richie Hogan (0-2), Matthew Ruth (2-1). Subs: Kieran Joyce for Paddy Hogan, John Mulhall for Colin Fennelly, Cillian Buckley for Michael Fennelly, Willie Phelan for JJ Delaney.

## Allianz National Hurling League Round 3 18 March

### Kilkenny 5-16 Dublin 6-12

The visit of Dublin to Nowlan Park was anticipated by all following the thunderous clash in the 2011 League final. It was also closely watched for



Mark Aylward (Kilkenny) strikes for goal as Paul Fennell (Westmeath) dives at the Walsh Cup Semi-Final clash in Castlecomer. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

portents of the championship clash scheduled for June.

The Dubs were well prepared and led Kilkenny a merry dance for most of the game. If ever there was a crazy finish to a game this was it. Most supporters left the

Somehow the clash of the reigning league champions against the All-Ireland champions wasn't considered box office material as a small crowd attended. If they were handing out hurling Oscars at the end of the NHL this would have been a cert for Blockbuster of the Year. In the end Anthony Daly looked like a man who didn't know whether to laugh or cry, and tried to find some consolation in the fact that it was 'only a league game'. Dublin were without several first choice players, both goalkeepers played very well and the crowd was treated to a helter-skelter occasion that comes far too rarely in Spring hurling.

A burst of 2-1 in the last five minutes was enough to get Kilkenny over the line by the narrowest margins and consigned Dublin to a relegation dogfight which they eventually lost. Kilkenny had to be grateful to the sublime skills of Richie Hogan and TJ Reid in the closing minutes. Matthew Ruth grabbed the winning goal with seconds left on the clock. We left Nowlan Park wondering why hurling could not be like that every week.

Kilkenny's preparation for the Leinster championship fixture with Dublin in June took on an altogether sharper focus.

**Kilkenny:** David Herity, Paul Murphy, JJ Delaney, Noel Hickey, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, Richie Doyle, Michael Fennelly, Michael Rice, TJ Reid (0-1), Richie Power(1-8,6f), Colin Fennelly (1-0), Richie Hogan (1-3), Eoin Larkin (0-3), Aidan Fogarty (1-1). Subs: Matthew Ruth (1-0) for Fogarty, Jackie Tyrrell for Delaney, John Mulhall for Colin Fennelly.

#### Allianz Hurling League Round 4

Cork 1-17 Kilkenny 1-15

Kilkenny suffered their first competitive defeat of 2012 when los-

ing to Cork by two points in a very competitive game in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Before 8000 supporters both sides gave excellent value. What was unusual about the result was that Kilkenny lost the battle of the final quarter. With five minutes remaining it seemed Kilkenny had sufficiently resisted the Cork comeback. But the Leesiders finished very strongly with points from young Jamie Coughlan and William Egan to give them a two point victory.

Again Richie Power showed excellent early season sharpness and scored five points in the first twenty minutes. As the new Cork side under Jimmy Barry Murphy settled they gradually got to grips with the Kilkenny forwards and closed the gap to two points at the interval (1-10 to 1-8). The second half was a thriller with the sides levelling at the 55<sup>th</sup> minute.

Cork scored the final two points of the game as the game ended in frustration for Kilkenny with Richie Power's sending off. It was of greater concern that three young forwards were well held by a zestful and tight Cork defence. It was no surprise that there would be a strong reaction in the next game. Brian Cody's mantra insists on focused improvement.

**Kilkenny** – David Herity, Paul Murphy, Noel Hickey, Willie Phelan, Kieran Joyce, Brian Hogan, JJ Delaney, Michael Fennelly, Michael Rice (0-1), TJ Reid (0-1), Richie Power (1-11,9f), M. Ruth, Eoin Murphy, Eoin Larkin, Richie Hogan (0-2). Subs: Colin Fennelly for Eoin Murphy, Aidan Fogarty for TJ Reid, John Mulhall for Matthew Ruth.

#### Allianz National Hurling League Round 5

**Kilkenny 3-26, Galway 0-10**

This became a must-win game for Kilkenny if they wished to make the League semi-finals. The reaction to the Cork defeat was quickly replaced by a feeling of considerable satisfaction as Kilkenny secured their semi-final place in the Allianz Hurling League by comprehensively defeating Galway in Nowlan Park.



Tommy Walsh (Kilkenny) grabs the sliotar over Gavin O'Brien (Waterford) during the NHL clash in Walsh Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

Colin Fennelly (Kilkenny) looks up as Liam Markham (Clare) closes in during the NHL Semi Final in Semple Stadium. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

The result left the Tribesmen facing a relegation decider with Dublin.

From the throw-in, Kilkenny were absolutely ruthless as they destroyed Galway in almost every position on the field. We have seen the management lay down markers in previous years and it was no surprise they chose to cut loose against the Tribesmen. The mixed form of the previous two games against Dublin and Cork was replaced by a wonderful display of power and pace. They led 3-12 to 0-6 at the break and continued to add scores in the second-half as Anthony Cunningham's side failed to cope with Kilkenny's strength, speed and skill. Matthew Ruth, TJ Reid and Eoin Larkin shot goals as Galway were completely demoralised.

TJ Reid was excellent throughout and in a man of the match performance added to his goal with six excellent points as Kilkenny romped home. The second half was woefully one-sided as Kilkenny set about shooting points from all angles whereas Galway surrendered meekly to the inevitable. It was probably the best thing that happened the Tribesmen as they transformed their year and easily avoided relegation against Dublin a few weeks later. Half of the team were axed as they set about rebuilding in mid-season, while Kilkenny seemed to have unearthed more good prospects in Richie Doyle, Kieran Joyce and Cillian Buckley.

Kilkenny: David Herity, Paul Murphy, JJ Delaney, Kieran Joyce, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, Richie Doyle, Mick Fennelly (0-2), Cillian Buckley; Michael Rice (0-3), TJ Reid (1-6), Richie Hogan (0-1), Colin Fennelly (0-3), Eoin Larkin (1-7,6f), Matthew Ruth (1-1). Subs: Mark Bergin (0-1) for Larkin, Paddy Hogan for Brian Hogan, Willie Phelan for Murphy, Aidan Fogarty (0-1) for Rice, John Mulhall for Richie Hogan.

#### Allianz National Hurling League semi-final 21 April 2012

**Kilkenny 1-20, Clare 0-14**

Clare came through the League as Div 1B winners and the gap in pace showed strongly as the game progressed. It took a powerful second half performance to secure a league final place and yet again Richie Power led the way with a terrific performance from play and placed balls.

Kilkenny led by a point at the interval (0-8 to 0-7), having played reasonably well. Richie Power had a penalty saved after a seemingly legitimate Eoin Larkin goal was pulled back by the referee Alan Kelly. When the Cats began to move the ball at greater pace in the second half the young and inexperienced Clare side had little to offer by way of resistance. Conor McGrath kept Clare in touch form placed balls but they got little opportunity to prosper as the

Kilkenny defence tightened their grip.

Matthew Ruth's 40<sup>th</sup> minute goal put Kilkenny in the driving seat and they were rarely troubled thereafter despite spirited resistance from some of the Clare young guns. Kilkenny would meet them later in the U-21 final with dramatically different results.

**Kilkenny:** David Herity, Paul Murphy, JJ Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, Richie Doyle, Michael Fennelly, Cillian Buckley, TJ Reid (0-1), Richie Power (0-9,7f), John Mulhall (0-1), Colin Fennelly (0-4), Eoin Larkin (0-1), Matthew Ruth (1-3). **Subs:** Mark Bergin for Larkin, Kieran Joyce (0-1) for Walsh, Conor Fogarty for Doyle.

#### Allianz Hurling League Final 6 May 2012

**Kilkenny 3-21 Cork 0-16**

This game was the antithesis of the earlier League match in Pairc ui Chaoimh as it became a totally one-sided final. Kilkenny claimed their 15th Allianz Hurling League title at Semple Stadium, scoring three first half goals to obliterate Cork in a one-side game. It was the sixth time in which Brian Cody had masterminded a National League title and he did it in some style.

Such a result was not expected as Kilkenny were in the throes of a significant injury crisis. Richie Power, Noel Hickey, Michael Rice and Aidan Fogarty were all sidelined and Henry Shefflin had not yet rejoined the fold following shoulder surgery.

On this occasion captain Eoin Larkin led the rout. He shot a goal within four minutes and led the attack with devastating effect. Cork's defence was a shambles by the end of the first quarter and there was little the management could do about it. Ten minutes into the game they conceded another

goal when Colin Fennelly fired home in impressive fashion.

Cork were in disarray and reshuffled their defence to try stem the tide. Brian Murphy went to full-back and it helped their cause. TJ Reid put the game out of Cork's reach just before the interval when he scored Kilkenny's third goal of the game, having been brilliantly set up by Eoin Larkin. The half time score of 3-11 to 0-6 reflected the rout.

A young Darren Sweetnam came on at midfield and helped Cork to a limited recovery and Glen Rover's Patrick Horgan played very well in attack but to no avail. Four Cork forwards failed to score on a dismal day for the Leesiders. Kilkenny supporters were left in some alarm early in the second half when Michael Fennelly was stretchered off with a nasty ankle injury to join the already substantial casualty list.

The performance presaged great things for the upcoming championship as both midfielders and all six forwards scored. Eoin Larkin and Colin Fennelly were unstoppable and the defence dealt comfortably with every situation.

It was James McGrath's (Westmeath) first NHL final as a referee and he must have impressed because he became the man in the middle for the All Ireland final replay on 30 September.

**Kilkenny :** David Herity Paul Murphy, JJ Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh (0-1), Brian Hogan, Richie Doyle, Michael Fennelly (0-1), Paddy Hogan (0-3,2f), Richie Hogan (0-1), TJ Reid (1-2), Cillian Buckley (0-1), Colin Fennelly (1-4), Eoin Larkin, captain (1-4), Matthew Ruth (0-3). **Subs:** Mark Bergin (0-1) for Michael Fennelly.



Cillian Buckley (Kilkenny) looks to get past Sean Óg Ó hAilpín (Cork) during the NHL Final. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

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# The Greatest Team of All.



**By Tony Considine**

When I was approached to do this article my mind went immediately to 1972 and my first All-Ireland final. Who was in it? Kilkenny and Cork, probably one of the greatest All-Ireland finals ever played.

Cork were favourites and looked well on the way to victory with about 13 minutes to go, eight points up I think. That's when everything changed. What a performance by Kilkenny in that last quarter. I don't think Cork scored again while the Cats ran rampant, ended up winning by seven points, 3-24 to 5-11. Not until the Offaly turnover of Limerick in the 1994 final would we again see such a comeback and it was a massive win for Kilkenny.

The one thing I learned that day as a young man, however, and it has stuck with me ever since, was this - Kilkenny aren't dead til they're buried. Any sniff at all, any opening, and they come back to life.

I was impressed by that Kilkenny team, very impressed, and even then I wondered if I'd ever see the likes of some of those players again. Legends they are now - Noel Skehan, Pat Henderson, Chunky O'Brien and Frank Cummins in midfield, Eddie Keher, Kieran Purcell and Pat Delaney interchanging between full-forward and centre-forward, Pat doing his famous hop-ball on a solo-run, the first man to do that in Croke Park, and what a game to do it in! And of course there was also the man who never asked questions, full-back Pa Dillon - he certainly answered a few though! That was a great team, and proved themselves again and again. They were there in the final of 1971, won in 72, left one slip in 73, won again in 74 and 75 - a magnificent team, better hurlers than the great Tipp team of the 60s, and that in itself was some team. They were the best I had ever seen - until this team came along.

What can I say about these guys? Like their predecessors of

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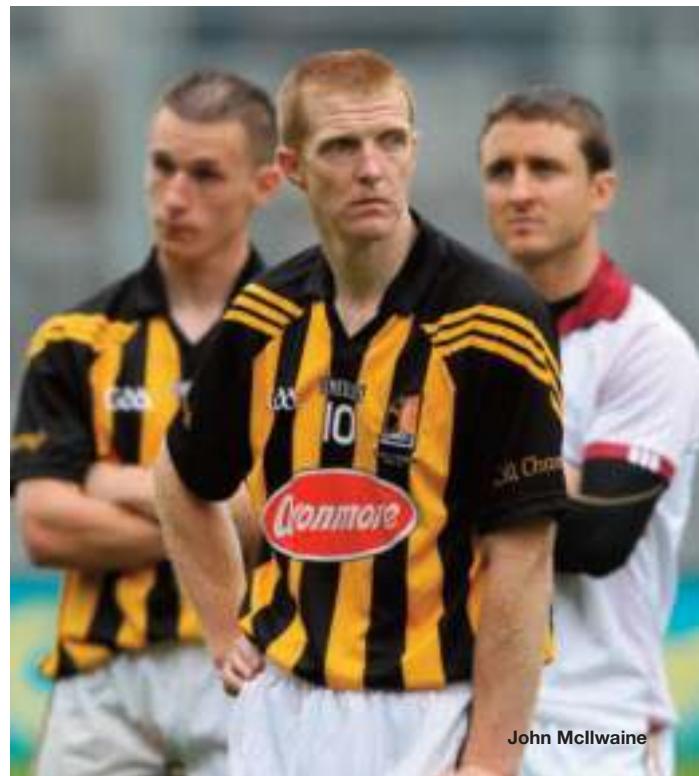
*Kilkenny aren't dead til they're buried. Any sniff at all, any opening, and they come back to life.*

”

the 70s they're completely down-to-earth, no big egos, a real passion for the game, great skill. The likes of Keher, DJ, Frank Cummins, Joe Hennessey, the Hendersons - they always kept themselves in the game, and what I mean by that was that they weren't looking for anything else, they weren't distracted by anything else. It was just hurling, Kilkenny hurling, winning All-Ireland titles. The guys of today have maintained that very honourable tradition.

They've had so much success since Brian Cody took over back in 1999, but I would say that winning this year's All-Ireland title is their greatest achievement. I know they've had a lot of new faces brought in over the years but this is still a team that's been on the go for 14 years, some of them there for that entire period.

It makes me wonder - has any team, in any sport worldwide, ever been as dominant in a major domestic sport as Kilkenny have been in hurling since the year 2000? We're so quick to speak of legendary players and of legendary teams from abroad, but has any team ever matched the achievements of this Kilkenny team? Remember, it's not just championships, it's also the six league titles they've won in that time, the club titles, the contributions to the Railway Cup.



*“But that look on their faces as Galway collected the cup, THEIR cup, I'll never forget that - they looked like they'd lost a close relative or friend.”*



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30 September 2012; Kilkenny players celebrate with the Liam MacCarthy cup. GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship Final Replay, Kilkenny v Galway, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Daire Brennan / SPORTSFILE

Going back to this year's All-Ireland championship - Kilkenny beat Dublin in the Leinster semi-final and beat them well, but I detected a little lack of intensity in them which is why I didn't go for Kilkenny to beat Galway in the Leinster final. And I was right. I know they were missing a couple of stars but they still had most of their established team; what they lacked was intensity, they just weren't tuned it.

Half-time in that Leinster final was pivotal, and it was in those 15 minutes that Kilkenny won this year's All-Ireland. They regrouped, came back and won the second half. But that look on their faces as Galway collected the cup, THEIR cup, I'll never forget that - they looked like they'd lost a close relative or friend. I'd say it was a quiet bus on the journey back to Kilkenny, the 'bata móir' brought out, because there was hardly another mistake made by those players for the rest of the year. Something I found very impressive about that though, and it's something that has impressed me about Brian Cody since he took over this team - there wasn't a word of negativity coming from that camp, not a word.

As the year went on and Kilkenny fought their way back into the hunt, it was a real bonus for them that Tipperary won in Munster, because this meant they'd be meeting in an All-Ireland semi-final. That was a day when Kilkenny had to get things right, and they did, got their tactics spot on. They went out to hurl while some of the Tipp big names went to step-dance. And when you're not ready to hurl against Kilkenny, against this Kilkenny team especially, you'll be blown away.

The drawn final, I think they got it wrong on the line rather than on the field. They got caught up in Galway, in what they were doing, and only for one man, the great Henry, Kilkenny would have lost that game. Henry picked them up off the floor and dragged them to a draw, showed us all - in any walk of life -

how a real leader operates. He led the way, he shouldered the responsibility.

There was no debate whatsoever, however, about the better team in the replay. Cody and his selectors showed courage and initiative, started Walter Walsh and Cillian Buckley, went back to their tried and trusted defensive set-up (which was also an admission of their own mistakes - impressive) and everything came together.

I named a few legends from that 70s team, now there are new legends: JJ Delaney, Jackie Tyrrell, Tommy Walsh, Brian Hogan, Michael Fennelly, Richie Power, Eoin Larkin - a real big-day player - and Richie Hogan. And of course there is Henry.

Kilkenny have won nine All-Irelands under this management team; one man made a contribution to every game in every one of those championships, and some would say that he won a few on his own. Henry Shefflin is now out on his own, in every sense.

There's one other player I want to single out from this year and though he's not yet a legend, he will be. In every game Kilkenny played this year there was one man who stood out, who excelled, my own hurler-of-the-year - Paul Murphy.

Final word: captain of the Kilkenny minor team on that day in 1972 was Brian Cody, who turned out to be a fine player himself. He's the link from that day to this but he is also the greatest influence of all in what is now the greatest team of all. To conclude, I salute you all and I thank you for the memories.

*Tony Considine is a GAA Columnist with the Examiner Newspaper*



# HOMECOMING 2012

Photos by Jimmy Walsh



# **"Please Let Him Wear A Red Jersey!"**



## **Donal Óg Cusack on Henry Shefflin**

You could push Dr. Bruce Banner. You could push him but not too far. Eventually he'd turn green and burst the seams of his good shirt and become the Incredible Hulk. You could pin Muhammad Ali down but not forever. When Foreman had Ali on the ropes during the Rumble in the Jungle, when he was pounding away at Ali's pretty face for five rounds or so he must have wondered if he wasn't pushing him too far. Sure enough. Ali did the business.

The moral is that you have to kill the Incredible Hulk when you have the chance. You have to deck Muhammad Ali when you get your opening. Galway had the chance. They didn't have the weapons. Or the luck.

This summer they did so much right. They hammered Kilkenny in the Leinster final even if the second half of that game provided a bit of a warning. They did enough to win the All Ireland final early in September even if the second half was once again a bit worrying.

Also they got under Brian Cody's skin. Made him go man to man. Made his team look a bit worried. Galway poked and provoked Kilkenny. Eventually when Kilkenny woke up, Kilkenny went hulk. Kilkenny crushed them.

In hindsight that seems predictable but really it wasn't. Eventually the day will come when Kilkenny give up the ghost. Before then there will be many days when we expect them to pass away but they'll roll on. And every time

we'll say that we should have known they'd survive to ride off into the amber and black sunset in the final reel. That's what they do. When will it end? Well we've had a great summer of Olympic sport. In our sport Kilkenny are the embodiment of what the Olympics tries to be. Higher. Faster. Stronger. They have nine All Irelands now in the Cody era but all they want is to be Higher. Faster. Stronger. That's the secret of their hunger. We all measure ourselves against them. They measure themselves against the best they can possibly be. We're looking for results. They're looking for perfection. They don't just want to be better than we are. They want to be better than they are. Better than anybody has ever been. Better than anybody can ever be.

That's inspiring. We're all wondering when they'll come back to our standard, when will age or fatigue bring them back down to our level? Kilkenny are wondering how they can get more out of themselves, how they can bring the game to levels not dreamed of.

The best thing we can do is go with them. There was a lot of silly talk in the week before this All-Ireland about Joe Canning and Henry Shefflin being rivals. It was as unfair on Joe as was the taking out of context of his use of the word unsportsmanlike. Joe is 23, brilliant but still learning his trade. This year he presented himself for duty visibly fitter than he has ever been. He is learning. But Henry is 33, has nine All Irelands and is the best there has been. The best I have seen anyway. What rivalry?

When we talk about going with Kilkenny to the levels of excellence they are exploring none of us can be happy with our effort. It takes incredible commitment. It takes the sort of commitment that you equate with love. You have to love the game immensely and unconditionally to do what Kilkenny do. Very few players can claim to match that. Very few counties can. I was with Henry Shefflin for a few days in America at the end of last year. I watched how he held himself and how he lived and ate for those few days. The only comparison I have seen to that behaviour is Seán Óg. Henry is fitter today, more of an instrument of hurling today than he was 10 years ago or five years ago.

He is the perfect example for every young player. He doesn't practice and live his life the way he does because he is Henry Shefflin. He is Henry Shefflin BECAUSE he does those things. And doesn't stop. He drives on. This is a fella who says himself that he got on his school team because they needed a big old arse around the



Henry Shefflin on the Ethihad Skyline at Croke Park with the Olympic Flame during the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay through the streets of Dublin.  
Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE

square. Who squeezed onto a Kilkenny intermediate team who were short of players. He got a break when he was spotted playing for them. We call him the king but he wasn't born into his kingdom. He earned it. And still does every day.

Shefflin is what every other county player and county panel has to look to over the next few years. In too many places there are too many players who think they have arrived when they make the county panel and get the tracksuit and the gear bag. They get the nod from the doorman in some nightclub or any of the other places that act as Ellis Island for C list celebrities and they are content with their lot. They've arrived in their new world.

Henry Shefflin has nine All Ireland medals and I doubt if he spends many evenings gazing at them, polishing them or putting them in order. The true satisfaction in sport is being the best you can be, pushing the limits of your potential as a player and as a team. Higher. Faster. Stronger. All the way.

Henry represents that element of Kilkenny's thinking but Cody enforces it and draws it out of the others. That's the challenge for the rest of us. Not many counties can say that this summer they made big strides towards where Kilkenny are. How many counties have a vision of where they want to go which is needed to draw the right dedication from their players or bring through players with that dedication?

Galway took steps. The challenge for them now is how they react to Sunday's defeat. The loss should be just part of the process, part of their journey. What will be interesting will be how soon they pick it up again and with what intensity. I believe that for a serious county hurler the year is eleven months long. You don't start training out of shape and spend four or five weeks with your teammates getting some kind of fitness back. You come to county training ready for war.

Anthony Cunningham will know that sometimes as a county manager your first year is your best. I would imagine that he has enough brains and enough respect from his panel to make next year just as good but that panel needs to give more than respect. They need to push on and give more than they gave this year. They need to learn the lessons.

On two Sundays in September against Kilkenny they were found short of forwards. Not that you could knock any of their starters as players. Just that the first day Joe Canning and Niall Burke were the only two to score from play at all. And in the replay only Canning got points from play. A lot of their good forwards from the last few years have been recycled as midfielders (you can count Damien Hayes in there) and a few have been put out for pasture but somehow they need to find a few more assassins.

And they need a little luck. Or experience. Joe Canning was hobbed but it was worth playing him. In retrospect though Galway probably feel playing James Skehill on Sunday was a mistake. They probably knew that beforehand. A goalie who dislocated his shoulder on Friday isn't going to be at his best on Sunday afternoon. Galway may have thought it was reassuring for the other players to start Skehill but nobody was reassured when he kicked the first loose ball rather than risk contact on the left shoulder. It was a great trial for him personally to do what he did at all in the first half. His replacement Fergal Flannery was good and brave. You live and learn. Easy to talk after in a column like this.

That goal and the few minutes that came after it showed the dif-

ference between the mindset of the two teams. Galway had just scored two goals in a little over a minute. It was time to kick on and do some damage. Instead they conceded 1-6 without reply. You can only poke so much before the Hulk appears. Ali always comes off the ropes.

That's what Kilkenny's years of experience have given them. For the first time in their three games against Galway this year, they quit worrying and came out and played with the confidence of champions. They went back to their usual defence. They stuck Richie Hogan in front of the goal. Took another good one off the conveyor belt and went out and did what they do. Galway sadly

came to the party without any more surprises up their sleeve.

Higher. Faster. Stronger. Can anybody catch them? Apart from Henry who has at least two years or so left, the rest of their forwards are just arriving at their peak or are a few years off. Can TJ Reid really be only 23? That's frightening.

Midfield is the same and Cillian Buckley looks like he could trade there or in the forwards. In the backs JJ is no spring chicken but he's not ready for the old folks home yet and they are blending in new young players like Paul Murphy and Kieran Joyce. Look at



Henry and Brian Ciody after the 2012 Final  
John McIlwaine

it this way. From the All-Ireland final of five years ago they have shed PJ Ryan, Michael Kavanagh, Derek Lyng, Cha Fitzpatrick, Willie O'Dwyer, Martin Comerford and Eddie Brennan. And Noel Hickey and Aidan Fogarty who also started that day were subs on Sunday. That's a turnover of nine players without a drop in standard.

The challenge is catching them. Not hoping to meet them on the way down. That's a challenge for managers, coaches and players. And also for county boards, too many of whom either pay lip service to hurling or are living in a hurling world which ended decades ago.

Last word goes to Henry. Nine All-Irelands and the mark of the man is not the amazing things he does but the small things. The work rate. The sleeves-up attitude. The way he gets involved. The way he plays without trying to create a highlight reel of flashy moments. To be as great as he is you need humility. He serves the team. He serves hurling. He decorates Irish sport.

The Saturday before the drawn game, at home in Cloyne, myself and my father were discussing hurling, the All-Ireland final and Christy Ring, who lived just a few doors down from us. We were looking at a picture of Ring's last game that hangs in my parents' living room and saying how his achievements could be eclipsed the following day.

My Father reminded me of what Christy had predicted himself. "The best hurlers are with us now" he said "and the best hurlers are still to come."

If there's better to come than Henry, I hope I live to see it.

Please let him wear a red jersey!..

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# Turning Negatives into Positives



## Mark Townsend talks to David Herity

Cast your mind back fifteen months or more, to September 4th the 2011 All-Ireland final. Kilkenny are seeking to reclaim the title, their 33rd, from the hands of the old enemy Tipperary. For the hurling followers of Kilkenny it is the highlight of their year. For one young man in particular, it is the highlight of his life.

Dunnamaggin's David Herity was stepping out onto the Croke Park pitch that day to play in his first All-Ireland final. After years of striving to make the senior panel, and three seasons as understudy to P.J. Ryan, the opportunity to secure a first Celtic cross

as first team starter was what boyhood dreams were made of. What's more, the garlands were being handed out, with many suggesting he was the best keeper in the country.

Underneath the surface however, doubts were brewing. The year had been a whirlwind, one long honeymoon in the Croker Sunshine. But it didn't really tally with what he was feeling inside. For all the compliments received, there was still insecurity. "Last year I didn't really feel tested. People said I had a great year, but I didn't really have anything to do. Just catch a ball and drive it a hundred yards. Great, but I got no dodgy ball." If his wish was to be tested, it wasn't long in being granted.

Halfway through the second half, in a game Kilkenny were comfortably the better team, Lar Corbett laid off a ball to Pa Bourke, and from 21 years he took aim. David Herity positioned himself for the strike, as he had done so many times before in training and matches, but somehow, it just evaded him. It was a decent shot, but one he could, probably should, have saved. From then on, what seemed a procession, became a struggle. And, even though victory was still secured, that bare fact gnawed away at him over the coming months.

Anyone who has ever had the pleasure of spending time with David Herity, will testify to what great company he is. But beneath the jovial exterior, lies a steely will. After his joke-laden interview at the post game banquet that evening, people might have been given the impression this was a carefree spirit, unaffected by any error. If anything, the opposite was true. He cared too much.

"You'd be on nights out over the winter and people would come up to you and say, 'Are you the Kilkenny Keeper? What were you doing with that ball in the All-Ireland? It nearly cost us' I got fed up of lads saying it to me". It's easy for some sozzled wag in a pub to make a flippant remark. But then, all they ever see is a mistake in Croke Park. They don't see all the hours of preparation it took to get you there.

It's not as if he was parachuted into this position out of nowhere.



David Herity, Kilkenny, in action against Luke O'Farrell, Cork. Allianz Hurling League Division 1 Final, Kilkenny v Cork, Semple Stadium.  
Picture credit: Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE

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In a sense, he's been building towards it his whole life. His family nurtured his interest in the sport from the start, his brother Colin was even a member of the panel for a time. He spent three years as minor goalkeeper for the county and then had another three terms with the under 21's, winning two All-Irelands in 2003 and 2004.

And yet, at every step of the way, there have been challenges. He felt himself stagnating in 2004-2005. It took the introduction of Seamus Knox into the Dunnamaggan set up the following year for him to blossom again, winning his way onto the Michael Lyng All-Stars the following two years; "I fed off Seamus' enthusiasm".

Even still, it took him until 2008 to force his way into the senior panel. And if he believed the hard work had been done in getting there, little did he know the rude awakening that awaited. "I thought when I got into the panel 'This is grand, I'll be on the team in a year or two'. I never got such a land in all of my life"

He trained harder than ever before this year. He cut out all junk food, put in extra sessions in the gym, trimmed his body fat to a barely plausible 6%. "I thought this year was my chance to redeem myself". But redemption was tough in coming.

Before the Dublin game this year, one the team had planned meticulously for, his nervous energy spilled over into anxiety. He found himself doing things he wouldn't normally do. Sprinting down the corridor of the changing rooms before the game, he had expended almost all of his energy before even getting onto the pitch. Once on the field, "I was so tired I could hardly hit a puck-out."

The following day against Galway was different. The performance against Dublin had lured everyone into believing everything was perfect. In reality, it was far from the truth. "Things were going way too well, there had to be a drop. Even before the game against Galway I was saying to Eoin Murphy, I can't believe we're going out to play this match. I was on the pitch with Cillian Buckley afterwards saying to him, this is good for us. It's the kick in the arse we needed"

If there was a kick though, the reaction wasn't instant. The performance against Limerick was lethargic, It took a stirring half-time speech by the manager to raise them out of their stupor. Then when they faced Tipperary, things really took off. But if, from a performance point of view, it was the apex of Kilkenny's season, from a personal perspective, it was a low. Five minutes before half-time, Lar Corbett took a

brief break from stalking Tommy Walsh, to bundle over David as he came out for a ball, enabling his comrade from the previous year, Pa Bourke, to shoot into an empty net. On another day, with another referee, it could easily have been blown a free, but given his luck this year, it was he who shipped the blame. Last season, he was eaten up about his mistake. This year, he's more philosophical.

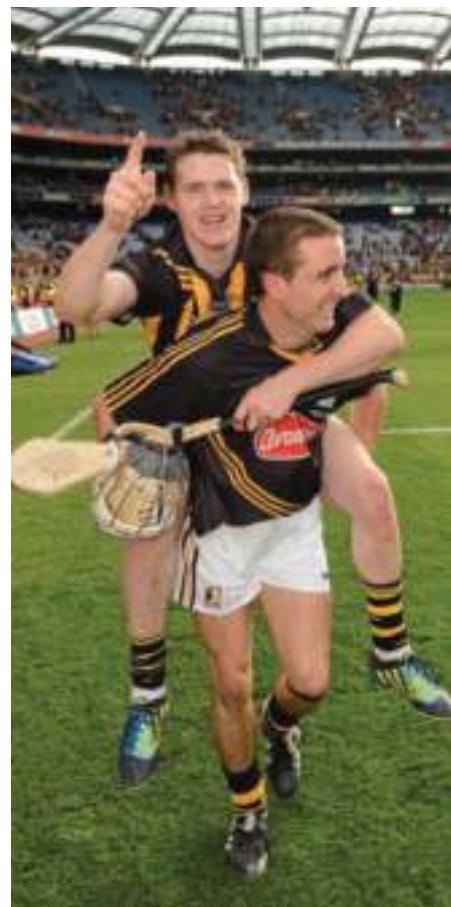
"I can see things that I did this year that I was happy with. Like after the goal (David Burke's first) in the All-Ireland replay, I picked out Tommy Walsh straight away with a puck out, he got it up to TJ Reid and we got a point. But nobody mentions that. You have to come out of the year and take the positives, and then turn the negatives into positives. That's what I'm trying to this year, because last year all I could see was negatives"

He knows he's still learning. In Kilkenny goalkeeping terms he's still very young. None of the most recent incumbents of the number one jersey, whether it be Noel Skehan, Kevin Fennelly, Michael Walsh, James McGarry or P.J Ryan, have made the position their own until their late 20's. And yet of all the things he's learned this year, the most crucial thing was developing a thicker skin. "In the end, you just have to learn to ignore some people. Because essentially, the only view that really matters is the management"

Speaking of the management, and Brian Cody in particular, it seems remiss to conduct an interview without mentioning him. The argument as to whether Brian made the players who they are or vice versa, is one that has been there almost as long as to what came first, the chicken or the egg. In the eyes of this particular player however, there is no question.

"He is the reason Kilkenny are winning everything. After the Galway match (All-Ireland final), I honestly didn't know how the replay was going to go, it was the first time ever I couldn't tell how things were going to go. And he literally dragged lads to try and get that little bit more motivation. If he hadn't been as good as he was, we would have lost the second day"

And when that whistle did blow this year, it was the catalyst for twelve months untapped emotion to spill out. Anything that may have been lacking in the previous year celebrations was forgotten about. "Last year I had this sick feeling in my stomach when it was over. I was running out hugging players, but I felt muted somewhat. This year when the whistle blew, I was literally ecstatic"



David Herity carries the injured TJ Reid after the All-Ireland Senior Championship Final Replay.

Picture credit: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

Far from sating him, the elation of victory just made him yearn for more. "The thing that makes me wonder about journalists, is that they go on about how do these players have the hunger? But they only look at Henry, Tommy and JJ. There's so much more to it than that. I only won my second All Ireland this year, Paul Murphy only won his second as did Colin Fennelly, Cillian Buckley won his first. People look at all the older lads in Kilkenny, but all the newer lads want to win. I want to win as many All-Irelands as I can. I know people would disagree with me, but it feels like such a waste of a year when you don't win the All-Ireland"

As to what the future holds, it is unclear. The year finished on a low note, with the relegation of his beloved club to the intermediate grade; "It was disappointing, but we're confident we can get back up" he states. For the next couple of months though, he can enjoy himself. Enjoy the bag of chips he's been staving off all season. Enjoy the pint of Bulmers when watching the highlights of the year. Enjoy the team holiday in Jamaica.

But even when he's sunning himself on the beach in the Caribbean, there'll be a part of him itching to get back. Back to the training in Nowlan Park; back to the big day in Croker. Back, for a chance, to win another All-Ireland.



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# The Third Man

“ Not just a Laois man, but a football one at that.....



## Mark Townsend talks to Mick Dempsey

When veteran Kilkenny hurling fans heard the announcement of the new senior management team at the start of the 2005 season, they could forgive for checking their calendar to see if the date was April 1st. It wasn't perhaps the presence of Brian Cody for his seventh term, or the addition of the victorious under 21 manager Martin Fogarty that caused consternation, but the identity of the third man on the panel, was bound to raise eyebrows. Surely there was some mistake? Could it be possible? Could it be, that a Laois man was now training the Kilkenny hurling team? And not just a Laois man, but a football one at that?

It seemed implausible, because for decades such a prospect had never been countenanced. You see, for practically as far back as

one can remember, Kilkenny hurling hasn't done immigrants. If anything, it's done missionaries. Ned O'Donnell, Dermot Healy, Georgie Leahy were just a few who left the county boundaries to spread the gospel. It perhaps wasn't intentional, but with a track record as proven as Kilkenny's, the argument could easily be put forward "What need have we for outsiders?" Well, in times past that may have been the belief. But in the enlightened era of Brian Cody, it's always been the case that geography has come secondary to knowledge. And in the case of Michael Dempsey, that was more knowledge than most.

It wasn't like it had been planned this way. Indeed, he could barely have envisaged it happening himself. He'd always been a GAA fanatic, even helping coach Laois underage teams from the tender age of 17, but a small ball aficionado he was not. Many moons ago, when his club St Josephs, a conglomerate of four parishes near the Laois-Kilkenny border, sought for a hurling wing to be introduced, he voted against it. Funnily enough, he believed if a club or county just focused on one sport, they might be better off (Where have we heard that before?)

For the majority of his life, he's been a football man, and a damn fine one at that. He served his county with distinction for 15 years at senior inter county level. During that time he was one of the mainstays of the team, a domineering midfielder. But despite some notable scalps during that time provincial or All-Ireland success eluded them. Did he see any reasons as to why this was the case? "When you look back you think a lack of self-belief, a lack of tradition were barriers to success we could have had. When we were playing with Laois, we were happy to put up a good show. We'd play well for 50-60 minutes and then in the last ten minutes, we didn't believe we could win, so our performance level dropped off. It was only later that you realised what could have been achieved".

What could have been achieved? Like Frank Sinatra, Michael isn't a man to indulge in regrets but if he was, he could be tempted to ask "What if?" Take this for starters. In 1985 Laois hammered Meath in the Leinster football championship. The following season, after winning the National League, they were surprisingly gunned down by Wicklow in the first round of the championship, in the infamous "Battle of Aughrim". Meanwhile, whilst the Moore men licked their wounds, their counterparts Meath were notching



Michael Dempsey with Kilkenny Manager Brian Cody, fellow selector Martin Fogarty and Liam McCarthy at the All-Ireland Final replay.  
John McIlwaine

up a Leinster title that season, followed by a double All-Ireland in the next couple of years.

But he is not a man to dwell on what might have been. Any success he ever had was gratefully accepted, any loss, treated as a learning experience. Even an ill-fated spell as manager of his beloved county's senior football team in 97-98, ("It was probably a bit too soon for me") didn't quell his appetite for the game. From there he moved seamlessly to O'Hanrahans in Carlow, winning a Leinster title in 2000 for an unfashionable club. And then, things started to get very interesting indeed.

Ask him when he moved down to Kilkenny originally, and he freely admits he can't remember. Just like he says he fell into most jobs, he never planned to come to Kilkenny, circumstances just saw to it that he did. What is certain, is that he began coaching the Castlecomer minor football team alongside Dick Mullins in the late 90's. From there he got involved in coaching the Kilkenny minor football team, under the tutelage of Brendan O'Sullivan. St Martin's of Muckalee was the next port of call where he made his first crossover into hurling training. And that's where Martin Fogarty stepped in.

The Castlecomer primary school teacher recognised something in Michael's training methods, that could prove very useful to him, and there was something about the ying and the yang of their relationship, that complemented each other perfectly. Two years were spent nurturing the county's under 21's, with two highly impressive All-Irelands garnered during that time. Even still, when their term finished at the end of 2004, Michael believed so did his time with his adopted county. But a certain other primary school teacher had different ideas.

Brian Cody requested a meeting with the two men that winter to form a new management team. An offer was made, and accepted, but given his background, did he not feel any anxiety about coming into a set up, that for years was essentially a closed shop? "I didn't really think about it at the time. I suppose it was a very risky step for Brian to take, but if it didn't work out, I suppose he could have just sacked me anyway!"

There's no fear of that happening now. Initially, coming into training, wondering how such legends of the game as Henry Shefflin, Noel Hickey and Peter Barry would embrace his teachings, was an onerous experience. But what amazed and delighted him was how receptive they all were. "I never got any resistance from anyone. Kilkenny players are very unusual, they come to train, solely to train, and their attitude is just exceptional. I couldn't emphasise that point enough. That makes my job very easy"

Still, it must be a big change, to come from a county with little or no success, to one where a couple of years without an All-Ireland, is seen as a famine. In his eyes, what was the main difference between the two counties? "I don't want to go into specifics, but there needs to be more unity (in Laois) in terms of supporting all the teams and the underage structures. In Kilkenny, you do notice when you speak to people in the county board, or Brian Cody or Martin Fogarty, they know all the young players in the clubs at the age of ten or eleven in terms of their potential, and there is that support structure there in terms of nurturing young talent. There is real pride in the fact that someone from your school or club may go on to represent Kilkenny. There is that realistic goal, which is lacking in other counties"

One thing that does puzzle Michael, is the vagaries of the Kilkenny hurling public. Coming from a county where success is hoped for, but not demanded, he finds it difficult to understand supporters who aren't automatically placated by victory "I couldn't understand it a few years ago, I wasn't involved in the team at the time, but I was in the public domain, and I heard people giving out about



22 August 2011; Kilkenny selector Michael Dempsey during a training session ahead of the GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship Final, on September 4th. Kilkenny Hurling Squad Training, Nowlan Park, Kilkenny.  
Picture credit: Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE

Brian after he won the All-Ireland. I just couldn't understand, I was making the point to people 'You're after winning the All-Ireland and yet you can't stop criticizing the manager'

Their relationship is strong; professional but cordial, and he has found his demeanour to be very much against stereotype. "You'd often hear the comment, no one could work with Brian Cody, he'd just be a dictator. And I'd have to admit that while he has strong opinions, he's very respectful of other's people opinions, and he is very much a team player". So he's not a hard man to please as regards organising a nights training then? "Well, He'll usually ask me a hundred questions and then he'll let me get on with it" he chuckles.

Given the unprecedeted level of success he's help preside over the last 8 years, it's only natural that other counties, both hurling and football, would be casting covetous glances over his services. While he doesn't tempt fate as to what may lie ahead, he is adamant he is in no rush to leave.

"I have to say that any of the experiences I have had with Kilkenny have all been extremely positive. I remember when I became selector of the under 21's ten years ago, Ned Quinn came in to me personally to wish me the best of luck. I don't think there's many other counties where you'd get that personal aspect of it. In Kilkenny, they do take things personally. I think that's one of the reasons why they are so successful"

Well, that's one of the reasons. And no doubt, having people like Michael Dempsey involved, is a major reason as well

# CONSISTENT TJ EAGER TO BUILD ON A GREAT YEAR

## INTERVIEW WITH TJ REID by Richard Holden

I met TJ on the day of the Kilkenny Senior County Final between his club, Shamrocks and city team Dicksboro. It should have been the crowning moment of a great season, with a county medal to complement the All-Ireland and All-Star award he had already accumulated. However, TJ is currently sidelined due to an injury received in the All-Ireland Final replay against Galway. I asked the Connolly's Red Mills sales representative does he believe the game has gone too physical now? 'In relation to my own injury, I feel it could have been prevented, it was a wild belt of a hurl. I think linesmen and umpires need to step it up a bit and give more assistance to the referee. I also feel that referees have tended to concentrate too much on Kilkenny compared to other teams.'

When I reflected on Kilkenny's championship season with TJ, we started with the shock Leinster Final reverse to Galway. How did the 24-year-old react to been dropped for the All-Ireland quarter-final against Limerick? 'I decided I would have to prove myself in training and work hard. It was a wake-up call and I mightn't have hurled as well if I had retained my place.' Following wins over the Shannonsiders and old rivals Tipp, the Cats booked a re-match with the Tribesmen in the All-Ireland Final. A first draw since 1959 ensued and both sides had another shot at glory in the replay. The drawn game had essentially been a game of two halves, with Galway very much on top in the initial half as they opened up a seven point lead but in the second-half, Kilkenny came more into the game thanks in no small part to the heroic efforts of Henry Shefflin who was ably assisted by the backs particularly Paul Murphy and Brian Hogan. How did Brian Cody and his management team approach the replay then? 'We felt we had focused too much on Galway and that our tactics didn't work in the drawn game. For the replay, we decided to go man-to-man and to try and be more clever in possession - instead of hitting too many aimless high balls in we would try and pick out a player. We would have felt we were the better team the first day as five of our forwards scored whereas only two of theirs did plus they also had a bit of luck on the day.'

TJ Reid Factfile	
Age:	25
Honours:	
(Club)	5 Co. SHC 3 Leinster Club 2 All-Ireland SH Club 4 Co. U-21HC 1 Feile na nGael A
(Colleges)	1 All-Ireland SH (St. Kieran's) 1 Fitzgibbon Cup (WIT)
(County)	5 All-Ireland SH 5 Leinster SH 2 NHL 1 All-Star 2 Leinster and All-Ireland U21HC 1 Walsh Cup 1 Railway Cup Captain Kilkenny SH Team 2010

T J has had a distinguished club career with the Shamrocks, and is the proud holder of five senior county titles and three All-Ireland's. He

references the 2007 All-Ireland Final win over Loughrea as particularly sweet. 'I had two brothers on the team that day, Eoin and Patrick, and I think between us we scored 3-7 so that was an extra special feeling.' There is now a fourth Reid on the panel with Richie joining his three brothers on the team last year. In a recent profile leading up to the All-Ireland Final, TJ picked out Tommy Shefflin as his favourite player – any particular reason? 'Tommy has always been a great clubman and he looked after me growing up. He was a good forward and has now taken over as manager of the senior team where we have enjoyed his vast amount of training drills. I would also have looked up to Henry Shefflin and enjoyed watching him and now playing with him. He is a great leader and is always encouraging you.'

How did Shamrocks approach this year, was there an extra determination having lost out the previous two seasons? 'Losing last year's County Final was a big disappointment and lingered over the winter with us so there was a big motivation to make amends for that. We also tragically lost two young clubmen, Seán Malone and Martin Duggan, in a road accident last December. Seán's mother came in to us at the start of the year to wish us all the best and we were determined to honour their memory.'

What advice could he pass on to young players? 'I think it is important to work on your weaknesses or a 'bad side' if you have one. Personally, I felt in order to improve that I needed to bulk up in the gym as you have to be able to look after yourself out there.'

As for future ambitions, TJ hopes to just get back playing first and is targeting February as his return date – 'I'm looking forward to getting back as you are only as good as your last game and I want to try and push on and achieve more with both club and county.'



Kilkenny's TJ Reid struggles to break free from Galway's Johnny Coen as full-back Kevin Hynes closes in during Sunday's drawn All Ireland final .  
John McIlwaine

# CILLIAN BUCKLEY



Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE

RICHIE DOYLE



KIERAN JOYCE

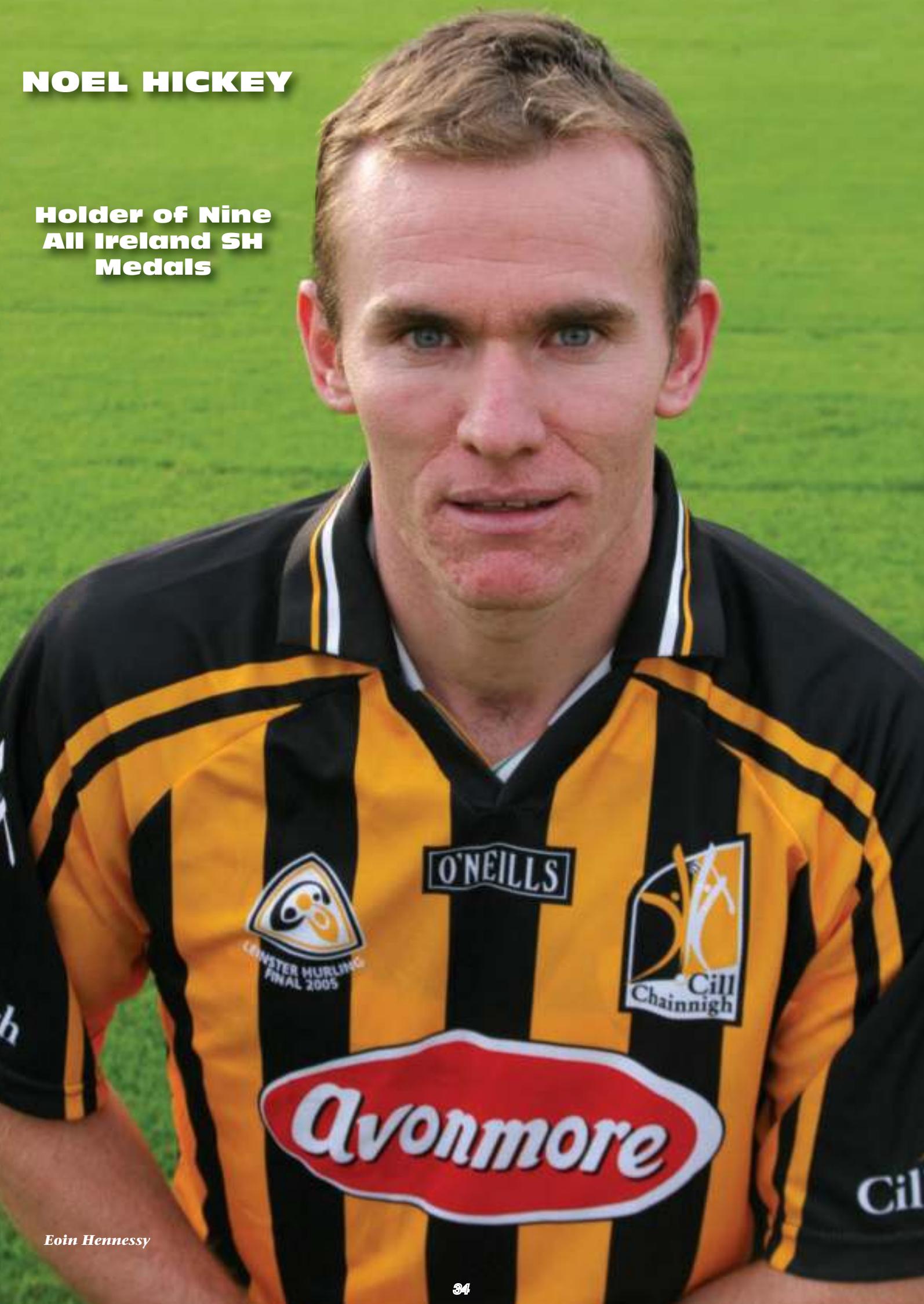


**MATTHEW RUTH**



# NOEL HICKEY

**Holder of Nine  
All Ireland SH  
Medals**



Eoin Hennessy

**WALTER WALSH**



*Eoin Hennessy*

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# Keeping off the Hill

“ That is what keeps me motivated still, that feeling I had when I was on the Hill and knowing others could have it too. ”



## Paul Murphy talks to Kieran Cuddihy

Twenty three years of age, two senior championship campaigns under his belt, two All-Ireland medals, two All Stars and a nomination for Hurler of the Year. Not a bad start to an intercounty career by anyone's standards.

In fact, in his first two full years hurling with Kilkenny, Paul Murphy has only lost one championship match (to Galway in the 2012 Leinster final) and three league games. If he can keep this up, the corner back from Danesfort will be a feature of the Kilkenny defence for some years to come.

Despite recent success however, Paul's initial experiences playing for Kilkenny were marked by defeat. He was on minor teams in 2006 and 2007 that failed to reach an All-Ireland final, let alone win one.

"We actually suffered bad luck both years that I was on the minor

panel. It would have been a surprise that we didn't win an All-Ireland to some people because of the panel we had and because of what we had won in other age groups. We won a Tony Forristal and a Nenagh Co-Op so when it came to minor, we thought we had a right shot of winning an All-Ireland but it didn't work out for one reason or another."

In 2006 Kilkenny were defeated by Tipperary in an All-Ireland semi-final after taking the provincial crown with a comprehensive 4-22 to 1-5 victory over Carlow. The following year, the boys in black and amber took a step backwards, losing first to Dublin in the Leinster final before again bowing out to Tipperary.

For Paul the disappointment was relatively short lived. In 2008, he lined out at corner back on an All-Ireland winning under 21 side that was littered with stars.

"That really was a great panel of players under 21 when you look at it. We had Kieran Joyce, Colin Fennelly, TJ Reid, Matt Ruth and then all the lads from Clara, the Prendergasts and Ryans. It actually was a brilliant year for Kilkenny hurling. That was the year that we won the minor, under 21, intermediate and senior All Irelands. It was incredible really looking back on that year."

Standing out on a team so laden with talent, it was only a matter of time before Paul appeared on the radar of one Brian Cody.

"It was during that year playing on the under 21 team that I first went in and trained with the senior panel. I remember that I first got a call from Martin Fogarty and I was totally shocked. I knew I had been going well with the under 21 but I really wasn't expecting it. I really was shocked altogether."

The panel he was joining had the previous year won Kilkenny's 30th All Ireland title and were on their way to number 31 and the elusive three in a row. Henry Shefflin, Tommy Walsh, Noel Hickey, JJ Delaney and many more were being heralded as some of the best players to have ever picked up a hurl. Understandably, the 19 year old felt a certain amount of trepidation upon joining them.

"You definitely would be in awe of some of the older players when you first come onto the panel. They are lads that you have been watching growing up and cheering them on and here you are playing with them. I remember Eddie Brennan coming up to me at a Walsh Cup match early in the year and talking to me a little bit about my game, just giving me some advice, that was a huge help. I'll always remember how fired up he was. Here was a fella who had won everything and he was bursting to play this Walsh Cup game. Getting advice from players like that is invaluable."

"Mick Kavanagh, Mick Rice, Jackie Tyrrell, they would all have taken me aside at different times too and had a few words with me. It's great because when you're only just coming onto the



Paul Murphy in the thick of things v Tipp in the All Ireland Semi-final  
John McIlwaine

panel, you'd nearly be afraid of going up to players like that and asking them advice, so it's brilliant when they offer it to you freely." Despite this guidance, Paul's story at senior intercounty level isn't one of overnight success. In 2009, he appeared in Walsh Cup matches and even made the panel during the league but come championship, he fell short of the mark.

It was a similar story in 2010, after showing some promise early in the year, Paul found himself on the outside looking in when it came to the business end of the season. Though it should be noted that he spent some time in Chad with the army during the year which certainly couldn't have helped his cause.

So what was the turning point between 2010 and 2011 that saw him not only improve but nail down a starting place on the team? "I remember the 2010 final. I was up on the Hill with a group of friends at the match and obviously we were all very disappointed that Kilkenny had lost but I really was gutted that I wasn't down on the pitch with the players. Even though they had just lost an All-Ireland, that was where I wanted to be and I decided that no matter what, I was going to do my best to become part of that team" "I basically went off and trained hard all through the next winter. I got myself into great physical shape, I was the fittest and strongest I had ever been but then the hurling took a little longer to get right. That just wasn't clicking at first but we played a match down in Waterford to open up a pitch one evening early in the year and I remember that was the match when things really started coming together. If I'm being honest though, there were also a few injuries and suspensions on the team as we came close to the start of the league so that opened a door for me as well."

The team he became a part of in 2011 was one with a lot of questions hanging over it. The consensus was that Kilkenny had met their match in Tipperary and the men from the Premier County would supplant the Cats at the head of the hurling table. This wasn't helped when Dublin beat Kilkenny rather easily in the league final.

"The league was inconsistent that year for us and so there was pressure on but we were trying out things, learning who could do what in different positions and finding out if some lads maybe had a few too many miles on the clock."

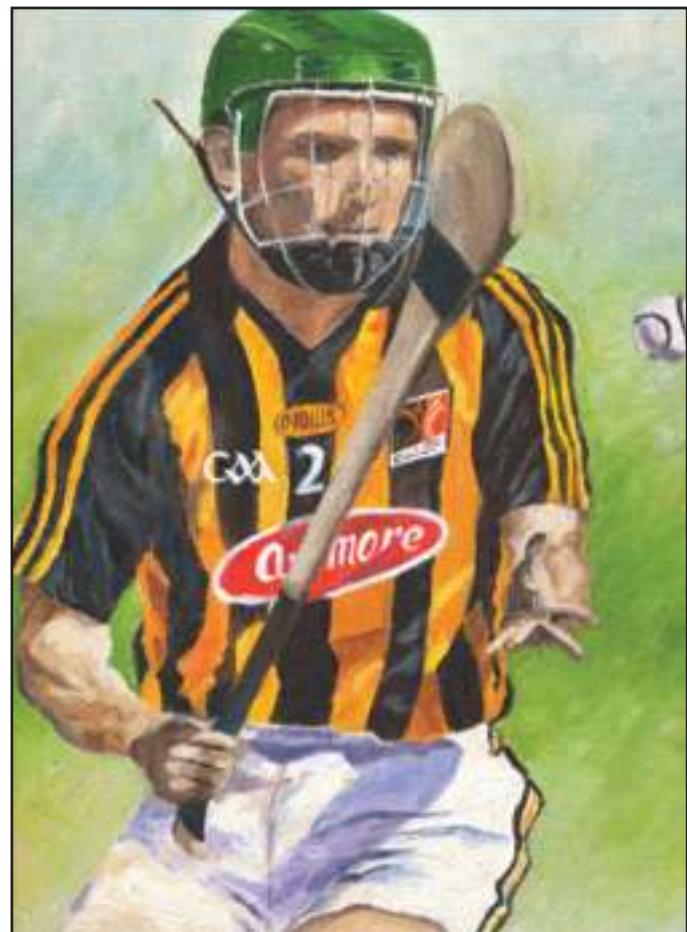
"So despite the big loss to Dublin in the final, there was a confidence in the panel going into the championship. A lot of lads also felt that they had a point to prove because of what was being said. People were writing off individual players and the team as a whole, saying that Tipp were the team for the next few years and finally Brian Cody and Kilkenny had run out of steam."

"From my own point of view, it was about taking each game as it came and trying to earn a regular place on the team. After doing well against Wexford and Dublin in the championship, Brian Cody said to me 'two swallows don't make a summer'. I knew that I was only as good as my last game and that there could easily be some fellas like me up on the Hill watching the match who would decide to put the work in and try to take my place. That is what keeps me motivated still, that feeling I had when I was on the Hill and knowing others could have it too."

That motivation has yielded some undeniably impressive results. A celtic cross and an All Star in his first full season, Paul could be forgiven if he thought that the good times would keep on rolling. Galway put paid to that notion on a Sunday in early July this year. "Plenty of people have asked if there was a few minutes after the game where we were really worried that the wheels had come off the bus but honestly there wasn't. We just felt immediately afterwards that they had outworked us and out fought us and that was what we had to rectify. We had been well beaten by Dublin the previous year in the league final and people had forgotten about it so there was no panic."

"Going into the final, of course we looked at the way that Galway played. I think that people assume we just focus on our own game and pay attention to nothing else but it would be stupid if you are playing the same team twice not to try and learn anything from the first match. We knew how Galway would want the game to go and we planned for that."

"At training in between the games, we knew we were going well. Lads were making a statement with the work and effort that they were putting in over in Nowlan Park. So going into the All-Ireland



Portrait of Paul Murphy, painted by his mother, Marian

and the replay, we were confident that we could do a job". That they did and in the process Paul earned a second All Star and a nomination for Hurler of the Year. While he lost out on the latter to teammate Henry Shefflin, in balance his time in black and amber has proven to be hugely successful.

Of course, black and amber also describes the colours of Paul's club, Danesfort.

Whatever was in the water out there in the late 1980's, the parish suddenly produced three of the best hurlers in their history. Paul, along with Richie Hogan and his older brother Paddy helped secure the first county title for the club in over 75 years when they won the Junior championship in 2006.

This was followed in 2011 with the Intermediate crown and the club's first tilt at senior honours this year. Like most clubs making the jump up a grade, the first objective was survival and this was secured when they beat Dunnmaggin in a hard fought relegation final in late October.

"We're delighted to be staying up but we were disappointed to be in a relegation final at all. Looking back on the league, we only lost to Shamrocks by 4 points and we hit a lot of wides that day. We then went on and played well in other rounds of the league but kept losing out narrowly. If we had that bit more cuteness or experience then we might have been able to close out those games and we would have been safe from relegation and able to concentrate on the championship."

"Next year you would definitely be hoping, that with a year at senior under our belts, lads might have matured a bit and nerves won't be as much of an issue. We should be able to push on from this year, improve on things and pick up a few points in the league."

Like most players, Paul gets excited when talking about the prospects of his club and would love nothing more than to see Danesfort feature in a senior county final in Kilkenny. But would he swap all his success on the county team to experience something similar at club level?

"Ha ha, it would be hard to say no to that but luckily I'll never have to make the choice"

# Playing on the Edge of IMMORTALITY

“ I'm an unabashed admirer,  
.....privileged to have witnessed  
their deeds. ”



## Diarmuid O'Flynn (Irish Examiner) on the Kilkenny Team

Many times over the last few years, in planes and trains and in automobiles, in pubs and clubs and in press-boxes up and down the land, I've found myself defending this Kilkenny team. Are they angels? No. Have they pulled a few foul strokes, a few sneaky strokes, a few outright dirty strokes? Yes. But are they a dirty team? Absolutely not.

A story, and an introduction to a few players you've never heard of but might have, were it not for a puck of a ball in a game or two. In 1976 my club, Ballyhea, won a Cork county junior hurling title, no mean feat in a championship where first you had to win your own division, game after derby game against fierce local rivals, then head into the county meeting battle-hardened champions from the other divisions.

In 1977, having beaten the reigning champions Newtownshandrum in the first round (they had easily won the intermediate title of 1976 with a young team, had opted to remain intermediate for another year in the certainty they'd win it again, before then moving up senior), Ballyhea reached the intermediate final but lost narrowly to Martin Coleman's Ballinhassig.

In 1980 the intermediate title was finally won and the Magpies were up with the big boys, the big three of the Glen/Barrs/Rockies still in their pomp in Cork. In 1982 we were robbed by Glen Rovers in the county quarter-final. In 1983 we were pipped by St Finbarr's in the semi-final. In 1984, GAA centenary year, the same opposition beat us in the county final. In 1986 it was Blackrock denying us at the death in the semi-final. For four years we were so near, oh so near, but as we were failing another Magpie outfit, Midleton, a team with whom we could go toe-to-toe whenever we met, DID make the breakthrough and suddenly the hurling world knew not just of John Fenton but of Denis Mulcahy, Pat Hartnett, Kevin Hennessey, of Seanie O'Brien, of the Boylan brothers etc, as Midleton went on to win three more Cork titles, one Munster championship.

So who were we? In one corner-back position in that Ballyhea team was Johnny Carroll, our silent assassin. Johnny never came to the attention of the referee, he never cleared a ball further than he had to; he was anonymous. So too, however, was almost every forward he ever faced and what Johnny did, he did in the dark. He was our Noel Hickey. In the other corner was Neil Ronan, father of the guy of the same name who went on to play for Cork in 1999. Neil snr. was the single most competitive man on that Ballyhea team, a defender who relished confrontation, who thrived on contact. The quickest hands I ever saw, he would have pulled twice before many had pulled once and often did; often too he even pulled on the ball. In an era when "make 'em dance!" was a catch-cry, Neil was the Kilfenora Ceili Band, Joe Dolan and Joe Loss all wrapped in one. Our Jackie Tyrrell.

Centre-back was Jack Russell, a man who captained Cork in 1967 but even as late as 1984, in the senior county final, saw off Jimmy Barry Murphy, John Meyler and Christy Ryan in turn. He wasn't big in stature but man could he hurl, a ball-player supreme, outstanding reader of the game. If you wanted to play without the ball, however, well, he could do that too - pound-for-pound, I never saw tougher. Our Tommy.



The Famous Ballyhea Team of 1976 - the nearest thing to the present Kilkenny Team  
BACK: D. O'Flynn, N. O'Donoghue, H. Greensmith, C. Brassil, J. Ryan, N. Ronan, M.O'Sullivan.  
FRONT: S. Curtin, J. Carroll, W. Shanahan, P. Ryan, P. Hartnett, D. Ryan, J. Russell, D. O'Sullivan.

In midfield we had Connie Brassil. I wonder, does anyone out there remember a field-opening in Hugginstown around 1981/82, Cork v Kilkenny? Six Ballyhea players travelled with Cork that evening, we won. Connie played midfield and he and Dick O'Hara must have broken half-a-dozen hurlers off each other. Each. Connie took no prisoners, ever, a thunderous man in the hit. Michael Fennelly.

Up front, occasionally in midfield, we had a guy called Kevin McSweeney, a brother of the sprinter Fanahan, who came to us from Castletownroche. To give you an idea of the kind of player Kevin was; Cork won the All-Ireland U-21 final of 1970 against Wexford after a replay but in the drawn game, with time up, Wexford were awarded a free inside the 70-yd line, dead centre. Mickey Byrne hadn't missed a shot, was walking to the ball as the referee jogged in towards the Cork goal. Kevin ran from his wing-forward position and kicked the ball TOWARDS his own goal; as Mick Jacob went after it, Kevin began shouting at the ref - 'Look, he's after moving the ball forward!'. The ref brought the ball back almost into the Wexford half - Mickey's shot dropped short, game over, Cork hammered them in the replay. Now THAT was clever! Unfair, unsportsmanlike? Please... I'd like to say Kevin was our Henry, but no team anywhere other than in Ballyhale Shamrocks and in Kilkenny has a Henry.

We did have Willie Shanahan, however, and Donie Sullivan, two absolute bulls of men who hurt you just in passing, and we had Davy Ryan, minor and U-21 All-Ireland medalist, who knew exactly how to play the referee long before anyone spoke of such subtleties.

We had a full-forward who shall remain nameless but who, to paraphrase from different circumstances, was 'known to the referees' - every referee in the county. Suffice to say he went on to bluff his way behind a laptop. We also had hurlers who wouldn't harm a fly though neither would they take a backward step - Philly Ryan, uncle of Neil Ronan jnr and brother of Davy, was one of the most gifted I ever saw with a hurley, man-of-the-match in that 84 final on a beaten team.

We treasured all those guys, every single one of them. Without them we would have won nothing, absolutely nothing. In any situation, whether in life or in sport, you need people who are hard enough to do the necessary, and you will NOT win an All-Ireland title without guys who are prepared to dish out some pain (on a different note, and as one who has marched in Ballyhea against the bank bailout for over 90 weeks now, how I wish we had such people leading us in government!).

Where I come from, hurling was always as much a test of character as a test of skill. It wasn't just about the fella who could do magic with a ball off a wall, it was about the fella who could stand up to the champion of the next parish and give as good as he got. Almost every time you went on a hurling field you were tested; your courage was tested, your nerve was tested, your character was tested. The bigger the test, the more satisfaction if you managed to withstand it. No-one offers a greater test in hurling than Kilkenny in the Cody era. It's a test that will take you to the limit of what's acceptable but all the better for that - that's what top-class sport SHOULD be about, pushing yourself to the limit, being pushed to the limit.

In summary, this is NOT a dirty Kilkenny team and to even suggest it is to insult them. Individual players have crossed the line occasionally (think back a few years to Tommy's back-swipes when breaking free, to Eddie Brennan's 'hello' to Limerick youngster Seamus Hickey in the All-Ireland final) but when you operate on the edge that's only to be expected. Overall, however, they've been absolutely brilliant, a credit not just to Kilkenny but to hurling and to all its ancient codes. I'm an unabashed admirer, feel privileged to have witnessed their deeds.



Tommy Walsh receives a yellow card from referee Barry Kelly, a decision that baffled a lot of Kilkenny fans, especially when his Galway opponent escaped without punishment. John McIlwaine



The Foul! Galway substitute Davy Glennon goes down under the challenge of Jackie Tyrrell for the controversial late free which earned the Tribesmen a draw in the All Ireland final. John McIlwaine

# BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS' 14th TITLE

COUNTY SH CHAMPIONSHIP by TOMMY LANIGAN



Ballyhale Shamrocks - County SH Champions 2012

Back: Gavin Butler, Eóin Doyle, Liam Elvidge, David Harrington, Eóin Knox, Rónan Corcoran, James Deasy, Willie Coogan, Patrick Mullen, Enda Fitzpatrick.  
Middle: Brian Cody, Bob Aylward, Liam Grant, Joseph Holden, Alan Cuddihy, Éamonn Walsh, Aidan Cummins, Henry Shefflin, Paul Shefflin, Keith Nolan, David Hoyne (captain), Brian Butler, TJ Reid, Dylan Doran.

Front: Patrick Reid, Michael Dermody, Colin Fennelly, Conor Walsh, Mark Aylward, Richie Reid, James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick, Michael Fennelly, Eóin Reid (vice captain), Stephen Donnelly, Tom Coogan, Eugene Aylward. Absent: Ger Fennelly. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

What a conundrum the county final of 2012 turned out to be. The pre-match talk was shared between wonder at a callow and youthful Dicksboro side travelling from relegation to a touch with glory and the awful possibility that a hardened 'Shamrocks would finish the game inside the first quarter.

Rarely have we witnessed a final where the atmosphere was almost funereal in the opening stages as the crowd seemed to expect a rout. The Ballyhale men were uncharacteristically sloppy in

front of goal, too casual as if expecting victory would fall to them with ease. They missed four, perhaps five gilt edged goal opportunities, including two penalty misses from Henry Shefflin. Credit to Shane Maher, who stopped both raspers. It must be noted that the 'Boro conceded no goal during the championship, a considerable feat.

The 'Boro youngsters, including eight U-21s, somehow survived the onslaught and slowly grew into the belief that 'Shamrocks did



Cha Fitzpatrick (Ballyhale Shamrocks) jumps over Kieran Cuddihy (Dicksboro) during the SHC Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



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Ballyhale Shamrocks captain, David Hoyne, is presented with the Senior Hurling cup by Declan Wall, President, St. Canice's Kilkenny Credit Union and Paul Kinsella, Chairman, Kilkenny County Bord, in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

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Dicksboro - County SH Finalists 2012

Back: Cillian Breathnach, Jamie Lynch, Kevin Nolan, Evan Cody, Eoin Gough, Stephen Farrell, Rory Glynn, Davy Ryan, Darragh Houlihan, Michael Hayes, Cillian Starr

Middle : David Carroll, Derek O'Gorman, Darragh Buggy, Philly Hogan, Oisin Walsh, Kieran Cuddihy, Shane Maher, Paul O'Flynn, Martin Gaffney, Tom Manning.

Front : Eddie O'Donoghue, Robbie Fitzpatrick, John Fagan, Cillian Buckley, Michael Fagan, Danny Kenny, Aaron Duggan, David Glynn, Enda Malone, Ollie Walsh, Kevin Kenny, Michael Rafter.

(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

not have the title by right, that it was there to be won by the hardest chasers. Two points clear at the interval (0-9 to 0-7), 'Shamrocks upped the pace and seemed to choke the life out of the 'Boro when forging a six point lead. But the city side fought bravely, none more so than young Robbie Fitzpatrick, Danny Kenny and Shane Maher. The gods mocked them when a wonderful shot by Eddie O'Donoghue hit the post with six minutes remaining and 'Shamrocks feetling some uncharacteristic heat. It needed all the strength, guile and nous of both Fennellys and Aylwards, Henry, and Aidan Cummins to see them home in an engrossing last quarter. Well done to Ballyhale. Some legs that looked rubbery in 2011 were rejuvenated and their winning know-how saw them to victory when other teams might have succumbed to the late 'Boro assault.

Three city teams reached the semi-finals of the senior championship. While it has taken a very long time to reach this goal, tribute must be paid to each of the three clubs for their organisation and endeavours.

Since the late '60s James Stephens have been the principal flag-

bearers at senior and juvenile level as Dicksboro and O'Loughlin Gaels struggled to gain consistency. After much heartbreak the 'Boro came good in senior ranks in the early nineties, following quality and intensive underage progress. O'Loughlins arrived in force seven years later, thanks to excellent work at underage level. Currently the three clubs are producing quality teams at all underage grades and it would seem that the potential exists for city dominance at adult level. Easier said than done. There are no easy routes to consistent excellence.

As a large urban centre, Kilkenny is extremely fortunate to have three powerful clubs vying for supremacy. Most large towns in Ireland do well to have one flourishing club. The problem for the city teams is the resources and opportunities for financial support to aid development must be divided three ways.

Dicksboro reached their first county senior final since 1994 with a fully merited victory over James Stephens by 1-15 to 0-16 in an exciting and highly competitive semi-final. A young and driven side never allowed the defending champions settle into the game where the men in maroon attacked each ball as if their lives de-



Shamrocks Colin Fennelly hand-passes the ball away as he comes under pressure from Dicksboro full-back Danny Kenny. John McIlwaine



Shane Maher (Dicksboro) makes the first of his two penalty saves during the SHC Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

pended on it. The game was very close at all stages but the new-found self belief in the 'Boro players drove them on to clinch the result in some style. The champions went down fighting, though missing and conceding too many frees. Ultimately they were too dependent on the genius of Eoin Larkin and even he cannot win games without lots of assistance from his fellow forwards.

Remarkably, the 'Boro began their championship campaign in the dreaded relegation zone after a league campaign that should have produced more points. Their first championship encounter was a comfortable win over Dunnamaggin (2-15 to 0-12). They defeated Shield finalists St. Martins in a high-scoring quarter-final (3-15 to 0-19) suggesting the 'Boro had found some solutions to their old bugbear of inability to find the posts with consistency. The habit stayed with them through the semi-final as the 1-15 scoreline against the Village demonstrated.

Ballyhale Shamrocks played their way as efficiently as usual through the League campaign thought they lost the final against neighbours Carrickshock (1-15 to 0-15). It mattered little to them as they experimented through the hour with player placements. They leaked scores in uncharacteristic manner against Erins Own in the quarter final and were given a real fright before winning by 3-16 to 1-16.

Their semi-final victory over O'Loughlin Gaels was a master class in economic hurling. Henry Shefflin, one of the greatest

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

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

**Carrickshock:** Patrick Farrell, Richard Frisby, John Dalton, David Franks, John Murphy, John Tennyson, Pat Tennyson, Shane Power, John Power, Richie Power, Mark O'Dwyer, Michael Rohan, William Hoynes, John Butler, Paddy Mulcahy, Niall Rohan, Brian Donavan.

**Danesfort:** Frank Minogue, Gavin O' Keeffe, Liam Forrestal, Michael Cunningham, Paul Murphy, Philip Walsh, Padraig Forristal, Paddy Hogan, Tony Woodcock, James Cunningham, David Forristal, Oisin Daly, Ben O'Connor, Richie Hogan, Robbie Walsh, Cillian Treacy, Cathal O'Neill.

**Dicksboro:** Aaron Duggan, Kieran Cuddihy, Danny Kenny, Enda Malone, Michael Fagan, David Glynn, Robbie Fitzpatrick, Cillian Buckley, John Fagan, Martin Gaffney, Ollie Walsh, Shane Maher, Paul O'Flynn, Davy Ryan, Killian Starr, Kevin Kenny, Oisin Walsh, Eddie O'Donoghue, Tom Manning.

**Dunnamaggin:** David Herity, Mark Dowling, Noel Hickey, Mark Heffernan, Willie Phelan, Canice Hickey, Aidan Donavan, Andrew Hickey, Ken Moore, Kieran Bergin, Sean Connery, Darren Fitzpatrick, Seaghan O'Neill, Noel Lahart, Peter Kennelly, Paul Kirwan.

**Erins Own:** Tom Brophy, James Mullins, Pauric Keating, Peter O' Donavan, Gerry Callinan, Damien Fogarty, Conor Fogarty, Jimmy Byrne, Aidan Moran, Declan Dunne, Peadar Moran, Eoghan Mealy, Martin Boran, Anthony Owens, Michael Murphy, Robert Moran, Eddie Brennan, Sean Meally, Michael Owens, Gordan Byrne.

**Fenians:** P. J. Ryan, Declan Garrett, J. P. Grehan, Eoin Phelan, John Henderson, J. J. Delaney, Conor Tobin, Ciaran Beahan, Cathal Ryan, Eugene Grehan, Paul Quinlan, Kieran Grehan, Willie Brennan, P.J. Delaney, Tommy Bowe.

**Graigue Ballycallan:** P. J. Trant, Darragh Egan, Ger Teehan, Shane Murphy, Bob Murphy, James Ryall, Jimmy Murphy, Adrian Burke, Dermot Heafy, Eddie Brennan, Niall Millea, Tomas Ryan, Willie O'Connor, John Hoynes, John Purcell, Dara Walton, Sean O'Dwyer, Ciaran Hoynes, P. J. Pollard, John Cleere.

**James Stephens:** Derrick Brennan, Niall McQuillan, Tomas Keogh, John Comerford, Donnacha Cody, Jackie Tyrrell, Eamon Sheehy, Ray Cody, Niall Tyrrell, David McCormack, Ger Flood, Richie Hayes, Matt Ruth, Eoin Larkin, Niall Mullins, Diarmuid Cody, Jack McGrath, Luke Hickey, Anthony Lawlor.

**O'Loughlin Gaels:** Stephen Murphy, Brian Kelly, Andy Kearns, Eddie Kearns, Alan O'Brien, Brian Hogan, Paddy Butler, Niall Bergin, Maurice Nolan, Alan Geoghegan, Niall McEvoy, Mark Kelly, Mark Bergin, Martin Comerford, Conor Bergin, David Burke, Jack Nolan, Danny Loughnane, Nigel Skehan.

**St. Martin's:** Colin McGrath, Ollie Walsh, Ronan Maher, Shane Cadigan, Niall Moran, Paddy Nolan, James Dowling, Paul Maher, Thomas Breen, Eoin McGrath, Brian Mulhall, Joe Maher, John Mulhall, Robert Shore, Michael Morrissey, Bryan Byrne, Canice Maher, James Maher, John Maher.

**Tullaroan:** Richard Holland, Paddy Campion, Michael Maher, Eddie Campion, David Dowling, Stephen Maher, Richard Maher, Tommy Walsh, Ken Coogan, Padraig Walsh, Shane Cuddihy, Martin Walsh, Mark Walsh, Jimmy Coogan, Mark Simpson, Peter Walsh, Paul Buggy.

score takers in the game, rarely went for his own score, instead dominating the game and feeding opportunities to his colleagues. They responded with characteristic efficiency and O'Loughlins had few answers. Their final goal merely put respectability on the scoreboard (1-17 to 2-10) as the experienced Shamrocks controlled the exchanges for most of the hour. Admittedly they displayed several weaknesses through the season, that were not helped by the enforced absence through injury of TJ Reid following the replayed All Ireland final.

O'Loughlins had suffered badly with several long term injuries over the Summer and did as well as could be expected in the circumstances. They remain one of the most difficult teams to overcome at any stage of the competition. Qualifying for the junior semi-final suggests they have some good ore to mine, but they must do so quite soon. Their dismissal of Carrickshock (1-15 to 1-11) was a repeat of their county final performance of 2010. 'Shock had a great league campaign, their best in senior



T.J. Reid (Ballyhale Shamrocks) feels the pressure during the SHC Final in Nowlan Park.  
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

### **ST CANICE'S CREDIT UNION SH CHAMPIONSHIP 2012**

#### **Scoreboard**

##### **1st Round**

Dicksboro	2-15	Dunnamaggin	0-12
Erins Own	1-14	Fenians	1-10
Graigue-B'callan	0-13	Danesfort	0-10
O'Loughlin Gaels	3-18	Tullaroan	1-14

##### **2nd Round**

Ballyhale S'rocks	3-16	Erins Own	1-16
Dicksboro	3-15	St. Martin's	0-19
O'Loughlin Gaels	1-15	Carrickshock	1-11
Jas Stephens	4-12	Graigue-B'callan	0-16

##### **Semi-Finals**

Ballyhale S'rocks	1-17	O'Loughlin Gaels	2-10
Dicksboro	1-15	James Stephens	0-16

##### **Final**

Ballyhale S'rocks	0-16	Dicksboro	0-12
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##### **Relegation Final**

Danesfort	0-11	Dunnamaggin	1-7
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ranks. Richie Power was the stand out player of the competition but his club mates depended too much on his brilliance. In the heat of championship they need a little more.

The aforementioned Erins Own came close to qualifying for the Shield and played solidly all year. Yet more progress had been expected. They have a nice blend of youth and experience but consistent scoring continues to be a challenge. Graigue-Ballycallan have struggled for some time. Their league campaign was poor though they always save their best performances for the championship. They fought a relegation semi-final against Danesfort and came through a tight game (0-13 to 0-10) with inspiration from evergreen Eddie Brennan. They competed well against James Stephens in the quarter final until a rush of goals ended their sea-

son (4-12 to 0-15). They cannot continue to depend on the seasoned veterans to maintain their competitiveness.

2011 Intermediate champions Danesfort played well through the league with little to show for their efforts. The presence of three county senior players kept them in senior ranks, none more so than in the relegation final when Paul Murphy and Richie Hogan delivered tour des force performances. Reaching the minor B final will help their prospects too. Their neighbours Dúnnamaggin have distinguished themselves in senior ranks since 1996 but unfortunately the well of talent seems to have dried. They could no longer muster enough scores to keep them safe and will have a battle to return to senior ranks in the near future.

What of Tullaroan and Fenians? They have

so much in common, small parish populations, outstanding individuals in Tommy and JJ respectively, and enviable fighting spirit. If ever two clubs deliver more than the sum of their parts it is these two. For years we have predicted their demise from senior ranks but they continue to unearth a forward or two to score enough and give grief to the big guns. Long may they continue to display such wonderful spirit.

It has been a satisfactory end to a senior championship that was unnecessarily extended into the Autumn. Such decisions take little account of the club player and his life. We hope for the return of supporter friendly fixture making, giving them the opportunity to see at least four games every weekend. The new, young and thriving intermediate champions should add some spice to the 2013 fare.

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## SH CHAMPIONSHIP ACTION

# CLARA BOUNCE BACK

## COUNTY IH CHAMPIONSHIP by Conor Brennan



Clara - County IH Champions 2012

BACK: Killian Phelan, Mick Bergin, Stephen Quinlan, Dermot Nolan, Ben Nolan, Eoin Curtis, Jody Creane, Conor O'Shea, Mick McDonald.

MIDDLE: Peter Nolan, Bill Carrigan, Lester Ryan, Brian O'Shea, James Nolan, John Phelan, Conor Phelan, Paddy Galvin, Shane Prendergast,

Kevin Nolan, Shane Cassin.

FRONT: Chris Bolger, Liam Ryan, Neal Prendergast, Sean O'Shea, Jack Langton, Tom Ryan, David Langton, Ciaran Prendergast, Austin Murphy, Keith Hogan.

(Photo: Jimmy Walsh)

As has been the case for a number of seasons in the recent past, it was the team who suffered relegation from the senior ranks in the previous season who managed to bounce back instantaneously to the top grade and capture the Intermediate title in the 2012 season. The team on this occasion was Clara, who proved once and for all that their demotion from the senior ranks was certainly premature and not reflective on their real quality. The challenge is now building on the optimism from winning the county title and become a real threat to other senior teams in 2013.

The group stages of the Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling League threw up many highlights and above all, some interesting and intriguing results. The most noteworthy of these was Clara, St. Lachlain's and the Rower-Inistioge proving from an early stage that they were the obvious potential challengers for ultimate honours. However, it was the performances of St. Patrick's that created the most stir amongst the keener observers. With a strong consistency in their play and an impressive spine to their side, they showed to all and sundry that the higher grade was far from intimidating for them. Despite this, they missed out on top spot in their group to St. Lachlain's, while in the other group, Clara were deservedly in top spot, with the Rower-Inistioge filling second place. Clara consequently proved too strong for the Freshford men in the league final played in Jenkinstown, winning by 2-15 to 0-15, and the Rower-Inistioge scored a single point victory over St. Patrick's in the shield final, winning 2-11 to 2-10.

The opening round of the championship saw Glenmore face up to Emeralds, Young Irelands against Mullinavat in an intriguing clash in Ballyhale, Conahy Shamrocks and John Lockes squaring up in St. John's Park and finally Tullogher-Rosbercon and Mooncoin in

a major Southern derby. For the last number of seasons, Glenmore have shown that they are capable of producing a major performance when it is most needed. As it was, on this occasion against Emeralds, such a performance was not particularly necessary. A scoring burst of 2-1 in the final minutes of the first half was the killer blow to the Urlingford men, who were leading by 0-6 to 0-4 and hurling well up to that point. But the goals from Eoin Murphy and Emmet Vereker respectively sealed Emeralds' fate and try as they might during the second half, they could not pull back the deficit that was created. Eoin Murphy was unerringly accurate from frees for Glenmore and this was also a considerable factor in the Southerners 2-10 to 0-12 victory.

Led by their great hero DJ Carey, Young Irelands were never going to be found wanting for heart against a Mullinavat side that were somewhat inconsistent during the league stages. The game itself proved these facts all over once again. Mullinavat showed flashes of real quality as they bounded out of the traps, racing into a 1-5 to 0-1 lead in the early minutes. But for the first of two occasions in the game, the Gowran men battled back superbly, and a well-taken goal from Dick Carroll ensured that the teams shared the spoils at the interval (1-6 to 1-6). The second half was equally enthralling as both sides enjoyed periods of dominance. Young

### MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS IH CHAMPIONSHIP 2012

#### Results

##### 1st Round

Glenmore 2-10 Emeralds 0-12  
Young Irelands 2-14 Mullinavat 2-12  
Conahy Shamrocks 0-15 John Lockes 1-12  
Conahy Shamrocks 2-15 John Lockes 1-14  
Mooncoin 2-14 Tullogher Rosbercon 0-15

##### Quarter-Final

St. Patrick's 1-17 Mooncoin 1-5  
Rower Inistioge 1-16 Young Irelands 1-12  
Glenmore 0-13 Clara 1-10  
Replay: Clara 2-14 Glenmore 1-13  
St Lachlain's 4-16 Conahy Shamrocks 2-11

##### Relegation Final

Tullogher Rosbercon 0-14 John Lockes 0-11

##### Semi-Finals

Clara 2-21 St Lachlain's 1-13  
Rower Inistioge 0-16 St. Patrick's 0-16  
St. Patrick's 2-11 Rower-Inistioge 0-14

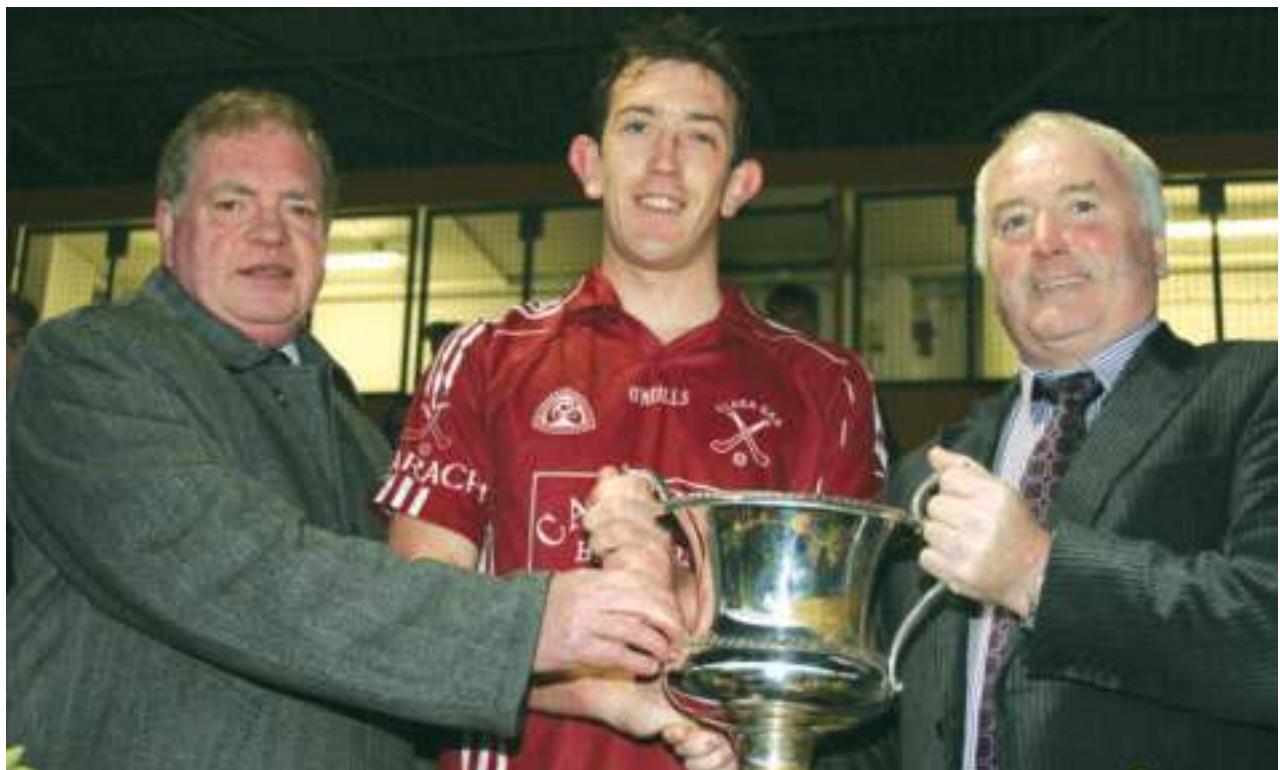
##### Final

Clara 1-7 St. Patrick's 0-4

# **MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS KILKENNY**



## **The Winning Team!**



David Langton, Captain, Clara, is presented with IHC cup by Paul Kinsella, Chairman, County Bord and Sponsor, Michael Lyng, Michael Lyng Motors, in the Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

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**St. Patrick's, Ballyragget - County IH Finalists 2012**

**Back:** John Holland, Alan Ruth, Enda Mooney, Mark Tyler, Jody Phelan, Kevin Kelly, Sean Mooney, Eoin Bergin  
**Middle:** Brian Mulhall, Micheál Kenny, Conor Bolger, Geoff Morrissey, Barry Staunton, Kieran Delaney, Paddy McEvoy, Conor Foley, Joe Brennan, Stephen Staunton, Mark Staunton, Dermot Brophy.  
**Front:** Stephen Roberts, Liam Lacey, Domhnall Brennan, Geoffrey Brennan, Conor Delaney, Robert Healy, Michael Gannon, Michael Brennan, Bill Staunton, John Mooney, Brian Phelan (Captain), James Gannon, Brendan Morrissey. (Photo: Jimmy Walsh)

Irelands opened up a four point lead early on before Mullinavat fought back to level once again. Willie O'Dwyer buried a 21 yard free to the net to galvanise the Mullinavat challenge, but the Gowran men proved their worth, scoring major scores at key stages to hold out for victory, winning in the end by 2-14 to 2-12. Conahy Shamrocks and John Lockes had not enjoyed the best of league campaigns before they faced each other in the championship. The Callan men had managed one win while Conahy had not secured a single point in their group, despite marginally losing the majority of their games. But all that would be easily forgotten with a victory in this game. The Callan men were quicker to settle in the opening half, eventually leading by 0-9 to 0-4 at the break. However, some shrewd changes in the Conahy attack saw them produce a far improved performance in the second half to lead by 0-15 to 0-12 in the final minutes. However, they could not maintain their composure in the crucial final minutes as the Callan men poured forward, and subsequently John Lockes half-back Jack McDowell flicked the ball to the Conahy net with the final action of the game to snatch a dramatic draw (1-12 to 0-15). The replay in Palmerstown a week later was equally tight and

tense, but Conahy, buoyed by their second half performance in the drawn game, were the far more composed team on this occasion. Goals in each half from Paddy Mullan and Shane Brennan were the key scores for Conahy, and although Jason Corcoran goaled from a penalty for the Lockes, it was too little, too late for his side. Conahy secured their first competitive win of the year and possibly their most important for some time, advancing to the quarter-finals by 2-15 to 1-14.

Mooncoin and Tullogher-Rosbercon were another pairing who also would have obviously liked to have produced a far stronger performance in the league. As it was, the two sides faced off hoping to avoid a further loss and in turn a potential relegation battle. It was a typically harsh battle with little quarter asked or given. Mooncoin's more physical style seemed to suit the occasion better. That said, it was two goals from Mooncoin full-forward Diarmuid Mackey, one which was particularly soft, that set the winners on their way to a 2-14 to 0-15 victory.

This win ensured Mooncoin advanced to face St. Patrick's in the quarter-finals. The Ballyragget men had already shown their mettle in the league stages but their performance on this occasion



David Langton (Clara) under pressure from Bill Staunton (St. Patrick's) during the IHC Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



John Phelan (Clara) gets away from Joe Brennan (St. Patrick's) during the IHC Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

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definitively cemented their status as a real threat to any team in the intermediate grade. Their slickness and speed in attack was highly impressive, led in no small way with Kevin Kelly who was their main scorer in chief. Their dominance was highlighted for all to see on the score board, and Mooncoin really didn't have any significant answer in reply to this. In the end, it was a comprehensive victory for the Ballyragget men, who won out on a 1-17 to 1-5 score line.

The potential for a memorable game between Rower-Inistioge and Young Irelands was certainly high as they faced each other in the quarter-finals. A interesting side note to the game was that former playing colleagues DJ Carey and Pat O'Neill faced each other on the side line, the latter against his home club. The result of the game was in doubt right through until the final minutes. The Rower led 1-7 to 1-6 at the half-time break thanks to a Conor Joyce goal after the Gowran men had started the game brightly. There was very little between the sides throughout the second half but when composure was needed, it was the Southerners who displayed it the best. Their goalkeeper Liam Tierney made a timely save to deny Ollie Carter, which was soon followed by three pointed frees from Paul Sheehan to cement the Rower's place in the semi-final, as they advanced by winning 1-16 to 1-12.

St. Lachtain's faced Conahy Shamrocks in a repeat of their final league game a few weeks previously, which was won by the Freshford men. Conahy came into the game with more optimism, however, and this was obvious in their first half performance. The sides were even throughout that period and indeed were level at 1-7 apiece at half-time. But the Freshford men enjoyed a serious purple patch in the second half's early exchanges and ultimately killed off the Conahy challenge at this stage. Conahy showed that they were a troop of honest hurlers in spite of injuries and absences, but the hill in front of them was too steep. St. Lachtain's were not to be denied, and they took their place in the semi-finals by winning by 4-16 to 2-11.

The bookies' favourites, Clara, had to deal with the considerable threat of Glenmore in their quarter-final clash. Glenmore, in their typical fashion, paid little or no heed to reputation as they produced a real battling performance. They came almighty close to snatching a victory against the odds, but Clara were just about able to hang on by their collective fingernails. As the game ended in a draw (1-10 to 0-13), one feared that Glenmore might have missed their chance to account for such a major scalp as Clara. The replay proved this to be the case, though once again, not without a large amount of defiance from the Southerners. Clara had to call on all their experience and fortunately for them, their senior players came to the fore when they were needed most. Glenmore never gave up,

## ***The following players took part in the 2012 Kilkenny IH championship.***

**Emeralds:** Alan Guilfoyle, Toddy Moriarty, Pa Doheny Eoin Moriarty, Brian Troy, Padraig Phelan, Joey Doheny, Fergal Tobin, Shane Norton, Ian Grant, Aidan Fogarty, Eddie Ryan, Conor Martin, Derek Lyng, Jamie Ryan, Noel Cleere, Eamonn O'Gorman.

**Glenmore:** Davy Aylward, Mark Phelan, Fergal Freyne, James Cody, Colm Foran, Patrick Murphy, Emmett Vereker, Ger Aylward, Michael Phelan, Mark Aylward, Eoin Murphy, Alan Murphy, Colm Doherty, Adrian Doherty, Denis O'Doherty, Shane Doherty, James Aylward, Liam Hennessy.

**Mooncoin:** Paddy Kinsella, Cormac Daly, Niall Mackey, Liam Hennebry, Tomas O'Hanlon, Eddie Mackey, Seamus Kearns, Alan Walsh, Eoin Hennebry, Diarmuid Mackey, Jamie McGrath, Mark Fitzgerald, Danny Purcell, Ray Wall, Michael Grace, Ethan Ryan, J.P. Purcell, Cormac Fleming, David O'Brien, Keith Kirwan.

**Tullogher Rosbercon:** Martin Roche, Declan Grennan, John Hartly, Terence Croke, Anthony Cottrell, Pat Hartley, John Grennan, John Cottrell, Liam Barron, Moling Cottrell, Michael Grennan, John Barron, Walter Walsh, Martin Bookle, Richard Dollard, Tony Conway, Eoin Mullally, Peter Meggs, Cian O'Donoghue.

**St.Patrick's:** Michael Gannon, John Mooney, Geoff Brennan, Robbie Healy, Geoff Morrissey, Stephen Staunton, Kieran Delaney, Brian (B) Phelan, James Gannon, Michael Brennan, Bill Staunton, Conor Delaney, Jody Phelan, Kevin Kelly, Eoin Bergin, Conor Foley, Sean Mooney, Joe Brennan, Barry Staunton, Brian Mulhall, Stephen Roberts.

**Clara:** Kevin Nolan, Tom Ryan, John Phelan, Sean O'Shea, Neal Prendergast, Shane Prendergast, David Langton, Jack Langton, Lester Ryan, Conor Phelan, Austin Murphy, Liam Ryan, Ciaran Prendergast, James Nolan, Cillian Phelan, Chris Bolger, Stephen Quinlan, Brian O'Shea, Peter Nolan, Keith Nolan, Conor O'Shea St.

but defeat was to be their lot, as Clara eventually advanced, to their relief, by winning 2-14 to 1-13.

The semi-final pairings, with St. Patrick's taking on the Rower-Inistioge and St. Lachtain's facing up to Clara, was a repeat of the shield and league finals respectively. St. Lachtain's, severely hampered by injuries and suspension, went into the game under a cloud. But it seemed in the opening half that they were prepared to throw off the shackles and push hard for a place in the final, in spite of their lack of fire-power. The sides were level at the half-time break but it did not take long for the Clara men to establish their superiority in the second half. When they secured their second goal of the game midway through the second half, it truly confirmed that there was going to be only one conclusion. The result was harsh on St. Lachtain's, who deserved better than was reflected on the scoreboard. As it was, Clara were significant winners, advancing on a 2-21 to 1-13 victory.

It would have taken a brave man to call a

**Lachtain's:** James Maher, Michael Kavanagh, Seamus Hayes, Tomas Flynn, Brian Kennedy, Niall Phelan, James Maher, John Fitzpatrick, Eoin Guinan, Davy Brennan, Bill Beckett, Liam Hickey, Steven Farrell, Shane Donnelly, Paul Guinan, Mark Kavanagh, Philip Campion, Jim Costello, Barry Hughes, Noel McGree.

**Rower Inistioge:** Liam Tierney, Eoin Doyle, James Doyle, Tom Grace, Rory Galvan, Kieran Joyce, Tadgh Leahy, Sean Lyster, Joe Lyng, David Lyng, James Cassin, Ciaran Ryan, Michael Grace, Conor Joyce, Paul Sheehan, Tommy Murphy, Mark Moore, J. J. Kenny, David Tennyson.

**John Lockes:** Paul Morrissey, Eoghan Fahey, Jack McDowell, Tony Delaney, Jason Corcoran, Paddy Kennedy, John O'Neill, Matthew Holohan, J. P. Corcoran, Sean Tierney, Eoin McGrath, Shane Bergin, Josh Haines, Simon Burke, Ger Shelly, Michael Gordan, Dan McCormack.

**Conahy Shamrocks:** Andrew O'Keeffe, Seamus Og Brennan, Denis Kelly, Donal Brennan, Gary Kavanagh, Paul Buggy, Damien Webster, Peter Vickers, Michael Bergin, Barry Murphy, Declan Buggy, John Wallace, Shane Brennan, Michael Lawlor, Gavin Nolan, Paddy Mullan, Alan Healy, Tom Nolan, Joe Keoghan.

**Young Irelands:** Martin Carter, Niall Walsh, Michael Walsh, Ciaran Carroll, John Dunphy, Stephen Byrne, Emmett Byrne, J. J. Lennon, Chris Nolan, Thomas Carroll, Sean Keogh, Paul Holden, Paul Keogh, Tom Drennan, Dick Carroll, Michael Lennon, Ollie Carter, Eoin Walsh, Peter Carroll.

**Mullinavat:** James Culleton, Tony Duggan, Seamus Farrell, Joe Fennelly, Thomas Aylward, Walter Burke, Simon Aylward, Michael Malone, Liam Murphy, Ian Duggan, Willie O'Dwyer, Pauric Gahan, Mark Mansfield, Michael Murphy, Ger Malone, Dinny Butler, Darren Kenneally, Joe Gahan.

winner between St. Patrick's and the Rower-Inistioge in the second semi-final. Though both teams had experienced the extremes of victory and defeat in the recent past, it would be difficult to see a definitive advantage for one side over another. The opening half was testament to this. The Ballyragget men, thanks in particular to the sharpness and accuracy of Kevin Kelly at centre-forward, led by 0-9 to 0-7 at the half-time break. But the Rower men, led by Kieran Joyce in defence and by Michael Grace and Paul Sheehan in attack, levelled the scores in the second half and both sides traded points at regular intervals from there on. They would also point to some missed chances at both ends which could have possibly turned the initiative in another direction quite severely. But neither side could avail of this, and so the spoils were shared, with both teams locked at 0-16 apiece.

The replay was an equally entertaining game, but on this occasion, it was the goals that managed to make the difference, and it was St. Patrick's that snatched

them at crucial periods. A goal early in the first half from Barry Staunton and an opportunist goal from Michael Brennan in the second half were the key scores that gave the Ballyragget men the important edge at the crucial points of the game. The Rower were having little or no luck in front of goal and a sense of nervousness certainly was evident in their play. In contrast to this, St. Patrick's showed real composure when it mattered most, despite great pressure being exerted on their defence, who stood resolutely firm. It was these qualities that made for a winning combination and a place in a second county final in two years for the Ballyragget men, who won out on a 2-11 to 0-14 score line.

Above any individual player or tactic, it was the inclement November weather that was the primary factor in the eventual destination of the spoils on county final day. The question was who would deal with the conditions best, St. Patrick's or Clara? It was obvious from an early stage that the Clara men had the personnel, strength and experience to stamp their authority on the game. They could have been even further ahead had their attack had more luck in front of goal. St. Patrick's would have been relieved that they only were six points down at the half-time break, having conceded a well-take goal by Clara's Austin Murphy. The Ballyragget attack just could not come to terms with the slippy conditions and the determined play of the likes of John Phelan and the Prendergasts, Neal and Shane, who led the Clara defence well throughout. The conditions worsened as the second half progressed and it continued to play into Clara's hands. Though they themselves were able to add only a single point to their tally in the second half, St. Patrick's could not better than themselves as they got increasingly desperate. In the end, there was no denying the best team on the day, with the final score 1-7 to 0-4 in Clara's favour. It was a dull and miserable ending to a long season, but as Clara celebrated at the end of the game, it mattered little to them and their supporters.



Brothers, Conor and John Phelan with the Intermediate Cup after the Final.  
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

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Thomastown Captain, John Joe Farrell, is presented with the Junior Hurling cup by Jim Power, representing sponsor, J.J. Kavanagh & Sons and Paul Kinsella, Chairman, County Bord, in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Jimmy Walsh)

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# 'Town Revive Former Glories

County JH Report by Jimmy Walsh



Thomastown - County JH Champions 2012 (Jimmy Walsh)

Back: Cian O'Mara, Darren Burke, Eddie Conway, Barry Whelan, Shane Lanigan, James Hoyne, Kieran Treacy, Brian Murphy, Thomas (Tucker) O'Hanrahan, Davy Prendergast, Paul Barron.

Middle: Stuart Waugh, Fergal Challoner, Adrain Burke, Robert O'Hanrahan, Luke Blanchfield, John Fitzgerald, Sean Mahoney, Michael Cullen, Richard O'Hara, Michael Mahoney, Darragh McGarry, Garry Lehane.

Front: Andy Walsh, Paraic Caulfield, Dessie Walsh, Dylan Waugh, Derek Lanigan, Dylan Walsh, John Joe Farrell, Peter O'Hanrahan, Colin Clarke, Edward Tennyson, Michael Donnelly.

Following the success of two clubs competing in the junior grade in Kilkenny at national level the local competitions were buoyed up as St. Patrick's took the Junior All Ireland title and Mount Leinster Rangers the All Ireland Intermediate title. The year saw the newly formatted championships well embedded as twenty two club sides in four groups entered the premier junior competition. Having commenced on the last weekend in April, the first real assessment day occurred on the second weekend in August when the final round of the junior league championship was played. The results of that round gave a possible indication of the heirs to St Patrick's county title. For a handful it gave a strong hope that they might follow them to the Provincial and National Thrones following the Balllyragget side's clean sweep of titles in 2011. For other clubs the hopes were for a jump start in form, and for more it was how to stay clear of the dreaded relegation zone. For one and all, the implications of recession, unemployment and the growing levels of emigration were amongst the most serious concerns. The spill-over effect was most notable as players moved up to the first team and the teams down through the grades came under extreme pressure to field with some walkovers being given particularly at exam times.

## **Thomastown take a step on the way to former glories**

With Piltown taking the favourites mantle following their county final appearance in 2011 they were joined by Lisdowney, Barrow Rangers and Thomastown who were also given a strong chance. Added to the list was the form of an experienced Graiguenamanagh side just down from the Intermediate Grade whilst the strength of the sides from the well populated senior and intermediate clubs was an unknown factor.

In the Junior League programme there were many surprises as Cloneen the relegation finalists the previous year made great progress to top their division. Having also faced the drop Sliieverue had worked their way off the bottom of the table in their group.

On the first weekend in September as supporters across the county were enjoying the build up to the All Ireland final, the ten junior teams of the senior and intermediate clubs walked the championship plank of no return in search of a place in the next round. Elsewhere their colleagues in the junior only clubs got a three week reprieve to hone their preparations until after the all Ireland under twenty one final. Still in the running in this section on All Ireland final day were O'Loughlins, Dicksboro, Clara and Mooncoin as Dunnamaggan and Erin's Own after preliminary round wins were safe for another year and the Fenians had another day out in the relegation final. The penultimate and all Ireland football weekends in September saw shocks galore as Sliieverue dispatched Graiguenamanagh to their relegation semi final place of the previous year. Elsewhere a minor backboned Bennettsbridge side eked out a single point win over champi-

onship favourites Piltown and Cloneen who had impressively headed their group went down to the Blacks and Whites. Others safely through were Lisdowney and Thomastown as the All Ireland senior final replay two weeks later resulted in the Richie Doyle tied Barrow Rangers and Galmoy tie being deferred. By the time it was played Thomastown and the Bridge had made the semi finals and O'Loughlins took the place for the senior and Intermediate clubs with a three point win over Clara. In the wings Lisdowney were successfully building their plans for the last semi final place as they awaited and then overcame Barrow Rangers who had accounted for Galmoy by three points.

In the semi finals played in the Park, Bennettsbridge recorded a win over an O'Loughlins side that created the best and greater number of goal scoring chances by 0-17 to 2-8 on the day. In the second semi final Thomastown after a slow start eventually overcame their fellow blue and white clad Lisdowney opponents by 2-14 to 1-16.

In the final, played as part of a treble-decker on a five game weekend in Nowlan Park, the gods of wind and weather played their part as Thomastown benefited from their physical strength and experience to record a 3-13 to 0-10 victory over the very young Bennettsbridge side. After winning the minor "A" title following a replay against the same opposition just a year before, their well deserved arrival in the final junior game may have been just a year too soon. Three Thomastown points in almost as many minutes was the ideal start. After Nickey Cleere opened the Bridge account ten minutes in, they reduced the lead to a single point when James Moran scored, before two John Joe Farrell goals saw Thomastown forge ahead. The goals followed good balls forward by Richard O'Hara and Michael Donnelly and set Thomastown in front 2-7 to 0-4 at the break. The game's next goal—desperately required by the Bridge—fell Thomastown's way when Thomas O'Hanrahan goaled after just eight minutes of the new half to leave them ahead 3-9 to 0-5. Never giving, in Bennettsbridge battled on to add five more points to leave the final scoreline 3-12 to 0-10 as Thomastown took the Bob Aylward Cup and looked ahead to successful Leinster Junior and County intermediate campaigns.

## **Graiguenamanagh survive in relegation final**

The final at the relegation end of the championship saw Graiguenamanagh stop their freefall from the intermediate to junior "A" grade. In the game they had a hard earned three point win over the second side from the Fenians club that has long proved it has not got the word relegation in their vocabulary. With the Johnstown side behind 0-12 to 0-5 at the break, there were just three points between the sides with five minutes to go. In the end the final result was reflected in the points from frees tally as the Barrowsiders 0-13 to 0-10 reflected the same difference in their 0-16



Bennettsbridge - County JH Finalists 2012 (Jimmy Walsh)

**Back:** Jason Cleere, Sean Morrissey, Damien Donovan, Micheál Shiels, Kevin Blanchfield, Aidan Byrne, Tim Dooley, Seamus Moran, Dylan Walsh, Patrick O'Neill, Bill O'Neill  
**Middle:** Paul O'Neill, Shane Byrne, Liam Blanchfield, James Moran, Enda Morrissey, Enda Cleere, Edward Fitzgerald, Brian Lannon, Willie Murphy, Michael Power, Tom Kiely, Shane Nolan, Ben Tynan, Luke Dowling  
**Front:** Aidan Cleere, Robert Lennon, Cormac Wafer, John Hayes, Darragh Wafer, Eddie Murphy, Hugh O'Neill, Nicky Cleere, Wayne Dowling, James Dowling, Kevin Brennan



Mullinavat - Junior "A" County Champions 2012

**Back:** Ritchie Raftice, Joe Gahan, Mark Mansfield, Derek Aylward, Ger Malone, Shane Frisby.  
**Middle:** Ger Anthony, Joseph Wall, Mossy Murphy, Thomas Aylward, Simon Aylward, Paddy Raftice, Conor Frisby, Pat Mulhearn, Brian Phelan.  
**Front:** Nicky Anthony, Andrew Mc Govern, Liam Murphy (C), Paddy Jones, Darren Kenneally, Brian Kenneally, Mickie Jones, Mossy Jones.

to 0-13 final scoreline win.

#### **Junior "A" title and promotion to Junior for Mullinavat 2nd's after thrilling final**

Played on a league basis, eight teams in two groups headed out on the championship road down South. In one group, Ballyhale and Mullinavat shared the spoils in their game and also the lead at the top of the table as the Rower Inistioge made a clean sweep in the other one. In the quarter finals, Ballyhale, The Rower Inistioge, Carrickshock and Mullinavat qualified before the Rower and Mullinavat had substantial semi-final wins. In the final the Mullinavat men, with two Mossy Murphy goals, took the title on a 3-17 to 0-6 scoreline. In the north seven teams played a competitive round robin series that saw all sides pick up

league points. In pole position with the full twelve points were Graigueballycallan, the runners up to County Champions Tullaroan, in 2011. On their way they impressively scored two points for every one they conceded. In the knockout stages they continued in a high scoring vein and defeated the Emeralds in the semi-final. In the final they recorded a 1-15 to 0-14 win over Lisdowney who had earlier recorded a one point win over Conahy Shamrocks and a 2-14 to 2-12 victory over Young Irelands in the semi-final. The win saw them take the JJ Kavanagh & Sons Sponsored Martin Egan Cup. In the county final played in Hugginstown, the top class fare far exceeded the junior "A" grade. After Mullinavat got an early goal and led 1-2 to 0-2, the result was still in the balance after Jason Dermody netted to leave two points in it with a

minute of normal time to play. However, for the Graigueballycallan men it was heartbreak as three minutes later referee Jim Fitzgerald called full time at 3-12 to 2-12. For Mullinavat it was new territory as the winning of the Shem Lalor cup will see them have their second team compete at junior level for the first time.

#### **Relegation for Piltown**

At the other end of the draw the relegation tie saw Carrickshock's four point win push Piltown into the County relegation final where they took the drop to Junior "B" after a 3-10 to 0-16 defeat by St Martins.

#### **Junior "B" title, Dick Dunphy Cup and promotion to "A" for Kilmacow**

In the Northern "B" League Championship



Kilmacow - Junior "B" County Champions 2012

Back: Denis Scully, Tom Reddy, Conor Walsh, Trevor Grant, Ed Irish, Andy Kearns, Dean Power, Danny Connolly, Shane Gaule, Paul Laffan, David Ryan, Declan Gahan, Josh Tobin  
Front: Johnny Barron, Ryan McKenna, Kevin McNamara, Shane Power, Emmet Blanchfield, Sean Ivory, Mark McGuiness, Robbie O Keefe, John Daniels, Richard Walsh  
Missing due to Injury Liam Kearns, Sean McGrath, David Long, Ryan O Hanlon (Charlie Maher WMCM Photography)



Piltown - County JH League Winners 2012

Back: Andrew Norris, Thomas Talbot, Michael O'Dwyer, David Kinsella, Niall Kinsella, Kieran Norris, Richie McCarthy, Brendan Norris, Daniel Norris, Peter McCarthy, Andrew McCarthy, James Norris, Kevin Walsh, Maura Brennan (Medic)  
Front: Donal Ryan, Nollaig Brophy, Conor Nugent, Nicky Kenny, Shane Kinsella (Captain), Neil Kelly, Martin Power, Michael Burchill, Philly Kenny



Lisdowney - All County JH League Final Champions 2012

Back: Niall Kenny, David Dowling, Ciaran Bergin, Ciaran Mackey, Peter Bergin, Eoin Delahanty, James Delaney, Pat O'Carroll, Edward Kenny, Kevin Sweeney, Middle: Niall Mackey, Jamie Bergin, Paul Sweeney, George Healy, Michael Lennon, Ray Fitzpatrick, Aaron Fogarty, Shane Clyne, Laurence O'Carroll, Vinny Fitzpatrick, Niall O Hara, Padraig Kenny, Eddie Hickey, Joe Bergin, Michael Kenny,  
Front: Paddy Bowden, Anthony O'Hara, Martin Phelan, Brian Campion, Sean Phelan, Niall Grogan, Rory Hickey, Micheal Bergin, Paul Murphy.



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Graigue Ballycallan - Junior A League Champions 2012 (Photo Jimmy Walsh)

Back: Anthony Ryan, Thomas Ryan (Capt), Ger Teehan, Justin Dermody, John Robinson, Shane Murphy

Middle: Shane Murphy, Micheal Murphy, Robert Dunphy, Mark Fitzpatrick, Sean O'Dwyer, Willie O'Connor, Gearoid Cleere, Darragh Murphy, Paddy Dalton, Gearoid Murphy, Dermot Ryall, Padraig Tynan, Conor Hogan

Front: John Cleere, John Doheny, Philly Heaphy, PJ Pollard, Joey Corcoran, Liam Doyle, Shane Butler, Jason Dermody, Conor Power, Tommy Minogue, JJ Ryan (Mascot)



O'Loughlin Gaels - Junior B League Champions 2012 WMCM:Photography

Back: Keith Kinchella, Davy Ward, Cathal O'Leary, Pat Ward, Nigel Skehan, Paddy Deegan, Kevin O'Brien, Billy Leydon, Andy Cantwell, Brian Cantwell, Michael Henebry, James O'Keefe, Michael Lambert, Martin Wall, Barrie Hogan, Michael Butler, Sean Hickey, Stephen Tyrrell.

Front: Cyril Stedmond, Padraig Meany, Kevin Morrissey, Evan Walsh, Benny Cleere, Kevin McGarry, Joe Walsh, Mick Lambert, Michael Lambert jnr.

O'Loughlins, Galmoy and Blacks and Whites topped their respective groups after thirty games with another fourteen scheduled to find the Northern "B" Champions. The first close call came when Barrow Rangers pipped St Patrick's by 1-21 to 3-14. Their run continued in the semis with a 3-11 to 2-10 win over O'Loughlins as Blacks and Whites accounted for Galmoy in the second semi-final. In the final Barrow Rangers continued their run to take the Northern title with a 2-12 to 2-7 win.

In the South, Kilmacow and Carrickshock topped the groups with Carrigeen recording a valuable league win. In the knockout section Slieverue eliminated top-of-the-table side Carrickshock as they were joined in the semis by Graiguenamanagh, Windgap and Kilmacow. Graiguenamanagh defeated Windgap whilst Kilmacow overcame neighbours Slieverue and continued on to record a 2-15 to 2-11 win in the final over the Barrowsiders.

In the county final, Kilmacow collected a rare county title when with the only goals of the game they defeated Barrow Rangers by 3-12 to 0-16

#### **Junior League County titles won by Piltown and Clara**

In the second Junior Hurling league championship competition that sets the format for the County Championship draws, the competition was hectic. On the way, there were many surprises as teams jockeyed for favorable championship placings at the top of the table whilst simultaneously watching the potential relegation trap door below them. In the League section, 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.

In the junior clubs section, Piltown, with the best defensive record, qualified for the final with five wins out of five. Their opponents, qualifying for a first-ever final at Junior Level, were to be surprise packet Cloneen who displayed a low scoring rate and a tighter defence. On the way they collected eighty percent of the points with only Barrow Rangers being ahead of them at the final whistle. In a close and entertaining J.J. Kavanagh County Junior Hurling League Final, Cloneen opened both halves with a bang with

goals by Padraig Maher (penalty) and Graham Lawlor. However, Piltown's experience of appearing in a fourth final in five years and their concentration on point scoring saw them 0-12 to 1-5 ahead at the break. After a fine second half, Piltown's better distribution of scores from seven players led by James Norris, saw the Southerners run out 0-21 to 2-9 winners.

In the final for the Junior teams (of senior and intermediate clubs), Mooncoin's first round defeat in Group three by Erin's Owns was cancelled out as they topped the table on scoring average from O'Loughlins. In group four Clara's nine point win over top of the table sharing James Stephens was enough to see them through on scoring average. In the final, played in Thomastown, Clara recorded a 3-14 to 0-12 win over Mooncoin

#### **Junior Divisional titles won by Lisdowney and Thomastown**

With the Divisional Junior Championship having a lesser appeal and played throughout the month of August when players would be availing of non championship tie holiday opportunities, a

total of thirteen games were played. In the north Galmoy's heavy defeat by Lisdowney was the only surprise as Erin's Own and O'Loughlins went down in the semi-finals to Bennettsbridge and Lisdowney respectively. In the final between two of the pre-championship favourites Lisdowney took the Northern title by 2-19 to Bennettsbridge's 0-14.

In the south, a single point defeat saw Sliieverue and Windgap go out early in the seven-game competition as Kilmacow and Graiguenamanagh went down heavily in the semi-finals to Piltown and Thomastown respectively. In the Southern final, Thomastown came from behind with a Dessie Walsh line ball to equalize at the stroke of full time. In extra time, goals by John Jo Farrell and Adrian Burke gave them the title on a score of 2-25 to 0-22. With no county final in the grade, both sides would be hoping that similar to previous years, the wins of Lisdowney in 2008 and Thomastown in 2005 would see them both appear in the new real junior county final.

#### **Junior "A" League County Title goes to a consistent Graigue Ballycallan side**

In the junior "A" league, ten teams, that included Carlow sides Erin's Own and Ballinkillen, competed in two groups of five down south. After twenty games were played, the Rower Inistioge and Mullinavat took full points and met Ballinkillen and Ballyhale Shamrocks respectively in the semi finals. Ballinkillen upset the form book and qualified to meet, and then beat, the outright favourites Mullinavat in the Southern Final in Ballyhale.

In the North, Carlow Town brought the entrants to eight and the competition was played in two groups of four with Graigue Ballycallan and Conahy Shamrocks topping their respective tables with full points. In the semi's St Lachtains defeated Conahy and the Graigue men continued their good form to defeat Carlow Town. The final saw Graigue defeat the Freshford men by just 2-15 to 1-16 to qualify for the county final. In the final in Jenkinstown, Graigue Ballycallan had two points to spare over Ballinkillen on a 0-14 to 0-12 scoreline.

#### **Junior "B" League County Titles stays with O'Loughlin Gaels**

Ten teams competed in two groups in the south in the junior "B" league with Graiguenamanagh and Kilmacow taking the full league points available. In the semi's the Barrowsiders went down to their neighbours, the Rower Inistioge, whilst Kilmacow qualified for their second final in row when they defeated their neighbours Sliieverue. In the final, Kilmacow, led by Tom Reddy at centre back, and with Emmett Blanchfield getting the games only goal, took the title on a 1-16 to 0-11 scoreline in wet and slippy conditions.

Fifteen teams set out on a hurling marathon in the north at the end of March with no side collecting full points over the three groups. In the two knockout quarter finals, St. Patrick's and Danesfort progressed, with Danesfort continuing all the way to the final with a win over Blacks and Whites. In the other semi', St Patrick's went down to O'Loughlins after a replay, after scoring 3-10 to the city sides 0-19 on the first day.

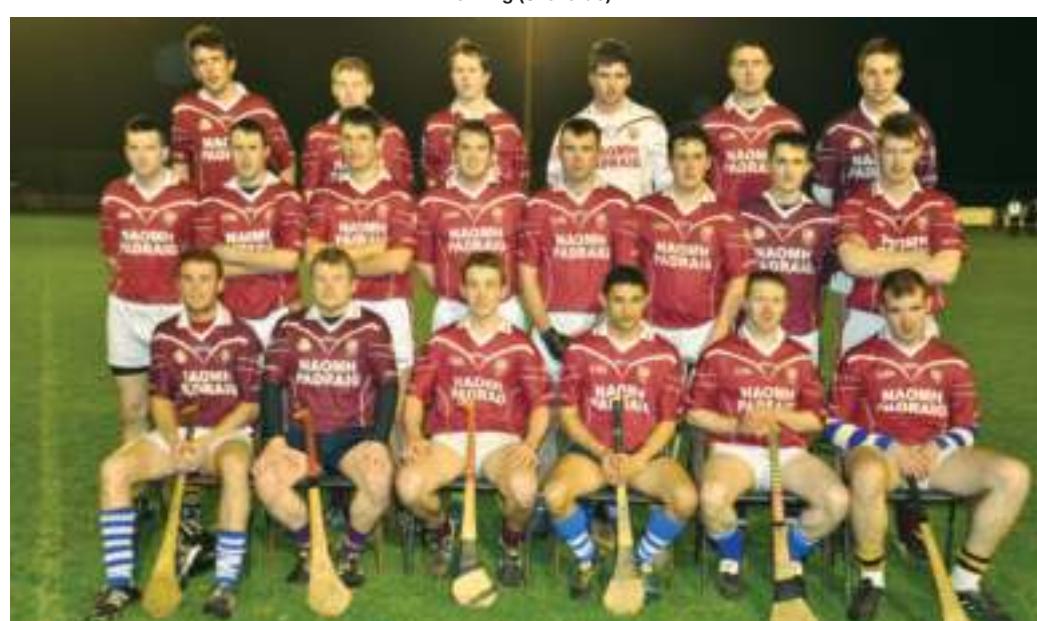
In the final in the end of June, O'Loughlins, benefiting from their additional game, eventually reeled in a large lead and with six wind-assisted points from the last seven scored, recorded a three point – 0-17 to 0-14 – victory. The win saw them take their second northern title in a row. In the county final, played a month later in Thomastown, O'Loughlin Gaels continued their winning ways when they recorded a 0-16 to 0-11



**BARROW RANGERS TEAM WINNERS OF JOE WALSH CUP 2012**  
**Back:** Edward Prendergast, Zak Shermer, Stephen Dorner, Liam Walsh, David Walsh, Graham English, Peter Treacy, John Brennan, Tom Brennan,  
 John Kearney, Derek McEvoy, Patrick Purcell, Kevin Brennan, Dermot Maher.  
**Front:** John O'Neill, Ciarán Breen, JJ Staunton, David Staunton, Conor Brennan, Dinny Kealy (Capt)  
 Sean McDonald, Aaron Nolan, Joe Kealy.



**Jim Farrell Cup - South Team 2012**  
 Richie O'Neill (Kilmacow) Vincent Landy (Windgap) Brian Murphy (Thomastown) Ross Kelly (Sliieverue) Luke Hanney (Kilmacow) Philip Lonergan (Windgap) Conor Lonergan (Windgap) Martin Power (Piltown) Derek Lanigan (Thomastown) Jonjo Farrell (Thomas town) Nickey Kenny (Piltown) Stuart Waugh (Thomas town) Philip Kenny (Piltown) Johnny Hayes (Kilmacow) Richie Mc Namara (Kilmacow).  
 Subs Dylan Walsh (Thomas town) James Norris (Piltown) Cian Tyler (Sliieverue) Paul Rockett (Sliieverue) Martin Dowling (Sliieverue)



**Jim Farrell Cup - North Team 2012**  
**Panel:** Gary Delaney (Cloneen) Darragh Wafer (Bennettsbridge) Geoff Morrissey (St Patricks) (Capt'n) Pat Carroll (Lisdowney) Pat O'Neill (Bennettsbridge) Niall Doherty (Galmoy) Aidan O'Dowd (Blacks & Whites) Cathal Kenny (Barrow Rangers) Paul Murphy (Blacks & Whites) Nickey Cleere (Bennettsbridge) Seoirse Kenny (St Patrick's) Graham Lawlor (Cloneen) Rory Hickey (Lisdowney) Bill Staunton (St Patrick's) Cathal English (Barrow Rangers) Subs Niall Kennedy (Blacks & Whites) Eddie Hickey (Lisdowney) Ciaran Mackey (Lisdowney) Martin Bambrick (Barrow Rangers) Peter Bergin (Lisdowney)



**Naomh Bríd - Winners of Fennelly Cup 2012**

**Back:** Martin Keating (Selector), Eddie Keating, Jamie O'Brien, Cathal Coughlan, Colin Brennan, Jonathon Byrne, Aidan Nolan, Mark Brennan,

Sean Watchorn, Eddie Kane, Patrick Hickey, Darren Kavanagh

**Front:** John Nevin, Ayrton Gleeson, Jimmy Cahill, John Sheenan, Gary Dunne, Danny Quirke, James Kane (captain), Declan Kelly, Brendan Lawler,

Alan Brennan, Peter Shaw. Missing from photo Manager Seamus Brennan.

win over Kilmacow to annex their second county title on the trot in the grade.

#### **All County League Title goes to Lismowney**

After holders, Mount Leinster Rangers, as Carlow senior hurling champions, went the whole way to glory to become the All Ireland Intermediate club Champions in Croke Park earlier in the year, the competition started back at grass roots with twenty teams in four groups lining up. The mid March pre-championship start has moved the competition firmly to be our second most important junior competition.

With no team winning all of their league ties, Piltown and O'Loughlins, who each played a draw in their respective groups, were the trailblazers. In the semi's, they were joined by surprise packets Clara and Dicksboro along with Kilmacow, Galmoy, Barrow Rangers and the holders, Mount Leinster Rangers.

In the quarter finals, Galmoy surprised Piltown whilst Lismowney beat O'Loughlins at home 2-19 to 3-14. They were joined for the semi finals by the holders, and Kilmacow who beat Clara and Erin's Own respectively. The semi finals saw Galmoy and Kilmacow score 1-14 apiece as they went down to Mount Leinster Rangers and Lismowney.

Having shared the last three All County league titles between them with Mount Leinster holding the numerical advantage, Lismowney made it two apiece since 2009 when they recorded a 1-15 to 1-8 win. In addition, they made it level one apiece in the direct final head-to-heads with the Carlow champions as they avenged their defeat of 2005.

#### **Paddy Cahill Cup goes to Thomastown**

Played over the last three weeks in June, the entrants for the Paddy Cahill Cup comprised the teams placed in third and fourth positions in the All County Junior Hurling League. In the early games Cloneen and Thomastown needed a second bite of the cherry before the Noresiders took the winning pass to the quarter finals. Here, holders Naomh Moling dispatched a fancied Bennettsbridge side, Blacks and Whites, went down to Naomh Eoin, and Windgap to Tullaroan. With both Carlow teams in opposite sides of the semi-final draw, the holders Naomh Moling fell by a single point as Tullaroan landed another favored scalp. In the other semi', Saint Mullins had no such fortune against Thomas-

town in a game of forty five scores – 10-16 to 1-18. In the final, Thomastown defeated Tullaroan 2-15 to 2-4 in Palmerstown.

*Note: Still outstanding is the 2010 Cahill Cup final between O'Loughlin Gaels and St. Martins.*

#### **Kevin Fennelly Cup returns to Carlow after a decade as Naomh Bríd win**

The eight-team Fennelly Cup competition made up of the fifth and sixth placed sides participating in the All County league, saw Dunnasmaggin, Fenians, Slieverue and Carlow's Naomh Bríd make the semi-finals with the latter pairing qualifying for the final after two high scoring results. In the final, played in the late Kevin Fennelly's Ballyhale Shamrocks grounds, Naomh Bríd took the Cup for the first time with a fine 2-18 to 0-9 win over Slieverue. Afterwards, Kevin's son and Ballyhale Club Chairman Michael, presented the cup to the winning team captain.

*Note: To complete the roll of honour the outstanding final of 2009 between Bennettsbridge and St. Martins is still to be played*

#### **Joe Walsh Cup travels to Paulstown as Barrow Rangers win**

With Junior B sides Threecastles and Carrigeen going down in the first round on the field of play, three of the seven scheduled first round games were conceded without the strike of a ball. In the quarter finals in early June, Barrow Rangers, Dicksboro, Erin's Own and Carrickshock were victorious. The following weekend Barrow Rangers easily accounted for Erin's own whilst Dicksboro edged out Carrickshock by a point. In the final played a week later on Joe Walsh's home grounds in Thomastown, Barrow Rangers had seven points to spare in their 1-18 to 1-11 win over their Palmerstown rivals

#### **North-South Stalemate in Jim Farrell Cup in Ballyragget**

In the second playing of the second coming of the Jim Farrell Memorial Cup hosted by the newly crowned All Ireland Junior champions in Ballyragget, the sides ended tied on 1-16 apiece after a late rally by the Northern selection. Used as a trial game for potential county players, both sides were managed by members of the County Intermediate management team. Played in bitterly cold conditions, the Southern side, with six points from John Hayes frees, led deservedly by 0-9 to 0-4 at the interval. After

John Joe Farrell put the Kilmacow player through for goal in the thirty fourth minute, the southern selection appeared in a very comfortable position when they were 1-10 to 0-4 ahead. Wind-assisted in the second half, the Northern selection, with defeat staring them on their home ground, rallied and added four points on the trot. Entering the final quarter, the Southern selection remained 1-10 to 0-8 and still in control. However, as the tempo of the game increased, a slight schemozie saw three players depart the scene after second yellow cards. After losing the majority of them, the North went on a series of attacks and after unanswered points that included a hat trick from Nickey Cleere, the game was level with just two minutes to go. In the final minutes, Nickey Cleere pointed the home side ahead and it was left to John Hayes to level the sides at the stroke of full time. After discussions about a replay date in a full fixtures calendar both sides resumed playing to find an extra time resolution. Again, John Hayes sent his side three points ahead before Nickey Cleere replied. After going back three ahead the now dangerous lead looked as if it was to be made secure in another breakaway. However a breakdown in play saw the ball transferred quickly to the danger area at the other end of the field and a foul resulting. With seconds ticking away Lismowney's Rory Hickey stood over a twenty one yard free that was moved in off the wing. Under lights and facing a packed Southern goal he lifted it and buried it to the joy of the home crowd to tie the game at 1-16 each. After the second final whistle, sudden death was not an option for both tired and cold sides that were then regally entertained by the home club. The decision of a replay date was left to the managers and fixtures coordinators and there it still stands!

#### **Changing Faces at Divisional Board level**

The past year saw changes at Divisional board level as Donal Brennan took over the reins from multi-competition sponsor, and Emeralds hurling man– Paul Kavanagh– as Chairman of the Northern Board and Paul Long replaced Southern Board secretary Pat Dunphy, who then became the Board's Assistant secretary. Both changes were enacted under the five year rule with additional changes in the pipeline at the end of this year when Southern chairman Dan Kenny completes his five year term. Since arriving to teach in Clomantagh the genial Kerry man has served his adopted county well at a



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Dan Kenny



**Two Retirements - Paul Kavanagh, Northern Board Chairman, and Pat Dunphy Southern Board Secretary receive presentations from Donal Brennan and Andy Aylward, respectively.**



wide range of levels. As a coach selector and Club chairman in Piltown he was actively involved as his club won two junior hurling, a junior football, and two intermediate football titles. A football advocate at club and county level for over a generation he was a senior selector with Kilkenny. To that job he brought with him the experience of playing with his native Scartaglen and the six-club Senior divisional side—then called Castleisland—and now St Kieran's in the Kerry Championships. In his role as Southern board chairman he added to the promotion of the games by ensuring the culmination of all junior grades and having reviews and previews published. Following the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern boards main competition, the junior championship, under the All County banner, and the synchronization of fixture dates under the County Fixtures committee, overall coverage of the junior

grades has suffered, rendering it necessary for both boards to combine their resources, experience and personnel in order to redress the situation. The added responsibility of organizing the County intermediate side would give the body an intercounty aspect and outlet whilst providing many players with the opportunity of wearing a county jersey for their club.

#### **Looking around the scene**

With Thomastown having accounted for Lusmagh and Wexford's Naomh Eanna in recent weeks, hopes are high that they may continue on the same trail of success. The new season sees John Lockes return from the Intermediate grade to replace the Noresiders, while Mullinavat join the top junior grade. Across the hurling world, Carlow's participation in the McCarthy Cup has been widely welcomed. Nonetheless, when it comes to the local scene, it is surviving,

participating, local rivalries, winning promotion and avoiding relegation through the Junior, Junior "A" and "B" grades, that matters most. With every club in the county losing players to emigration a new challenge faces all involved in the promotion and organization of the games. In such times of so many games being played, the efforts of many club officials including Gerry Drennan, Dan Kenny and Barry Henriques and his loyal bunch of contacts in getting match reports published in both the press and on the county website is to be lauded. To all players and committee members involved on the club and fixtures committees, gatemen, pitch caretakers, referees, linemen, umpires, scoreboard operators, first aider's, media outlets and PRO's etc, who arrange, support and keep the fourteen Junior championship, league and Cup competitions on the road, a word of sincere thanks is extended.

#### **COUNTY JH SCOREBOARD 2012**

##### **Kilkenny Junior Hurling Championship 2012**

###### **Section A**

###### **1st. Round**

Blacks and Whites 2-15 Cloneen 2-8

Barrow Rangers 0-20 Galmoy 0-17

Sieverue 3-11 Graignamanagh 1-10

Bennettsbridge 1-16 Piltown 1-15

Thomastown 2-14 Windgap 0-11

Lisdowney 0-16 Kilmacow 1-10

###### **2nd Round**

Bennettsbridge 2-19 Sieverue 0-11

Thomastown 3-17 Blacks and Whites 1-11

Lisdowney 0-12 Barrow Rangers 0-9

###### **Section B**

###### **1st. Round**

O'Loughlin Gaels 2-18 Tullaroan 1-10

Dicksboro 4-13 James Stephens 0-15

Mooncoin 3-14 Dunnamaggin 1-9

Clara 1-16 Erin's Own 2-7

###### **2nd Round**

Clara 2-21 Dicksboro 2-14

O'Loughlin Gaels 1-14 Mooncoin 1-12

###### **3rd Round**

O'Loughlin Gaels 1-14 Clara 0-14

###### **Semi-Finals**

Bennettsbridge 0-17 O'Loughlin Gaels 2-8

Thomastown 2-14 Lisdowney 1-15

###### **Final**

Thomastown 3-12 Bennettsbridge 0-10

###### **Relegation Final**

Graignamanagh 0-16 Fenians 0-13

##### **Junior A Hurling Championship 2012**

###### **Northern Section**

###### **1st Round**

Graigue Ballycallan 1-11 St. Lachtain's 1-10

Lisdowney 2-16 Conahy Shamrocks 2-15

Emeralds 0-19 St. Martin's 1-11

Young Irelands Bye

###### **Semi-Finals**

Graigue Ballycallan 1-16 Emeralds 0-8

Lisdowney 2-14 Young Irelands 2-12

###### **Final**

Graigue Ballycallan 1-15 Lisdowney 0-14

###### **Southern Section**

##### **1st.Round**

Rower Inistioge 1-19 Tulloher Rosbercon 1-10

Ballyhale Shamrocks 3-11 Glenmore 3-9

Mullinavat 2-18 Thomastown 1-8

Carrickshock 2-12 Piltown 1-11

##### **Semi-Finals**

Rower Inistioge 2-16 Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-6

Mullinavat 1-24 Carrickshock 0-13

##### **Final**

Mullinavat 3-17 Rower Inistioge 0-6

##### **County Final**

Mullinavat 3-12 Graigue Ballycallan 2-12

##### **Kilkenny Junior B Hurling Championship 2012**

###### **Northern Section**

###### **Preliminary Rounds**

Clara 0-13 St. Lachtain's 0-8

Erin's Own w/o Bennettsbridge scr

###### **1st Round**

Graigue Ballycallan 5-16 Threecastles 2-11

St. Patrick's 4-13 Cloneen 1-5

Danesfort 2-13 Erin's Own 1-9

Dicksboro 0-14 James Stephens 0-13

###### **2nd Round**

O'Loughlin Gaels 1-14 Graigue Ballycallan 1-9

Galmoy 6-10 Dicksboro 2-13

Blacks and Whites 3-10 Danesfort 0-10

Barrow Rangers 1-21 St. Patrick's 3-14

###### **Semi-Finals**

Blacks and Whites 4-14 Galmoy 3-7

Barrow Rangers 3-11 O'Loughlin Gaels 2-10

###### **Final**

Barrow Rangers 2-12 Blacks and Whites 2-7

###### **Southern Section**

###### **Preliminary Rounds**

Mooncoin 1-15 Mullinavat 2-6

Sieverue 2-9 John Lockes 1-5

###### **1st. Round**

Graignamanagh 3-14 Carrigean 1-8

Kilmacow 0-14 Mooncoin 1-9

Windgap 3-16 Rower Inistioge 0-11

Sieverue 3-15 Carrickshock 2-12

###### **Semi-Finals**

Graignamanagh 1-11 Windgap 1-8

Kilmacow 1-17 Sieverue 0-5

###### **Final**

Kilmacow 2-15 Graignamanagh 2-11

##### **County Final**

Kilmacow 3-12 Barrow Rangers 0-16

##### **Paddy Cahill Memorial Cup 2012**

###### **Preliminary Round**

Blacks and Whites 1-19 St. Martin's 0-8

###### **1st Round**

Thomastown 2-20 Cloneen 1-13

Tullaroan 1-16 Windgap 2-11

St. Mullins 5-8 Bennettsbridge 1-5

Naomh Eoin 0-11 Blacks and Whites 0-8

###### **Semi-Finals**

Tullaroan 3-10 St. Mullins 1-15

Thomastown 10-16 Naomh Eoin 1-18

###### **Final**

Thomastown 2-15 Tullaroan 2-4

##### **Kevin Fennelly Memorial Cup**

###### **1st Round**

Dunnamaggin 2-9 Mooncoin 1-10

Fenians w/o James Stephens scr

###### **Semi-Finals**

Naomh Brid 2-22 Fenians 4-7

Sieverue 4-14 Dunnamaggin 4-8

###### **Final**

Naomh Brid 2-18 Sieverue 0-9

##### **Joe Walsh Memorial Cup**

###### **1st Round**

Barrow Rangers 7-12 Carrigeen 0-3

Erin's Own w/o Windgap scr

Clara 2-10 Mullinavat 1-10

Carrickshock 0-20 Threecastles 4-4

John Lockes w/o Bennettsbridge scr

Galmoy w/o Mooncoin scr

Dicksboro 5-16 St. Lachtain's 1-6

###### **2nd Round**

Barrow Rangers 2-13 John Lockes 1-3

Dicksboro 3-13 Graigue Ballycallan 3-10

Erin's Own 1-10 Galmoy 1-4

Carrickshock 3-4 Clara 1-7

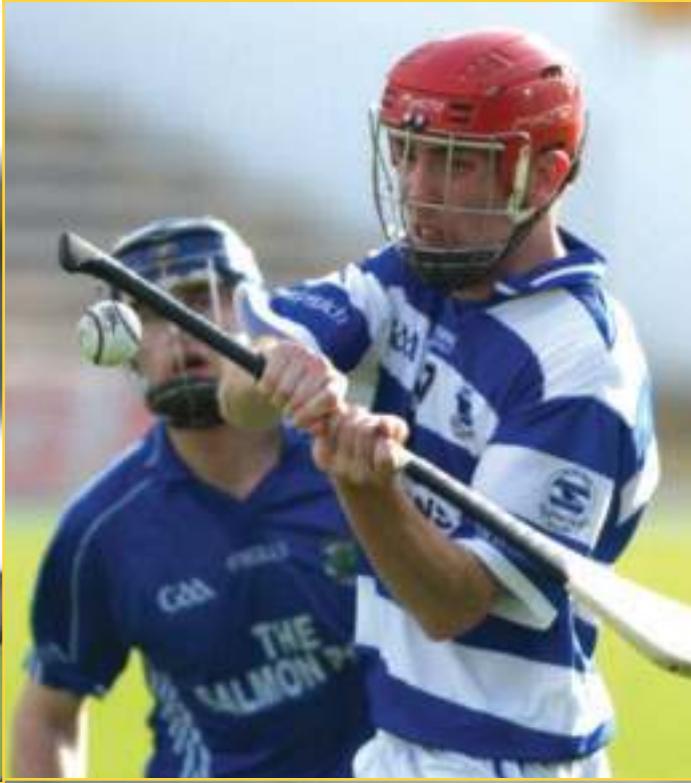
###### **Semi-Finals**

Barrow Rangers 4-16 Erin's Own 0-4

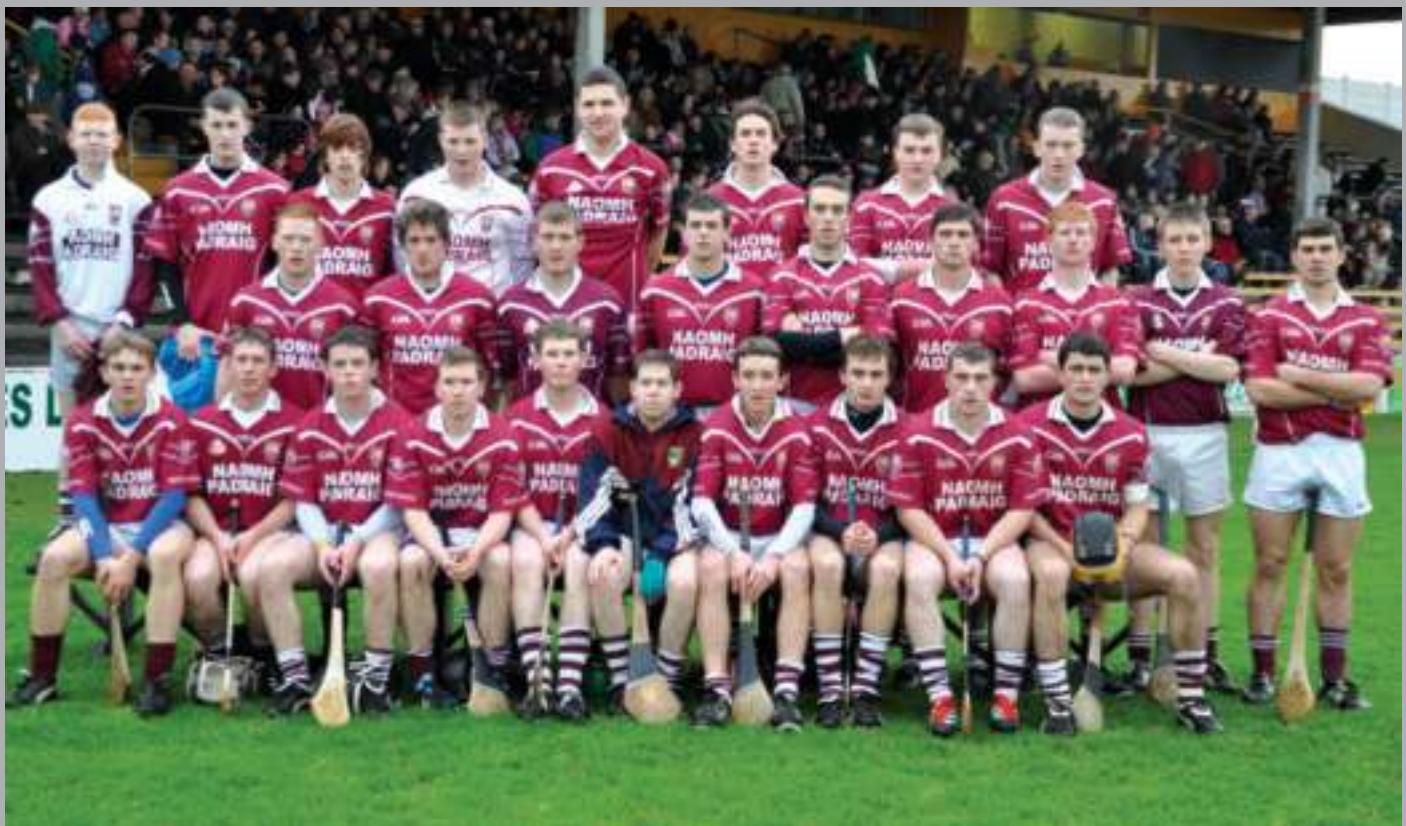
Dicksboro 1-14 Carrickshock 1-13

###### **Final**

Barrow Rangers 1-18 Dicksboro 1-11



# **U21 HURLING CHAMPIONS 2011**



St Patrick's - Roinn "A" U21 Hurling Champions 2011

Back: John Phelan, Eoghan Bergin, Billy Butler, Billy Morrissey, Micheál Kenny, Stephen Staunton, David Kelly, Jack Ryan,  
Middle: Domhnall Brennan, Eddie Brophy, Brendan Brophy, Joe Brennan, Enda Mooney, John Mooney, Paddy McEvoy, Mark Staunton, James Gannon.  
Front: Conor Bolger, Robbie Healy, Michael Brennan, Brian Mulhall, James Morrissey, Liam Lacey, Bill Staunton, Kevin Kelly, Conor Foley,  
Geoff Brennan.



Piiltown - Roinn "B" U21 Hurling Champions 2011

Back: Shane Doody, Liam Culleton, Michael Dwyer, Brendan Norris, Capt., David Kinsella, Ian Flynn.  
Middle: Donal Ryan, Christopher Shum, Jamie Phelan, Peter McCarthy, Nollaig Brophy, Niall Kinsella, Thomas Talbot, Conor Nugent, Kevin Walsh.  
Front: Richie Phelan, Robert Culleton, Daniel Norris, Adam Murphy, David Burchill, Martin Power, Dean Brophy.

# 1954 - The New Departure

**Extract of Dermot Kavanagh's contribution to a Hurling Discussion Evening organized by St Senans G A A Club held in Kilmacow in February. The other speakers were P M O'Sullivan, Eddie Keher, Enda McEvoy and Willie O'Connor.**

For the purposes of this evenings discussion I propose to divide the life of Kilkennys hurling story into two parts- pre 1954 and post 1954.

The basis for this division is that in 1954 the County Board introduced the Parish Rule for the senior hurling championship. This move had, to my mind, more far-reaching positive consequences for the well-being of Kilkenny hurling than any other rule introduced by the Board throughout the previous decades.

Pre -1954 Kilkenny had won-  
13 senior All-Ireland titles.  
32 Leinster senior titles, and  
1 National League.

Post -1954 Kilkenny have won-  
21 senior All-Ireland titles,  
36 Leinster titles, and  
14 National Leagues.

Clearly the above statistics refer solely to senior hurling. However the fall-out from those post-1954 successes have filtered down to the other grades where Kilkenny have been equally successful. Pre-1954 Kilkenny had won four minor All-Ireland titles. Since then a further 16 titles have been added.

The 1930s were bountiful years for Kilkenny. Four senior All-Irelands, seven Leinsters and one National League were hoovered up between 1932 and 1939. Suddenly the well of success dried up with a mere solitary All-Ireland title being added between 1940 and 1954. In that time span four All-Ireland finals, two semi-finals and three National League finals were lost. From 1947 onwards Kilkenny were finding it difficult to even win a Leinster title.

Amongst the many theories being ventilated for this alarming drop in standard were the several inexplicable selections made on the eve of important games where regular players were dropped, being replaced by inferior players, and sometimes by players who had to come out of retirement to play Club politics were alive and well. However, the problem was closer to home.

An examination of how the County Board ran their affairs might shed some light. During that 1940 –1954 period, of the six championships being run by the Board, only the senior hurling was ever consistently completed in its correct calendar year. Of the 14 junior championships played, only six were completed on time, while, in minor, hurling seven were completed on schedule. It is worth noting that during those years there was no intermediate, U 21 or the other myriad junior grades that exist at present.

Clearly something was very amiss both on and off the field during those years. One wonders if hurling had then received serious competition from soccer, rugby, athletics or even gaelic football would it ever have attained the lofty height within the county that it enjoys today.

At the end of the 1940s and early 1950s all of Kilkennys main rivals were consolidating their respective position amongst hurlings elite. For example, Tipperary, Cork and Wexford would share all the All-Ireland titles between 1949 and 1956. Curiously, when Leinster won the 1954 Railway Cup, the team contained nine Kilkenny players. Yet within a few months of that win Kilkenny suffered heavy defeats from Tipperary and Wexford in the National League final and Leinster semi-final respectively.

Hurling within the county had lost its soul. The junior championship was strangled of its best performers by the free movement of the players to the senior clubs. An example would be that of my own club, The Rower, who won the junior championship in 1944, yet, within 12 months, seven of their better players had moved to senior clubs. It would take the club another twelve years before even a southern final was contested. Another example is that of 1947 All-Ireland winning captain Dan Kennedy who won three senior county titles with three separate clubs within a period of seven years.



The irony of the situation was that during those fallow years Kilkenny were served by some of the most committed officials ever to have held office. No one complained. It was simply just how things were.

Mercifully a small beacon of light eventually permeated the corridors of Nowlan Park. In 1953 a Three Parish Rule was introduced. It was difficult to administer, leading to many misunderstandings and objections. Nonetheless it was a start.

The following year the strict Parish Rule was introduced. That it has remained in situ ever since, says all. The soul of hurling was returned to where it could best prosper ie, the parish clubs. One of the immediate benefits of the rule change

was that the junior championship, where  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the adult players performed was immediately elevated in status. Players who had earlier performed at All Ireland, inter-provincial and inter-county level were now performing with their parish teams at remote rural venues before passionate supporters. The promotional benefits of their presence at such venues was incalculable. Naturally the standard of play improved. Within three years seven players from junior clubs were on duty when Kilkenny won the 1957 All-Ireland senior title.

The senior championship also benefited. It became more democratic, with most clubs now having a realistic chance of winning the title. New parish clubs emerged, clubs who could progress, confident in the knowledge that their best players would remain with them. St Lachtains, for example, emerged from obscurity to win the Junior championship in 1959 , which they followed up with senior title wins in 1961 and 1963. Later on The Fenians, The Rower/Inistioge, Glenmore, Ballyhale Shamrocks, and St Martins emerged as senior title winners On the other side of the page, clubs who had previously depended on the free movement of players were no longer competitive and in some cases ultimately went out of existence, Éire Óg would be an example, while clubs such as Carrickshock and Dicksboro found it difficult prosper when their hitherto player supply line was extinguished.

From 1954 the Parish Rule system has remained on the books. Its now the bedrock of the entire Kilkenny club structure It is arguable that the only other county with a club structure, that so suits its particular needs is Kerry. It is no coincidence that both counties now top their respective Rolls of Honour. Over time extra grades were introduced, but, with the exception of 1961, no intrusion on the system were made. When one considers that players operating at the lowest level of adult hurling, Junior B, will play at least twelve competitive games each year speaks volumes for the broad canvas of the present club structure.

That the respective county teams have benefited from the Parish Rule system is without question as the table of titles won demonstrates. In addition to the 20 senior All-Ireland titles, 36 Leinster titles and 13 National Leagues won since 1954, Kilkenny now head the minor Roll of Honour (20 titles) and share the U21 list with Cork. Kilkenny are always competitive at Intermediate level, while Kilkenny clubs are serial winners of the various club championships. Even the occasional drought which the senior team have endured from time to time has been minor compared to Corks 12 year gap, in the 1950s and 1960s, or Tipperarys 18 year divide in the 1970s and 1980s.

What was the spark that lit the flame that has ignited the Kilkenny juggernaut? Was it the establishment of the U 14 championship in 1940 and the U16 championship in 1951? Was it the emergence of Ollie Walsh as a hurling force of nature in 1956? Or was it the emergence as team coach of Fr Tommie Maher in 1957? Perhaps it was the appointment of County Board Executives with the vision to be imaginative and ambitious, and not be tied down with suffocating tradition and/or club self interest? It was all of these and more. But to this observer the more was the introduction of the Parish Rule in 1954 that jolted the county out of its slumber and comfort zone, and paved the way for the above mentioned innovations to bear the fruit that is now in evidence in every parish in the county. The evidence is compelling.

# 13th Time Lucky for James Stephens

BORD NA NÓG MH REPORT by CONOR DENIEFFE



James Stephens - County Minor "A" Champions 2012 Photo: Jimmy Walsh

Back: Cormac Connolly, Ricci Drennan, Jamie Byrne, Alan O'Beirne, Dylan Drennan, Paul Lynch, Peter Butler, Andy Valentine, Gavin Costigan, James Rafter.  
Middle: Diarmuid Cody, Dylan O'Shea, Ray Lahart, Matthew McWey, Jack McGrath, Jack Cotter, Fergal Lalor, Ben Hickey, Niall Mullins, James Tyrrell.  
Front: Jake Scanlon, David Jordan, Noel Whelan, Paddy Duggan, Harry Wallace, Ben Lahart, Donagh Carney, Luke Scanlon, Tadhg O'Dwyer.

## Roynn A

James Stephens captured their thirteenth title and their first since 2003 when they defeated Dicksboro in the Kilkenny Honda Centre Minor Hurling Roynn A Championship final on a cold wet November day in Nowlan Park. Thirteen teams had gone to post this year to try to win the Kilkenny minor title. In the first round Rower Inistioge accounted for last year's winners Bennettsbridge, Dicksboro received a walkover from Kilmacow, last year's finalists Thomastown beat O'Loughlin Gaels, Erin's Own accounted for St. Fiacc's while Ballyhale Shamrocks lost out to Emeralds. The five first round winners were joined by James Stephens, St. Lachlain's and Graig Ballycallan for the quarter finals. Victors at this stage were James Stephens, St. Lachlain's, Dicksboro and Emeralds who progressed at the expense of Rower Inistioge, Erin's Own, Graig Ballycallan and Thomastown respectively. James Stephens secured a place in the county final at the expense of Emeralds while Dicksboro had four points to spare over St. Lachlain's to set up an all-city final on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Perhaps the inclement weather and the heavy underfoot conditions were to blame as the game was a tight low scoring contest. It took over ten minutes of hurling to produce the first score and at half time the scoreboard read James Stephens 1-4 Dicksboro 1-2, the goals coming from a skilfully kicked effort from Dicksboro's Kevin Kenny and a ground stroke from close range from James Stephen's Diarmuid Cody. Dicksboro did everything they could to try and gain parity in the second half with the Village team and while they reduced the deficit to a single point on three occasions they could not get closer to their city rivals who finished three point winners. Credit to both teams that whilst scores were scarce the effort was excellent as both sides worked hard to close the other down. Teams and Scorers were-

James Stephens: Alan O'Brien, Paddy Duggan, James Tyrrell, David Jordan, Ben Lahart (0-1), Jack McGrath, Harry Wallace (Captain), Luke Scanlon, Niall Mullins, Matthew Mc Wey (0-2), Jack Cotter (0-2), Diarmuid Cody (1-3 of which 0-3 from frees), Cormac Connolly, Ricci Drennan, Tadhg O'Dwyer. Subs: Dylan O'Shea for C. Connolly.

Dicksboro: Darragh Holohan, Conor Doheny, Evan Cody, Thomas Carroll, Dylan Scott, Rory Glynn (Captain), Robbie Fitzpatrick(0-1), Enda O'Donoghue, Cory Cahill, Kevin Kenny (1-0), Eoin Gough (0-1,free), Stephen Farrell (0-1), Paddy Cahill (0-1), Eoin Fennelly, Shane O'Brien. Subs: Andy Gaffney (0-1) for S. O'Brien, Mark Cudmore for C.Cahill.

The Roynn A hurling League final was contested by St. Lachlain's and the Rower Inistioge and was won by the northern team on a score line of 1-14 to 0-14 points.

## Roynn B

A top class display from their forward unit was the source of Glenmore's success in this year's Kilkenny Honda Centre Roynn B Minor hurling championship decider against last year's Roynn C winners Danesfort. Glenmore registered twenty six points in all and just four wides in the game. Leading the way was marksman Alan Murphy who hit thirteen points eleven of which came from placed ball. Having played against the elements in wet, cold and windy Nowlan Park Glenmore led by two points at the interval 0-11 to 0-9 and whilst Danesfort had some good individual players they could not match Glenmore's cohesion and strike rate up front. The teams and scorers were

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Glenmore - Roinn "B" MH Champions 2012

Back: Michael Doherty Selector, Patrick Hennessey, Christopher O Connor, Colm Doherty, Liam Hennessey, Alan Murphy, Ciaran O Connor, Michael O Connor, Niall Dunne, Sean Caulfield Selector

Middle: John Phelan Selector, Michael Burke, Ger Kehoe, Willian Tracey, Philip Roche, John Gahan, John Caulfield, Rory Doherty, Steven Cody, Seamus Dollard Manager

Front: Adrian Doherty, Michael Holden, Mark O Connor, Shane Doherty Joint Captain, Mark Aylward Joint Captain, Shane Murphy, Brian O Donoghue, Eoin Aylward, Ben Maher, Dean Croke



Tullaroan - Roinn "C" MH Champions 2012

Back: Diarmuid Doheny, John Walton, Shane Walsh, Jim Moore, Bob Cuddihy, William Dooley, Jack Holmes, Jason O'Riordan, Michael Maher, Bill Cuddihy, Tommy Walsh, Paul Sweeney, Sean Cuddihy, Jack Keoghan, Gerry Doheny

Middle: Simon Walton, Michael Walsh, Edward Teehan, Martin Keoghan, Kieran Lanigan, Dylan Simpson, Shane Joyce, John, Dooley, Sam Grace, Eamonn Sweeney, Liam Keoghan

Front: Shane Cuddihy & David Sweeney.



Dicksboro - Roinn "A" MH Finalists 2012

**Back:** Conor Fitzpatrick, Kieran Ryan, Jim Dollard, Mark McGarry, Jason Carroll, Mark Slater, Paddy Boyd, Brian Comerford, Ronan Moriarty.  
**Middle:** Frank Nolan, Mark Cudmore, Robbie Murphy, Shane O'Brien, John Hanrick, Andrew Gaffney, Eoin Gough, Eoin Fenelly, Cory Cahill, Thomas Carroll, Jamie Byrne.  
**Front:** Dylan Scott, Evan Cody, Robbie Fitzpatrick, Rory Glynn, Daragh Holahan, Kevin Kenny, James Bergin (Mascot), Paddy Cahill, Steven Farrell, Conor Doheny, Enda O'Donohue.

**Glenmore:** Shane Murphy, John Caulfield, John Gahan, Eoin Aylward, Adrian Doherty, Brian O' Donoghue, Michael O' Connor, Patrick Hennessy, Colm Doherty, Shane Doherty (0-2), Philip Roche (0-1), Alan Murphy (0-13 of which 0-11 frees), Liam Hennessy (0-7), Ger Kehoe (0-1), Mark Aylward (0-1).  
**Subs:** William Treacy (0-1), Chris O'Connor.

**Danesfort:** Patrick Tynan, James Tynan, Darren Knox, Ronan Leahy, Michael O'Neill (0-1), Darragh Sheehan, Conor O'Neill, Ger Dunne (0-2 frees), Paddy

Hickey (0-1), Brendan Hyland, Colm Phelan, Cillian Treacy (0-2), Jack Bruton (0-5 frees), Brendan Cullen (0-1), Dylan Wallace (0-1). **Sub:** Philip Cooney.

The earlier rounds of the competition went as follows. Following the preliminary round in the Roinn B championship Mooncoin, who had received a bye were joined by St. Martin's who had beaten Galmoy-Windgap, Tullogher Rosbercon who accounted for St. Patrick's Ballyragget, Mullinavat who required a replay to defeat Clara, Danesfort who just edged out John Lockes, Fenians who beat Lisdowney,

Glenmore who looked impressive in defeating Barrow Rangers and Conahy Shamrocks who ended Piltown's interest in the championship by a single point. At the quarter final stage there were wins for St. Martin's over Mullinavat, Danesfort over Mooncoin, Glenmore over Fenians and Tullogher Rosbercon against Conahy Shamrocks. Glenmore had an emphatic win in the semi-final over St. Martin's while Danesfort defeated Tullogher to set up a north south county final in Nowlan Park triple headed with the Minor A final and the county Junior hurling final. The Kilkenny Honda Centre Minor Hurling League Roinn



Danesfort - Roinn "B" League Shield Winners and Championship Runners-up 2012

**Back:** Eoin Cooney, Philip Cooney, Colm Phelan, Cian Smith, Patrick Hickey, Cillian Treacy, Darragh Sheehan, Ronan Leahy, Brendan Cullen, Michael O'Neill, Dion Fitzpatrick, Thomas Rossiter.  
**Front:** Harry Bruton, James Tynan, Ger Dunne, Brendan Hyland, Jack Bruton, Darren Knox, Patrick Tynan, Conor O'Neill, Jack McHugh, Gary Tynan, Dylan Wallace.

B title went to John Lockes who accounted for Glenmore in the final on a 3-16 to 2-13 score.

### **Róinn C**

Tullaroan defeated Carrickshock in the Kilkenny Honda Centre Minor Championship Róinn 'C' Final. Played at Tom Ryall Park, Kilmanagh Tullaroan started very well where two good goals early in the match set them put them in a lead which they never lost finishing winners on a 3-11 to 1-11 scoreline. The winning team was Michael Maher (Capt), Paul Sweeney,

William Dooley, Tommy Walsh, Diarmuid Doheny, Shane Cuddihy, Bob Cuddihy, Jack Keoghan, Jason O'Riordan, Bill Cuddihy, Edward Teehan, Jack Holmes, Shane Walsh, David Sweeney, John Walton, Dylan Simpson, Kieran Lanigan, Shen Cuddihy, Liam Teehan, Jim Moore, Shane Joyce, Martin Keoghan, Sam Grace, Niall Buggy, Robert O'Flynn, John Dooley. Carrickshock were represented by Joe Irish, Dylan Halligan, Patrick Foran, Ian Dunphy, Stevie Dolan, James Grace, Aaron O'Neill, Eamonn Power, Tommy Hearne, Pádraig Ó Fearghail, Aaron Cullinane, Kevin Farrell, Eoin

Kenny, Darragh Brennan, Aaron Roche, Sean Grace, Donnacha Griffen, Ollie Mulally, Conor Aylward, Jody Dwyer.

At the quarter final stage of this competition Tullaroan had defeated Dunnamaggin, Cloneen/Railyard beat Young Irelands and Carrickshock accounted for Dicksboro B. At the semi-final stage Tullaroan had a comfortable win over Cloneen/Railyard while Carrickshock defeated James Stephens B. In the Róinn C League final Tullaroan will play the winner of Dunnamaggin / Dicksboro B.

## **SUPPORTING KILKENNY GAA**



Harry Wallace, James Stephens Captain lifts the Cup after winning the Honda Citroen Centre Minor "A" Final with Willie Dempsey, Bord na nÓg, and Cathal O'Neill, Kilkenny Vehicle Centre.  
Eoin Hennessy

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Web: [www.johnmcguinness.com](http://www.johnmcguinness.com)



# LEINSTER SH FIXTURES 2013

Prelim	Antrim	V	Westmeath	5 May	Mullingar
1	Antrim/Westmeath	V	Laois	18 May	Portlaoise/Mullingar
2	Carlow	V	London	18 May	Carlow
3	Antrim/W'Meath/Lsois	V	Carlow/London	1/2 June	TBC
4	Offaly	V	Kilkenny	9 June	Tullamore
5	Wexford	V	Dublin	8 June	Wexford Park
6	Galway	V	Antrim/Wesmeath/Laois/Carlow/London	15/16 June	TBC
7	Offaly/Kilkenny	V	Wexford/Dublin	23 June	TBC
Final				7 July	Páirc an Chrocaigh



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*Micheál Ó Dubhshláine  
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# CITY SIDES DOMINATE

BORD NA NÓG U16 REPORT by PATRICK O'FLYNN



James Stephens - Roinn "A" U16 Champions 2012

Back: Murty Leahy, Ben Lahart, Thomas Murphy, Noel Whelan, Dylan O'Shea, Michael Cotter, Tom Cuddihy, Jamie Byrne, Jake Scanlon, Matthew McWey, Dean Cornally, Richie Manogue (manager).

Front: Phil Fan Larkin, Gavin Costigan, Conor Browne, Brian Crowdle, Luke Scanlon (capt), Zac Scanlon (with cup), Dylan Drennan, Tadhg O'Dwyer, Ben Hickey, John McGrath. (Absent from photo: Leo Hennessy, David Jordan). Photo: Eoin Hennessy

## James Stephens point their way to victory Early Rounds

The Duggan Steel U-16 A Hurling Championship started off with preliminary ties which saw the Rower Inistioge easily account for Erin's Own whilst Dicksboro defeated Glenmore. An all city affair then ensued in the quarter final with O'Loughlin Gaels defeating Dicksboro 1-18 to 1-9, James Stephens defeated John Lockes while the Rower Inistioge saw off Sliieverue and Thomastown accounted for Mooncoin.

The semi finals proved to be highly exciting encounters with The Rower Inistioge narrowly defeating O'Loughlin Gaels 0-12 to 1-8 whilst James Stephen's just had enough to see off Thomastown 3-8 to 2-9.

## County Final

James Stephens landed the 2012 Duggan Steel Roinn A U-16 hurling championship with a breath taking second half display of point scoring that many a minor hurling team would have struggled to have contained. On a beautiful day for hurling James Stephens later completed a double when their U-16 B team landed the Roinn C title also at Thomastown. A feat they only ever completed once before in 1996.

This game began with a swift exchange of points between the winners Jamie Byrne and Richie Leahy. James Stephens seemed to be heading towards a comfortable half time when they led after 28 minutes by 0-13 to 0-4. However the Rower Inistioge's David Kelly plundered a goal from a 21yard free with a powerful shot. Both sides exchanged points in injury time to leave the score 0-15 to 1-5 in favour of the Village who had the use of a stiff first half breeze. The Larchfield outfit came for the second half with all guns blazing landing three points on the trot from McWey, Jake Scanlon & Lahart. Again the Rower came back when David Kelly tried to inspire his side with another thunderbolt of a shot to goal from another free to leave it 0-18 to 2-5. After that it was all one way traffic with James Stephens landing a number of magnificent points and a late Dylan O'Shea goal put the icing on the cake. The final score was 2-28 to 2-9 in favour of James Stephens. Teams and scorers were Scorers: James Stephens - Tadhg O'Dwyer (0-7); Jake Scanlon (1-4); Dylan O'Shea (1-4); Ray Lahart (0-5, frees); Luke Scanlon (0-3); Matthew McWey (0-3); Jamie Byrne (0-2); Dylan Drennan (0-1, free). Rower-Inistioge - David Kelly (2-3, frees); Dylan Keogh (0-2); Kevin Murphy, Darren Joyce, Richie Leahy (0-1 each).

James Stephens - Gavin Costigan, Ben Hickey, Tom Cuddihy, Noel Whelan, Conor Browne, Dylan Drennan, Brian Crowdle, Luke Scanlon, Jamie Byrne, Dylan O'Shea, David Jordan, Tadhg O'Dwyer, Jake Scanlon, Matthew McWey, Ray Lahart. Subs - Tom Murphy, Michael Cotter. Rower-Inistioge - Sam Watkins, Tommy Allen, John Murphy, Jim Murphy, Dylan Keogh, Daragh Joyce, Shane Ryan, Richie Leahy, Pat Lyng, Jack Walsh, David Kelly, James Tennyson, Kevin Murphy, Diarmuid O'Brien, Jim Ryan.

The Roinn A League final saw James Stephens Thomastown, Dicksboro and O'Loughlin Gaels make the semi-finals, where James Stephens accounted for Thomastown, while it took three games to separate the other two city sides, with Dicksboro finally winning the second replay. The 'Boro went on to win the League title on a score of Dicksboro 2-8, James Stephens 0-10.

## Roinn B

Many sides fancied their chances from the off in the Duggan Steel Roinn B U-16 Championship but Tullaroan were the clear favourites from the very start of the campaign. In the first round they easily defeated Galway/Windgap. There were also wins at this stage for Conahy Shamrocks, Clara, Lismore, St Lachtain's, Kilmacow, Bennettsbridge & St Fiacc's. In the quarter finals Conahy Shamrocks and Lismore played out an absorbing affair which ended with the Conahy men holding on for a well-deserved victory, 1-13 to 0-12. Tullaroan defeated St Fiacc's, Bennettsbridge got the better of Kilmacow, whilst St Lachtain eventually defeated Clara. The semifinals were largely one way traffic with Conahy Shamrocks defeating Bennettsbridge 1-16 to 2-9 and Tullaroan out pointed St Lachtain's, 0-17 to 0-9.

The final itself was played in Freshford and featured two excellent teams, Tullaroan and Conahy Shamrocks. Conahy established an early lead in the final and their two goals largely kept them in the game but there was no denying that on the day most neutral observers would agree that Tullaroan deserved to land the spoils winning by 1-12 to Conahy Shamrock's 2-6. The Tullaroan team and scorers were : Dylan Simpson, Sean Cuddihy, Diarmuid Doheny, Martin Keoghan, Tommy Walsh, Jack Keoghan, Bob Cuddihy (0-1), Jason O'Riordan, Kieran Lanigan, Sam Grace, Bill Cuddihy, John Walton (0-2), Liam Teehan (0-1), John Dooley (1-2), Shane Walsh (0-6, 6 frees). Conahy Sham-

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**CENTRA**



Tullaroan - Roinn "B" U16 Champions 2012

Back: Robert O'Flynn, Niall Buggy, Kevin Maher, Kieran Lanigan, Jason O'Riordan, Bob Cuddihy, Jack Keoghan, Diarmuid Doheny, Bill Cuddihy, Jim Moore, Sean Cuddihy, Sam Grace, John Walton.

Front: Sean Buggy, John Dooley, Shane Joyce, Tommy Walsh, Dylan Simpson, Shane Walsh, Liam Teehan, Martin Keoghan, Bill Gaffney

Photo: Eoin Hennessy



James Stephens - Roinn "C" U16 League and Championship Winners 2012

Back: Richie Manogue, Neil Lahart, Eamon Fennelly, Adam Butler, Phil Fan Larkin, Michael Ryan, William Spenser, Niall Delaney, Noah Canty, Richie Stapleton, Paddy Gallagher, Jack Butler, Declan Wall, Shane Stapleton, John McEvoy, Michael Cotter, John McGrath.

Front: Leo Hennessy, Andy Parsons, Liam Rafter, Niall Brassil, Stephens Bateman, Jack McDonald, Nathan Donohoe, Mark Doyle (capt), David Shore, Conor Byrne, Shane Donohoe, Patrick Kennedy.

Photo: Eoin Hennessy

rocks were represented by Declan Whearty; Laurence Feehan; Neil Coogan; Kieran Delaney; Adam Dempsey; Donal Cass; Paraic Walsh; Liam Cass; Simon Callanan; Laurence Feehan; Sean Brennan; Edmond Delaney; James Bergin; Pat Byrne; Bill Murphy.

In the Roinn B League final St. Lachtain's will play Tullaroan.

### Roinn C

By and large at Roinn C level this there were three teams who outshone the others, namely the three City B teams who all qualified for the semifinals along with the Fenians. In the semis James Stephens simply outclassed Dicksboro whilst the other match proved to be more keenly contested with O'Loughlin Gaels getting the bet-

ter of the argument against Fenians by 2-9 to 2-4. After watching their A counterparts land the U-16 Duggan Steel Roinn A hurling title attention turned to the Roinn C final in Thomastown between city rivals O'Loughlin Gaels & James Stephens.

Shane Stapleton got the Village off to a great start only for O'Loughlin's to respond with points from Kevin Rowe & Shane Fahy. In a whirlwind period between the 7<sup>th</sup> minute and 13<sup>th</sup> minute Paddy Gallagher & Declan Wall grabbed goals whilst Noah Canty fired over two points in quick succession which helped put James Stephens into an interval lead of 2-5 to 0-4.

The start of the second half saw both sides exchange points and the game only came to life in the second half when O'Loughlin's Shane Fahey

goaled but Michael Ryan responded with a major of his own to end the game as a contest although Adam Power did manage to get a goal in injury time. The final score was James Stephens 3-11 to O'Loughlin Gaels 2-8. Scorers: James Stephens B - Shane Stapleton (0-7, 0-6 frees); Michael Ryan (1-1); Paddy Gallagher, Declan Wall (1-0 each); Noah Canty (0-3).

O'Loughlin Gaels B - Robbie O'Driscoll (0-5 frees); Shane Fahy (1-2); Adam Power (1-0); Kevin Rowe (0-1).

James Stephens B - Richie Stapleton, Conor Byrne, Mark Doyle (capt), Jack Butler, Noah Canty, Adam Butler, Jake McDonald, David Shore, Johnny McEvoy, Niall Delaney, Willie

*Spencer, Paddy Gallagher, Michael Ryan, Declan Wall, Shane Stapleton. Subs - Patrick Kenedy, Stephen Bateman, Shane Donohoe, Nathan Donohoe, Eamon Fennelly, Niall Brasil, Liam Rafter, Andrew Parsons, James Walton.*  
*O'Loughlin Gaels - Thomas Wadding, John Dillon, Brian Slattery, Jay Leahy, Peter Collins, Lyden Brannigan, Shane Mahony, Brian Buckley, Sean Bolger, Tervine Wallace, Robbie O'Driscoll, Robert Murphy, Kevin Rowe, Shane Fahy, Sean Kiely.*

*Subs - Steven Scallan, Adam Power, Charlie Deegan, Owen McCormack.*

In the Roinn C League, O'Loughlin Gaels B, James Stephens B, Dunnamaggin and Young Irelands all reached the semi-finals. The Village and O'Loughlins accounted for Dunnamaggin and Young Irelands respectively, to make another all-city final, which was ultimately won by James Stephens (4-4 to 1-5), making it a double for the Village in this grade.



Dicksboro - U16 Roinn "A" League Champions 2012

Back: Ronán Butler, Jamie Byrne, Edward Moylan, Aidan Nolan, Peter Lynch, Kieran Dunne, Robert Crotty, Brian Power, Panos Brennan, Andrew Gaffney, Jim Dollard, Conor Doheny, Jason Carroll, Chris Kavanagh, Ormond Morrissey, Thomas Kenny, Kieran Ryan, Corey Cahill, Billy Rowe.  
Front: Robert Murphy, Cian Butler, Cormac Buggy, Aaron Purcell, Mark Slater, John Hanrick, Alan Phelan, Bill Sheehan, Dara Lynch, Aaron Malone, Evan Carroll.



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# DICKSBORO DOUBLE!

BORD NA NÓG U14 REPORT by PATRICK O'FLYNN



Dicksboro - Roinn "A" League and Championship Winners and Roinn "A" Football Champions Champions 2012

Back: Sam Kenny, Alan Corcoran, Cillian Timmins, David Campion, Jack Condren, Liam Kennedy, Conor O'Mahony, Gavin Byrne, Kieran Galvin, James Griffin, Sean Foley, Evan Carroll

Middle: Liam Stynes, Joe Sheehan, Johnny Minogue, Sean Boyd, David Ryan, Brian Cleere, Steven Cass, Jack Connolly, Charlie Buckley, Tagdh Butler, T.J Stynes, Liam Brennan-Smith

Front: Eamonn Morrissey, Harry Duggan, Cian Butler, Colin Dempsey, Oisin Gough(Captain), Edward Moylan, Chris Kavanagh, Mark Nolan, Eoghan Moylan, David Delahanty

(Photo: Edmund Nolan).

## U-14 Roinn A

The Duggan Steel U-14 Hurling Championship this year at Roinn A Level was played on a round robin basis with four teams competing, James Stephens, Conahy Shamrocks, Dicksboro & Loughlin Gaels. James Stephens & Conahy Shamrocks contested the shield final which the Larchfield outfit won out easily in the end but the final score did not do justice to the country team.

### Main Prize

The Roinn A championship final itself proved to be humdinger of an affair between reigning champions O'Loughlin Gaels and Dicksboro with the game ending in a draw. O'Loughlin Gaels gained the early initiative with Robbie O'Driscoll helping himself to three points to Dicksboro's two by the end of the first quarter. The Palmerstown outfit took over completely in the second quarter with Edward Moylan finishing a great team goal whilst Oisin Gough, Edward Moylan & Alan Corcoran all pointed to put them six clear. Robbie O'Driscoll led the O'Loughlin's comeback grabbing two points in quick succession and another point from Sean Bolger left Dicksboro leading 1-6 to 0-6 at half time. O'Loughlin Gaels came storming back in the second half to grab a deserved draw 2-9 to 1-12. In a highly anticipated replay Dicksboro landed the spoils in Thomastown with a comprehensive 2-12 to 0-10 victory to bring the trophy back to Palmerstown. The teams were *Dicksboro: Colin Dempsey, Eoghan Moylan, Cian Butler, David Ryan, Justin Cahill, Evan Carroll, Johnny Manogue, Chris Kavanagh, Liam Kennedy, Mark Nolan, Alan Corcoran, Joe Sheehan, Oisin Gough, Edward Moylan, Brian Cleere, Gavin Byrne, Sean Boyd, Jack Condren, Harry Duggan, Cillian Timmons, David Campion, Conor O'Mahony, Kieran Galvin, David Delahanty, Sean Foley, Stephen Cass, TJ Stynes, Liam Brennan*

*Smyth, Liam Stynes, Jack Connolly, Gavin Walsh, James Griffin, Tadhg Butler, Charlie Buckley.*

*O'Loughlin Gaels: Ben Maher, Joseph Banville, Jay Leahy, Jordan Molloy, Peter Collins, Shane Mahony, Charlie Deegan, Terence Wallace, Sean Bolger, Ronan Buckley, John Delaney, Robbie O'Driscoll, Owen McCormack, Adam Power, Owen Wall, Conor Heary, Kevin Murphy, Eoin Kelly, Eoin O'Shea, Ryan Poyntz, Padraig Nolan, Joe Murphy, Sean Kenny, Michael Butler, Adam Flynn, Adam Cummins, Shane O'Reilly, Luke Freyne, Stephen Scallan.*

In the Roinn A Hurling League, Dicksboro again beat O'Loughlins by 2-10 to 2-4, while Dicksboro also won the Roinn A football title defeating Thomastown in the final 1-8 to 1-3.

## Roinn B

The Duggan Steel U-14 Roinn B Hurling Championship saw 15 teams go to post but it was to be a similar tale to one we've seen at senior level in the past with Ballyhale Shamrocks being the side that all eyes were on.

Preliminary round victories saw Barrow Rangers, Ballyhale Shamrocks, Graigue Ballycallan, Clara, Slieverue, Thomastown and Danesfort all progress. St. Lachtain's entered proceedings at the quarter final stages but were dispatched by an impressive display from Graigue Ballycallan. Barrow Rangers played out a draw with neighbours Clara before the Paulstown men duly won the argument in the replay. Danesfort easily accounted for Thomastown whilst in an all-south clash Ballyhale Shamrocks eventually edged out last year's winners, Slieverue.

### Semi Finals

The semi-finals proved to be contrasting affairs with Ballyhale and Graigue Ballycallan clashing in the first game, in what was a

largely tactical affair that the southern men won by 2-7 to 0-4. The other semifinal proved to be an absolute thriller with Danesfort losing out to Barrow Rangers by the odd goal in fifteen, 7-8 to 8-8 in what quite possibly was the Bord na nÓg game of the season.

The final was an awful lot closer than many people expected with Barrow Rangers really putting it up to Ballyhale Shamrocks, but like their senior counterparts the southern team did what most Ballyhale teams do best, they found the goals to win the match by 3-9 to 1-11. In the hurling League Roinn B competition Lisdowney defeated Mooncoin in the final by 2-8 to 0-9 while the Roinn B football title went to Piltown who accounted for Lisdowney in the final by 3-3 to 1-4.

### **Roinn C**

Early round wins for Dunnamaggin, Glenmore, St Fiacre's and Emeralds got the Duggan Steel U-14 Roinn C championship underway. In the quarter finals last year's champions St Martin's lost to Tulloher Rosbercon the southern team finally got the better of its Northern counterparts. St. Fiacre's defeated Dunnamaggin, Young Irelands got the better of Glenmore whilst Emeralds easily defeated John Lockes. The semifinals saw St Fiacre's overcome the challenge of the Emeralds whilst Tulloher Rosbercon won out a goal fest against Young Irelands 7-14 to 5-6. The final itself saw St Fiacre's defeat a very unlucky Tulloher Rosbercon side which lost out in the final for the second time in four years 4-17 to 0-14. The Roinn C hurling League title went to Dunnamaggin who overcame Bennettsbridge in the final by 5-8 to 2-3. Kilmoganny took the Roinn C football title when they defeated O'Loughlin Gaels B by 2-12 to 2-8.

### **Roinn D**

In the quarter finals of the Roinn D Cloneen/Railyard defeated Mullinavat, Galmoy had too much for St. Patrick's whilst Fenians edged out Carrickshock. The semifinals saw Galmoy defeat Cloneen/Railyard whilst Fenians defeated Windgap to set up a derby final between two rivals Fenians and Galmoy. However Galmoy easily won out the final with a superb brand of hurling 4-14 to 0-2. Teams and scorers were

**Galmoy -** *Billy Drennan, Ryan Murphy, Jack Delaney, Ned Lavelle, Colm Smith, Brandan Phelan, capt (0-2,f), Conor Kelly, Conor Grace (0-3, frees), Conor Drennan (0-2), Patrick Doyle, Cathal Phelan(1-2), Sean Phelan, Dylan Grace (1-1), Oisin Phelan (2-3), Evan Morrissey(0-1).*

**Fenians -** *Aaron Okoroh, Jonathan Dermody, Killian Cullinane, Jordan Muldowney, Diarmuid Gorman, Mark Hughes (capt), Aaron Dermody, Evan Okoroh, Niall Carroll (0-2, frees), Bobby Tynan, Kyle Quinlan, Conor Holohan, Domonik*



**Ballyhale Shamrocks - Roinn B Champions 2012**

**Back:** Rónan Hayes, Eóin Walsh, Martin Davis, Michael Lawler, Conor Doyle, Keelan O'Donoghue, James Reid, Adam Brenner.  
**Middle:** Adrian Mullen, Sulayman Masood, Dylan Aylward, Dean Mason, Darragh Corcoran, Dylan Drennan Smyth, Evan Shefflin, John Hession.  
**Front** Eóin Cody, Enda Kenneally, Darren Mullen, Andrew Moran (captain), Eóin Kenneally, Patrick Hearne, Kevin Fennelly. *(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)*



**St Fiachra's U14 team who defeated Tulloher Rosbercon in the Roinn C County Final.**

**Back:** Michael Walsh, Aaron Foley, Jack Carroll, Terry Dreelan, Niall Hayden, Seamus Lannigan, Tadhg Delaney, Emmet Coakley, Patrick Nolan, Shane Byrne, Joe Dowling, Eoin Cullen, Michael Barcoe.  
**Front:** Ian Foley, Sean Walsh, Sean Holden, Richard Foley, Stuart Dunne Maher, Stephen Cosgrave, Danny Sheehy.



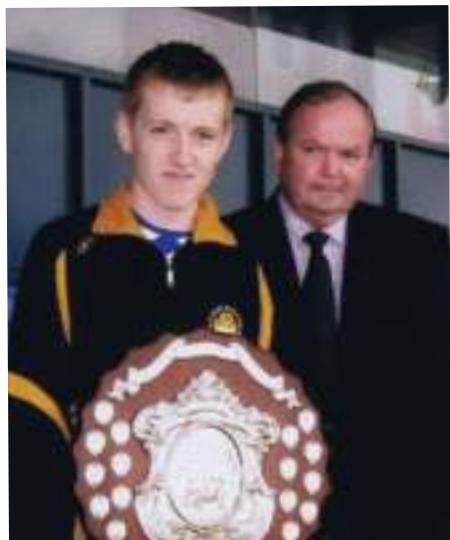
**Galmoy - Roinn D League and Championship Winners 2012**

**Back:** Frank Grace (Trainer), Conor Kelly, Cathal Phelan, Conor Grace, Jack Delaney, Evan Morrissey, Sean Phelan, Conor Drennan, Brandan Phelan, Jerry Drennan (Trainer).  
**Front:** Ned Lavelle, Colm Smith, Oisín Phelan, Dylan Grace, Billy Drennan, Patrick Doyle, Ryan Murphy, Matt Delaney. *(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)*

*Franczek, Paul Warren, Rhys Quinlan Phelan. Galmoy also took the Roinn D hurling League Roinn D title beating Cloneen Railyard by 3-15 to 2-6. However, Cloneen Railyard did capture silverware in the Roinn D football final when they beat St. Lachtain's by 3-3 to 1-0*

### Féile na nGael

James Stephen won their twelfth Paddy Grace title when they beat Conahy Shamrocks in the final on a score of 3-12, having beaten Dicksboro 2-6 to 1-7 after extra time in the semi-final. Conahy had beaten Graigue Ballycallan in their semi-final by 1-7 to 1-5. James Stephens went on to represent Kilkenny in the National finals in Dublin where they lost out on a semi-final place by one point to Patrickswell, while Conahy's Edmund Delaney brought distinction to his club by winning the hurling skills award.



Edmund Delaney (Conahy Shamrocks)  
National Féile Skills Winner



O'Loughlin Gaels - Roinn "A" U14 Football League Champions 2012 (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)  
Back row: Robbie O'Driscoll, Adam Cummins, Adam Power, Peter Collins, Adam Flynn, Tervine Wallace, Eoin Kelly, Ronan Buckley, Jay Leahy, Ben Maher, John Delaney, Eoin O'Shea, Shane Mahony.  
Front: Padraig Nolan, Joe Murphy, Owen Wall, Kevin Murphy, Joe Banville, Ryan Poyntz, Charlie Deegan, Sean Bolger, Stephen Scallion.



Lisdowney - Roinn "B" U14F League Winners & U14 "B" Hurling Championship Finalists 2012  
Back: Martin McEvoy, Jack McGree, Aidan Tallis, James Phelan, David Fitzpatrick, Luke Woodward, Liam Dunphy, Ewan Hills, Stephen Delaney, Brian Kavanagh, Kevin O'Sullivan, David O'Carroll, Rory Kenny.  
Front: Eoin Delaney, Laurence Campion, Conor Tallis, Mark Fitzpatrick, Niall Brennan, Ben Tallis, Steve Dunne, Eoin Kenny, Gary O'Sullivan.



James Stephens - Paddy Grace Shield Winners 2012  
Back: John Sheehy, Shane Murphy, Nathan Donohoe, John Connick, Michael Doyle, Geoffrey Coyne, Josh Leonard, Michael Byrne, Kyle Lanigan, Sean Georgie Leahy, Sean Manogue, Ross Whelan, Niall Brassil.  
Middle: Tony Scanlon, Tadhg Donohoe, Andy Whelan, Naimul Hossein, Robert Butler, Christian McGrath, Brian O'Neill, Sam Hickey, Paddy Kennedy, Kevin McQuillan, Andy Parsons, Luke Murphy, Dean Walsh, Dan Cody, Niall Tyrrell.  
Front: Ryan Scanlon, Simon Cullen, Andy Walsh, Shane Donohoe, Eamon Fennelly, Tommy Walton, Liam Rafter, Ben Lawlor, Cillian Duffy, Stephens Carolan, Conor Prucell. At front: Sean Rafter (Photo: Eoin Hennessy).



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## COLLEGES GAA REPORT



Kilkenny CBS - All Ireland Colleges SH Finalists 2012

Back: Luke Scanlon, Caoimhthean Bergin, Enda O'Donoghue, Dylan Scott, Eoin Cantwell, Shane Cuddihy, Stephen Tynan, Danny Bolger, Eoin Fennelly, Jack Langton (Captain), Daragh Sheehan, Mason Clifford, Philip Campion, Paul Delahanty, Ciaran Doyle, Gary Kelly and Jack Boland.  
Front: Michael Power, Robert Buckley, Kevin Kenny, JP Treacy, Niall Mullins, James Gittens, Owen McGrath, Shane Cassin, Dara Houlihan, Cathal McGrath, Robert Fitzpatrick, Evan Cody and Patrick Deegan.

### KILKENNY C.B.S.

Another busy Gaelic Games schedule in Kilkenny C.B.S. culminated in Semple Stadium in May when a young Senior team were denied the ultimate prize in College's Hurling by first time winners Nenagh C.B.S. in an enthralling final. The margin of defeat at the death , a mere two points, as a gallant C.B.S. fought back in tremendous style having fallen behind after a bright opening quarter to make the finish of this final a very nervy one indeed. Credit to all involved for bouncing back from another two point defeat in the Leinster decider at the hands of St. Kieran's to reach the National Final by defeating Munster Champions Coláistí na Déise in the Quarter-Final and outclassing Portumna C.S. in the Semi-Final. With many of the panel available in 2012/2013 the experience of the biggest stage in College's hurling should stand these players in good stead as they embark on a new campaign in 2013.

Many of the victorious 2011 Junior Leinster Championship winning panel will play a major role in any future Senior attempts at success. Unfortunately that Leinster Junior title was relinquished in 2012 at the Semi-Final stage when, after a poor start, C.B.S. left themselves with a mountain to climb against eventual Leinster winners Good Counsel where they trailed 1-11 to 0-4 at half time in Thomastown. To their credit they rallied strongly after the interval, held Counsel scoreless for the remainder of the match but couldn't manage to bridge the gap, ultimately losing on a 1-11 to 0-11 score line.

The Juvenile Hurlers acquitted themselves reasonably well also during the year and will benefit from the experience gained in both the Leinster A campaign and the Rice Cup competition they took part in.

At the end of year School Awards Night the main GAA awards were presented to Senior Hurling Captain Jack Langton (Senior Hurler of the Year) , Evan Cody (Junior Hurler of the Year) , Marc Drennan (Juvenile Hurler of the Year) and Mason Clifford (Special Award for Contribution to Senior Hurling 2012).

We also acknowledge the contributions of present and former pupils to Kilkenny County teams in 2012. Three of our young stars played a piv-

otal role when Kilkenny's Under 14 team won the Tony Forristal this year for the first time since 2005. Sean Bolger captained the team and Marc Drennan and Chris Kavanagh also played their parts. In fact, another C.B.S. player Martin Gaffney was the captain in the 2005 victory. Five C.B.S. pupils were part of the Kilkenny Minor panel this year namely Kevin Kenny, Dara Houlihan, Robbie Fitzpatrick, Ciaran Doyle and Evan Cody. At Under 21 level Owen McGrath, Brian Kennedy, Ollie Walsh, Danny Kenny, Richie Doyle, Cathal Kenny and Martin Gaffney all played their part in winning the Leinster title but losing the All-Ireland final to an exceptional Clare team. Former C.B.S. stars Richie Doyle , Mattie Ruth, Mark Bergin and Mark Kelly all col-

lected All-Ireland Senior medals as part of the Kilkenny Senior All-Ireland victory in the replayed decider against Galway. The Liam McCarthy Cup was paraded in the school in October. We salute their achievements with pride.

The ongoing Pitch Improvement continues apace at the Primary School Field and the first training sessions took place in recent weeks on a beautiful playing surface. Funded by the joint Primary and Secondary Schools' Lotto this facility will contribute hugely to future C.B.S. GAA activity. We thank all those who support the Lotto on a weekly basis. We wish all mentors and players every success in the months ahead. Ar aghaidh le C.B.S..



1 Eddie Houlihan Presents The 'Juvenile Hurler Of The Year Award' 2012 to Denis Drennan, father of Marc Drennan who could not be present on the night. 2. Dicksboro Chairman And Board Of Management Member Eddie Houlihan presents Mason Clifford with an award for his outstanding contribution to Senior Hurling in 2012. 3. LIAM BYRNE pesents the Declan Byrne Memorial Trophy for the 'Junior Hurler Of The Year' 2012 to Evan Cody. 4. Mr. Gerard Morrissey presents the Vincent Morrissey Memorial Trophy for the 'Senior Hurler Of The Year '2012 to Team Captain, Jack Langton.

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## ST KIERANS

### Senior Hurling

The Senior Hurling season started in October 2011 with a series of trials to choose a squad. We eventually ended up with a panel of thirty four committed hurlers. Robert Lennon was appointed captain with Jack McGrath as vice-captain. The routine of regular training was quickly established.

The first League match was at home to Good Counsel and a comfortable win helped to instill confidence and settle the squad. We played Dublin South next up in Rathfarnham on a synthetic pitch and quickly adjusted to the different surface winning on a score line of 2-17 to 0-7. We faced St Brendan's Birr in the League final in December. On a cold wintry day with flurries of snow and sleet we pulled away in the last ten minutes from a determined Offaly side and won out 1-13 to 1-8.

Training for the Championship began with real intent and focus. We looked for and played a number of meaningful challenge games against teams such as WIT Fresher's, St Flannan's of Ennis, Thurles CBS, Colaiste na nDeise of Waterford and Kilkenny Minors. These games were invaluable and were the ideal preparation for the Championship.

Our Leinster Championship commenced on February 4th in Rathineska, Co. Laois against the much fancied Dublin North. The team from the first whistle exploded into action that day and were deserving winners on a score line of 5-7 to 1-5. The Leinster semi-final versus Colaiste Eoin was played in Dr Cullen Park, Carlow. We struggled to win 0-15 to 1-8 against a physically, strong Dublin side who had huge team spirit. The Leinster final was against local rivals Kilkenny CBS in Nowlan Park. The first half belonged to CBS but we kept in touch and only trailed by three points at half time. We fought our way back into the match and won the College's 52nd Leinster title on a score of 2-9 to 1-10.

The All-Ireland semi final versus Nenagh CBS proved to be a fiercely competitive and tense encounter. The first half was low scoring with only seven points scored each at the interval. After the break we quickly went two points up but disappointingly were unable to hold on to the lead. It proved to be Nenagh's day with a score of 0-17 to our 0-14.



LIAM McCARTHY CUP AT KILKENNY CBS

Ivan Doherty, Alan Healy, Seamus Dwyer, Mattie Ruth, Paul Murphy, Richie Doyle, Eoin Larkin, Jackie Tyrel, C.B.S. Principal Tom Clarke and Ger Morrissey.



St Kieran's College Juvenile Hurling Team

Back: Colm Prenderville, Conor O'Neill, Edward Moylan, Tom Murphy, Joe Cuddihy, Tom Whitty.  
Fourth Row: Mr Liam Smith (Trainer), Lyndon Brannigan, Thomas Walsh, Evan Carroll, Michael Cody, Aidan Nolan, Mr Ken Maher (Trainer).  
Third Row: Brian Crowdle, Sean Carey, Brion Kirwan, Conor Fennelly, Conor Byrne, Joe Connolly.  
Second Row: Matt Kenny, Martin Keoghan, Robert Kirwick, Jake McDonald, Dylan Jordan, Patrick Maher, Naimul Hossain.  
Front Row: Geoff Brennan, Paddy Brennan, Victor Costello, Niall Walsh, Thomas Allen, Shane Byrne, Oisin Gough.



St Kieran's College Senior Hurling Team 2012

Back: David Burke, Ciaran Prendergast, Michael Donnelly, Eoin Gough, William Allen, Vincent Teehan, Thomas Talbot, Shane Parsons, Chris Bolger, Diarmuid Cody, James Maher, Billy Leydon.  
Middle : Mr. Ken Archbold, Mr. David McCormack, Cillian Tracey, James Tyrell, Stephen Farrell, David Hennessy, Jack Bruton, Paddy Mullan, Robert Hayes, Emmett Byrne, Aidan Cleere, Peter Keneally, Robert O'Hanrahan, Peter Walsh, Mr. John O'Keeffe.  
Front: Ciaran Breen, William Murphy, Jack McGrath, James Deasy, Robert Lennon (Captain), Noel Kehoe, Enda Morrissey, Thomas O'Hanrahan, Cormac Wafer. Missing from photo: Paul O'Neill.

The management of the team, Mr John O'Keffe, Mr David McCormack and Mr Ken Archbold would like to acknowledge the dedication of the panel and the support of the school community. each at the interval. After the break we quickly went two points up but disappointingly were unable to hold on to the lead. It proved to be Neagh's day with a score of 0-17 to our 0-14. The management of the team, Mr John O'Keffe, Mr David McCormack and Mr Ken Archbold would like to acknowledge the dedication of the panel and the support of the school community.

#### **Junior Hurling**

The Junior Hurling team, managed by David McCormack and Richie Ruth went so close to capturing our 40th Leinster Colleges Junior Hurling Title only to fall at the final hurdle to a talented Good Counsel, New Ross in a thrilling final in Thomastown on a score of 2-10 to 2-9. St Kieran's performed well in the league section beating both Birr CS and Johnstown convincingly before losing to the same Good Counsel in the final game of the league section. A semi final victory over St Peter's, Wexford set up a rematch with the New Ross side and hopes were high of reversing the result from the league section. It wasn't to be however as, despite a strong finish from the Kieran's men with 2 goals in the last ten minutes, it was Good Counsel who re-claimed the Fr Cosgrave Cup by the narrowest of margins.

#### **Juvenile Hurling**

The Juvenile hurling trials began back in September with over two hundred lads competing for a place on the panel. Eventually a panel was picked and the first competitive game ended in a victory against Dublin North in February. The second league game was a home game against the eventual winners of the Dr Barry Cup, Good Counsel with Kieran's winning by 3-23 to Good Counsel's 2-9. All that was stopping Kieran's from winning another League title was Kilkenny CBS. The final took place on a sunny but windy day at St John's Park. Both teams started strongly and it was anyone's game at half time. However, Kieran's came out a new team in the second half and some great points scored by Michael Cody and Joe Cuddihy inspired Kieran's to a well-deserved victory. Eddie Delaney, Edward Moylan and Niall Walsh were also instrumental in the heart of the Kieran's team. Captain Niall Walsh was presented with the

League trophy at the end of the game.

A month later, Kieran's found themselves in a championship semi final against St Peter's of Wexford. St Kieran's performed well on the day and qualified for the Leinster Final against Good Counsel, New Ross. The final was held in Thomastown and a big crowd turned out for it. This was a tough, close fought game with chances at both ends. This time the day belonged to Good Counsel who won out on a score of 3-8 to 2-9. Naturally this was a very disappointing end to what was overall a good year for the Juvenile hurling panel.

#### **U14 Football**

The U14 football season began in mid-October and the managers of the team were Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Connolly. The season began by St. Kieran's playing a challenge match against Good Counsel New Ross and Kilkenny C.B.S. Following these challenge matches we started training for the league. The league campaign started off with the first game against a strong Portlaoise C.B.S. in which we won well in the end. The next league game was against Athy who were just too strong for us on the day. In the final league game we travelled to Portarlington to take on Portarlington. This was a game we had to win to stay in the competition. With about five minutes remaining, there was a five point's difference in favour of Portarlington. We scored a goal but it was not enough and lost by two points. We were extremely disappointed because we felt we could have done a lot better or even won the league. Through the season we had ups and downs but overall the team's spirit never dwindled thanks to our managers Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Connolly.

#### **U16 Football**

This year the under 16 football team was managed by Mr Windle and Fr Ryan. The team had a few training sessions before our first challenge match against Good Counsel of New Ross, Wexford. This was a tough start but it gave a good taste of a high standard of football for St Kieran's College.

The first competitive match was against Portarlington. They were a very good side and we might have been well beaten but St Kieran's showed some pride with their hard work throughout the game. The second game was against Portlaoise and again was very close at

the end with Portlaoise victorious by a narrow margin of only four points. Although there was no silverware to go back to the Kilkenny school, we did our school and county proud in never giving up. At times St Kieran's showed very good footballing skills and showed great potential.

#### **Handball**

St Kieran's took part in all grades of the schools handball competitions 30x60 and 40x20. All players played very well, some were unlucky not to proceed to the later stages of the various competitions, the senior doubles were particularly unfortunate to be beaten in the Leinster



Dylan Walsh - Handball v Castlecomer

final having played very well in the previous rounds. The highlight of the year was the Leinster final win by Brian Mahon and Dylan Walsh who were vastly superior to their Meath opponents in the Leinster final in Croke Park, this pair were unlucky to meet the eventual winners in the All-Ireland semi-final.

The school was represented by:  
 Mikey Carey (First Year singles)  
 Jack Crehan and Ian Clifford (1st Year doubles)  
 Sean Carey (U15 singles)  
 Aidan Nolan and Niall Walsh (U15 doubles)  
 Brendan Hyland (U17 singles)  
 Brian Mahon and Dylan Walsh (U17 doubles)  
 Ger Dunne (U19 singles)  
 Cillian Treacy and Fergal Lalor (U19 doubles)

In October a number of students competed in the Handball World Championships in Citywest. Well done to Eoin Brennan, Dion Burke, Sean Carey, Brian Mahon, Brendan Hyland and Dylan Walsh on this wonderful achievement.



Coláiste Mhuire - Under 14 "B" South Leinster Champions.

Back: Evan Morrissey, Liam Dunphy, Adam Garrett, Darragh Macky, Harry Burke, Shane Curran, Niall Mullins, Jack Delaney, Jack Saunders, Stephen Delaney, Padraig Sweeney, Ciaran Dawson, Morgan Grace Cashin, Jack McEvoy, Brian Kavanagh, Justin Cleere, Liam Dunphy, Gavin McCarthy.  
 Front: Sean Phelan, Fionn Cleary, Conor Grace, Luke Woodward, Johnny Doyle, Sean Tobin, David Doheny, Shane Fitzpatrick, Oisin Phelan, Brandan Phelan, Sean Power, Mark Hughs, Cian Hayes, Philip Purcell, J.J. McLoughlin, Stephen Carroll, Bobby Tynan.



Colaiste Eamonn Ris - Kilkenny Post Primary Schools U16 JH "B" Finalists

Back: Billy Rowe, Sean Tynan, Brendan Power, Phillip Cahill, Adam Phealan, Geoffrey Maher, Sean Tierney, Keith Fitzpatrick, Daniel Cahill, Billy Bergin, Jack Butler, Nathan Coffey, Thomas Rossiter.  
Front: Kevin Fitzpatrick, Peter Hennessy, Ryan Bergin, James Power, Darragh O'Shea, Kieran Lanigan, Sean Power, Peter Boland, Emett Landy, Dylan Roche. (Team Mentors: Canice Hickey and John Timmons)



Members of the Kilkenny hurling team including former students David Herity and Noel Hickey with the Deputy Principal Br Damien Brennan and the Principal Mr Frank McKenna on their visit to Coláiste Éamann Ris with the Liam McCarthy Cup - 3rd Oct.2012.



Tommy Walsh Presents Trophy to Michael Carroll  
Captain, Coláiste Mhuire who defeated Coláiste Eamonn Ris in the Kilkenny Post Primary Schools JH "B" Final

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**Liam Aylward MEP**

*Wishes friends, supporters and constituents a very happy Christmas and every good wish for the New Year*

*Congratulations again to the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team on a very successful year and to Henry on his outstanding achievement of 9 All-Irelands*

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# UNIQUE TREBLE DOUBLE FOR LORETO!

## Junior Camogie

The Loreto Junior Camogie team, captained by Ciara Byrne (Clara), had a very special year.

Having comfortably qualified for the Leinster final, they faced old rivals Presentation in Clara where it required a late goal in injury time from Róisín Breen to secure a draw on a score-line of 2-5 to 2-5. This was the first known occasion when this final had ended in a draw. However, playing much better in the replay, Loreto won

narrowly by 3-8 to 2-10, securing this title for the 7th year in a row.

Loreto defeated Cross & Passion Ballycastle in the quarter-final & St Mary's Charleville in the semi-final to qualify for the All-Ireland final.

However, for the first time ever, a "back door" system had been introduced to the Roinn A championships and Presentation had negotiated this to also qualify. This set up an unprecedented Colleges' All-Ireland final between two teams from the same county.



LORETO KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND JUNIOR COLLEGES CHAMPIONS FOR THE FOURTH SUCCESSIVE YEAR

Front Row: Clodagh Power (Freshford), Róisín Breen (Paulstown/Goresbridge), Kirsty Maher (Dicksboro), Megan Walsh (Danesfort), Ciara Byrne (captain) (Clara), Laura Greene (O'Loughlin Gaels), Ciara Phelan (Emeralds), Anna Brennan (Lisdowney), Jenny Clifford (Dicksboro), Laura Murphy (O'Loughlin Gaels), Lauren Dermody (Ballyragget) Aoife O'Carroll (Lisdowney), Aoife Coady (St. Martin's).

Middle Row: Róisín Kealy (St. Martin's), Alana Fitzgerald (Paulstown/Goresbridge), Maggie Byrne (Danesfort), Ann Doheny (Graigue-Ballycallan), Nicola Murphy (Clara), Ciara Butler (St. Martin's), Róisín Phelan (Conahy Shamrocks), Niamh Phelan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Eva Maher (Dicksboro), Megan Foley (Lisdowney), Jenna Sherwin (Dicksboro), Caoimhe Murphy (Graigue-Ballycallan), Niamh Walsh (Young Irelands), Lauren Blake (Paulstown/Goresbridge), Bonnie Comerford (Young Irelands), Sharon Quinlan (Young Irelands).

Back Row: Lucy Teehan (James Stephens), Aoife Prendergast (Dicksboro), Eimear Keoghan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Sarah Lanigan (Freshford), Bronagh Cleere (O'Loughlin Gaels), Ann-Marie Byrne (Young Irelands), Danielle Kenny (Dicksboro), Sarah Kent (Danesfort), Chloe Hughes (James Stephens), Rebecca Holden (Paulstown/Goresbridge), Michelle Teehan (James Stephens), Niamh Deely (James Stephens), Sophie O'Dwyer (James Stephens).



LORETO KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SENIOR COLLEGES CHAMPIONS FOR THE THIRD SUCCESSIVE YEAR

Front Row: Kate Holland (Lisdowney), Claire Phelan (captain) (Lisdowney), Aoife Murphy (Lisdowney), Fionnuala Quinlan (Young Irelands), Eva Maher (Dicksboro), Marie Doheny (Graigue-Ballycallan), Laura Greene (O'Loughlin Gaels), Laura Murphy (O'Loughlin Gaels), Orla Hanrick (Dicksboro), Jenny Clifford (Dicksboro), Róisín Breen (Paulstown/Goresbridge), Sarah Kent (Danesfort), Noelle Maher (Tullaroan), Chloe Power (James Stephens), Katie Doheny (Freshford), Anna Buggy (Conahy Shamrocks).

Back Row: Nicole Lawlor (James Stephens), Amy Bryan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Grace Walsh (Tullaroan), Tracey Brennan (Lisdowney), Sarah Dunphy (Graigue-Ballycallan), Sonia Buggy (Dicksboro), Danielle Kenny (Dicksboro), Kirsty Maher (Dicksboro), Miriam Walsh (Tullaroan), Lydia Fitzpatrick (Freshford), Orla Ryan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Maureen Walsh (Freshford), Ciara Byrne (Clara), Sarah-Ann Quinlan (Young Irelands), Kate Walsh (O'Loughlin Gaels), Niamh Leahy (Emeralds), Tara Hogan (Graigue-Ballycallan).



**LORETO KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND 7-A-SIDE COLLEGES CHAMPIONS FOR THE SIXTH TIME IN SEVEN YEARS**

Front row: Michelle Teehan (James Stephens), Ciara Deely (James Stephens), Danielle Kenny (Dicksboro), Kirsty Maher (Dicksboro), Laura Greene (captain) (O'Loughlin Gaels), Laura Murphy (O'Loughlin Gaels), Megan Walsh (Danesfort), Jenny Clifford (Dicksboro), Niamh Deely (James Stephens), Eimear Keoghan (Graigue-Ballycallan).

Back row: Rebecca Holden (Paulstown/Goresbridge), Jenna Sherwin (Dicksboro), Róisín Breen (Paulstown/Goresbridge), Caoimhe Murphy (Graigue-Ballycallan), Sarah Lanigan (Freshford), Aoife Prendergast (Dicksboro), Sarah Kent (Danesfort), Róisín Phelan (Conahy Shamrocks), Sophie O'Dwyer (James Stephens), Aoife O'Carroll (Lisdowney), Ann Doheny (Graigue-Ballycallan).

This was played in Nowlan Park where, in a reversal of fortune, this time Presentation secured a draw with a goal from Mary O'Connell in the dying seconds of the match. Coincidentally, this was also the first time this final had ever ended in a draw, 3-4 to 2-7.

Back to Clara again for the replay. This time, the Loreto team gave their best performance of the year and won this unique final comfortably on a score line of 4-9 to 0-8. In addition, they became the first school in the history of this competition to win the All-Ireland for the 4th year in a row and also the first school to ever win a Senior/Junior "treble-double".

### **Senior Camogie**

The school's senior side, captained by Claire Phelan (Lisdowney), had an equally successful but less dramatic year. They also qualified comfortably for their Leinster final, also played in Clara, also against Presentation but won convincingly on an 8-10 to 0-4 scoreline.

They received a bye in the quarter-final but had their toughest match of

the campaign in the semi-final against St Mary's Nenagh when they had to come from behind to win by 1-11 to 2-6.

The All-Ireland final against St Brigid's Loughrea was played in Templederry where the Loreto won by 4-11 to 1-10, securing this title for the 3rd year in a row.

### **7-a-side Camogie**

This competition is unusual in that the 2013 competition was actually completed in the first school term.

This team, captained by Laura Greene (O'Loughlin Gaels), won a thrilling Leinster Final against St Brendan's Birr, again in Clara, by 7-6 to 7-2.

The All-Ireland competition was played in the Army pitch in the Phoenix Park, where in another unusual occurrence; the final was delayed by the army clearing the pitch for a helicopter landing!

However, this caused no problems for the Loreto team who won this final against St Flannan's Ennis with one

of their best ever performances on a scoreline of 7-4 to 1-7, winning this title for the 6th time in 7 years.

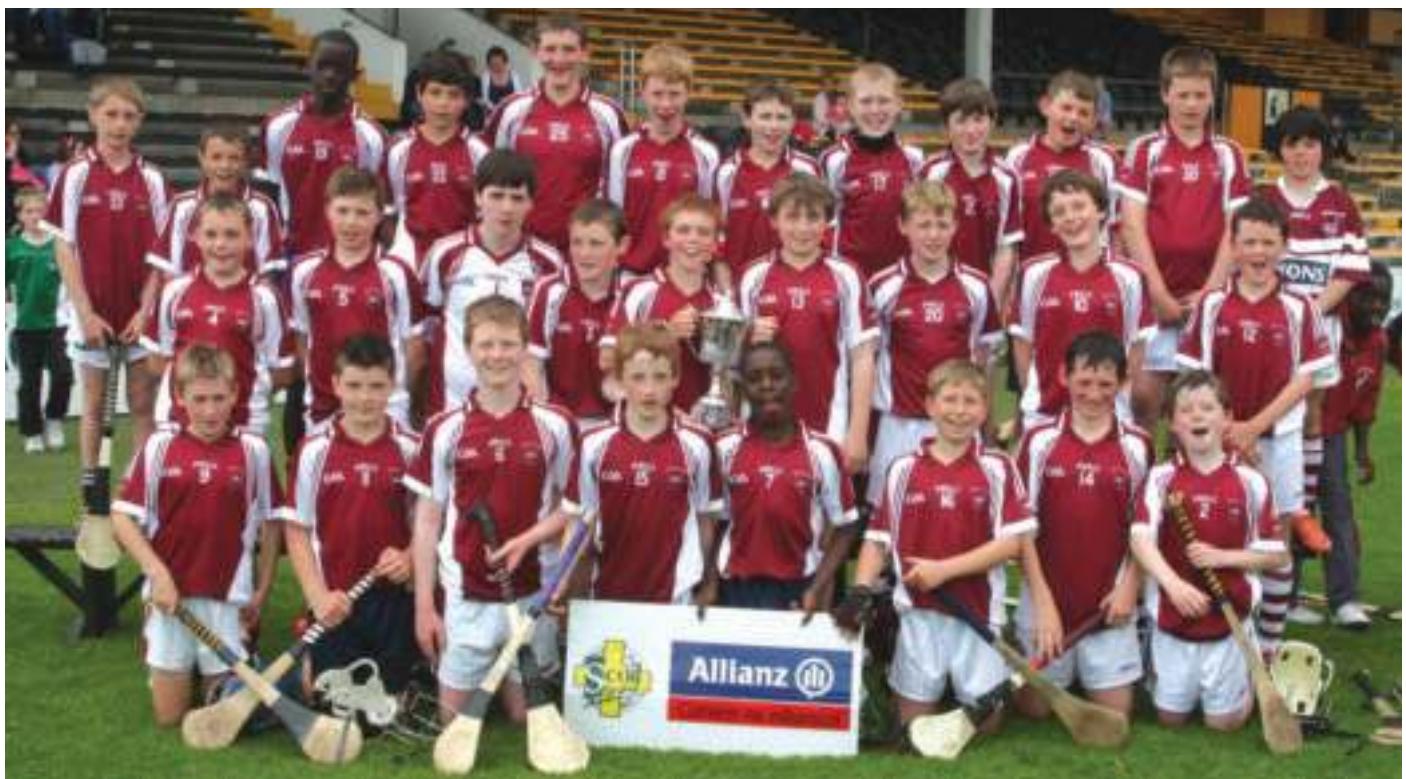


### **Handball**

Ciara Mahon (Clogh) - above - won a silver medal at the World Handball U-19 Championships held in Dublin recently.

# DOUBLES FOR THOMASTOWN AND LISDOWNEY AS CANICE'S TAKE THE BLUE RIBAND

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Report by Tom Duggan PRO



ST CANICE'S - ROIWN "A" CHAMPIONS 2012

## Educational Supplies Roinn A Final St. Canice's 2-12 Kilmanagh 0-7

The flagship match of the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol hurling league is the Educational Supplies Roinn A final and this year's contest between St. Canice's and Kilmanagh served up a game of exceptional quality. The contestants had shown their ability and consistency throughout the league campaign finishing in first and second place and it was St. Canice's who maintained their 100% record by running out convincing winners. Kilmanagh had won last year's Roinn B title and had a very convincing win over St. Patrick's in the semi final while St. Canice's had been runners up in the Roinn A football final and were determined to go one better in the hurling decider. St. Canice's settled into the game quicker than their opponents and this was an important factor as early scores allowed them to play with their normal fluency. St. Canice's had a point on the scoreboard in the third minute when Eoghan Moylan pointed a free from inside his own half. Mark Nolan added two more points from frees and Liam Brennan Smith made it 0-4 to St. Canice's with only seven minutes gone. By contrast Kilmanagh had missed a number of early scoring opportunities and were finding it difficult to get any sort of grip on the game. In the eleventh minute Sean Ryan pointed for Kilmanagh and this gave his team a much needed boost. St. Canice's replied when Johnny Manogue's quickly taken free found Mark Nolan who calmly pointed to maintain their four point lead. Mark added two more points from a '65 and a free to put further distance between the sides. Back came Kilmanagh and when Tommy Ronan won a free in the middle of the field Jesse Roberts duly converted to raise the Kilmanagh cheers. Brian Cleere immediately replied with a point for St. Canice's but Jesse Roberts again pointed a long range free to close the gap again. St. Canice's had the final score of the first half with a wonderful point from Mark Nolan. The teams retired for the interval with St. Canice's ahead by 0-9 to 0-3.

Kilmanagh came out in determined mood in the second half and Aaron Brennan pointed in the second minute. St. Canice's were not allowing their opponents any room however and Mark Nolan added two more points from frees. Kilmanagh were trying with all their power to reduce the deficit and moved Jesse Roberts into attack. The move seemed to improve matters and in the tenth minute Jesse went for goal but his effort was saved by Canice's keeper David Campion at the expense of a '65. Brian Cleere added another point for St. Canice's in the eleventh minute but Killian Egan replied with a point for Kilmanagh. Jesse Roberts pointed a free to give the Kilmanagh supporters some hope but it was quickly dashed when Cillian Timmons found Liam Brennan Smith with a pass and Liam finished to the net for St. Canice's. Still Kilmanagh refused to lie down and went on the attack but they could not get the goal they needed thanks to superb defending from St. Canice's. Jesse Roberts converted a free for Kilmanagh but Sean Boyd put the issue beyond doubt with a goal three minutes from the end. Kilmanagh came again in search of a goal but Jesse Roberts' effort was saved brilliantly by David Campion. In the end there was no denying St. Canice's and they ran out worthy winners. Their teamwork and all round quality won the day and they can look back on an outstanding year where they proved to be the number one primary school team in Kilkenny. Kilmanagh too, can hold their heads high as they gave their all and this was a game of the highest quality. Well done to both sides on an excellent game.

**Scorers:** St. Canice's: **Mark Nolan (0-8, 0-6 frees, 0-1 '65), Liam Brennan Smith (1-1), Sean Boyd (1-0), Brian Cleere (0-2), Eoghan Moylan (0-1, '65).**

**Kilmanagh:** **Jesse Roberts (0-4 frees), Aaron Brennan, Killian Egan & Sean Ryan (0-1 each)**

**St. Canice's:** **David Campion, Tommy Farrell, Liam Styne, Kevin Murray, Mark Power, Eoghan Moylan, Philip Obisanya, mark Nolan (Capt.), Joe Sheehan, Cillian Timmons, Conor Heary, Liam Brennan Smith, Sean Boyd, Johnny Manogue, Brian Cleere. subs: Daire Maher, Kevin Walsh, Evan Clarke,**

*Gavin Walsh, Padraig Moylan, Eamonn Morrissey, Richard Duggan, Johnny Collins, Jason Hayes, Kieran Galvin, William O'Sullivan, Bobby O' Mahony. Kilmanagh: Stephen Keoghan, Simon O'Dwyer, Jesse Roberts (Capt.), Ger Doheny, Ciaran Hogan, Tom Dunphy, Luke O'Brien, Aaron Brennan, Tommy Ronan, James Everard, Killian Egan, David Maher, Peter Murphy, Sean Ryan, Adam O'Brien. Subs: Billy Brennan, Finn Langan, Alex McCluskey, Daniel Lawlor, Lee Ronan, Alan Wall, Oisin Egan, Luke Cullen, Alan Carroll, Paddy Brennan, Jason O'Brien, Scott Lawlor, Craig Lawlor.*

Referee: Sean Cleere

### Toymaster Roinn B Final Thomastown 3-8 Castlecomer 0-7

The final action in the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol hurling season saw Thomastown take on Castlecomer in the Toymaster Roinn B final. Both sides had come into the final having topped their groups in the league stages of the competition but Thomastown were favourites to take the title having won the Corn De Bhaldrathie trophy in the previous week. The final scoreline does not do justice to the gallant efforts of a determined Castlecomer side which took the game to their opponents at every opportunity. Just like the Roinn A final this was a fine game of high skill and it was keenly contested with every score being hard earned. Castlecomer began in fine fashion and their direct play was great to watch. Cathal Holland got their first score with a pointed free in the third minute. Thomastown were slow to get going and it took until the tenth minute before they got on the scoreboard. Steven Wemyss who was to have a major influence on the game got their first point. Castlecomer replied immediately with a point from John Dowd after good pressure from the Castlecomer forwards prevented the Thomastown defence from clearing the ball. Colm Whelan levelled the match with a pointed free but Castlecomer were back in front again when James Brennan made a great catch in midfield and scored a brilliant point. Thomastown then struck a vital score when Steven Wemyss gained possession forty metres from goal, soloed in and buried the ball in the net. Colm Whelan added another goal within a minute and Thomastown were now in command. Ross Connolly replied with a fine point for Castlecomer but Thomastown hit back with a pointed free from Steven Donnelly. Back came Castlecomer and when Ross Connolly was fouled going through he pointed the free to reduce the deficit. Steven Donnelly scored an excellent point for Thomastown but Castlecomer were still taking the game to their opponents and it took an excellent save from Diarmuid Galway in the Thomastown goal to deny Ross Connolly



**THOMASTOWN - ROINN "B" & CORN DE BHALDRATHIE CHAMPIONS 2012**

right on the stroke of half time. Half time score Thomastown 2-4 Castlecomer 0-5. Thomastown started the second half brightly and added two points early on through Colm Whelan and Steven Donnelly. Castlecomer stormed forward in search of a goal and again Diarmuid Galway kept them out with a brilliant save from James Brennan. Ross Connolly pointed a free for Castlecomer but Steven Wemyss again found the net to put Thomastown firmly in the driving seat. Cathal Holland scored an excellent point from a free for Castlecomer but Thomastown hit back with points from Rory Monks and Steven Wemyss. Castlecomer never gave up and made another determined attack but this time the post denied them. Try as they might there was no way through for the Comer boys and Thomastown ran out deserving winners. Castlecomer can be proud of their efforts as they were beaten by an outstanding Thomastown team which won their fourth title of the year. After many near misses in recent years they completed a remarkable double double of league and cup victories in hurling and football this year.

*Thomastown: Diarmuid Galway, Michael Murphy, Brian Staunton, David Walsh, Eddie Donnelly, Ned Kirwin (Capt.), David Griffin, Steven Donnelly, Joseph Conlon, Rory Monks, Colm Whelan, Jack Holden, Jack Barcoe, David Barron, Stephen Wemyss, Subs: Conor Kearney, Ben Chaloner, Shane Maher, Conor McDermott, Robbie Nagle, Philip Somers, Thomas Collier, Cian McCormack, Jack Cahill, James Delahunt, Conor O'Donoghue, Liam Mooney, Jack Kerins.*

*Castlecomer: Nicky Connolly, Jack Buggy, Conor McMahon, James Buggy,*

*Christopher Korff, James Brennan, Cathal Holland (Capt.), John Dowd, Conor Clarke, Kevin Brennan, Ross Connolly, David Ferris, Dan Coogan, Declan Buggy, Billy O'Neill. Subs: Joseph Hickson, Alan Mullally, Michael Coogan, Peter Carroll, Jamie O'Shea, Jack Dowling, Conor Normoyle, Dara Coughlan, Donal Coughlan, Killian Hogan, Jamie Maher, Keelan Ring, Thomas Judge.*

Referee: Paschal Connolly

### Top Oil Roinn C Final Lisdowney 1-8 Danesfort 1-7

The Allianz Cumann na mBunscol action continued in Nowlan Park with the Top Oil Roinn C Final. Both sides here were chasing doubles. Danesfort were seeking to add to their Roinn B football title while Lisdowney were looking for a hurling double as they had already collected the Tommy O'Brien cup a week previously. Danesfort started well going up 3 points in seven minutes thanks to Darragh O'Neill. In the tenth minute David O'Carroll placed a free over the bar following a foul on Niall Brennan and Lisdowney got into their stride. A minute later Niall Brennan gathered the sliotar, soloed in and buried it in the net for a terrific goal. Danesfort replied immediately with a point from Aidan McGree. It was all action now as the play swung from end to end with some terrific blocking from both teams. Cathal Power remained steadfast in the Lisdowney goal and cleared his next save well up the pitch where Gary O'Sullivan was waiting for another shot at goal, but it was deflected and the resultant 65 was this time sent high over the bar. Danesfort had one more serious challenge on the Lisdowney goal in this half but it was



LISDOWNEY - ROIINN "C" & CORN UÍ BHRIAIN CHAMPIONS 2012

kicked wide as was the story for the next five minutes for Lisdowney as they had three frees which went wide or fell short and did not reach the target. Eventually with three minutes left in the half Niall Brennan took a long range point and straight away a neat handpass from Marty McEvoy was also placed over the bar by Niall. The half time score was Lisdowney 1-4 Danesfort 0-4. The second half began with Danesfort again opening the scoring . Conor O Keefe was fouled going through and pointed the free to reduce the gap to two points. It was all Danesfort now as they piled on the pressure in search of an equaliser. Lisdowney were not yielding though and were prepared to put their bodies on the line to protect their lead.Marty McEvoy was fouled and David O'Carroll pointed the free . The play shifted then for the next 5 minutes as Danesfort put up a tremendous battle. They put the Lisdowney back line under fierce pressure forcing some top class defending from the Campion brothers and Jack McGree in the full back line. Danesfort's pressure earned them 2 frees, which were converted by Conor O Keefe and Darragh O'Neill. Lisdowney took control again then, but were still hounded by wide balls with 4 of their next 6 shots going wide and then came the crunch. With 3 minutes to go Danesfort scored their fourth free of the half as Conor O'Keeffe lobbed the ball high in to the goal-mouth where it landed in the back of the Lisdowney net. The pressure was on, 1-8 to 1-7 as Danesfort came with a final bid for victory but Lisdowney keeper Cathal Power stood firm and his side held on for a narrow but deserving victory .

**TEAM:** Lisdowney: Cathal Power, Luke Campion, Laurence Campion, Jack McGree, Conor Tallis, James Phelan, Gary O'Sullivan (0-1), David O'Carroll (0-3 frees), Marty McEvoy, Niall Brennan (1-4, 0-1 free), Eimear Walsh, Aidan Tallis, Mark Fitzpatrick and Eoin Delaney.  
Subs: Sean Keyes, Shane Grace, Dean Brophy, Michael McInerney, Hugh Mur-



TULLAROAN - ROIINN "D" CHAMPIONS 2012

phy, Eddie Cahill, Rory Kenny, Mairead Kennedy, Holly Moore, Claire O'Carroll, Emma McEvoy, Aoibheann Murphy, Laura O'Sullivan, Jack Crosby, Jake D'arcy, Lee McCann, Ross McCann Danesfort: Joe Cowhig, Brian McDonald, Conor Condon, Peter Donohoe, Michael O'Shaughnessy (Capt.), Conor McGree, Colin McKenna, Darragh Roberts, Sean Comerford, Aidan McGree (0-1), Darragh O'Neill (0-3), Jim Ryan, Evan McDonald, Conor O'Keefe (1-3 frees), Thomas Leahy. Subs: Adam Byrne, Alex Duggan, Conor Farrell, Conor Whitty, Peter O'Brien, Kevin McGrath, Liam O'Sullivan, Eoin Carroll, Matthew Moore, John Canny, Darragh Hackett, Liam O'Reilly.

Referee: Podge Butler

### Educational Supplies Riinn D Final Tullaroan 4-9 Galmoy 1-7

The Allianz Cumann na mBunscol hurling finals got off to a flying start in John's Park on Saturday when Tullaroan and Galmoy

met in the Educational Supplies Riinn D final. Galmoy began brightly and had a point on the board within two minutes when Conor Drennan's goal bound shot was deflected over the bar by the Tullaroan defence. Galmoy with the strong breeze assisting them had the better of things in the opening minutes but Tullaroan were soon on terms thanks to a free from Joey Walsh. Tommy Walton edged Tullaroan in front in the sixth minute with a point. Straight from the puck out Conor Drennan landed a fine point for Galmoy from midfield to level the score. Galmoy went a point in front in the eighth minute again thanks to Conor Drennan.Tullaroan were gradually getting to grips with their opponents and in the eleventh minute they scored their first goal when Bobby Cummins finished to the net after Galmoy keeper David Sherman had made a point blank save. Tullaroan were now rampant and within two minutes Bobby Cummins added another goal. Adam Tallis added a point and when a '65 from Joey Walsh ended up in the net it looked ominous for Galmoy. Tommy Walton added a point to stretch Tullaroan's lead but Galmoy came

storming back and Conor Drennan pointed a difficult free from close to the sideline to lift the siege. Within a minute Conor Drennan soloed from midfield and buried the sliotar in the Tullaroan net. Conor followed up with a super point from the middle of the field and Galmoy were right back in the game. Tullaroan replied with a point from a free from Bobby Cummins but it was that man Conor Drennan again who had the final score of the first half with another fine long range effort.

Half time score: Tullaroan 3-4 Galmoy 1-6

As the second half got underway the breeze began to strengthen and Tullaroan went on the offensive but they were guilty of wayward shooting as chance after chance went wide. However their superior stickwork and slick passing was beginning to tell and Tommy Walton pointed after a neat pass from a quickly taken free from Joey Walsh. Bobby Cummins found the net in the eighth minute and Galmoy were now forced to defend with all their might. Galmoy stuck resolutely to their task and Conor Drennan pointed a free midway through the second half. Tullaroan were not going to be denied and three points from Bobby Cummins saw them well in control as the match entered the final minutes. Galmoy made one final assault on the Tullaroan goal but Simon Lanigan made a fine save to deny them.

In the end the honours deservedly went to Tullaroan and they ran out convincing winners 4-9 to 1-7. Galmoy can be proud of their efforts and every one of their players tried their utmost. Conor Drennan and Billy Drennan were outstanding for Galmoy while Bobby Cummins, Tommy Walton and Joey Walsh were the pick of a fine Tullaroan squad.

**Tullaroan:** Simon Lanigan, Joey Walsh, Richard Cash, Noel Breen, Tomas

Dunne, Bobby Cummins, Joe Coughlan, Adam Tallis (Capt.), Tommy Walton, Roisin Treacy, Eimear Lanigan. Subs: Aine Lanigan, Jack Keogh, Caoimhe Holland, David Fitzgerald, Brendan Walsh. Galmoy: David Sherman, Maeve Duggan, Clodagh Sherman, Ryan Murphy, (Capt.) Eimear Kelly, Conor Drennan, Billy Drennan, Patrick Doyle, Odhran Moloney, Padraig Glendon, Jack Hanrahan. Subs: Daniel Hanrahan, Jay Maguire, Matt Delaney, Katie Bergin, Aoife Hynes, Aoibheann Duggan, Kelly-Ann Ryan, Katie Ryan, Calum Lonergan Referee: Maurice Flynn (Mooncoin)

### Top Oil Tommy O'Brien Cup Final Lisdowney 2-3 Graigue/Skeough 0-6

The Allianz Cumann na mBunscol finals continued in St. John's Park with a repeat of the 2011 Top Oil Tommy O'Brien cup final pairings of Lisdowney and Graigue-namanagh/Skeoughvosteen. Lisdowney again came out on top but only after a tense struggle against a determined Graigue/Skeough outfit. Despite the lowest score of the day this was by far the best game of the three finals as both sides gave a wonderful display of blocking and hooking and the outcome was in doubt right up to the final whistle. Lisdowney began with the breeze assisting them but their goalie Cathal Power had to come to the rescue as early as the first minute as Graigue/Skeough came looking for the opening score. Niall Brennan showed great skill to get Lisdowney off the mark in the third minute with a fine point from an acute angle.. The sides were level within a minute when Richard Foley pointed a difficult free from near the sideline. David O'Carroll edged Lisdowney in front in the fifth minute with a fine point from mid field. Lisdowney's pressure earned them a '65 and David O'Carroll's shot was deflected into

the net to give them a timely boost. Richard Foley immediately replied for Graigue/Skeough with a pointed free. The Graigue/Skeough boys were now exerting heavy pressure on the Lisdowney goal but could not turn this into scores. Niall Brennan and Shane Byrne were having a great tussle with both boys showing great skill. Richard Foley who was having a great game for Graigue/Skeough again pointed a free to close the gap. Lisdowney were on top for the remainder of the first half and Stevie Dunne hit the post but they could not add to their tally before the half time whistle sounded. Their lead of 1-2 to 0-3 looked slender enough and one wondered if it would be sufficient.

On the restart the Graigue/skeough boys went on the attack and Richard Foley pointed a free after he was fouled. There was now just a point separating the teams and the game was finely balanced. Both sides threw everything they had in an attempt to win but thanks to good defending from both sides there was no further score for the next eleven minutes. Midway through the half David O'Carroll pointed a free to put Lisdowney two points in front. Back came Graigue/Skeough and Richard Foley again took on the Lisdowney defence and was fouled. Joe Dowling elected to shoot for a goal but his shot was saved. Richard Foley pointed a free to reduce the lead to a single point again. Lisdowney went on the attack and Niall Brennan gathered the sliotar and sent in a long delivery which was flicked to the net by Eoin Delaney. Graigue/Skeough switched centre back Shane Byrne into attack in a last valiant attempt to find a winner but Lisdowney held out and ran out narrow but deserving winners. Both sides must be complimented on a fine game full of intensity, effort and honesty.

**Lisdowney:** Cathal Power, Luke Campanion, Laurence Campion, Jack McGree,



*Eimear Walsh, Mark Fitzpatrick, Ben Tallis, Conor Tallis, David O'Carroll (Capt.), Marty McEvoy, Niall Brennan, Aidan Tallis, Eoin Delaney, Chloe Mullins, Stevie Dunne. Subs: Eoin Kenny, Sean Keyes, Shane Grace, Dean Brophy, Michael McInerney, Hugh Murphy, Eddie Cahill, Rory Kenny, Mairead Kennedy, Holly Moore, Claire O'Carroll, Emma McEvoy, Aoibheann Murphy, Laura O'Sullivan, Jack Crosby, Jake D'Arcy, Lee McCann, Ross McCann.*

*Graiguenamanagh/Skeoughvosteen: Aaron Foley (capt.), Danny Sheehy, Sean Walsh, Killian Phelan, Sean Cosgrave, Shane Byrne, Eoin Cullen, Joe Dowling, Richard Foley, Sean Holden, Ian Foley, Jason Byrne, Keelan O'Grady, Ben Savage, Steven Cahill. Subs: Sean Fogarty, Oisin Aylward, Sean Dempsey, Paddy Heffernan, Thomas Doherty, John Cahill, Eoghan Byrne.*

*Referee: Maurice Flynn (Mooncoin)*

### Toymaster Corn De Bhalraithe Final Thomastown 5-12 Ballyhale 0-6

The third game of the day in the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol finals saw last year's champions Ballyhale take on their neighbours Thomastown in the Toymaster Corn De Bhalraithe final. Thomastown were favourites coming in to this game as they have enjoyed an unbeaten season and had captured the Roinn A football title earlier on this year. Thomastown set about their task right from the start and when Jack Holden found the net in the second minute Ballyhale were always on the back foot. Two more points from Steven Donnelly and Rory Monks put Thomastown in the driving seat and they never let their younger opponents get any sort of grip on the game. Ballyhale had their first score from Eoin Walsh in the seventh minute and Eoin Cody added a second in the eleventh minute. For the remainder of the first half Thomastown dictated the game and Steven Donnelly pointed a free in the

nineteenth minute. Thomastown scored their second goal in the twenty third minute when David Barron flicked the sliotar to the net. Jack Holden converted a '65 to leave Thomastown with a good lead at the break. Half time score: Thomastown 2-4 Ballyhale 0-2.

Thomastown began the second half brightly and Steven Donnelly pointed a free in the second minute. Ballyhale refused to lie down and Eoin Cody landed a superb point from close to the sideline. Thomastown continued to press for scores and Ballyhale goalie Stephen Barron made a double save to deny them. Stephen Wemyss found the net for Thomastown midway through the half and Colm Whelan and Rory Monks followed up with goals to put the game beyond doubt. Ballyhale kept battling right to the end and Eoin Walsh and Eoin Cody pointed but there was no denying Thomastown's superiority and they ran out convincing winners in the end.

*Thomastown: Diarmuid Galway, Michael Murphy, Brian Staunton, David Walsh, Eddie Donnelly, Ned Kirwin (Capt.), David Griffin, Steven Donnelly, Joseph Conlon, Rory Monks, Colm Whelan, Jack Holden, Jack Barcoe, David Barron, Stephen Wemyss,  
Subs: Conor Kearney, Ben Challoner, Shane Maher, Conor McDermott, Robbie Nagle, Philip Somers, Thomas Collier, Cian McCormack, Jack Cahill, James Delahunt, Conor O'Donoghue, Liam Mooney, Jack Kerins.*

*Ballyhale: Stephen Barron, Cian Cullen, Dean Mason, James Reid, Casey Corcoran, Patrick Hearne, John Shortall, Eoin Walsh, Eoin Kenneally (Capt.), Conor Doyle, Darragh Corcoran, Jason Devereux, Billy Moran, Eoin Cody, Christopher Coady.  
Subs: Brandon Ryan, Edmond Fitzpatrick, Tom O'Dwyer, Ben O'Keefe, Finnian Shefflin, Sean Reade, Dara Mason, Larry Cody.*

*Referee: Sean Cleere (O'Loughlin Gaels)*

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# WIT GAA CLUB



KILKENNY GIRLS ON THE WIT ASHBOURNE CUP WINNING TEAM

Back row (L-R): Marie Dargan, Claire Alyward, Michelle Quilty, Collette Dormer, Denise Gaule, Ruth Jones, Jane Cullen, Ann-Marie Lennon.  
Front Row (L-R): Shelly Farrell, Emma Comerford, Katie Power, Aine Doran, Loraine Cass.



**Katie Power**

It is now 30 years since the Waterford Institute of Technology GAA club was founded. Since its inception WIT's GAA club has gone from strength to strength. In 1981 it consisted of one Hurling team playing in Division 3. Today it has eighteen teams competing in over thirty competitions each year in the third level education sector.

Today our hurling, men's football, ladies football and Camogie teams all compete at the top levels of their respective competitions and have tasted great success down through the years. The club has always strived to provide as many games for as many students as possible, involving the maximum number of students. This policy has been so successful that teams from WIT have won a total of 93 titles, including: Division 1 Hurling titles, Fitzgibbon cup trophies, Fresher 1 and Fresher 2 All-Irelands, Ashbourne Cup, Purcell Cups, Division 1 Leagues and numerous Men's and Ladies Football titles. In fact since its foundation the club has won at least one major title every year. Recent successes include winning the Fitzgibbon cup in 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2008, the Ashbourne cup in 2001, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and winning the Giles Cup in 2011. This has made WIT one of the most successful third level clubs of the past decade.

Waterford Institute of Technology's GAA Club is now amongst the largest and most successful in the third level sector. It has over 800 active members and continues to grow. It has been a role model for many colleges and without doubt will continue to show leadership in the third level sector. The club intends to continue its proud tradition and to remain one of the country's leading GAA clubs in the third level sector.



**Marie Dargan**

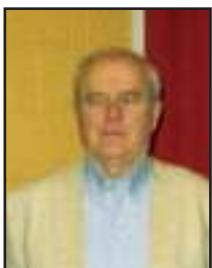


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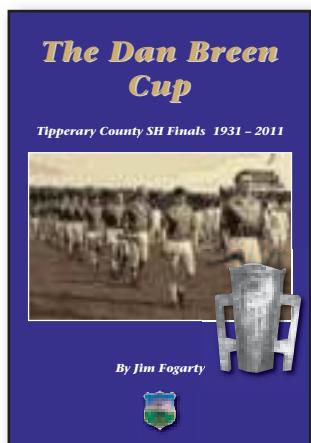
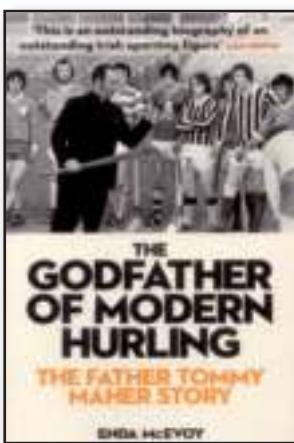
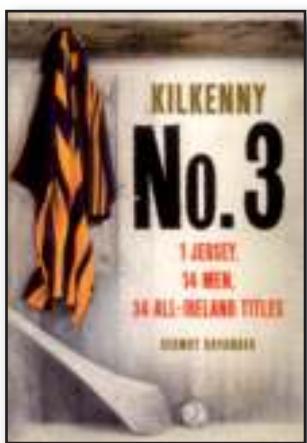
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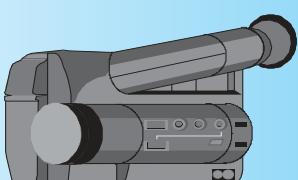
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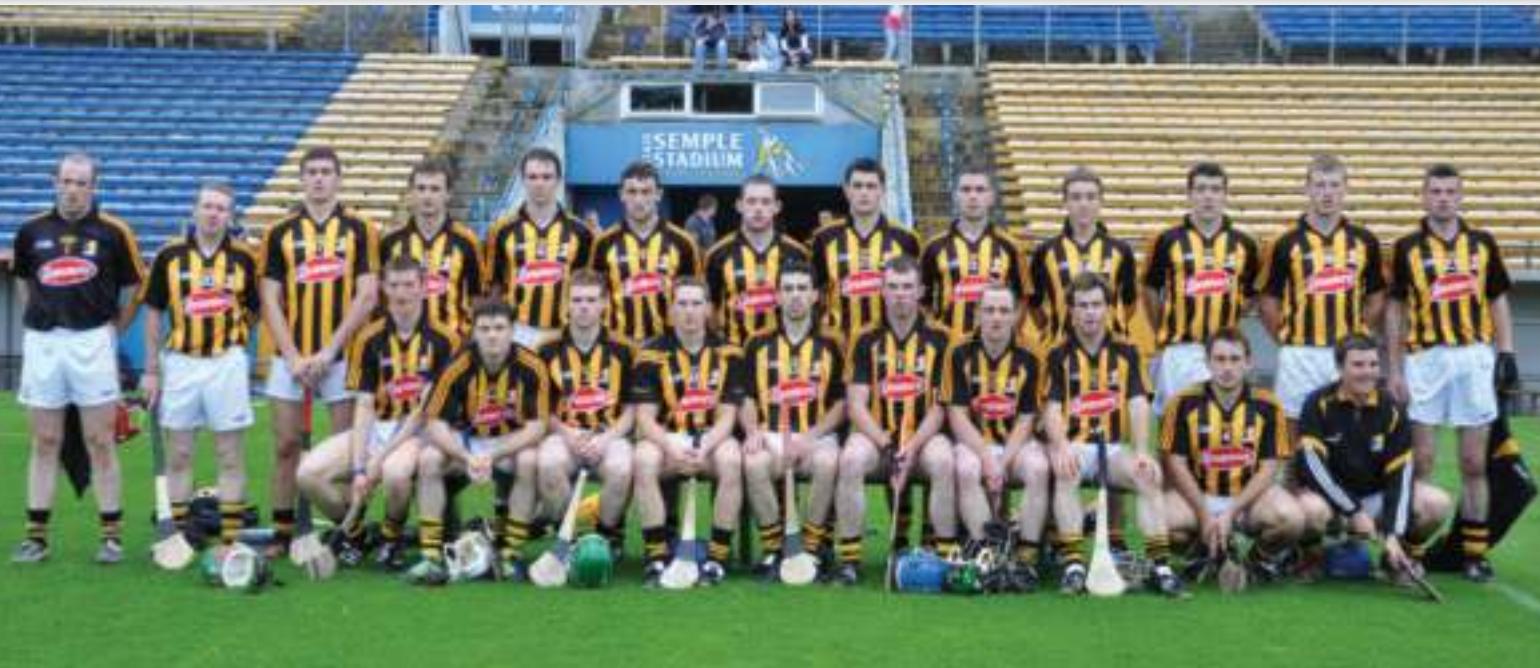
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# DOUBLE BY-PASS FOR THE INTERMEDIATES

All Ireland IH Championship Report by Noel Keane



Kilkenny - All Ireland IH Finalists 2012

Back: Richie O Neill, Niall Doherty, Pat Hartley, Kevin Kelly, Bill Beckett, Luke Harney, Ger Alyward, Geoff Brennan, Paul Murphy, Bill Staunton, Padraig Phelan, Michael Malone, Niall Kennedy.

Front: Joe Lyng, John Joe Farrell, Alan Walsh, Niall Walsh, Robbie Walsh, Rory Hickey, Mark Phelan, Brian Kennedy, Jason Corcoran, James Meagher

The All Ireland Intermediate Hurling Championship 2012 was another exciting affair. After the disappointing defeat of losing to Clare in last year's final, Kilkenny were out to atone for that loss. After the legacy created by Pat Hoban, it would be a major incentive for new manager Pat O'Grady and his backroom team to bring back the Michael Cusack Cup in their first year in charge. The intermediate panel successfully defended their Leinster title by defeating Wexford, then beating Galway in the semi finals before making a gallant effort only to fall short against a formidable Tipperary team. Some individual players did their inter-county ambitions a power of good which was translated onto the U-21 and senior teams during 2012 none more so than in the guise of Walter Walsh. This provides hope for the future of Kilkenny hurling. Kilkenny's first game would be against the Slaneysiders in the Leinster final in Wexford Park on June 27th.

Pat O'Grady's side made a strong start; they rallied from an early scare and then clicked into gear as they accelerated away from their rivals. It was a solid display, with a strong defence merging well with sharp-shooting forwards.

The power of the six attackers really shone through at the start of the second half, as two lightning goals in quick succession left the Cats with one hand on the trophy.

Captain Robbie Walsh grabbed the first, with Lisdowney's Rory Hickey adding the second from close range to leave the Noresiders handsomely ahead with little over 20 minutes to play (3-13 to 1-9).

Exchanges were a little closer at the beginning of the game, but the winners were still sharp from the off. Opening points from Niall Walsh, Paul Murphy and Walter Walsh meant Kilkenny were swiftly out of the blocks, but a Podge Doran goal gave the Wexford crowd reason to cheer. Kilkenny's response was swift, Walter Walsh flicking a booming Pat Hartley free past goalkeeper Noel Carton.

Kilkenny pressed on after that, adding a flurry of points through Rory Hickey, Cathal Kenny, Walter Walsh and Paul Murphy. Tommy Dwyer led the Wexford charge but they were left chasing shadows as the Cats speedily worked the sliotar around the field

to create scoring chances. Wexford did rattle off some points in the closing stages, Doran grabbing the last of those, but they trailed by four at the break (1-12 to 1-8).

That early brace of second half goals killed off Wexford's hopes. Kilkenny were becoming somewhat lethargic, but continued to pop over points to stay that bit further in front. Wexford had closed the gap to eight by the three-quarters stage, but Rory Hickey, Ger Alyward and Niall Walsh saw them move back into double figures. Tommy Dwyer did swell the Wexford tally when he booted the sliotar to the net in the closing stages, but it couldn't prevent Kilkenny from securing their fifth Leinster intermediate title in a row.

Kilkenny had to endure a seven week break before playing Galway in the All Ireland semi-final in Tullamore on August 18th. Maestro Rory Hickey put in a five star performance with free taking by over 13 placed balls as the Cats convincingly marched on to a final appearance against Tipperary.

Precious little had separated them during the opening 30 minutes where they were deadlocked on four occasions, including at the interval, 0-10 to 1-7.

Former senior star Niall Healy and his 1-8 contribution would have caught the eye of senior boss Anthony Cunningham. But the remaining Galway forward threat was snuffed out by the unwavering defending of Kilkenny with Brian Kennedy, Mark Phelan and Alan Walsh being exceptional.

Kilkenny introduced Michael Malone and Luke Harney and the subs made a big impact. Malone's 47th minute point that made it 0-17 to 1-10 marked the beginning of the Cats' surge for the finishing line.

Two Healy points gave Galway a glimmer of hope. However over the final five minutes dominant Kilkenny with scores from JJ Farrell, Hickey (2 frees) and Paul Murphy sealed their fate. Full time Kilkenny 0-21 Galway 1-13.

With an All Ireland place now firmly secured, the cats were pitted



Pat O'Grady Kilkenny Manager



Rory Hickey (Thomastown) handpasses the sliotar away, as Ronan Sherlock (Tipperary) closes in during the Intermediate Hurling All-Ireland Final in Semple Stadium. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Ger Aylward (Thomastown) is met by Kieran Morris (Tipperary) during the Intermediate Hurling All-Ireland Final in Semple Stadium. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

*Geoff Brennan (St. Patricks), Cathal Kenny (Barrow Rangers), Niall Kennedy (Blacks & Whites), Bill Staunton (St. Patricks), Martin Phelan (Lisdowney), Nicky Cleere (Bennettsbridge), Peter Cleere (Blacks & Whites), John Cody (Glenmore), Keith Nolan (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Brian Cahill (Cloneen), Noel Doherty (Galmoy), Ian Duggan (Mullinavat)*

*Manager: Pat O'Grady.*

*Trainer: Pat O'Neill.*

*Selectors: P.J. Kenny, Tom Murphy.*

against their old foes Tipperary in Semple Stadium on 1st September.

It was Kilkenny who started brightly and led by 0-4 to 0-2 with nine minutes on the clock. But they didn't score again for the next 13 minutes while their opponents established the lead which was to win the game. Michael Heffernan registered Tipperary's first goal in the ninth minute followed by David Butler nine minutes later by which stage the wind-assisted Premier were in complete control. Their third followed in the 25th minute, finished by Kieran Morris. This potent full forward line thrived on a regular supply of ball and all three had registered 1-2 each by half time.

Kilkenny did have a couple of chances in first half stoppage time but Ger Aylward and Rory Hickey were kept out by the resolute James Logue. The score board at the interval read Tipperary 3-9 Kilkenny 0-6.

But Kilkenny to their credit won the second half by 1-11 to 0-4, scoring 1-7 without reply and reducing the deficit to a single point with nine minutes left on the clock. James was Tipp's hero by making some fine saves including a penalty by was beaten when Kilkenny substitute Geoff Brennan's long range delivery went all the way to the Tipperary net in the 42nd minute. This goal gave the black and amber real hope as they went close to a great comeback.

However the Cats had left themselves too much to do and Tipp ran out victorious on a score of 3-13 to 1-17. Bear in mind that this was Kilkenny's second successive final defeat it should be mentioned that Tipperary, with home advantage, started with thirteen senior club players while Kilkenny picked from junior and intermediate clubs only.

Sincere thanks to the management and the players for their dedication throughout the year and let us hope their continuous hard work will bear fruition next year with the Michael Cusack firmly in their grasp in 2013.

The full Kilkenny Hurling Intermediate panel was as follows:

*Richie O'Neill (Kilmacow), Mark Phelan (Glenmore) Alan Walsh (Mooncoin), Jason Corcoran (John Lockes), Brian Kennedy (St. Lachtains), Bill Beckett (St. Lachtains) Luke Harney (Kilmacow), Joe Lyng (Rower Inistioge), Paul Murphy (Blacks & Whites), Niall Walsh (Slieverue), Rory Hickey (Lisdowney), Kevin Kelly (St. Patricks), Robbie Walsh-Capt. (Danesfort), John Joe Farrell (Thomastown), Ger Aylward (Glenmore), James Maher (St. Lachtains), Pat Hartley (Tullogher Rosbercon), Michael Malone (Mullinavat), Padraig Phelan (Emeralds), Niall Doherty (Galmoy),*

# EXHILARATING JOURNEY HALTED AT THE LAST STOP

## All Ireland U21H Championship Report by Jimmy Walsh

Planning for the under twenty one campaign to regain the Cross of Cashel Cup commenced in early November with the County Board's appointment of Richie Mulrooney as the side's new manager with Adrian Finan and Brian Ryan as his selectors. Their aim was to build a team to bridge the gap to the last national title in 2008. To do so, a home game against Wexford, who recorded a last-minute victory in Wexford Park in 2011, was to be the first serious hurdle. As in recent years, the U21's, under the new management team, backboned the county's Senior Development Squad in the Walsh Cup when they played NUI of Galway in the first round in Freshford. Starting with newly promoted senior squad members Cillian Buckley and William Phelan, the team took the lead for the first time seven minutes from the end as they recorded a narrow 0-13 to 0-12 win. Amongst the NUI players, who made his mark on the score-sheet and who would become a familiar opponent later in the year, was Galway's Niall Burke. A week later in Castlecomer the side which had been further strengthened by members of the Kilkenny Teachers team played Westmeath in the semi-final. Kilkenny led comfortably early on before a Westmeath rally was counteracted. On the day, John Power again topped the scoring list as the local side ran out 1-23 to 1-16 winners. Their achievement marked the end of the development squad's efforts as the full senior panel travelled to Salthill for the final. Here they recorded a fine 2-20 to 1-14 win over Galway to collect their eighteenth Walsh Cup.

### **Building a squad**

In the ongoing preparation of the squad, a series of challenge/trial games took place against Tipperary in Gortnahoe, and in Ballylagget against Waterford, and also against four of the senior clubs in the county. Of the competing counties, Galway, the dominant minor team of 2009, appeared the main threat. However, locally the word was out that a firm marker had been set by Clare in the game in Templeouhy for all teams seeking the ultimate championship prize. As the season developed, the squad's progress was paralleled with the ongoing involvement of many of the players with both intermediate and senior county sides.

### **Wexford visit Nowlan Park for first round**

In Kilkenny's opening Bord Gais championship tie they faced a Wexford side in Nowlan Park that was fresh from a win over Offaly and looking for a third Leinster final appearance in a row. Somewhat

wary of the opposition after their experience in Wexford Park a year earlier, a slow and worrying start saw the home side 1-4 to 0-1 behind after just ten minutes. However, with Richie Doyle and Padraig Walsh now showing their experience from their presence on the senior panel, the side took over the game to win comfortably. The amazing turn around was started by man-of-the-match Walter Walsh with Kevin Kelly, John Power, Ger Aylward and Martin Gaffney leading a fluent scoring attack. The latter stages saw Wexford finish with two goals in a late rally that left the scoreboard reading 3-20 to 4-6 in Kilkenny's favour at the final whistle.

### **Laois make rare appearance in Leinster Final**

The result set Kilkenny up for a unique final with a Laois side that had to battle all the way to overcome a stiff Carlow challenge in the other semi-final. For this game Kilkenny conceded home advantage and travelled to O'Moore Park, Portlaoise for the home side's first final since their title winning appearance in 1983. On a damp evening the game attracted a huge following as early arrivals were able to browse through a scene-setting full colour match programme that filled in the gaps of the sides' progress since they last met at final level twenty two years earlier. In the game Kilkenny took the initiative from the throw in and, with the start Laois would have required, led 1-4 to no score within four minutes. After John Power became the sixth Kilkenny forward to score when he added the sides second goal after fifteen minutes, his side went on to lead 3-14 to 0-6 at the break. On the restart, Laois who had surprised many pundits by beating the Provincial title holders Dublin in the quarter-final by 2-15 to 0-17, were more competitive and there was little separating both sides' second half tally. In this half, both goalkeepers—Kilkenny's Dylan Walsh and Eoin Fleming the Laois net minder—were called upon to make excellent saves as both sides gave their full substitutes list a run. The win saw Kilkenny collect take their first Leinster title in three years on a 4-24 to 1-13 scoreline.

### **Senior final preview against Galway in Semi Final**

In the semi-final Kilkenny faced a favored Galway side now trained by senior helmsman Anthony Cunningham. With five senior players in their ranks and another dozen in the senior panel the sides met in Thurles just two weeks before both counties' All Ireland senior final clash in Croke Park. After a flying start to the game, Galway led by 0-6 to 0-3 at an early stage. Approaching the quarter way



Kilkenny - All Ireland U21 Finalists 2012

Back: James Cassin, Luke Harney, Richie Doyle, Cillian Buckley, Owen McGrath, Richie Reid, Ian Duggan, Cathal Kenny, Pat Carroll, Ger Aylward, Dylan Walsh, Willie Phelan, Martin Gaffney, Walter Walsh  
Front: James Gannon, Michael Brennan, Padraig Walsh, John Power, Geoff Brennan, Kevin Kelly, Brian Kennedy, Jason Corcoran, Paul Buggy, Ollie Walsh, Joe Lyng



**Padraig Walsh (Kilkenny) goes to strike the sliotar with Lee Chin (Wexford) closing in during the under-21 Leinster Semi-Final clash in Nowlan Park.**  
**(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)**

stage, the old adage of goals winning games proved crucial as Kilkenny hit three, to lead by 3-9 to 0-11. Their arrival after confident classy spells of play from Ollie Walsh, John Power and Ger Aylward gave Kilkenny a well earned breathing zone at the break... On the restart John Powers's penalty strike extended the lead to ten points. Looking good for victory at the three quarter way stage, two Galway goals from Davy Glennon and Joseph Cooney that were followed by a series of points had the lead whittled down to three with just five minutes to go. However a strong belief and steady hand saw Kilkenny add four unanswered points to record a final place on the high scoring tally of Kilkenny 4-16 Galway 2-15

#### **Clare provide opposition in final under lights**

This result scheduled a return visit to Thurles for a Bord Gáis Energy All-Ireland U21 final clash against Clare in a game that was to be played under lights. In the interim the following week's games re-wrote hurling history books with the first All Ireland Senior final replay since 1959. As Kilkenny's dual players had unexpected new commitments Clare's preparations continued as the All Ireland minor champions of 2010 studied how their U21's collecting their first ever title in the grade with a win over Kilkenny in 2009. Buoyed by the last minute injury time goal win against Tipperary in the Munster final that helped erase the memories of the disappointment of 2008, the Clare side, having appeared in four of the past five provincial finals, had the added experience of eight senior players on board. With Kilkenny having disposed of championship favorites Galway, and Clare having easily accounting for Antrim, the scene was set as almost ten thousand people attended to view the game

Against the wind the Kilkenny opened with a Kevin Kelly pointed free but, facing a combination of speed and top class touches, found themselves 1-5 to 0-2 behind when Cathal O'Connell goaled after just seven minutes. Into the second quarter after Kilkenny found their touch the score was reduced in points to three with as many minutes left in the half. With time running out the regularly high-scoring forwards struck a rich vein when John Power, having been fouled, goaled the resultant penalty while Ger Aylward struck another in injury time to elate home fans with an unexpected 2-7 to 1-7 half time lead.



**Luke Harney (Kilkenny) handpasses the sliotar clear as Peter Duggan (Clare) closes in during the under-21 All-Ireland Hurling Final in Semple Stadium.**  
**(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)**

However the Clare hunger was re-ignited after the visit to the dressing rooms and they were a point up (1-11 to 2-7) after eight minutes. Kilkenny had to wait twelve minutes of the new half for their first score, while Clare's hunger, pace and excellent skill factor had delivered seven in total. With Clare 2-14 to 2-8 ahead, a Kilkenny revival was briefly threatened before a goal chance was cleared. From there to the end both sides tacked on three points apiece as Clare finished stronger to take the title on a 2-17 to 2-11 scoreline.

#### **Kilkenny Squad**

*The Kilkenny All Ireland Final Panel was Dylan Walsh, Thomas-town, Jason Corcoran, John Lockes, Willie Phelan, Dunnamaggin, Brian Kennedy, St. Lachtain's, Luke Harney, Kilmacow, Richie Doyle, Barrow Rangers, Joe Lyng, Rower Inistioge, Geoff Brennan, St. Patrick's, Ollie Walsh, Dicksboro, Kevin Kelly (Capt.), St. Patrick's, Padraig Walsh, Tullaroan, Cillian Buckley, Dicksboro, Walter Walsh, Tullougher Rosbercon, John Power, Carrickshock, Ger Aylward, Glenmore, Substitutes: Richie Reid, Ballyhale Shamrocks, Owen McGrath, John Lockes, Cathal Kenny, Barrow Rangers, Ian Duggan, Mullinavat, Martin Gaffney, Dicksboro, Paul Buggy, Tullaroan, James Cassin, Rower Inistioge, Michael Brennan, St. Patrick's, James Gannon, St. Patrick's, Extended Panel Members: Pat O'Carroll, Lisdowney, Conor Martin, Emeralds, Sean Phelan, Lisdowney, Stephen Staunton, St. Patrick's, Conor Tobin, Fenians, Johnny Hayes, Kilmacow, David Glynn, Dicksboro, Paddy Butler, O'Loughlin Gaels, Danny Kenny, Dicksboro, Canice Maher, St. Martins, Sean Kehoe, Young Irelands, Robert Lennon, Bennettsbridge.*

#### **Looking ahead**

Having travelled an exhilarating journey that was halted at the last stop by an exceptional Clare team performance, Richie Mulrooney's team surpassed many supporters early season expectations. Having laid a solid platform for 2013, its additional achievement was the individual players input to the senior sides campaign that eventually captured Kilkenny's thirty fourth All Ireland Senior title after the replay.

# AN ALL-TOO-SHORT-SEASON

**ESB All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship 2012**  
**By Conor Brennan**

The Kilkenny minor hurlers experienced a disappointing and without doubt, an all too short season in their quest to achieve honours for 2012 as they came unstuck in their only championship game of the year. Effort, honesty and determination were in full supply throughout the panel assembled by team manager Adrian Ronan and his backroom team of Br. Damien Brennan, Barry Power, Thomas Mullally and Niall Lacey. But good fortune, together with an ability to combine all the elements to succeed on the big day, eluded the Kilkenny men when they lined up to face the challenge of an ambitious Dublin side in the opening round of the Leinster Minor hurling championship.

The two sides met on a wet and windy evening as the curtain raiser to their senior counterparts in O'Moore Park, Portlaoise on June 23rd. Reports were that preparations had gone very well for Kilkenny, and players and management were optimistic of gaining revenge on the Metropolitans, who defeated Kilkenny in last year's Leinster Final. But when it came to the crunch, Dublin's more physical stature and robust style of play was far more suited to the softer conditions. That said, Kilkenny did have their moments during the game, particular in the second half when only two points separated the sides. But the fact that free-taker Conor Martin was the only Kilkenny player to raise a flag in the opening half tells its own story about the overall Kilkenny performance.

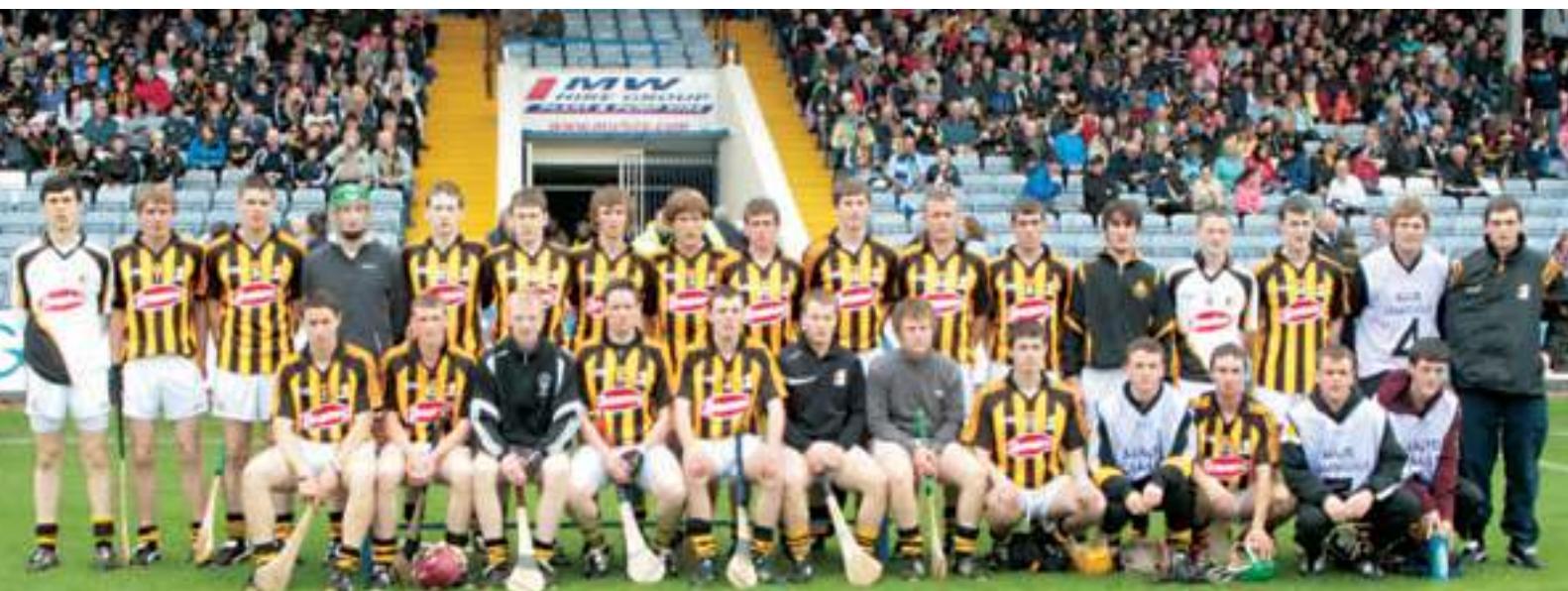
Dublin led by 1-5 to 0-4 at the half-time break, their goal coming from corner-forward Paul Winters after Kilkenny had started brightly, scoring the opening three points of the game, all from Conor Martin, without a Dublin reply. Indeed, the same player could have managed more than that had he goaled an early Kilkenny penalty following a foul on corner-forward Shane Donnelly. But his shot was diverted for a 65 which he subsequently pointed. But the Dublin goal which later followed saw a major shift



Robbie Fitzpatrick (Kilkenny) tries to hold back Oisin O'Rorke (Dublin) during the Leinster Minor Hurling Semi-Final in Portlaoise. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

'in the game's momentum, allowing Dublin to hold that four point lead at the interval. But even still, Kilkenny should have been entitled to feel confident with the breeze at their backs going into the second half.

As stated earlier, that confidence looked justified at the deficit was



Michael Rowe

## KILKENNY MH TEAM 2012 - LEINSTER MINOR HURLING SEMI-FINAL IN PORTLAOISE

Back: Darragh Holohan, James Maher, Kevin Walsh, Diarmuid Cody, Jack McGrath, Cormac Wafer, Kevin Kenny, Jack McDowell, Shane Donnelly, Barry Whelan, Mark Mansfield, Michael Donnelly, Conor Martin, John Walsh, Eoin Bergin, James Doyle, Nollaig Brophy.  
Front: Ciarán Doyle, Ciarán Ryan, Enda Morrissey (capt), Chris Bolger, Robbie Fitzpatrick, Willie Brennan, Eoin Moriarty, Robert Moran, Darragh Egan, David Burke, Dean Shortall, Evan Cody.



Jack McDowell (Kilkenny) gets away from Cian Boland (Dublin) during the Leinster Minor Hurling Semi-Final in Portlaoise. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

reduced to two points early in the half thanks to a well-taken point from substitute David Bourke. Dublin were fortunate, however, to have a number of players like Cormac Costelloe and Sean McClelland who had vital experience already at this level. This meant that Dublin continued to be assured in their play while naivety and panic was consequently affecting the Kilkenny performance.

The final minutes of the game, while exciting until the end, were played out with the sense of foreboding for the Kilkenny men. As one would expect, there was effort and persistence in abundance, but calmness and assuredness were sadly lacking in the face of adversity. Dublin were able to hold the Kilkenny charge at bay, advancing on a 1-10 to 0-9 score line.

The key message that Kilkenny's minor vintage of 2012 must now bring forward into the future is that they should continue to take the positive aspects of what would be initially perceived as a disappointing season and make them a basis for developing into being the best hurlers they can possibly be for both club and ultimately the county also.

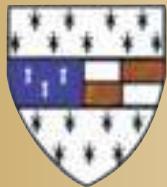
The full Kilkenny panel used in the Dublin match was:

Darragh Holohan (Dicksboro), Ciaran Doyle (Barrow Rangers), Jack McDowell (John Lockes), Robbie Fitzpatrick (Dicksboro), Chris Bolger (Clara), Enda Morrissey (Bennettsbridge), James Maher (St. Lachtain's), Michael Donnelly (Thomastown), Kevin Walsh (Piltown), Ciaran Ryan (Rower Inistioge), Diarmuid Cody (James Stephens), Conor Martin (Emeralds), Kevin Kenny (Dicksboro), Eoin Bergin (St. Patrick's), Shane Donnelly (St. Lachtain's), John Walsh (Mullinavat), Eoin Moriarty (Emeralds), Barry Whelan (Thomastown), Cormac Wafer (Bennettsbridge), Jack McGrath (James Stephens), Willie Brennan (Fenians), Robert Moran (Erins Own), David Bourke (O'Loughlin Gaels), Mark Mansfield (Mullinavat).

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# Every Club Should Experience This!

St Patrick's All Ireland Odyssey by Geraldine McGrath



ST PATRICK'S BALLYRAGGET - ALL IRELAND CLUB JH CHAMPIONS 2012

Back:- Sean Mooney, Eoin Bergin, Robbie Healy, Maurice Walshe, Paddy McEvoy, John Mooney, Bill Staunton, Enda Mooney, Seoirse Kenny, Geoff Morrissey, Kevin Kelly, Brian Mullhall, Jody Phelan, Conor Foley, Dermott Brophy, Steve Staunton, JJ O Sullivan, John Holland, Liam Lacey, James Gannon, Front:- James Morrissey, Brendan Dooley, Alan Ruth, Domhnall Brennan, Stephen Roberts, Brian "Brook" Phelan, Paddy Cahill, Kieran Delaney, Michael Gannon, Joe Brennan, Conor Delaney, Geoff Brennan, Michael Brennan, Conor Bolger, Mark Staunton.

Being a Kilkenny person we have all been more than lucky to have experienced the highs of All Ireland victories over the recent years. In following the Kilkenny County panel you know the names, the faces and what area of hurling they excel at. However, in following your club along the path of an All Ireland you are lucky enough to know each panel member as a friend, a neighbour, a family member. This adds to the enjoyment and indeed the stress of following the team. Following their Junior County Title win of October 2011, all in Ballyragget were on cloud nine, looking forward to taking part in the Kilkenny Intermediate campaign which we knew would be another level. However, one man that had been part of that victory was looking further - Maurice Aylward had his sights set on the next big day – February 11th 2012 and the AIB GAA All Ireland Junior Final, in Croke Park.

In the lead up to the All Ireland Final on February 11th 2012, no one could plan for any other day, it was all geared toward the match. The build-up in the schools, the other clubs in the parish and in the neighbouring parishes was immense. Indeed every day in the post saw a letter, or a card arrive from the other clubs in Kilkenny and from clubs in other counties who have had teams attend the Phelan Stone Tournament wishing the club all the best and good luck on its big day. Phone calls and emails were aplenty and this was appreciated. At training each and every night the crowds were growing. It was a social outlet for everyone, there was tea, soup sandwiches and sweet treats served in the clubhouse following training where all the analyses took place.

On the morning of the All Ireland Final, the weather at home was not good, the rain was pouring down, but those already in Dublin sent back word that the skies were clear at GAA HQ. To begin the trip to Croke Park, Canon Tommy

Murphy PP moved Saturday evening mass in Ballyouskill back to 12 noon to assist the parish members to meet their pastoral needs. The church in Ballyouskill was packed with the team, management, and supporters, it was one of those occasions that makes a special memory. Following Mass, it was quick, smart and to the Square to meet the bus, or into the car and head for Dublin.

On the drive up the M7 was littered with cars with GAA flags, both Maroon and White and Red and White as the Charleville supporters were travelling the same route. The fun and banter began from there with the cars all waving at one another. On arriving in Dublin it was one of those surreal moments to see a man standing on the street corner in Drumcondra shouting, "get your Ballyragget headbands". It seemed that the Hogan stand was the scene of a reunion as so many people had travelled home for the big match, from as far away as Australia.



St Pat's Captain Kieran Delaney lifts the All Ireland Cup

The match itself was a nail-biter. The two teams were very evenly matched, St. Patricks Ballyragget getting the first scores but Charleville quickly coming back to level the match, first at four points, and then at five. At half time hearts were racing, we all knew they could do it, they had sacrificed so much to dedicate their time to their preparation for this great day. However, it seemed that Charleville too had done the same and while the supporters for Ballyragget from all over the County of Kilkenny were there, Charleville had won that contest as their crowd was huge. However, the Bally roar had been clearly heard in the first half. As match referee Eamon Hasson of Derry threw the ball in to start the second half, we were all on tenter hooks. Once again Bal-

Ballyragget started off well but Charleville showed that they could burst through to level the game. It was then that Seorise Kenny surged forward to kick the sliotar into the back of the net with accuracy that Trapattoni's men would often envy. The roar was huge, the crowd really went wild, but then Charleville were back down the field to score a goal. This was going to the wire, hearts were pounding, nails been bitten, prayers being said. At full time we were all left counting down the moments and willing the team on and when the last beautiful shot sailed through the air off the hurl of Bill Staunton it seemed to soar in slow motion and thankfully over the bar it went. On the puck out the ref blew the whistle and as they say "the crowd went wild", tears were shed, hugs abounded, as everyone celebrated. Bill Staunton had opened the scoring and closed it. Kieran Delaney summed up the moment when lifting the cup he said "There is not a better place to be in the world right now".

Before the ball was thrown in for the Intermediate final, the Ballyragget crowd had left the stadium and the celebrations were taking place on the street outside as everyone got ready to make their way home. While we had been in Dublin, the club officials had arranged for a stage to be set up at the top of the square for the welcome home.

So back down the M7 we zoomed and as we got closer the excitement built as we kept in touch with the team bus to monitor their progress. The excitement on the bus could be clearly heard. Once again the excitement built on the square as we awaited the buses arrival, as people milled around, greeting each other, hugging. As the bus came up Bridge Street the crowd swelled to wave and welcome them. However, the bus did not stop there but drove all around the square before coming to a stop at the Cafe side of the square. As the team stepped off the bus, the supporters' hands were red from clapping, and throats raw from cheering, yet none of it was felt. On the stage, MC Pat O'Neill was calling on the speech makers of the night Canon Grant, Canon Murphy, Maurice Aylward, Philip Kenny, Kieran Delaney, all expressing the delight and bringing this honour to the town. On looking down the square



**Bill Staunton - got the opening and closing scores  
Eoin Hennessy**

it was amazing to see the crowd that had gathered there, people from all over were there to celebrate with us, as they had been there to support us throughout the campaign. As the speeches ended and Pat O'Neill lead the team in the Rose of Mooncoin everyone was happy to stay there for the night. It may have been February but no one felt the cold.

It is safe to say that Ballyragget had waited many years to win at Junior level and many had lived off the memories and stories of that period of time and that made sure that this time would be forever ingrained on the minds of every man, woman and child of the parish. It is true what a member of one club said every club should experience this – it truly is AMAZING!



**Some of the happy St Pat's supporters in the Square to greet the team**

# **Kilkenny Teachers win All Ireland Inter Firms Title**



**KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND INTER-FIRMS SH CHAMPIONS 2012**

Back: Dermot Ryan, Paul O Flynn (Dicksboro), Brian Kennedy (St Lachtains), Eamon Walsh (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Shane Prendergast (Clara), Joey Holden (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Keith Hogan (Clara), Conor Fogarty (Erins Own), Canice Hickey (Dunamaggan), Tom Ryan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Alan Curran (Mullinahone), Ger Flood (James Stephens), Adrian Finan

Front: Jason Corcoran (John Lockes), Eoin McCormack (James Stephens), Lester Ryan (Clara), Mark Aylward (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Liam Hennebry (Mooncoin), David McCormack (James Stephens), Nicky Kenny (Piltown), Alan Healy (Conahy Shamrocks), Peter Donovan (Erins Own), Martin Walsh (Tullaroan)

Absent from Photo: Michael Rice (Carrickshock), Mattew Ruth (James Stephens), Richie Ruth (Thurles Sarsfields), Seamus O Dwyer (Ballinakill), Niall Tyrell (James Stephens)

## **Kilkenny Teachers 2-19 Medtronic, Galway 1-11**

The Kilkenny second level school teachers were crowned All-Ireland Inter-Firms senior hurling champions for 2011-2012 following a comprehensive victory over reigning champions Medtronic, Galway in the final in Muckalee under lights on Saturday evening. The team produced their best performance of the campaign on the night and were fully deserving of the 11 point winning margin in the end.

Conor Fogarty opened the scoring with a wonderful point from play straight from the throw-in. This set the tone for the rest of the game and although the Galway side responded quickly with a pointed free by Keril Wade, it was the Kilkenny side that took control of the game early on. By the time Mark Aylward goaled in the 7th minute it was clear that Medtronic would have it all to do if they were to hold on to their All-Ireland title. To their credit they finished the 1st half well and only 5 points separated the teams at the break. The score at half time was 1-9 to 0-7 to the teachers with all of their scores coming from play including at least one score from each of the six forwards and both midfielders.

The second half began with a pointed free to each side and it looked as if we were in for an exciting closing half. Instead the teachers team went on a scoring spree of 8 unanswered points (7 from play), stretching their lead to 12 points with 10 minutes to go. To their credit Medtronic fought to the very end, outscoring the eventual winners by 1-3 to 1-1 in the closing 10 minutes, but the result was never in doubt.

Both teams deserve great credit for producing a thoroughly enjoyable game of hurling with some outstanding scores. This was a top class performance from the teachers team in particular though and one which makes them worthy All-Ireland Inter-Firms champions for the very first time.

Scorers: Mark Aylward 1-3, Lester Ryan 1-3 (1-1 frees), Paul O Flynn 0-3, David McCormack 0-3 (0-1 free), Conor Fogarty 0-2, Martin Walsh 0-2, Eoin McCormack 0-2, Alan Healy 0-1

**Teachers Team:** Tom Ryan (Graigue Ballycallan), Shane Prendergast (Clara), Canice Hickey (Dunamaggan), Peter Donovan (Erins Own), Ger Flood (James Stephens), Eamon Walsh (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Joey Holden (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Martin Walsh (Tullaroan), Lester Ryan (Clara), Paul O Flynn (Dicksboro), Conor Fogarty (Erins Own), David McCormack (James Stephens), Mark Aylward (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Eoin McCormack (James Stephens), Alan Healy (Conahy Shamrocks)

**Subs:** Nicky Kenny (Piltown), Keith Hogan (Clara), Liam Hennebry (Mooncoin), Brian Kennedy (St Lachtains), Alan Curran (Mullinahone), Jason Corcoran (John Lockes), Richie Ruth (Thurles Sarsfields), Mattew Ruth (James Stephens), Michael Rice (Carrickshock), Seamus O Dwyer (Ballinakill), Niall Tyrell (James Stephens)

## **Sponsors of Teachers Team**

The team comprised of teachers from Abbey Community School, Callan CBS, Kilkenny CBS, St Kieran's College, Kilkenny Vocational School, Castlecomer Community School, and Johnstown Vocational School, while each of these schools helped finance the team, a real reflection of the high regard in which teachers are held in Kilkenny was evident in the fact that many different groups were more than delighted to be associated with this group of players. Sponsorship of the team was also generously received from the ASTI locally and nationally, the Teachers Union of Ireland, and reflecting the contribution of teachers to the development of the game at all levels in the county a very generous contribution was received from the Kilkenny GAA supporters club.

The team and all involved would like to thank all who made this exciting and successful campaign a possibility.

# SQUADS 2012



Kilkenny - Tony Forristal Cup Winners 2012

Kilkenny Under 14's defeated Waterford in Walsh Park on Sunday 2nd September in the final of the Tony Forristal Tournament on a scoreline of 1-12 to 1-5.

Kilkenny qualified for the final by beating Limerick (0-10 to 1-6), Tipperary (2-5 to 0-3) and Galway (1-6 to 0-3). Well done to all involved with this win.  
Back: Terry Dreeling (St Fiacres), Liam Dunphy (Lisdowney), Tommy Walsh (Tullaroan), Matt Kenny (Clara), Mark Kearns (Mooncoin), Patrick Kennedy (James Stephens), Edward Moylan (Dicksboro), Evan Carroll (Dicksboro), Tom Whitty (Danesfort), Mark Drennan (Barrow Rangers), Chris Kavanagh (Dicksboro), Darren Mullen (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Donal Cass (Conahy Shamrocks), Hugh Corkery (Bennettsbridge),

Front: Edmond Moylan (Conahy Shamrocks), John Donnelly (Thomastown), Brian Kavanagh (Lisdowney), Sean Buggy (Erins Own), Paddy Nolan (St.Fiacres), Sean Bolger (O'Loughlins & Capt.), Shane Dawson (St.Lactains), James Bergin (Conahy Shamrocks), Joe Connolly (Clara), Cian Butler (Dicksboro).

Missing from photo James Mullally (Danesfort), injured.



South Kilkenny U15's at Ferns Tournament

Back: Luke O'Donovan, Peter Murphy, Dylan Caulfield, Cathal McGrath, Diarmuid O'Dwyer, Craig Butler, Shane Walsh, Luke Dowling, Eoin McKenna, Michael Cody, Conor O'Neill, Adam Mansfield, Shane Murphy.

Front: Ian Long, Conor Reid, Sean Carey, Patrick Walsh, Kevin Crowley, Joe O'Brien, Tarek O'Connor, Shane Byrne, James Power, Niall Walsh, Dean Croke, Ryan Bergin.



Kilkenny U16 Squad - Tipp Supporters Shield Finalists 2012

The Kilkenny U16 A team reached the shield final in the Tipperary supporters club tournament beating Wexford in their first game, going down to Cork in the second game and beating Tipperary in the semi final. They were ultimately beaten by Waterford in the Shield Final

Back: David Buggy, Corey Cahill, Dylan O'Shea, Kevin Mullen, Danney Bolger, Cian O' Meara, Conor Delaney, Alan Murphy, Darragh O' Shea, Maurice Costello, Mathew McWey, Peter Hennessy, Niall O' Gorman, Pat Nolan.

Front: Ollie Feehan, Conor Brown, David Jordan, Darren Brennan, Eoin Kenny, Liam Fennelly, Liam Blachfield, Sean Morrissey, Jason Cleere, John Walsh, Luke Scanlon, Ronan Corcoran, Ben Hickey.



Kilkenny U17 Team 2012

Back: G English, C Wallace, M O'Neill, A Burke, P Mullen, S Farrell, J Tyrell, N Mullins, E Brennan, S Rice, R Drennan, C Bolger and M Kenny.  
Front: D Mc Garry, P Deegan, J Grace, J.P. Treacy, C Fleming, C Breen, E Coady, C Bergin, S Kinsella, D Brennan, A Rafter and P Cahill.

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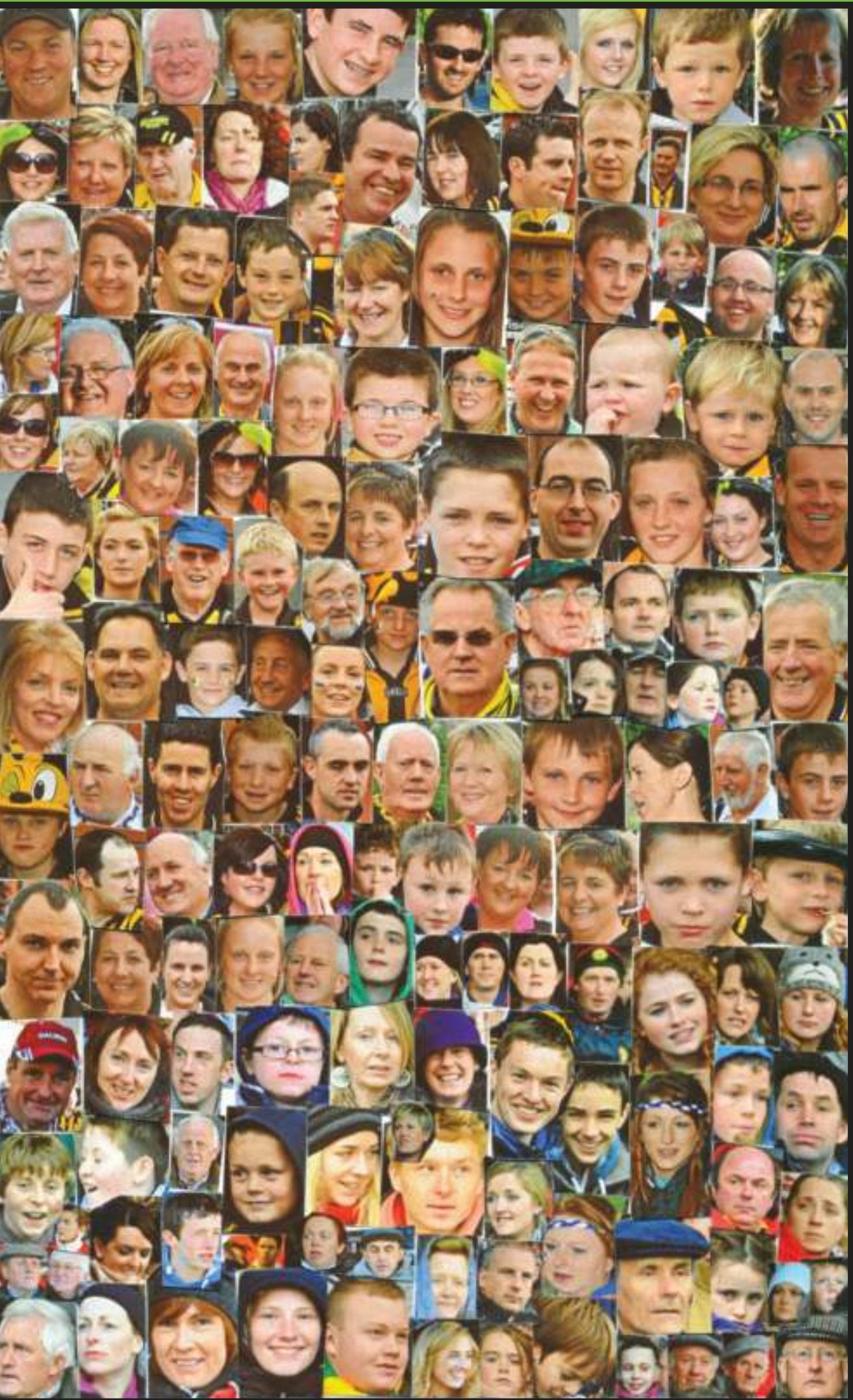
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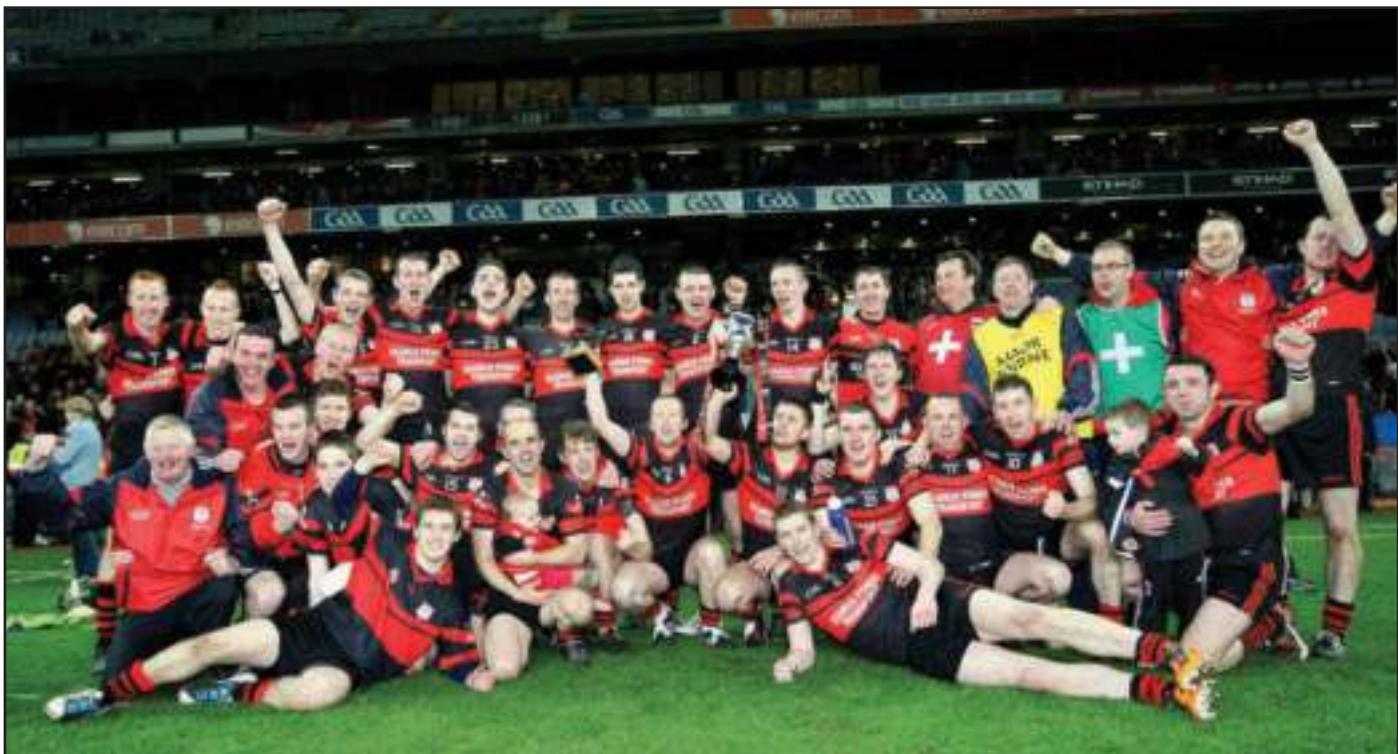


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Eddie Nolan, Chairman of the Dublin Branch of the Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club handing over a cheque for €13,000 to Barry Hickey Treasurer of the County Board being their contribution to the players training & holiday fund.

Included in the photograph are Liam Campion, John Mooney, membership secretary, Eamonn Purcell, John Nolan, Brian Cody, Eoin Larkin, Kay Cannon and Kevin Houlihan, vice-chairman.



Congratulations to our Carlow neighbours and participants in our local competitions, Mt Leinster Rangers, on their marvellous win in the AIB GAA Hurling All Ireland Intermediate Club Championship Final, versus Middletown Na Fianna.

AIB All-Ireland Intermediate Hurling Club Champions.

Back: Edward Coady, Paul Coady, Conor Hayes, Brian Nolan, Diarmuid Byrne, David Phelan, Denis Roche, Padraig Nolan, Richards Kelly, Gary Kelly, Denis Murphy, Frank Foley, Christy Kealy, John Coleman, Shane Murray, Patrick Kealy  
Front: Patsy Nolan, Seamus O'Brien, Colm O'Byrne, Luke Roche, Eoin Doyle, Garry Doyle, Karol Lawlor, Jack Murphy, Richard Coady, Seamus Kelly, David Grennan, Hugh Patrick O'Byrne, Willie Hickey, John Coady, James Hickey.  
Lying (L-R): Michael Doyle, Edward Byrne.

©INPHO/Lorraine O'Sullivan

# DRIVE FOR LIAM QUIZ

As part of the build up to the 2012 All Ireland Senior Hurling Final Kilkenny County Board organised a very successful 'Drive For Liam' Quiz in conjunction with KCLR and Kilkenny Vintners Association in which 1800 participants amongst 450 teams participated at 48 venues across the county broadcast live on KCLR.

The event went to a tie break between a team in James Stephens Cub House and a team in the Salmon Pool in Thomastown with the Village side winning out in a tense tie-breaker. The James Stephens team members were Mark Dowling, Tom O'Shea, Gerald O'Reilly, Gerry Kirby, whilst the Noreside team consisted of Ger. Tom, Martin and Tom Walsh. Third place went to the Rower Inistioge team of Conor Lyng, Edel and Eileen Rowsome and Michael Cashin.



Drive For Liam Quiz 2012

Brendan Treacy Matt the Millers co-sponsors of the holiday prize to Lanzarote with Marble City Travel presents the travel tickets to Amy O'Donnell who participated in Campions Bar in Threecastles.

Photo: Barry Hickey County Treasurer, Jim Campion Threecastles, Brendan Treacy Matt the Millers, Martin O' Donnell, Amy O'Donnell Seamus Reade, Organ. The holiday prize to Lanzarote kindly sponsored by Marble City Travel and Matt the Millers went to Amy O'Donnell in Campions Bar in Threecastles.



Barry Hickey County Treasurer presents first prize James Stephens Captain

Photo, Lillian Holahan Org. Comm. Martin Dowling Team Member, Liam Tyrell James Stephens, Tom O'Shea Team Member, Gerald O'Reilly Team Member, Jerry Kirby Team Member, Seamus Reade Comm Chairman, Barry Hickey County Treasurer, Luke roche Org. Comm. Aodán O Ruairc Secretary James Stephens, Val Malone James Stephens PRO.



Seamus Reade Comm. Chairman. The Walsh Family – Ger Walsh receives second prize for the Walsh team that participated in the Salmon Pool, from Barry Hickey County Treasurer.

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Photos  
Eoin Hennessy & Jimmy Walsh



*Bending over backwards for the cause! Left-half back Kieran Joyce makes a magnificent high catch as team-mates Michael Fennelly and Brian Hogan and Galway's Joe Canning wait for the break.*

*Pic by John McIlwaine*



Pa Burke, Tommy Walsh, Lar Corbett and Jackie Tyrrell perform the Siege of Ennis  
Eoin Hennessy



Richie Power with his son, Ruairí OShea-Power, after the Senior Hurling All-Ireland Final replay in Croke Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



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# "Not the Finished Article"

Miles to go before he sleeps, and all that. Still, for the moment, let's hear it for the boy....

*Enda McEvoy, Sunday Tribune,  
31st Dec 2000*



**"Enda McEvoy charts the rise to prominence of Kilkenny All Star forward Henry Shefflin."**

*(The following article appeared in the Sunday tribune on the last day of the year 2000. It was the first interview that Henry ever gave and is reproduced here in view of Henry's remarkable progression since those early days.)*

Every day between Easter and the summer holidays the routine was the same. The bell rang at 3.00pm in Ballyhale National School, the children galloped off and Joe Dunphy stayed behind for 20 minutes or so to take care of the bits and bobs the way prin-

cipals do. The tableau in the Shamrocks' field never varied as Dunphy drove past on his way to Thomastown – a pair of junior goalposts, a pair of small boys hurling each other between them. Defending one minute, attacking the next, keeping goal the minute after that. Henry and his younger brother Paul had already been home, jettisoned their schoolbags and headed straight for the hurling field and the heartbeat of their existence.

Was there ever an afternoon that Dunphy slowed down, paused, eagle-eyed the wristwork of the chap with the red hair and visualised him weaving spells in Croke Park years later? It is easy to imagine so. After all, Dunphy, who retired last month after 38 years at Ballyhale, knows a good one when he sees one, having had two All Ireland winning captains as pupils. Liam and Ger Fennelly were gifted hurlers; Henry Shefflin, Dunphy has long suspected, might turn out to be more gifted still.

When he wasn't hurling his younger brother, Henry was watching his older brothers. The routine on Sundays didn't vary much either. Somebody would be detailed to mind the family pub, and then the rest of the junior Shefflins – four boys, three girls – would pile into their dad's Toyota and strike out for new lands. To Walsh Park and Portlaoise to see Tommy, the eldest brother, win All Ireland colleges' and under 21 medals. To Semple Stadium to see John, the next boy, pick up an All Ireland minor medal. To Croke Park on St Patrick's Day to see Ballyhale Shamrocks beat Ballybrown in the All Ireland club final. A luminous childhood in a fanatical GAA household.

Time moved on. Henry Shefflin moved and grew with it. Five years in St Kieran's brought him and All Ireland colleges' medal. Third-level life in Waterford IT introduced him to the Fitzgibbon Cup testing ground. Come the spring of 1999, Brian Cody didn't have much to think twice about making the 20-year-old Shefflin one of the planks of his new black and amber vision. In truth, he barely had to think once.

The Antithesis of the capgun forwards the county had been churning out with such abandon throughout the 1990s, here at last was a Kilkenny attacker who was physically capable of displacing water. But there was more to Shefflin – another big, red-haired side of south Kilkenny beef – than the obvious Christy Heffernan comparison suggested. Infinitely more.

Shefflin was not a target man. He was a touch player built like a target man. "Henry's pure hurling ability is something that not enough people comment on," DJ Carey argues. "His size is a



10 September 2000; Henry Shefflin, Kilkenny celebrates after scoring his second goal of the day, Kilkenny v Offaly, All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship Final, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit; Damien Eagers/SPORTSFILE

great asset, for the team as well as for himself. But his skill is the first thing." If Shefflin's touch is strikingly delicate for a big man, Cody adds, it's partly because he "puts an awful lot of work" into it.

He works equally hard on his frees. Always has. Ten years ago, a Kilkenny minor selector who called to Shefflin's to check on John's well-being found him out pucking with Paul. Henry was down the other end of the field, busy practising his frees. From both sides of the field. At the age of 11.

Coming in cold to take over the frees from Carey – and in the process taking the weight of John's Bridge off the Gowran man's back – proved no bother to Shefflin, then. His intercounty debut season yielded a Leinster medal, an All Ireland appearance and a raft of nominations for this and that. But how would he cope with the "difficult" second album?

When Tom Williams decides to start keeping your scoring statistics, you can take it you have arrived. Williams is a Wexfordman and a historian and an author and a poet and a songwriter and a hurling obsessive. Often Williams manages to combine his passions, as he did when he wrote 'With Heart and Hand', the story of his county's 1996 McCarthy Cup triumph. And when he's not writing, he goes in for hurling statistics.

Stats, for example, on every Wexfordman who's scored in the championship, from the 21-a-side era to the present. Nicky Rackard? A total of 59 goals and 89 points, of which 43-51 came from play, in 35 outings. Tony Doran? Forty-two goals and 56 points, all from play, in 40 appearances.

Occasionally a promising outsider is allowed to enter the hallowed halls. One such youth is Henry Shefflin. Eight championship outings to date, 3-18 from play, and 28 points from frees, an average of 3.38 points from play per game. Higher than DJ Carey's average of 2.95 per game, Williams notes.

Whether Shefflin goes on to become one of hurling's all-time greats is a matter for debate. Whether he goes on to become one of hurling's all-time great scorers is not, Williams believes. "Henry has everything except speed. If he had he'd be another Mick Mackey. But yeah, the way he's going he's shaping up to be one of the leading scorers ever."

A scorer of great scores, at any rate. Rewind to some of Shefflin's points in the millennium championship. The one over his shoulder into the Canal End against Galway, the one when falling while on the run in the opening minutes of the All Ireland final. And, approaching half-time in the same game, a gorgeous touch with hurley aloft to kill a delivery from Canice Brennan and deposit the sliotar into Carey's waiting paw for a collector's item of a point. "His role in that point," says Carey, "took something that, again wouldn't comment on with Henry. 'Vision'. He had to keep his eye on the ball but he also knew where I was."

Not that Shefflin was Dead Eye Dick on every occasion. He botched badly in the Leinster final when Charlie Carter tossed the sliotar across the face of the Offaly goalmouth – "Unusual of Charlie to do that," he offers – and Shefflin, unmarked on the far corner of the small square, took a big wind-up and smashed the ball harmlessly into the ground of feet away. A worse miss followed against Galway; he still can't explain it. "I went to rise it first, missed, decided to pull. I honestly don't know what happened." In declaring that Shefflin still has edges requiring planning, manager Cody isn't peddling propaganda.

Then there's the perceived lack of pace. "That's true alright probably" Shefflin nods. "I know it's true, actually. I've just a big lanky stride. Simon Whelehan, Michael Kavanagh, Noel Hickey – they're all much faster. I spend half my time trying to put my back-side in the way. Fighting to win back the ball, harassing the opposition defenders, is something the Kilkenny forwards did better this year. Defending starts from number 15, Brian Cody said. I was 15."

Cody he places up there beside Joe Dunphy in his Biggest Influences drawer. Cody's earnest manner, his decency, his ability to empathise. "Brian will take you to one side if things are going



12 March 2000; Henry Shefflin, Kilkenny.  
Picture credit: Ray McManus/SPORTSFILE

wrong and will tell you what to do. But he'll always encourage you at the same time; tell you you're very good. He and the selectors did everything right this year. We had a couple of meetings early on, another when we went away for a weekend in Clare before the All Ireland semi-final. We had only one aim. They made sure we kept our eye on the ball."

An All Ireland medallist and an All Star at the age of 21 – so far so good. Shefflin is too young to think of the years ahead, to fret about how will Kilkenny will cope when John Power and DJ Carey – "They'll be irreplaceable" – depart, to worry about the day he himself will be forced to carry the load. All he's sure of is that when he finishes up, he'll be thrilled to be able to look back and say he hurled with the men he did. "A fierce honour."

The new season? He talks of getting down to hard training once Kilkenny return from holidays in Thailand next month, of the need to show the same hunger they did in 2000, of the danger he feels Tipperary in particular ("Eamon Corcoran, Eoin Kelly, a coming young team") will pose. The rub of the green will not be Kilkenny's ally forever he knows.

"Some of the breaks we got this year were very lucky. Like my goal in the All Ireland final – nine times out of 10, that wouldn't happen. I didn't even know where the ball was, it just fell into my hand."

"It was our year, and when it's your year you get breaks like those. We won't get them again."

The last word to Cody. "Henry is an outstanding trainer. He's anxious to improve all the time and doesn't have any illusions about himself – which is how trains. He's not the finished article, won't be for some time and realises this."

Miles to go before he sleeps, and all that. Still, for the moment, let's hear it for the boy.

# **Ray McManus of SPORTSFILE**



## **A Great Friend of Kilkenny GAA Yearbook talks to Barrie Henriques**

This Yearbook Publication established a link with one of Ireland's great Sports photographers (Ray Mc Manus) back in the last century, and it has never been severed to this present day. Well I remember the first day, when as a fledgling Yearbook greenhorn, I was despatched to Dublin to see if the bloke that did the photography for the Carrolls All Star poster might be able to contribute to our first Kilkenny County Board Yearbook in 1990. We met in a dingy, basement premises in Denmark Street, on the corner of Great George's Street.

That first meeting was nerve wracking for me, because this

particular photographer was a rare Dub, with an acerbic Dublin wit, that was foreign to us culchies.

At the time I felt that an interpreter was needed!

We became very familiar later on, and very good friends (I think), but that first meeting was testing.

The Kilkenny GAA Yearbook had found Ray McManus, and by extension the Sportsfile organisation.

Our Yearbook is still a must-have publication, making the bookshelves in advance of Christmas. Central to its continued progress along the road of excellence is the contribution made by great photographers, chief among them Ray McManus, and his Sportsfile team.

But Ray McManus was not born a photographer.

Born in Harolds Cross, his academic progress through the nuns in North William Street, the CBS in O'Connell Schools to North Brunswick Street was less than remarkable.

Leaving school after a failed Inter Cert, he learned the rudiments of marketing and selling from a man by the name of Ted Maguire. He won money on a greyhound in Harolds Cross, bought a camera for £50, and started taking a few pictures with his new Zenith E camera. He was still in gainful employment, and his picture taking was very much a hobby.

Then the day job went AWOL, so Mac was on the dole.

"I started going to matches, not predominantly Gaelic matches, and with plenty of bluff and spoof, I would get a few shots off. I met with, and eventually formed a partnership with the late Jim O'Kelly. He could take a better picture than me, but I could sell a picture better than him. It was an ideal marriage of two talents".

They realised that there was a particular niche in the market that they could lucratively explore. They saw that the pictorial coverage of games was dated to the extent of embarrassment. Library pictures of players were never updated. McManus and O'Kelly created the need of current pictures, and went about servicing that need. - the golden rule of good salesmanship. They took the pictures, developed them in their chemical solutions, and promptly brought them to various newspapers where they were left in the respective libraries. A new Sports Publication, Sports World Weekly came on stream. That provided a solid grounding



**Mutual Respect – Ray meets Brian (Photo John McIlwaine)**

for the McManus/O'Kelly lineup. "Fergal Herbert's publication was way ahead of its time. It was progressive, colourful, very current in every respect. It was a great pity it didn't last", he told us. "We didn't make a lot of money through the Monday-after papers", he said, "but we fared far better on the week prior to the games, because our pictures were current. We did a bit of work for some English papers who were trying to break into the market here. They were great, as you had your money promptly, and it was all sterling, so instead of getting a tanner for our picture, we were getting twelve pound fifty". He worked long hours, doing work for all papers. Jim O'Kelly left the partnership to explore other avenues of excellence. McManus moved from Denmark Street.

His new establishment on the South Circular Road, close to Portobello Bridge, and close to his roots in Harolds Cross, is a product of Ray McManus' ingenuity, and forward planning.

Though he is the proprietor of Sportsfile, with his lovely wife Ann, a Clare woman of great charm and fáilte, he regards all of his staff as colleagues. The American model of Management is of no interest. He is not into the culture of high fives, or backslapping.

"If one of the lads called me Mr. McManus, I'd nearly sack him", he stated.

Sportsfile employs nine photographers, and six support staff. The photographers are all equipped with the finest technology on the Planet. A camera costs €5000, while the lens would cost double that



Ray McManus Award-winning Photo

5 February 2011; The Blackrock College second-half scrum-half Conor Crowley releases the ball after a ruck. Ulster Bank All-Ireland League Division 1A, Old Belvedere v Blackrock College RFC, Anglesea Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin. Picture credit: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

amount.

That is the McManus philosophy.

"There is no room for "if only" in this job. You have to deal with what you see at a moment in time. Unlike Television, we do not have the facility of action replay. We get it or die. No point in saying to me afterwards, "if I had this or that".... We provide the this or that, and that is why we must succeed, and produce the goods".

Which leads me on to Sportsfile on All Ireland day.

"Tell me about your forward planning for an All Ireland Final?"

"We have a meeting on the Wednesday before the game here. I get a copy of the Clár an Laoe. It is an all-hands-to-the-pumps job, and complacency has no room on the bus. No, we don't assign photographers to individuals. At our pre-final get together, we discuss potential developments, the movements of particular players, what they are likely to do if certain situations happen, based on a vast wealth of shared experience. We will have some eight photographers, and three remote controlled cameras inside Croke Park. We either get the shot or not. The only day in the year we know that Brian Cody will react is if

## A season of sundays



Images of the 2012 Gaelic Games year by the Sportsfile photographers

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Kilkenny win. We have got to get it. It's a tough day, but it is so well worth being part of it".

The Sportsfile team take in excess of 7,000 photographs on All Ireland Final day. They start sending back pictures (their own individual selections) to the well staffed Sportsfile world-wide distribution centre within ten minutes of the game starting. The people on the South Circular Road would probably have fifty chosen pictures with their customers by half time in the game, and it continues apace. Most of the work of selection, and processing is done before the photographers leave Croke Park.

He is a huge admirer of Brian Cody, and by reflection, the Kilkenny ethos.

"He strikes me as a man with a two colour concept of dealing with issues. It is either black or white with no grey area in between. They say that this team is the greatest team of all time. I wouldn't like to comment on that because I haven't seen every team, but I will say that it is not their winning record that impresses me, rather their consistency over a long period that is truly astonishing".

Ray McManus won second prize in the World Press sports photography competition recently. He took a picture in Anglesey Road at a rugby game between Old Belvedere and Blackrock.

"It was wet, dark and mucky, with mist falling and steam rising from the players. It was more like a painting, but more so a



10 October 2012; Sportsfile photographer Ray McManus demonstrates some hurling skills to Tom Barron, age 11, from Slane, Co. Meath, at the Kellogg's Cúl Dream Day Out in Croke Park. Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE

Caravaggio than a Ray McManus", he smiled. He was chuffed to say the least.

Sportsfile's photographers are multi-talented. Like Matt Browne, who specialises in Rugby, and Golf, while he also covers Gaelic games, but McManus himself has a great grá for the Games. Brendan Moran does other specialist assignments, and so on.

Ray produces an Annual of GAA pictures, invariably not seen during the year. They

are his personal choice, with the minimum of descriptive text. If you really want to see Sportsfile GAA pictures, you will find *A Season of Sundays* in all bookshops this Christmas.

I have known Ray McManus since 1990. I'm delighted to be his friend, and like all the Yearbook team am extremely grateful to him and his team for their expertise and generosity.



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# Pursuing a Different Dream



## Paulstown's Olympian, Darren O'Neill, talks with Mark Townsend

Dreams. It's a funny thing, but ask a Kilkenny man what their dream is and the majority would say it involved walking up the steps of the Hogan Stand in September. In fact, I imagine when watching Henry Shefflin climb up to collect his ninth All-Ireland medal this year, every Kilkenny man in the stadium was dreaming it could be them.

But then again, there are some people who are born to pursue a different dream. For Darren O'Neill, an inter-county hurler up to under 21 level, it was easy to imagine him winning that coveted All-Ireland medal. And yet, despite not fulfilling that destiny, as he looked on in

that sacred ground just months ago, here sat a man at ease with himself. Because, for all Henry and co's achievements over the last 13 years, he has achieved something, they never will.

Anyone who watched the documentary "London calling" on RTE prior to this summer's Olympic Games, would have had whatever illusions they had about being an Olympian, brought into sharp perspective. Strip away two weeks of glamour every four years, and what you're left with is a resolutely lonely pursuit for athletes, one that demands outrageous personal sacrifices for, more often than not, very little reward.

And yet, despite these sacrifices, there are those who cannot possibly envisage living their lives any other way. Growing up as a young boy in Paulstown on the Carlow-Kilkenny border, it was "Always the dream" of Darren to become an Olympic boxer. And even though, he could hardly have picked a lonelier or more difficult ambition ("there is no hiding place in the ring" as he says himself) there was something about the nuances of the sport, that brought out the best in him.

Then again, it was hardly a surprise he took the route he did. If there is one thing sure about Darren O'Neill's career, it's that he didn't pick up his talent from the trees. In a sense, his story is not just about him, but of one overriding influence that has been ever-present throughout his career.

Ollie O'Neill, his father, and an ex international boxer himself, was a founding member of the Paulstown boxing club a number of years ago. He was the man who almost single-handedly built the club from a small coterie of people, to one which currently includes approximately a hundred members, hosts eight national champions, and was recently voted the second best boxing club in the country.

Given his background, it was inevitable that Darren would be attracted to the sport. But, despite his aptitude, there was another game tugging at his heart-strings in the interim. He was a star player on Barrow Rangers underage hurling teams throughout his youth, and won an All-Ireland college's medal with St Kieran's in 2004, alongside such luminaries as Richie Power, and the Hogan brothers.



21 September 2012; Team Ireland's Darren O'Neill with the President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina at a reception for the London 2012 Irish Olympic team at Aras an Uachtarain, Phoenix Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE

But after stepping up to inter-county Under-21 level in 2006, fate started to force his hand. Like Katie Taylor, a women's international soccer player in her spare time, Darren's conundrum involved excelling at more than one sport. Given his geography, the choice may have appeared obvious. But he decided to take the road less travelled.

In one sense, he is not a pioneer. Kilkenny has always had its Olympians in the past. Adrian O'Dwyer competed in Athletics in 2004. Eileen O'Keeffe did likewise in 2008. Mick Dowling twice represented us in boxing in 1968 and 1972. But given the opportunity to play hurling for Kilkenny, rather than face the highly daunting world of international boxing, most people would not have batted an eyelid. But then again, Darren O'Neill, is not most people.

Ask him now if he's happy with the choice he's made and he's emphatic in his response. "I definitely do not regret the choice that I made. As a Kilkenny person I would obviously have loved to have played senior for Kilkenny but the Olympic Games were always my dream and something I will always treasure. Looking at the strength of our team anyway, there's nothing to say I would have made the current day squad"

If specialisation was a pre-requisite for his success, it didn't necessarily make it any easier. Fighting in the national Light heavyweight Final in 2005 and 2006, he found Olympic silver medallist Kenny Egan blocking his path. Then after stepping down a division to middleweight in 2008, he came undone against the equally accomplished, Olympic Bronze winner Darren Sutherland.

As it was, he found himself looking at that year's Olympic games in Beijing from the comfort of his girlfriends' home in County Galway. And even if his disappointment was still raw, the success of his colleagues made him proud, and more importantly, made him realise he wasn't far away.

With Darren Sutherland moving to the professional ranks following those games, the path to success for him became somewhat smoother, and he finally set about fulfilling his promise. February 2009 was a notable benchmark, as he captured his first senior title. Others were gleaned in 2010 and 2011. He also secured a silver medal in the European championships during that time. But it was October fourth of last year that dreams finally became reality. Defeating the Bulgarian Mladen Menev in a world championship qualifier in Azerbaijan meant he had finally achieved it, that life-long goal of becoming an Olympian.

As the first Irish boxer to qualify for the games, he was allotted special status within the group. Aside from his boxing capabilities, his natural leadership qualities resulted in



Darren O'Neill, Ireland, right, exchanges punches with Stefan Hartel, Germany, during their men's middle 75kg round of 16 contest. London 2012 Olympic Games. Picture credit: David Maher / SPORTSFILE

him being selected as captain for the team. As the competition progressed, and the level of success within the boxing team accumulated (four medals were eventually won, two bronze, one silver and Katie Taylor's gold) there was a desire to honour their achievement in the closing ceremony. As a result, Sonia O Sullivan asked him as Boxing team captain to carry the Irish flag, an experience he describes as "surreal".

If there was one fly in the ointment of such a life-changing period, it was his own performance in his second round fight against Sterfan Hartel of Germany. After comfortably disposing of the Nigerian Mudeen Akanji in his first bout, he found himself up against a stronger, defensively watertight opponent in the following tie, who opened up a precious lead in the first round, and never looked like relinquishing it. Even now, there is lingering disappointment.

"I allowed the German do what I expected him to. I allowed him to push me before punching which in turn gave the illusion he was landing scoring shots even in cases where he shouldn't have. All I can do is be content and proud that despite an under par performance I gave all I could at the time"

Before he qualified for London he had envisaged retiring from boxing, after the games. But now, after achieving that ambition, he realised what he thought was a full stop, was in fact just a comma. Right now, he couldn't consider quitting; "I'm enjoying it too much", but the road ahead is paved with stones. Considering the surge of young boxing talent in the country at the moment, just winning a National title is a herculean achievement in itself. Even still, he has designs on a fifth national title next February, and European and World Championships in Belarus and Kazakhstan respectively after that.

And through it all he hasn't stop dreaming. London was his ambition, but now there are other ones ahead. Belarus. Kazakhstan.

Perhaps even Rio in four years. Maybe we're getting carried away. But it's strange. Before, all Kilkenny people ever dreamed of was Croke Park. Now, thanks to Darren, we're allowed to dream some more.



Darren O'Neill shows his colours before the start of the All-Ireland SH Final replay.

Picture credit: David Maher / SPORTSFILE



Darren O'Neill, (back left) on the victorious Kilkenny U21 All Ireland team

# A Man for All Seasons

“

***Do you realize you've now gone two full championships without conceding a free from full-back?***

”



**PM O'Sullivan talks to Pat Dwyer**

He wrote the date on the hurl — July 15, 1988 — and put it away safe.

He thought that would be that as regards hurling for Kilkenny, a Junior All Ireland. Yes, a sweet one, beating Tipperary in the final. But he would not be eligible in the grade for 1989 and reckoned on being forgotten by the time 1990 rolled round.

As for Senior... “Never thought I was good enough to make it,” he says, not a whit of false modesty, even though he is a remarkably modest individual.

Pat Dwyer, the man in question, walks into Carroll’s Hotel, Knocktopher. He still has the natural athlete’s spraddled walk, easily recognisable as the man who won two All Ireland medals at full-back in 1992 and ’93, the same erect figure. Immediately Pat is warm and friendly. “Going along, you’ll have to draw me,” he counsels. “I wouldn’t be great to remember everything.”

Not at all. Bright, articulate and good-natured, an out and out gentleman, Pat Dwyer is an ideal interviewee, as precise with his descriptions as he was with his clearances. His story is heartening, the ascent of an unheralded hurler to the pinnacle of the game.

A native of Croan, a townland whose postal address is ‘Dunnamaggin’ but whose pulse is pure Carrickshock, Pat Dwyer went the classic route for someone of dairy farming stock. There was national school in nearby Newmarket, followed by five years as a boarder in St Kieran’s College. Club front and school front were alike barren as regards trophies. “I suppose that’s where my love of hurling started,” Pat muses. “You had to have a passion for it to stay with it. It certainly wasn’t for a love of winning...!”

Still, there were hints. Pat Dwyer played on goal as a 15 year old in the 1981 Intermediate Final, when Clara beat Carrickshock United. There was a year with Kilkenny at Minor in 1983, beaten first time out by Dublin, and a year with the U21s in 1986, beaten first time out by Wexford. “Lean times seemed to follow me around,” he notes, likeably wry.

Hence his emphasis on 1983 for Carrickshock, winning U21 B in both football and hurling. “It was an important achievement at the time,” he relates. “The club hadn’t won anything since the Junior in 1979.”



5 September 1993; Joe Rabbitte, Galway is tackled by Pat Dwyer, Kilkenny, Kilkenny v Galway, All Ireland Hurling Final, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Ray McManus/SPORTSFILE

1988 proved the hinge. Just getting the beck from Ollie Walsh for Kilkenny's Junior panel was massive. "I'd never actually seen Ollie play," Pat says. "But we'd read the articles and seen the clips of old games on the television. And there you were, going in training under him... But he really made you feel at ease."

Warming to this theme, he elaborates: "Ollie had a fabulous gift. I've often said it to people, particularly about the Senior set up later on, where you had Eddie O'Connor and myself. You couldn't have two more contrasting people. Eddie would be the one that's very vocal, whereas I wouldn't be heard behind a newspaper. Yet Ollie could get on with both types of people. He was able to handle everybody, and to coax the best out of them."

Sterling performances during that campaign earned Pat a phonecall from then County Secretary Ted Carroll, inviting him onto the Senior panel for 1988-89. Diarmuid Healy, having succeeded Pat Henderson, was looking for an infusion of fresh talent. Dwyer was one needle.

He was impressed by the new manager's abilities: "Diarmuid was the first coach I came across, very *one on one*. The hooking and the flicking were probably two things I picked up or developed. I suppose, when I wasn't a physical player, you had to develop other skills to counteract the opponent. And you had to be able to *read* the other players as to what they were going to do."

Diarmuid Healy had a share of bad luck and was succeeded by Ollie Walsh in late 1990. Pat Dwyer, established as a full-back by this stage, was always going to be one of his lieutenants. Following searing disappointment against Tipperary in the 1991 All Ireland Final, it all came right the following September against Cork.

Pat speaks in that special tone about afterwards meeting his father and a paternal uncle, Fr Christy. "It was under the Lower Hogan," he says. "Again, neither of them were drinking men. They wouldn't be pub people. They were happy to go home to Croan. But they were just elated. It's family, that thing. They're the first you want to see. You needed the back up, of your family, particularly when you're in the farming game."

1993 against Galway was another watermark September day. Pat was hailed going off the field by Nicky Purcell, a County Board official from Kilmanagh, who said: "Do you realize you've now gone two full championships without conceding a free from full-back?" Pat smiles, makes it simple: "I looked at it in the sense that you're playing full-back, and the frees you're giving away are on the 21 yard line. So it's a score every time, if you concede a free."

A groin injury picked up in the 1993 Leinster Final replay had nearly prevented him from lining out against Galway. This factor hindered him during the two frustrating seasons that followed. Undeceived about himself to the last, Pat knew 1996 would be his last hurrah. Besides, the dynamic was changing and it was hard not to have Ollie Walsh in the dressingroom with them.

His death in March 1996 put all in perspective. Pat Dwyer was asked by the Walsh family to be part of the Offertory. "I consider that one of the highest honours I got," he says with feeling. His partner in that part of the funeral mass was Mick O'Flynn, the panel's immensely popular trainer. Pat is still grateful for the Cork native's input: "For those of us who struggled at training, he still coaxed along and got the best out of them. Every player had great time for Micko."

The end was nigh. Kilkenny's old enemy applied the axe in the Leinster semi-final. "The goal Wexford got that day, it was a long ball into Billy Byrne at full-forward," Pat recalls. "The previous year, three years before that, I'd have flicked the ball off his hurl before he could strike it. I knew then how slow I'd got, mentally, because the mind tells you what to do — and the mind wasn't able any longer to do it. That really nailed it for me, that I was gone way too slow for the intercounty game." The man departed, as he had played, without fuss or noise, never a bad word said about him.

That hurl Pat put away in the summer of 1988, unsure of himself? He laughs hard: "It's after disintegrating a bit, but I never used it after. It's still there, anyway. I put it into retirement...!"

Memories of what Pat Dwyer did with all his hurls are imperishable.



11 July 1993; George O'Connor, Wexford, in action against Pat O'Dwyer, Kilkenny. Kilkenny v Wexford, Leinster Senior Hurling Final, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit; David Maher / SPORTSFILE

# KILKENNY MH 1962 REMEMBERED

This year Kilkenny County Board welcomed to the County SH Final the surviving members of the Kilkenny 1962 MH team, All Ireland Champions for a third successive year. The event was sponsored by the Springhill Court Hotel who afterwards provided a reception for these great players.



Members of the 1962 Kilkenny MH Team in Nowlan Park on County Final day

Back: Pat Drennan, Maurice Toomey, John Joe Kinsella, John Walsh, Tommy Ryan, Maurice Aylward, Johnny Delaney, Sean Shortall.  
Front: Shem Muldowney, Tommy Phelan, Noel Skehan, Paul Kinsella (Chairman CLG Kilkenny), Joe Dunphy (Captain), Seamus O'Carroll  
(Manager Springhill Court Hotel), Billy Bourke, Jimmy Byrne, Senan Cooke.

(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Kilkenny – All Ireland MH Hurling Champions 1962

Back: Shem Muldowney, Tom Ryan, Sean Treacy, Seamus Hanrahan, Pat Drennan, Jimmy Byrne, John Walsh,  
John Delaney, Tom Phelan, Billy Burke.  
Front: Tom Walsh, Maurice Aylward, Sean Shortall, Senan Cooke, Paddy Walsh, Joe Dunphy, Noel Skehan,  
Maurice Twomey, John Joe Kinsella, Johnny Walsh.



# CÚL CAMPS 2012



**PILTOWN**



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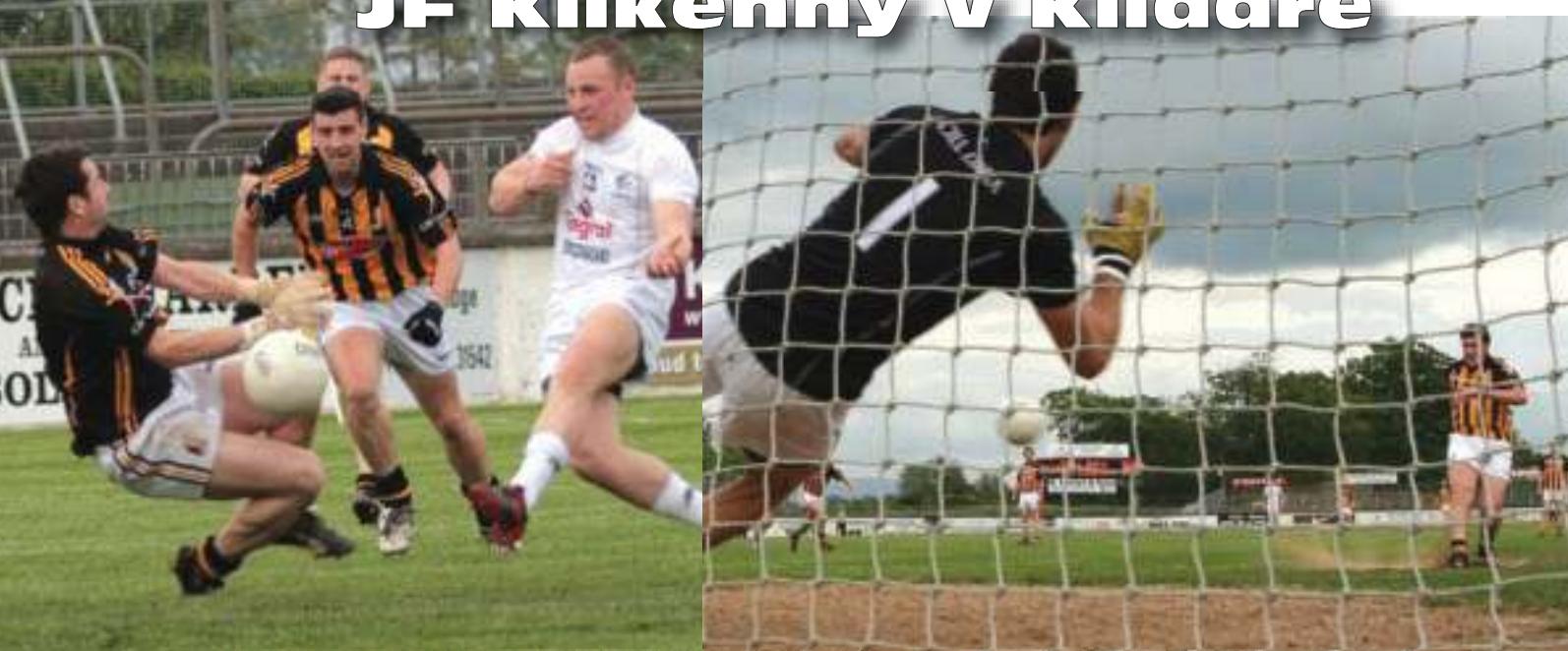
**THOMASTOWN**

# FOOTBALL FOCUS 2012

Photos - Jimmy Walsh & Eoin Hennessy



**JF Kilkenny v Kildare**



**NFL Kilkenny v Wicklow**





## NFL Kilkenny v London



Kilkenny Team which played London in Nowlan Park in March

Back: M Saunders, Richard O'Hara ,James Culleton, Joe Fennelly, JJ Grace, George Smith, John Cullinane, David Garvey, Peter McBride, Michael Malone, John Grennan, Ollie Walsh, Darren Fitzpatrick, Stephen Duggan, John McGrath  
Front: Jim O Connor, Ray McCarthy, Kevin O'Brien, Brian Byrne, Paul Donnelly, Cian Tyler, Robert Shore, JJ O'Sullivan, Declan Grennan, Joe Dollard, David Pender.

# HUGE STRIDES IN UNDER-AGE

LADIES FOOTBALL REPORT BY NOELLE CURRAN PRO,

## TG4 LEINSTER JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Kilkenny struggled to field at under 16 level in 2012 and lost out to Offaly, Westmeath and Wicklow in the provincial championship. At minor level the county had a good 4-12 to 1-04 win over Carlow at Tullow and a late surge by Longford saw the visitors pull away in the closing stages at Palmerstown to claim a 4-11 to 3-06 win. With Carlow losing out to both teams the cats faced Longford once again in the Leinster minor C' final at Portarlington but on this occasion the midlanders proved much too strong.

Kilkenny minor panel 2012: Megan Walsh, Sara Roche, Ailish O Neill, Laura Whelan, Jennifer Norris, Nora Daly, Nelle Henderson, Ailish Butler, Marie Murphy, Claire Nolan, Leanne Walsh, Aylson Crane, Niamh Donnelly, Sinead Whelan, Joanne O Hanrahan, Sinead McCarthy, Alice Carey, Lorraine Long, Julie Anne Malone, Ciara Nevin, Maeve O Connor, Niamh Quigley

With a deluge of players unable to commit to county adult football due to emigration and exam commitments Kilkenny opted not to field in the Bord Gais Energy National League but fulfilled their championship fixtures in the TG4 All Ireland series despite suffering some heavy defeats at the hands of Offaly, Carlow and Wexford. A huge effort will have to be made by all clubs from under 18 level and up if Kilkenny are to become contenders once again in the provincial series.

Kilkenny junior panel 2012: Noelle Curran (Railyard), Vicky Cahill (James Stephens), Aine Sheehy (Thomastown), Sara Roche (Railyard), Geraldine Roche (Railyard), Jamie O Sullivan (Freshford), Sally Teehan (Thomastown), Grainne Daly (Railyard), Emer Kelly (Railyard), Niamh Butler (James Stephens), Aine Lannon (Thomastown), Maeve Mansfield (Railyard), Tamara Agar (Muckalee), Kelly Comerford (Muckalee), Jessie Carroll (Thomastown), Aoife Gorey (James Stephens), Alice Farrell (Railyard), Sheila Sheehy (Thomastown), Orla McCormack (James Stephens), Laurena Murphy (Railyard), Bronagh Neary (James Stephens), Nora Daly (Railyard), Joanne O Hanrahan (Thomastown), Rachel O Carroll (Thomastown), Leanne Walsh (Thomastown), Aoife Dunne (Railyard), Aine Manning (Thomastown)

## RAILYARD COUNTY JUNIOR CHAMPIONS

After dominating senior football in recent years Railyard were relegated to junior ranks for 2012 but bounced back to take the junior championship title against James Stephens. Played in September in Castlecomer the Railyard girls' experience gave them a 1-07 to 0-03 half time lead. The Village girls fought bravely in the second half but

Railyard pulled away to win 3-11 to 0-08. Railyard travelled to Dangan in Offaly for the first round of the Tesco Leinster club championship but lost out to St Vincents 3-06 to 2-04.

In the senior championship Thomastown defeated Muckalee and Freshford to qualify for the Leinster intermediate club championship but were defeated by a skilful St Annes of Wexford 2-13 to 2-03.

## HUGE STRIDES IN UNDERAGE FOOTBALL

Underage development in girls football had its most profitable year to date with three new juvenile clubs set up in Castlecomer, Barrow Gaels and Muckalee. With juvenile clubs already in existence in Thomastown, Kilkenny City, Piltown and Freshford, Kilkenny were able to field four teams at the Leinster u13 development blitz at the end of 2011. The interest increased in 2012 with success aplenty and the future of girls' underage football remains bright.

### Leinster U14 Div 2B Final Kilkenny 2-03, Longford 0-0

Having started as an u13 development squad in 2010 many of this year's county u14 panel were newcomers to county football, but with the success of the primary schools leagues and increased coaching in clubs the panel soon blended into a formidable outfit. In round 1 of the Leinster u14 championship Kilkenny defeated Longford 2-09 to 3-01 and followed up with a huge 10-17 to 0-02 win over Louth before defeating Carlow 6-09 to 1-04. Offaly proved too strong and defeated the cats 4-09 to 0-07 and a narrow 2-05 to 3-01 defeat to Westmeath denied Kilkenny a spot in the A' final. The under 14s then set their sights on the B' title and faced Longford in the final in Portarlington in June. Kilkenny were in control throughout claiming the Leinster Div 2B title 2-03 to 0-0. A trojan display at centre forward saw Aoife Cantwell named as Player of the Match.

Kilkenny Panel: Niamh Sheehy, Lauren Valentine, Neasa Galwey, Emily Mc Carthy, Michelle Teehan, Aobha O Gorman, Niamh Deely, Jenny O' Keeffe, Blaithnайд Galway, Caitlinn Moore, Aoife Cantwell, Danielle Morrissey, Ria Lawson, Becky Walsh, Ciara Delaney, Substitutes: Laura Tynan, Ava Comerford, Saoirse Comerford, Ciara Deely, Kate Drennan, Eadaoin Murphy, Aine Murphy, Aoife Naddy, Rebecca Nevin, Sophie O Dwyer, Ally O Keeffe, Ailis O Shea, Caoimhe O Shea, Ciara Phelan, Hannah Scott, Shauna Valentine. Mentors: Eoin Hennessy, Tom Deely, John Valentine, Breda Tynan.

### Kilkenny B' win U14 Division 3 Leinster blitz

Kilkenny entered two teams in the first u14 provincial blitz of the year in May with players representing all 7 clubs and came close to se-



Railyard - County Junior Champions 2012

Back: Laurena Murphy, Megan Walsh, Sinead Brennan, Ger Roche, Noelle Curran, April Purcell, Aisling Brennan, Aoife Dunne, Aisling Murphy, Grainne Daly, Denise Love, Caitriona Corr.

Front: Sara Roche, Andrea Murphy, Emer Kelly, Alice Farrell (capt), Maeve Mansfield, Ailsih O Neill, Rachel Smyth, Nora Daly.



Kilkenny under-14 Ladies Gaelic Football team who defeated Longford in the Leinster B Final in Portarlington. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Kilkenny City Ladies Gaelic Football team who defeated The Down's (Westmeath) in the Division Féile 3 final in Portlaoise,

curing a blitz double. The B' team claimed the Division 3 title while the A' team qualified for the Division 2 final but lost out to a physically stronger Westmeath side. The day saw sunshine, rain, thunder and lightning but the consistent feature throughout was the superb standard of football served up at Carlow Gaa grounds. Kilkenny B' had a 9-01 to 4-04 win over Carlow and faced Louth in the Division 3 final with the cats winning 7-07 to 3-03 to claim the U14 Division 3 title for the third time in four years. Captain Rebecca Nevin was presented with the Division 3 cup by Leinster president Marie Hickey.

Kilkenny A' were grouped with Dublin B, Offaly and Westmeath in Division 2. The cats claimed a notable scalp by defeating the Dubs 1-03 to 1-01 and followed up with a 1-06 to 2-01 win over Offaly. As Westmeath had also secured two wins and with weather conditions worsening a straight final took place between Kilkenny and Westmeath. The sides were level at half time 0-01 a piece but Westmeath made better use of the wind in the second half to claim a 0-06 to 0-01 win and the Division 2 title.

Kilkenny A': Aoife Cantwell, Ava Comerford, Saoirse Comerford Liston, Niamh Deeley, Ciara Delaney, Neasa Galwey, Ria Lawson, Emily McCarthy, Caitlin Moore, Danielle Morrissey, Eadaoin Murphy, Aobha O'Gorman, Jenny O'Keefe, Caoimhe O'Shea, Hannah Scott, Niamh Sheehy, Michelle Teehan, Shauna Valentine, Lauren Valentine, Becky Walsh, Sophie O'Dwyer

Kilkenny B': Ciara Deeley, Kate Drennan, Aoife Naddy, Rebecca Nevin, Ailis O'Shea, Beth Behan, Izzy Carey, Nicole Carter, Tara Clifford, Ciara Curran, Brianna Mallon, Aoife Moore, Aine Murphy, Jennifer O'Keefe, Claire Kelly, Ruby Harvey, Christine Caldbeck, Anna Robinson, Laura Tynan

Kilkenny also fielded A and B squads in the Leinster under 12 blitzes in June and September and development squads at u11 u13 and u15 level which started in September have attracted over 100 girls all eager to wear the black and amber in the coming years.

### **KILKENNY CITY GIRLS DIVISION 3 FEILE PEIL NA N-OG ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONS**

Kilkenny City Girls under 14 football team enjoyed the ultimate success at Feile Peil na n-Og in Laois/Offaly when they were crowned 2012 Division 3 champions after five impressive wins. The city girls qualified to represent Kilkenny when they defeated Thomastown and Piltown in the Feile county competition. The Feile county final was played in Graiguenamanagh with the City defeating Thomastown 1-06 to 0-03. Niamh Deely was named Player of the Match. A panel of 24 City players travelled to the All Ireland finals under the guidance of Eoin Hennessy and Maria Twomey and were hosted by the Carbury club in Kildare. The first outing was against the home side with the city cruising to 7-7 to 0-0 win. In round 2 Kilkenny defeated Rhode (Offaly) 1-08 to 1-0 and followed this up with a 2-06 to 0-03 win over Clann Eireann (Armagh) to qualify for the semi final against St Patricks of Wicklow. The City had to survive a late fightback for a 0-05 to 0-04 win and a place in the final in Portlaoise. The Downs club from Westmeath provided the opposition in the final and the midlanders lead 1-01 to 0-03 at half time. Kilkenny City fought back and



Gowran N.S. who defeated St. Canices N.S. in the Roinn A Schools Ladies Gaelic Football Final in Bennettsbridge. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Gaelscoil Ladies Gaelic Football team who won the Roinn B Schools Final in Palmerstown. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Ballyhale team who won the Roinn C Schools Ladies Gaelic Football Final in Palmerstown. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Tullaroan Ladies Gaelic Football team who won the Roinn D Schools Final in Palmerstown. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

five minutes from time Sophie Dwyer grabbed the crucial goal to put the City ahead 1-05 to 1-01. The huge Kilkenny support cheered the girls over the finishing line and as the final whistle sounded the cheers were surely heard back on Noreside. Amidst great scenes of jubilation Ladies Gaelic Football President Pat Quill presented the Division 3 cup to joint captains Jenny and Ally O Keeffe. Determination and endless hard work over the past twelve months brought the success the City club deserves and will drive the club on to an even bigger stage in years to come.

Kilkenny City Feile Panel: Laura Tynan, Saoirse Comerford-Liston, Sophie Dwyer, Ciara Delaney, Caitlinn Moore, Tara Clifford, Brianna Mallon, Lauren Valentine, Isabelle Carey, Shannon Holohan, Neasa Galwey, Ally O Keeffe, Jenny O Keeffe, Aobha O Gorman, Eadaoin Murphy, Hannah Scott, Ciara Phelan, Shauna Valentine, Aoife Cantwell, Jennifer O Keeffe, Ciara Deely, Niamh Deely, Michelle Burke, Michelle Teehan.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOLS LEAGUE

28 schools took part in the 2011 Primary schools girls' football league with the finals taking place in Palmerstown in December. The 2012 competition is well under way with 30 teams taking part in five divisions.

##### Roinn A Gowran 1-04, St Canices 1-03

In the Roinn A final St Canices held a one point lead in the closing stages but a brace of points gave Gowran a narrow but well deserved win. Gowran captain Grace O'Donnell was named Player of the Match.

Gowran: Leah Brennan, Hannah Brennan, Aisleigh Boote, Charlotte Boote, Stephanie Fitzgerald, Grace O'Donnell, Rebecca Nevin(0-03), Milica Rabit, Rachel Dreeling(0-1), Leanne Byrne, Nicole Carter(1-0), Tiffanie Fitzgerald, Anna Felix, Ellen O'Donnell, Ciara O Keeffe, Amy Lennon, Maddison Lawson, Hazel Devitor, Emer Naddy, Laura Nevin, Sarah O'Neill, Sarah Gittens, Sinead Healy, Laura Langton, Aoife Farrell, Mary Dreeling, Louise Kelly, Heidi Sheridan, Rachel Doyle, Megan Furlong, Megan Darcy, Reece Carter, Nya Lee, Saoirse Smith, Caitlin Aylward, Aisling Rudkins, Zoe Fenlon, Roisin Kelly, Jessica Devitor, Lenika Artini. Mentors: Claire Hoare, Miriam O Keeffe.

St Canices: Grainne Hennessy, Amy Lennon, Issey Carroll, Sarah Smith, Tara Clifford, Jane Cass, Annie O'Connor (capt), Ruth Kent, Sinead Tuohy, Aisling Morrissey, Ciara McPhilips, Leah Treacy, Sinead Flynn, Leah Raggett, Orlaith Moore, Mary Fitzgerald, Sarah Rhatigan, Aislinn O'Neill, Maeve McGahey, Nina Liwanag, Sarah Cudmore, Katie Keenan. Mentors: Marie Gannon, Maria Comerford. Referee: Paul Whelan

##### Roinn B Gaelscoil Osrai 4-3, Owning/Templeorum 0-06

In the B' final Owning/Templeorum lead 0-05 to 1-01 at half time against An Gaelscoil but three cracking second half goals for the city side sealed victory. Aoife Doyle was named as player of the match after a hard working display for the runners up.

Gaelscoil Osrai: Rebecca Ni Chathain, Ella Nic Risteard, Neasa de Gailli, Emma Ni Nuallain, Aobha Ni Ghormain, Blathnaid de Gailli, Saoirse Nic Chumascaigh Liostun, Meabh Shaw, Ciara Ni Dhubhshlaine, Clar Ni Churtain, Rebecca De Roiste, Saoirse Ni Dhomhnall, Keeva Ni Bhrian, Niamh Ni Ruisel, Molly Ni Phuirseal, Zoe Ni h-

mond, Shauna Ni Mhaolaoidh, Aoibheann de Paor, Meabh Ni Threasaigh, Siofra Ni Chonrai, Rebecca Ni Mhurchu, Siúin Ni Chrualaoich, Roisin Ni Mhaoimhuaidh, Eimear Ni Bhiorain, Saoirse Ni Mhaonaigh, Niamh Bateman, Nyah Ni Aogain, Eabha Ni Bhainnin, Rebecca Ni Mhurchu, Allannah Ni Thornoir. Mentors: Maria Ni Thuama, Meabh Ni Fhloinn, Niamh de Buitleir.

Owning/Templeorum: Caoimhe O'Callaghan, Aoife Culleton, Emily McCarthy, Niamh Foley, Laura Culleton, Aoife Doyle, Emer Long, Sophie Holden, Laura Power, Aoife Fleming, Amy Walsh, Clodagh Butler, Megan Byrne, Maire Beth Kirby, Haley Starr, Marlise Flynn, Sarah Jayne Brophy, Brianna Doody, Caoimhe O'Connell, Jenny O'Dea. Mentor Pat O'Gorman. Referee Sean Cleere.

##### Roinn C Ballyhale 6-3 Urlingford 0-0

In the Roinn C' final Ballyhale faced Urlingford and despite the score-line the match was far from one sided with the Urlingford girls making their opponents fight for every score. A superb display of defending saw Urlingford's Shona Power named as Player of the Match.

Urlingford: Aideen Dawson-Neary, Eimear Leahy, Katie Webster, Shona Power (capt), Ciara Leahy, Erika Carroll, Sarah Jane McCormack, Megan Ryan, Sophie Pembroke, Shannon Cleere, Emma Dunphy, Laura Power, Gwyneth Atkinson-Lynch, Keelin Hayes, Grainne Burke, Shannon Scott, Chloe Beehan, Emma Phelan, Lucy Hollywood, Clodagh Ahern, Katelyn Fitzgerald, Molly Atkinson-Lynch, Mia Ryan, Lyka Gelbolingo, Jessie Woods, Jessica Whyte, Kathryn Quinn, Rachel Butler, Chiara Lacovara, Holly Delaney, Georgina Comerford, Amy Leahy. Manager: Niamh Ryan

Ballyhale: Caitlin Phelan, Vivienne Healy, Chloe O'Grady, Faye Mahon, Lauryn Devereux, Shanelle Mullen, Sinead Fitzpatrick, Lisa Donnelly, Michelle Cleere, Therese Donnelly, Ciara Moran, Maeve Kenneally, Ciara McDermott, Derbhla Doyle, Amy Duggan, Andrea Kent, Doireann Doyle, Sarah Cody, Shauna Coady, Olivia O Keeffe, Amy Laherty, Aisling O Mahony. Mentor: Sarah McCormick.

Referee Sean Cleere.

##### Roinn D Tullaroan 5-7 Conahy 1-4

The Roinn D final was in the balance with five points separating the sides with ten minutes left. Conahy in their first year in the competition put up a great battle against an experienced and well drilled Tullaroan side. A fine display of scoring and skill saw Eimear Lanigan named as Player of the Match.

Tullaroan: Alice Walsh, Leanne Cleere, Caoimhe Holland, Aine Langan, Sinead Keoghan, Niamh Brennan, Roisin Treacy, Rebecca Cudihy, Ciara Walsh, Eimear Lanigan, Caoimhe Maher, Charlotte Sealey, Lindsey Guthrie, Beth Grace, Laoise Holland, Anna McCabe, Shannon Bush, Amy Cleere, Sinead Murphy, Ella Dillon, Aislinn Treacy, Rionach Maher, Roisin Hennessy, Jade Hennessy, Lily Braben. Manager Breda Holmes

Conahy: Claire Maher, Ciara Birch, Evelyn Phelan, Hannah Murphy, Siobhan Mullen, Marie Claire Gamble, Aisling Maher, Aoife Birch, Danielle Morrissey, Alice Byrne, Emma Cahill, Emma Waters, Cara Brennan, Vanessa Creedon, Roisin Nolan, Lisa Coogan, Megan Cudihy, Chloe Leahy, Grace Mulhall, Shannon Conroy, Ruth Hennessy, Amanda Molloy. Manager Ann Cahill.

Referee Orla McCormack.

# WHAT A YEAR FOR LOCAL PLAYERS!

## HANDBALL REPORT by CIARÁN NEARY PRO

Last year was a hugely successful handball year but Kilkenny handballers made this year a year to remember on every front winning world titles, national titles, All Ireland titles and USHA National titles.

### World Handball Championships

The 2012 world championships in the Citywest turned out to be a great tournament for local players. In the world class venue which had 12 four-wall courts and eight one-wall courts. It proved to be a victorious ground for our handballers. William Love got the winning underway when he beat Brendan Burke in the Mens C all-Kilkenny Final. Both players played excellent handball all through the week and had to win seven matches to reach the final. Brendan gave a great display of retrieving and killing in his semi-final and quarter-final wins over Robert Farrelly and one of the tournament favourites, Paddy Berry, of Wexford. William never dropped a game all tournament and was in control in all his games. In the final he just had too much firepower for Brendan but both players were a credit to Kilkenny. William played confident handball all through and looked like he was enjoying himself in every game. Talbots Inch's Ciaran Neary teamed up with Offaly's Michael O'Brien to win the Mens "B" Doubles in a thrilling tiebreak win over Cork in the final 11-1. This has proved to be a successful partnership as they won the Mens "C" doubles in Portland in 2009. Ciaran also reached the Mens "C" one-wall final with Shane Brody from Cavan but lost out in two straight games. Michael "Ducksy" Walsh won the Masters Singles and Doubles with Tommy Hynes. This was his fourth masters' world title and he was on fire all tournament. In the singles final he was 16-9 down and grinded out a 21-17 win in front of a packed and entertained gallery in the showcourt. Billy Bourke combined with Egin Jensen to win the 45 doubles in a tie break 11-8. It was hard to believe that this was Billy's first world title after all the titles he has won and he can be very proud of his achievement. Ciara Mahon lost out in the one-wall final of the under 18s. Ciara had a great tournament and she had to come through some very tough battles. It has been a great year for Ciara and she can look back with pride at reaching a world final. Mothel's Paul Dowling and Windgap's Eamonn Purcell lost out in the 45 "B" Doubles final. Both players played great handball all through and it was a pity they couldn't go the whole way but they should be very proud of their silver medals. To win or reach a world is a huge achievement and it shouldn't go unrecognised around the county.

### 40x20 Nationals

The Irish Adult 40 x 20 Nationals took place over the weekend of April 20th-22nd in Ulster and North Leinster venues. Kilkenny had a number of players in a wide range of grades. In the Masters Singles Final Ducksy Walsh (Talbots Inch) defeated his long time rival Tom



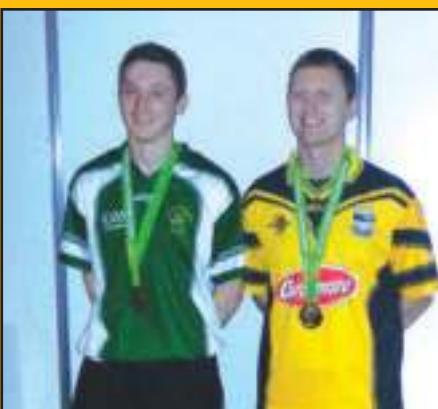
World Mens C Doubles One-Wall  
Ciaran Neary/Shane Brody



Dan Breen Under 23 Nationals Runner Up.



Under 18 One-Wall runner up Mary Phelan



Mens C Singles Winner William Love & Brendan Burke



Mens B Doubles Ciaran Neary & Michael O'Brien

Sheridan (Meath) 21-12,21-11. For the second year in a row Dan Breen (Kells) reached the Under 23 and Under B Final where he defeated Peter Harte (Tyrone) 21-2, 21-3 in the semi-final and qualified for the final against Christopher McKenna (Monaghan). Dan lost out 21-8 21-17 to the very strong Monaghan player but he still has one year left to get over the line. In the Mens 'B' Singles Ciaran Neary (Talbots Inch) defeated Dale Cusack (Cork) 21-11 21-10 and Declan Connaughton(Galway) 20-21 21-13 11-0 on Saturday to set him up for a semi final against Tyrone's Ryan Daly. In a great display of handball the Talbots Inch man defeated Daly in the tie break 14-21 21-6 11-4. In the final Ciaran came up against recent All Ireland Junior singles finalist Terry Kiernan (Monaghan) in his home court, Carrickmacross. On this occasion however Ciaran lost out to the Monaghan player 21-14, 14-21, 11-6 in a gripping final. Brendan Burke contested the Mens "C" Singles. He defeated Eamonn Todd (Monaghan), Conor O'Connor (Meath) and after a tough battle defeated Peter Flanagan (Meath) 11-7 in the third game in the semi final. But unfortunately after three tough matches lost out in the Final to the hard-hitting Peter Reilly (Meath) of Meath 21-17 21-3. Paul Dowling (Mothel) played Kenny Curran (Tyrone) in the semi final and in two tough games defeated him 21-15,21-16 to book his place in the silver masters "B" final. Paul met Down player Sean McNally in the final and came out on the wrong side of a 21-8 scoreline in the first game but came back strong to win the second game 21-18 to set up a tie break. However on this occasion the Down player won out 11-4. Jimmy Neary (Talbots Inch) was beaten by Dublin's Eugene Kennedy in the semi final in St. Melians Truagh after a tough battle.

### 60x30 Nationals

Kilkenny clubs hosted this years 60x30 nationals. Local players enjoyed great success with Brendan and Diarmaid Burke winning the Mens "C" Final. Both lads played superb handball all weekend. Kilkenny player Phillip O'Carroll also reached the semi-final of the "C" doubles. Ciaran Neary and Patrick Funchion cruised through the Under 23 field to collect



Mens C Winners Brendan & Diarmaid Burke



Under 19 Runners Up  
Mary Phelan/Ciara Mahon



Under 23 Winners Patrick Funchion & Ciaran Neary with Sean Walsh



UCC's Fergal Lalor



Girls Under 13 Plate Winners



UL's John Fitzgerald



Boys Under 15 Runners Up  
JJ English/Sean Carey



Brendan Burke 2012 Hal Clarke Winner



Under 13 Runners Up



World Handballers, Billy Burke, Eamon Purcell, Ciaran Neary, Brendan Burke, William Love, Ciara Mahon and Paul Dowling who were honoured in Nowlan Park on County Final day. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

the honors. Ciara Mahon and Mary Phelan lost out in the final of the under 19 grade.

#### Intervarsity Roundup

##### 60x30

The 60x30 championships were played in the last weekend of October in Kilkenny venues and our students put this to great use. Kilkenny had finalists in each of the grades which was great to see. In the Mens Open Final Ciaran Neary lost out to UCD's Martin Mulkerrins 21-12 21-10. In the Mens "A" Final UL and Kells John Fitzgerald defeated Darrell Dolan of Trinity College. Talbots Inch and UCC's Fergal Lalor won the Mens "B" final beating DIT's Neil McEenaney while in the Mens "C" Final Pat Mulhearn of UCD and Mullinavat won out easily after powering through the field.

##### 60x30 Teams

This tournament was also played on the same weekend and for the fourth year in a row WIT came out on top beating DCU in the final. Three local players Patrick and Peter Funchion and Ger McGrath were part of this team. It tops off a great year for Patrick who added his fifth all Ireland medal. Ciaran Neary was part of the DCU team.

#### Hal Clarke Memorial Tournament

The Kilfane Handball Club Annual Hal Clarke Tournament was another huge success. After many great games in the earlier rounds it was down to two Kells players Brendan Burke and Ger McGrath to see who would be crowned champion. In the first game Brendan raced into a 13 to 5 lead but Ger clawed it back to lead 19-16. Brendan finished the game off strong to take the first game 21 -19. In the second Brendan played brilliant handball while Ger was unlucky with a lot of kill shots that missed narrowly. Brendan took the second game 21-4 and was crowned Clarke Cup Champion for 2012. After the game Tom O'Keeffe & Chairman Jim McGrath assisted Pamela O 'Keeffe who was representing the Hal Clarke family to make the presentations. The night was finished off with tea, sandwiches and buns in the club room. The Kilfane Handball Club would like to thank The Clarke Family and all the players who played in the tournament and helped to make it such a success for another year.

# List of All Ireland Winners

## 60x30

Under 15 Singles: Padraig Cooney Clogh  
 Under 16 Singles: John Walsh Mullinavat  
 Under 15 Doubles: Sean Carey / Dylan Caulfield Goresbridge/Kilfane  
 Under 17 Doubles: Eilish Regan/ Aoilean Hennessy Clogh  
 Ladies Minor Doubles: Ciara Mahon/Mary Phelan Clogh  
 Under 21 Singles: Patrick Funchion Kells  
 Under 21 Doubles: Patrick Funchion/Peter Funchion Kells  
 Ladies Junior B Doubles: Denise Doyle/Megan Clifford St Canices  
 Ladies Junior Singles: Rachel Hogan Kilfane  
 Ladies Junior Doubles: Rachel Hogan/Claire Grace Kilfane/Windgap  
 Inter. Doubles: Timmy Clifford/Ciaran Neary St.Canices/Talbot's Inch  
 Masters A Singles: Michael Walsh Talbot's inch  
 Silver Mas B Doubles: Paul Dowling/Chris Dunne Mothel/O'Loughlins  
 Golden Mas A Doubles: Martin Lalor/Eugene Downey Talbot's Inch  
 Golden Mas B Doubles: Eamonn Purcell/Jimmy Purcell Windgap  
 Ruby Masters Singles: Paddy Reilly Talbot's Inch

## Runner Up in All Ireland Finals

Boy's Under 14 Singles: Roy Cullen Kells  
 Girl's Under 14 Singles: Aoife Holden Kilfane

Masters B Singles: Noel Holden Kilfane

Silver Mas B Singles: Paul Dowling Mothel  
 Golden Masters B Singles: Eamonn Purcell Windgap  
 Ruby Masters A Doubles: Seamus Reade/Paddy Reilly Talbot's Inch

## 40x20

GU17 Doubles: Mary Buggy/Ashling Maher Clogh  
 Masters A Doubles: Michael Walsh/DJ Carey Talbots Inch/Goresbridge  
 Ladies Minor Doubles: Ciara Mahon/Mary Phelan Clogh  
 Ladies Junior B Doubles: Rachel Hogan/Marie Walshe Kilfane/Kells  
 Masters A Singles: Michael Walsh Talbots Inch  
 Silver Masters A Singles: Billy Bourke O'Loughlins  
 Silver Masters B Doubles: Paul Dowling/Chris Dunne Mothel/O'Loughlins  
 EMAD: Joe Hennessy/Johnny Brennan O'Loughlins/Mothel  
 Golden Masters B Doubles: Eamonn/Jimmy Purcell Windgap

## Runners Up in All Ireland Finals

BU15 Doubles: Padraig Cooney/Niall Walsh Clogh/Windgap  
 BU16 Doubles: Emmet Landy/Brian Mahon Windgap/Clogh  
 GU16 Singles: Kirsty Maher Kells



4 time Under 21 winner Patrick Funchion



Intermediate All Ireland Champions Timmy Clifford & Ciaran Neary



Chris Dunne and Paul Dowling 40x20/60x30 Silver Masters Winners



What a year for the Girls. Clogh's Ciara Mahon/Mary Phelan Minor 40x20/60x30 Champions



Eamonn/Jimmy Purcell Golden Masters B Doubles Winners



Rachel Hogan & Marie Walshe



U21 Champs, Patrick & Peter Funcheon



Denise Doyle/Megan Clifford



Joe Hennessy/Johnny Brennan



Billy Bourke



Martin Lalor/Eugene Downey



# BRIDGING 18 YEAR GAP A MAMMOTH TASK

Kilkenny Camogie Review of 2012 by Michael O'Leary PRO

## INTER-COUNTY REVIEW

### Senior

The year began with Kilkenny under new management as Brendan Williams returned to the helm having guided the county to an All-Ireland final appearance back in 2001. Having trained the county to four consecutive minor All-Ireland victories between 2006 and 2009, and a whole host of All-Ireland colleges titles, there were expectations that Kilkenny could finally end their long famine from All-Ireland glory that stretched back to 1994. However, it was always going to be a very difficult uphill challenge. Having lost 17 of last years panel for various reasons and with 13 newcomers used throughout the course of the year, bridging that 18-year gap was always going to be a mammoth task, and so it proved. Kilkenny began the league campaign down in Killeagh in Cork as they shipped a 17-point defeat losing out 3-14 to 0-6. Matters improved, and a 0-9 tally from Aoife Neary helped overturn a 5-point half-time deficit against Clare to emerge victorious, as they won 0-11 to 1-4. Up next was the challenge of All-Ireland champions Wexford, and Kilkenny lost out 0-11 to 0-10 following a spirited display. Victory was essential up in Dublin to maintain their league hopes, and it was achieved, but only just. Goals from Aoife Neary and Siobhan Holland built up a 2-5 to 0-1 lead, before Dublin responded with two goals. However, Dublin squandered numerous chances in front of goal, and Kilkenny held out for victory as they won by a solitary point, 2-9 to 2-8.

Kilkenny would be re-acquainted with Wexford in the league semi-final. Despite another spirited display, Kilkenny came up short losing by a point to a fortuitous scrambled goal, 1-4 to 0-6. Defeat to Offaly in the Leinster semi-final before attention switched to the championship. The championship unfortunately was a disaster for Kilkenny as they exited before the quarter-final stage. Kilkenny began the championship with a 2-15 to 1-9 victory in Dublin, as 17-year-old Miriam Walsh played a starring role on her championship debut scoring 1-4 from play. However, it was downhill from this point, as Kilkenny went on a losing sequence of results that ended their championship prospects. They were defeated 2-11 to

1-7 by Galway, before suffering a double disaster late on against Tipperary the following week. Kilkenny were in control and well on their way to victory as they led 1-15 to 0-13 with 53 minutes gone. However, Tipperary rallied and two late points followed by late goals from substitutes Noreen Flanagan and Michaela Graham shocked Kilkenny and that result would subsequently prove to have a devastating effect.

A heavy defeat to Cork by 11 points (2-15 to 1-7) a week later was another major blow before suffering another defeat up in Offaly (2-13 to 1-11) which meant a play-off encounter with Dublin was required to try and progress to the quarter-final. However, having suffered defeats the four previous weekends, confidence was at a very low ebb, and defeat to Dublin after extra-time by a solitary point wasn't a surprise, 0-17 to 2-10.

A year of massive disappointment for the seniors, and with the managerial position vacant at the time of writing following the departure of Brendan Williams, there is going to be a major task ahead to try and compete for silverware in future.

### Intermediate

It was a disastrous year for the Intermediate who were defeated in all eight games between the league and championship. Their opening league encounter against Cork ended with a 2-8 to 2-5 defeat having made a remarkable fightback from 11 points down. They then suffered an unfortunate one-point defeat at home to Tipperary, 1-11 to 2-7. Further defeats against Meath and Down completed their league misery. Having lost a number of players for various reasons, Kilkenny's championship was also a misery. A 16-point defeat suffered at the hands of Galway was a recipe for disaster, before suffering an unlucky injury-time point defeat to Tipperary from an Aoife Shinnners free. Heavy defeats to Cork and Wexford compounded their championship misery.

### Minor

The Minor Championship commenced earlier this year as to avoid a clash with the Senior Championship later on in the season. A dramatic contest in their opening game against Galway saw them



Kilkenny Senior Camogie Team 2012 (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

Back: Emma Staunton, Catriona Ryan, Aoife Lyng, Miriam Walsh, Elaine Aylward, Orlaith Walsh, Grace Walsh, Anne-Marie Lennon, Aisling Curtis, Niamh Byrne, Kate McDonald, Nicola Butler, Kelly Hamilton, Caoimhe Shiel, Siobhan Holland,  
Front: Edel Maher, Eimear Mulhall, Jennifer Cunningham, Emma Comerford, Collette Dorner, Mairead Power, Michelle Quilty, Catherine Doherty, Jacqui Frisby, Katie Power, Noelle Maher, Aoife Neary,



Kilkenny Minor Camogie Team 2012

(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

**Back:** Joan Gaule (Co Board vice-chairperson), Dave Gallagher (sel), Tara Hogan, Niamh Bambrick, Christine Lyng, Antoinette Power, Catherine Foley, Noelle Murphy, Orla Hanrick, Julie-Anne Malone, Lydia Fitzpatrick, Niamh Phelan, Kelly Hamilton, Kate Holland, Aine Kinsella, Amy Bryan, Siobhan Corcoran, Anna Buggy, Kate Croke, Niamh Leahy, Damien Walsh (Manager), Matt Doran (sel),  
**Front:** Patsy Murphy (sel), Lorraine Long, Chloe Power, Aine Gannon, Lauren Barcoe, Mary Corcoran, Laura Dunne, Miriam Walsh, Michaela Kenneally, Sarah Anne Quinlan, Megan Farrell, Marie Doheny, Katie Doheny, Laura Hegarty, Rachel Hogan, Jennifer Norris,

prevail by a solitary point after almost seven minutes of injury-time. Galway led 1-4 to 0-2 at the interval, before Kilkenny replied with a Kelly Hamilton goal as late points from placed balls by Lydia Fitzpatrick and Orla Hanrick secured a precious victory to qualify directly for the All-Ireland semi-final. Kilkenny made the long trip to Ballyagran Co. Limerick, and defeated Cork 1-10 to 1-5 courtesy of an Orla Hanrick goal.

The All-Ireland final against Galway is one that Kilkenny will look back on with regrets. Having led 1-7 to 1-2 early in the second-half, Kilkenny were in a promising position. However, Galway buoyed on by the strong wind advantage rallied to draw level with five consecutive points in as many minutes, before a second goal from Rachel Monaghan killed off Kilkenny hopes to emerge victorious on a 2-12 to 1-10 score line.

There was consolation for Kilkenny in the Leinster final as a hat-trick of goals from Rachel Hogan gave them victory over Dublin. *The Kilkenny team which played in the All-Ireland minor final was Noelle Murphy(Lisdowney), Laura Dunne (Danesfort), Niamh Phelan (captain) (Windgap), Michaela Kenneally (Windgap), Meighean Farrell (Thomastown), Miriam Walsh (Tullaroan), Kate Holland (Lisdowney), Aine Kinsella (Mullinavat), Kelly Hamilton (Rower-Inistioge), Orla Hanrick (Dicksboro), Sarah Anne Quinlan (Young Irelands, Gowran), Julie-Anne Malone (Mullinavat), Lydia Fitzpatrick (St. Lachtains, Freshford), Catherine Foley (Windgap), Marie Doheny (St. Brigids), Subs: Aine Gannon (Rower-Inistioge) for Holland 47 minutes, Niamh Bambrick (Windgap) for Doheny 55 minutes,*



Aoife Lyng (Kilkenny) is held by Clodagh McGrath and Colette Gill (Galway) during the Intermediate All-Ireland Championship in Nowlan Park.

(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Marie Doheny (Kilkenny) goes to handpass the sliotar under pressure from Sarah Noone (Galway) during the Intermediate All-Ireland Championship in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)

## CLUB SEASON REVIEW

### Senior

The championship final was once again contested by Mullinavat and St. Lachtain's of Freshford who also contested the final. The Mullinavat girls won their three league matches against Thomastown, Windgap and Lisdowney before easily defeating senior newcomers Dicksboro 4-20 to 2-9 in the league semi-final. St. Lachtain's won their three group matches against Dicksboro, St. Martin's and St. Brigid's, before overcoming Thomastown by a solitary point in the league semi-final, 2-11 to 1-13. The league decider was played in late August and following a tough hour's action, Mullinavat came out on top, 1-9 to 1-7.

St. Martin's overcame Windgap 2-5 to 0-9 in the first round of the championship, while Lisdowney overcame St. Brigid's in a high scoring thriller, 6-10 to 3-14. Those results meant Windgap and St. Brigid's would contest the relegation final, and in this Windgap easily brushed aside the challenge of the Kilmanagh contingent winning 6-18 to 3-4.

The championship semi-finals were contested by St. Lachtain's and Dicksboro and Thomastown and Mullinavat. Mullinavat eas-

ily overcame Thomastown 2-14 to 1-6, while St. Lachtain's safely negotiated the challenge provided by Dicksboro, 3-14 to 1-12. The county final itself was at a resplendent Clara and St. Lachtain's led by 0-6 to 0-3 approaching the interval. However, Mullinavat struck twice late during the first-half and goals from Valerie Law and Ciara Holden turned the game completely as the Mullinavat girls led by 2-5 to 0-6 at half-time. The South Kilkenny girls powered forward during the second-half, and further goals from Julie-Anne Malone, Leanne Fennelly and Sinead Phelan secured a comprehensive 5-9 to 1-8 victory.

*Teams: Mullinavat – Brid Aylward, Joanne Quinn, Sinead Aylward, Rebecca Haberlin, Paula Butler, Elaine Aylward, Claire Aylward(captain), Aine Kinsella, Amy Butler, Julie-Anne Malone, Leanne Fennelly, Miriam Frisby, Valerie Law, Michelle Quilty, Ciara Holden, Subs: Sinead Phelan for Frisby 21 minutes, Lorraine Fennelly for Law 55 minutes,*

*St. Lachtain's Freshford – Sinead Cash, Katie Doheny, Gillian Dillon Maher, Claire Dermody, Maureen Walsh, Fiona Dowling, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Imelda Kennedy, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Cora Dowling, Sinead Connery, Lydia Fitzpatrick, Carol Kavanagh, Marie O'Connor, Sarah Lanigan,*



Mullinavat - League & Championship winners 2012

Back: Lorraine Fennelly, Joanne Quinn, Sinead Phelan, Julie Anne Malone, Marion Grennan, Ciara Holden, Aine Kinsella, Marie Murphy, Valerie Law.  
Front: Miriam Frisby, Claire Aylward, Brid Aylward, Sinead Aylward, Elaine Aylward, Amy Butler, Michelle Quilty, Rebecca Haberlin, Shaune Kenneally, Leann Fennelly, Elizabeth Cunningham



Rower Inistioge - Intermediate County Champions 2012

Back: John Galavan, Mark Moore, Briona Langton, Emma Hynes, Nora Hanrahan, Áine Holohan, Emma Kavanagh, Bridgette Doyle, Michelle Murphy, Aoife Hanrahan, Eadaoin Leahy, Bridín White, Ciara Lyng, Andrea Lyng, Jane Cullen, Lisa Gannon, Tara Kennedy, Becky Dempsey,  
Front: John Doody, Michael Doyle, Catriona Ryan, Eimear Lyng, Aoife Lyng, Fiona Carroll, Elaine Fleming, Sarah O' Mahoney, Kelly Hamilton, Lizzie Lyng, Christine Lyng, Mairéad Grace, Áine Gannon, Ruth Kavanagh, Mairéad Kennedy.



James Stephens Camogie team who defeated Glenmore in the Junior League Final in Thomastown. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

**Back:** Laura Hanlon, Chloe Hughes, Sharon Rafter, Nicole Lawlor, Aoife Butler, Ciara O'Dwyer, Vivienne Holmes, Christine Campion, Emily Ann Gilligan, Vikki Cahill, Caroline Walton, Samantha Kearney, Cliona Fennelly, Aoife Neary.  
**Front:** Orla McCormack, Chloe Power, Grainne Donnellan, Chelsea Power, Niamh Butler-Captain, Aoife Gorey, Laura Brennan, Sarah Morris, Emily Ryan.  
**Missing from photograph** Orla Neary **Mascots:** Alex and Arwen Donnellan

## Intermediate

Ballyhale Shamrocks easily defeated Tullaroan in the league decider, before suffering defeat to Rower-Inistioge 3-10 to 1-10 in the championship semi-final. Tullaroan also reached the championship decider defeating Piltown 3-5 to 1-8 to set up a final showdown with the Rower girls. However the Rower-Inistioge were driven on by the hurt of championship final defeats in 2009 and 2010 and they meant business right from the outset. Leading 1-7 to 0-3 at the interval courtesy of a Lizzie Lyng goal, a brace of Catriona Ryan goals after the restart secured a comprehensive victory following a magnificent display. Defensively, they were superb only conceding a solitary point from play in which none shone brighter than Emma Hoynes who was truly a revelation. The teams were

**Rower-Inistioge:** Emma Kavanagh, Jane Cullen, Eimear Lyng, Becky Dempsey, Emma Hynes, Kelly Hamilton, Ciara Lyng, Aine Gannon, Bridin White, Sarah O'Mahony, Lizzie Lyng, Aoife Lyng, Christine Lyng, Catriona Ryan, Tara Kennedy, **Subs:** Briona Langton for Christine Lyng 43 minutes, Eadoin Leahy for Tara Kennedy 62 minutes.

**Tullaroan:** Leandra Pollard, Olivia Maher, Ann-Marie Young, Jenny Martin, Carmel Breen, Grace Walsh, Claire Walsh, Rachel Dowling, Niamh Dowling, Miriam Walsh, Noelle Maher, Patricia Mullally, Aine Fahy, Sinead Quigley, Aisling Pollard, **Sub:** Louise Kenny

Representing Kilkenny in the Leinster Championship, Rower-Inistioge travelled to Camross Co. Laois for their provincial semi-final clash. Camross had defeated the queens of Laois Camogie Harps of Durrow in the County senior decider, so it was always going to be a tough battle for the Rower girls.

However, a superb display from Tara Kennedy where she scored 0-4 from play, as well as a second-half goal from Catriona Ryan helped them to a 1-12 to 1-7 victory. Rower-Inistioge had home advantage in the Leinster final against Shinrone of Offaly in Inistioge, and a huge support from the parish community witnessed the greatest day in their club's history. A tough absorbing battle saw the Rower girls lead 1-6 to 1-2 coming towards half-time following an early goal from Catriona Ryan. However, Shinrone responded and a Caroline Crean goal gave the Tipperary border side a 2-4 to 1-6 lead at the interval. The Offaly Senior champions extended the advantage to lead 2-6 to 1-6 entering the closing

quarter, but Rower-Inistioge turned on the accelerator inside the last 15 minutes. They outscored Shinrone 2-6 to 0-2 with goals from Tara Kennedy and super-sub Christine Lyng leading the charge to a famous victory.

Also adding to the score sheet during that closing period were Kelly Hamilton with two frees, Aoife and Christine Lyng, Catriona Ryan and Lizzie Lyng who concluded the scoring as the celebrations down the banks of the Nore in Inistioge began in earnest. Afterwards, Catriona Ryan was named player of the match for the superb display where she scored 1-3 from play. Congratulations to Rower-Inistioge on a famous success, and best of luck in their pursuit of All-Ireland glory.

## Junior

The Junior league was won by James Stephens who easily defeated Glenmore in the decider. At the time of writing, the Junior Championship still has to be completed. Glenmore defeated Danesfort by a solitary point to qualify for the final winning by 3-6 to 2-8. However, the second semi-final between James Stephens and Young Irelands of Gowran still has to be resolved. The Village side won by 4 points after extra-time as the sides finished level at the end of normal playing time. However, Young Irelands launched an appeal to the hearings committee which proved successful. As a result, they've been granted a replay against James Stephens which at time of writing still has to be re-fixed.

Mooncoin easily won the Junior B decider defeating Carrickshock 3-14 to 1-10.

## Minor

Thomastown defeated Danesfort 3-8 to 0-8 in the A decider at minor level as late goals from the Donnelly sisters Eimear and Niamh secured an easy victory in the end, but the sides were level at 1-4 to 0-7 with about eight minutes remaining. Goals from Sarah Long and Edel Murphy gave Piltown a 2-7 to 1-3 victory over St. Martin's in the B decider, while St. Brigid's and O'Loughlin Gaels won the Roinn C and Roinn D finals respectively.

## Under 16

Piltown were victorious in the Roinn A decider against Dicksboro, James Stephens defeated St. Lachtain's/Conahy in the B decider, while Paulstown and Kilmacow were winners in the Roinn C and Roinn D competitions respectively.



## AMOGIE CLUB NEWS

# BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS



U14 team who were shield champions in Roinn C.

Leinster League Final: Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-8 Na Fianna 1-3  
Back: Pat Murphy (selector), Ciara Fennelly, Rebecca Duggan, Catherine Connolly, Paul Whelan (Selector), Orna Fennelly, Margaret Mary Fennelly, Keeva Fennelly, Ciara Ryan, Lorna Fennelly, Roisin Fennelly, Richie Windal (Manager)  
Front: Eimear Fitzpatrick, Lucy Elvidge, Jacqui Frisby, Emily Dermody, Emily O'Dwyer, Emma Nolan



The Ballyhale Shamrocks Minor 7-a-side camogie team who defeated Paulstown in the Minor 7-a-side competition. This was a new competition in the minor grade this year and Ballyhale made history by becoming the first team to win this competition. The team: Ciara Ryan, Aoife Donnelly, Lucy Elvidge, Tara Cody, Rebecca Duggan, Alison Conway, Emily O'Dwyer, Megan O'Keeffe, Jade Cuddihy (Capt) and Eimear Fitzpatrick.



On behalf of the Ballyhale Camogie Management Committee I would like to thank everyone involved for their commitment and involvement throughout the year and look forward to a bright and promising 2013.

Keeva Fennelly

U12's were runners up in their group in the league.



## CAMOGIE CLUB NEWS

# CARRICKSHOCK



Carrickshock - Junior B Championship County Finalists 2012



Carrickshock - U8 Players 2012



Carrickshock - U10 Players 2012



U16 7 A SIDE Team 2012 with mentors Jamie Power & Catherine Duggan



Carrickshock - U6 Players 2012



## AMOGIE CLUB NEWS

# CLARA



Some of the Clara Camogie players who took part in the 2012 Liam Ryan Hurlathon



Michael Phelan giving instruction at an U10 tournament game.



Clara Camogie Player Ciara Byrne being presented with the All Ireland Cup for Loreto Secondary School.



During the year this came known as the "Ada" stretch.



John Heron with his 2 daughters Rachel and Aoife pictured with the Liam McCarthy Cup.



Clara Gaelic for Mothers 2012 team



## AMOGIE CLUB NEWS

# CONAHY SHAMROCKS



Conahy U12 Camogie Team 2012

Included are:

Ruth Hennessy, Cara Brennan, Emma Molyneaux, Hannah Murphy (captain), Shannon Feehan, Alice Byrne, Claire Maher, Danielle Morrissey, Megan Cuddihy, Chloe Leahy, Roisin Nolan, Caomhna Downey, Grace Mulhall, Amanda Molloy, Lisa Coogan, Eve King and Laura Kennedy.



Conahy U14's 2012

Included are:

Alice Byrne  
Emma Cahill  
Evelyn Phelan  
Hannah Murphy  
Siobhan Mullan Chloe Leahy  
Roisin Phelan Claire Maher  
Aishling Maher Ciara Birch  
Megan Randall Caomhna Bergin  
Carrie Randall . Danielle Morrissey  
Marie Claire ,Kathlyn Leahy  
Aoife Birch Amy Morrissey Megan Cuddihy

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# AMOGIE CLUB NEWS

## EMERALDS



Emeralds Junior Camogie team who won the Junior B All County League final defeating Blacks and Whites.

In a closely contested final, Davina Tobin scored a super last minute goal to clinch victory for The Emeralds.

Back: Paddy Ryan (Mentor), Sinead Costello, Briana Norton, Selina Power, Shona Power, Clodagh Cleere (C), Annie Doyle, Niamh Leahy,

Hayley Costello, Shonagh Ahern, Dan Norton (Mentor).

Front: Laura Kavanagh, Jessie Ryan, Samantha Webster, Davina Tobin, Eilish Brennan, Sarah Kavanagh, Aine Leahy, Ciara Phelan, Maureen Norton (Chairperson) Missing from Photograph: Kay Moriarty (Trainer), Grainne O'Dwyer, Siobhan Fahey, Aisling Webster, Koisin Leahy, Bridget Campion, Orla Gleeson.

U- 10 Emeralds Camogie team who partook in various blitzes throughout the year. The club are very proud of their endeavours and wish to thank players and families for their support.



This Year's U-12 team who won the U-12 Kittens Final in Urlingford against James Stephens. The girls gave a tremendous performance on the day. They also partook in numerous blitzes throughout the county.



Emeralds Camogie Club wish to thank the Emeralds GAA Club for the use of their facilities and their continued support.

Thanks to Sean Minogue at Clubshop.ie for his kind contribution towards new club jerseys. Thanks to Sinead Curran for hosting a very successful Easter and Summer Camp. The club are very proud of our county representatives this year: Intermediate: Siobhan Fahey, Minor: Niamh Leahy, U-16: Ciara Phelan, U- 14: Molly Kavanagh & Megan Ryan, Development Squad Representatives: Molly Kavanagh, Shona Connolly, Payton Redman.

Emeralds Camogie U-14 team had a busy camogie season reaching the U-14 semi-final. Unfortunately they were beaten by a very strong Kilmacow side that went on to win the competition outright. This bunch of girls put in a superb effort all year and great credit is due to them.



## AMOGIE CLUB NEWS

# GLENMORE



Chairperson - Una O' Dwyer, Vice Chairperson - Bridget Mullally, Secretary - Elaine Malone, Vice Secretary - Caroline Garvey, Treasurer - Martina Kirwan, P.R.O - Fidelis Doherty, Fixtures Secretary - Karen Jones, Training Co-Ordinator - Seamie Dollard, First Aid and Gear Co-ordinator - Marie Therese Doherty, Child Protection Officer- Triona Foley



Glenmore Camogie Under-14 Roinn A final



Glenmore Camogie Under-12 Final

The Glenmore camogie club enjoyed a very successful year this year, which saw the under-12 win the St. Canice's Kilkenny credit union group 2 county final championship. The under-14 team won the St. Canice's credit union Roinn A county final championship and contested in the Feile Na Gael tournament to the quarter final stage. The under-16's contested the Roinn B championship and secured two wins and a draw result before leaving this competition at the semi final. The junior camogie team reached the final of the Junior League where they unfortunately went down to James Stephens on a score of 4-15 to 3-5. Well done to all concerned. The minor camogie girls battled strongly in their four matches and exited the competition at the quarter final stage. The under-21 camogie team are still scheduled to play matches. The club is very well represented at intercounty level with Ruth Jones on the Kilkenny senior camogie county team and Claire Aylward is on the Kilkenny Intermediate camogie county team. At county development squads level and on county teams there is Marguerite and Helen Hoynes, Nicole Garvey, Michelle Doherty, Mia Griffin, Eimear O'Neill, Sarah Connolly, Olivia Jones Elliott, Ann Marie Phelan, Grace Roche and Cecelia Roche with all players gaining valuable experience at intercounty level. A sincere word of thanks to all the trainers and mentors of all the underage, U16, minor, U21 and junior camogie teams, from the tiny tots, U6, U8 and up through to the U10's, such commitment, devotion and effort is much appreciated. Thanks also to all those involved with the fundraising efforts throughout the year which keep the business of running the club in a good financial position and thanks to all the parents/guardians for all their support throughout the year. With the relocation of the Glenmore GAA club to its new address of Ballinaraha, the Glenmore camogie club thank the Glenmore hurling and football club for all its assistance in facilitating their programme of training and matches and for access to its very recent current development of the astro turf which will readily address the needs and skill base of all members.



Glenmore - Roinn A Schools Champions 2012

The combined national schools of Ballyfaneey and Glenmore won this year's Roinn A national schools final on 17th June 2012.



## AMOGIE CLUB NEWS

# GRAIGNAMANAGH



St. Fiachras 'Black' Team who beat Naomh Bride, Ballyraggett in U12 Cats Final



St. Fiachras U14 team who participated in Dunhill Blitz



U8 girls who played at Annual Field Day 2012



U10 girls who played at Annual Field Day 2012



St. Fiachras 'Green' Team who beat Dicksboro U11's in U12 Cats Final



## CAMOGIE CLUB NEWS

# JAMES STEPHENS



Niamh deBuitleir, Captain, James Stephens, receives the Junior League cup from Martin Quilty, Chairman, Camogie County Bord and Teasie Brennan, St. Canices Credit Union, Kilkenny. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



U12 picture at Camán to Croker on the 5th May 2012. One of two teams to be represented for Kilkenny. The under14s also had a good year, qualifying for the County semi-finals where they were narrowly beaten. The under 16 team went one step better and won the Championship County Final.

2012 was a good year on the playing field for James Stephens Camogie Club. The year started with an increased numbers of girls joining and coming to training in Nuncio Road every Monday for under 8 and under 10 coaching. Our U12s got great experience in both their away blitzes and the blitzes hosted by ourselves with the highlight of their year being pick as one of only two teams selected from Kilkenny to play in the Caman to Croker Activity Day on 5th May in Croke Park. This was a special day for the players, in which the team played three matches, met with Aileen Lawlor, President of the Camogie Association and were given a tour of the Croke Park Museum. Everyone enjoyed the great opportunity to play in Croke Park

The under14s also had a good year, qualifying for the County semi-finals where they were narrowly beaten. The under 16 team went one step better and won the Championship County Final. This was a great achievement by the players and management as they had been beaten at the semi-final stage last year. Congratulation to all concerned.

The Junior team and their mentors worked very hard this year and won the Junior League Final defeating a strong Glenmore team. Sadly they were beaten in the all county final but at the time of going to print our Junior team had qualified for the County Championship semi-final where they will face Young Irelands. The performance on the field of our adult squad has been much improved this year and credit must go to all the players, management and selectors.

Finally we wish to congratulate all our Inter County players Aoife Neary Senior, Orla Conlon under 16, Sophie O'Dwyer, Aoife Cantwell, Michelle Teehan who were on the under 14 squad and congratulation to the girls on the Development Squad: Jackie Rainey, Aoife Brassil and Michelle Teehan.

We are grateful to O'Dwyer's Auto Centre for their continued sponsorship.

We with to thank all who were involved in the club in 2012 including players, managers, selectors, trainers and all the volunteers. These people give all their time voluntary and we are very grateful to them as without them the Club could not function.



James Stephens under-16 Camogie team - Roinn B County Champions 2012



## CAMOGIE CLUB NEWS

# JOHN LOCKES



John Lockes Camogie U10's 2012

Includer are: Ciara Bryne, Hannah Kerr, Kym Ryan, Orla O Malley Davis, Clodagh Lynch, Murine Kirwan, Ciara Bogue, Elizabeth Kerr, Dervle McGrath, Meg Ryan, Aife Hennessy, Aoife Lynch, Molly Fitzpatrick, Laoise Hennessy, Julie Green.



John Lockes Camogie U6's 2012

Includer are: Katie Henriques, Aine Henriques, Caomhne Power, Aine Dowling, Ali Audoire, Brenda O'Gallagher, Anna O'Brien, Amy O'Halloran  
Missing from picture are Laura Phelan, Sarah Kerr, Julie Nolan, Chloe Bailey, Rachel Hartley and Lauren Hartley



John Lockes U16 Camogie Team:

Sarah Bergin, Jade Butler, Victoria Dul, Michaela Glendon, Aisling Butler, Aislinn, Laura Hennessy, Emma Wall, Caithlinn Moore, Crystal Brynes, Eabha Kirwan



*Michael and Theresa Nolan*

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**CENTRA**



# AMOGIE CLUB NEWS



## KILMACOW



**Kilmacow U8 Team Photo includes:** Casey Moore, Chloe Sutton, Siobhan Maher, Maire Rrockett, Annie Larrissey, Lana Doherty, Niamh Cuddihy, Rose Sheridan, Siobhan Walsh, Kate Aylward, Aisling Cleary, Saoirse Allen, Aoife Blanch. Not shown: Michelle Finnegan, Sophie Delahunt, Libby Murphy. Trainers/ helpers: John Cullinane, Geraldine Williams, Liam/ Joe Rrockett & John Sutton (+ Sean), Paula Larrissey and Collette McKenna.



**U14 Team, Roinn C County Champions 2012:**  
Included are: Aisling Walsh, Ailanna Dowling, Amy Ahearne, Anne-Marie Moloney, Becky Dowling, Cliona Murphy, Danielle Dempsey, Eimear Dolan, Eve Lacey, Fiona Cullinane, Jessica Walsh, Kathleen Croke, Lauren Tobin, Mairead McGuire, Mollie Harney, Roisin Cleary, Roisin Dennehy, Sallyanne Williams, Sheonagh Croke, Sinead McEvoy.  
Trainers: Mike Dolan, Ian Harney, Paul Grace, David Williams & David Walsh.



**U16 Team Roinn D County Champions 2012:**  
Claire Purcell, Ann Hayden, Jessica Walsh, Fiona Cullinane, Sheonagh Croke, Orlaith Deegan, Eimear Dolan, Niamh Kelly, Grainne Dolan, Ciara Doody, Kate Irish, Avril Williams, Amy Ahearne, Sinead McEvoy, Tara Lacey, Cliona Murphy, Claire McEvoy, Kirsten Mate Maher, Anne-Marie O'Neill, Mollie Harney, Danielle Dempsey, Becky Dowling.  
Trainers: David Williams, Mike Dolan, Ian Harney & Paul Grace.



**Kilmacow U12 Team Photo at Cáman to Croker 2012 includes:** Aoife Allen, Grace Blanchfield, Una Kinsella, Aine Phelan, Eve Lacey, Hannah Lacey, Afton Grace, Caoimhe Williams, Nell Murphy, Erin Ryan, Kate Sheridan, Emily Kleijn, Nicole Cooke, Ellen Rrockett, Kathleen Croke, Ellie Laffan, Mary Doherty, Danielle Mate Maher, Trainers: David Phelan, Don Laffan, Korry Williams & Fiona Kleijn.  
Not shown: Nadine Rush and Caitlin Fennelly.



**Kilmacow U10 Team Photo includes:** Ciara McKenna, Tara Ryan, Emma Costello, Eve Connolly, Danielle Mate Maher, Kate Sheridan, Rose Sheridan, Kiona Kinsella, Hannah Lacey, Caoimhe McLoughlin, Abbie Murphy, Shauna Roche, Ella Doherty.  
Not shown: Daire Dowling, Katie Larrissey, Nicole Cooke, Rebecca Finnegan.  
Trainers/helpers: John Cullinane, Geraldine Williams, Liam/ Joe Rrockett, John Sutton, Jim Kinsella, Paula Larrissey and Collette McKenna.



**Junior Team:**  
Leanne Ivory, Kate Irish, Anne-Marie Walsh, Leanne Purcell, Sinead Doody, Grainne Dolan, Claire Purcell, Shannon Walsh, Ciara Kent, Kate Kelly, Helena Walsh, Orla Kavanagh, Sinead Deegan, Orlaith Deegan, Grainne Lanagan, Kate Hennessy, Tara Lacey, Not Shown: Amy Williams, Siobhan Power, Amy Jacob.  
Trainers: Mickey Lannon & Bernadette Deegan



## AMOGIE CLUB NEWS

# MOONCOIN



Mooncoin U10's and U12's with Michael Fennelly



Mooncoin U12's 2012



Mooncoin U16's 2012

Back: Deirdre Walsh, Aoife Kearns, Laura Dillon-Dunphy, Eleanor O'Neill, Claire Walsh, Ellie Hogan, Aine Hewston, Rebecca Twomey, Ceara Dowling, Kate Hennebry, Niamh Fleming, Megan Hewston.  
Front: Aoife Walsh, Roisin Crowley, Rachel Butler, Kate Dillon-Dunphy, Sarah Butler, Kate O'Shea, Aoife Roche, Shannon Treacy.  
Manager John Hogan - not in photograph



## CAMOGIE CLUB NEWS



# MULLINAVAT



Senior Camogie League Champions 2012

Senior team and mentors celebrate with family & supporters after beating Freshford in the League final in Thomastown.



U14 Roinn D Shield Winners



U12 Group 6 winners



# CAMOGIE CLUB NEWS

## O'LOUGHLIN GAELS



U-12 ROIANN D CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 2012



U-18 ROIANN D CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS  
2012

Back Row L-R: John Claffey, Paul Cleere, Amy Bryan, Tara Conry, Kathryn Leahy, Lizzy Tormey, Kelly Dowd, Chloe Tyrell, Saorise Claffey, Sinead Ryan, Alice Nolan, Megan O'Keeffe, Danielle Randle, Kieran Maher.  
Front Row L-R: Aaron Maher, Kate Walsh (Capt) Caomhain Treacy, Aoife McKiernan, Aoife Whelan, Bronagh Cleere, Laura Greene, Laura Murphy, Grainne Walsh, Eimear Daly, Niamh Phelan.

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# AMOGIE CLUB NEWS

## PILTON



Feile Team Who Represented Kilkenny in Feile na nGael, Dublin, 2012



Piltown Under-12 Girls Gaelic Football team that was unbeaten in the Thomastown Blitz



### Minor B Champions 2012

Back Row, L-R: Seamus Dunne, Alice Talbot, Ellen Connins, Siobhan Dermody, Debbie Phelan, Edel Long, Jennifer Norris, Leanne Dunne, Katelynn Phelan, Kellyann Doyle, Niamh Dermody, Sorcha Phelan, Jean Power  
 Front Row, L-R: Laura Foley, Chloe Blackmore, Aisling McGowan, Sarah Murphy, Lisa McCarthy, Mairead Power, Sinead McCarthy, Lorraine Long, Eamonn McGowan, Michael Long.

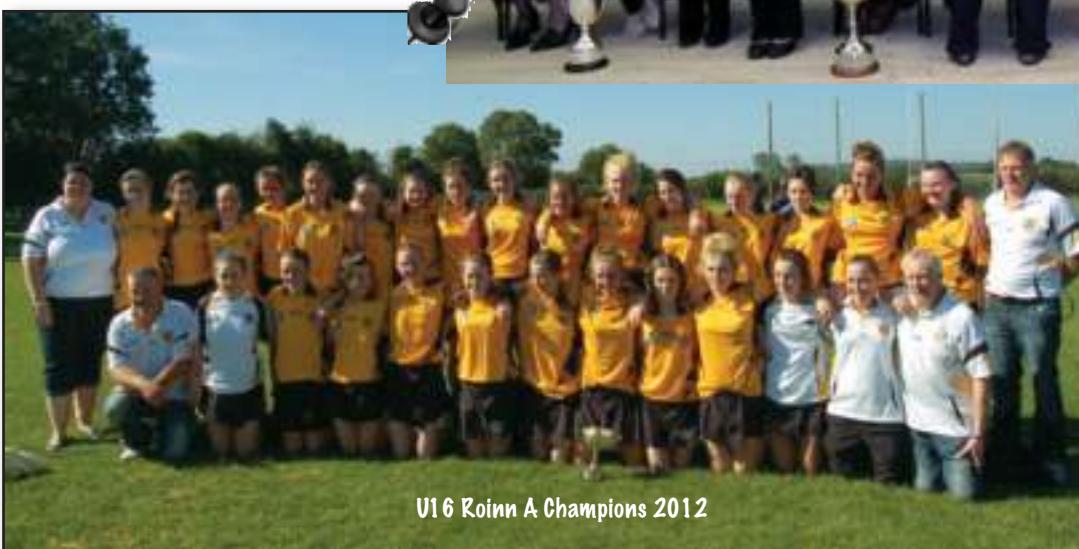


Piltown Girls Gaelic Footballers who were on the Scoil Mhuire (Carrick-On-Suir) team that beat Our Lady's, Templemore in the Munster Junior Post Primary Schools Final.



Above:  
Piltown Camogie Club Committee and Trainers 2012

Back Row, L-R: Michael Brophy, Gay Doyle, Stephanie Coffey, Eileen Dunne, Seamus Dunne, Andrew McCarthy, Tony Foley, Pamela Holden, Eamonn McGowan, Michael Long, Kate Foley  
 Front Row, L-R: Marie Flynn, Theresa Kirby, Noelle Doyle, Kim Brophy, Sheila Norris, Jim Malone, Miriam Reid, Marie Barcoe, Tom Holden, Catherine McCarthy



U16 Roinn A Champions 2012



## AMOGIE CLUB NEWS



# ROWER INISTIOGE



Teasie Brennan (St Canice's C.U.) presents Rower Inistioge Captain, Lizzie Lyng, with the Intermediate Cup



**U6 Team - Winners of U6 Field Day in Graig.**  
Included are: Niamh Flood, Kate Hennessy, Sophie Chapman, Katelyn Kelly, Clodagh kavanagh, Millie Rose Kavanagh, Laura Bolger, Farah Proctor, Eleanor Mc Grath, Jim Kelly



**Rower Inistioge -U16 Shield Winners 2012**  
Included are: Aideen Foskin, Aine Gannon (Capt), Aisling Kelly, Aoife Bolger, Ciara Foskin, Claire Lyng, Eimear Spindler, Grace Malone., Joanna Galavan, Kate Prendergast, Laura Lyster, Niamh Fogarty, Rachel Dwyer, Sarah Grace, Sarah Ryan, Sinead Kelly.

It has been a great year for The Rower Inistioge camogie club. We participated in every grade from under 6 to intermediate. Our under 16 team won the shield final with some great performances all year. The highlight of our season has to be our intermediate team winning the county final. They defeated The Shamrocks in the semi-final and Tullaroan in the final. They were very proud to represent Kilkenny in the leinster championship. Firstly they played Camross of Laois in Camross in the Leinster semi-final and were delighted to come away with a win. Next they played Shinrone of Offaly in the Leinster final in Inistioge. It was a great day for the parish to have the match at home and the girls did not disappoint all the supporters that turned up to see The Rower Inistioge win their first Leinster title. We must extend a big thank you to all our club officials, team mentors, sponsors and supporters for all their help and support during the year. We are not finished yet we will be playing the Munster champions in the All Ireland semi final in February please God.

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## AMOGIE CLUB NEWS



### SLIEVERUE



Slieverue U16 Team - Trainers: Trainers Betty Croke, Johnny Quilty



Slieverue U14 Team - Roinn D County Champions - Trainers: Trainers Betty Croke, Johnny Quilty



Slieverue U12 Team - Group 4 Winners - Trainers: Joe Mulcair, Louise Kennedy, Barry Atkins



## CAMOIE CLUB NEWS

# ST ANNE'S



**St. Anne's Minor County Finalists**  
 Back: A. Purcell (Trainer), C. Cullinane L. Stanley, A. Muldowney, R. Dermody, K Brophy (Selector), C. Purcell, K. Brennan, E. Fitzpatrick, D Phelan and S Dermody  
 Front: M O'Connell, S Whelan, S Corcoran, N Cullinane (Capt), N Sweeney, M Corcoran, E Grace, M Cullinane.

**Minor Leinster Champions and All-Ireland Finalists:** Siobhan and Mary Corcoran



#### County Representatives:

Congratulations to all the girls who represented the county throughout the year.

U-15yrs—Rachel Dermody, Ellen Fitzpatrick, Allison Muldowney, Lauren Stanley and Aoife Sweeney  
 U-16yrs—Mary Corcoran, Chloe Purcell, Niamh Sweeney, and Sarah Whelan. Winning the U-16 Leinster Final and reaching the All-Ireland Semi-Final.

Minor: Siobhan and Mary Corcoran represented our Club at Minor Level. The Kilkenny Minor Teams are Leinster Champions and were All-Ireland Finalists.

Intermediated: Siobhan Corcoran played with the Intermediate Kilkenny Team.

Senior: Catherine Doherty was the Senior Kilkenny Captain and Edel Maher was Vice-Captain, a brilliant honour for the girls and for our club.

#### Bereavements:

Sympathy to the Drennan Family on the death of Bridget Drennan, Mother of Hannah Drennan.

Sympathy to the Molloy Family of the death of Mary Molloy mother of Sarah, Amiee and Tim.

Sympathy to the Byrden, Glendon and Mackey Families on the death of Paddy Byrden RIP.

Ar Dheis De go raibh said.

#### Thank-You

A sincere Thank-You to all who helped in any way in 2012 with regard to organisation, coaching and training, transport to matches, fund-raising etc and to all who sponsored our Camoige Club.

The Camoige Club would like to thank Galway and The Fenians GAA clubs for the use of pitches throughout the year and a special thanks to Milo Quinlan and Nicholas Ryan Caretakers of both grounds who did a wonderful job and had both grounds in excellent condition all year.



**U-16 Leinster Champions and All-Ireland Semi-Finalists:** Niamh Sweeney, Chloe Purcell, Sarah Whelan and Mary Corcoran.

# PAT MOORE



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# AMOGIE CLUB NEWS

## ST BRIGID'S



The 'Brigids Minors just after beating St Annes in the Minor Final 4-5 to 1-10

- 1) Emma Wall,
- 2) Julie Robinson,
- 3) Tara Hogan (c),
- 4) Aisling Kelly,
- 5) Grainne Egan,
- 6) Ciara Murphy (45, and free),
- 7) Caoimhe Murphy,
- 8) Stacy Nugent,
- 9) Antoinette Power,
- 10) Ann Doheny,
- 11) Charlotte McCluskey,
- 12) Margaret Caldbeck,
- 13) Marie Doheny,
- 14) Michaela Reilly,
- 15) Lena Butler.



St Brigid's 2012

2012 was a busy year as usual at St Brigid's, with Camogie being enjoyed by the underage girls - from U8's up to Minors and then the Senior ladies all in competitive action throughout the season.

The club had a wonderful season at underage levels, and in fact such is the quality of the girls that St Brigid's provided no less than 4 members for the County Under 14 panel - Kayleigh Nolan, Eadaoin Murphy, Eimear Keoghan and Maggie Delaney.

All County Intermediate League Champions 2012



## ST LACHTAIN'S



2012 has been yet another progressive year for St. Lachtains Camogie Club. On the playing fields, all sections have been enjoying themselves and all players and mentors must be congratulated for their terrific work and commitment.

We would like to thank you our loyal members and supporters for your valuable support, assistance and participation throughout the year to date, and look forward to more entertainment both sporting and social next year. In addition, we would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the GAA Club for their support and especially for the continued use of the GAA facilities.

### Underage Development:

This year a huge effort was put into developing and promoting the underage section of the Camogie Club and huge credit is due to the individuals involved. Overall it is proving to be very effective. Girls have been down in the field training relentlessly and it all paid off when our u12 team reached the county final but were beaten by a very determined Young Irelands team.

### Kilkenny Team Members:

This year, two of our club players represented the club at county

level and we would like to congratulate them both on their achievements. Lydia Fitzpatrick and Katie Doheny, were members of the Kilkenny minor panel, who reached the All Ireland and were narrowly beaten by Galway.

### Senior:

Our Senior girls started their championship campaign on a great note with very impressive wins over Dicksboro, St. Martins and St. Bridgets/John Locks. They then went on to play Dicksboro in the county semi-final and came out on top on a score line of St. Lachtains 3-14 v's Dicksboro 1-1. Despite two tough battles, the girls were unlucky to lose out to Mullinavat in both the championship county final and the league final.

### Minors:

Once again our minors joined with our close neighbours Conahy. The minors were drawn to play Young Irelands, The Rower-Inistioge, St. Martins, Pilltown, and Mullinavat/Tullogher in the minor competition. The girls first played young Irelands where they recorded an impressive win; however they were then very unlucky to lose out to The Rower-Inistioge, St. Martins, Pilltown and Mullinavat/Tullogher after very determined performances. The girls then progressed to the quarter final stage of the com-

petition, but were unlucky to lose to the Rower-Inistioge.

### U16:

Again like our minors our u16 were joined with Conahy at the initial stages of this yrs U16 competition were run on a league basis and St. Lachtains/Conahy recorded impressive wins over Glenmore and St. Annes. This brought them through to the next stage where they once again recorded a victory over St. Martins in a very tough physical battle that game ran right down to the last minute, with St. Lachtains/Conahy coming out on top with just a point between them. On the 8th of September, the girls played James Stephens in Clara in the U16 B County final. After a very determined and hard fought game, the girls were unlucky to lose out to a strong James Stephens side.

### Other News:

Finally, we would once again like to thank everyone who played a part in St. Lachtains Camogie Club for 2012 and we would also like to invite new members to join for the coming year. Go raibh mile maith agat.



## THOMASTOWN



Thomastown U10's 2012



Thomastown - County Minor "A" Champions 2012

Very Successfull year for Thomastown Camogie Club underage with u12 and u14s taking part in their Co.Finals, u16 reaching semi finals and our minors beating Danesfort in Co.Final. This bunch of girls have won u14, u16 and this year minor finals. Will be looking forward to seeing this panel of girls move up to senior level over the next few years.

With 32 girls playing at u12 level we had two teams taking part in very competitive games both teams reaching the final.

A very sucessful u10 team this year winning all games in the season and a delighted bunch of girls when they claimed the Danesfort trophy for the 3rd year in a row captained by Roisin Keefe. Our very skilful and improved u6s and 8s had very enjoyable outings throughout the summer.

Our senior team, under the guidance of Martin Farrell and Seamus Quigley who put great work into this young and fit team, got knocked out in the semi final against Mullinavat who went on to beat Freshford in the final. In ACL final which yet has to be played and still in u21 Championship. Thanks to all trainers and helpers and welcome always to new members into the club.



Liz Dempsey

Liz has been a camogie referee in Kilkenny for numerous years and has refereed at all grades.

This year was her first year on the inter county referees panel and what a busy year it was been for her. During 2012 Liz reffed the following games:

- Junior B All Ireland Final
- Colleges All Ireland B Final
- National League Games
- Premier Junior League and Championship
- All Ireland Minor C Championship Final

Liz also acted as lines person at the following games:

- All Ireland Senior Final - Cork V Wexford
- All Ireland Intermediate Final Replay (Stand By Referee)
- All Ireland Senior 1/4 Final - Cork V Clare
- All Ireland U16 B & C Finals



## AMOGIE CLUB NEWS



# TULLAROAN

Club Officers, Chair: Ann Marie Young, Secretary: Mary Glennon, Treasurer: Carmel Breen, Registrar: Mary Glennon, Children's Officer: Mary Holland, PRO: Claire Walsh.



U6 and U8's



U10's



U12's



U14's



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# AMOGIE CLUB NEWS



## WINDGAP



Windgap Minor "A" Champions 2011

Back: Fiona Walsh, Sarah Grace, Laura Walker, Michaela Keneally, Niamh Phelan, Mandy Power, Aisling Cody, Eimear Moylan, Jane Walker, Katie Dunphy, Aisling Foley.  
Front: Ciara Molloy, Laura Moore, Gemma Long, Clare Grace (Captain), Leanne O'Neill, Susie Dunphy, Niamh Bambrick, Catherine Foley.

Trainers: Pat Walsh, John Walker and Dinny Gaule.



Windgap Club players that won Leinster Minor Camogie Medals  
Catherine Foley, Niamh Phelan, Michaela Keneally, Niamh Bambrick  
with team selector Matthew Doran.



Windgap Under 10 photo includes Cliodhna O'Shea, Emer Dunphy, Sontae Jackson, Tara Hayes, Moya Buijs, Amy Kinsella, Roisin Foley, Niamh Walsh, Emily Culleton, Heather O'Brien, Ella Dunne.



Windgap Camogie Presentation Night in Powers in Tullaghought: Michael O'Leary PRO Kilkenny Camogie Board. Clare Grace U18 Championship winning captain and Special Award for her National Handball and National and International Boxing Achievements, Joan Gaule Kilkenny Camogie vice Chairperson, Joanne Cody U21 Player of the Year, Elaine O'Shea Senior Player of the Year, Catherine Foley U18 Player of the Year, Julie Walsh U 21 Championship winning captain



Windgap's first ever U21 "A" title winning team - 2011

Back: Dinny Gaule Trainer, Michaela Keneally, Claire Grace, Catherine Foley, Gemma Long, Nicola Moore, Eimear Moylan, Aishling Cody, Joanne Cody, Laura Moore, Ciara Molloy, Alison Walsh, Pat Walsh Trainer  
Front: Margaret Foley Mascot, Niamh Phelan, Denise Gaule, Julie Walsh (Captain), Susie Dunphy, Niamh Bambrick, Laura Walker, Fiona Walsh, Leanne O'Neill, Molly Walsh. Mascot.  
Missing from the picture are Amanda Power and John Walker Trainer.



## AMOGIE CLUB NEWS

# YOUNG IRELANDS



**Under 10s**

Miriam Brennan, Reece Carter, Emma Farrell, Lauren Fenlon, Zoe Fenlon, Tiffanie Fitzgerald, Sinead Healy, Laura Langton, Rebecca Lennon, Lauren McCormack, Mia Murphy, Maria Nolan, Eva O'Donnell, Ciara O'Keeffe, Sarah O'Neill, Anna Patterson, Leah Phelan, Saoirse Smith, Emer Tobin with coaches Billy O'Keefe, Paul O'Donnell & Avril Holland



**Under 8 Girls**

Rose Prendergast Peig Keating Katie Pitt Tara Fenlon Marie O'Keeffe Abbey Fenlon Alicia Brennan Ellie Murray Ciara Bryan Ciara Jelly Niamh Corbett Ella Phelan Ella Middleton & Julia Patterson



**Under 14 Roinn C Finalists**

Ashleigh Boote, Charlotte Boote, Hannah Brennan, Darragh Brown, Leanne Byrne, Roisin Byrne, Nicole Carter, Ava Comerford, Linda Delaney, Rachel Dreeling, Kate Drennan, Steffi Fitzgerald, Charlotte Kehoe, Zoe Middleton, Rebecca Nevin, Ellen O'Donnell, Grace O'Donnell, Katie O'Neill, Aoife Naddy, Katie Quinlan, Milica Rabat, Aine Smith, with Mentors Yvonne Hennessy, Lizzy Byrne & Ber Fitzgerald  
Missing from Photo: Megan Ryan



**Under 6**

Alexandra Brennan, Anna Brennan, Orla Brennan, Roisin Brennan, Zara Carey, Ella Kate Convery, Aine Delehaney, Clodagh Farrell, Doireann Farrell, Jayne Farrell, Katie Hehir, Julie Lennon, Hannah McCurdy, Rachel O'Neill, Chloe Pitt, Katie Scriven & Georgina Wall Dunne with coaches Eoghan Farrell, Brian Corbett, Eamonn Brennan & Michael Pitt



**Primary Schools Roinn B Finalists:**

Emer Naddy, Rachel Doyle, Tiffanie Fitzgerald, Laura Langton, Laura Nevin, Rachel Dreeling, Nicole Carter, Heidi Sheridan, Steffi Fitzgerald, Megan Darcy, Ciara O'Keeffe, Jade Donnelly, Anna Felix, Rebecca Nevin, Aoife Farrell, Ellen O'Donnell, Leah Brennan, Grace O'Donnell, Louise Kelly, Zoe Fenlon, Charlotte Boote, Maddy Lawson, Hannah Brennan, Reece Carter, Amy O'Neill, Ashling Rudkins, Leeann Byrne, Sarah O'Neill, Sarah Gittens, Jessica Devitor, Mary Dreelan, Milica Rabat, Caithlin Aylward-Simpson, Ashley Boote.

Missing are: Saoirse Smith and Zoe Middleton



# Club Notes



## BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS



Hands on sponsorship (l-r): Henry Shefflin, TJ Reid, Catherine Holden, David Hoyne (captain), Paul Holden, Eóin Reid (vice captain), Michael Fennelly Sr (Chairman).

Ballyhale Shamrocks enjoyed another successful year. Crucially, the club found a new sponsor in local businessman Paul Holden and is delighted with this association.

The Juvenile section, under Chairperson Noreen Malone, enjoyed a satisfactory season, earning some silverware along the way. Much good work was done at U8, mentored by Tom Cleere, John Corcoran (Manager) and Jim Cullen, at U10, mentored by Pat Cullen (Manager), and at U12, mentored by Paul Coady, Eddie Devereux and John Shortall (Manager).

The highlights came at U14, looked after by Sean Holden, Brendan Mason and Paul O'Donoghue (Manager). First, the club took the Lisdowney Sevens title, defeating O'Loughlin Gaels in the final, 5-7 to 2-10. Evan Shefflin received the Sweeney Cup having been one of the finest hurlers on view.

The victorious ten-man panel: Eóin Cody, Darragh Corcoran, Conor Doyle, Dylan Drennan Smyth, Patrick Hearne, Eóin Kenneally, Sean Mason, Adrian Mullen, Keelan O'Donnoghue, Evan Shefflin (captain). Eóin Walsh, part of the initial selection but ill the second day, was replaced by Darragh Corcoran.

Following two frustrating seasons, the U14 B title eventually arrived. Having struggled in the Roinn A League, the club was wisely regraded. Their campaign gathered momentum and Barrow Rangers were defeated, 3-9 to 1-1, after a pulsating and wonderfully contested decider at Nowlan Park on September 29.

The game swung to and fro. Following a great start for us, leading 1-2 to 0-0 on ten minutes, Barrow Rangers took over and were ahead 1-4 to 1-3 at the break.

A terrific Adrian Mullen goal on 39 minutes gave Ballyhale the initiative at 2-5 to 1-5. But the Paulstown boys stormed back and had the minimum lead at 1-11 to 2-7 with five minutes left.

A deft Eóin Cody goal in the 58th minute proved decisive. The flying Evan Shefflin and colossus Darren Mullen added points for a narrow but deserved victory. Popular captain Andrew Moran received the cup.



Andrew Moran, Captain, Ballyhale Shamrocks, receives the under-14 Roinn B cup from Willie Dempsey, Chairman, Bord na nÓg. (Eoin Hennessy)

**U14** Dean Mason, Enda Kenneally, Dylan Aylward, Patrick Hearne, Sulayman Masood, Darren Mullen 0-1, Darragh Corcoran, Dylan Drennan Smyth, Eóin Kenneally, Eóin Cody 2-2 (0-2f), Adrian Mullen 1-4 (0-1f), Evan Shefflin 0-2, Kevin Fennelly, John Hession, Andrew Moran (captain). Subs: Adam Brenner for Adrian Mullen (bs, 6-9m); for Dylan Drennan Smyth (ht), Martin Davis, Conor Doyle, Ronan Hayes, Michael Lawler, Keelan O'Donnoghue for John Hession (60+m), James Reid, Eóin Walsh for Andrew Moran (60+m).

The U16 B panel, looked after by Pat Cullen, Séán Reid (Manager) and Jimmy Walsh, lost to St Lachtain's, 2-14 to 1-7, on August 2 at St John's Park in the preliminary round after an injury-disjointed season. Better days lie ahead for this group of hurlers.

**U16** Conor Reid, Sulayman Masood, Conor Phelan, Evan Shefflin, Patrick Doyle, Eugene Aylward 0-1 (65), Dylan Aylward, Joe Cuddihy 0-2, Patrick Malone, Conor O'Dwyer, Ronan Corcoran (captain) 1-3 (0-1f), Tom O'Keeffe, Adrian Mullen, Kevin Mullen, Kevin Fennelly 0-1. Subs: Adam Brenner for Kevin Fennelly (55m), Robbie Burke for Conor O'Dwyer (55m), John Hession (away), Enda Kenneally (away), Darren Mullen (inj).

The Minor A panel, with the same selectors, likewise suffered through injury to key players. They lost on August 14 at Tom Ryall Park in the preliminary round to Emeralds, 0-20 to 0-14.



Ballyhale Shamrocks, Sweeney Cup Club Shield Final winners in the Lisdowney Sevens. Back: Brendan Mason (Sel), Adrian Mullen, Patrick Hearne, Dylan Drennan Smyth, Darragh Corcoran, Keelan O'Donnoghue, Paul O'Donnoghue (Manager), Sean Holden (Sel). Front: Eóin Cody, Eóin Kenneally, Dean Mason, Evan Shefflin, Conor Doyle.

**MINOR** Liam Elvidge, Conor Phelan, Brian Butler, Kevin Mullen, Stephen Donnelly, Jack Kenneally (captain), Eugene Aylward, Joe Cuddihy, Eóin Doyle 0-3 (f), James Deasy 0-1, Ronan Corcoran 0-2, Dylan Doran, Mark Phelan, Brian Cody 0-2, Patrick Mullen 0-6.

Subs: Patrick Doyle for Kevin Mullen (37m, inj), Patrick Malone for Kevin Mullen (bs, 16-25m); for Mark Phelan (ht), Kevin Mullen for Dylan Doran (50m), Tom O'Keeffe (away), Conor Reid.

Back in early summer, the adult section was boosted when our Junior footballers won out. Managed by Tom Coogan, the team played with a nice verve. Enjoying the experience helped stave off 2011's hurling disappointment.

This final, played on May 22 at a windy Grennan, saw Young Irelands defeated after serious struggle by 1-10 to 1-5. The highlight was a monster point from 45 metres by Bob Aylward in the 55th minute, which levelled at 0-8 to 1-5.

Near immediately, Keith Nolan put in Alan Cuddihy for a goal and daylight. Mark 'Chesney' Aylward lifted the cup to wild whoops and cheers.



After the battle.....Henry and Joe shoot the breeze  
SPORTSFILE

**JUNIOR FOOTBALL** Michael O'Sullivan, Mark Aylward (captain), Bob Aylward 0-1, Willie Coogan, Kieran Grace, Paul Shefflin, Gavin Butler, Joe Holden, TJ Reid, Alan Cuddihy 1-1, Éamonn Walsh 0-2, Richie Reid 0-1, David Hoynes 0-4 (3f), Keith Nolan 0-1, Eóin Reid.

Subs: Brian Cody, Tom Coogan, Stephen Donnelly, Dylan Doran, Eóin Doyle, Enda Fitzpatrick for Joe Holden (inj, 49m), Liam Grant, Ger Holden.

The Special Junior A hurlers, looked after by Michael Hoynes, Patrick O'Sullivan (Manager) and Tommy Shefflin, made the Southern semi-final. Much hampered with injuries, they went down to a strong performance by The Rower-Inistioge, 2-16 to 1-6. The pleasing aspect here was the bloodling of youngsters who will be to the fore in years to come.

**SPECIAL JUNIOR** David Harrington, Michael O'Sullivan, Michael Dermody (captain), Keith Murphy, Kieran Grace, Keith Nolan, Brian Butler, Willie Coogan, Eóin Doyle 0-5 (f), Stephen Donnelly, Liam Grant, Brian Cody 0-1, Michael Carroll, Gavin Butler, Dylan Doran.

Subs: Liam Elvidge, Ger Holden 1-0 for Dylan Doran (ht), Darren Mason, Tom Coogan (inj), James Deasy (inj), John Dermody (away), Enda Fitzpatrick (inj), Eóin Knox (inj), Patrick Mullen (inj).

Time of writing, the Seniors were through to play Dicksboro in the County Final, with the U21 A panel, under John Drennan's management, awaiting the Southern Championship.



# Club Gallery

## BARROW RANGERS



Chairman- Derek McEvoy Secretary- Stephen Dorner Vice Chairman- Peter Breen Vice Secretary- Pat Cassidy Treasurer- Richie Doyle Vice Treasurer- Gary English PR.O- Jim Grace



Barrow Rangers Roinn B under 14 Runners up includes: John Martin, Conor Blake, Shane Flavin, Jimmy Byrne, Ruairí Breen, Sean O'Neill, Cian Cassidy, Marc Drennan, Ciarán Hanlon, James Hennessy, Conor Kinsella, Edward O'Neill, Michael Doyle, Patrick King, Patrick Hennessy, Niall Doheny, Sean Dermody, James English, Robert Gleeson, Ben Whelan, Paul Martin, Sean Grace, Eoin Rudkins, Jack Kelly, Ciarán Brennan,

### Underage teams

Our under 14 team produced some fantastic performances throughout the year and were extremely unlucky to fall at the last hurdle when losing narrowly the county B final in front of a large crowd to Ballyhale Shamrocks.

The Under 16 and Minor teams failed to make any real impression on their respective Championships but these are very young teams and will no doubt be a lot stronger during next years campaigns.

### Trainers and Selectors

A huge thanks has to go to everybody who help train and select teams throughout the year. They travelled the length of the county to matches and continue to give their time generously.



Richie Doyle



Darren O'Neill



Cathal Kenny

### On the Playing Fields

It was a mixed year for our adult teams at Junior Grade. Our Junior B team had a great year winning the Joe Walsh Memorial Tournament earlier in the year and following this up by winning the Northern Championship with a great win over near neighbours Blacks and Whites. It was the first time for 20 years the club tasted success in this championship. In the county final we were beaten to Kilmacow after extra time.

The Junior team beat Galmoy in the first round of the championship but were beaten at the Quarter Final stage by Lisdowney for the second year running by a 3 point margin. The players put in a fantastic effort all year under the management of PJ Ryan with numbers exceeding the 30-player mark most nights for training.

### Website

The club launched a new website for all members this year. All match reports and club news can now be read on HYPERLINK "<http://www.barrowrangers.ie>" www.barrowrangers.ie or alternatively on the clubs new Facebook account where match photos and club news reports are regularly posted.



BARROW RANGERS U-14 SUMMER HURLING LEAGUE 1996

Back row (l to r): Michael Kelly, Nicky Morrissey, P.J. Barcoe, Ciaran Cooke, Damien Keyes, Peter Brophy, Eddie Gavin, Jonathan Cooke, Denis Kealy Fr. Jim O'Connell, Pat Morrissey, Brian Keyes. Middle row (l to r): Darren O'Neill, Liam Walsh, Gerald Byrne, Mark Lillis, John Murphy, Derek McEvoy, Shane McEvoy, David Kelly. Front (l to r): Robert Collins-Hughes, Danny Kearney, Ricky Murphy, Andrew Healy

**The March of Time**  
2012 saw the sad passing of 3 great servants of the club. Jimmy Staunton, Murt Brennan and Eamon Cahill dedicated their lives to Barrow Rangers over a number of years and they will be sadly missed within the club and parish.



# Club Gallery

## BENNETTSBRIDGE



**U-6 to U-12**

Great work is being done at underage level in the club in recent years and this is still the case with a large number of youngsters at all age levels in the parish. Credit must go to all mentors and parents for carrying out this work and no doubt these young players will be lining out at different levels for the club in the future. Also camogie has made a welcome return to the club at underage level this year.

### County Representation

Bennettsbridge were well represented on county teams this year. Hugh Corkery was a member of the U-14 Tony Forristal panel. Liam Blanchfield, Sean Morrissey and Jason Cleere represented Kilkenny in the Arrabawn U-16 tournament. The club, as the previous years county champions, had the honour of captaincy of the Kilkenny minors. Enda Morrissey was selected for the role and along with Cormac Wafer represented the club with great pride on the Kilkenny minor team. Also Enda Morrissey and Robert Lennon were selected for the Kilkenny U-21 panel this year. Nicky Cleere also made the Kilkenny Intermediate panel that were beaten in the All Ireland final this year. Well done to all.

### Junior

The year started for the juniors with great numbers in the field for training for the first time in many years. The league brought mixed results with wins over Barrow Rangers and Sliieverue along with losses to Lismore, Cloneen and Windgap. Next up was the north championship. The team had victories over Barrow Rangers,

Fenians and O Loughlins in reaching the final. However in the final Lismore proved too good with a strong 2nd half performance. The championship quickly followed and the draw pitched the team against an undefeated and well fancied Piltown. The team hit the ground running however and built up a big lead and after a nervy finish they held on to win by a point 1-6 to 1-5. In the quarter final they overcame Sliieverue by 2-19 to 0-11. The semi final was played in Nowlan Park versus O Loughlin Gaels. After a very tough game the Bridge were victorious on a score-line of 0-17 to 2-8. The Bridge were back in the County final for the first time since 2005 and again the opposition were Thomastown.

### U-14, 16 and Minor.

The U-14 team had a good year with what was a very young team this year. They reached the league final only to go down to a very strong Dunnagin team.

After a strong first half the Bridge never got going in the second half and couldn't hold the Dunnagin team. Unfortunately they met the same team again in the 1st round of the championship and the result was the same after a great effort from the team.

The U-16's had a very promising year. After a strong league with a number of impressive performances they reached the shield final versus Conahy. In the championship they had impressive victories over Barrow Rangers and Kilmacow. In the semi final Conahy were once again the opposition. In what was a titanic struggle Conahy ended up narrow winners after the Bridge gave it their all. At minor level the Bridge were defending county champions. The league brought mixed results with the team performing well with some good victories and also some narrow losses. Championship came around and the team were drawn against one of the favourites for the competition, the Rower Inistioge. However this team were not going to let go of the title without a fight. After what was a mammoth game that went to extra time The Rower ground out the victory after many scares along the way. This team showed huge spirit and brought great pride to the jersey in the way that they handled themselves.

Credit must go to all mentors of these teams for the work that they have put in throughout the year.



**Bennettsbridge 1935/36**

Back: ?, Watt Jackman, Johnny Murphy, Johnny Reid, Richie Fennelly, Tom Murphy, Mick Murphy, Ned Walsh, Tim Kelly, Jack Murphy, Joe Maher.  
Front: ?, John Sullivan, Kieran Power, Billy Jackman, MI Kealy, John Cullen, Tommy Conway, John Kealy, Jack Delaney



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the best of craic, and a better atmosphere  
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# Club Gallery

## CARRICKSHOCK



Gary Comerford and Jim Rohan... two great Carrickshock boys



Ruairi Power and Adam Franks with Matty Power Cup



Richie Power and Ruairi Power with 'Matty Power Cup' senior hurling league 2012



Eamon Phelan, Carrickshock celebrates having managed London to win the Christy Ring Cup 2012.



Carrickshock golf classic 2012, 'Carrickshock welcome Offaly greats Johnny Dooley, Michael Dignan and Brian Gavin as guests at the golfdclassic 2012'



Carrickshock Golf Classic committee 2012 Mary Carroll, Sharon Ireland, Jim Gorey (1st prize), Paul Cashin [Captain Callan Golf club], Liam Duggan, Richie Power



Carrickshock U8 ready to leave Hugginstown on way to Croke Park



Jim Brennan and Sean Gibbons looking the part in Croke!

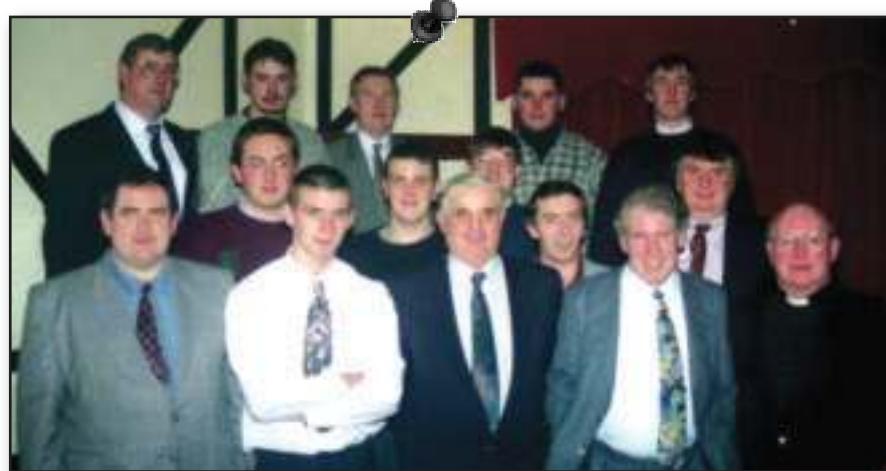


Carrickshock U12 play Setanta Ballymun August 2012 on way to Croke park.



# Club Notes

## CARRIGEEN



1995 Committee members pictured with former President Paddy Buggy and members of Southern Board  
 Back: Pat Dalton, James Power, Andy Aylward (Southern Board), Wally Morahan, Pat Dunphy.  
 Middle: Nicky Dunphy, Richie Roche, Pat Coyne, Jim Brown, Richie Quinn,  
 Front: Ned Quinn (Southern Board), Mossy Browne, Paddy Buggy (Former President), Eddie Quinn (R.I.P.), Fr John Condon.



Carrigeen Tíren Beáinn by Carrickshock in South Semi-Final 1977 - 1978. Back Row (LaoR) John Lynch, Willie Roche, Seamus Brion, Tommy Purcell, Paddy Walsh, John Walsh, Willie Grant, Willie Cunningham. Middle Row: Pats Conway, Matty Kelly, Francis Walsh, Bill Kelly, Jay Murray, Lar Power, Front Row: Paddy Kelly, Tommy Walsh, John Purcell, John Kelly, Michael Walsh, Dick Walsh.



Carrigeen team that reached Joe Walsh Cup final in 2006.  
 Back:- Ray Murray (Selector), Geoffrey Dobbyn, Pat Dunphy, James Power, Michael Jacob, Kevin Kennedy, John Hearne, Liam Roche, Fintan Dermody, Vinny Power, Eoin Gallagher, Seamus Dunphy, Tommy Walsh, Noel Maher (Manager), Pat Dalton.  
 Middle: Nicky Dunphy (Selector), John Fripps (Selector), Pa Walsh, Jamie Carroll, Stephen Jacob, Shane Walsh, Ivan Tobin, Patrick Dalton, Michael Murphy, David Walsh, Neville Synnott, Richie Quinn,  
 Front: Conor Fripps, Kevin Murphy, Brian Murphy, Seanie Tyler, Pat Phelan, Wally Morahan, Stephen Blackmore, Seamus Jacob, Tom Dunphy, Hilary Delahunty.

### Obituaries



Ger Delahunty

Jimmy Walsh

2012 saw the passing of two former players of the 1950's and 1960's. Ger Delahunty (R.I.P.) was both a player and Secretary of the club. Jimmy Walsh (R.I.P.) was an accomplished hurler in the late 1950's and early 1960's. May they Rest in Peace.



Championship Team of 2012:- Back Row Left to Right, Wally Morahan, Mark Dempsey, Johnny Cooney, Peter Dunlea, Cathal o Keeffe, Paul Walsh, Richie Roche, Michael Moran, Jamie Dobbyn  
 Front Row Left to Right . Patrick Dalton, Jamie Carroll, Stephen Blackmore(Capt), Eoin Gallagher, Hilary Delahunty, Anthony o'Brien, Niall Gallagher, Adam Skehan, Richie O'Brien, Conor Fripps.



Carrigeen Beáinn by Pittown in Junior B Semi-Final. Back Row (LaoR) Michael Walsh, John Kelly, Jimmy Cleary, Johnny Cleary, Claus Dunphy, John Fripps, Eugene Fitzgerald, Jan Brown, Paddy Walsh. Front Row: John Quinn, Shane Walsh, John Comerford, Patrick Dunphy, John Purcell, Anthony Quinn, Noel Kelly, Jan Delahunty, Marcus Patrick Dalton, Wayne Kelly.



# Club Gallery

## CLARA



Minor Team which own the Anthony Prendergast Tournament.



Intermediate captain David Langton getting presented the League cup by Joe Pike.



Team Captain Tom O'Shea still in training at a Scrap Saturday Fundraiser for the Club

Winning team of the Liam Ryan Hurlaton. Team: Micheal Barco, Trevor Cummins, Brian Prendergast, Lester Ryan and Declan Rafter.



Clara U12 Team who won the St.Vincent's (Dublin) annual under 12 tournament, winning the shield in the Thomastown tournament and winning the Dickboro inaugural under 11 tournament



# Club Gallery

## CLONEEN



Cloneen Team in County Junior League Final

Cloneen junior hurling team had a vastly improved turn of form in 2012. Having had to endure a play off to avoid relegation a year earlier they had a good year in the league winning their division and reaching the final. Despite continuing to lose key players to emigration there was a considerable improvement in the quality of hurling bringing winning performances over some leading teams such as Windgap, Bennettsbridge and Lismore only losing once that to Barrow Rangers. This was put down to the ongoing efforts to promote the underage structures. A couple of Cloneen players got close to county panels with Sean Shortall, Brian Cahill and Gary Delaney being recognised by minor and under 21 county mentors. The schoolboys and juveniles continue to show a great interest with good numbers taking part. To facilitate the promotion of games at under age level,



Juvenile County Handball champions with legends Duxie Walsh and DJ Carey  
Ducksie and DJ with, at random: Padraig Cooney, Ciaran Cooney, Aisling Cooney, Aishling Maher, Denise Love, Shane Dunne, Kyle Dunne, Eamon Brennan, Thomas Brennan, Denise Love, James Love, Eilis Regan, Aidan Barry, Cathal Barry, Aoilean Hennessy, Caitriona Lawlor, Cora Delaney, Sorcha Delaney.



Under 12 Football winners  
Back: Michael Dowd, Paul Maguire, David Buggy  
Children include: James Love, Tom Buggy, Adam Maguire, Brandon McCarthy Donoghue, Conor Byrne, Thomas Brennan, Joseph O Keeffe, Dara Delaney, Eanna Ryan, Jack Brennan, Michael Doyle, Kyle Dunne, Diarmuid Rowe

To facilitate the promotion of games at under age level, Cloneen got together with Railyard Football Club to form a single GAA club in the parish under the title of Cloneen / Railyard Bord na nÓg. This club has registered separately promoting both codes and have registered a new colour scheme which incorporates the green of Cloneen and the red of Railyard. Camogie has become established with a growing interest and enthusiasm among local girls.

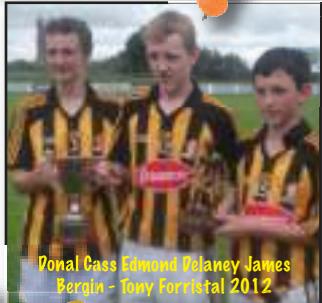


Cyclists heading off from Clogh for Croke Park on the Saturday before the All-Ireland Final.  
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



# Club Gallery

## CONAHY SHAMROCKS



Donal Cass, Edmond Delaney, James Bergin - Tony Forristal 2012



Blast from the Past - Northern Junior Final 1969

Back: Paddy Healy, Liam Brennan, Pat Morrissey, Joe Bergin, Jim Byrne, Ned Mulhall, Patsy Lacey, Mick Lawless, John Butler, Larry Butler, John Muldowney, Eamon Meany, Joe "Suggins" Phelan.  
Front: Jim Nolan, Diarmuid Healy, Pete Lannon, Joe Butler, Shem Muldowney, Toddy Lacey, Eamonn Lannon, Nicholas Griffith, Michael Brennan, Nickey Brennan, Sean Murphy.



Under-10 2012

Under-10 2012



25 Year Reunion of 1986 Intermediate County Hurling Champions

Back: Nickey Brennan, Tommy Mahony, Liam Murphy, Eamon Delaney, Michael Feehan, Sean Cahill, Pat Gunner, John Brennan, Nickey Feehan.  
Middle: Shem Muldowney, Paul Brennan, Larry Deevy, Larry Carroll, Paudie Brennan, Seanie Mahony, Martin O'Shea, Paudie Mulhall, Larry Butler (Selector), Ned Mulhall (Selector), Martin Coogan (Trainer), Toddy Lacey (Secretary).  
Front: Niall Lacey (representing his father Patsy [R.I.P.]), John Feehan, Paddy Delaney, Gearóid Brennan, Geoff O'Shea (Captain), Kevin Mulhall, Kieran Brennan, Marty Buggy, Declan Downey.



# Club Gallery



## DANESFORT



This year, the club were delighted to announce a new 3 year sponsorship deal with Euromedic Kilkenny, a branch of Euromedic Ireland, the country's leading provider of MRI, X-ray, ultrasound and DXA scans. Pictured at the official launch were Danesfort and Kilkenny hurlers Richie Hogan, Paul Murphy and Paddy Hogan, passing on some hurling tips to Euromedic Ireland CEO Colm Davitt. Danesfort GAA Club looks forward to a long and fruitful partnership with Euromedic Kilkenny and wishes them every success in Kilkenny.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Paul Murphy and Richie and Paddy Hogan on winning National League and All-Ireland hurling medals with Kilkenny this year. Paul also won his second consecutive All-Star award and was one of 3 nominees for hurler of the year, alongside Henry Shefflin and Joe Canning.

### Danesfort GAA Development:

The club is currently in the process of developing a new full-size hurling/football pitch. It is already being used for training purposes and it is hoped will be ready for competitive action next year. The club would like to thank the Field Committee for all their work on the new pitch this year. The club has also applied to the County Council for planning permission for a new state-of-the-art clubhouse with adjoining carpark, all-weather playing surface and ball wall. If we get the go-ahead, it would be an amazing facility for the club and the parish, so we'd like to thank everyone for their continued support for all our fundraising activities, now and into the future.

### Danesfort Lotto:

The Danesfort GAA & Parish Development Lotto is still going strong. The Lotto Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all Promoters & Supporters as without you none of this work would be possible, and we thank you in advance for your continued support. The committee is also very appreciative of the support of the Lotto from Ennisnag Lounge, Sean Delaney's Bar in Kells and the Grange Inn.



Danesfort and Kilkenny hurler Paul Murphy gets the first annual JJ Reddy 5k and 10k Run under way. The run was organised in memory of the club's late Treasurer JJ Reddy who sadly passed away last year. It was a great success with over 350 people taking part, and raising over €6,000 for the club development fund. Special thanks to Committee chairman Bartley Reddy, JJ's brother, and all those who made the day such a success.

### Senior Hurling:

The seniors secured their status in the top grade with a one point win over Dunnamaggin in the Relegation Final. Please refer to the senior club section of the yearbook for more details.

### Junior B Hurling:

The Junior B hurling team played 13 competitive matches between League and Championship, winning 8, drawing 1 and losing only 4. The team had quite a successful League campaign, winning 4 out of 5 group stage matches, advancing through their quarter and semi-finals before losing the League Final to O'Loughlins by 0-17 to 0-14.

In the championship, the team won 3 and drew 1 of their 5 group stage matches. Unfortunately they made a disappointing exit at the quarter-final stage to Blacks and Whites, a team they had already beaten comfortably earlier in the League. It's hoped the team can build on this year's showing and make a strong push for silverware next year.

### Underage Hurling and Camogie:

The under-14 boys reached the Roinn A league shield semi-final, losing to Clara in Thomastown after extra time. In the Roinn B championship they were defeated in the semi-final by Barrow Rangers in Gowran, again after extra-time. The under-16 boys competed in the Roinn C league and championship. They reached the shield semi-final where they were defeated by Emeralds. The minor boys (pictured) won the Roinn B shield final against Conahy Shamrocks in Bennetsbridge. They also reached the Roinn B championship final where they lost to Glenmore.

The under-14 girls competed in the Roinn A league and championship, unfortunately going out early in the early rounds. The under-16 girls reached the semi-final of the Roinn A championship losing out to Dieksboro in Clara. The under-18 girls reached the Roinn A county final losing out to Thomastown in Ballyhale. This was the fourth year in a row that the under-18 girls got to the county final.



Memory Lane - Danesfort Special Junior B League Winners 1999

Back: S. Kiely, P. Forristal, T. Walsh, D. Mahony, S. Sinnott, F. Kelly, P. Knox, D. Dooley, D. Walsh, J. O'Neill, D. Walsh, E. Bardon, J.J. Kenny, P. Fennelly, C. Barry, P. Hayes, T. Woodcock, J. J. Drennan.  
Front: P. Dillon, P. Forristal, P. Cahill, B. Donohue, J. Stapleton (Capt.), P. Kenny, V. Walsh, P. Murphy, J. Mullins, C. Walsh, L. Mahony.



# Club Gallery

## DICKSBORO



The club's numerous social occasions throughout 2012 include participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade for which we won Most Entertaining Float, Lá na gClub, an inaugural and very successful Summer Camp, a Golf Classic and Dog Night. Our Under 8, 10 and 12 tournaments are run as fundraisers for local charities.



Dicksboro Juvenile teams who have represented the club with distinction throughout 2012. We cater for all age groups from under 6 to Minor at Juvenile level.



# Club Gallery

## DUNNAMAGGIN



The clubperson of the year award went to long serving club secretary Eugene O'Donovan who stepped down this year after 16 years in the position. A bouquet of flowers was also presented to his wife Siobhán for her dedication and assistance during this time. The O'Donovan Family have given huge service to the club over the years and the club are indebted to them.



Well done to the U9 hurlers who this year won the Dicksboro blitz and won all their matches in the Callan blitz.



Earlier this year a group from the club took part in the television programme Operation Transformation, the highlight of which was a 5km Run in the Phoenix park well done to all who took part.



Well done to the U14 panel that were very successful this year. They won their league beating Ben-netsbridge in the final and are also Co. Football champions when they beat O'Loughlins earlier in the year.



Before their All-Ireland Final replay William Phelan and David Herity called into the last training for U6 & 8's on Saturday the 22nd September. All the players had a chance to train and play games with their heroes and the U8's took shots on the co. goalie. All players got goodie bags, wall poster and personalised certificate to take home. Thanks again to David and William who posed for photos and signed hurleys without hesitation.

**Obituary Notes:-**  
Dunnamaggin GAA club extends its condolences to all club members who suffered bereavement during the past year.  
Tommy O'Shea, Moore's Court Kilmoganny, who lived hurling was a great club and County supporter.  
Edward (Neddy) O'Neill. Neddy was a member of the 1966 Dunnamaggin Junior Hurling team that won the Southern Final but were beaten in the county final.



Well done to the U10's who won the ballyhale blitz earlier this summer.



# Club Gallery

## EMERALDS



Photo of the clubs All Ireland medal winners over the years taken at the clubs 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinnerdance:  
Derek Lyng, Ken Hughes, Paddy Ryan, Johnny Doyle, Martin Power, Tom Holohan, Liam Coady, Eddie Holohan, Aidan Fogarty,  
Jimmy Tone, Niamh Leahy, Frank Cleere, John Lyng, Siobhan Fahy, Devina Tobin, Paul Kinsella.



Well done to Aidan Fogarty on winning another SHC All-Ireland Final with Kilkenny this year and on receiving the Man of the Match Award for the All-Ireland Semi-Final performance against Tipperary. Congratulations to all our players who represented our club at County Level this year, they are as follows: Senior - Aidan Fogarty, Intermediate - Padraig Phelan, U21 - Conor Martin, Minor - Conor Martin & Eoin Moriarty, U16 - Niall O Gorman, U14 - Justin Cleere & Sean Power.



Piltown Winners receiving their cheques from County Board Representative  
John Minogue  
Mary Burke (club secretary), PJ Phelan (winner), John Minogue (County Board Rep),  
Jimmy Tone (club chairman), Richard Hayes (winner), Gerard Hogan (winner),  
JJ Kavanagh (club treasurer)



U14 team who were runners up in the Roinn B Gaelic Football League Final.



The U12s had a great year winning many of their Go Games matches and they enjoyed playing in the U12 Go Games Finals in Nowlan Park in August. Many thanks to all mentors and trainers for the work throughout the year:  
U18 - David Moriarty, Patrick Doheny, Rawie Moriarty.  
U16 - Damien Fitzgerald, JJ Kavanagh.  
U14 - Michael Troy, Greg McCarthy, Cormac Keating.  
U12 - Johnny Moriarty, Michael Long, Brian Barnaville.  
U8 - Rory O Connor, Adrian Cleere, U6 - Fintan Deegan, Pakie Lawlor, Mary Burke.



Emeralds U21 team who won the Roinn B Northern Championship final in 2011. They also went on to contest the County Final but were unfortunately beaten by Piltown with only a point in the difference on the day. They were managed by Derek Lyng, Aidan Fogarty, Patrick Doheny, Michael Doyle and assisted by Ciarán Bergin. The Intermediates were managed by Michael Walsh, Michael Doyle and Dermot Dunphy while Brian Doyle and John Cahill looked after the Junior team. Many thanks to all for their time and effort with our adult teams throughout the year.



# Club Gallery

## ERIN'S OWN



Club Football Sponsor  
James Farrell, Railway Garage, Bill Moran Club Chairman, Conor Fogarty, Aidan Moran,  
Ronan Ryan



Erin's Own Gaa Club new sponsor for 2012/2013 is John Buggy Auctioneers. Pictured at the handover of new jerseys to the club are Master Kevin Buggy, Miss Ella Buggy, Master Jack Buggy, Aidan Moran (Senior Player), John Buggy, Conor Fogarty, Billy Moran Club Chairman, Ronan Ryan



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. Erin's Own under 12 team 2012 includes Lee Holden, Cathal Holland, Billy O'Neill, Conor McMahon, Nicky Connolly, Dan Coogan, Liam Holland, Jamie Maher, James Buggy, Cillian Hogan, Kevin Brennan, Conor Clarke, Kevin Holland, Declan Buggy, Christopher Kruff, David Ferris, Jack Buggy and James Brennan.



Under 8 team during the year at training



Presentation of prizes to winners of Club's main fundraiser "Fantasy Cheltenham". Fantasy Cheltenham is the driving force behind the club's ambitious plans for further development at their grounds in Ballycovey, Castlecomer which are due to commence in early Spring. Included in this pic are Billy Moran, Nicky Brennan, Liam McGovern, ST. Anne's of Wexford (overall winner), Eamon Holland, Declan and John Buggy

Minor Team Re-union 1987 - a 25 year re-union of the winning minor team of 1987 was held in the golf club Castlecomer on 29th June 2012. Many Former players travelled from across the world to attend

Included in this pic are: left to right, Larry O'Neill, Tommy Nolan, Christy Brennan, John Delaney, Eamon Connery, Florence Brennan, Victor Smith, Pat Walsh, John Donovan, Cormac Young, Gerry Mealey, Peter Boran.

Front Row: Cathal Phillips, Colm Meagher, Willie Holden, Liam Slevin, James Brennan, Patsy Brophy, Pat Comerford, John Buggy, Joe Meagher.



# Club Gallery

## FENIANS



The Fenians Under 14 team who defeated Carrickshock after a replay in the County Shield.



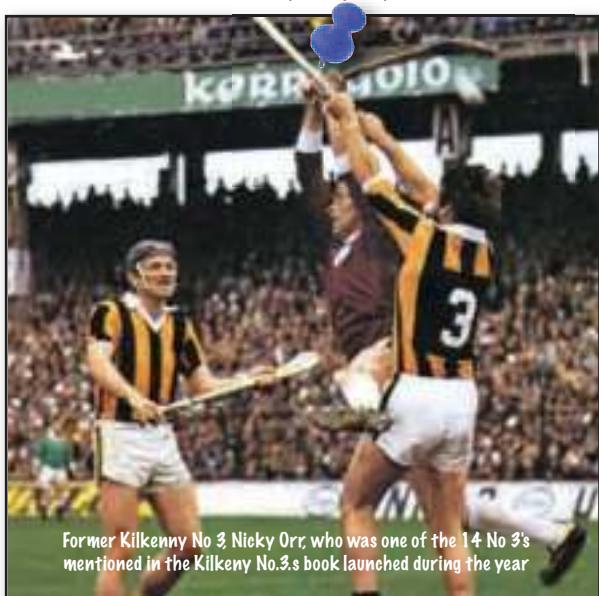
Fenian Juvenile Manager Fintan Garrett and family.



Former Fenian and Kilkenny great, PJ Delaney, presenting medals at the Fenians field day during the year.



Fenians Go Games under 10's Team



Former Kilkenny No 3, Nicky Orr, who was one of the 14 No 3's mentioned in the Kilkenny No.3's book launched during the year



Fenian future stars at hurling Blitz in Kilmanagh.



# Club Gallery

## GALMOY



Over the course of the summer 2012, Galmoyle GAA Club combined with a number of Community Volunteers to build a playground for the children of the parish. The completed playground is located on the grounds of Galmoyle GAA Pitch and also serves Galmoyle Primary School. Funds were raised over the summer through bagpacking in Dunnes Stores, Rathdowney and a Scrap Metal Collection held on Saturday August 25th. Photo shows a number of volunteers who worked through the summer to complete the project.

Back Row (L to R): Padraig Tully, Kevin Lonergan, Liam Drennan, Pat Glendon, Noel Lavelle, Tony Bergin, Tom Nolan, Gerry Moloney, Leo Doherty, Noel Kelly, Mike Ryan, John Joe Hanrahan, Jim Doyle, Loughlin Delaney.  
Front Row (L to R): Sylvia McNamara Tully, Ashling Delaney and Triona Drennan. while Gavin Doherty tiled the floor of the Playground.



For a number of years, Kathleen and Frank Grace have been organising supporters buses from Galmoyle to Croke Park in support of Kilkenny Hurlers. These buses have provided many people, young and old, with the chance to attend games that they might not have been in a position to attend. Photo shows the Galmoyle supporters in Dublin at the Leinster Senior Final 2012 between Kilkenny and Galway.



In 2010 Galmoyle GAA Club built a stand at their GAA Pitch in Galmoyle. Now, two years later, the club have installed 168 seats in the stand. The seats were installed on Saturday October 20th by club members, Liam Drennan (Secretary), Charles Brennan, Sean Smith, Jerry Drennan, Brendan Sherman, Gerry Moloney, Conor Drennan and David Fogarty.



In the Educational Supplies Roinn D Cumann na mBunscoileanna Final on Saturday June 23rd 2012, Tullaroan N.S. pipped Galmoyle N.S. after an exciting game in St Johns Park. Immediately after the game, Tommy Walsh visited the Galmoyle dressing room and said some lovely words of consolation to the Galmoyle Players, reminding them that in his own school days he too had lost a schools final. Three days later on Tuesday June 26th Tommy visited Galmoyle N.S. and presented the Galmoyle players with their medals. Photo shows Tommy with Galmoyle N.S. Team 2012.



As a result of winning the Kilkenny Junior Final in 1966, Galmoyle GAA Club had a healthy representation on The Kilkenny Intermediate team of 1967, including team captain Liam Hanrahan.

Photo Shows the Kilkenny Intermediate Team 1967.  
Back Row (L to R): Michael Kells (Tullogher Rosbercon), Billy Harte (Galmoyle), Jimmy Byrne (Erins Own), Dixie Burke (Carrickshock), Hugh Ryan (Graignamanagh), J J O'Meara (Dunnamaggan) & Tommy Phelan (Galmoyle).

Front Row: Pat Delaney (Fenians), Liam Ryan (Graignamanagh), Ollie Harrington (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Liam Hanrahan Capt. (Galmoyle), Richie Walsh (Sleieverue), Joe Doherty (Galmoyle) R.I.P., Jim McGrath (Danesfort), & Tom Ryan (Dunnamaggan) R.I.P.

Galmoyle's Charlie Brennan was also reserve goalkeeper on this team which won the 1967 Leinster Final in defeating Kildare but lost out to eventual winners London in the All Ireland Semi Final



# Club Gallery

## GLENMORE



Shane Doherty and Mark Aylward, joint Glenmore Captains receive the County MH "B" trophy from Joe Pyke & Willie Dempsey, Bord na nÓg.



The club opened our new indoor Astro Turf hurling arena in October.



U16 Piltown Tournament 16 March 2012



Since the Club moved to our new location in Paire Na Rath in 2011 a large amount of work was completed. The club is very grateful to the many workers and helpers who have given help and support in 2012 without this help this project would have taken many years to complete.  
Thanks to all our teams and mentors for the effort in 2013 and congratulations to all the successful teams. Congratulations to Eoin Murphy on his 2nd All Ireland Senior Medal and finally sympathies to the members to the club who lost loved ones in 2012.



# Club Gallery

## GRAIGNAMANAGH



Michael Doran & Family, Doran's Super Valu (Our Main Club Sponsor) celebrated 30 years in Business in the town in August of this year. There were fun activities for all the children, Barbecue, great live music on the square and cookery demonstrations. Well done to all concerned and the very best of luck for the future.

Michael is pictured with James Cahill & Lee Kinsella.



New dugouts were completed in the hurling field during the year and are a very welcome addition to our facilities. They have turned out to be a very fine project and well worth the wait. Thanks to everyone who took part in the sponsored cycle fundraiser to Croke Park last year as this is what the majority of the funds was spent on along with upgrading the shower areas in the changing rooms.



Graignamanagh u12's had a great finish to an otherwise disappointing year after narrow defeats in the schools' Tommy O'Brien Cup and schools' League semi final, with a win over Glenmore in the Richie Young Tullogher A Final. Thank you to Dermott McConvile for supplying a very stylish open top Merc to transport the victorious team through the streets of Graignamanagh.



A spell of heavy rain around noon didn't dampen the spirits at a very enjoyable Family Fun day on Sunday 16th September in the GAA Pitch. The boys are pictured here racing to the finish line in one of the many fun activities.



Six teams in all competed in the annual Graignamanagh Juvenile GAA Club U10 Hurling Tournament. Craig had two teams involved, along with Mount Leinster Rangers, Barrow Rangers, Burren Rangers, and St. Mullins. Well done to the U10 hurlers who won the A & C finals a just reward for all their commitment.



Congratulations to Kevin Fenlon who was the overall winner in our first 8km Run/walk on Saturday 15th Sept. Kevin was closely followed by Conor Barron with Ronan Dowling hot on his heels. Well done to Ava Prendergast the first Lady home and Shearon Holden a close second.

Thank you and well done to all who participated. A special word of thanks to Jim Whelan who organized the whole event and to Rita who served up lovely tea & scones in the Clubhouse at the finish. The participants are pictured at the Clubhouse before the event.



The Jun B hurlers gave some very encouraging performances this year but were beaten in the southern championship final by Kilmacow on a scoreline of 2.15 to 2.11.

Back: Kevin Cushen (Mentor), Nicky Moylan, Liam Hearne, Paul Hamilton, Brendan Foley, Jim Ryan, Nicholas O'Donnell, Thomas O'Donnell, Bernard Hennessy, James McCabe, Diarmuid O'Neill, Ciaran O'Brien, Syl Cushen (Sel)  
Front: Michael Dunne, Pierce Blanchfield, Adam Kennedy, Dane Mangan, James O'Donnell, Stephen Moylan, Ian Kavanagh, Patrick Dowling, Eoin Bolger, Cathal Roche, Leonard, Kitty, Rachel & Ellen Blanchfield.



Well done to the U8 hurlers seen here on the steps of Croke Park. This team won the St. Mullins blitz. They also competed very well in The Luke Roche Memorial Tournament where they reached the final. Well done to their mentors Philip Gahan & Michael Dunne.



# Club Gallery

## GRAIGUE BALLYCALLAN



Graigue/Ballycallan launching The League Forecast with club sponsor, Gerry Rafter. The Rafter Dempseys, also pictured are Padraig McCluskey, Treasurer, Eileen Heafey, Secretary, Pat Hayes, Chairman, John Hoyne, Organiser and Dave O'Neill, Chairman of Juvenile Club. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Launch of The Rafter Dempseys Sponsorship; Eileen Heafey, Gerry Rafter, John Hoyne, Pat Hayes, Dave O'Neill, Padraig McCluskey



Graigue Ballycallan U8's 2012



Jack Doherty with Junior A Captain  
Thomas Ryan



# Club Gallery

## JAMES STEPHENS



125 Year Committee and guests 18 March 2012  
 Back: Aodán Ó Ruairé, Dan Cody, Tom Keane, Val Malone, Tony Scanlon.  
 Front: Paul Kinsella (Chair, Co. Board), Paul Cuddihy (Chair, Co. Council), Tommy Lanigan, Christy Cooney (Uachtaráin CLG), David Fitzgerald, Mayor of Kilkenny, Nickey Brennan (Iar Uachtaráin, CLG)



Dick Coyne (Vice-President) and Sean Tyrrell (President) celebrating the 2012 minor hurling title.



Committee and Officers 2012 photo: Eoin Hennessy  
 Standing: Jimmy Dollard, Michael Slattery, Aodán Ó Ruairc (Secretary, inset), Jack White, Neil Connolly, Sean Doyle, Seamus Daly, Allen Larkin, Tadhg Donohoe, Jimmy O'Brien, Michael Moore (Development), Paddy Millea, John O'Neill (Bar Treasurer), Neil Lahart, Barry Donohoe, Jim Mulvin (Registrar), John Byrne, Eamon Tyrrell, Liam Tyrrell, John McGrath, Joe Hennessy, John Sheehy, Leo Hennessy, Tony Scanlon, Richie Manogue, Dan Cody, Declan Murphy, Denis Carney  
 Front: Sean Brennan (Vice-chair), Tom Keane (Treasurer), Dick Coyne (Vice-President), Tommy Lanigan (Chairman), Sean Tyrrell, (President), Val Malone (PRO), Paddy Neary (Vice-chair).



James Stephens Minors Northern Finalists v Freshford 1956  
 Back: Murt Leahy, Tommy Walsh, Tom Lacey, George Leahy, Lou McCarthy, Nick Morrissey, Mick Lanigan, Myles Dalton, Philly Larkin.  
 Middle: Aidan Stuart, Mick Leahy, Dick Coley Dunne, Jackie Lowry, Liam Crowe, Mick Dunne, Pakie O'Rourke, Eddie Fox.  
 Front: Sammy Kirwan, Pa Walsh, Phil Fan Larkin.



Tree planting in the new grounds, Kells Road April 2012  
 Back: Mick Costello Jr, Tim Butler, David Walton, Shane Campion, Conor McQuillan, Billy Walton, Sean Doyle, Niall McQuillan, Sean Murphy, Martin Grace, Ciaran Walsh, Jim Delahunt, William Murphy, Nuala Walton, Tommy Walton, Mick Costello Sr, Michelle Walton, Tom Keane, Fionnuala Walton.  
 Front: Dan Cody, Patrick Millea Jr, Eamon Tyrrell, Richie Manogue, Niall Lanigan, Mick Moore, Paddy Neary, Kieran McQuillan.



# Club Gallery

## JOHN LOCKES



John Lockes Development Committee with Builder's Ormonde Construction at signing of contract.  
Back: John Stapleton Vice-Chairman, Michael Lynch, Brother Damien Brennan, Pat Power (trustee), Tom Ryan (trustee), John McGuinness TD, Declan Roche Club Secretary, Barrie Henriques (trustee). Front: Sean Hogan Club Treasurer, Brian Dunlop Architect, John Holohan Ormonde Construction, John Walker Club Chairman



John Lockes U-6, U-10 & U-12 teams who participated in the Mullinahone tournament at the end of August.



1984 Minor A hurling team, the only A' championship ever won by the club.

Back: E.J. Ryan (Selector) Paul Leahy, Damien Bryan, Michael Barry (Tullamaine), Barry O Shea, Liam Egan, John Power, Philip Comerford, Bosco Bryan, John Holden, Jim Donovan, Kieran O'Dwyer, Patrick Comerford, Tom Walsh (Selector) Barry Hickey (Selector).

Front: John Donovan (Mascot), James Quigley, Oliver Byrne, John (Jack) Lynch, Donal Quigley, Michael Holden, Michael Barry (Ahenny), Andrew Walsh, P.J. Delaney, Aidan O'Dwyer, Tommy O'Sullivan.



Minor League Champions Roinn B 2012.

Back: Joe Molloy (Sel), Ruairí Kennedy, Conor Quinlan, Sean Tierney, Keith Fitzpatrick, Jimmy Lynch, Bill McPowell, Cathal McGrath, Jack McDowell, Adam Phelan, Mark Shelly, Matthew Bergin, Josh Haines, Keith Roche, Mick Bryan (Sel).

Front: James Power, Ryan Bergin, Owen Kennedy, Tony Power, James Macken, Jack Butler, Nicholas Roche, Sean Power, Mark Morris, Paddy Phelan (Sel).



# Club Gallery

## KILMACOW



In March the club had a fantastic night when 300 people crammed into Kilmacow Community Hall for the 'Brawl in the Hall', where 10 of our best hurlers took on our neighbours from Mullinavat in a White Collar Boxing match. A great night was had by all and much needed funds were raised.



2012 saw the club show its strength socially and helped raise funds for Kilkenny Hospice (indoor soccer), Kilmacow Playground (draw and Easter Egg hunt) and Crumlin Childrens Hospital (challenge game Ballyhale Shamrocks v Antrim in Kilmacow Sports Complex)



Back in February as part of the GAA's Social Initiative, we held a public lecture called 'Kilkenny Hurling from the 1 Parish Rule to 4 in a Row'. This was a huge success and enjoyed by all.

Rory Williams was compere on the night, and he introduced the speakers, who were, Dermot Kavanagh and Patrick O'Sullivan, and also the panel for discussion. Willie O'Connor, Enda McEvoy and Eddie Keher. Micheal Atkins the club chairperson also addressed the meeting.



Our U6 team had some great days out, the highlights being blitz's in Slieverue and Mooneoin. Well done to all the players and coaches



In June, the St. Vincent's club from Dublin's northside visited Kilmacow and played games at U8, U10 and U12. A great day was had by all. Photo shows both clubs U8 players



The year got off to a great start when our U14s won the Div 2 of the Carrigreen Floodlit Tournament back in February. Well done to the players and Paul O'Dwyer and his backroom team.

2012 saw the first adult county title since 1956 come to the club, when the Junior B team won the County Championship. Hopefully this will prove to be a stepping stone for the club to push on a county Junior Title. Well done to the players, management and backroom team on a job well done.



# Club Gallery

## LISDOWNEY



### UNDER 14 TEAM SUCESS

This team won the football League, were runners up in the football championship and made it to the league semi final in the hurling

### COUNTY SUCCESS

Many Lisdowney players played at a county level this year with Rory Hickey and Martin Phelan on the Kilkenny Intermediate Panel, Sean Phelan and Pat O'Carroll on the U21 panel, Kevin Sweeney on the Kilkenny Vocational Team, Michael Kenny on the Under 17 Squad, Dylan Jordan on the North U15 team while Brian Kavanagh, Liam Dunphy and Stephen Delaney played on County Under 14 squads



Lisdowney Schools had a very sucessful year winning the Championship and Tommy O'Brien Cup in the hurling and reaching the football championship semi-final

This year saw the opening of the Juvenile Pitch in Lisdowney which has been of huge benefit to the club. It enhanced the Lisdowney Sevens which was a huge success this year with Lisdowney's team being beaten in the semi-finals by the champions Ballyhale. A new scoreboard was erected, enabling Lisdowney to host its first Intermediate matches. Well done to all involved in this development, the grounds look great.



### UNDER 12 TEAM

This Lisdowney team had a very convincing win in the Shield final of the Conahy Tournament with some great performances



**UNDERAGE SURPRISE** - Walter Walsh was welcomed to Lisdowney when he came to underage training on the final day of juvenile training, and was well received by all in the club, especially the young ladies



# Club Gallery

## MOONCOIN



Mooncoin GAA club are delighted for the continual sponsorship by Eoin Doyle, Ashgrove Stables, Mooncoin  
Picture L to R: Paddy Crowley Mooncoin GAA chairman, Liam Sutton, Alan Walsh,  
Eoin Doyle, John Crowley Treasurer, John Ryan, Eoin Hennebry



The official unveiling of the Mooncoin Electronic Scoreboard took place on 31st May in Mooncoin. This scoreboard is a great addition for spectators at matches held in Mooncoin. The scoreboard was kindly donated by John Crowley of Suirside Farms. Pictured at the unveiling was Paddy Crowley, Chairman Mooncoin GAA, Thomas Kinsella, Niamh Crowley, Oisín Hennebry, Shaun Sutton, John Crowley, Suirside Farm Potatoes & Treasurer Mooncoin GAA.



Mooncoin U6 team  
In September 2012 Mooncoin GAA held a U 6 blitz in the Mooncoin sport complex. The following clubs had teams participating Mooncoin, Kilmacow, Sliieverue, Inistioge, Glenmore, Piltown and Mullinavat.



As part of the GAA social initiative, Mooncoin GAA club organised a day trip to Croke Park Stadium on Monday 5th March 2012. This was a great experience for all who attended which included a guided tour of Croke Park, the GAA museum and lunch.



On Wednesday evening 25th August Mooncoin GAA launched the Virtual Sod fundrasier Campaign. This fundrasier is to help towards the cost of the recent developments in the Mooncoin GAA club. Each virtual SOD cost €20 euro and this fundrasier will be a part of Mooncoin history for years to come with the names of the virtual SOD owners displayed on the Mooncoin Gaa website and in a prominet place in the Sport complex

An aerial picture of Mooncoin teams and supporters took place on the day which was officially launched by Ned Quinn



# Club Gallery

## MUCKALEE FOOTBALL CLUB



Muckalee Senior Football League Champions 2012

Back Row:- Tom Cullen (Trainer), Ronan Maher, Ollie Walsh, Tom Morrissey, Paddy Nolan, Brian Byrne, Canice Maher, Mick Morrissey, Martin Dowling, John Coonan, Damien Tynan, Luke Maher, Paul Maher.

Front Row:- Eugene Maher, Martin Dowd (Selector), Brian Cadogan, Robert Shore, James Maher, Aidan Murphy, Shane Coonan (Capt), Joe Maher, John Maher, Colin McGrath, John Mulhall, Alan Murphy.

2012 has to date been a success for our seniors with wins in the league over Kilmoganny, Glenmore, James Stephens, O Loughlins and Conahy which qualified the team for the League Final which was played under lights in Muckalee on the 12th April 2012.

In the senior football league final the club were victorious over neighbours Railyard on a scoreline of Muckalee 0 Goals 14 Points Railyard 0 goals 7 Points.

The senior championship has yet to commence at the time of printing of yearbook

The club also competed in the junior football league but was unsuccessful in the three matches that were played in this division.

The mentors would like to thank all those who got involved and helped the club during the year including all players, committee members with a special thanks to our team sponsor Mr Jim Bolger.



Shane Coonan receiving the football league shield from Tom Brennan the chairman of the Football Board.



Muckalee Senior Football captains at their medal presentation night in the Cave bar.

Back: John Coonan (2011), Robert Shore (2010), Philip Shore (2005), John Dooley (2004), Liam Dowling (2001), and Front: Nickey Morrissey (1968), Jim Moran (1975), Nickey Morrissey (1977), Ciarán Hayes (1987) and Mikie Maher (1990).  
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie)



Muckalee NS Class Football League Teams of 25 years ago. Remember them?



### Club Development

An electronic scoreboard was installed by the club during the year. Plans were also submitted during the year for planning permission for the complete upgrade of the dressing rooms and other ancillary works. The above plans are included in a joint 5 year facilities and development plan booklet completed with our sister club in the parish St. Martins GAA club.

Fundraising is ongoing at the moment with application for grants from the GAA and Lotto pending to help finance the development work on the dressing rooms.

### Bereavements

The club would like to extend sympathies to all club members who suffered bereavements during the year.



# Club Gallery

## MULLINAVAT



St Beacons National School in Mullinavat represented by Michelle O'Connor and Jessica Dunphy won the Kilkenny Cumann na mBunscoil girls handball championship. Played on the 40 X 20 court at Kells they accounted for Newmarket NS, Moonrue NS and Kells NS from the South of the county. Then it was on to the County Final at the Loughlin Gaels complex where they faced Gael Scoil Osrai. They put in a magnificent performance and overcame their opponents 13-6, 13-9.



A blast from the past this is a snap of the Mullinavat Junior team who were in the county final in 1974. See how many you can name?



The 1979 Kilkenny Junior Football champions who beat Dicksboro in the county final in Thomastown. Playing for Dicksboro that day was none other than Irish Rugby International Willie Duggan.  
Back: Philly O'Neill, Michael Duggan, Nickey Fitzgerald, John Delany, Michael Delahunt, Paudie Holden, Jim Walsh, Timmy Gough, John Fitzgerald, Jim Pollard, Davy Aylward, Pascal Power.  
Front: Eamon Kelly, Mick Pollard, Andy Aylward, Sean O'Neill, Tommy Duggan (Capt) James Aylward, Mick Fitzgerald (R.I.P.) Leo Carroll, John Foskin, Pat Duggan.



Here we have the future of the club. This is the under 10s who completed in a very successful blitz in Mullinavat this year. As well as some local teams Cuala of Dublin (Home club of R.T.E. presenter Des Cahill) travelled down to play in the competition. Indeed there are some strong ties with the Dublin club through the Holden family.



# Club Gallery

## O'LOUGHLIN GAELS



O'Loughlin Gaels Under 12 who won the Shield at the Dicksboro Tournament



GAA President, Liam O'Neill, with Club Chairman, Michael Nolan and Club President, Eamon Doyle, officially cut the ribbon to open the new O'Loughlin Gaels pitches. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy Photography)



O'Loughlin Gaels U10s Kevin Bergin Tournament Winners run by Conahy Shamrocks GAA



Aerial shot of St. John's Park during the pitch development carried out during the year.



GAA President, Liam O'Neill, who opened the new O'Loughlin Gaels pitches with club and County Bord officials. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy Photography)



# Club Gallery

## PILTOWN



### Ground Development

Photos 1, 2 and 3 show the New Hurling Wall Development during installation and following completion. The wall was funded by a Scrap metal collection during the Summer months. Photo 4 is of the additional playing pitch development at the former pitch and putt grounds, which shall be utilised at peak times during the Summer months, with a huge demand from all sections of the Club, including Adult & Juveniles, as well as Camogie & Ladies Football teams.



Under-14 Roinn B Football Champions who beat Lisdowney in Bennetsbridge by 3-3 to 1-4  
Back Row: John Bourke, Richard Norris, Jamie Norris, Oisin Brophy, James Kirby, Conor Friend, Ronan Ryan (Capt), Evan Murphy, Adam Grace, Scott Bourke, Billy Morahan, Shane Whittle, Kieran Reid.  
Front Row: David Tobin, Kieran Flynn, Cian Kinsella, Oran Brophy, Andrew Long, Robert Tobin, John Kenny, Alex Byrne, Aaron Kinsella, Darragh Walsh, Sean Power

Part of the Juvenile Family fun day, which was organised by the Club and held on the grounds during the Summer. There were mini hurling games, football, target practice amongst loads of other activities.



# Club Gallery

## RAILYARD



The Railyard Minor football team that defeated Tullogher Rosbereon on a scoreline of 4-6 to 1-8. The team on the day was: Eoin Doyle, Ciaran Brennan, Anthony O'Neill, Ultan Walsh, Christopher Buggy, Paul Kelly, David Wilson, Dean Shortall (0-1) Marco Nash-Noronha (1-0), Mark Maguire (0-1), Sean O'Neill (0-2), Kieran Whelan (1-0), M.J. Feehan (0-2), Gearoid O'Neill (1-0), Conor Delaney (1-0) Subs: Ronan Egan (for Conor Delaney); James Browne, Michael Browne, Dylan Nash, Kevin Brennan, Liam O'Neill, Darren Close, Shane Kieran, Sean Nolan, Paul O'Neill, Aaron Coogan, Brian McDonald, Adam Curtin.



The Cloneen/Railyard U-14 team that won the League Final.



# Club Gallery

## ROWER INISTIOGE



President; Michael Roche. Chairman; Jack Lyng Vice Chairman; Michael Lyng Secretary; Liam Mulholland Treasurer; Richard Tierney Club PRO; John Dunphy Bord na nÓg Chairman; Michael Byrne Bord na nÓg Sec; Breda English.



Rower Inistioge U8 Team 2012

Included are: Aodan Murphy, Ben O'Keeffe, Conor Bolger, David Prendergast, Dermot Tennyson, Eoin Lyng, Ewan Gilsean, Jack O'Neill, Joseph Mulholland, Kyle Malone, Liam Bolger Hynes, Mark Flood, Robin Lanigan, Tom O'Callaghan.

### Inter County/College

The 2012 Senior All Ireland Hurling was a very special one for the Club with Kieran Joyce being part of the starting team. Well done to Kieran who also won a National league earlier in the year. Congrats also to Joe Lyng, James Cassin and Ciaran Ryan who were members of the Under 21, Intermediate and Minor teams during 2012. Congrats to all who represented the Club on various College teams during 2012 and to the following who all won Leinster Colleges medals at various grades, Jack Walsh (U-14 with Good Council), Pat Lyng, Darragh Joyce, Shane Ryan, Dylan Kehoe, David Kelly (U-16 with Good Council) and to William Allen (Senior- St. Kierans).

### Adult level.

Our Intermediate team had a single point to spare when defeating St. Patrick's of Ballyragett in the Shield final while at Junior A level, Mullinavat proved far too strong as they beat us in convincing style in the Southern final. Our Junior B team reached the South League final where they lost out to Kilmaine.



### Kevin Minogue R.I.P.

There was tremendous sadness and disbelief with the death of Kevin Minogue following a car accident in March. Kevin commenced his hurling career with The Rower-Inistioge when playing at under 8 and although he played out field on a few occasions, he became the regular goalie on the team and played at all levels including the 2011 U-21 Championship. He had many great displays between the posts for the Club and was a key member when the Club won the minor final of 2008. Kevin was a great leader on the field and on many occasions showed great bravery when putting his body on the line. To Kevin's Parents Paddy and Margaret, his sisters and brothers and to all his many relations, friends and team mates, we extend the Club's sympathies.

In the past 12 months the Club also lost Michael Walsh and Tommy Waters both members of the County Final winning team of '68 and also Willie Kelly, a former Club Hurler and team mentor over many Club teams. To the families of Tommy, Michael and Willie and to all Club Members who suffered bereavements during 2012, we offer the Club's sympathies.



Rower Inistioge U12 Team 2012

Included are: Alex Hatt, Cathal O'Neill, Denis Kilbride, Edward Prendergast, George Murphy, Jack Gilsean, James O'Brien, Jamie Dwan, John Grace, John Clifford, Martin Cullen, Mike Chapman, Patrick Prendergast, Séan Bolger, William Ashe Doyle, William Mulholland, William O'Carroll,

### Club Development

The development of the GAA ground in The Rower was completed in 2012 with perimeter fencing, goal posts and netting being erected. The Club's Annual Golf Classic was another great success in 2012 with a full team sheet and wonderful support being received from all who participated on the day and all who sponsored the event. The monthly development draw that is run in conjunction with Inistioge Community Council, proved to be very successful throughout 2012 with monies being raised to meet all annual repayments for development work recently completed.



# Club Gallery

## SLIEVERUE



**U10 Eamonn O'Donovan winners 2012.**  
 Ian Ahearne, Liam Byrne, Shane Cantwell, Kieran Connolly, Cormac Doyle, Seán Freyne, Tadhg Freyne-Atkins, William Halpin, Donal Howard, Sam Kimpton, Niall Lavin, Ferdi Murphy, James Murtagh, Ewen Quin, Paul O'Donovan, Harry Phelan, Jack Rellis, Joel Walsh.



In March we had the honour of Kilkenny Legend Michael Kavanagh present over 70 medals to all the children aged from 8yrs to 13yrs that took part in our Parish League. The league consisted of 20 matches over the months of Feb/March under lights in our superb Astro-Turf pitch. Present with Michael are some of the Organising Committee. M.Phelan, P.Moore, M.Phelan, M.Kavanagh, G.Byrne, E.Walsh, S.Morrissey.



**U12 City League winners**  
 Our U12s had a remarkable run in the Waterford City League, winning all 7 matches in the league and two more on the finals day in Walsh Park.  
 Squad: Luke Heffernan, Jake Hogan, Larry Canavan, Aoife Slattery, Josh Phelan, William Halpin, Callum Walsh, Arron Donnelly, Sam Hartley, Joe Dorethy, Sean Howard, Patrick Dowling, Mark O'Donovan, Connor Wall, Mark Keogh, Dylan Coady, Evan Cullen, Craig Phelan, Reece Murphy, Josh Murphy



It was a joy to behold seeing the older O'Donovan Brothers Luke & Mark present the trophy named in honour of their father Eamonn O'Donovan (RIP) to younger sibling Paul who was captain of the U10 Sliieverue winners.



**Photo U8s In Croke Park.**

August 20th Sliieverue U8 players, mentors and parents boarded a bus to Croke Park. They played a team from Offaly in glorious sunshine on the hallowed turf and also a tour of the Stadium. A great day for all with pitstop in Supermacs on the way home.  
 Kate Connolly, Michael Frisby, Shane Wall, Ben Hartley, Andrew Murtagh, Paul Halpin, Ellie Dunphy, Shane O'Keeffe, Emma Murphy, Eva Doherty, Joe White, Aidan Hogan-Murphy, Aoife Murphy, Kieran Connolly, Ewen Quin, Ferdi Murphy, Tadhg Freyne-Atkins, Charlie Delahunt, Kelsey Haberlin, Darragh O'Brien, Caoimhe Murphy, Raianne Haberlin, Maeve Doherty, Callum Cleary. Mentors Seamus Murtagh, Noel Connolly.



The main club Committee made some significant changes and improvements in 2012 to enhance our facilities for both player and spectator alike.

These consisted of extending the away dressing room, providing enhanced public toilets for both male/female, new referee room with shower, new main entrance, a new 100m footpath along the main carpark, a perimeter railing along both sides of the main field, seating for up to 50 spectators and two new dug-outs.

Also, 120 tonne of sand was laid out across our two pitches to make them some of the finest playing surfaces in the County.



# Club Gallery



## ST. FIACHRA'S



Graignamanagh/Skeough Schools Team 2012. Tommy O'Brien Cup Finalists and League Semi-finalists.



Patrick Nolan & Terry Dreelan represented St. Fiachra's on the winning Kilkenny Team in the Tony Forrestal Tournament. The boys are pictured here with John Carroll one of their coaches on the development squads.



St. Fiachra's Roinn B League Champions 2011.  
Back: John Doyle, Pat Nolan, (Selectors) Thomas Joyce, James Meaney, James Doyle, Eoin Bolger, Jim Ryan, Joe Kelly, Bernard Hennessy, Thomas O'Donnell, Edward Murphy, James McCabe, Patrick Dowling, Sean Doyle, James Phelan (Selector)  
Front: Emmet Foley, Stephen Browne, Ciaran O'Brien, Peter Kavanagh, Jamie Byrne, Lee Kinsella, Ryan O'Halloran, Martin Kelly, Adam Kennedy, Liam Hearne, Brian Barcoe, Michael Doyle (Selector) Seated at front- Patrick Nolan & Seamus Kavanagh

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# Club Gallery

## ST LACHTAIN'S



Jack Boland in action V Dicksboro in Minor Semi-Final



Stewards at Easter Fun Run 2012



Rafter Construction present set of jerseys to Bord na nÓg



Martin Power Jun B hurling



Easter Coaching Camp at Páirc Lachtna's Easter 2012



# Club Gallery

## ST MARTIN'S



The Drive for Liam Quiz in The Ranchers Return Coon



Organizing the raffle at the Benefit Night at Kilkenny Dog track



Tom Dowling presents the cup to the winning captains.



U10 team who took part in the Gowran Blitz Day



The ladies who provided refreshments at the U12 final



New dugouts completed during the year at Coon Pitch.



The U8 panel who took part in the Danesfort Blitz



Some of our U12's who travelled to Croke Park for the All Ireland Final replay.

# Club Gallery

## ST PATRICK'S



St Patricks GAA Under 8's visit Croke Park September 2012



The big screen in Croke Park proclaims  
St Pat's victory



St Patricks Day Parade:- St Patrick - John Kennedy, L to R :- Vincent Brophy, Bill Staunton, Patrick Morrissey, Lar McEvoy, Michael McCraith, Martin McGrath, Sean Lawless, Billy Morrissey. Front Richie McEvoy



Kevin Kelly  
captures the U21  
county team to  
Leinster Glory



Under 12 Cats Final Sept 1st in Ballyragget  
Included are: Aoibhe Watters, Chieu Phelan, Emer O'Doherty, Kate Maher, Katie Brennan., Kiara Walshe, Lauren Phelan, Mollie Southgate, Niamh Morrissey, Sheila Brophy, Sinead Morrissey, Sinead Walshe, Thanh Phelan, Zara Gunner, Zoe Gleeson. Trainer: Aidan Morrissey



A Gathering of Ballyouskill Hurlers  
1942

Back Row: Pat Kennedy, Jimmy Purcell, Stephen Holohan, Tom Kenna, Martin Holohan, Tom Bergin, Jack O'Kourke, Jack Fogarty, Jack McDonald, Peter Kennedy, Jim Palmer  
Middle Row: Jack Doheny, Sean Bergin, Neddy Walsh, Dick Purcell, Fred Palmer, Joe McDonald, Mick Clancy, Kieran Bergin, Mick O'Brien  
Front Row: Paddy Clancy, Tom Kenna (Jnr), Larry Cummins, Sean Clancy, Eamon Kenna, Joe Palmer, Noel Walsh, Tom Bergin, Jack Walsh, Tom Palmer  
Two boys in front: Seamus Foley and Sean Kenna



# Club Gallery

## THOMASTOWN



Captain Jonjo Farrell is presented with the South Junior Hurling Championship Cup.

**St. Mary's National School Thomastown Make History**  
The 2011/2012 Boys school team made history when they won not one, not two, not three but all four School Finals.

First up was The Roinn B Gaelic Football Final. In this thrilling encounter they beat St Canices who were hoping to get their 10-in-a-row victory. The final score was St. Mary's Thomastown 1-7 to St. Canice's 0-4.

In the Gaelic Football Country Cup Final it took 70 minutes to separate Thomastown and Tullogher-Rosbereon. The final score was St. Mary's Thomastown 7-13, Tullogher-Rosbereon 6-4.

In the Country Cup Hurling Final they emphatically beat a very gallant Schoil Phádraig, Ballyhale 5-12 to 0-5. Captain Ned Kirwan lifted the Country Cup for the first time in Thomastown's history. Last but not least was St Mary's beat Castlecomer in the Roinn B County Final on a score of 3-8 to 0-8.

Great credit goes to the School and Teachers and Coaches Enda Roberts and Patricia Dowling for their time and commitment and what they achieved with this bunch of players.



Thomastown U10 Team had a very successful year and played many matches seen here with Brian Cody.



THOMASTOWN - UNDER 14 LEAGUE SHIELD WINNERS 2012

A young Thomastown Under 14 Hurling team, under the guidance of manager Mick Donnelly, enjoyed a very good year overall. Playing in Roinn A in the League and Roinn B in the Championship they had some very competitive fixtures but won their fair share and gained a lot of experience in the process. They also brought home some silverware by winning the Roinn A Shield Final in a very exciting game against Clane in Bennettsbridge. They were almost caught by a couple of late goals but held out to win on a scoreline of 4-10 to 4-8. It was a nice way to finish the year and with a lot of the team underage again next year there is every reason to remain optimistic. Congratulations to Adam Power and Brian O' Hanrahan who were part of the County hurling development squads throughout the year and to John Donnelly who was a member of the Tony Forristal team that won this competition, beating Waterford in the final.

### Thanks

The Club would like to thank all the Mentors, Coaches & Field Committee for their hard work, time and dedication over the past year. The club ran a number of successful fundraisers during the year and would like to thank everyone for coming out and showing their support. Congratulations to Adam Power and Brian O' Hanrahan who were part of the U14 County hurling development squads throughout the year and to John Donnelly who was a member of the Tony Forristal team that won this competition, beating Waterford in the final. Also Congratulations to Dylan Caulfield & Craig Butler U15 Development Squads, Cian O'Mara U16 Development Squads and Adrian Burke and Daragh Mc Garry U17 Development Squads.

### Obituaries

Thomastown GAA Club extends its condolences to all club members who suffered bereavement during the past year, especially the families of Luke Donnelly (late 2011), Michael Walsh, Lennie Fennelly, Jimmy Walsh, Gerry Gibbons, Siobhan Stapleton, Jonathan Hynes & Anne O'Hanrahan. May they rest in Peace.



# Club Gallery

## THREECASTLES



Sarah and Neil Webster looking lovely with their face paints at our Field Day 2012.



RJ Dalton, Eamon Hennessy Jnr. and Eamonn Hennessy carrying the Three Castles banner and braving the elements at the St. Patrick's Day Parade 2012.



Drive for Liam Quiz - Brendan Treacy presents the holiday travel tickets to Lanzarote to Amy O'Donnell who participated in Champions Bar, Three Castles. Also in the picture is Martin O'Donnell and Seamus Reade, Committee Chairman.



Displaying Cumann Abú skills in Three Castles 2012.



Cumann Abú team - L-R Dick Walshe, Valerie Delehanty, Kathleen Lennon, Edel Campion, Thomas Trait, Alan Franey, Joe Maher, Aileen Lennon, Rosie Dempsey, Niall Webster, Mark Webster, Marty Campion. In Front - Robbie McGarry and Brian Dermody



Grainne Trait proudly displays her medal at our Field Day 2012.



# Club Gallery

## TULLAROAN



Volunteers cutting timber for the annual auction raising funds for the club



Young Tullaroan Hurlers at 2012 Sports Day in Tullaroan

**Tullaroan win 1983 Under-16 Championship**

Back Row (l.-r.): J. Norton, J. Walton, L. Keoghan, A. Clohossey, R. Walsh, R. Delaney, B. Dooley, D. Gaffney. Front Row (l.-r.): S. Dunne, B. Keogh, J. Norton, B. Hennessy, D. Purcell, E. Holland, P. Hennessy, J. Dunne, M. O'Neill. Inset: J. J. Hennessy, D. Crosby, J. O'Dea, J. Dillon.

**TULLAROAN HURLING CLUB OFFICERS 1983**

Front Row (l.-r.): J. Doherty (Hon. Sec.); B. Gaffney (Chairman); E. Walsh (Treasurer). Back Row (l.-r.): T. Walsh (Vice President); E. Holland (Vice-Chairman); F. Grace (Vice-President); C. Walsh (President).

Memory Lane - U16 champions and Club Officers 1983



2012 Tullaroan Executive Committee  
From left: Edward Holland (Club Treasurer), Donnie Hogan (Club Secretary),  
Dick Walsh (Chairman) and Tom Cleere (Vice Chairman)



# Club Gallery

## TULLOGER ROSBERCON



Under 6 - 1st Blitz in Slieverue on 8th September 2012.



Under 8 - a challenge match against Mullinavat on 21st June 2012.



Under 10 - Caulfields League winners Sunday 24th June 2012



Walter Walsh  
First Tullogher Rosbercon's Representative to  
bring the McCarthy Cup to our club.



Under 15 - Crossabeg Ballymurn Tournament 7th October 2012.



Under 12 - Richie Young Tournament on 17th June 2012.



# Club Gallery

## WINDGAP



Club Volunteers building fences in December. Included are Simon Brophy, George Watters, Dermot Houlihan, Eamon Doyle, Sean Power, Pat Walsh, Ger Doyle, inset Michael Micklas.



Included at the early eighties visit of the Sam Melbourn Museum (currently the Lár na Pairce Museum in Thurles) to Windgap are Tommy Hearne, James Power R.I.P. Brian Cody, Eddie Kelly, Sam Melbourn ..... Nicky Hawe, Eamon Cronin. Front Alan Hearne.



Junior Championship 25th Anniversary Presentation in Powers  
Back: Michael O'Shea, PJ Egan, Simon Brophy, Denis Foley, Eamon Murray, Bobby Jackman, Centre: Kathleen Phelan representing her brother Jim Phelan R.I.P., Seamus Power, Gerard Doyle, Paul Doran, Jimmy Purcell, Matt Doran, Pat Moore, Pat Foley, Brendan Cronin, Seamus Norris, Tom Mackey (Selector) Pat Holohan representing Dermot Holohan, Pat Walsh.  
Front Jimmy Walsh, Eamon Cronin, Tommy Hearne (Trainer Player), Christy Whelan (First Aid), Jim Hickey (Selector). Missing Brian Hickey, Joe O'Shea (Capt), Pat Hayes, Tommy Lanigan, Richard Cronin, Dan Cronin, Christy Cody, Val O'G Murray, Paddy Walsh (Selector).



Emigrating Club secretary Sean Power at the presentation to mark Eamon Doyle's 21st year as Windgap Club Treasurer



The Purcell brothers 40x20 and 60x30 All Ireland Golden Masters "B" Doubles winners,  
Left to Right: Eamon, also a World over 45 "C" doubles Silver medal winner, County Chairman Seamus Reade, and Jimmy.



Mullinahone Under 10 Shield winners included:- Mika Buijs, Padraig Foley, Jack Doyle, Eoin O'Brien, Adam O'Shea, Niall O'Brien, Eoin Freaney, Blade O'Gorman, Sean Barron, Mark McCoy, Sean Purcell, Jamie Joy, Karl McCoy, David Fleming, Zak Kennedy, Tommy Kennedy, Hugh Horgan. Missing from the picture is Killian Doyle. Coaches were Tony Doyle, Declan Kennedy, John Paul Joy, Shane Doyle.



Windgap under 8's at Leinster GAA Activity day in Croke Park.  
Included are:- Evan Doyle, Noah O'Shea, Killian Enright, Cian Horgan, Craig Drennan, Jack O'Shea, Ronan O'Brien, Paddy Fleming, Michael Freaney, Colum Kennedy, James Purcell, Liam Conalty, Cillian Kirwan. Not in the picture is Matej Dullard.  
Coaches were John Enright, Matthew O'Shea, Liam Conalty.



# Club Gallery

## YOUNG IRELANDS



Under 6s on their last day out of the year in Inistioge  
 Eoin Brennan, Timmy Brennan, Jim Conlon, Andrew Corbett, Ben Drennan, Mikey Keating, Alex Kenny, David Langton, Thomas Langton, Matthew McAviney, Richard Nolan, Tristan Nolan, Billy O Keefe, Charlie Phelan, Cian Phelan & Eoin Phelan with coaches Harry Nolan, Ciaran Phelan & Kevin Phelan.



The Under 10s at the final game of the league played with a number of other clubs.  
 Eoghan Bolger, Patrick Brennan, Ciaran Byrne, Cathal Dairey, Luke Doyle, David Drennan, Conor Fitzpatrick, Sean Fitzpatrick, Ben Higgins, David Holland, Ciaran Kavanagh, Myles Kehoe, Jack Kennedy Byrne, Jimmy Lennon, Gavin Manning, Brogan McAviney, Cathal McCurdy, Tommy Phelan with coaches Padraig Brennan & Conor Fitzpatrick



Under 8s in Croke Park

As part of the GAA initiative the Under 8s had a great day out in Croke Park at the end of the summer.  
 Bobby Brennan, Charlie Brennan, Timmy Brennan, Killian Carey, Jamie Carter, C J Delaney, Barry Dunne, Leonard Farrell, Rory Farrell, Charlie Fitzgerald, Sean Fitzpatrick, Mikie Knox, Diarmuid Langton, Patrick Langton, Ray Lawson, Niall Manning, Daniel Manning, Jamie Middleton, Padraig Naddy, Rhys Nolan, Luke O' Donnell, Eoin O'Neill, Ben Phelan, Luke Phelan & Darragh Travers with coaches Michael Langton, Paul Farrell Ciaran Phelan, Cathal Fitzgeraldt



Family Fun Day

A fabulous day out in glorious sunshine was had by all who attended the Family Fun Day. The event was a great success with activities for everyone



Lisdowney Sevens

The Footballers reached the Junior County Final where they were defeated by Ballyhale Shamrocks.  
 Pictured here with team mentors Eoghan Farrell, D J Carey & Alan Roche are Michael Walsh, Ger Corcoran, Willie Bolger, Johnny Dunphy, JJ Lennon, Tommy Carroll, Jack Glendon, Peter Carroll, Paul Holden, Chris Nolan, Paul Delehanty, Declan Bennett, Danny Glendon, James O'Neill & Alan Drennan, Martin Carey, Michael Lennon, Paul Kehoe, John Morris, Niall Walsh, Ciaran Carroll, Dick Carroll, Eoin Walsh, Emmett Byrne, J P Treacy, Ted Drea & Kevin Quinlan



The Under 13 panel reached the final of the Kilkenny Supporters Club Shield in the annual Lisdowney Sevens Tournament.  
 Jack Blagriff, Jack Brennan, Jason Brennan, Mikey Carey, Ted Drea, Robert Dunne, Conor Dwyer, Seamus Farrell, Cormac Nolan & Padraig O'Neill with James O'Neill (Trainer) & Jack Glendon (Sel)

# Kilkenny's 2012 All Stars



## KILKENNY GAA HURLING ALL-STAR AWARD WINNERS 2012

Kilkenny recipients of their GAA GPA All-Star Hurling awards, from left:

**Paul Murphy, Henry Shefflin GAA GPA All-Star Hurler of the Year, Brian Hogan, TJ Reid, and JJ Delaney**  
at the GAA GPA All-Star Awards 2012.  
Picture credit: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

### Camogie All Stars for 2012

#### Goalkeeper

Aoife Murray (Cork),

#### Backs

Claire O'Connor (Wexford)  
Catherine O'Loughlin (Wexford)  
Sheila Sullivan (Offaly)  
Pamela Mackey (Cork)  
Gemma O'Connor (Cork)  
Deirdre Codd (Wexford)

#### Midfield

Niamh Kilkenny (Galway)  
Jennifer O'Leary (Cork)

#### Forwards

Kate Kelly (Wexford)  
Niamh McGrath (Galway)  
Briege Corkery (Cork)  
Katrina Mackey (Cork),  
Katrina Parrock, (Wexford)  
Ursula Jacob, (Wexford)



#### GAA GPA All-Star Hurler of the Year

**Henry Shefflin, Kilkenny, at the  
GAA GPA All-Star Awards 2012.**

Picture credit: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

### GAA/GPA Hurling Team of the Year 2012

#### Goalkeeper

1. Anthony Nash (Cork)

#### Full-Backs:

2. Paul Murphy (Kilkenny)  
3. JJ Delaney ( Kilkenny)  
4. Fergal Moore (Galway)

#### Half backs

5. Brendan Bugler (Clare)  
6. Brian Hogan (Kilkenny)  
7. David Collins (Galway)

#### Midfielders

8. Iarla Tannian (Galway)  
9. Kevin Moran (Waterford)

#### Half forwards

10. TJ Reid (Kilkenny)  
11. Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny)  
12. Damien Hayes (Galway)

#### Full forwards

13. John Mullane (Waterford)  
14. Joe Canning (Galway)  
15. David Burke (Galway)

# Obituaries



**Andy Heffernan**

One of Kilkenny city's best known residents and most loyal GAA followers, Andy Heffernan was born in John Street where his father Michael ran a construction and cabinet-making business. His mother, a member of the Byrne family of Conlagar, had an antique furniture business in the shop. Andy and his brother Billy served their apprenticeship there and on the death of his father Andy began his own business.

During the Second World War Andy's father Mick, a native of Glenmore and a member of the Kilkenny County Board, made a submission to have a four-foot wall constructed in front of the old stand in Nowlan Park in order to replace the existing timber railing. Owing to the war, medals were unavailable, and when Glenmore won the county football final they agreed to divert £15 – the price of the medals – to help pay for the new wall. This gesture helped begin the redevelopment process at what is now one of the finest county GAA grounds in Ireland.

Andy was one of Kilkenny's finest Gaelic footballers ever. That was no insignificant achievement, for if the big-ball sport has for a century been the "other" game here then the county has still produced its share of very good footballers. Andy was one of them, a corner-back with a great left foot. His old Clann na Gael teammate Seamus Delaney in Patrick Street, for decades Kilkenny's Mr Football, describes him as "a stone wall – it was the Glenmore stuff in him". Andy and Seamus played with Muckalee before Clann na Gael, a forerunner of the modern-day O'Loughlin Gaels, were formed in 1960. Success came quickly; the new outfit were county junior champions in 1962, then senior champions in '63 and '64. Andy occasionally spoke of the occasion when he played football for Kilkenny in Croke Park following a Leinster hurling final. The football match was still going on at 6pm, at which stage the referee stopped proceedings for the teams to say the Angelus!

It would be interesting to know how many matches Andy attended in his lifetime. It's a fact that he attended every All Ireland hurling and football final for over 60 years, and how fitting it was that in the closing years of his life he was present to see Kilkenny beat Tipperary not once but twice on the first Sunday of September. Having attended his first All Ireland final in 1945 he saw all the greats of Kilkenny hurling from Jim Langton to Henry Shefflin, and if he admired every one of them he deserved

a special place in his affections for DJ Carey and the excitement he brought to the game. He knew his hurling and football, his facts and figures, his matches and dates, without ever being a know-all.

Andy loved attending schools matches, identifying potential prospects and following their progress through the grades. If they made it through to senior ranks he'd take pride in having spotted them years beforehand. He was never one to criticise a player for a poor display; "ah, sure it wasn't his day" would be as far as he'd go. But Andy was no big-day-only merchant; he was one of those low-key hurling men who form the backbone of the GAA in the county. Any round of club championship matches would find him and Ann attending three or four fixtures over the course of a weekend and frequently two or even three games on a Sunday. His only gripe might be a clash of throw-in times. When asked why he went to so many matches he responded simply, "Because the day will come when I won't be able to go any more."

He harboured a special grá for his ancestral Glenmore, his own Dicksboro – he served as chairman of the club – and the various Kilkenny CBS teams. And last year he had another team to support: the Wexford minor hurlers, with whom his grandson Colm – Deirdre's son – lined out.

It has become a cliché in circumstances like these to use the words "Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann". But in the case of Andy Heffernan the phrase could not be more accurate or more apt.

D. McE.



**Jimmy Staunton**

On Monday 10th September 2012 Paulstown Parish came to terms with the loss of one of its most dedicated sons, Jimmy Staunton, Ballygorteen. The popular Paulstown native had succumbed to a short but serious illness, surrounded by his family and friends. He had borne his illness with great fortitude and bravery and with the help of his family he was able to remain in his own home right up to the end.

Even though he had a relatively short life by modern day standards, it was a life he lived to the full. He was involved with farming all his life and developed a great love of animals and nature. He was a man who worked hard to provide for his wife and family.

Jimmy was full of the joys of life. He had a word for everyone and was known and well-liked the length and breadth of the county and indeed further afield. He also had a passion for dancing. Mary and himself were to be seen regularly in The Longman, Carrolls, Springhill or Larkins.

Jimmy was a great follower of the GAA and a lifelong member of Barrow Rangers Club. He was a shrewd judge of a player and his performance. He would have been considered a useful player. He served as a selector and / or coach for teams in all grades. He had a link with all three Junior Hurling Championship successes in 1982, 1988 and 1990, being in charge of hurleys on each occasion and also as a selector in 1990. He was interested in the promotion of football, particularly at under age. He was also a keen and loyal follower of the Black and Amber.

He was a great community and voluntary worker both in the parish and in Nowlan Park where he could always be depended upon to help when the occasion demanded. He could be seen regularly in "The Angle" helping with the car parking.

The esteem in which he was held was clearly in evidence by the massive crowds that attended his wake at his home, removal and burial. A Guard of Honour was provided both days by members of Barrow Rangers GAA Club.

His wife, Mary, sons JJ and David and daughter Catherine will miss him so much, as will his extended family and friends. As has already been stated he was one of those 'can-do' characters, impossible to replace. Ní beidh a leithéid ann aris.



**Jackie Ryan**

Jackie Ryan, RIP Woodland Est, formerly of Ballynakill, Graignamanagh.

The death of Club President Jackie Ryan in January 2012 has left a void that will be difficult to fill. Jackie was a noted footballer in his youth and when the present club was formed in 1953 he was a founder member and served in a number of positions during his long association with the G.A.A. He loved to recall the many games he watched and could always be relied upon to add his own version of events. He was proud of The clubs

achievements during their glory days of the 70's and 80's. His wit and humour will be sadly missed.  
To his family and friends we extend our sympathy.  
Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.



**Sheem Kavanagh**

**Shem Kavanagh RIP**

The community of Graignamanagh was devastated on Christmas Eve as the news of the tragic and untimely death of Shem Kavanagh broke around the town. A loyal Graig supporter and father of current players Shane, Ian & Seamus. Shem travelled the length and breadth of the County and further to support his sons and all Graig teams. Shem rarely missed a hurling or Highview Athletic Soccer match and always had a friendly smile and kind word for everyone. The hurling and Soccer fields of Graignamanagh will be a lonely place without his presence and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him. To his wife Stas, sons Shane, Ian & Seamus and his extended family we express our deepest sympathy and our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this sad time.

Ar Dheis De go raibh a anam dilis.

Croke Park and indeed was front and centre at the stage at the homecoming. This year was truly a great year for Jane in her love for GAA, as her top three teams all won All Ireland titles, Ballyragget firstly followed by her mother's native Donegal and finally Kilkenny. Jane brought great honour to the town of Ballyragget when she won silver and bronze medals in the Olympic games. Ar dheis de go raibh sí.



**Nuala Osborne (nee Dunphy)**

When the news of a tragic accident in Gorey claiming the life of Nuala Osbourne (nee Dunphy) reached the people of Mooncoin and surrounding parishes a dark cloud descended upon the community. Nuala was the youngest daughter and child of Joan and Joe Dunphy, sister to Eithne, Triona and Eoin and in recent years a wonderful wife to Damien.

Nuala lived in Carnew, Co. Wicklow with her husband Damien whom she met while in college in Waterford. Together they opened, nurtured and expanded a vibrant business in Gorey and Nuala became well known in that area of North Wexford and Wicklow. Both she and Damien were also very involved in the GAA in Carnew and Nuala was never one to shy away from a GAA match. Being an avid Kilkenny woman, hurling was her first love. But after meeting Damien, she immersed herself in her new community. Football as well as hurling prospered in that corner of Wicklow and Nuala's love for the big ball game grew! Nuala and Damien travelled far and wide following the Carnew footballers and hurlers and the inseparable couple became part and parcel of Carnew's fortunes.

However, Nuala grew up in small village nestled in South Kilkenny - Luffany in Mooncoin. On the 13th August 2012, the village and indeed the community at large were left heartbroken as it lost one of its finest daughters. Nuala attended primary school in Carrigeen National School where she started playing music and had many good days playing the accordion all over the country. It was while at primary school that Nuala started playing camogie for Mooncoin. Coming from a family steeped in hurling it was no surprise that the skill and game came with a natural ease to Nuala. She played many great matches in the Green and White of Mooncoin. Nuala was a proud Mooncoin woman and was always ready to support her home team. It was not unusual for Nuala and Damien to travel from Wicklow to see her beloved Mooncoin hurling when time allowed. The loss of Nuala has left a void in the lives of all in the close knit communities in Mooncoin and Carnew and the respective GAA communities in those areas. Her boundless energy, her enthusiasm for life and her infectious character will be forever missed by all us fortunate to have had Nuala affect our lives. If ever this seanfhocal fitted, it fits for Nuala Dunphy - "Ní fheicfimid a leithéid arís! She is being missed.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dilis.



**James Tynan**

**3rd October 1986 – 20th February 2012.**

When news broke on Monday 20th February 2012 of the untimely passing of James Tynan, the entire community, and indeed the whole county was in a state of shock. For his loving family, his girlfriend, his friends in Johnstown and beyond this news was just too cruel to bear.

James played hurling at underage and this came as no surprise as he was brought up in a household where a match was never missed so he could not avoid it. His father Paschal is current President of the Fenians GAA and his mother Dolores ensures that no hurler every goes hungry in Johnstown.

James had many sporting and musical interests and his mother Dolores fondly remembers his name being called out over the tannoy in Nowlan Park when he was only a little boy and had managed to lose his parents. It was very fitting at the funeral to see James' nephew bring the trophy James had won for hurling while attending Colaiste Mhuire, to the altar.

James was a larger than life character and always wore a smile. He had a large circle of friends and this was obvious from the huge turnout at his funeral.

We will never forget the sheer numbness and sadness in Johnstown as his coffin was flanked by guards of Honour from the hurling club, the soccer club and his work colleagues.

His parents Paschal and Dolores, his sisters and brother, his girlfriend and all his family have lost a loyal and loving son, brother and friend. They and all in Johnstown sorely miss him.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



**Jane Saunders**

Jane Saunders of Grove Terrace, Ballyragget passed away at the begining of October 2012. Her illness was a short one, and very few had been giving the chance to say farewell to this great GAA and sporting fan. Jane was a true supporter of everyone, she cared deeply for every member of the Ballyragget parish and all her friends, work colleagues, and Olympic team mates. She had a kind word for everyone and was always in good spirits. She will be deeply missed by her family, her parents Pat and Bridie, her brother John, and nephew Luke, friends and neighbours. She supported the hurling, football and camogie teams of the parish and was there at each and every game this year as St Patricks went on to win the Club All Ireland in Croke Park. She attended the semi final in Nenagh on the eve of departure for the European championships, and following the game she took to the field at the request of the team as she wished to show their support for her as she went off to compete. She was auly back in time to support her team on their big day in



**Tom Ryan**

TOM RYAN late of Tutestown, Dunamaggin died peacefully on Monday 10th September after a long illness. He is survived by his son, John, and daughters, Siobhan and Regina, in-law's, grandchildren, relatives and friends. Tom who worked in the machinery section of Kilkenny County Council until his retirement and was a great G.A.A. man.

Tom's medal collection started early when in 1945 Tom won a NKSL school medal when P. McLoughlin was

principal in Dunnagin and this was his most prized medal. He was the only Dunnagin player on the team that won such medals.

Tom's hurling prominence really came to light when occupying a corner forward berth on the last Carrickshock team to win a Kilkenny Senior Championship in 1951. He went on then to win Leinster Junior titles with Kilkenny in 1951, 1956, 1958 and 1967. He also won All-Ireland Junior Honours with Kilkenny in 1951 and 1956. He later played with his native parish Dunnagin winning a Southern Junior Title with Dunnagin in 1966. The team were beaten in the County Junior Final. In 1978 Tom and his son John were the wing backs on the Dunnagin team with Malachy Hogan in the centre.

Tom's greatest contribution to the GAA is probably as a coach. Tom coached Shamrocks (Ballyhale) to their first Kilkenny Senior Championship in 1978. He was on the line for the Shamrocks for subsequent SHC wins in 1978, 1979, 80, 82 and 83, Leinster titles in 1979, 1981 and 1984 and All Ireland Titles in 1981 and 1984. In 1995 he trained Glenmore to County and Leinster titles. Tom switched codes in 1985 taking charge of the Kilkenny Senior Camogie team and at the same time trained the Shamrock's to not only County but also All-Ireland Club glory. Kilkenny's dominance in the ensuing decade was credited to Tom's shrewd hurling brain and affable nature. He trained the Kilkenny Senior Camogie team to 7 All-Ireland titles in a row from 1985 – 1991 inclusive and 1994 with his son John beside him as a selector, 6 National League titles in 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1993. He also trained Freshford to win 3 county titles.

Tom's analysis of players and teams was always fair and the brand of Hurling played by his teams was never less than attractive. One of the enduring memories of the man would have to be his full participation in a series of drills with a Junior Camogie Team at his old club Carrickshock when in his late seventies. Doing was always the best mode of instruction for Tom. Where he led others followed.

Having hurled for Dunnagin and Carrickshock the colours of both clubs and of Kilkenny draped his coffin. He had a great love of gardening. His wife Carmel preceded him by almost 4 years. May he rest in peace.

tor as she washed Camogie jerseys for numerous years. Mary was extremely dedicated to her grandchildren and she was especially proud of the representation and achievements of her son Johnny and her grandson Conor on various Kilkenny teams. The esteem she was held in was evident by the large attendance at her funeral. To her children Andy, Johnny, Lee, Elaine, Moira and Debbie and all her extended family we convey our deepest sympathies.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sí.



**Tommy Sweeney**

On September 5th last the Parish of Kilmacow was saddened to hear of the untimely passing of Tommy Sweeney. Tommy was first and foremost a family man devoted to his wife Margaret and children Micheál and Niamh.

Tommy was involved in hurling in Kilmacow for a long number of years. His involvement started as a player where he represented various teams within the club. He then turned his focus to coaching a number of teams within the club where he concentrated mainly on underage teams. It was in this role that he invested a lot of time and effort ensuring that underage teams were driven the length and breadth of the county to participate in matches. Tommy was also involved in various committees within the club where countless hours of dedication were also given to help out in this role.

His love for hurling was huge, whether it was in the Complex with Kilmacow or in Croke Park supporting Kilkenny. A fitting tribute was the singing of "Rose of Mooncoin" at his grave side.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis



**Paddy Brophy 1916 - 2012**

Paddy, the youngest and last of nine siblings passed away on 23 July 2012. Paddy was born on 9 November 1916. He lived a long and happy life at Rossenany, Windgap where he grew up and farmed with wife, Bridget and brother, Jimmy.

Paddy and Bridget were the perfect partnership as Bridget (nee Walton from Tullaroan) played camogie with Windgap and Paddy was actively involved with Windgap and Lamogue GAA. At local level, in his role organising parish fêtes, Paddy has brought many hurling teams to compete in Windgap. He supported the local club throughout his long life and attended numerous matches at all levels throughout the county. Paddy played a lot of Gaelic football, a popular sport in the area in his younger years and later hurling. He was secretary of Lamogue football club for many years.

As well as being a loyal Windgap GAA supporter and Vice president of the club, Paddy followed the county team and attended many provincial championship matches. He started travelling to All Ireland finals in the early 1930s and even cycled to a few. He attended his last All Ireland final in 2009 and was a proud Kilkenny supporter in City West that night. After that, he never missed a televised GAA match and listened to many matches on KCLR and RTE Radio.

Paddy's great passions in life were his family, the local community, sport and politics. His lifelong love of sport – coursing, horse racing and GAA survived to the end. Paddy would have been proud of the guard of honour formed by Windgap GAA at his funeral. He is sadly missed by his daughters Joan, Bernadette, Breda, sons Billy, Padraig, Simon and Noel, sons and daughter in laws Noel Murphy, Laurence McGrath, Gwyith Brophy, grandchildren other relations, neighbours and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



**Willie Kelly 1935-2012**

The sad passing of Willie Kelly on Wednesday June 27th was a great loss to his family, his many friends and the Rower-Inistioge GAA Club. Willie was born on the 1st of July 1935 in Coolhill, The Rower, into a great GAA family. Throughout his life Willie was involved in all aspects of the GAA Club. As a player he first lined out for the Club in 1948 when he was corner forward on the team that won the County Final. He continued to play for the Club until 1964 and retired after the defeat of the senior team by Bennetsbridge in the County semi-final.

In 1955 he played his part when the amalgamation of the two parish teams took place to form the present Rower-Inistioge Club. He worked tirelessly for the Club and served as team Manager and selector for many teams over the years. In recent years, Junior A and U-21 teams were his forte.

In 1959 Willie married Babsie Mahon from Kilconley, The Rower and they set up home in The Rower village. Sadly for Willie, Babsie died in 2010 to leave a great



**Mary Martin**

The sad passing of Mary Martin was a great loss to her family and many friends in Emeralds GAA and Camogie Club.

Mary had great love of hurling and had a huge sense of pride and love for her parish Urlingford.

Mary was a great supporter of all Emeralds hurling and Camogie teams, from Juvenile level upwards. She made every effort to attend every match even during her illness. Her support of the GAA was more than that of a specta-

void in Willie's life.

Willie had a delightful personality and was a great raconteur. He had a tremendous interest in local history and folklore. He will be greatly missed by all his neighbours and friends, and most of all by his family. To his sons, John and Jim, his daughters Assumpta Manning and Maura Carroll, his brothers Paddy and Michael, his sister Kitty Ahearn, sons in law, daughters in law, grandchildren and all his nieces and nephews, we extend our deepest sympathies.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.



Jim Hogan



Mick Muggers Larkin (1947-2012)



Enda Cantwell

The man that said, "we are who we are, and we are who we were" might well have Enda Cantwell in mind when carving such profundity into the stone of time. Enda, a grand guy, was suddenly taken from his nearest and most dear at a young forty-four years, and the suddenness of the passing brought an unbearable burden of grief and remorse upon his family and friends.

As the senior member of the Cantwell/Ryan alliance, he had spent his formative years as an acolyte, a very attentive one, in the shadows of his Dad, Tom, more endearingly identified as TC. With his Dad, he listened, and learned, and whilst TC might, on the odd occasion express the opinion that "that lad" didn't listen, nevertheless, TC knew only too well that the exuberance, and youthful energies were talents that sometimes tested the patience of elders. And I'm sure that Enda stretched the indulgences of his Dad on more than one occasion. Yet there was a tremendous bond between them, a bond that stood strong, taught, and unconditional at all times. After all, he was the first-born of Bernie and Tom, and he was entitled to a little latitude.

His only sister Sinead, and his two younger brothers, Donagh and Eoin pushed him over in the nest, but big brother didn't mind, because that's what big brothers do – they compromise, and usually give in.

Enda, more and more took a stronger grip on the TC.Tyres business reins, but never stepped out of the influential presence of TC.

He had a huge interest in sport, in particular Rugby, Basketball, and Kilkenny hurling. His family business was most generous supporters of all sports, but since this Yearbook moved from embryo to its present status, the TC Tyres advertisement has never been removed from inside the front cover.

Enda's popularity was attested to by the huge numbers that attended his obsequies in St.Mary's Cathedral, where his Requiem was concelebrated by Fr.Jim Murphy. His passing will have caused unbridled sorrow for his Dad, Tom, the Mother he treasured, Bernie, his sons, Tom and Sam, his wife Frances, his sister Sinead, brothers, Donagh and Eoin, and a vast number of cousins, friends, relatives, and business acquaintances.

Enda Cantwell put in the hard yards in many respects, he deserves to Rest in the Arms of the Creator.

" Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis"

In addition to being a dedicated, hard-working, family man, Jim Hogan, who passed away on November 27th 2010, was a tremendous hurler with his native Tullaroan, Kilkenny, and Leinster. It was probably at Railway Cup level that the fame of Jim Hogan manifested itself. Playing in the Railway Cup Final of 1954, well I remember seeing Hogan being chaired off by delighted Kilkenny supporters. The game was played on the day after the traditional St Patricks day, and Jim, hurled up a storm at corner back, facing the mighty Cloyne genius. Leinster, for whom Pat "Diamond" Hayden, Paddy Buggy, Johnny McGovern, John Sutton, Dick Carroll, Jimmy Langton, Paul Fitzgerald (Henry Shefflin's uncle), and Mickey Kenny beat the might of Munster in front of a crowd of over 43,000 supporters.

Legendary Commentator Micheál O Hehir referred to Jim – for ever a Tullaroan man – as the short striding, long striking Kilkenny man. Jim often faced Ring prior to that game, and in subsequent days, and whilst his success against Ringey was no better than many of his fellow defenders from other Counties, on March 18, Jim Hogan had a game that most of that era could only wish for, or dream about. His tenacity, and anticipation were so sharp on that occasion, that he managed to keep Christy scoreless. To put that in context, Jim Hogan's feat was probably replicated on no more than two other occasions, if that. The National papers were bursting with the Hogan story on the day after the game. Jim Hogan was the featured Sports Star of the Week in the Indo on the following Friday – a much coveted award.

With Kilkenny, Jim's biggest regret was the defeat to Tipperary in 1950, when the Cats went down by 1-9 to 1-8. He won three Leinster senior Titles, three Walsh Cups, and Oireachtas in 1957, two Championships with Tullaroan in '48, and '52.

At the time, all of the above achievements were highly valued, and proudly acclaimed.

Jim was just gone 82 when he passed away in the quiet, caring comfort of his home in Lacken, Rathmoyle, surrounded by his loving family. He will have left a legacy of honesty, decency, dedication to family and neighbour, a love of his sport including hunting and coursing, and of course hurling. He gloried in the achievements of Kilkenny's hurlers of all ages. His own place Tullaroan was always special, all of the lads he played with, and all of the games in which he donned the white with the green sash were never forgotten. He had great time too for his adopted Dicksboro, with whom his sons played.

His passing will have caused much grief and continued sadness for his wife Bridget, sons Philip, Sean, Seamus, William, Richard, Michael, Mark, daughters Josephine, Alice, Breda, Pauline, sister, Mai, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and a wide range of relatives, friends and neighbours. A huge crowd attended his Requiem in St.Canice's Church and at his interment in Ballykeeffe Cemetery in Kilmanagh

Go n-déana Dia trochaire ar a anam dílis.

Mick was one of three Larkin brothers along with Phil Fan and Paddy. They were sons of the great Paddy Larkin, winner of four All Ireland senior hurling medals and one of the greatest of all hurling defenders. Immersed in hurling, Mick played at every level for the club as a defender. Mick won a county senior championship medal in 1969 and continued to be a great club supporter to the end of his life. A painter and decorator by trade he suffered ill health for many years. His passing leaves a huge gap in the lives of his wife, May, his children, grandchildren and extended family.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



Joe Foley 1939 – 2012

Joe Foley of Birchwood, Skough passed away on 5th January 2012 in the care of his family. Born on 17th July in 1939, he lived and farmed his entire life in Birchwood.

From the last house in the parish of Windgap Joe went to Owning primary school and then attended the local Christian Brothers in Carrick. There he began hurling with Carrick Swans of Tipperary where he played in goal. After the Swans, he turned out for Piltown and later Windgap. Team mates and opponents of Joe characterised him as a "hard yet clean" player, whether in goal or outfield where he featured in the full back line. Outside of playing hurling, Joe followed the sport and almost all others enormously.

Joe began working at the Carrick Mart aged seventeen and remained there until his passing. Joe bid his friends and colleagues at the Mart goodbye on the 16 December 2011. They held a minutes silence for Joe in respect of his 55 years service at the first Mart of 2012. Joe he was a well respected man in the local farming community and always made sure he'd make Sunday Mass in nearby Owning village for meeting his neighbours and friends and for doing the offertory collection.

Joe was buried in Owning following a guard of honour involving former team mates and Mart regulars. He is survived by his sisters Marian and Olive as well as his nephews Thomas, Eoghan, Eamon and Michael.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis



**John McCormack**

On Thursday November 8th 2012, Galmoy G.A.A. lost one of its great characters when John McCormack, Glashare, suddenly passed to his eternal reward. John was a real favourite of all who knew him, both in his native birthplace and in his new found home in Dublin. His popularity was reflected in the mingling of G.A.A. people from clubs in both Kilkenny and Dublin at his funeral.

John was raised at Glashare Castle in the parish of Galmoy and was introduced to both hurling and football when he attended Galmoy National School. John's talents were recognised when he was chosen to play for Kilkenny Minor Hurlers in 1956. He played at right half back on the team which won the Leinster Final, sharing a solid line of defence with Paddy Moran and Ted Carroll, in beating Wexford 4-7 to 3-7. Unfortunately they had to give best to a strong Tipperary side in the All Ireland final. A year previously, in 1955, John was a member of the Galmoy minor football team which won the Kilkenny Minor A Football County Final beating St Canice's Rosbercon 2-7 to 1-2. This was a unique occasion for the McCormack family as John's two brothers, Thomas and Francis, were also members of this winning panel.

John went on to play for his native Galmoy for many years and was a key member of the Galmoy team which beat Rower Inistioge 7-3 to 6-2 in the 1963 Junior County Final. Unfortunately, an objection was lodged and a replay ordered, resulting in a 2-11 to 1-7 win for the Rower Inistioge. John also played at Intermediate level for Kilkenny.

John later moved to Dublin in pursuit of employment and as travel arrangements were different in those times, John transferred to the MoonDarrig G.A.A. Club before joining Kilmacud Crokes Club in South County Dublin. John went on to win two Dublin Senior titles with Crokes in 1974 and 1976, on a team which featured fourteen intercounty players. Curiously they also won the Dublin title in 2012. John finished his own playing days with the Parnells Club.

Throughout his time in Dublin, John remained a firm supporter of Galmoy and, along with his brother Francis

and his good friend Michael Hennessy, they travelled down to many Galmoy games around the pitches of Ireland. He also continued his allegiance to Kilkenny and was regularly found on a summer Sunday morning in the late Michael Hennessy's pub 'The Sunset' in Summerhill sharing memories with the Galmoy folk up in Croke Park for the day.

John belonged to a renowned Galmoy G.A.A. family of nine children. His brother Dick, who passed away in September 2011, was a staunch club member. Dick farmed the family farm in Glashare and after his own playing days, served as Club Chairman for a period. He was also Club Vice President at the time of his passing. John has four sons and two daughters. One of his sons, Damien, representing the Trinity Gaels club, has played Senior and U-21 hurling for Dublin, while another, John, has played football for London.

John was one of life's real 'characters', a jovial man with a hearty laugh who was also an outstanding singer from as far back as his schooldays. His thrilled many a gathering with his rendition of his favourite 'Fraulein' and rumour has it that he has passed this talent on to his siblings.

Galmoy G.A.A. offers sincerest sympathy and continued support to his wife Maureen, his sons daughters, brothers, sisters, relations and large circle of friends.

Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís.

Solas na bhFlaitheas air.



**Billy Walton 1961-2012**

The club and community were devastated on Sunday 18 November when the news spread of Billy Walton's sad and untimely passing. Everybody knew of Billy's brave battle with serious illness over the previous eighteen months and we marvelled at his determination to continue to live his daily life in the face of terrible adversity. His humour, optimism and determination to win the battle were utterly admirable and demonstrated his courage in the face of adversity.

Billy was a wonderful family man, so proud of his Tullaroan ancestry and he had a deep and abiding

knowledge of his family connections. One of his greatest days occurred in October 2011 when his son David won a county senior hurling medal with James Stephens to become the third generation Walton winner, following in the footsteps of his father Tom with Tullaroan in 1948 and Billy himself with his beloved James Stephens in 1981. It is a record few families can boast.

Billy had a hugely successful and lengthy hurling career, beginning with a schools title with St. Patrick's in 1972, coached by current county chairman Paul Kinsella. He hurled with distinction in St. Kieran's College and graduated to the county minor hurling team as goalkeeper aged 17 in 1978. He quickly joined a very successful James Stephens senior side while still a minor. He played in the All Ireland U-21 hurling final in 1981 against Tipperary and won his only county senior medal with the Village in the same year.

In 1982 he struck gold three times, first winning an All Ireland club title on his twenty first birthday against Mount Sion. Within a short time he won a NHL medal with Kilkenny seniors and capped it all with an All Ireland senior hurling medal on a Brian Cody-led Kilkenny team.

Billy continued to shine for James Stephens as a stylish, skilful and free-scoring hurler for many years, ending his career where it began as the goalkeeper on the junior team.

For over twenty years he acted as selector and manager of a host of underage and adult teams, including the National Feile winning side of 2003. In 2001 he became the Juvenile Coaching Officer and supervised the transformation of the club coaching programme with great success.

But it will be for his extraordinary work on the development of the Kells Road site that Billy will be most remembered. He gave so generously of his time and expertise in matters agricultural. He contributed hugely to the safety of the site by changing the profile of his own property. Billy cajoled a wide range of specialists and experts to assist in the project. His painstaking attention to detail kept everybody focussed and ensured the highest quality control and finish.

A week before his passing, he organised the purchase and spreading of fertiliser from his 'corporate box', his bedroom that overlooks the development of which he was so proud. While Billy passed away so young, he accomplished so much in his short time among us and the manner in which he faced his greatest challenge has been inspirational to all.

We extend heartfelt sympathies to his wife Nuala, children David, Michelle, Fionnuala, Caroline and Tommy, his mother Breda, brothers, sisters, family and a very wide circle of friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam Dilís.

## Solas na bhFlaitheas air Anamnaacha na Marbh



# Kilkenny GAA Results 2012



SENIOR HURLING		UNDER 21 HURLING	
County SH Championship Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 0-16 Dicksboro 0-12	Roinn "A" U21H Championship Final	Not Finished*
SH League Final	Carrickshock 1-15 Ballyhale Shamrocks 0-15	Roinn "B" U21H Championship Final	Not Finished*
SH Shield Final	St Martin's 0-16 James Stephens 1-11	Roinn "A" U21H C'ship Northern Final	Not Finished*
SH Relegation Final	Danesfort 0-11 Dunamaggin 1-7	Roinn "A" U21H C'ship Southern Final	Not Finished*
INTERMEDIATE HURLING		Roinn "B" U21H C'ship Northern Final	Kilmacow 1-11 Dunamaggin 0-8
County IH Championship Final	Clara 1-7 St Patrick's 0-4	Roinn "B" U21H C'ship Southern Final	Not Finished*
IH League Final	Clara 2-15 St Lachtain's 0-15	MINOR HURLING	
IH Shield Final	Rower Inistioge 2-11 St Patricks 2-10	Roinn "A" MH Championship Final	James Stephens 1-8 Dicksboro 1-5
IH Relegation Final	Tullogher/Rosbercon 0-14 John Lockes 0-11	Roinn "B" MH Championship Final	Glenmore 0-26 Danesfort 0-13
JUNIOR HURLING		Roinn "C" MH Championship Final	Tullaroan 3-11 Carrickshock 1-11
County JH Championship Final	Thomastown 3-13 Bennettsbridge 0-10	Roinn "A" MH League Final	St Lachtain's 1-14 Rower Inistioge 0-14
Northern JH Championship Final	Lisdowney 2-19 Bennettsbridge 0-14	Roinn "B" MH League Final	John Lockes 3-16 Glenmore 2-13
Southern JH Championship Final	Thomastown 2-25 Piltown 0-22	Roinn "C" MH League Final	Not Finished*
All County JH League Final	Lisdowney 1-15 Mt Leinster Rangers 1-8	UNDER 16 HURLING	
County JH B League Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 0-16 Kilmacow 0-11	Roinn "A" U16H Championship Final	James Stephens 2-28 Rower Inistioge 2-9
County JH League Final	Piltown 0-21 Cloneen 2-9	Roinn "B" U16H Championship Final	Tullaroan 1-12 Conahy Shamrocks 2-6
JH Relegation Final	Graignamanagh 0-16 Fenians 0-13	Roinn "C" U16H Championship Final	Jas Stephens "B" 3-11 O'Loughlin Gaels "B" 2-8
County JH A Final	Mullinavat 3-12 Graigue/Ballycallan 2-12	Roinn "A" U16H League Final	Dicksboro 2-8 James Stephens 0-10
County JH B Final	Kilmacow 3-12 Barrow Rangers 0-16	Roinn "B" U16H League Final	St Lachtain's 1-8 Tullaroan 0-9
County JH A League Final	Graigue/Ballycallan 0-14 Ballinkillen 0-12	Roinn "C" U16H League Final	Jas Stephens "B" 4-4 O'Loughlin Gaels "B" 1-5
County JH B League Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 0-16 Kilmacow 0-11	UNDER 14 HURLING	
JH "A" Relegation Final	St Martin's 3-10 Piltown 0-16	Roinn "A" U14H Championship Final	Dicksboro 2-9, O'Loughlin Gaels 1-12 Dicksboro 2-12, O'Loughlin Gaels 0-10
Northern Junior A Hurling Championship	Graigue/Ballycallan 1-15 Lisdowney 0-14	Roinn "B" U14H Championship Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 3-9 Barrow Rangers 1-11
Southern Junior A Hurling Championship	Mullinavat 3-17 Rower/Inistioge 0-6	Roinn "C" U14H Championship Final	St Fiacre's 4-17 Tullogher Rosbercon 0-14
Northern Junior A Hurling League	Graigue/Ballycallan 1-16 St Lachtain's 2-12	Roinn "D" U14H Championship Final	Galmoy 4-14 Fenians 0-2
Southern Junior A Hurling League	Ballinkillen 1-18 Mullinavat 1-13	Paddy Grace Féile na nGael Final	James Stephen 3-12 Conahy Shamrocks 2-9
Northern Junior B Hurling Championship	Barrow Rangers 2-12 Blacks & Whites 2-7	Roinn "A" U14H League Final	Dicksboro 2-10 O'Loughlin Gaels 2-4
Southern Junior B Hurling Championship	Kilmacow 2-15 Graignamanagh 2-11	Roinn "B" U14H League Final	Lisdowney 2-8 Mooncoin 0-9
Northern Junior B Hurling League	O'Loughlin Gaels 0-17 Danesfort 0-14	Roinn "C" U14H League Final	Dunamaggin 5-8 Bennettsbridge 2-3
Southern Junior B Hurling League	Kilmacow 1-16 Rower/Inistioge 0-11	Roinn "D" U14H League Final	Galmoy 3-15 Cloneen/Railyard 2-6
CUP COMPETITIONS		PRIMARY SCHOOLS HURLING	
Byrne Cup Final	St Martin's 2-12 Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-13	Roinn "A" U13H Championship Final	St Canice's 2-12 Kilmanagh 0-7
Aylward Cup Final	Fenians 2-13 St Patrick's 1-13	Roinn "B" U13H Championship Final	Thomastown 3-8 Castlecomer 0-7
Paddy Cahill Cup	Thomastown 2-15 Tullaroan 2-4	Roinn "C" U13H Championship Final	Lisdowney 1-8 Danesfort 1-7
Kevin Fennelly Cup	Naomh Brid 2-18 Sleieverue 0-9	Roinn "D" U13H Championship Final	Tullaroan 4-9 Galmoy 1-7
Joe Walsh Cup	Barrow Rangers 1-18 Dicksboro 1-11	Corn de Bhaldraithe	Thomastown 5-12 Ballyhale 0-5
Jim Farrell Cup	North Sel. 1-16 South Sel. 1-16 (aet)	Corn Ui Bhriain	Lisdowney 2-3 Graig/Skeough 0-6

\* As of November 25th 2012

SENIOR FOOTBALL		SENIOR CAMOGIE	
County SF Championship Final	Not Finished*	County SC Championship Final	Mullinavat 5-9 St Lachtains 1-8
County SF League Final	Muckalee 0-14 Railyard 0-7	County SC League Final	Mullinavat 1-9 St Lachtains 1-1
INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL		Senior/Intermediate All County League Final	St. Brigid's 3-13 Ballyhale Shamrocks 3-5
County IF Championship Final	Not Finished*	SC Relegation Final	Windgap 6-18 St Brigid's/John Lockes 3-4
County IF League Final	Blacks & Whites 1-8 Clara 0-8	INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE	
JUNIOR FOOTBALL		County IC Championship Final	Rower-Inistioge 3-10 Tullaroan 0-8
County JF Championship Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-10 Young Irelands 1-5	IC League Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-11 Tullaroan 1-4
MINOR FOOTBALL		JUNIOR CAMOGIE	
Roynn "A" MF Championship Final	Not Finished*	Junior "A" Championship Final	Not Finished*
Roynn "B" MF Championship Final	Not Finished*	Junior "B" Championship Final	Mooncoin 3-14 Carrickshock 1-10
Roynn "C" MF Championship Final	Not Finished*	Junior Camogie League final	James Stephens 4-15 Glenmore 3-5
Roynn "A" MF League Final	James Stephens v O'Loughlin Gaels	Junior All-County Camogie League final	Young Irelands 1-17 James Stephens 1-4
Roynn "B" MF League Final	Not Finished*	U21 CAMOGIE	
Roynn "C" MF League Final	Not Finished*	Under-21 Roynn A Final	Thomastown 2-11 Windgap 3-5
U16 FOOTBALL		Under-21 Roynn B Final	Piltown 2-6 Rower-Inistioge 1-7
Roynn "A" U16F Championship Final	Not Finished*	MINOR CAMOGIE	
Roynn "B" U16F Championship Final	Not Finished*	Minor Roynn A Final	Thomastown 3-8 Danesfort 0-8
Roynn "C" U16F Championship Final	Not Finished*	Minor Roynn B Final	Piltown 2-7 St Martins 1-3
Roynn "A" U16F League Final	Not Finished*	Minor Roynn C Final	St Brigid's 4-4 St Annes 1-10
Roynn "B" U16F League Final	Not Finished*	Minor Roynn D Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 2-5 Mooncoin 1-7
Roynn "C" U16F League Final	Not Finished*	U16 CAMOGIE	
U14 FOOTBALL		Under-16 Roynn A Final	Piltown 1-12 Dicksboro 2-7
Roynn "A" U14F Championship Final	Dicksboro 1-8 Thomastown 1-3	Under-16 Roynn B Final	James Stephens 4-6 Conahy Shamrocks 2-2
Roynn "B" U14F Championship Final	Piltown 3-3 Lisdowney 1-4	Under-16 Roynn C Final	Paulstown 1-6 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-2
Roynn "C" U14F Championship Final	Kilmoganny 2-12 O'Loughlin Gaels "B" 2-8	Under-16 Roynn D Final	Kilmacow 3-9 Mooncoin 2-10
Roynn "D" U14F Championship Final	Cloneen/Railyard 5-12 Carrickshock 2-0	U14 CAMOGIE	
Roynn "A" U14F League Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 6-6 Danesfort 4-5	Under-14 Roynn A Final	Glenmore 9-7 Thomastown 3-3
Roynn "B" U14F League Final	Lisdowney 5-9 Emeralds 2-7	Under-14 Roynn B Final	Conahy Shamrocks 1-4 Piltown 0-3
Roynn "C" U14F League Final	O'Loughlin Gaels "B" 5-10 Tullaroan 5-3	Under-14 Roynn C Final	Kilmacow 2-12 Young Irelands 1-3
Roynn "D" U14F League Final	Cloneen/Railyard 3-3 St Lachtain;s 1-0	Under-14 Roynn D Final	Sliieverue 5-7 Lisdowney 1-1
SCHOOLS FOOTBALL		PRIMARY SCHOOLS CAMOGIE	
Roynn "A" U13F Championship Final	Not Finished*	Primary Schools Roynn A Final	Glenmore bt St Canice's
Roynn "B" U13F Championship Final	Not Finished*	Primary Schools Roynn B Final	Gaelscoil Osraí bt Gowran
Corn na Tuaithe	Not Finished**	Primary Schools Roynn C Final	Rower Inistioge bt Ballyhale
		Primary Schools Roynn D Final	Conahy bt Tullaroan

\* As of November 25th 2012

**EOIN LARKIN**



Eoin Larkin