

KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2015

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KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2015

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Foreword

As a year of many highlights draws to a close, it is my privilege as Chairman of Kilkenny GAA County Board to welcome the publication of our Annual Year Book featuring reports and photographs of all of the memorable events of the past twelve months. Understandably there is much focus on our senior hurlers and their winning of our thirty sixth All Ireland title. In time to come I believe this year's victory which was achieved despite the plethora of injuries that affected preparations prior to virtually all games and in particular prior to the All-Ireland final itself will come to be regarded as being amongst the best ever. This year's victory was the eleventh success for team manager Brian Cody and an eighth in the last ten years which is a remarkable record. Congratulations to all involved in bringing the Liam McCarthy Cup back to Kilkenny once again.



The well merited individual honours that our players received are deservedly acknowledged and on behalf of Kilkenny County Board I congratulate Paul Murphy, Joey Holden, Cillian Buckley, Michael Fennelly, TJ Reid, Ger Aylward and Richie Hogan on their selection on this years All Star Team with special congratulations to TJ Reid on his selection as Player of the Year by his fellow inter county players.

The achievement of our County Footballers in winning the British Junior Football championship for the first time merits special recognition also. This success was just reward for those who have continued to promote the game in our County often in the face of unjustifiable opposition.

Ballyhale Shamrocks history making victory in the All-Ireland Club final in Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day is acknowledged as is the success of Bennettsbridge who won their first All-Ireland Junior Hurling club title also in Croke Park earlier this year. Congratulations to both clubs on their achievements.

Our club championships were well contested this year and the achievements of Clara, Bennettsbridge and Glenmore in capturing Senior, Intermediate and Junior honours receive the coverage that they deserve, as do the achievements of Railyard, Danesfort and Graiguenamanagh who won our Senior, Intermediate and Junior Football titles. Well done to all.

Heartiest congratulations to Catherine Neary who assumed the office of President of the National Camogie Association this year. This is a tremendous personal honour for Catherine and for the Neary family and her club James Stephens and we wish Catherine every success during her term in Office.

The achievements of our handballers in both the National and World championships are well recorded and I congratulate both players and officials on their outstanding performances.

On behalf of Kilkenny County Board I wish to acknowledge the continuing generous financial contribution of Glanbia PLC , sponsors of all our county teams. This sponsorship is greatly appreciated both by players and team management's and remains vital to our efforts to sustain the level of success that we've enjoyed in recent years. I likewise acknowledge the importance of the support of the sponsors of our club competitions, St. Canice's Kilkenny Credit Union, Michael Lyng Motors, JJ Kavanagh and Sons, Iverk Produce, Countrystyle Foods, Kilkenny Citroen and Honda Centre, Duggan Steel, MW Hire (Sponsors of our new Training Pitches in Dunmore), and urge all readers to support our sponsors and advertisers whenever possible.

The financial contribution of our Supporters Clubs in Kilkenny, Dublin and Kildare is also very much appreciated and plays an important part in financing the activities of school, club and county teams. We are deeply grateful to the Officers and all involved in our Supporters Clubs for their efforts on our behalf. Finally I wish to thank those who on our behalf, continue to ensure the publication of a quality Year Book each year. To Editor Barrie Henriques, Chairman Pat Henderson, Gerry O'Neill and all involved I extend a sincere thanks and I express the hope that Kilkenny people at home and throughout the world will enjoy reading of the exploits of our great players and teams who brought so much pride and joy to us all during 2015.

Beir Bua, Slan agus Beannacht,
Eamon O'Coinn Cathaoirleach Coiste Contae Cill Chainnigh



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Editorial



KILKENNY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 2015

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What started out as a kind of flaky year ended in glorious celebration. Our senior hurlers went to the edges of relegation against the Banner County, but survived. Waterford won a great National League Championship, and we applaud their dogged determination, being our near neighbours and all of that.

Retirements – announced early and late – had supporters on the horns of a dilemma. Shefflin, Delaney, Fogarty, Herity, Hogan, and Tommy departed, taking somewhere in the region of 36 All Ireland medals out of the dressing room.

Whither Kilkenny now we thought?

Some even murmured, “whither Cody?

Was the man born that could fill JJ’s boots?

The majority vote on that question came down strongly on the negative. But then, like young Lochinvar coming out of the setting sun, Ballyhale Shamrocks provided an answer. Joey Holden was presented for inspection, passed the test, and ended up with a club and inter-County All Ireland Final winning double, and an All-Star in the Convention Centre.

Cody’s judgement was vindicated, and TJ was Hurler of the Year from a long way out.

Under the stewardship of Pat Hoban, our minors went out against Galway in the All Ireland minor Final after a replay.

The under-21 team, went out against Wexford down in Wexford Park.

The Intermediate team came a cropper against Galway in the Leinster Championship for the first time. Galway discovered a youngster called Conor Whelan.

Congrats to Ballyhale Shamrocks who seldom if ever fail on the big day.

Famed Bennettsbridge were no slouches when capturing Provincial and National Titles.

Mullinavat travelled over night to London by boat, and paid a dear price against St. Gabriels of London in Ruislip.

The Blue Bloods of St.Kierans took out the Munster Champions, Thurles CBS in yet another All Ireland Colleges Final, but our camogie stars were taken out of the camogie scene by a late charging Cork, who took no prisoners. Handballers won buckets of medals, including the imperial Ducksy at the World Championships in Calgary.

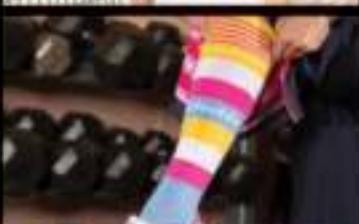
You can read all about these adventures and more between the covers of this our 26th Yearbook. Na míltebuiochas to the people who have worked tirelessly to put this tome together. They are listed elsewhere. Please – if you can – support the people who have been generous enough to support this publication.

Thanks to our photographers, who are also listed elsewhere. Without all of those very professional and valuable people, this publication could not be on your bookshelves or in your homes.

*Dá bhrí sin, bo mhaith liom mo bhuiochas a bhronnadh are gach éinne a chabhraigh linn.
Nollaig faoi shéan is faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.*

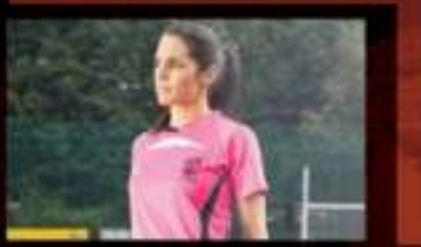
Barrie Henriques

Editor



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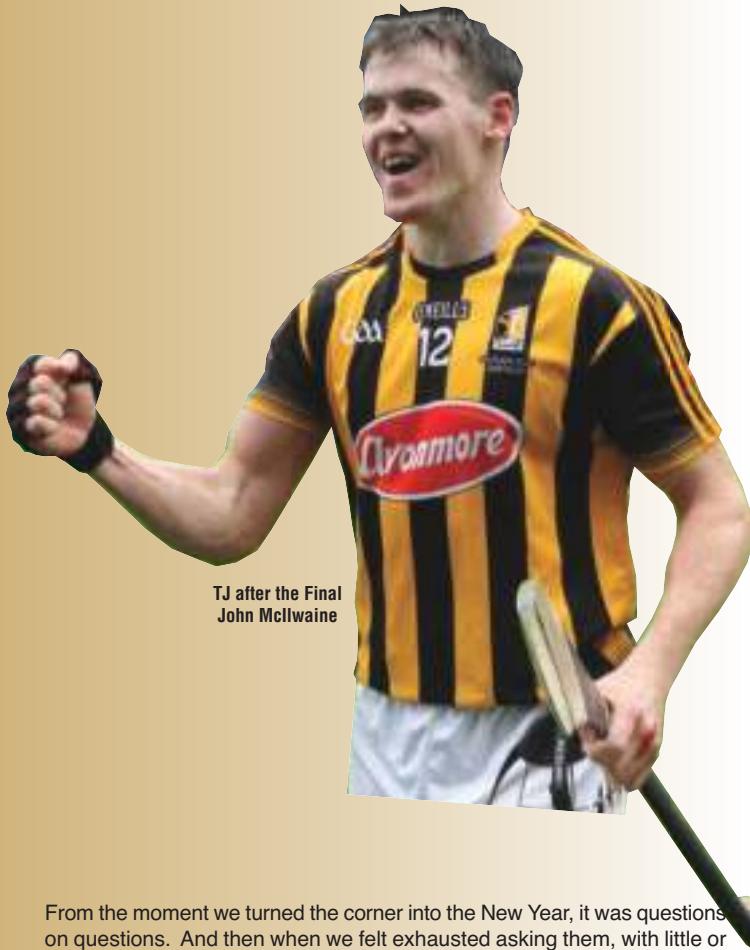
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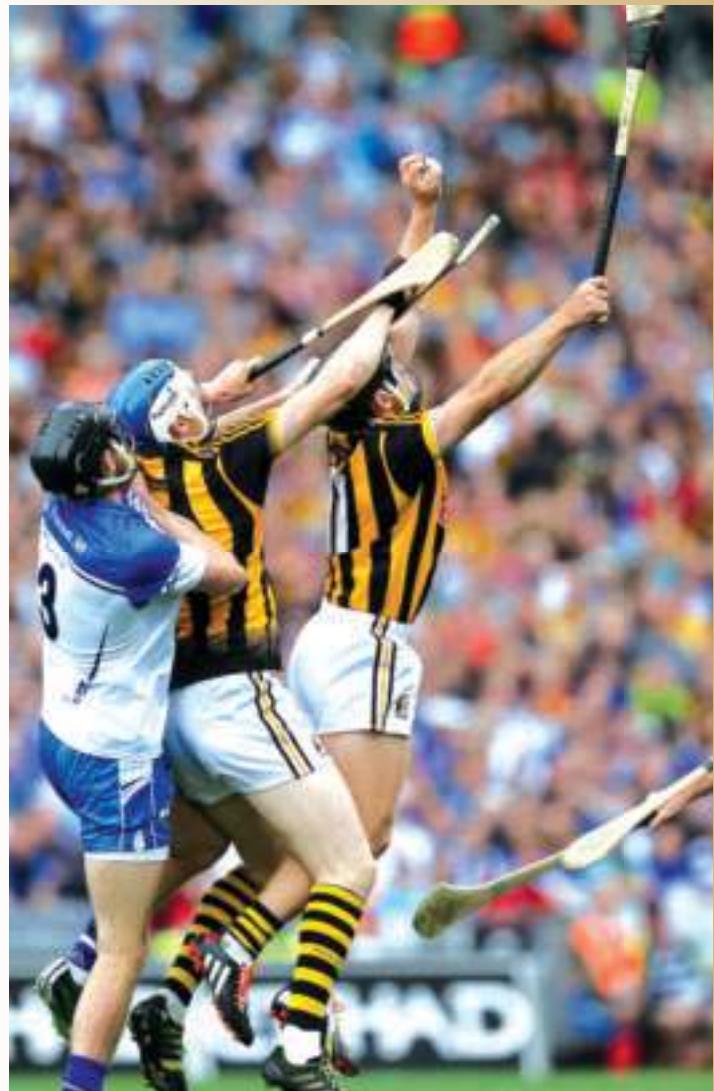
The Rale Alley Daly!

Christians become Gladiators

Barrie Henriques reviews
Kilkenny's League and Championship Journey 2015



TJ after the Final
John McIlwaine



Richie Hogan goes highest in the semi-final against Waterford

(Photo: John McIlwaine)

From the moment we turned the corner into the New Year, it was questions on questions. And then when we felt exhausted asking them, with little or no conclusive answers forthcoming from any source, we had a few more questions. JJ, Henry, Tommy, Taggy, David, or Brian were loath to "come clean". Were they or weren't they flew the questions?

If yeah, what then? went in search of answers.

The first question reached conclusion when over a period, all five warriors were definitely calling it a day.

They were handing in the keys of the bus. It was all over.

Henry had the book written; JJ had a grand night among his own in Johnstown; end of the road. Where would adequate replacements be found? The answers were not too far away. Kilkenny prepared for their National League, arriving after a relegation scare fighting fit for "the rale Alley Daly".

Kilkenny V Wexford, Nowlan Park Sunday 21 June.

Kilkenny 5-25 Wexford 0-16

No finer setting could have been envisaged for this first round of the Leinster Championship that a balmy Summer evening in June. A tremendous crowd arrived in anticipation of a titanic contest. Wexford came with hordes -19,134 - of support in anticipation of taking out the champions now bereft of their legendary figureheads. It promised much -- it did not come remotely close to satisfying expectations. Wexford were whitewashed.

Making his Championship debut, Glenmore's Ger Aylward scored 3-5 and laid down a marker that he could be the find of the season. Expectations were realised subsequently as won an All Star. The Jack Guiney affair didn't help the Wexford cause. Kilkenny, with TJ Reid, Richie Hogan, Eoin Larkin and Cillian Buckley playing well, led at the break by 3-7 to 0-10. They would have the assistance of a slight breeze in the second half.

Kilkenny's newest full back, under clinical scrutiny, Joey Holden passed the test with flying colours. He would get even better.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy; Paul Murphy, Joey Holden, Jackie Tyrrell, Padraig Walsh, Kieran Joyce, Cillian Buckley (0-1), Michael Fennelly (0-1), Conor Fogarty, Walter Walsh, Richie Hogan (1-5), John Power (0-2), Ger Aylward (3-5), TJ Reid (1-7, Pen, two '65, two frees), Eoin Larkin (0-3)

Subs: Kevin Kelly for Power (56), Shane Prendergast for Tyrrell (60), Robert Lennon for Murphy (61), Mark Kelly (0-1) for Larkin (63).

Wexford: Mark Fanning; Ciaran Kenny, Liam Ryan, Eoin Moore, Lee Chin, Matthew O'Hanlon, Andrew Shore (0-1), David Redmond (0-2), Daithi Waters, Ian Byrne (0-11, nine frees), Shane Tomkins, Diarmuid O'Keefe, Paul Morris, Conor McDonald, Liam Og McGovern (0-2).
Subs: Kevin Foley for Morris (18), Aidan Nolan for Moore (32), Harry Kehoe for Tomkins (h/t), Podge Doran for Waters (h/t), E Martin for Shore (62), Garret Sinnott for McGovern (65).

Referee: Diarmuid Kirwan (Cork).

Leinster Final Kilkenny V Galway, Croke Park Sunday July 5th. Kilkenny 1-25 Galway 2-15

Kilkenny produced a classical display of hurling to claim their 70th Leinster Title against a Galway team that promised much but didn't deliver on the day. It was a day that certainly posted the story of TJ Reid who has donned the mantle of the legendary Henry Shefflin with great gusto. His opening goal for the Champions was pure class. It helped Kilkenny establish a

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KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND SH CHAMPIONS 2015

Back Row: Chris Bolger, Shane Prendergast, Walter Walsh, Michael Walsh, Robert Lennon, Matthew Ruth, Diarmuid Cody, Kieran Joyce.

3rd Row **Richard Hogan**, **Mark Kelly**, **James Maher**, **John Power**, **Conor O'Shea**, **Eoin Larkin**, **Ger Aylward**, **Conor Focart**

2nd Row Brian Kennedy Connor Martin John Joe Farrell Richie Reid Eoin Murphy Colin Fennelly Cillian Buckley Kevin Kelly

Michael Henratty, Joeey H.



three-point advantage at the break, although Joe Canning's goal was superbly crafted before the break to bring his side back into the game. Galway had a dream start to the second half, when Jason Flynn cracked home a goal from distance. With 16 minutes remaining, Kilkenny led by 1-15 to Galway's 2-10. The hurling was fast and furious. Galway missed a glorious chance of a goal, when David Burke's effort whistled by Eoin Murphy's goal. Kilkenny made then pay as the game went into the final 12 minutes. Points by Eoin Larkin, TJ Reid, Ger Aylward, Richie Hogan and Colin Fennelly knock the life from the Galway effort, and the Champions went on their convincing merry way for a memorable win. Was this the foretaste for an All Ireland Final we wondered? It might, it could, it was, but we didn't know it at the time. Kilkenny were forced to line out without the services of the injured Michael Fennelly.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy; Paul Murphy, Joey Holden, Jackie Tyrrell, Pádraig Walsh, Kieran Joyce, Cillian Buckley, Walter Walsh (0-2), Conor Fogarty (0-1), John Power, Richie Hogan (0-4), TJ Reid (1-9, five frees, one '65), Ger Aylward (0-3), Colin Fennelly (0-2), Eoin Larkin (0-4).

Subs: Shane Prendergast for Tyrrell (50), Mark Kelly for John Power (58), Matthew Ruth for C Fennelly (71).

Galway: Colm Callanan; Johnny Coen, John Hanbury, Pádraig Mannion, Fergal Moore (0-1), Iarla Tannian, Daithí Burke (0-1), Andrew Smith, Aidan Harte, David Burke, Cyril Donnellan (0-3), Jonathon Glynn (0-1), Davy Glennon, Joe Canning (1-8, seven frees), Cathal Mannion (0-1).

Subs: Jason Flynn (1-0) for Glennon (27), Joseph Cooney for Harte (39), Pádraig Brehony for Burke (59), Niall Healy for Mannion (61), Paul Killeen for Hanbury (64).

All Ireland semi-final, Croke Park Sunday 9 August Kilkenny 1-21 Waterford 0-18

Down in the South Eastern extremity of our island, the All Ireland semi-final was causing more than a stir. Waterford had deservedly carved their way through Munster, and they were more than confident of putting down the neighbours. They had every right to be confident. They were most impressive in the National League, and when coming through the back door culminating with a fine win over Dublin in their quarter-final game. Waterford had come through with a terrific bunch of young players, who had matured at a fast rate. Gleeson, de Búrca, Jamie Barron, Jake Dillon were most impressive on the run to Croker. They would have been looking forward with relish to this one against Kilkenny. The first half was a real blow-out before the serious action was unfurled in a titanic second half. Waterford were concentrating in preventing Kilkenny scoring. It was mildly successful, but only that. Kilkenny led at half time by 1-9 to 0-10. The goal was a peach from TJ Reid. Contesting an aerial delivery with Barry Coughlan and Tadhg de Búrca, he won the ball, spun away at speed, and left Stephen O'Keefe helpless with a blistering shot to the net. Reid scored

a super 1-7 in the entire game; a hugely impressive take in a game which was a tough call for both teams all the way to the last second. The Déise never buckled under the Kilkenny pressure, although Kilkenny never allowed them to get closer than three points at any stage. Nevertheless, Waterford earned universal applause for their never-say-die effort. The Kilkenny forwards were very impressive with Reid leading the pack. Richie Hogan, Ger Aylward, Eoin Larkin and Colin Fennelly were great accolades to the rampaging Ballyhale man.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Joey Holden, Shane Prendergast, Pádraig Walsh, Kieran Joyce, Cillian Buckley (0-1), Michael Fennelly (0-1), Conor Fogarty, Walter Walsh, Richie Hogan (0-5), Colin Fennelly, Ger Aylward (0-4), TJ Reid (1-7, seven frees), Eoin Larkin (0-1). **Subs:** John Power for W Walsh (67).

Waterford: Stephen O'Keefe, Shane Fives, Barry Coughlan, Noel Connors, Darragh Fives, Tadhg de Búrca, Philip Mahony, Kevin Moran (0-1), Jamie Barron, Shane Bennett (0-1), Michael Walsh, Austin Gleeson (0-3, one sideline), Colin Dunford (0-4), Maurice Shanahan (0-9, six frees, one '65), Jake Dillon.

Subs: Patrick Curran for Dillon (53), Stephen Bennett for Shane Bennett (57).

Referee: Brian Gavin (Offaly)

All Ireland Final, Croke Park Sunday 6 September Kilkenny 1-22 Galway 1-18

This was the defining moment for Cody's young bloods. It was a question of so far so good, but--- no cigars had yet been won. The perennial question of which Galway team will turn up? was on many lips. The usual inane clap trap about the whole world was 'agin us' was being proffered. Why were we surprised?

Kilkenny arrived in Croker sans JJ, Henry, Tommy, Taggy, Brian, David. So what? There were others occupying the clothes peg in the dressing room this time. The general view was that a Galway win would be good for the game. The same was said about Mick O'Dwyer's teams of the 70s and 80s.

They kept on winning!

How could that be a retrograde step for the game?

Thirty-five minutes of Kilkenny passion, and spirit blew the anticipated Galway challenge out of the arena. It was a Summer of black and amber Sundays.

Pity very few stayed to watch the black and amber celebration.

Pity so few Kilkenny supporters lingered to celebrate. Is it all getting too much old hat?

Is Kilkenny GAA becoming a victim of its own success?

Hope not.

The game itself was true grit. Galway were majestic during a first half that Johnny Coen was lucky to see out after a reckless tackle on Colin Fennelly. Nevertheless they led by 0-14 to Kilkenny's 1-8. It was all about



Michael Fennelly (Kilkenny) gets a face full of ash as David Burke (Galway) challenges during the Senior Hurling All-Ireland final in Croke Park.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

to change in a second half where substitute David Collins scored more than the entire Galway forward division. The Christians of the first half became the Gladiators of the second half. The Glads finished with 1-22; more than enough to account for the Galway contribution in a Final that was less than memorable, but for one stat—Kilkenny won their 36th Title.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Joey Holden, Shane Prendergast; Pádraig Walsh (0-1), Kieran Joyce, Cillian Buckley, Michael Fennelly (0-2), Conor Fogarty (0-1), Colin Fennelly(0-2), Richie Hogan (0-2), TJ Reid (1-7, five frees, two '65), Ger Aylward (0-2), Walter Walsh (0-2), Eoin Larkin (0-2).

Subs: Richie Power for Hogan (60); John Power for Aylward (62); Galway: C Callanan, P Mannion, J Hanbury, J Coen, I Tannian, Daithí Burke, A Harte, A Smith, David Burke (0-1), J Flynn (0-4, three frees), C Donnellan (0-1), J Glynn, C Whelan (0-2), J Canning (1-8, 1-5 frees), C Mannion.

Subs: D Collins (0-2) for Harte (24), F Moore for Smith (blood, 43-45), Greg Lally for Smith (blood, 51-52), Conor Cooney for Smith (56), S Maloney for Flynn (65).

Referee:

James Owens (Wexford).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Irrespective of the spin applied by Officialdom, PR personnel, or Managers, there is no doubting that the hurling fare of the 2015 season will long be forgotten within a very short period of time. Twelve months from now people will find it difficult to recall a game of hurling good enough to tax their powers of memorable enjoyment. In time Kilkenny people will have very little to enthuse about when discussing 2015 other than the fact that the 36th All Ireland Final was captured. They might gild that lily with remarks about it putting Kilkenny so many ahead of Tipperary, Cork and the rest, not that the rest will ever threaten the superiority of the leading trio. They will gild that lily still further with admiration for the lads that achieved the 36th after the retirement of some of the greatest hurlers ever to tread the hallowed turf of Croke Park on All Ireland Final day. Quite simply there was very little Champaign hurling available to imbibe, or recall during the dark Winter nights.

Allianz National Hurling League:
Cork V Kilkenny Feb 14 in Páirc Uí Rinn
Kilkenny 1-22 Cork 2-17

In the words of maestro Cody, Kilkenny were travelling to Cork on Saturday evening shorn of 13 of their All Ireland panel. In a fast and furious game in front of 8773 patrons, the new kids on the Kilkenny block put on a serious display of very good hurling, leading at one stage by seven points late in the closing half. At half time the visitors were in front by 1-11 to 0-12. The Kilkenny goal had been scooped over the goal line by Jonjo Farrell in the 9th minute. Entering the final quarter Kilkenny were comfortably in front by seven aforementioned points. The Rebels came hunting in droves, and in the end while the better team won a terrific contest, they were reasonably fortunate to get over the line in front after that late Cork onslaught. Richie Hogan was man-of-the-match belting seven frees, and one '65 in his eleven-point take. Mark Kelly grabbed a goal, while Jonjo Farrell got his goal.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Tomás Keogh, Paul Murphy, Jackie Tyrrell, Brian Kennedy, Kieran Joyce (0-1), Cillian Buckley, Conor Fogarty, Lester Ryan (0-1), Padraig Walsh (0-1), Walter Walsh (0-3), Matthew Ruth (0-1), Mark Kelly (0-4), Jonjo Farrell (1-0), Richie Hogan (0-11, seven frees, one '65).

Sub (used): Geoff Brennan for Conor Fogarty.

Cork: Anthony Nash, Denis Cahalane, Christopher Joyce, Conor O'Sullivan, Cormac Murphy, Mark Ellis, Aidan Walsh, Daniel Kearney (0-1), Pa Cronin, Seamus Harnady (0-1), B.Cooper (0-1), C.Lehane (1-2), Alan Cadogan (0-2), Paudie O'Sullivan (0-1), Pat Horgan (0-9, eight frees).

Subs (used): Lorcán Mc Loughlin for Cronin, Luke O'Farrell (1-0) for O'Sullivan, Cian Mc Carthy for Cooper, Shane O'Neill for Cahalane, Stephen Moylan for Cadogan.

Ref: James Owens (Wexford).

Kilkenny V Dublin in Nowlan Park Sunday Feb 22.
Dublin 0-25 Kilkenny 3-11

The headlines after this game in Parnell Park screamed “ Dublin outgun 13-man Kilkenny” Of the thirty players which started this game, three of them failed to last the requisite sixty odd minutes. Kilkenny lost full forward,

Johnjo Farrell after 24 minutes for a straight red card misdemeanour while Joe Lyng got another straight red for his misjudgement 12 minutes after coming on as a sub for Brian Kennedy in the 43rd minute.

The Dubs were cock-a-hoop after their initial win over Tipperary, and wind assisted in the opening half, they led by 0-7 to 0-1 after eleven minutes. David Treacy was in sparkling form for the Dubs. Matthew Ruth devalued the lead somewhat with a goal in the 16th minute, but at the break, Dublin still led by 0-15 to 1-5. Points by Mark Schutte, and Danny Sutcliffe gave the visitors plenty of hope early in the second half. In fact after 17 minutes of the new half, Dublin had outscored Kilkenny by 0-8 to 0-1 even though they were now playing against the wind. Treacy, Dillon, Sutcliffe and Schutte were buzzing, as they converted every chance they won. Richie Hogan kept the Champions in touch with frees, one of which was a goal after 59 minutes, to which Matthew Ruth added his second goal, they only served to add a little cosmetics to the scoreboard.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Tomás Keogh, Paul Murphy, Jackie Tyrrell, Brian Kennedy, Kieran Joyce, Cillian Buckley, Geoff Brennan, Lester Ryan, Pádraig Walsh (0-1), Walter Walsh (0-1), Matthew Ruth (2-0) , Mark Kelly (0-1), Johnjo Farrell (0-1), Richie Hogan (1-7, 1-5 frees, one '65).

Subs (used): John Power for Brennan, Joe Lyng for Kennedy.

Dublin: Alan Nolan, Cian O'Callaghan, Michael Carton, Paul Schutte, Chris Crummy, Peter Kelly, Conal Keaney, Shane Durkin, Simon Lambert, Colm Cronin, Eamon Dillon, Danny Sutcliffe, David Treacy, Liam Rushe, Mark Schutte.

Subs (used): Cian Boland for Cronin, Paul Ryan for Treacy.

Ref: C. Lyons (Cork).

Galway V Kilkenny, Pearse Stadium, Salthill Sunday March 8th.

Galway 0-20 Kilkenny 0-18

Playing against the breeze in the first half, Kilkenny set an early template with three points from Richie Hogan (2 frees) and William Phelan. The game marked the surprising return to action of Joe Canning. The Galway attack were content to work far out the field and delivered some terrific long-range points. At 13 minutes they led by 0-4 to 0-3. The Kilkenny defence were dogged and spirited. Mark Kelly and Lester Ryan grabbed a brace of points by the 16th minute but three points from Dean Higgins and Jonathan Flynn (2 frees) kept the home side to the fore. At half time Galway led by 0-11 to 0-8. With the wind at their backs it was considered scarcely enough to get the locals over the line in front at the finish. In a rip-roaring second half, Hogan and Canning went toe to toe with their shooting craft. Inside the final seven minutes Kilkenny were still adrift by two points. They exerted tremendous pressure on the Galway goal, but the all important goal never materialised. A John Power rasper came back off the post, while Colm Callinan denied Johnjo Farrell's late effort for the



Johnjo Farrell (above) and Kevin Kelly (below) were key players for Kilkenny in the League (Willie Dempsey and Eoin Hennessy)



*Colin Fennell, Kilkenny, is tackled by Johnny Coen, Galway, which resulted in Coen receiving a yellow card.
Daire Brennan/SPORTSFILE*



Eoin Murphy (Kilkenny) saves the sliotar during the Senior Hurling Leinster Semi Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

goal.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Michael Walsh, Shane Prendergast, Pádraig Walsh (0-1), Kieran Joyce, Cillian Buckley, William Phelan (0-1), Lester Ryan (0-2), Walter Walsh (0-1), Richie Hogan (0-10, eight frees), Matthew Ruth, Mark Kelly (0-2), Johnjo Farrell (0-1), John Power.

Subs (used): Jackie Tyrrell for Michael Walsh, Keith Hogan for Richie Hogan, Kevin Kelly for Mark Kelly.

Galway: Colm Callinan, Padraig Mannion, John Hanbury, Johnny Coen, David Collins, Greg Lally, Gearóid McInerney, larlaithe Tannian, Joe Cooney, Andy Smith (0-1), Jonathan Glynn, Dean Higgins (0-2), James Regan (0-1), Cathal Mannion (0-1), Jason Flynn (0-11, seven frees, one '65).

Subs (used): Joe Canning (0-4, two frees, one side-line), for Higgins, Kevin Hynes for Lally, Eoin Burke for Regan.

Ref: Barry Kelly (Westmeath).

Tipperary V Kilkenny, Semple Stadium March 15.

Tipperary 2-22

Kilkenny 1-13.

This was a game that carried a huge expectation label for a whole raft of reasons, not only for the Nowlan Park experience twelve months previously, but for many other reasons that time and space cannot accommodate at this juncture. It looked like it was going to be a grand day at the office for the visiting Kilkenny supporters when Johnjo Farrell had the ball spinning around in the Tipp net after just 16 seconds. As it turned out, Kilkenny were faced with their final game against Clare being touted as a dress rehearsal for the relegation drop into Division 1B. Cody's team had never been in such a hazardous situation ever. In a terrific first half played out in front of 10,421 Tipp were good value for their half time lead of 1-16 to Kilkenny's 1-9. It was a half of 27 scores. The rate dropped in the second half, with the home side eventually taking their foot off the throttle (surprise, surprise) for the final run in. Clare awaited down in Clare. It promised pain, hardship, and little relief.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Shane Prendergast, Paul Murphy, Jackie Tyrrell, Brian Kennedy, Kieran Joyce, Cillian Buckley, Mark Kelly (0-1), Lester Ryan, Walter Walsh, Richie Hogan (0-10, six frees), Matthew Ruth, Johnjo Farrell (1-1), John Power (0-1 '65), Ger Aylward.

Subs (used): Kevin Kelly for Aylward, Joe Lyng for Ryan.

Tipperary: Darren Gleeson, Paul Curran, Conor O'Mahoney, Cathal Barrett, Michael Breen (0-2), Pauric Maher (0-1), Ronan Maher, Kieran Bergin, James Woodlock (0-1), John O'Dwyer (0-4), Brendan Maher, Jason Forde (0-1), Noel McGrath (0-3), Seamus Callinan (1-7 three frees, one '65), Noel O'Meara (1-2).

Subs (used): Conor O'Brien for Curran, Shane McGrath for Forde, James McGrath for O'Meara, Shane Burke (0-1) for Noel McGrath, Darragh Egan for Gleeson.

Ref: J. McGrath (Westmeath).

Clare V Kilkenny, Nowlan Park Sunday March 22

Kilkenny 2-20 Clare 2-19

Dublin's defeat of Galway propelled Clare and Kilkenny into the dogfight

of a relegation battle. Kilkenny needed to win in Nowlan Park to give themselves a chance of staying in Division 1A. By the width of a cigarette paper, they managed to do exactly that, which insured that the next time they were to meet Clare the loser dropped. This was a cracker of a game, as both sides threw everything but the kitchen sink at each other. A two-goal blast by Shane O'Donnell in the first half handed a half-time lead of 2-9 to 1-9 to his side. Within seconds of the resumption Johnjo Farrell levelled matters, and a four-point run followed which had the home side looking comfortable. Kilkenny were hanging on for dear life as Clare came storming on to their defences. A shot by Tony Kelly took the distemper of Eoin Murphy's upright. The Cats held out but only by the skin of etc. etc.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Shane Prendergast, Paul Murphy, Jackie Tyrrell, Tomás Keogh, Kieran Joyce, William Phelan, Joe Lyng (0-1), Brian Kennedy, Walter Walsh (0-2), John Power, Matthew Ruth (0-2), Johnjo Farrell (1-2), Kevin Kelly (1-9. Four frees. Three '65), Mark Kelly (0-3).

Subs (used): Ger Aylward (0-1) for Kennedy, Keith Hogan for Ruth, Robert Lennon for Tyrrell.

Clare: P. Kelly, J. Browne, D. McInerney, P. Flanagan, P. Donnellan, Conor Ryan, C. Dillon, S. Morey (0-2), C. Galvin (0-2), J. Conlon (0-1), Tony Kelly (0-4), Colm Ryan (07, four frees, one '65), C. McGrath (0-2), Shane O'Donnell (2-0), A. Cunningham.

Subs (used): D. Reidy for Cunningham, D. O'Donovan for Flanagan, Darach Honan for McGrath, C. Cleary (0-1) for Galvin.

Ref: James Owens (Wexford).

Kilkenny V Clare, Nowlan Park 29 March.

Kilkenny 1-18 Clare 1-17

Kilkenny secured Division 1A hurling for 2016 at the expense of a gallant Clare who never took their foot off the pedal right to the finish. It took an immaculate point from Cillian Buckley to secure their First Division status, but it could so easily have been a different story. Tony Kelly was in sublime form all day shooting a valuable nine points. However the return of some big guns helped the Kilkenny situation. TJ Reid for one was in tremendous form. He plundered a valuable 1-3 from play, while Richie Hogan smuggled 0-5 despite the best efforts of the Dalcassians to keep him in check. It was a real belter of a game with the slightly better team coming out on top.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Shane Prendergast, Paul Murphy, Joey Holden, Kieran Joyce, Lester Ryan, Cillian Buckley, Joe Lyng, Michael Fennelly, Walter Walsh, TJ. Reid, Matthew Ruth, Johnjo Farrell, Colin Fennelly, Richie Hogan.

Clare: P. Kelly, D. McInerney, C. Dillon, B. O'Donoghue, J. Browne, Conor Ryan, P. Donnellan, C. Galvin, P. O'Connor, J. Conlon (0-1), Tony Kelly (0-9 one free. One '65), Colin Ryan, D. Reidy (0-3), Shane O'Donnell (1-3), Conor McGrath.

Subs (used): Cathal O'Connell for McGrath. Shane Golden for C. Ryan. Aaron Cunningham for O'Connell, Séadhna Morey (0-1) for Galvin, Bobby Duggan for Kelly.

Ref: C. Mc Allister (Cork).



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THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN..... (BUT WAS)

by Enda McEvoy (*Irish Examiner*)



Kilkenny players, from left Joe Lyng, Padraig Walsh, Cillian Buckley, Conor Fogarty, Paul Murphy, Kieran Joyce, Ger Aylward and Richie Hogan relax on the pitch after victory over Galway.
Picture credit: Diarmuid Greene / SPORTSFILE

It was the week before the All Ireland final, it was outside one of the many coffeehouses in Kieran Street and the gentleman passing by had been involved with Kilkenny at underage level in the past, so he wasn't simply your common or garden man in the street. "I know we seem to say it every year," he mused, "but if Cody wins this one with this team it'll be his greatest achievement ever."

A very good way of putting it and one with which there can be no arguing. No Shefflin, no Walsh, no Delaney, no Hogan, no Herity, no Fogarty. A wealth of corporate knowledge gone from the panel in a swoop. Yet Kilkenny didn't just retain the All Ireland without it and them, they sauntered to victory. That they did so without having a glove laid on them isn't good in big-picture terms and cannot be. But that's another story.

Was there a moment, apart from a brief spell after the restart in the Leinster final and perhaps ten minutes approaching the interval in the All Ireland final, when they looked remotely flustered? Scarcely. Was there an even vaguely dangerous shot Eoin Murphy had to save, the goals that beat him apart? It is difficult to recall one. To hold that this was the least impressive looking outfit in stripes to make it to Croke Park in September since the 2004 iteration did so is no insult; it is merely to articulate and agree with the general consensus. In turn it is what makes 2015's achievement all the more worthy. And all of this was enacted not only with the fitness of Michael Fennelly, the county's most important player since 2011, a moveable feast from match to match but also with Richie Hogan, the incumbent Hurler of the Year, off the pace for the All Ireland series due to injury and Richie Power, the man who'd done more than any other to drag the Noresiders over the finishing line in 2014, not seeing a second of intercounty action all year until ten minutes from the end of the final.

Kilkenny did the four in a row with what few people will disagree to be the greatest hurling team ever. To have followed it up by winning four All Irelands in five years is inarguably a greater achievement. Had they disappeared for half a decade – or even longer – after 2009 it wouldn't have been a total surprise (after the greatest football team ever reached the end of the road, Kerry went from 1986 to 1997 without an All Ireland) and it certainly couldn't have been a cause for complaint on the part of the supporters in view of the wonders to which they'd been treated. But Brian Cody doesn't do fallow periods, does he?

It may come as a jolt to realise that for Kilkenny this decade is already as successful as the first decade of the 20th century and the 1930s and the 1970s – those storied, starry eras – were, and more successful than

the 1910s, '20s, '40s, '50s, '60s, '80s and '90s. We do not live in interesting times; we live in ludicrously successful ones.

Granted, Kilkenny don't blow teams away the way they once did. The armoury isn't as lavishly stocked as it used to be. Again, that makes their success over the past two seasons all the more impressive. What they do now is asphyxiate opponents. Hands on the throat from midway through the first half and a long, slow throttle into insensibility. It isn't



The men behind the success. Brian Cody, Michael Dempsey, Derke Lyng and James McGarry.
Pic by John McIlwaine

spectacular – the corpses don't end up shredded with bullets any more – but it is highly effective.

What the MacCarthy Cup holders also possess is balance. A goal a game is the staple now but it's invariably leavened with a fusillade of white flags that, crucially, breaks the 20-point barrier: 5-25 against Wexford, 1-27 versus Galway in the Leinster final, 1-21 against Waterford and 1-22 versus Galway second time around. They even scored the same in the last game of the season as they did in the first game of the league: 1-22 on Valentine's Night in Páirc Uí Rinn. More balance. In the 2014 championship, the shellacking of Offaly first time out excepted, Kilkenny's average was 2-20 per outing. In 2015, the shellacking of Wexford first time out excepted, their average was a fraction short of 1-23 per outing. On the face of it, then, they were as good in 2015 as they had been in 2014. They were certainly more settled, and after all the excitement and hairpin turns of 2013 and '14 they were probably due a low-key summer.

EVEN FLOW

Balance. That word again. Kilkenny demonstrated it in spades in the All Ireland final. If nobody bar Michael Fennelly put in a 9 out of 10 performance, although I'd suggest Eoin Larkin came as close as makes no difference, then nobody was a 6 either. And All Ireland finals are won by a mass of 7s and 8s, not by one or two 9s in isolation. Cillian Buckley had a tough time of it from Jason Flynn in the first half but over on the opposite wing Padraig Walsh produced his best afternoon of the summer. Walter Walsh, who created the goal for TJ Reid and chipped in with a brace of points for good measure, will always have 2012 but is no longer a one-hit wonder. Colin Fennelly's stroke will never be a thing of beauty yet, almost paradoxically for a player with such a lazy swing, he works a double shift every time he takes the field and on the first Sunday of September he drew the foul that should have resulted in a red card for Johnny Coen before coming up with two important points just when Kilkenny's pressure demanded them. Conor Fogarty is another workaholic if a less obvious one. He may never end up winning an All Star, at least not any time soon, but one suspects he's the first name on Cody's teamsheet and that, after all, is what matters more.

As for Eoin Larkin, we sang his praises here last year. All that remains to be said is that he may if anything be improving with age and it's those filigree touches of his – the dropping, spinning ball he caught under the Hogan Stand in the second half of the All Ireland final, the give and go with Reid for his point at the Davin End – that constitute the sprinkles on the icing on the cake. Larkin does it all so cleanly, so clinically and



Cillian Buckley using the wings against Waterford. (John McIlwaine)

so unflashily that his insouciant brilliance is easily overlooked. He thinks slow and executes fast.

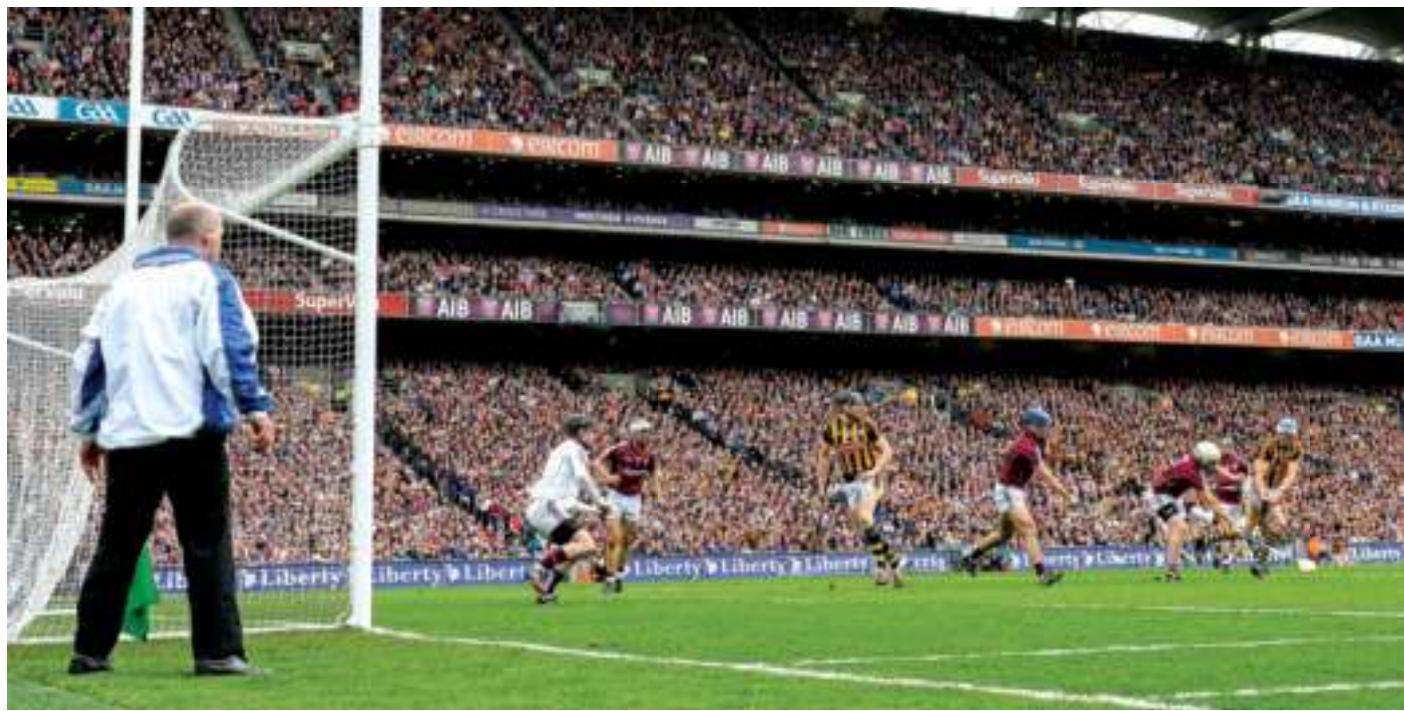
Apropos of Reid and Richie Hogan, it is a long time since Kilkenny were blessed with two such gifted forwards at the absolute peak of their powers simultaneously. While Henry Shefflin and DJ Carey soldiered together for years, Shefflin was on the up escalator at the time whereas DJ was descending. Reid's Hurler of the Year trophy was richly merited; a goal in each championship outing and never a game in which one didn't look

like coming. In all four matches he'd found the net by half-time. Re Hogan, against Wexford at Nowlan Park he did most of his work during the first half on the Old Stand side. Watching him up close was an education. He was thinking, and prosecuting, a different game to everyone else on the field.

Mick Dempsey remains a cornerstone of the operation. He came from Laois, he had a thirst for knowledge. One of these days the full extent of his influence since 2006 may emerge. Then again, it may not; you'd imagine he'd prefer it the latter way. Derek Lyng and James McGarry were visibly learning their trade as selectors in 2014; 2015 appeared an altogether smoother ride for them. Smart and motivated and ambitious, the pair have much to give to Kilkenny hurling yet. In adding them to the setup Cody demonstrated, yet again, his flexibility and his recognition of the imperative to move with the times. Kilkenny could not have won as much as they have in the past five years had the boss man remained wedded – and welded – to the formula that had served him so well in the past.



Joe Canning, Galway, clashes with Eoin Larkin, Kilkenny as Galway manager Anthony Cunningham steps in. Picture credit: David Maher / SPORTSFILE



TJ Reid, Kilkenny, scores his team's opening goal despite the attention of Johnny Coen and John Hanbury of Galway. Picture credit: Seb Daly / SPORTSFILE

One vignette will serve to illustrate the length of the road he's come. Japanese soldiers from World War Two still hiding out on small islands in the Pacific knew that Waterford would play seven defenders in the All Ireland semi-final. Ten years ago such a configuration would have either confused Kilkenny or been a matter of complete indifference to them. In either case they'd still have tried to boot down the front door, the defenders skying the sliotar forward for Shefflin et al to win in the air and the team trying to overcome Waterford by sheer blunt-force trauma. All has changed, utterly. Last August the reigning champions, aware they had an intellectual puzzle to solve, went about solving it via cold logic. Cillian Buckley was appointed the spare man and sallied forward down the left in the second half, but instead of going long with the sliotar he went laterally, picking out Reid and Hogan with short passes, playing the percentage ball to a colleague rather than lamping a long, fifty-fifty ball into a ruck of friends and enemies. Thus was the Waterford defence opened up, not with a hammer but with a stiletto.

A BIG DISAPPOINTMENT

Plaudits directed to where plaudits are due, it was a horribly disappointing summer. There is no other way of putting it. At the outset the playing field looked more level than it had at any time since 1998-99. Eight counties seemed to harbour realistic hopes of September glory, or at the very least realistic hopes of making the last four. That most of them failed so dismally to get the trip was the real reason the hurling public felt shortchanged by Championship 2015.

An exception can be made for Galway, who punched their weight for the first time in three years. But no more of this nonsense about their second-half fadeout in the All Ireland final and what may or may not have happened in the dressing room at the interval. Nothing happened in the dressing room at the interval and all that happened in the second half was that, having hurled above themselves in the first period, the Westerners ran out of puff and, Kilkenny's hands closing ever tighter on their throat, regressed to the mean. Galway hit 2-15 in the Leinster final and 1-18 in the All Ireland final. They lost the Leinster final by seven points and as Joe Canning stood over that injury-time free in the All Ireland final they were trailing by... seven points. Thus the formline of the provincial decider was replicated almost exactly. Move along there now, nothing to see. On the up side, Galway reached the final with an inordinately young forward line. One cannot say with assurance that better days lie ahead for the county. This is Galway, after all. But the potential for better days surely does.

The real breath of fresh air was Waterford. Much was made of their allegedly defensive ways. Again, utter poppycock. Waterford weren't a defensive team, particularly not for the first half of the season. They couldn't have won the National League final by hitting 1-24 if they had

been. What they were was a counter-attacking team. Kilkenny are frequently a counter-attacking team too, especially when they're defending a lead. They get bodies into the middle of the field and the one or two forwards who remain up front hold up the ball till the runners arrive. Think of Michael Fennelly's late point in the All Ireland final and the latticework of short passes that preceded it, Larkin and Power retaining possession until such time as Fennelly got himself up the field and into a shooting position. While it goes without saying that Derek McGrath will have to commit more players to attack in 2016 if the Deise are to maintain their momentum, the De La Salle man deserves some sort of award for services to hurling in 2015. He brought a team composed largely of novices from Division 1B to win the league in great style and to reach an All Ireland semi-final. In doing so he made us all think – and talk – about the game that little bit more. Good for him.

Elsewhere the world continued to spin. Bennettsbridge captured the All Ireland junior title as to the manner and heritage born, then followed it up with the county intermediate silverware. An inordinately impressive St Kieran's retained their colleges crown, though not before being made work for it by Thurles CBS in the final. Ballyhale Shamrocks had altogether too much for a stage-struck Kilmallock at Croke Park on St Patrick's Day. Of the Kilkenny under-21 team, annihilated in Wexford Park, all that can be said is that they were of a piece with the corresponding minor outfit of three years earlier. Occasionally these things happen. Even in Kilkenny. Especially in Kilkenny.

We concluded here last year with the suggestion that Kilkenny were in danger of being perceived as serial moaners and unnecessarily defensive when they had nothing much to get worked up about. Lo and behold, 2015 did provide them with something to get justifiably worked up about. Although it was their lack of goalscoring power that ultimately prevented Pat Hoban's minors retaining the Irish Press Cup - basically, Galway won the All Ireland because of their ability to find the net at critical junctures – it is nothing more than a simple statement of fact that Kilkenny were reamed by the referee in the drawn All Ireland semi-final and they were reamed by the referee in the replay.

Again, occasionally these things happen. They shouldn't. They do. Thankfully this time the toys remained within the pram, Hoban accepted his misfortune with good grace and the county board wisely eschewed the temptation to take it any further. The sight of Kilkenny stamping their foot and whining – however legitimately – about being deprived of reaching yet another All Ireland final would not have been an edifying one. Ghastly old imperialist though he may have been, Kipling was correct to this extent: the only way to handle those two impostors, triumph and disaster, is to treat 'em just the same.

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Well Done Kilkenny's Heroes of 2015!

Their Greatest Win of All?

VINCENT HOGAN (*Irish Independent*)

Seventeen summers....eleven All-Irelands....six minutes.....four questions.

Maybe it's the law of diminishing returns. Perhaps if you keep on rocking an audience, in time they'll turn a little sheepish, a little introverted on you. Brian Cody's post-All-Ireland final press conference this year was surely one of the shortest on record. It was briefer than the Gettysburg Address. Why?

Well it wasn't down to the remarkable James Stephens man being in any kind of hurry. He was, as ever, respectful and courteous towards anyone with a question. Trouble was, the media's curiosity seemed to have reached a point of exhaustion here.

After question number four, that dinky auditorium under the Hogan Stand fell eerily quiet. Cody dwelt momentarily in case someone's throat might be clearing or hands may have been struggling with some notes. But, no, this gig had already run its course.

"Okay lads?" he asked, getting to his feet.

Journalists get beaten down by many things but maybe nothing brings on a collective torpor quite like having to colour in the same story-line over and over and over again. What is there left to say about a team that just keeps on winning, no matter the discouragements?

By any mortal standards, they had no business holding onto Liam McCarthy in 2015. But what's that got to do with anything? Under Cody, Kilkenny apply their own rules. They don't understand the condition of panic or recognise the concept of crisis.

I was gabbing away to Newstalk when the champions took the field on September 6. First man I looked for was Richie Hogan, given rumours that he'd prepared for the game in Lourdes. Sure enough, quite apart from that back of his which has the status of a listed building now, Hogan's quad was heavily strapped.

Then I sought out the silhouette of big, old Michael Fennelly, another who is advised by his GP these days not to be lifting anything heavier than a coffee mug. Observing his warm-up, I managed to convince myself that here was someone just shaking a hapless fist at the march of Father Time.

And I cast a glance at Shane Prendergast, a Championship debutant at 29, now filling the shoes of Hurricane Jackie against a forward line packed with gunpowder.

I thought of Joey Holden still learning the ropes as an inter-county full-back and of Kieran Joyce holding the fort at number six, 28-years-old but only now having won the trust of a reluctant Mr Cody.

Seemed to me that Kilkenny were pretty much held together by masking tape here.

So I did what every fool with a microphone in his hand has the capacity to do. I bunjee jumped from the seventh floor. "All great teams eventually hit a stone wall" I declared. "And I believe that this will be the day that time finally catches up with Kilkenny."

Seasoned companions looked at me as if I'd just tossed the mortgage on a Willie Mullins horse that Ruby has overlooked. Their chorused expressions blared "have you been drinking?" You know, having collaborated with Henry Shefflin on his book, I like to think I've a reasonable grasp of the Kilkenny hurling psyche now. Their relentlessness comes from an absolute acceptance that struggle will be part of any journey. That setback is as inevitable as nightfall. Seems to me that the definition of a Kilkenny hurler, on Cody's watch at least, will always be how he responds to trouble.

Yet, here I was predicting the looming flutter of a white flag. I



All Ireland Hurling Final 2015
Galway's assistant manager Eugene Cloonan congratulates Brian Cody on Kilkenny's victory. Pic by John McIlwaine



9 August 2015; Shane Prendergast, Kilkenny, GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship, Semi-Final, Kilkenny v Waterford, Croke Park, Dublin.
Picture credit: Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE

might as well have taken to declaring the All Blacks docile and effeminate.

Now it must be said that, half an hour in, my prediction still had some wind in its sails. Galway had scored twelve times to Kilkenny's six. But for TJ's opportunist goal, it would have been fair to say that this final was drifting away from the Cats. But that always tends to be the rub with Kilkenny.

They just work to different co-ordinates in the mind.

Galway had hurled with extraordinary coherence and intensity,

yet the half-time margin would be three points. A single score. For Anthony Cunningham, there must - even then - have been a sense that they were just trying to rope down the wind here. Within seven minutes of the resumption, Kilkenny were level and - let's be honest - the remainder was sport's equivalent of watching a python slowly swallow a porcupine whole. The sense of inevitability was palpable as a realisation dawned on Galway that banjaxed, decrepit old Kilkenny were simply not for turning.

Joe Canning's injury-time goal offered the illusion of a game with a pulse right to the last shriek of James Owens's whistle. But the 2015 final didn't have that. Kilkenny won almost as they chose in the end. They weathered the maroon storm, then galloped over the horizon.

And that was extraordinary. In a post-Henry world, they were also dealing with the straitening realities of being in a post-Tommy, post-JJ, post-Taggy, post-Brian Hogan, post-David Herity world.

By any stretch, Cody's resources had to be close to breaking point.

You look at the turmoil that has visited Galway since, the effective sacking of Cunningham as manager by his own players, and you can't but marvel at the Kilkenny ecosystem. The sense of ever-changing personnel working to one absolute, non-negotiable culture.

Henry speaks in the book of how he struggled with his reduced dressing-room status during the Championship of 2014. There was no special treatment for arguably the greatest player the game has ever seen. There were no concessions to sentiment.

Cody's mantra has always been that everyone is equal behind that dressing-room door. That one Constitution must, by necessity, apply to all. He doesn't just throw that out as a soundbyte.

He applies it as a core principle.

Brian O'Driscoll once told me how, as his Leinster rugby career tapered to a close, he found Joe Schmidt frustratingly distant. Only hindsight allowed him understand the necessity for that distance. Great coaches, great managers just move relentlessly forward. There are no free-passes to making that journey with them.

I happen to believe that Kilkenny's All-Ireland win in 2015 may, in the context of running repairs needed and the number of mature voices lost to the group, have been their greatest of all under Cody. Because it flew in the face of awkward circumstance.

The key was that at no point did they even countenance that old vitamin deficiency of self-pity.

Kilkenny just drove relentlessly forward. And, in doing so, I believe they posed a pretty unflattering question for the rest of hurling. It is what have we learned from their seventeen-year stretch of dominance? Where is the evidence of understanding?

Tipperary, perhaps, came closest between '09 and '11 and again last year but, on the cusp of 2016, who would your money be on to out-flank Mr. Cody? Have a good think about that. Then look elsewhere for investment.



A LEGEND OF THE FALL

*So now the story's ended and the tale it has been told
No more we'll see King Henry in the Black and Amber fold
Thank you for the memories so say we one and all
For you were our hurling hero and a legend in the fall.*

*With ten All Ireland medals that's written in folklore
As we remember goals and points-we cheered your every score
Croke Park on bright September days we fondly now recall
When you led the "Cats" to glory-proud legend of the fall.*

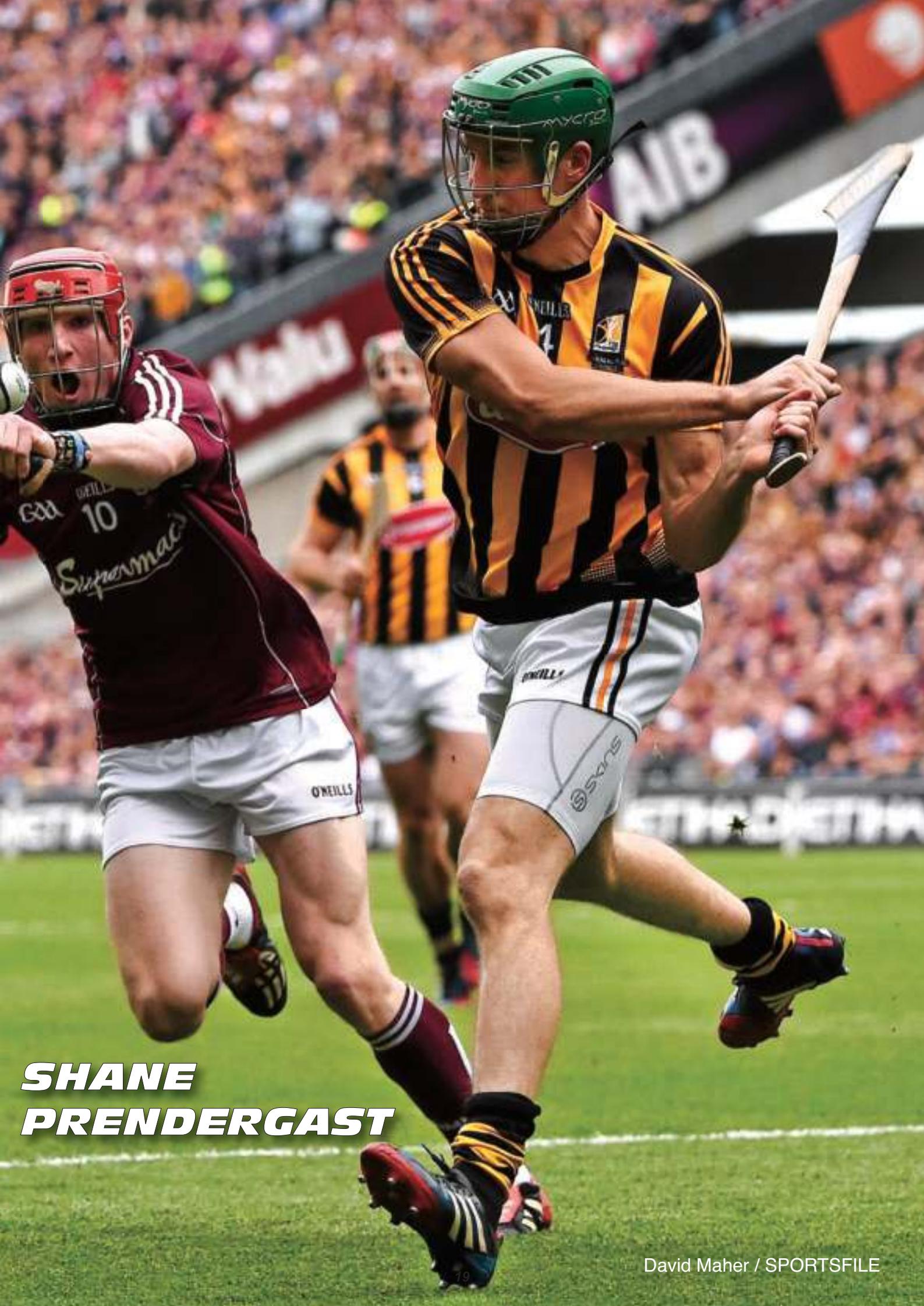
*The Father Time came down the line and beckoned you away
From Semple and from Croker on All Ireland Final day
You rescued us when all seemed lost and answered every call
For you were our hurling hero and a legend in the fall.*

*They may talk about Mick Mackey and that great man, Christy Ring
But we had our own King Henry a flying down the wing
From Arklow to the Claddagh and from Belfast down to Youghal
They'll remember Henry Shefflin-proud legend of the fall.*

Jamesie Murphy

Henry's Last Appearance In Black and Amber

27 September 2014; Kilkenny's Henry Shefflin talks with manager Brian Cody before coming on as a second half substitute. GAA Hurling All Ireland Senior Championship Final replay, Kilkenny v Tipperary, Croke Park, Dublin. Piaras Ó Midheach / SPORTSFILE



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DETERMINED WALTER MAKES 2015 A YEAR TO REMEMBER

By Richard Holden
Photos John McIlwaine

For Walter Walsh, 2015 could be seen as his breakthrough year fully capitalising on the promise shown in 2012 when he made a spectacular senior debut in the All-Ireland Final replay victory over Galway scoring 1-3 and gaining the Man of the Match accolade.

The last two years had proved challenging for the big man from Tullogher-Rosbercon, with injuries ruling him out for most of the 2013 National League, he did return for the Championship and some good displays, last year he found it keep his place in team. I asked him been omitted for the replay against and if that renewed determination for this 'Last year was the of 2012, and in fairness John Power came in and had an excellent game. I would always try to better myself each year anyway working on the different skills like hooking and blocking'.

Wally, as he is affectionately known, followed in the footsteps of his parents and uncles, who played hurling/camogie with Tullogher, by lining out for the club but had to bide his time in getting the chance to wear the same colours for the county. Having missed out on selection for the South Kilkenny Under-16 team, he was drafted into the minor panel for the 2008 Leinster championship where he came on as sub in the provincial Final win before starting the semi-final, where he netted two goals in the win over Tipperary, and the Final against Galway. Walter then featured for the minors again in 2009 but the Tribesmen exacted their revenge in the Final.

In 2012, Walter added a Leinster Under-21 medal to his collection and had shown good form in that campaign but still he must have been surprised to receive a call up to the senior squad – how did this come about? 'Brian had a few of us in training with the seniors, and said that any player who performed well in training had a chance to make the panel. I was first



included in the twenty-six for the quarter-final against Limerick. I was just hoping that I might get a chance to feature at some stage during the Championship.' How then did he deal with starting the All-Ireland replay? 'Some of the lads like David Herity, Henry and Tommy said to continue what I'm doing in training and to try treat it as another game. That helped me a lot.'

Does Walter feel there is too much analysis of players' performances now? 'I try to avoid social media during the season, and tend to avoid the Sunday Game, definitely the analysis of it anyway. I might watch the match back during the week. I get my feedback from talking with management and my team-mates.'

The issue of whether the game should go professional is an ongoing issue, would he like to see it go down this route? 'We are



well looked after, the success is a help as it generates more money. The work the Kilkenny Supporters Club do is appreciated by the players. I don't think there is enough money for the game to go professional.'

In his sixteen championship appearances with the seniors, Walter has amassed an impressive haul of 2-21 and already has three McCarthy Cup winners' medals. What does he attribute Kilkenny's phenomenal run of success down to? 'A lot of our success is down to Brian Cody and his management team. We have a top-notch backroom team and that would include our four physios, nutritionists and team doctor.'



Walter Walsh passes to TJ Reid to set up his goal in the All Ireland Final

When asked for players he most admired growing up, Walter picks out Tullaroan's Tommy Walsh. 'It was brilliant watching Tommy, for a player small in stature he was so tigerish on the field. Like a lot of youngsters, I also loved seeing DJ in action.'

Going back to where it all started, and the club – what are his ambitions there? 'This year, we lost to the eventual champions, Bennettsbridge in the intermediate quarter-final by six points. I think we can definitely win the intermediate, we have a very good underage set-up for a rural club.'

Away from the hurling field, Walter is a big fan of rugby and played for New Ross, where one of his team-mates was Tadhg Furlong, a member of Ireland's World Cup squad this season.

Factfile

Age: 24
Occupation: Teacher of Science and Biology - St. Benildus College, Stillorgan
Honours: 2 Leinster and 1 All-Ire MH;
1 Leinster U-21H;
2 Leinster and 3 All-Ire SH;
2 NHL; 1 Railway Cup;
1 Co. and Leinster Club JHC;
1 Leinster Colleges U-14, 16 and SH and
1 Leinster Colleges U-16 (all Good Counsel, New Ross)

There has also been an appearance on the popular Second Captains programme where he was invited to participate in their traditional quiz at the end of the show. 'I would be a good friend of Tipp's Noel McGrath, and he was appearing as a guest that night. The soccer analyst, Richie Sadlier, has also appeared on the show a good few times, and he is a former student at the school where I teach, St. Benildus Stillorgan.'

The new Clare hurling coach, Donal Óg Cusack has said that 'Walter would find space in a revolving door'. It will be interesting to see what special plans, he and Davy Fitz have, to combat the Tullogher man, should Clare and Kilkenny meet in 2016 – one thing's for sure, Walter is sure to again play an integral part in the Cats bid for League and Championship honours.



A photograph showing the exterior of a modern, multi-story building with large windows and a flat roof. In the foreground, there is a paved area with some small trees and a grassy lawn. A white van is parked on the right side of the image. Overlaid on the image is text: "Cillín Hill, Kilkenny." in a large, black, serif font, and "Tel: 056-7721407, 056-721418, 056-7721020" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the text "THE BEST STOCK IN IRELAND ON OFFER." is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.



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Shamrocks Bloom on St. Patricks Day

All Ireland SH Club Final 2015 Report By Michael O'Leary



Ballyhale Shamrocks - All Ireland SH Club Champions 2015 (Willie Dempsey)

Back: Donnacha Fitzpatrick, Henry Shefflin, Brian Cody, Gavin Butler, Brian Butler, Conor Walsh, Patrick Reid, Joey Holden, Colin Fennelly, TJ Reid, Mark Aylward, Aidan Cummins, Conor Reid, Joey Cuddihy, Paul Shefflin, Paddy Mullen, Jack Kenneally, Kevin Mullen, Darren Mullen.
Front: Tom Coogan, Eoin Doyle, David Hynes, Eoin Knox, Michael Fennelly, Alan Cuddihy, Richie Reid, Cha Fitzpatrick, Bob Aylward, Eoin Reid, Keith Nolan, Ronan Corcoran, Paddy Doyle, Eugene Aylward, Conor Phelan, Enda Fitzpatrick, Liam Grant, Michael Dermody.

Towards the end of the last decade, Ballyhale Shamrocks dominated Club Hurling winning four consecutive County Senior Championships from 2006-2009 as well as three Leinster Senior Club titles and All-Ireland Senior Club titles in 2007 and 2010.

However, over the past 4 years they only had a Senior title in 2012 to display for their efforts, and they would have considered that an underachievement with the depth of talent that they possessed.

The club turned to Tipperary men Andy Moloney and Colm Bonnar to restore them to previous glory, and they duly obliged. With the delay of the Club Championship due to the All-Ireland Final replay, Shamrocks didn't get their County Championship underway until the October Bank Holiday weekend when they played Danesfort in the County Senior Quarter-Final.

Shamrocks easily brushed aside their neighbours winning 5-23 to 2-13 to set-up a semi-final clash with St. Martins a week later.

St. Martins cause wasn't helped when they had a player dismissed, and Shamrocks eventually prevailed 1-19 to 0-14 to set-up a County Final showdown with 2013 Champions Clara who easily destroyed Carrickshock in a repeat of the 2013 County decider.

Shamrocks were a team on a mission, and they regained the County title in emphatic style.

Inspired by captain fantastic and birthday boy TJ Reid who scored 0-10, Shamrocks won 1-20 to 1-13 with Mark Aylward scoring a superb goal to finish off a superb movement involving Michael Fennelly and Henry Shefflin.

TJ continued his superb form in the Leinster Semi-Final when he scored 1-8, as they easily defeated Kilmacud Crokes 2-15 to 0-12 to set-up a provincial final showdown with 2013 All-Ireland Finalists Kilcormac-Cilloghey.

However, things weren't as straightforward

in the Leinster Final, where they required extra-time to eventually overcome the Offaly men.

A handful of missed frees from Ciaran Slevin proved costly, although he landed a monster free from inside his own-half to force extra-time.

Shamrocks experience prevailed in extra-time with Ronan Corcoran, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick, TJ Reid and Henry all pointing as they won out after a ferocious battle 0-21 to 1-14.

Their Leinster Final victory set-up an All-Ireland Semi-Final showdown with Galway Senior Champions Gort who defeated last years All-Ireland Club Champions Portumna in the County Final which was played in mid-December.

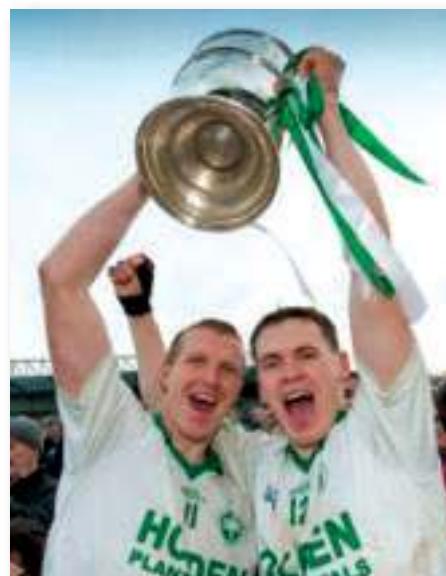
Having trailed early on to a Richie Cummins goal, Shamrocks recovered to lead 2-9 to 1-8 at the interval with the Reid brothers TJ and Eoin grabbing a goal each.

The duo combined in the 11th minute for Shamrocks opening goal, when a brilliant flick from Eoin set-up TJ who blasted home an unstoppable shot that gave the Gort goalkeeper Gavin Lally no chance.

Eoin squeezed home Shamrocks 2nd goal amidst a goalmouth scramble as Shamrocks took control.

Shamrocks maintained that lead throughout the second-half, with the midfield duo of Bob Aylward and Conor Walsh immense scoring 0-3 each.

Having just turned 36, and yet to make a

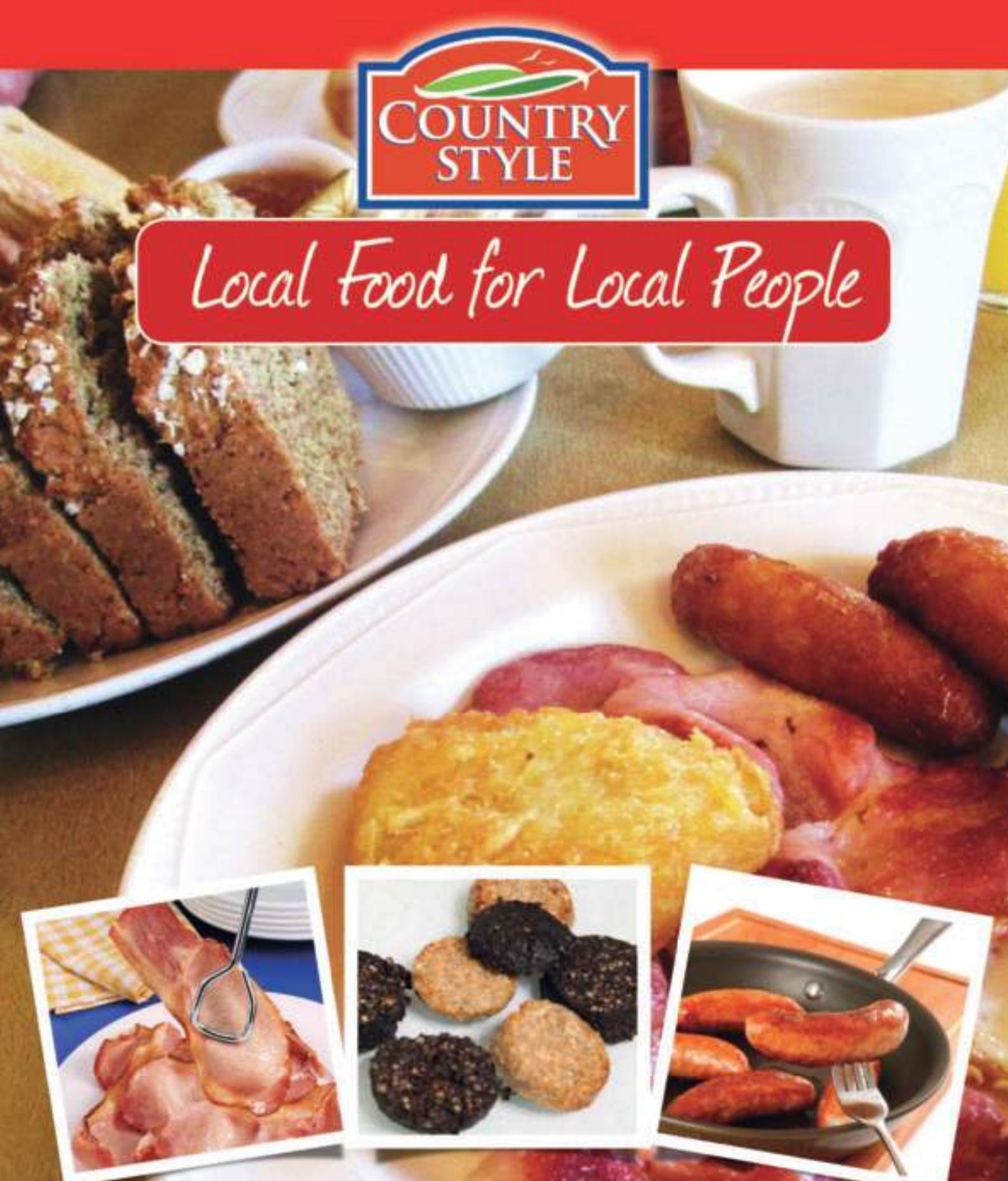


Henry Shefflin & TJ Reid (Capt) with the Tommy Moore Cup



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Shamrocks Players on Croke Park celebrating their victory. (Willie Dempsey)

decision on his Inter-County future, Henry gave a sublime display scoring 0-5 from play, and collecting the man of the match award afterwards.

It was onto Croke Park for St. Patricks Day and an All-Ireland Club Final showdown against Killmallock of Limerick.

Killmallock under the guidance of twice former All-Ireland Senior medal winner Ger "Sparrow" O'Loughlin came to Croke Park the hard way.

They defeated the previous years Munster Club Champions Na Piarsaigh to regain the County decider, before displaying admirable strength of character to win the Munster Club Championship.

They defeated both Sarsfields of Cork and Cratloe of Clare after extra-time, and on both occasions, they achieved victory against the odds.

In the Munster Semi-Final against Sarsfields, Killmallock appeared to have secured victory, but an injury-time goal from former Cork Senior forward Kieran Murphy, and an equalising free from Cian McCarthy drew the sides level as extra-time was required.

Following a pulsating contest, Killmallock eventually emerged 3-22 to 3-20 to set-up a provincial final showdown with Cratloe of Clare.

One of the best club matches in recent times emerged in the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick, as Killmallock overcame their Clare neighbours in a magnificent contest after extra-time 1-32 to 3-18.

The Limerick and Munster Champions displayed admirable strength of character, and they had to draw all that strength when they were reduced to 14 men after Inter-County Senior Gavin O'Mahony was dismissed for an off the ball incident.

Killmallock trailed by two points at one stage during the final quarter following O'Mahony's dismissal, but they fought back heroically to salvage extra-time, before outscoring Cratloe 0-11 win their 3rd Munster title, and set up an All-Ireland Semi-Final showdown with Portaferry of Down.

The Limerick men prevailed as expected 2-19 to 0-12 to set-up an All-Ireland showdown with Shamrocks.

Having overcome Na Piarsaigh, Sarsfields and Cratloe the hard way on their way to Croke Park, Killmallock were expected to

provide Shamrocks with a stern test of their credentials, but it didn't materialise like that.

A Colin Fennelly goal before half-time sent Shamrocks on their way as they led 1-7 to 0-4 at the interval, before they ran out resounding 1-18 to 1-6 winners.

Henry played his part scoring 0-2 from play in his last game before announcing his retirement from Inter-County Hurling 8 days later, while Joey Holden was named man of the match afterwards.

Shamrocks had a perfect mixture of youth and experience, and indeed four of the starting 15 were 35 or older this year, Henry and his brother Paul, Aidan Cummins, and Bob Aylward who score an early point.

It was Shamrocks 6th All-Ireland Club Hurling title in history as they pulled two clear of their nearest rivals Portumna and Birr.

Ballyhale Shamrocks: Richie Reid, Keith Nolan, Joey Holden, Alan Cuddihy (0-01), Paul Shefflin, Michael Fennelly, Aidan Cummins, Conor Walsh, Bob Aylward (0-01), James "Cha" Fitzpatrick, Henry Shefflin (0-02), TJ Reid (0-06, 4f), Patrick Reid, Colin Fennelly (1-03), Eoin Reid (0-03).

Subs: Mark Aylward (0-02) for Patrick Reid, Tom Coogan for Nolan, David Hoyne for Walsh, Michael Dermody for P Shefflin.



Action from the Final (Willie Dempsey)

Taking Over from a Legend

By Mark Townsend Photos John McIlwaine & SPORTSFILE

It was a very good year. He may not have predicted it at the start, well he knew all about it at the end of it.

Of the glut of retirees last winter, if there was one man Kilkenny supporters were really fearing the loss of it was JJ Delaney. Not only was he possibly the finest wing back the game had ever seen, in recent times, he had transformed himself into one of the greatest full backs. So with the memory still fresh from "that" hook against Seamie Callanan in last year's All-Ireland, came the blow that we would never see such finesse at this level again. Into his shoes stepped Joey Holden. A fine player, yes, but in his first full season in such a pivotal position, would he cope with the burden of taking over from a legend? Moreover, would he manage to take on the task of coping with Conor McDonald, Maurice Shanahan and Joe Canning, some of the finest hurlers in the country? Well, he did, and he did it with flying colours.

It wasn't always this way. Some hurlers seem destined for greatness the moment they pick up a hurl. Joey Holden was not one of those. Rather than being a DJ or a Richie Hogan, he's more akin to his county selector Derek Lyng. A worker first, a stylist second. He never played minor or under-21 for the county, indeed he only started playing regularly with his own club team when he was 22. Did he ever feel short changed at his lack of appearances in the county's underage set-up? "No, I knew I wasn't at that level at that time. Growing up, I always loved hurling, I remember getting my first hurl when I was 4. But I was looking at guys like Richie Doyle there at that time. I knew I wasn't up to that level so I had to either step up or improve myself!"

When he was growing up he wasn't in one of the elite Ballyhale age groups of Cha Fitzpatrick or his own brother Padraig who scooped all and sundry in front of them. His was a slower and steadier progress. If the weaker age group he played in when he was younger may have hindered him, there was no fear of playing against sub-standard forwards when he got to senior level. "I think that's what you can attribute most of it to (his success). You're up training against the likes of Henry, Colin Fennelly, Mick Fennelly, TJ, Cha Fiz. Either they'll take you

to the cleaners or you can step up. You learn so much from them, every day you go out, you learn so much from them"

It may have been near impossible to get into a forward line of that calibre, but even to get a place in the defence wasn't easy. The likes of Bob Aylward and Aidan Cummins, players he was "in awe of" were blocking his path. When the Shamrocks won the All-Ireland Club final in 2010, he had a bit-part role, coming on for the last 10 minutes of the final. The year after he still struggled to get on to the team. But 2012 was a watershed for him at club level, he could feel himself growing as a player. "It was one of those years when everything I did seemed to come off, whoever I was marking or whatever. Everything went right for me that year"

From establishing himself as a club regular, inter county recognition came a couple of years later. Many new panel members for Kilkenny begin their inter county career numbered in the high twenties, and slowly work their way down. But from his first season in the squad, he became a regular, except, unfortunately, for the final replay. "It was a bit of an up and down year for me. You were happy to be



wasn't of the required level. It would have been a lot better for me if I had been playing (in the replay), but the important thing is that the team win. But the experience in big games, it's something I learned from massively"

Moving onto this year was another matter. Previously, his predecessor at club level, Eamonn Walsh, had tragically been struck down with a heart condition and could no longer play. But out of the darkness of that decision came the light for another man. Full back is not an easy position, knowing a mistake at any moment could prove fatal. But after winning the All-Ireland club championship in March, a victory he regards as his favourite so far, he began on that next challenge.

Not only did he have to nail down a new position he also had the added responsibility of being captain.

But it didn't seem to enter his thinking. "Making the team is the main thing for me, I didn't feel any extra pressure" So no extra burden to speak before games? "Not at all. There's lads that tend to speak and lads that stay quiet, I'd be one of the quieter ones. I prepared a small bit (the post All-Ireland speech) after the semi final, and then I put it away and concentrated on the hurling. The way I see it, you can be a leader in the dressing room, or you can be a leader out on the field" I suppose when you have Jackie Tyrrell giving Churchillian-esque speeches, someone has to take a back seat!



Now in the off season, he can reflect on a fine year's achievements, and though the semi-final defeat in the club championship to O'Loughlin Gaels was a big disappointment, he is enjoying his time off. A rugby fan, along with his fellow county mates TJ Reid, Walter Walsh and Colin Fennelly, he was kitted out in the New Zealand rugby kit for their most recent Rugby World Cup victory. So is he considering a career change? "No" he laughs "I like all sports but I'd prefer something with a stick I think. I'm happy as I am"

Joey Holden, All-Ireland winning captain, All Ireland club champion, All-star, All Black...and Amber.

**Joey Holden outjumps his opponent
in the All Ireland Final**
(John McIlwaine)



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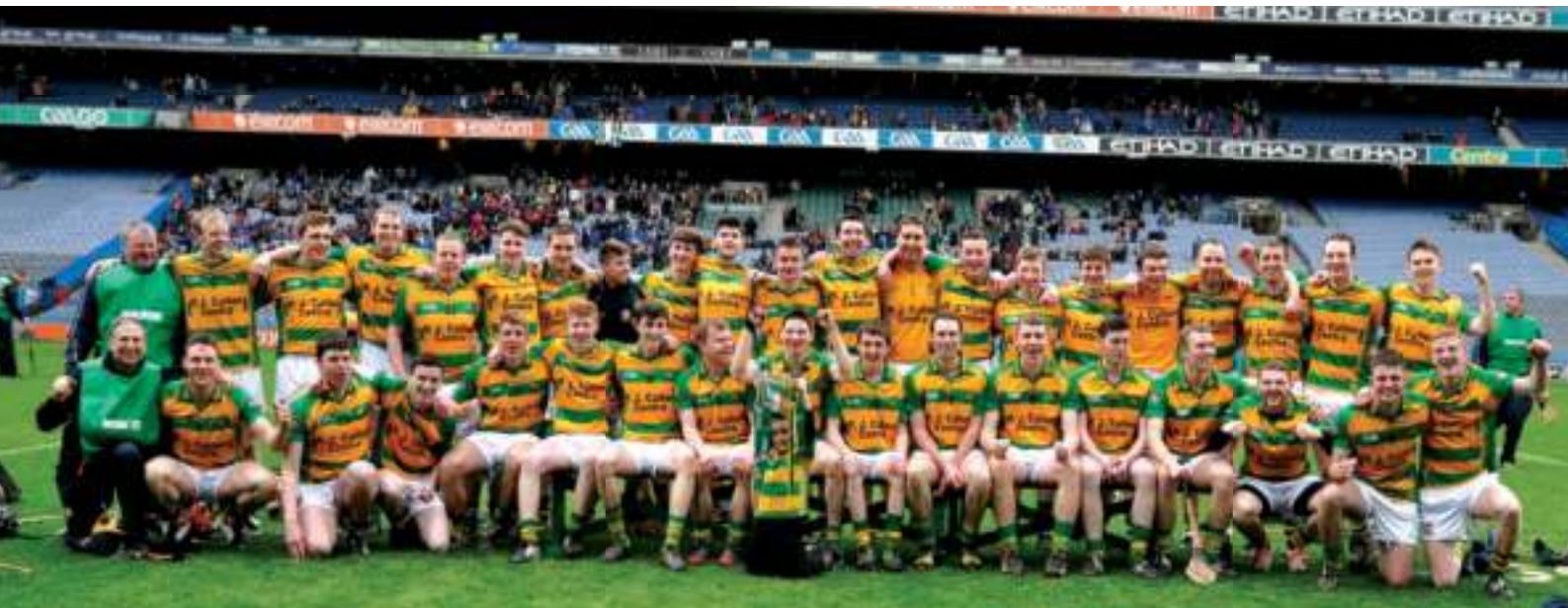
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Glory for the 'Bridge

All Ireland SH Club Final 2015 Report By Michael O'Leary



BENNETTSBRIDGE - ALL IRELAND JH CLUB CHAMPIONS 2015 (Willie Dempsey)

Back: Tommy Lennon, Enda Morrissey, William Murphy, Patrick O'Neill, Damien O'Donavan, Aidan Byrne, Tom Kiley, Dylan Walsh, Bill O'Neill, Shane Nolan, Luke Dowling, Brian Lannon, Enda Cleere, Sean Wemyss, Kevin Brennan, Ronan O'Connor, Ben Tynan, James Moran, Eddie Fitzgerald, Aidan Cleere, Cormac Wafer.
Front: Tim Drea, Robert Lennon, Maurice Walsh, Brian O'Neill, Edward Murphy, Shane Byrne, Kevin Blanchfield, Darragh Wafer, Hugh O'Neill, Joe Murphy, Nicky Cleere, Liam Blanchfield, Micheal Power, Michéal Shiel, Paul O'Neill, Jason Cleere, Sean Morrissey.

Bennetsbridge achieved a lot during their golden period from 1952-1971 when they won 11 County Senior titles from 1952-1971 and the club was backboned by a whole host of established names who achieved a magnitude of success with the Kilkenny Seniors.

Legendary figures in Kilkenny hurling like 9-times All-Ireland senior medallist Noel Skehan, Jim Treacy, Paddy Moran, Johnny McGovern, John Kinsella, Seamus and Larry Cleere and others were central to Bennettsbridge's success during that 20 year period.

However, their last Senior Championship success came in 1971, the same year that the All-Ireland Club Championships began.

If the Club Championships had of been introduced during the Bridge's golden period, unquestionably with the calibre that they possessed, All-Ireland success would definitely have come their way.

However, All-Ireland glory came their way last February in Croke Park when they easily dismantled the challenge of Fullen Gaels in the All-Ireland Junior Club Final.

Bennetsbridge's graph had been steadily rising for a few years.

In 2011, they defeated neighbours Thomastown after a replay following two pulsating games in the County Minor decider, in which a number of that successful team were part of their route to glory over the past 12 months including last years Minors Liam Blanchfield, Jason Cleere and Sean Morrissey.

Thomastown easily brushed aside the Bridge challenge in the 2012 Junior decider when a hat-trick of goals from JJ Farrell crucified their prospects.

More heartbreak was endured in 2013 when an injury-time point from Rory Hickey gave Lisdowney their first Junior title since 1960. However, in 2014, they erased all previous heartache, but not without a scare against Galmoy in the County Junior Semi-Final. Galmoy led 1-10 to 0-8 at half-time, and they stretched the advantage to 7 points entering the

final quarter.

However, Bennettsbridge turned on the gas during that closing quarter scoring 2-7 without reply to win 2-19 to 1-16.

A County Final beckoned against Mooncoin, and the Bridge encountered no such difficulties winning 1-17 to 1-7 with a Liam Blanchfield goal in first-half injury-time sending the Bridge on their way.

Great celebrations followed all round in Bennettsbridge before they turned their attention to the Leinster Junior Championship.

There was only a 7 day turn around after the County Final victory, but the Bridge easily accounted for the Meath Intermediate Championships in their opening game in Leinster before travelling to Wexford a week later to Crossabeg in the Leinster Semi-Final. Nicky Cleere accounted for 1-6 of their 1-19 total as they strolled to another comprehensive victory.

A Leinster Final showdown was up next against the Offaly Intermediate Champions Shamrocks, and with Lisdowney having suffered a shock defeat against fellow Offaly outfit Ballinamore 12 months previously, Bennettsbridge were well warned of the pitfalls of danger.

In truth though, they never had a moments anxiety as they cruised to a facile victory becoming the 11th Kilkenny Club to win the Leinster Junior Championship in the process. Their focus was intent from the word go, and the Bridge quickly asserted themselves opening up



Bennettsbridge Captain, Robert Lennon, lifts the Junior Hurling All-Ireland cup after their victory over Fullen Gaels in Croke Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

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Man of match (Croke Park) Nicky Cleere.
(Willie Dempsey)



Three Winning brothers: Brian O'Neill, Patrick O'Neill, Hugh O' Neill.
(Willie Dempsey)

a 0-7 to 0-1 lead after 20 minutes.

A Brian Lannon goal confirmed their superior dominance as they led 1-10 to 0-1 at the interval.

The Bridge didn't let up during the second-half outscoring Offaly opponents 0-10 to 0-2 to record a 20 point victory. 3.

Following the Christmas break, attention switched to the All-Ireland series and a Semi-Final match against Annaghdown of Galway in Nenagh

Bennettsbridge struggled during the opening-half and they trailed 0-7 to 0-4 at the interval, but they put matters right afterwards.

The Bridge completely overpowered and outplayed the Western men in the second-half as they outscored them 2-15 to 0-2.

Having drawn level early in the second-half, the All-Ireland Junior Champions completely took control and their task was made so much easier when Annaghdown had a player dismissed in the 46th minute.

It was plain sailing for Bennettsbridge during the closing quarter when Liam Blanchfield blasted a goal in the 48th minute, before Cormac Wafer confirmed their overall superior second-half dominance with a second goal late on as they marched on towards Croke Park.

Brian Lannon and Sean Morrissey both scored 0-4 each during their semi-final victory.

Fullen Gaels from Lancashire would provide the opposition for Bennettsbridge in Croke Park on Sunday February 15th.

The Lancashire club easily defeated Castleblayney of Monaghan 2-18 to 1-7 in the other semi-final.

Having run Thomastown to 3 points in the 2013 All-Ireland Junior Final, Bennettsbridge were aware of what Fullen Gaels were capable of.

However, they had no such problems as they strolled to victory having taken control from the outset.

They led 3-11 to 0-6 at the interval as the full-line of Brian Lannon, Hugh O'Neill and Liam Blanchfield bagged a goal each.

Having possessed such a commanding 14-point advantage at the interval, Bennettsbridge were home and hosed.

Fullen Gaels tried hard during the second-half, but any hopes of a comeback were ruined when their Full-Forward was sent-off for a straight

red.

Bennettsbridge didn't score as freely during the second-half, but their goalscoring exploits in the first-half had long set the tone for victory.

Bennettsbridge outscored Fullen Gaels 0-8 to 1-2 during the second-half to run out 3-19 to 1-8 winners to get the All-Ireland celebrations firmly underway.

In the process, they became the 6th Kilkenny Club to win the Junior Club All-Ireland Championship, following in the footsteps of Galmoy (2005), Danesfort (2007), Conahy Shamrocks (2008), St. Patricks Ballyragget (2012), and Thomastown (2013).

It's a very young Bennettsbridge Team and they have the potential to progress even further.

Nine of the starting 15 from their All-Ireland Final victory played in the Minor Final victory of 2011, and that winning mentality in which the young players in particular have gotten used will only stand to them in their progression going forward.

For Jason Cleere, Liam Blanchfield and Sean Morrissey, they have had the perfect past 18 month as they have won 2 All-Ireland Colleges titles with Kierans to Minor All-Irelands with Kilkenny as well as achieving Club success, the trio will certainly have a key role to play in future as they attempt to progress further.

BENNETTSBRIDGE TEAM AND SCORERS ALL-IRELAND FINAL:

Enda Cleere, Sean Wemyss, Robert Lennon(Captain), James Moran, Jason Cleere, Enda Morrissey, Aidan Cleere(0-1), Daragh Wafer, Kevin Blanchfield(0-1), Cormac Wafer(0-2), Sean Morrissey(0-3), Nicky Cleere(0-9), Hugh O'Neill(1-1), Brian Lannon(1-0), Liam Blanchfield(1-1), Subs Used: Paul O'Neill, Patrick O'Neill, William Murphy, Eddie Fitzgerald, Michael Shiel(0-1)



Robert Lennon in action in the Final

(Willie Dempsey)

BROTHER TO BROTHER

By Mark Townsend
Photos Eoin Hennessy

The first time you see Padraig Walsh on a hurling field you can't help but be reminded of someone else. " Is that?" you think; perhaps a certain other Tullaroan hurler that starred in Black and amber for many years. Well, the name's similar, the face, the number, that bit of dash. And yet, it's different.

How does it feel to follow in the footsteps of probably the greatest right half back that hurling has known? It's a bit of pressure right? How does it feel when said hurler comes not just from your own county, or club, but family? You could probably add a bit more pressure on top of that couldn't you? Well, maybe. Or maybe pressure is just for tyres.

If there is any weight on Padraig's shoulders then he certainly doesn't appear to be showing it. In fact if anything strikes you from speaking to him, it's the unbridled joy that he gets from playing hurling for his county. He was born into this, he was bred for it, now the dreams he had are being lived out.

The first time his noted sibling played in an All-Ireland final in Croke Park, he was still in Primary School, and the experience "drove me on" to try and reach that level. Not that he needed that much encouragement. Given his grandfather was Paddy Grace, his sister a star Camogie player and Tommy played a bit, it would have been a bigger surprise if he had shown no inclination towards the game. He had all the inspiration he needed around him.

After winning a minor All-Ireland final in 2010, his first year on the senior panel was in 2013, and while that was a rare fallow summer for the team, all those hours spent practicing in the big garden of the family home paid off in bringing him to his first All-Ireland final against Tipperary on



September 7th, 2014. Or it would have done, except he wasn't selected to start. Like his brother, who won All-Irelands in both backs and forwards, his versatility has been a strength to the panel, but perhaps it could also have been a weakness when the final cut was being made for that game. Was it a disappointment not to start? "At the time I was very disappointed yeah, but you have to get over that very quickly, because you could be coming on, so you have to be tuned in."

Anytime there has been a replay during Brian Cody's tenure, there has always been a desire to freshen things up for the second game. He cites Walter Walsh's introduction in 2012 as a case in point. If the

draw was a blessing in disguise for anyone, then it was for Padraig. After the whistle blew at the end of the first game, he had three weeks to get himself right. And he certainly did "I was just excited to get the extra three weeks training. When you get to an All-Ireland final it's great, but the sad thing is that it's the end of the year, because all I wanted to do was stay hurling"

lined out at right in the replay and probably one of performances (thus far), in helping the team to victory. If winning any All-Ireland is special then the first is particularly sweet, but even during the elation of victory, there's still time to think of what lies ahead in future. "The 20 minutes after winning it are just unbelievable, all the hard work you've put in is worth it, all you'd want to do is do it again the following year"

While September 27th 2014 was a high point of his career then November 1st

2014 was most definitely a low. The last time Tullaroan won a Senior Hurling Championship in 1994, his father was playing full back, his brother was acting as a mascot, and Padraig was barely out of his cot. Now, 20 years on, a proud tradition had ended as defeat in the Relegation final against Fenians ended the club's 20 year tenure in the senior championship. Did said defeat detract anything from his enjoyment of the year?

"It was a fierce disappointing yeah, we knew we were good enough to stay up, but we didn't go well during the year and Johnstown were ten times better than us on the day. We're back down intermediate now and it's going to be difficult to get back up, but the girls won this year (the Tullaroan Camogie team were this years Kilkenny and Leinster intermediate champions), they're the stars around the place now, so hopefully that will drive us on next year"

Returning to training in January of this year brought a fresh challenge. Retaining an All-Ireland any year is always a motivation, but there was added incentive in the form of the flock of retirements that had befallen the panel at the end of last year. While not in any way wanting to diminish the achievements of last years retirees, there seemed to be an unspoken command for the remaining members of the dressing room that this was a further chance to prove themselves. Or as Padraig puts it "We knew we had a panel good enough to win an All-Ireland. The lads were great leaders and they were a massive help but it's like people were telling us we weren't good enough to win without them. We were determined to show we were"

Any hints of Kilkenny's death were grossly exaggerated, and even though two All-Irelands would seem unthinkable for most players, inside the panel, numbers don't

play a factor. Certainly there's no suggestion of fading hunger. "When you get an All-Ireland, it's hard to see how your hunger would go, because all you'd want to do is experience that feeling again"

If Giovanni Trapattoni could describe Padraig Walsh, the word "enthusiasmus" would be written all over it. To speak to him, you would never get the impression that there were any negatives attached to playing inter county hurling. Given his success so far, that's probably fully understandable. So, more than just Tommy's brother? Who knows, perhaps one day they'll start calling Tommy "Padraig's brother". Well, Tommy has 9. So 2 down, just another 7 to go!

Padraig Walsh (Kilkenny) under pressure from Kevin Foley (Wexford) during the Senior Hurling Leinster Semi Final in Nowlan Park.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Matt Doran (Fianna Fáil Councillor)

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"THAT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN IN KERRY!"

Dara Ó Cinnéide, Kerry & TG4



26 September 2004; The Kerry team led by Dara Ó Cinneide during the pre-match parade. Bank of Ireland All-Ireland Senior Football Championship Final, Kerry v Mayo, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit; Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

It was a few days before Christmas in Kilkenny twenty years ago that I first met Fan Larkin. He landed into the pub in which a group of us students in the University of Limerick were whiling away a few hours after college exams. Fan's son, Philly was in the company as were a few of Philly's James Stephens teammates who were fellow students and friends of ours in UL.

There was an U21 football final the following day and Fan wanted as many fit and eligible twenty year olds as he could muster available to tog out for 'The Village'.

With a light snow falling in Castlecomer the following morning James Stephen's and Erins Own battled it out as current Kerry selector, Diarmuid Murphy, and myself watched curiously from the embankment.

It was a tight enough affair and towards the end Fan Larkin was exhorting his troops to give one last big push to get the team over the line.

At this stage, James Stephens' powerful full forward (who, due to compassion and discretion, shall remain nameless) was presented with a glorious chance of a goal after breaking two fairly reckless tackles on the way in. Just as he was about to pull the trigger, he got another tidy clip into the side of the ear.

Now, I know things like that can be fairly annoying on a cold morning with snow falling in Castlecomer but to a committed full forward, it would be a mere inconvenience as he went on to nail the opportunity of a lifetime and bring glory to the Village.

Not so our man though.

All thoughts of the match-winning score went out the window, the ball was cast aside and the number 14 went about exacting retribution for the few



Fan

clips he had gotten on the way in.

Fan Larkin, turned to the two footballers in the crowd and in exasperation said "that would never happen in Kerry!"

While recognising the truth in Larkin's statement, it must also be acknowledged that both Kilkenny and Kerry share many of the same characteristics when it comes to their pursuit of glory. It just so happens that their preferred sports are poles apart- and always were.

Kerry folk love their football and would find it hard to imagine life without it.

But it must be remembered too that Kerry (or rather its foremost club at the time, Ballyduff) won the county's first ever national title under GAA rules, the All

Ireland Hurling Final of 1891. What should have been the springboard to launch a great tradition of hurling in the county, became a millstone around their neck and, mainly due to financial considerations, the great Ballyduff team failed to show up for the county final of 1892 and only eight of that team ever again played senior championship hurling in Kerry.

The reasons why hurling failed to develop to the same extent over the next two decades in Kerry are complex. The fact that hurling remained largely a rural pursuit offers some clues as to its lack of growth at this time. The game as a truly popular pursuit remained confined to a very small geographical area and this created its own challenges and tensions. Indeed, to this day, the rivalry in Kerry hurling would probably be more intense than that in football and despite attempts at developing the game in large urban centres, it remains most popular in that rural prairie district between Ballyheigue in the west, Lixnaw in the east, Ballyduff in the north and Ardfert in the southern part of the North Kerry Board district. In all of these areas, and everywhere in between, hurling is king.

Are You Listening?



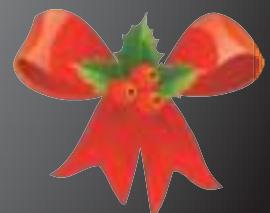
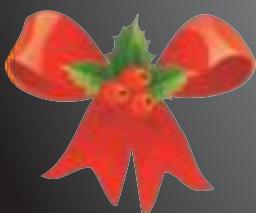
THE BEST SPORTS COVERAGE FROM YOUR ALL STAR SPORTS TEAM.

Back: Nickey Brennan (Co-Host), Murty Kennedy (GAA), Ciaran Muldowney (GAA),
Jim Cashin (Soccer), Richie Power (GAA), Joe Hennessy (GAA).

Front: Barrie Henriques (Commentator), Pat Treacy (Presenter), Ben Scott (Horse Racing).
Missing from picture above: Seamus Brophy (Greyhound Racing), Paraic Treacy (Rugby),
Willie McTiernan (Athletics), Robert Cummins (Tennis), Ivan Morrissey (Tennis).

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In Kilkenny it was football, not hurling, that was the dominant game in the early days of the GAA. The contrast between the two games was clearly evident in 1887 when the very first club championships attracted just four hurling clubs, while nineteen entered its football equivalent. The championship winners, Kilmacow - a team of 'brawny countrymen' – went on to win the inaugural Leinster football championship. Indeed, Kilkenny clubs won three Leinster football titles in the three decades directly after the foundation of the GAA.

Kilkenny people today appear to have the same passion for hurling as Kerry have for the big ball but to this observer, Kilkenny doesn't seem to have the football equivalent of the North Kerry Amish community, with dedicated groups of coaches trying to promote the minority game in isolated pockets to their children.

Many football people complain that the Cats attitude to the big-ball game is disdainful, that their apathy towards football is a rejection of the game. And perhaps that it is true. But that complaint probably reflects the belief commonly held in Gaelic football culture, that football is a better game because it is more popular. Given the direction that Gaelic football has taken in recent years, that argument has been laid bare and exposed for what it is.

It is a bit rich too, for so-called football counties to single out Kilkenny footballers for not being able to match the standards reached by other county sides in Ireland when very few of those counties could ever hope to get near the bar set by the Kilkenny hurlers.

We don't expect the Tyrone hurlers to compete with their Kilkenny counterparts, why should we expect Kilkenny footballers to compete with any county in Leinster? An argument for another day, perhaps.

Anyway, Kilkenny is a hurling county and Kerry is a football county because that's what people in those counties want and that's the tradition they've created for themselves over one hundred and thirty plus years. One cannot but admire those striving to promote minority games in these counties but there's no point pretending it will ever be anything other than a losing battle.

Despite the apples and oranges nature of the big ball-small ball debate, it is not hard to find common ground when surveying the GAA landscape in both counties.

Both know full well what it means to be up there to be knocked down and I'd like to think that both can handle being there when they get knocked down. In spite of (or perhaps because of) all the titles that they've won over the years, Kerry and Kilkenny people also seem to have a default setting that tunes them in to the things that can go wrong when they get to the top.

That is perhaps what has made them the market leaders when it comes to retaining titles. Of the 34 titles Kilkenny have won, 13 have been successfully defended. Kerry, too have successfully defended their 37 titles, a total of 13 times.

When Kerry were denied the five-in-a-row by Offaly in 1982, they came back within two years to win three on the trot between 1984-1986. Likewise when Kilkenny were beaten by Tipperary five years ago they got so vexed that they won four of the next five and, as Richie Hogan reminded us all after this year's final, he and Eoin Larkin were the only two starters from 2009 to start the 2015 final.

As much as hurling people outside Kilkenny yearn for a return to the so-



Kerry captain Dara O'Conaide lifts the Sam Maguire Cup after the 2004 All-Ireland SF Final.

Photo: SPORTSFILE

Dara and Sam meet Seamus Delaney, Jim McGrath, Mick Dunne, Dave Thomas & Paddy Noonan in Upper Patrick Street.

called Revolution Years, Kilkenny by dint of their excellence just keep evolving and winning.

We know in Kerry that such success doesn't come easy, nor would I be one to ever take it for granted. The Revolution Years of 1994, 1995 and 1996 in hurling coincided with my first three years playing senior football for Kerry. They were also the last three of the so-called Famine Years in Kerry football. The experience of playing through that period and through the frustration and bile that went with it, made everybody in the game down here, vow to never return to those days.

It's funny how Kerry and Kilkenny players can recall instantly and very explicitly those games that were lost and the hurt that went with them. But the victories and the joy that winning brings is a private and implicit matter that is very quickly put in its place so that the entire process can begin again.

There was a big debate all this year about players enjoying the game or otherwise. A perception was created that players were somehow beholden to training regimes, codes of conduct and overbearing discipline. Some of the debate may well have had its basis in experience and in fact but I didn't hear one Kerry or Kilkenny voice being added to the chorus.

They were far too busy getting on with the business of preparing and playing. The game itself and the next ball is all that matters in Nowlan Park or in Fitzgerald Stadium. Whether it is in green and gold hoops or in the black and amber stripes, the players all want to play their role in the great drama- The Neverending Story.

In Kerry we had some of the greatest players ever to play football. From Dick Fitzgerald to Paddy Kennedy to Mick O' Connell, Mikey Sheehy, Maurice Fitzgerald to Colm Cooper. Kilkenny, too, have had a long line of greats from Dick 'Droog' Walsh, Sim Walton, Lory Meagher, Eddie Keher, Ollie Walsh, DJ Carey to Henry and to the countless number of giants that have graced Brian Cody's teams since the turn of the Millennium.

New heroes seem to emerge all the time because they love and respect the game first and foremost.

Passion sustaining the tradition and vice-versa.

Fan Larkin would know a fair bit about that too!

FOOTBALLERS CONQUER THE UK!

Gaelic Football Report By Michael O'Leary



KILKENNY - BRITISH JF CHAMPIONS 2015

Back: Micheal Bolger, James Cullen, Joe Fennelly, Michael Molone, Noel Darcy, Cormac McDonald, Peter McBride, David Lyng, Rob oDwyer, Conor McDonald, Padraig Grace, Pat Drennan, Eoin Mulhearn, J.J. O'Sullivan.

Front: Stephen Murphy, Ian Kavanagh, Tomas Keogh, Philip Roche, Paddy McConigley, Paul Donnelly, David Herity, Dan McCormack, Stephen Duncan, Ger Purcell, Ollie Walsh, Brian Egan, Caleb Roche.

INTER-COUNTY REPORT

For the 3rd consecutive year, Kilkenny competed in the British Junior Championship and it was a case of third time as they conquered the UK to land the spoils.

The campaign began on the June Bank Holiday weekend when Paul Donnelly scored a hat-trick of goals as they easily defeated Gloucestershire 4-14 to 2-5 in Nowlan Park, before enduring a much tougher examination against Lancashire.

Kilkenny emerged victorious 1-13 to 1-11 to set-up a semi-final showdown with Gloucestershire.

Christy Walsh's charges cruised to a 1-16 to 0-1 success to set-up a British Junior Final showdown with Scotland.

Scotland were attempting to complete a hat-trick of consecutive British Junior Championship's having won the previous two years, and they accounted for Kilkenny 0-17 to 0-8 in the Semi-Final.

The final was played in Granton Road in Edinburgh and buoyed on by a strong first-half breeze; Kilkenny took advantage and made a strong start.

Michael Bolger kicked three pointed frees to settle early nerves, and a fisted goal by Cormac McDonald in the 18th minute after great build up play to open up a 5 point lead. 1-3 to 0-1.

However, the Scots replied, and three consecutive points late in the first-half left just two points between the sides at the interval

following a low scoring half. 1-3 to 0-4.

With Kilkenny have played into a strong-wind for the second-half, the odds were stacked against them.

However, a superb defensive display stifled the threat of the Scotland attack, as they restricted them to just four points after the restart.

As the match entered the final quarter, it was all square at 1-4 to 0-7, and with the Kilkenny attack struggling to make an impact, it appeared victory was running away from them.

However, the introduction of substitutes Michael Malone and Dan McCormack gave Kilkenny a much needed lease of life, and they gained a stranglehold around the middle third.

Michael Bolger pointed a free to regain the Kilkenny lead, before Paul Donnelly pointed shortly afterwards to double the advantage, before the critical score arrived to kill off the Scotland challenge.

Team Captain Celeb Roche picked up possession and created space through the Scotland defence before setting up Michael Malone who blasted home an unstoppable shot for a truly wonder goal.

Fellow substitute Dan McCormack added another point before a Scotland pointed free concluded the scoring.

The celebrations began in earnest, before attention turned to their All-Ireland Semi-Final clash against Connacht Champions Mayo in late July which was played in Tullamore.

Despite a valiant effort, Mayo won 1-12 to 0-8 and in truth, the Connacht men never looked like losing.

Mayo led by 0-5 to 0-0 after just 15 minutes before Kilkenny got on the scoreboard.

Kilkenny continued to trail by 5 points at the interval 1-6 to 0-4

Christy Walsh's charges improved in the second-half, and only trailed by 4 points with 10 minutes left.

However, Mayo closed out the game with three unanswered points to run out 7 point winners.

Despite the obvious disappointment of losing, Kilkenny did show signs of improvement and take a step forward in their attempt to return to the National League in the not too distant future.

Christy Walsh and the rest of the management team did an excellent job in leaving no stone unturned to get the best out of the squad.

The players themselves deserve immense credit for their dedicated commitment, and there were up to 50 involved at training throughout the year.

The football board had a mammoth task in organising flights and accommodation for matches Cross-Channel, but Chairman Tom Brennan, Vice-Chairman Tommy Duggan and Secretary Tom O'Reilly smoothly managed to negotiate that process, and they had all the team gear transported by ferry before the players arriving.

With the professional approach to training



RAILYARD - COUNTY SF CHAMPIONS 2015 (Photo Willie Dempsey)

Back: David O'Neill, Ronan Walsh, Noel Roche, Eoin Doyle, Paul O'Neill, Brian Cahill, Fergal Brennan, Ger Campion, Michael Delaney, Paul Roche
Middle: Eoin Boran, John Mansfield, Brian McDonald, Noel Rafferty, Kevin Phillips (Capt), David Roche, Cormac McDonald, Paul Donnelly, Paul Kelly, Eddie Roche, Michael Mooney (Trainer)

Front: Conor Delaney, Patrick Brennan, Caleb Roche, Paddy McGonagle, Sean Dowd, Philip Riche, Conor McDonald, Sean Geoghegan. Mascot: Harry Roche.

this year that brought about improved results, Kilkenny can go into 2016 hopeful that they can close the gap further on the top Junior counties and gain another step towards a long awaited return to the National League.

KILKENNY SQUAD: JJ Sullivan (St. Patricks Ballyragget), Kevin O'Brien (O'Loughlin Gaels), Tomas Keogh (James Stephens), Noel Darcy (Muckalee), Stephen Duncan (Danesfort), Paddy McConngley (Railyard), Philip Roche (Railyard), David Lyng (Rower-Inistioge), Bob Aylward (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Caleb Roche (Railyard), David Herity (Kilmaganny), Brian Egan (Dicksboro), Michael Bolger (Graignamanagh), Paul Donnelly (Railyard), Joe Fennelly (Mullinavat), Stephen Murphy (Erins Own), Peter McBride (Young Irelands), Robert Shore (Muckalee), Ger Purcell (Windgap), Cormac McDonald (Railyard), Rob O'Dwyer (Young Irelands), James Nolan (Clara), Conor McDonald (Railyard), Dan McCormack (John Lockes), Ian Kavanagh (Graignamanagh),
Extended Panel: Alan Walsh (Mooncoin), Eoin Mulhearn (O'Loughlin Gaels), James Culleton (Windgap), Paul O'Flynn (Dicksboro), Richard O'Hara (Thomastown), Aidan Mackey (Windgap), Stephen Duggan (Mullinavat), Stephen Ryan (Mullinavat), Padraig Grace (Rower-Inistioge), Michael Duggan (Mullinavat), James Mackey (Windgap), John Cullinane (Thomastown), David Garvey (Glenmore), JJ Grace (Grangenolvin), Declan Grennan (Tullogher-Rosbercon), Graham Lawlor (Railyard), Fionn Lawlor (Muckalee), Ollie Walsh (Muckalee), Patrick Kinsella (Mooncoin),

TEAM MANAGEMENT:

Manager: Christy Walsh, Selectors: Pat

RAILYARD DEFEND SENIOR HONOURS AFTER REPLAY

Football Final again this year, with Railyard defending Champions having come out on top in the corresponding fixture last year to land their first Senior title since 1999.

Railyard progressed to the final having overcome James Stephens 1-14 to 3-5 in the quarter-final before defeating Mooncoin 0-11 to 0-4 in the semi-final.

Muckalee qualified for the final having defeated Conahy Shamrocks 3-8 to 1-6 in the quarter-final before they easily defeated Glenmore 3-11 to 0-6 in the semi-final.

The County Final itself was low scoring encounter played on the first Saturday evening in July with the matching ending all square at Railyard 1-5 Muckalee 0-8.

A Celeb Roche shot from a long range free was spilled by the Muckalee goalkeeper and went over the goalline to give them a two point lead in the 40th minute. 1-5 to 0-6.

However, Colin McGrath kicked two pointed frees in the last 5 minutes to force a replay. The replay was a thrilling encounter.

A Paul Donnelly goal just before half-time gave the victors a 1-5 to 0-4 lead at the interval.

This was followed by a Celeb Roche goal early in the second-half put Railyard in a commanding position.

However, Muckalee dug deep and a Colin McGrath goal from a penalty in the 47th minute left just the minimum between the teams.

Buoyed on by that goal, Muckalee kicked two points in quick succession to snatch the lead,

but Railyard displayed character in abundance to respond to the setback, and three unanswered points in the closing 10 minutes restored the lead to which they would hang onto and defend their crown.

At time of writing the football league final between Railyard and Mooncoin is still to be played

RAILYARD: John Mansfield, Eoin Boran, Eddie Roche, David Roche, Conor McDonald, Paddy McGonagle, Paul Kelly, Cormac McDonald, Kevin Philips (captain), Noel Rafferty, Paul Donnelly, Philip Roche, Ronan Walsh, Celeb Roche, Sean Dowd, Eoghan Doyle, Paul Roche, Pa Brennan, David O'Neill, Noel Roche, Fergal Brennan, Ger Campion, Michael Delaney, Paul O'Neill, Brian Cahill, Brian McDonald, Sean Geoghegan, Conor Delaney, Gearoid O'Neill, Kevin Delaney, Kieran Whelan, Darren Purcell

MANAGER: Michael Mooney, Selectors: Michael Dowd, Jimmy Roche,

MUCKALEE: Stephen Murphy, Aidan Murphy, Ollie Walsh, Noel Darcy, James Maher, Paddy Nolan, Mick Morrissey, Paul Maher, Brian Byrne, Tom Morrissey, John Maher, Shane Coonan, Colin McGrath(captain), Eoin McGrath, Robert Shore,

MANAGER: Tom Cullen, Martin Dowd, Larry Maher.

DANESFORT WIN INTERMEDIATE TITLE

The Intermediate Final the last weekend in April was contested between Danesfort and Dicksboro.

The two Quarter-Finals game in the competition saw Dicksboro defeat Piltown 2-11 to 3-3, while Danesfort defeated Rower-Inistioge 2-11 to 4-4.

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Seamus Grace and Charlie Carter from TOP Oil Kilkenny, renewing their sponsorship of the Cumann na mBunscoil to Secretary, Jim Fennelly in Nowlan Park,
also pictured are Brian McDonald and Ben Corcoran.
Eoin Hennessy



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MUCKALEE - COUNTY SF FINALISTS 2015 (Photo Willie Dempsey)

Back: Shane Dowling, Brandon Sheehan, Noel Darcy, Tom Morrissey Aidan Egan, Luke Maher, Shane Coonan, Eugene Maher.
Middle: Eoin McGrath, Jason Shore, John Maher, Bryan Byrne, Damien Egan, Michael Morrissey, Fionn Lalor, John Coonan, Martin Dowling, Conor Kinsella.
Front: Robert Shore, Oliver Walsh, Stephen Murphy, Joseph Maher, Colin McGrath, James Maher, Aidan Murphy, Shane Egan, John Mulhall.

The Semi-Finals proved to be thrilling encounters.

Danesfort edged Blacks and Whites by a solitary point 1-9 to 1-8, while Dicksboro overcame Erins Own 3-5 to 1-9.

The final saw Danesfort take control early on and they led 0-6 to 0-1 at interval, before stretching the lead out further to 0-8 to 0-1 early in the second-half.

However, a Daragh Holohan goal in the 45th minute gave the Boro a much needed lease of life and they narrowed the gap to a solitary point.

Dicksboro tried all they could to get the all-important equaliser, but the Danesfort defence held firm as they grinded out a deserved victory.

The Intermediate League Final played in February saw Erins Own defeat Blacks and Whites 2-5 to 2-3.

GRAIGNAMAGH SECURE JUNIOR CROWN

The competition began on the end of February with the quarter-finals, and John Lockes defeated Tullogher-Rosbercon 2-14 to 0-6, Graignamanagh defeated Windgap 1-10 to 0-5, Young Irelands overcame Kilmacow 0-10 to 1-5, while Railyard easily defeated Graigue-Ballycallan.

The semi-finals played St. Patricks weekend saw Railyard defeat Young Irelands 2-11 to 1-8, while Graignamanagh were too strong for John Lockes as they won out 3-9 to 0-3. The final was contested between Graignamanagh and Railyard and the Graig men established a lead from the outset, and they would never surrender.

Graignamanagh led 0-4 to 0-1 at half-time in a very low scoring game.

They added another point early in the second-half, but a Railyard goal left the game in the melting pot.

However, Graignamanagh replied shortly afterwards with the clinching goal that secured victory to win 1-6 to 1-4.



Tom Brennan (Chairman) presents Railyard Captain Kevin Phillips with the SF Trophy.
(Willie Dempsey)



Action from the Kilkenny Mayo game. (Willie Dempsey)



GRAIGNAMANAGH - COUNTY JF CHAMPIONS 2015 (Photo Willie Dempsey)

Back: Eddie Dowling, Alan Foley(Sel) Hughie Flood, Kevin Cushen, James Meaney, Ronan Dowling, Sean Cahill, Adam Kennedy, Sean Ryan, Sean Dowling, Michael Bolger, Padraig Whelan, James Cahill Frank Manogue (Trainer)

Front: Ken Walsh, Thomas O'Donnell, Terry Dreelan, Kevin Canning, James Doyle, Neal Jordan, Ian Kavanagh(Capt), Seamus Kavanagh, Dane Flood, Cathal Roche, Tommy Dowling (Mascot,) Ger Dowling (Selector).



DANESFORT - COUNTY IF CHAMPIONS 2015 (Photo Willie Dempsey)

Back: Liam Dowling, Rob O'Keefe, Jim Phelan, Tony Woodcock, Davy Forristal, Ronan Leahy, Thomas Rossiter, Ben O'Connor, Paddy Hickey, Cillian Treacy, Stephen Duncan, Darren Booth, Paddy Hogan, Tommy Ryan, Cian Mulally, Michael O'Neill, Maurice Woodcock, Jack Bruton, James Tynan, Robbie Walsh, Jim Mc Grath, Dick Mahony, Ted Walsh.

Front: Gavin O'Keefe, Cathal O'Neill, Michael Moylan, Oisin Daly, James Cunningham, Frank Minogue, Colm Phelan, Gary Tynan, Paul Murphy, Conor O'Neill.

"YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT TILL IT'S GONE..."

by Enda McEvoy (*Irish Examiner*)



Members of the Mullinavat Intermediate team visiting Fr. Tommy following their victory over Clara in 2001.

Irrespective of whether you enjoyed it or not, irrespective even of whether you've read it or not, one thing about The Godfather of Modern Hurling is irrefutable: it came out only just in time.

The book was launched in late June 2012. In the course of the next year and a half no fewer than eight people I'd interviewed during the research process passed to their eternal reward. Among them were Paddy Buggy, Tom Walsh and Mickey Walsh from Kilkenny's 1957 All Ireland-winning team, the first to be coached to MacCarthy Cup glory by Fr Tommy Maher; Frankie Walsh, an opponent of theirs that day and Waterford's victorious captain two years later; Pa Dillon; Paddy Downey, the former gaelic games correspondent of *The Irish Times*; and Kevin Heffernan. Yes, that Kevin Heffernan, who'd hurled for Dublin against Kilkenny in the 1957 Leinster semi-final.

Not all the material that emerged from the conversations was directly relevant to Fr Maher, but all the interviews found their way into the final product in some shape or form. Paddy Buggy admitted that he could never get the hang of handpassing the sliotar, a gambit pioneered by Fr Maher as a handy way of creating space, and preferred to move back a couple of steps or move to the side in order to make room for himself to swing. Tom Walsh was astonished to be advised by the coach – or, rather, 'trainer' as Fr Maher was known; 'coach' carried overtones of foreign codes and professionalism – to go home and work on his left against a gable end or the wall of a ball alley ("there was never anyone to tell you anything, you just went out and hurled"). Kevin Heffernan, who in the course of a brief but intriguing phone interview gave the distinct impression he was delighted to be quizzed on a subject that *wasn't* the Dublin football team of the 1970s – recalled his joust with Walsh in that far-off provincial semi-final. Little bits and pieces, all of them, but the kind of little bits and pieces that contribute to a bigger whole. The kind of little bits and

pieces that would never have seen the light of day had Eddie Keher not – rightly – nagged me into the submission of undertaking The Godfather of Modern Hurling. The kind of little bits and pieces that in other GAA contexts have been lost forever.

The story of the GAA isn't only the story of players and games, in much the same way that history isn't only the story of kings and queens. The most purely enjoyable article I read about gaelic games this past year was Daragh Ó Conchuir's interview in the *Irish Examiner* with Wicklow GAA stalwart and journalist Peter Keogh. (Google it. It'll repay your time and attention.) Peter has been attending county convention in Wicklow since 1954. He's been club delegate, district board secretary, county chairman, PRO, the lot. Hale and hearty in his mid-80s, he still covers matches for the Wicklow People. He likes his gaelic football but he loves his hurling, and part of the reason he loves his hurling is Kilkenny and the 1947 All Ireland final. Now read on...



Peter Keogh

In the mid-1940s the young Peter Keogh was a gardener's apprentice and general dogsbody at home in Wicklow. He wasn't choosy about his job title because he was earning a few bob, which in turn meant he could afford his first bicycle. "In that time," he recalled in the interview, "you had to order them and wait. My name was down a couple of years but it finally arrived in the summer of 1947. My brother Jack got one at the same time.

"We had cousins in Dublin who we used to visit and then go to the odd All Ireland football final. So when we got the bicycles, we said we'd book the All Ireland straight away. It was to show the new bicycles to the city cousins as much as anything. Everything was set until somebody told us there was no All Ireland. We couldn't believe

nals ever. The young Keogh's impressions of it all?

"I could not believe what I was looking at. I could see nothing at the beginning until I stopped looking for the ball and looked at the direction lads were running in. And I got into it. I'd never seen anything like it in my life and I was a hurling fanatic from that day until this. I still believe that there is no game like hurling."

Nice one, eh? A very small slice of GAA lore and nothing more, of course, but one well worth recording and one that would never have seen newsprint had it not been for the Irish Examiner interview. Memories have to be recorded for posterity. Too late is not only too late but lost forever.

An example. Paul Fitzpatrick, the sports editor of the Anglo Celt newspaper, wrote a book called *The Fairytale in New York* a couple of years ago. It's an account, mostly from the Cavan angle, of the 1947 All Ireland football final in the Polo Grounds, the one referred to in passing by Peter Keogh. It is an amazing story and Fitzpatrick tells it with energy and style. Thing is, Paul Fitzpatrick is 30 years old and this was a book that should have been written ages ago, when the survivors of the Polo Grounds were still knocking around Cavan with their memories to impart.

Curse those scribes and wannabe – but never-were – scribes of decades past who fell asleep on the job. (Not all of them, of course. Raymond Smith deserves a monument.) Curse the not-Paul Fitzpatricks of the 1970s who didn't think of or didn't bother to research and write *The Fairytale in New York* there and then. Curse the other scribes of the same era who never thought of tracking down the survivors of that most seminal of All Ireland hurling finals, the three-parter of 1931, and preserving their recollections for posterity.

I know I've banged on about this before. Still, once more with feeling. The 1931 hurling decider was a turning point in the history and fortunes of the GAA and the beginning of serious media coverage of gaelic games, the moment hurling found its place in the national consciousness. It was a three-act thriller with a cast of thousands that included the Prince of Hurlers, plenty of stout Blackrock men, High Court judges and swooning lady journalists. There was never anything like it before and there's never been anything like it since. Two draws, two replays, endless drama and an aggregate attendance of 92,000 people who paid nearly £8,000 in gate receipts, both unimaginable figures at the time. What a book that would have been! And exactly who did break Lory Meagher's ribs the second day while we're at it...?

The fault is probably an institutional one. The GAA have been so busy organising and running their games for so long that taking an active hand in recording them was an afterthought. They weren't proactive in that regard, which is why numerous individuals have taken it upon themselves to step into the breach over the years. Locally we've had Dermot Kavanagh with his biography of Ollie Walsh, history of Kilkenny hurling finals and story of the men in the striped number three jersey. Jim Walsh from Slieverue penned a biography of James Nowlan, he of Nowlan Park fame. And longtime city resident and O'Loughlins loyalist Jim Fogarty, a native of Roscrea, has done the Association plenty of service with his history of Tipperary county finals and, latterly, The Cross of Cashel, his opus on All Ireland under-21 hurling finals since the establishment of the competition.

Point is, it shouldn't have been left up to Jim et al to undertake such ventures off their own bat. These are the GAA's games, the GAA's records, the GAA's statistics. As such, it's up to the GAA to take ownership of them. For the record, Croke Park does house a library of gaelic games books and the GAA does employ an archivist. One trusts that if and when a Kilkenny GAA museum is eventually established it will include a well stocked reading room.



Captains Lory Meagher and Eudie Coughlin before first game in 1931 All Ireland Final

again, and while you're at it find a knowledgeable fact-checker to proof the manuscript and save you from errors entirely of your own making. I have my own cautionary tale in this regard.

Someone I spoke to for *The Godfather of Modern Hurling* mentioned how Fr Tommy Maher, as a young curate in Crumlin in Dublin, cycled over to Croke Park for the 1950 All Ireland final, arriving just at the end of the minor match, "in which Dublin caused a sensation by beating Tipperary". Now I knew perfectly well when I was writing the book, and I still know, that Kilkenny won the 1950 All Ireland minor title. I even know, and have known for many years because he lived just down the road from the McEvoy's of the Hebron Road, that Paddy Johnston was the hero of the hour. Yet somehow I suspended my critical faculties, took my interviewee at their word, didn't bother to double-check - and ended up with Dublin as 1950 minor champions. Bí curamach.

I'll stop now. But just before I do, what's the next great Kilkenny hurling story to be told? And who's going to tell it



Monsignor Tommy Maher (1922 - March 2015)
As trainer and coach of the Kilkenny senior team for over twenty years he guided the team to seven All-Ireland titles, fourteen Leinster titles and three National Hurling League titles. Fr Maher also enjoyed much success at club level with Mullinavat and at colleges' level with St. Kieran's College.
Beidh cuimhne go deo air. Solas Síoraí dó.

At a local level there's endless scope for imagination. Has every club in Kilkenny published their own history? If not, why not? The 150th anniversary of the GAA will be celebrated in 19 years' time. The moment to get cracking is now, not in 2032. Just think of all the great club men and women who won't be around then and who will have taken their memories with them. By a not dissimilar token, county titles should be marked with a souvenir booklet. St Patrick's of Ballyragget did this brilliantly a couple of years back to commemorate their Kilkenny, Leinster and All Ireland junior triumphs.

While I'm at it, a word of advice for anyone undertaking a book in the near or distant future. Do not trust former players and their recollections, not when it comes to the details of matches from the long ago. They mean well but they are frequently incorrect. It's only natural. Time rushes by. Memories fade. Matches blur into each other. Check, double-check and check again, and while you're at it find a knowledgeable fact-checker to proof the manuscript and save you from errors entirely of your own making. I have my own cautionary tale in this regard.

CLAUS DUNNE R.I.P.

Claus Dunne from Mooncoin, who died in March of this year, was one of the outstanding hurlers of the 1960's and 70's. Possessing great speed, skill and a powerful shot, he had that ability to do something out of the ordinary in a match that would excite spectators and turn the game in his team's favour. During his career he won senior championship honours with his club and won National League, Leinster, and All Ireland medals with Kilkenny as well as Railway cup honours with Leinster.

Claus was born in the village of Mooncoin in September 1945. He attended the local boys' national school and it was there that he first displayed the talent that had many predicting that he would eventually become a star. At that time and for many years afterwards, the Primary Schools Board had responsibility for the under fourteen championship in the county, and so it was with the Parish school team that he won back to back championships – the second one as team captain. He was a member of the club's under sixteen for the following two years and played in the 1961 county final in that grade.

At seventeen he turned his attention to soccer and with rule 27, otherwise known as the 'Ban', in vogue at the time he was denied the opportunity to play minor hurling. Unsurprisingly, he also excelled in that sport and was subsequently chosen to play on the Waterford League of Ireland team.

He returned to hurling a couple of years later and played his first senior championship game for Mooncoin against Bennetsbridge in the 1964 championship, and although this game ended in a heart-breaking defeat courtesy of a last minute goal, such was his display that day that he was immediately called into the County panel.

The following year 1965 would prove to be a special one for him with the Club and while still not twenty one years old he played a leading role in all of the team's victories in that championship campaign in which they ended the club's twenty nine year wait for a twelfth senior county title. Adding further lustre to that success was the fact that in the final they defeated the defending champions Bennetsbridge who had knocked them out of the championship the previous year and who were the dominant team in the county at that time.

After the victory in the county final and, with the National League commencing in October back then, he was chosen to play at right half forward on the Kilkenny team that went on to win 1965/66 National League title, defeating Tipperary in the Final. In 1966 also he won the first of his three Leinster championship medals as a member of the Kilkenny team that defeated Wexford in that

year's provincial final. The same year he also played in the first of four All Ireland finals which unfortunately ended in a disappointing defeat by Cork.

In 1967 he was chosen to play on the Leinster team that defeated Munster in the Railway Cup final which was played in Croke Park on Saint Patrick's Day and that victory would prove to be a precursor to greater achievements later that year as he subsequently lined out on the Kilkenny team that defeated Wexford in the Leinster final before going on to win his first All-Ireland medal as a member of the team that defeated Tipperary in the All-Ireland final. That victory is remembered with special affection by all Kilkenny followers as it ended a forty five year hoodoo against our nearest neighbours. In 1969 he won a third Leinster medal and collected a second All Ireland medal when he lined out in the half forward line on the Kilkenny team that defeated Cork in that year's All Ireland Final. He made his last appearance for the county in the losing All Ireland final against Limerick in 1973 a game in which he was the team's leading scorer.

Claus excelled at Gaelic football also and won a junior championship medal with Mooncoin and a senior championship medal with Saint Kieran's which was a joint Mooncoin/Kilmacow combination and he lined out with Kilkenny in both the National Football league and Leinster Junior championship on numerous occasions.

Despite his sporting achievements Claus never sought the limelight for himself and remained the same quiet-spoken and unassuming person that he always was throughout his life. His love of hurling continued in the years after he retired from playing and he regularly attended both club and county games up to the time of his illness. The last game that he attended was the drawn All Ireland Final of 2014 against Tipperary and although forced to watch the replay at home on television he thoroughly enjoyed Kilkenny's victory.

His untimely passing after a relatively brief illness was a cause of great sadness to all who knew him and in particular to Mooncoin and Kilkenny hurling followers. The huge attendance at his removal and funeral Mass, which included many of his former club and county playing colleagues, reflected the level of esteem in which he was held by all.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Lilian, his sons Liam and Paul, his daughters Claire and Laura, his sister Irene, his grandchildren and the extended Dunne family.

*Ar Dheis Dé gurbh raibh a
anam dílis*



Kilkenny - All Ireland SH Champions 1967 - Claus Dunne 3rd from left, back row.

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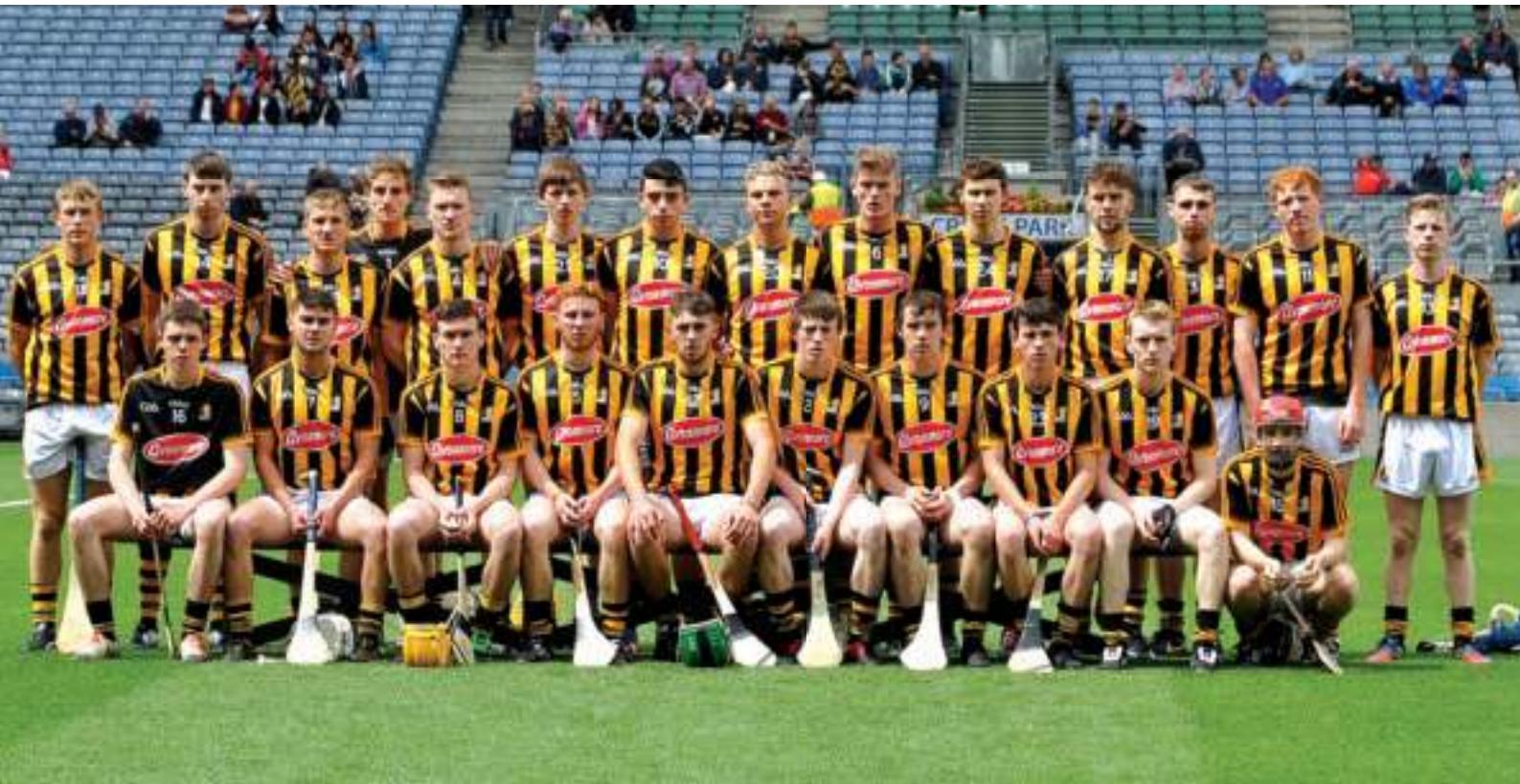
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A Very Fine Line...

Inter - County MH Report by Kieran Cuddihy



Kilkenny - Leinster MH Champions 2015

Back: Ryan Bergin, Joe Cuddihy, Bill Sheehan, Shane Murphy, Cathal McGrath, Conor Hennessy, Andrew Gaffney, Ross Butler, Darragh Joyce, Ronan Coffey, Mark Drennan, Tommy Walsh, John Donnelly, Tadgh O'Dwyer.
Front: Liam Dunphy, Conor Doheny, Richie Leahy, Darren Mullan, Daniel O'Connor (Capt), Michael Cody, Joe Connolly, James Bergin, Edmund Bergin, Niall Walsh

"I guess the players learned the hard way that there really is a very fine line between winning and losing". So says Kilkenny minor hurling manager Pat Hoban looking back on 2015. It might have been very different. It so very nearly was.

The campaign to retain the Irish Press Cup began on the 25th of April down in Wexford Park. Cold and wet conditions were always going to make their first outing a tight affair and so it proved to be.

Playing into a strong wind in the first half meant Kilkenny went into the dressing room four points down. However, a goal immediately after the restart for Wexford put seven points between the sides. Consistent free taking from Andrew Gaffney kept Kilkenny in touch but they were still four points in arrears entering the final ten minutes.

Gaffney was proving himself to be the decisive player when a goal with eight minutes to go, followed by a difficult free brought the game to extra time. Three points from play in the extra period from Daniel O'Connor was enough to ensure

victory by the slimmest of margins. Kilkenny 1-18 Wexford 1-17. Victory over Wexford meant an almost two month wait before Kilkenny next played. This time the venue was Nowlan Park with



*Kilkenny Minor Hurling captain, Daniel O'Connor, with the cup after the Leinster Final in Croke Park.
(Eoin Hennessy)*

Laois in opposition.

Goals on either side of half time from Andy Gaffney and John Donnelly meant that Kilkenny were rarely under pressure from the O'Moore county.

Laois actually started off the brighter of the two sides with points from Mark Kavanagh and Aaron Dunphy. However 1-6 without reply from Kilkenny effectively ended the game as a contest.

Despite playing with a strong wind in the second half, Laois never looked like fully closing the gap and Donnelly's 36th minute goal put ten points between the sides.

The final score of 2-18 to 0-11 meant that Kilkenny could look forward to a third Leinster final in a row against Dublin.

That game took place two weeks later in Croke Park. Nine points had been the difference between the teams 12 months previously. This year it would prove to be a much tighter affair.

Matthew Oliver and Andy Gaffney traded frees in the opening minutes before Joey Cuddihy's piercing crossfield ball was collected by Tadhg O'Dwyer, who dispatched it to the Dublin net. However when it looked like Kilkenny might begin to pull clear, Dublin stayed in touch through

the free-taking of Na Fianna's Matthew Oliver.

The Cats went in 1-7 to 0-8 in front at the interval.

Dublin experienced the dream start to the second half. After only seconds, substitute Alex Considine pounced for a goal. A series of points followed for the Boys in Blue meaning that they led 1-13 to 1-10 going into the final quarter.

Four late points for Kilkenny were to prove the winning of the game. Richie Leahy, Daniel O'Connor, Conor Hennessy and Edmund Delaney each taking turns to divide the uprights.

A scoreline of 1-17 to 1-15 enough to ensure a third Leinster minor hurling crown in a row for Pat Hoban's men.

Standing between them and an appearance in Croke Park on All Ireland final day was Galway.

Twice, Kilkenny looked to have the Tribesmen beaten, but twice Galway came back to score goals and level it.

Galway set up with a seventh defender sweeping in front of their full-back line and for spells during the first half, Kilkenny looked incapable of breaking them down.

However a flurry of points, three from Andy Gaffney frees meant that Galway went in at half time only two points up.

Kilkenny then hit five in a row on the resumption of hostilities but Galway were brought level in the 49th minutes when centre-forward Monaghan drilled home a goal.

Points from Richie Leahy and Conor Hennessy looked to have edged it for the defending All Ireland champions but a late Galway point ensured the game would go to extra time.

Kilkenny could hardly have asked for a better start to the first period. Six points in a row helped give them a four point cushion at the break.

But Galway had another comeback in them and Cian Salmon got a crucial flick on the ball to send it to the Kilkenny net. A 10th free from Andy Gaffney meant the game ended Kilkenny 0-26 Galway 2-20.

The teams lined out against each other only seven days later in what proved to be an equally remarkable encounter.

Two goals in the last five minutes would ultimately give Jeffrey Lynskey's Galway side a thrilling two point victory.

Kilkenny were the better side for long periods of the game and despite the fact that they never looked capable of killing off Galway, they held a lead of four points going into the final minutes. Substitute Jack Kenny was sprung from the Galway bench and less than a minute after taking the field, he shot brilliantly to the bottom corner of the net to leave just one in it.

Kilkenny pegged on another point, but an Evan Niland free and a second Galway goal, this time scored by Cian Salmon, meant despair for Pat Hoban and his wards.

Kilkenny had started slowly but recovered to lead by two points at the break, recovering well from that slow start to largely dominate the opening 30 minutes.

Gaffney pointed a '65' after half time to edge Kilkenny three clear but a quick Galway response from Ian O'Brien and Thomas Monaghan cut the gap to the minimum.

The third quarter was dominated by Galway, but Kilkenny however, clung on to their lead with two from Gaffney, one from play. When Kilkenny edged the difference out to four points, it looked like it might be too late for Galway.

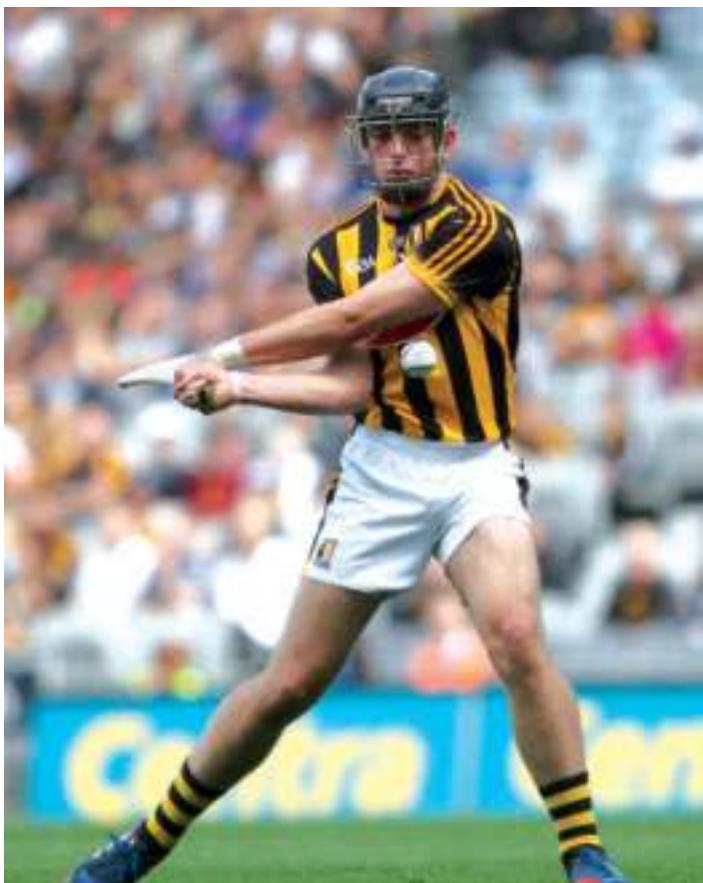
Unfortunately, the introduction of Kenny and Salmon saw the All Ireland title slip from Black and Amber hands.

"We had our chances but were probably guilty of not taking them on both days" says Hoban.

"Which was an awful pity because this group of players had shown such resilience and character to get this far. The first day against Wexford we had to dig very deep to get the win. The Leinster final too was a tough game. The final few minutes and the points we scored showed tremendous resolve."

"On both days against Galway, we put ourselves in a position to win but just couldn't get over the line."

"And at this level, you simply have to take your chances when they come along."



Andy Gaffney (Kilkenny) during the Minor Hurling All-Ireland Semi-Final in Croke Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Richie Leahy (Kilkenny) gets away from Matthew Oliver (Dublin) during the Minor Hurling Leinster Final in Croke Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

SLAIN BY SLANEY MEN AGAIN!

Inter County U21H Report by Seamus Reade



KILKENNY U21H TEAM 2015 (Willie Dempsey)

Back: David Burke (O'Loughlin/Gaels), Huw Lawler (O'Loughlin/Gaels), Ciaran Ryan (Rower/Inistioge), Sean Morrissey (Bennettsbridge)

Middle: Alan Murphy (Glenmore), Kevin Kenny (Dicksboro), Liam Blanchfield (Bennettsbridge), Diarmuid Cody (James Stephens), Brian Troy (Emeralds), Conor Delaney (Erin's Own), Evan Cody (Dicksboro {Captain}), Kevin Blanchfield (Bennettsbridge), James Maher (St. Lachtains), Conor Martin (Emeralds), Mark Mansfield (Mullinavat)

Front: Darren Brennan (St. Lachtains), Tom Phelan (Conahy Shamrocks), Jason Cleere (Bennettsbridge), Chris Bolger (Clara), Liam Hickey (St. Lachtains), Willie Brennan (Fenians), Enda Morrissey (Bennettsbridge), Paddy Deegan (O'Loughlin/Gaels), Ciaran Wallace (Erin's Own)

For the third year in a row Kilkenny's involvement in the Bord Gais Energy under 21 hurling championship ended in a huge disappointment at the hands of Wexford. In hindsight, a somewhat fortunate win over Dublin in the quarter-final followed up by a very nervy win over neighbours Carlow should have had supporters travelling to Wexford more in hope rather than confidence for the Leinster Final. But the manner of the defeat to undoubtedly a fine Wexford side was difficult to understand.

The campaign started brightly enough in early June in Parnell Park.

Bord Gais Energy Leinster Quarter-Final Parnell Park June 2nd Kilkenny 4-12 Dublin 2-16

Kilkenny defeated Dublin after midfielder Mark Mansfield scored a dramatic late winning goal at Parnell Park to secure Kilkenny's Bord Gais Energy Leinster U21 HC semi-final place. The Cats hadn't led in the entire game until Mansfield's 60th minute point effort dropped short and somehow evaded Dublin goalkeeper Sean Brennan. It was tough on Dublin who had led for the majority of the game and who were six clear with 16 minutes to go. But they couldn't hold on as Kilkenny rallied with three goals in the final quarter to ultimately set up a June 24 clash with

Carlow. Kilkenny played second fiddle to Dublin for long spells and shot 15 frustrating wides overall. Dublin raced from the traps early on and were 1-3 to 0-1 up after just 11 minutes. Sean Treacy, brother of county senior star David, grabbed 1-1 of that tally and helped himself to 1-3 in the opening half. But a dozen wides hurt Dublin who led by just 1-8 to 1-6 at the break when it should have been more. Kilkenny points from Mansfield and Conor Martin after the restart tied it up for the first time at 1-8 apiece. Dublin steadied themselves and firstly moved three clear again before doubling that gap with a 44th minute Cian Boland goal. But within seconds Kilkenny had cancelled the goal out thanks to James Maher's goal. And though Dublin led by one approaching full-time, Mansfield's speculative effort would break the hosts' hearts and secure Kilkenny's passage.

Scorers for Dublin: Sean Treacy 1-3, Cian Boland 1-3, Paul Winters 0-5 (2f), O'Rourke 0-2, Fiontan McGibb 0-2, AJ Murphy 0-1 (1sl).

Scorers for Kilkenny: Mark Mansfield 1-2, Conor Martin 0-5 (4f), Chris Bolger 1-1, James Maher 1-1, Ciaran Ryan 1-0, Liam Blanchfield 0-1, Willie Brennan 0-1, Liam Hickey 0-1 (1f).

DUBLIN: Sean Brennan; James Madden, Cian O'Callaghan, Sean McClelland; Eoghan O'Donnell, Shane Barrett, Cian MacGabhann; Paul Winters, Jake Malone; Colm Cronin,

Fiontan McGibb, Cian Boland; Oisin O'Rourke, Sean Treacy, AJ Murphy. Subs: Robert Murphy for MacGabhann (33), Eoin McLaughlin for O'Donnell (36), Colm O'Neill for Murphy (43), Fionn O Riann Broin for Treacy (53).

KILKENNY: Darren Brennan; Conor Delaney, Ciaran Wallace, Evan Cody; Jason Cleere, Diarmuid Cody, Paddy Deegan; Mark Mansfield, Ciaran Ryan; James Maher, Willie Brennan, Liam Blanchfield; Chris Bolger, Conor Martin, Liam Hickey. Subs: Enda Morrissey for Cleere (3-7, blood), Luke Scanlon for Martin (43), Morrissey for D Cody (45), Tom Phelan for Blanchfield (56). Referee: Michael Murtagh (Westmeath).

Semi-Final Netwatch Cullen Park June 24th

Kilkenny 2-14 Carlow 1-12

Carlow produced a magnificent display against the odds but, ultimately, the concession of two-first half goals cost them as Kilkenny sealed their place in the decider. Early goals from Ciaran Ryan and Liam Hickey propelled the Cats into a 2-9 to 0-8 interval advantage and, despite a spirited effort which yielded second-half majors from Peter Shaw and Jack Kavanagh, Carlow couldn't quite get back on terms. Bennettsbridge clubman Jason Cleere raided forward to open the scoring and Conor Martin's free quickly doubled the gap. Full forward Ryan had the ball in

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the back of the Carlow net in the fourth minute and midfielder Paddy Deegan's point ensured the Black & Amber of a 1-3 to 0-2 advantage after eight minutes, with Ted Joyce – with the first of his two first-half scores - and Chris Nolan supplying those early points for the Barrowsiders. A Kevin McDonald free kept the underdogs in touch but the Cats responded with a point from Ryan before bagging their second goal in the twelfth minute through corner forward Hickey. Even though the underdogs replied with another McDonald score, they still trailed by those two goals at the end of the opening quarter, 2-4 to 0-4. Nolan reduced the arrears to five but the visitors hit back immediately through Mullinavat's Mark Mansfield. Martin and James Maher added further Cats points while McDonald helped himself to another brace to leave the two majors still separating the teams with six minutes left in the first half, 2-7 to 0-7. The Cats notched two of the next three points courtesy of Ryan and Martin to lead by seven at the short whistle. Hickey pointed to make it double scores straight after the resumption but Carlow rallied with a goal and a point from Peter Shaw to reduce the arrears to just four points with three minutes played in the second half, 2-10 to 1-9. A Martin free offered the favourites some respite but the resilient hosts replied from a Marty Kavanagh free to remain very much in contention approaching the three-quarters stage. Liam Blanchfield stretched the gap out to five again but – with an appreciative home crowd roaring them on - the hosts replied through Nolan and Kavanagh to trail by just a goal with ten minutes left. Alas, a Martin free provided the insurance point on 55 minutes and Blanchfield made it a five-point match 60 seconds later. Carlow refused to give up and a Jack Kavanagh goal in the second minute of injury time gave them another

tantalising glimmer of hope but they ran out of time and the Cats held on for the narrowest of wins.

Kilkenny - D Brennan; C Delaney, C Wallace, E Cody; J Cleere 0-1, E Morrissey, B Troy; P Deegan 0-1, M Mansfield 0-1; J Maher 0-1, W Brennan, C Martin 0-5; L Hickey 1-1, C Ryan 1-2, L Blanchfield 0-2.

Subs - K Blanchfield for Deegan, L Scanlon for Mansfield, T Phelan for Scanlon, S Morrissey for Ryan.

Carlow - J Barron; M Malone, G Coady, S Whelan; J Murphy, D Wall, M Grady; D Byrne, C Fenlon; M Kavanagh 0-2, K McDonald 0-4, T Joyce 0-2; J Doyle, P Shaw 1-1, C Nolan 0-3.

Subs - J Kavanagh 1-0 for Fenlon, E O'Hara for Doyle, Doyle for McDonald.

Referee: Justin Heffernan

Final – Innovate Wexford Park

July 8th

WEXFORD 4-17 KILKENNY 1-9

A golden display from Man-of-the-Match Conor McDonald, who landed a haul of 1-10 (0-7 frees), led the hosts to a third Bord Gáis Energy Under-21 Leinster hurling title in a row at the expense of old rivals Kilkenny at Innovate Wexford Park.

Wexford's first-half performance was a feat of brilliance. In spite of conceding 1-1 inside the first 30 seconds, they completed a remarkable recovery to lead by ten points just over 20 minutes later. The hosts repaired their defensive blunders in a stunning fashion.

Chris Bolger and Liam Hickey wriggled their way through on a number of occasions but Eoin Conroy, Pádraig Foley and Jack O'Connor were quick to fight back and launch some splendid counter-attacks.

Kilkenny opened with a classic onslaught. Paddy Deegan broke from the throw-in, jinked his way through to find Liam Hickey.

With the Wexford defence in disarray, Hickey fired a low drive to Oliver O'Leary's net after just 13 seconds. Midfielder Willie Brennan added the visitors' first point seconds later.

Although the Cats dominated from the off, flooding Wexford players in pairs, the home side soon got to grips with their physicality and began to outwit them.

All of the visitors' hopes were dashed within between the 17th and 24th minute when Wexford delivered a sucker-punch to their opponents in the form of a trio of goals.

First Pádraig Foley cast a perfect ball to Naomh Éanna attacker McDonald who fired a shot to the Clonard-end net, then McDonald and Andrew Kenny combined with flicks to set up James Cash for a goal and county senior squad member Kenny followed suit with a sweet goal.

Those three fatal strikes contributed to Wexford's halftime lead of 3-8 to 1-4. Cathal Dunbar made his mark on the scoresheet as he raised a green-flag within three minutes of the restart. At the other end, Conor Martin and Seán Morrissey tested Oliver O'Leary on the goal-line, but the Buffers Alley clubman repelled their shots.

Conor McDonald tagged on points to seize the spoils for Wexford as JJ Doyle's men exhibited a vibrant style of hurling. Captain Eoin Conroy was euphoric as he accepted the trophy, which marks a three-in-a-row of provincial titles for the Model county, the first since the three won from 1969 to 1971.

Scorers for Wexford: C McDonald 1-10 (7f), K Foley 0-3, C Dunbar 1-1, J Cash 1-0, A Kenny 1-0 J O'Connor 0-1, Shane Murphy 0-1, S Kenny 0-1

Scorers for Kilkenny: L Hickey 1-0, C Martin 0-3 (3f), L Blanchfield 0-2, W Brennan 0-1, E Cody 0-1, S Morrissey 0-1, C Ryan 0-1



Kilkenny's Conor Martin finds himself surrounded by Wexford defenders in the Leinster Final

(Photo: Willie Dempsey)



Photos
in Hennessy

The Return of the Rice not enough to prevent Tribal victory

Inter County IH Report by Noel Keane



KILKENNY IH TEAM IN TULLAMORE 2015

Back: Michael Moloney B&W, JP Treacy Young Irelands, Paul Holden Young Irelands, Brian Cahill Cloneen, Johnny Hayes Kilmacow, Rory Hickey Lisdowney, Ger Malone Mullinavat, Owen McGrath John Lockes, Luke Horney Kilmacow, Michael Rice Carrickshock, Andy Kearns O'Loughlins, Eoin Doyle Barrow Rangers, Richie O'Neil Kilmacow, Paul Rocket Slierverue
Front: Michael Malone Mullinavat, Niall Doherty Galmoy, Liam Blanchfield Bennesbridge, Eoin Moriarity Emeralds, Sean Phelan Lisdowney, Paurick Gahan Mullinavat (Capt), Shane Donnelly st Lactains, Billy Ryan Graigueballycallan, Kevin Blanchfield Bennesbridge, Kevin Nolan Clara.

On the 1st October 2014 at a Leinster Council meeting in Portlaoise it was agreed to accommodate Galway's Intermediate Team in the 2015 Leinster Intermediate Hurling Championship. The draw took place after the meeting, Galway Intermediates were drawn to play Kilkenny in the Leinster Semi-Final and the winners of this game to play Wexford in the Leinster Final. Kilkenny, after the disappointment of the previous four years, were gunning to win their fourth title. However, with the introduction of Galway into the Leinster championship, winning the Leinster title would be become ever so difficult.

Galway 3-22 Kilkenny 1-17

On 1st July 2015 Galway beat Kilkenny 3-22 to 1-17 at O'Connor Park to set up a Leinster decider with Wexford. Two-time All Star Michael Rice would make a return to the Kilkenny colours. However, his efforts would be in vain as the cats lost out to a smart Galway outfit at O'Connor Park in Tullamore. Rice had been out of action for best part of two years with a career shattering cruciate knee injury, but not even the most ardent of Galway supporters could deny his resilience in getting back to full fitness. And he showed a lot of his old skill in the No 11 shirt which

was reminiscent of the late 2000s and early 2010s, but his side had no answer to the power of the Galway team – who featured a number of Anthony Cunningham's senior squad members – as they booked a Leinster final date with Wexford.

Points from Michael Rice, Johnny Hayes and Rory Hickey, gave Kilkenny 0-3 to 0-2 lead after six minutes. Hayes was on target again in the ninth minute to make it double scores. Ger Malone tagged on the fifth Kilkenny point but Galway responded well and the sides were level after 13 minutes. Despite a point from Liam Blanchfield, the westerners kicked on to lead by 0-8 to 0-6 eighteen minutes in. Defensive lapses cost Kilkenny dearly as the Galway full-forward line helped themselves to three goals in the first half. Conor Whelan's 19th-minute goal put some daylight between the sides for the first time; the Noresiders replied with a second Rice point; but Shane Moloney (a man who would become the deciding factor in the All Ireland Semi Final v Tipperary) added the second Galway three-pointer almost immediately to leave seven between them: 2-8 to 0-7, double scores! Hayes, Hickey ('65') and Rice all pointed as the Black & Amber rallied but all the good work was undone when Whelan

got in for Galway's third major three minutes from the break, 3-10 to 0-10. There was an exchange of points before the short whistle, with Blanchfield hitting his second for the losers. Half Time Galway 3-11 Kilkenny 0-11

All the Cats could do by the midway stage in the second half was pare the nine-point deficit to eight: three points from Hickey and one from Hayes made it 3-14 to 0-15. Niall Doherty added another Kilkenny point but Galway kept the scoreboard ticking over too and the three goals still separated the teams with 13 minutes to go. The Tribesmen never looked troubled from here to the end and Ger Malone's 59th-minute goal for Kilkenny only helped to lessen the margin before the final whistle. Sadly the event failed to inspire the supporters of either side, with an official and paltry attendance of 466 telling its own story.

Full Time Galway 3-22 Kilkenny 1-17
Shane Moloney and Conor Whelan really excelled in this game and they would play a big part in Galway's journey in getting to the All-Ireland Senior final.

Scorers for Galway: Shane Moloney 1-10, Conor Whelan 2-2, Brian Molloy 0-4, Eamon Brannigan 0-3, James Regan 0-1, K McHugo 0-1, E Burke 0-1.

Scorers for Kilkenny: Rory Hickey 0-5 (2f, 2 65) Johnny Hayes 0-4, Ger Malone 1-1, Michael Rice 0-3, Liam Blanchfield 0-2 Niall Doherty 0-1, Michael Maloney 0-1.

The Galway team was as follows: 1. James Skehill - Cappataggle, 2. Colm Flynn - Tommy Larkins, 3. Darragh O'Donoghue - Kilnadeema-Leitrim, 4. Adrian Tuohy - Beagh, 5. Paul Flaherty - Abbeyknockmoy, 6. Darragh Burke - St Thomas', 7. Shane Cooney - St Thomas', 8. Kevin Mc Hugo - Tommy Larkins, 9. Dean Higgins - Castlegar, 10. Eamon Brannigan - Rahoon-Newcastle, 11. James Regan - St Thomas', 12. Eanna Burke - St Thomas', 13. Brian Molloy - Kilnadeema-Leitrim, 14. Conor Whelan - Kinvara, 15. Shane Moloney - Tynagh-Abbey-Duniry.

The Kilkenny panel and management were as follows:

1 Kevin Nolan Clara, 2 Eoin Moriarty- Emeralds, 3 Pauric Gahan - Mullinavat (capt), 4 Sean Phelan - Lisdowney, 5 Andy Kearns - O Loughlin's, 6 Owen McGrath - John Lockes, 7 Luke Harney - Kilmacow, 8 Johnny Hayes -Kilmacow, 9 Kevin Blanchfield - Bennettsbridge, 10 Liam Blanchfield -Bennettsbridge, 11 Michael Rice - Carrickshock, 12 Billy Ryan - Graigue Ballycallan, 13 Ger Malone -Mullinavat, 14 Rory Hickey - Lisdowney, 15 Shane Donnelly -St Lachtain's, 16 Richie O'Neill - Kilmacow, 17 Ciaran Doyle - Barrow Rangers, 18 Niall Doherty -Galmoy, 19 Michael Malone - Mullinavat, 20 J P Treacy - Young Irelands, 21 Michael Moloney - Blacks &Whites, 22 Paul Rockett - Slieverue, 23 Paul Holden - Young Irelands, 24 Brian Cahill -Cloneen.

Manager: Pat O Grady, **Trainer:** Sean Mangan, **Selectors:** Paschal Connolly, Joe Walsh, Willie Blanchfield. **Physio:** Teresa McGinn

Sincere thanks to the team and the management for their efforts during the 2015 season and with Pat O'Grady staying for another year hopefully they can add to their 15 Leinster titles along with the Michael Cusack Cup for a fourth time.

Results from the 2015 All Ireland IH Championship

Leinster Championship

Semi – Final 1st July 2015 - Galway (3-22) Kilkenny (1-17)

Final – 15th July 2015 - Galway (1-20) Wexford (0-11)

Munster Championship

Quarter – Final 24th May 2015 – Limerick (3-14) Clare (2-15)

Semi – Final 7th June 2015 – Cork (0-27) Waterford (1-16)

Semi – Final 21st June 2015 – Limerick (1-23) Tipperary (2-13)

Final – 8th July 2015 – Cork (0-20) Limerick (0-18)

All Ireland Intermediate Hurling Final

Final – 8th August 2015 – Galway (0-23) Cork (0-14)

All Ireland Intermediate Hurling Championship Roll of Honour

Cork (8) 1965, 1997, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2009, 2014

Tipperary (7) 1963, 1966, 1971, 1972, 2000, 2012, 2013

Wexford (4) 1961, 1964, 2005, 2007

Kilkenny (3) 1973, 2008, 2010

Galway (3) 1999, 2002, 2015

London (2) 1967, 1968

Clare (1) 2011

Limerick (1) 1998

Antrim (1) 1970

Kildare (1) 1969

Carlow (1) 1962

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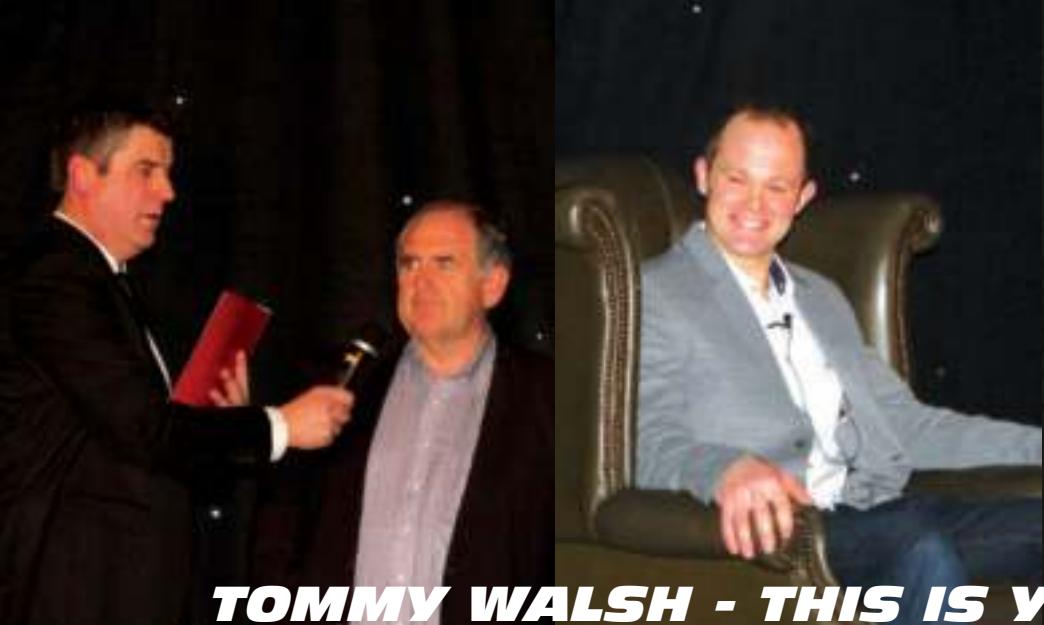
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S

- Fifteen of these babies lined out against Galway in the All Ireland SH Final 2015
Put them in their positions as per the programme.
- Two of them came on as substitutes - Name them and put them at 16 and 17.
 Two didn't play - Name them.

Answers to Barrie Henriques c/o Nowlan Park, Kilkenny by January 10th 2016.
First correct lineout wins a dinner for two in Langtons.



TOMMY WALSH - THIS IS YOUR LIFE!

*Tullaroan GAA Celebration Night Saturday 28th February 2015, Langtons Hotel
(Photos Eoin Hennessy)*



Tommy Walsh holding the 'This is your Life' book with his wife Marlis, son Finn, and daughter Pippa with the host of the evening Michael Duignan.



*Above: Michael Duignan interviewing (left) Tommies brothers, Martin, Padraig, Shane, his sister Grace and uncle Dick Walsh.and (right) Henry Shefflin and Nicky English.
Below Left: Michael interviewing Eoin Larkin, Brian Hogan and Richie Power; Centre: Frankie Walsh with her grandson, Finn; Right: Michael Rice signing the book for Tommy .*



DEVELOPMENT SQUADS



KILKENNY U14 SQUAD - TONY FORRISTAL TOURNAMENT 2015

The Development squads again had a successful year across all grades with in excess of 30 coaches involved in the coaching of the future players whilst the silverware of last year was missing Kilkenny again showed significant promise for the future

After the highs of 2014 the U-14's battled their way to the Tony Forristal Semi Final where a Cork team on the rise proved to be that bit stronger.

The U-14 B's also lost to their Cork counterparts at the semi final stage.

At U-15 level Kilkenny North regained the Michael Foley Trophy after defeating Kilkenny South in the final 1-9 to 0-6.

The U-16's lost out to Cork in the Tipperary Supporters final after a highly encouraging run to the final whilst the U-16 B's lost out in the group stages.

In Cork at the U-17 tournament Kilkenny won the shield final against Clare.



Kevin Foley, son of Michael presents Liam Grant (Captain U15 North) with the trophy after their victory in the Michael Foley Memorial Blitz in Enniscorthy



KILKENNY U16 SQUAD - ARRABAWN TOURNAMENT FINALISTS 2015



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Images of the 2015 Gaelic Games year by the Sportsfile photographers



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KILKENNY NORTH U15 SQUAD - WINNERS OF MICHAEL FOLEY TOURNAMENT IN ENNISCORTHY



KILKENNY SOUTH U15 SQUAD 2015



KILKENNY U17 SQUAD - EUGENE CAREY HURLING TOURNAMENT SHIELD WINNERS MALLOW 2015

Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club

By Jim Freeman, Secretary



Kilkenny Players, Eoin Murphy and Walter Walsh with winning Jockeys and Fashion Contestants at Kilkenny Supporters Club Race Day in Gowran Park.
(Willie Dempsey)

The Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club was founded in 1991 with its main aim to generate income in order to provide the Kilkenny County Board with finance to assist the various Teams who represent the county from the Tony Forrestal under 14 Panel right trough to our County Senior Team. Since our foundation we have provided in excess of €2.5 million euro to assist these various teams.

In addition to this we provide €10k to assist Schools Coaching and Hurley Subsidies on a yearly bases.

We also give financial support to all Clubs and Schools who represent the County in All Ireland Finals in their various grades .

We have also assisted the County Board in the various fundraising projects which they undertake to assist the Senior Panel having reached the All Ireland Final,such as The Corporate Night, The All Ireland Banquet, The Hurlers Holiday Fund Draw, The Race Day at Gowran Park and The Greyhound Race Night at James Park .

In order to generate the income required to finance these projects we undertake the following projects on a yearly bases .

Individual Membership	Cost	€20 euro
Business Membership	Cost	€100 euro
Business Membership Plus	Cost	€200 euro
See Details on Kilkenny GAA Website kilkenneygaa.ie		

Businesses who join this scheme receive 24/7 Advertising on the website which has in access of 25,000 hits per month.

We ask all Kilkenny Supporters to as our slogan says:
"Before You Buy Give Those Who Support Hurling A Try"

We produce and sell a Calendar and Christmas Cards in the years in which our Senior Panel reach the All Ireland Final.

We sell various items such as Jerseys, Tops, Mugs, Flags Etc. from our Supporters Club Wagon.

Or accounts are audited and included in the County Board Accounts at Convention .

We as a County have been enjoying unprecedeted success over the

last 17 years under our wonderful Team Manager Brian Cody and his outstanding Panels of Players and I have no doubt that the income generated by the Supporters Club, thanks to those people who have contributed financially to our many fundraising projects, has played a part in this success .

As I have said on many occasions if every Kilkenny Supporter became a member of the Supporters Club, our County Board would be in a position to finance the various teams, as and when required and at the same time continue the excellent development work which is been carried out at Nowlan Park and at the MW Hire Training Centre at Dunmore to the benefit our teams and supporters .

Continued success on the field of play cannot be guaranteed but Kilkenny Supporters can, by becoming members of the Kilkenny GAA Supporters Club, guarantee that we have the funds available to continue to carry on the work required to give our county every chance to continue the success we have had both on and off the field during the past 17 years.

Supporters who wish to become Members can do so by contacting any committee member or they may also join online on Kilkenny GAA Website or download a membership form from the website and send it to Nowlan Park.

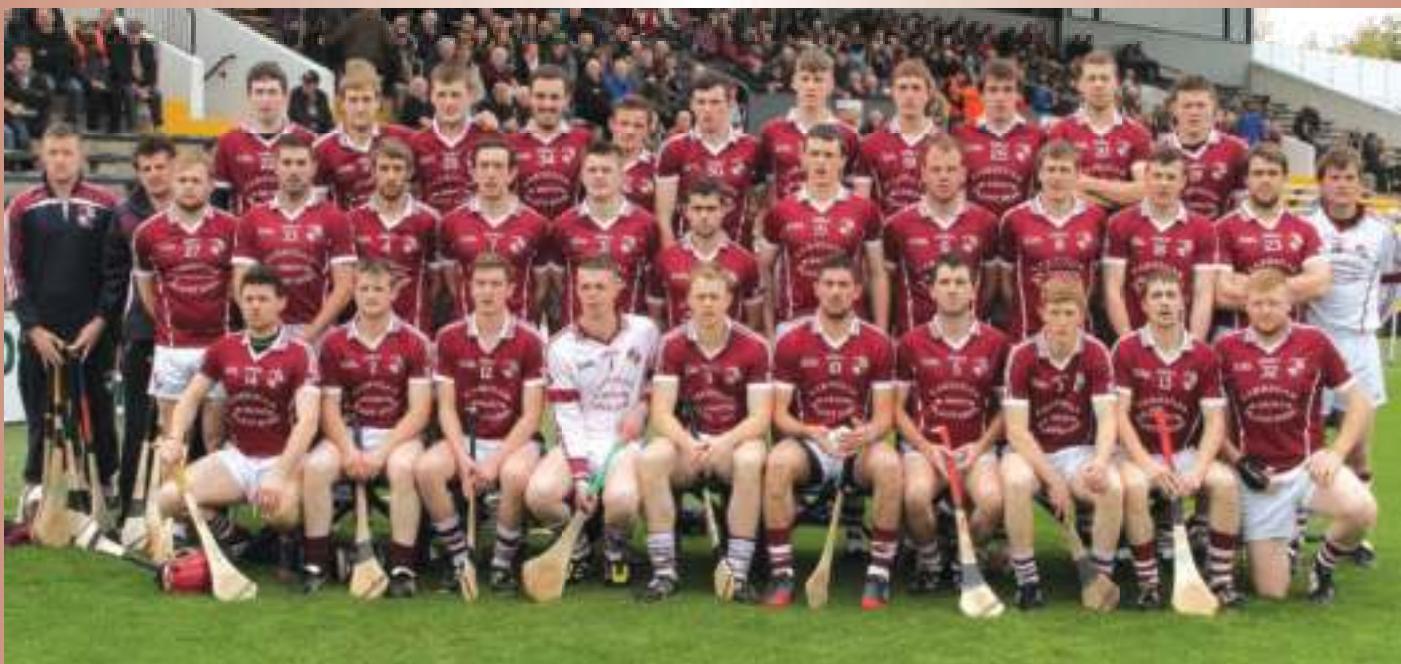
We currently have, in addition to the Branch in Kilkenny, Branches of the Club in Kildare, Northern Ireland and London and also a Dublin Branch who operate independently of the Kilkenny Branch.

Kilkenny People who reside in these areas have an opportunity to not alone play their part in providing the funds required to assist their county but also meet fellow Kilkenny people who reside in these areas.

Finally I would like to once again thank all of you who are members of our club and appeal to those of you who have not done so to become members at a cost of €20 euro – surely a small price to pay to ensure that the County has the finance available to carry on the great work and give Kilkenny every chance of continuing the success which we have had over the last number of years.

EARMARKED FOR SUCCESS

St Canice's Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship 2015 by Tommy Lanigan



CLARA - COUNTY SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2015 (Eoin Hennessy)

Back: James Dowling, Tom Ryan, Jason Barco, Declan Rafter, Patrick Bolger, Paul Murphy, Matt Kenny, Gary Kehoe, Joe Connolly, Steven Quinlan, Ben Nolan.

Middle: Shane Cassin, John Murphy, John Phelan, Lester Ryan, Ciarán Prendergast, Michael McDonald, Kevin Nolan.

Front: Chris Bolger, Dermot Nolan, Jason Byrne, Killian Phelan, Keith Hogan, Conor O'Shea, Neal Prendergast, Jack Langton, Liam Ryan, Brian Prendergast.

Two titles in three years and three consecutive county final appearances is a fair return for this Clara side that has been earmarked for success since they blitzed their way through Cumann na mBunscoileanna and Bord na nÓg competitions since the turn of the millennium.

It is reasonable to suggest they will not be going away any time soon, given their youthful profile. This is the greatest generation of Clara hurlers, though the backbone comes from the old established hurling families. A team devoid of stars, they all display an admirable work ethic and discipline. They play an expansive game, relying on natural speed and excellent long range point shooting. Their only seeming weaknesses this year were a relative scarcity of goals scored, though that is improving, and a propensity to fall back in defence when under pressure. If they harbour hopes of All Ireland club glory, this must change. It had almost calamitous results in the county final as O'Loughlin's were allowed to monopolise possession in their own half in the latter stages.

The county final itself promised much, was well contested throughout, but never roused the collective spirit or ire of a subdued crowd of 7,200 spectators. Clara raced into a six point lead before being hauled back on pointed frees. However the county side was always in control and a second scrambled goal gave them lots of breathing space before the inevitable O'Loughlin's late charge.

Three items of note from the day. It was unusual, though not unique, to see brother marking brother, Keith v. Brian Hogan and the contest could justifiably be declared a draw. Martin Comerford lit up the game with a great performance and led his team from the front, but the warrior of old simply could not put out enough fires.

Poignant, too, the photograph of three strapping Ryans and their mother at the final whistle. A touching moment, remembering Johnny, the powerhouse of an earlier generation and his untimely passing in January.

Earlier in the year the draws for the St. Canice's Credit Union senior hurling league could not have been much more lopsided. The three city teams plus Clara were destined to give considerable grief to Erin's Own and Carrickshock.

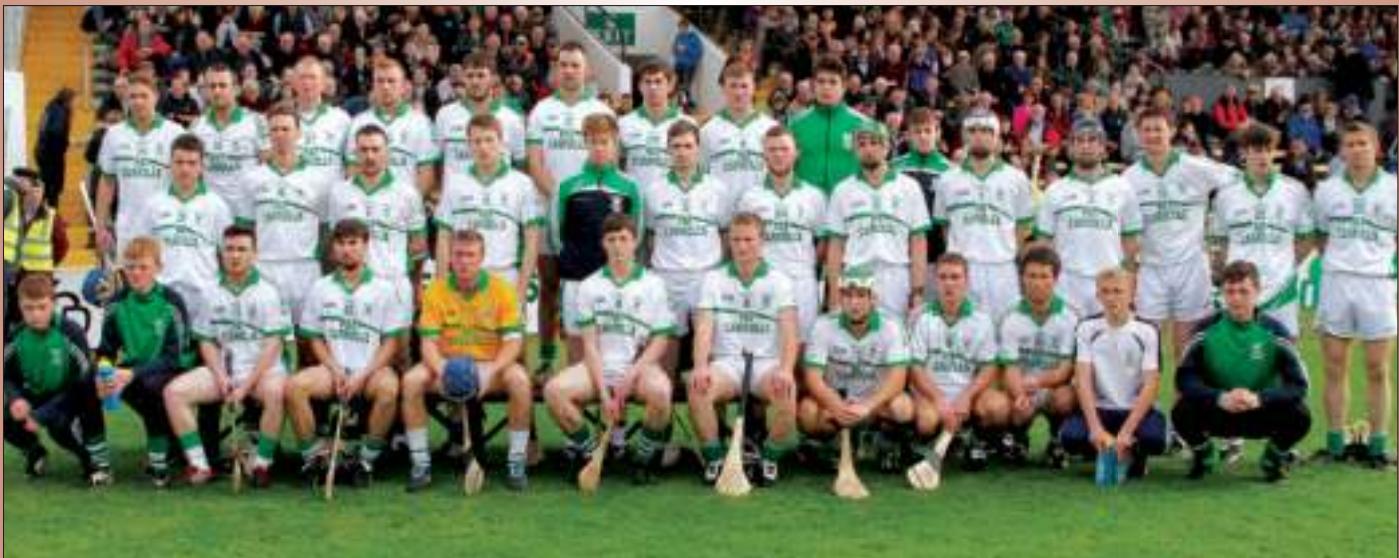
On the other side, reigning All Ireland club champions Ballyhale Shamrocks were expected to saunter through a group of potential strugglers. Newly promoted Mullinavat were not expected to set the world on fire and everybody continued to wonder if perennial relegation candidates Fenians could survive another senior season. Nobody was sure how Rower-



Clara captain Keith Hogan lifts the cup after the Final
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Martin Comerford, O'Loughlin's Captain played some great games. (Willie Dempsey)



O'LOUGHIN GAELS - COUNTY HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS 2015 (Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Danny Loughnane, Conor Bergin, Sheamie Cummins, Fergal Brennan, Daniel O' Connor, Paddy Cantwell, Andy Cantwell, Eddie Kearns, Billy Leydon.
Middle: Johnny Doyle, Brian Hogan, Anthony Forristal, Eoghan Grant, Paddy Butler, Martin Gibbons, Gary Bryan, Mark Kelly, Gary Kelly, Huw Lawlor, Andy Kearns, Martin Comerford (Captain), Shane Parsons, Alan O' Brien.

Front: Sammy Johnston, David Burke, Stephen Murphy, Shane Mahoney, Mark Bergin, Paddy Deegan, Jack Nolan, Niall Bergin, Water Carriers : David Fogarty, Jamie Malone, Mikey Butler, Jamie Young.

Inistioge's second season at senior level would pan out, while Danesfort and St. Martin's were generally seen to be hovering in an uncertain territory near the plughole for Intermediate hurling.

There continues to be admiration for the structure. It is truly competitive. There are no dead rubbers as the league comes to a close since every team has some incentive in winning each game. It keeps the competition truly honest. It would be wonderful if our All Ireland senior championships was organised on the same basis.

In Group A Clara came out on top, despite close calls from Erin's Own and O'Loughlin's. The latter earned a Shield final place with a last game win over the Village. James Stephens were fortunate to defeat Carrickshock and Erin's Own in the early rounds as their form suffered thereafter, a cause of much concern in the Larchfield camp. The Rower topped Group B after draws with Ballyhale and Fenians and good form against Danesfort and St. Martins. They were followed by eager Fenians who posted the surprise of the season in defeating Ballyhale by a single point on the 24th May. They went on to win the Shield against O'Loughlin's who fielded a skeleton selection in the final. The score was 1-18 to 0-17 as Fenians gained some reward for a hard-working early season. Clara gave Rower-Inistioge a lesson in the league final and it was clear they were on a mission to exorcise the poor showing in the 2014 county final.

The surprise packet of the season was Mullinavat who reached the semi-finals thanks to a merited win over Rower-Inistioge. However they were easily disposed of by Clara, but the 'Vat men will be happy with their first year back in senior ranks in over a decade.

Ballyhale Shamrocks failed to measure up against a dogged O'Loughlin's in the other semi-final. One might ask have the years become too much of a burden on their most influential players? The warning sides were there when they were lucky to get past a Village team in the first round, a Village team short the services of Jackie Tyrrell and Eoin Larkin.

The relegation scrap was, as always, morbidly entertaining. Carrickshock had a miserable year, losing Michael Rice and Richie Power through injury and their meagre resources could not withstand the more youthful vigour of St. Martin's. The Muckalee men must improve substantially next year in order to survive because charging into the fray are the Intermediate champions Bennettsbridge who are certain to make a significant impression in 2016. Roll on the Spring.



Tom, Lester and Liam Ryan after the St. Canices (Kilkenny) Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



David Langton (Clara) clears the lines as Mark Kelly (O'Loughlin Gaels) challenges during the St. Canices (Kilkenny) Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

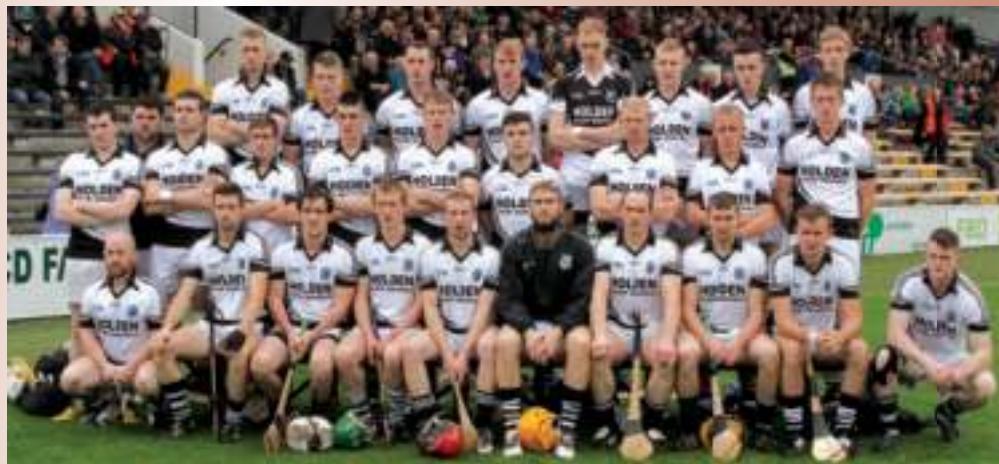
**St Canice's CU SH Championship 2015
Scoreboard**

First Round		
Ballyhale Shamrocks	0-20	
James Stephens	0-18	
Mullinavat	2-16	
Carrickshock	1-13	
Erins Own	0-16	
St. Martin's	0-12	
Dicksboro	1-20	
Danesfort	2-17	
Dicksboro	0-15	
Danesfort	1-8	
Quarter-Finals		
Ballyhale Shamrocks	3-17	
Fenians	0-16	
O'Loughlin Gaels	2-15	
Dicksboro	1-13	
Mullinavat	2-16	
Rower Inistioge	0-12	
Clara	0-12	
Erins Own	1-5	
Semi-Finals		
O'Loughlin Gaels	2-15	
Ballyhale Shamrocks	2-13	
Clara	1-23	
Mullinavat	0-14	
FINAL		
Clara	2-12	
O'Loughlin Gaels	1-13	
RELEGATION FINAL		
St. Martin's	2-13	
Carrickshock	0-13	



BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS - COUNTY INTERMEDIATE HURLING SEMI-FINALISTS 2015 (Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Eoin Knox, Jack Kenneally, Brian Cody, Brian Butler, Joey Cuddihy, Kevin Mullen, Dylan Aylward, Conor Phelan, Bob Aylward.
Middle: Tom Coogan, Alan Cuddihy, Aidan Cummins, Joey Holden, Mark Aylward, TJ Reid, Eoin Reid, Henry Shefflin, Colin Fennelly, Paddy Reid.
Front: Ronan Corcoran, Keith Nolan, Cha Fitzpatrick, Richie Reid, David Hoyne, Padraig Holden, Michael Fennelly, Paul Shefflin, Patrick Mullen.



MULLINAVAT - COUNTY INTERMEDIATE HURLING SEMI-FINALISTS 2015 (Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Joe Fennelly, Jack Byrne Doyle, Nathan Malone, Conor Duggan, Conor Frisby, Ryan Bland, Patrick Murphy, Damien Aylward.
Middle: Brian Phelan, Paddy Jones, Dinny Butler, Darren Kenneally, Robert Malone, Michael Malone, Mikey Jones, Seamus Farrell, Adam Mansfield, Thomas Aylward.
Front: Ciarán Boyle, Simon Aylward, Ian Duggan, Ger Malone, Joe Gahan, James Culleton, Willie O'Dwyer, Padraig Gahan, Mark Mansfield, John Walsh.

THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS TOOK PART IN THE 2015 KILKENNY SH CHAMPIONSHIP

Bennettsbridge Richie Reid, Alan Cuddihy, Joey Holden, Kevin Mullen, Paul Shefflin, Michael Fennelly, Padraig Holden, Bor Aylward, Ronan Corcoran, Colin Fennelly, Aidan Cummins, Henry Shefflin, Brian Cody, Eoin Reid, Mark Aylward, Keith Nolan, T.J. Reid, James Fitzpatrick, David Hoyne.

Carrickshock Jamie Power, James Grace, John Dalton, Niall Tennyson, Darren O' Dwyer, John Tennyson, Damien Walsh, Shane Power, John Cahill, Michael Rice, John Power, Kevin Farrell, Michael Rohan, Richard Power, Brian Donavan, John Murphy, Pat Tennyson, John Butler, Aaron O' Neill.

Clara Killian Phelan, Dermot Nolan, Shane Prendergast, Sean O'Shea, Neal Prendergast, David Langton, Tom Ryan, Lester Ryan, John Murphy, Chris Bolger, Jack Langton, Conor O'Shea, Keith Hogan, Jason Byrne, Ciaran Prendergast, John Phelan, Mick McDonald, Ben Nolan, Joe Connolly.

Danesfort Frank Minogue, Ronan Leahy, Rob O'Keeffe, Paul Murphy, Cathal O'Neill, Phil Walsh, Robert Walsh, Jim Phelan, Colm Phelan, Paddy Hogan, Ben O'Connor, Cillian Treacy, Richie Hogan, Garry Tynan, Jack Bruton, James Mullally, Paddy Hickey, James Cunningham, Connor O'Neill,

Dicksboro Aaron Duggan, Michael Hayes, Even Cody, Philip Hogan, Conor Doheny, Eoin Gough, Robbie Fitzpatrick, Ollie Walsh, Cillian Buckley, Darragh Holohan, Stephen Farrell, Eddie O'Donoghue, Robbie Murphy, Martin Gaffney, Andrew Gaffney, Paul O'Flynn, Enda Malone, David glynn, Kevin Kenny, Bill Sheehan.

Erin's Own Tom Brophy, James Mullins, Ciaran Wallace, Liam Wallace, Gerry Callinan, Conor fogarty, Damien Fogarty, Declan Dunne, Conor Delaney, Robert Moran, Michael Murphy, Aidan Moran, Martin Brennan, Eddie Brennan, Peadar Boran, Peter O' Donavan, Eoghan Maher, Martin Howley, Eoin Brennan.

Fenians P. J. Ryan, Michael Carroll, J.P. Graham, Eoin Phelan, John Henderson, J. J. Delaney, John Broderick, Kieran Graham, Kevin Power, Darraugh Tobin, Conor Tobin, Willie Brennan, Mark Webster, Rory Phelan, Danny Dermody, Cathal Ryan.

James Stephens Derek Brennan, Niall McQuillan, Tomas Keogh, John Comerford, Diarmuid Cody, Jack McGrath, Eamon Sheehy, Niall Mullins, James Tyrrell, Ray Cody, David Walton, Donnacha Cody, Richie Hayes, Eoin McCormack, Matthew McWey, Johnny McEvoy, Tadgh O'Dwyer.

Mullinavat James Culliton, Joe Fennelly, Robert Malone, Simon Aylward, Padraig Gahan, Liam Fennelly, Brian Phelan, Dinny Butler, Mark Mansfield, Ian Duggan, Joe Gahan, Michael Malone, Jamie Fennelly, Willie O' Dwyer, Ger Malone, Adam Mansfield, Michael Jones.

O'Loughlin Gaels Stephen Murphy, Anthony Forristal, Andy Kearns, Eddie Kearns, Hau Lawlor, Brian Hohan, Paddy Deegan, Martin Comerford, Shane Mahony, David Burke, Eoghan Grant, Mark Bergin, Sam Johnston, Danny Loughnane, Alan O'Brien, Jack Nolan, Conor Bergin, Daniel O' Connor.

Rower Inistioge Liam Tierney, Eoin Doyle, Sean Cummins, Shane Ryan, Ruari Galavan, Kieran Joyce, Sean Lester, Richie Leahy, Joe Lyng, Pat Lyng, Tom Murphy, Conor Joyce, Michael Joyce, Ciaran Ryan, Kevin Murphy, John Joe Kenny, Cathal Bolger, Sean Grace.

St. Martin's Colin McGrath, Shane Cadagan, Ollie Walsh, James Maher, Brian Byrne, Patrick Nolan, Michael Morrissey, James Dowling, Thomas Breen, Jason Shore, Eoin McGrath, Brian Mulhall, John Mulhall, John Maher, Robert Shore, Joe Maher.



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Clara captain Keith Hogan is presented with the St. Canices (Kilkenny) Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship cup by Michael O'Reilly, Chairman, St. Canice's (Kilkenny) Credit Union and Ned Quinn, Chairman, Kilkenny County Board. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

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Bennettsbridge Captain, Enda Morrissey is presented with the Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling Championship cup by Michael Lyng, sponsor, Michael Lyng Motors, and Ned Quinn, Chairman, Kilkenny County Board, after the Final Replay in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

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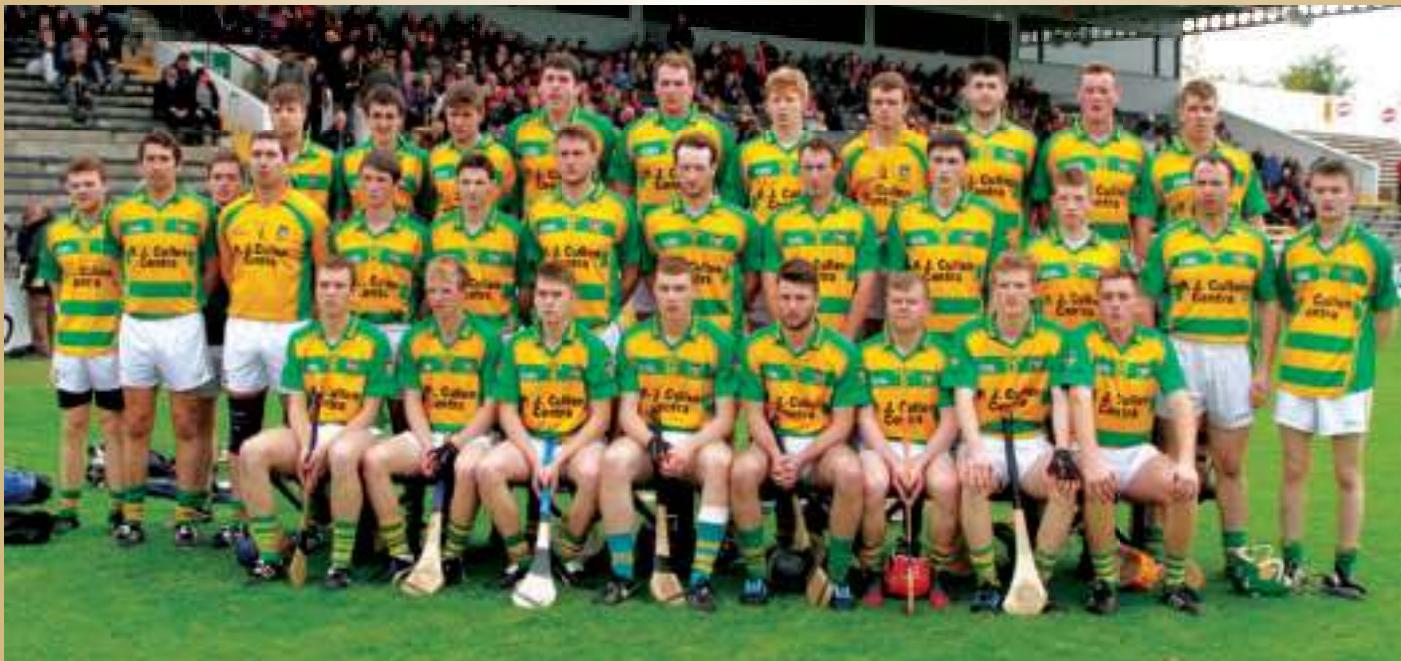
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CREAM CAME TO THE TOP

Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling Championship 2015 by Conor Brennan



BENNETTSBRIDGE - COUNTY INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONS 2015 (Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Dylan Walsh, Joe Murphy, Ronan O'Connor, Maurice Walsh, Patrick O'Neill, Shane Byrne, Ben Tyman, Shane Nolan, Sean Wemyss, Edward Murphy.
Middle: Paul O'Neill, Brian Lannon, Tom Kiley, Enda Cleere, Bill O'Neill, Hugh O'Neill, Robert Lennon, Aidan Cleere, Nicky Cleere, Kevin Blanchfield, Kevin Brennan, James Moran, Luke Dowling.
Front: Micheál Shiel, Enda Morrissey, Cormac Wafer, Liam Blanchfield, Jason Cleere, Darragh Wafer, Sean Morrissey, William Murphy.

They bookended the intermediate season of 2015 with the first and last matches of an intriguing league and a fascinating championship, but the outcome, eventually, was similar. Bennettsbridge and St. Patrick's were the top performers in the grade throughout the season, and it is fair to say that little separated the sides on every occasion. But when it mattered most, the reigning county junior and All-Ireland junior champions proved that their future shines brighter than all others in capturing another title and a potential return to further days of glory not seen in Bennettsbridge since the 1960's. The players and supporters will surely be brimming with optimism at the prospect of this, such is the momentum they have now built up.

And what of their final opponents, who suffered a third final loss in four years. There will surely be a sombre period of reflection in Ballyragget over the remaining months before the 2016 season comes around, but one feels that despite the loss, they can overcome the frustration of falling at the final hurdle with the quality of the players at their disposal. It won't be easy, however, with so many teams of such an even standard potentially in their wake. One could make a case for the prospects of at least half a dozen teams next year, which all in all could make for an unpredictable outcome. It will be interesting, of that there is no doubt!

The league games saw a shield final between St. Lachtain's and Young Irelands and a league final involving Tullaroan and Bennettsbridge. The shield was ultimately won by the Freshford men on a 1-14 to 0-14 score line while Bennettsbridge continued on their winning ways by defeating Tullaroan by 2-20 to 2-15. Meanwhile, the opening round of the championship threw together Tullogher-Rosbercon and Emeralds, Lismore and Conahy Shamrocks, Thomastown and Dunnamaggin, and St. Patrick's and Graigue-Ballycallan.

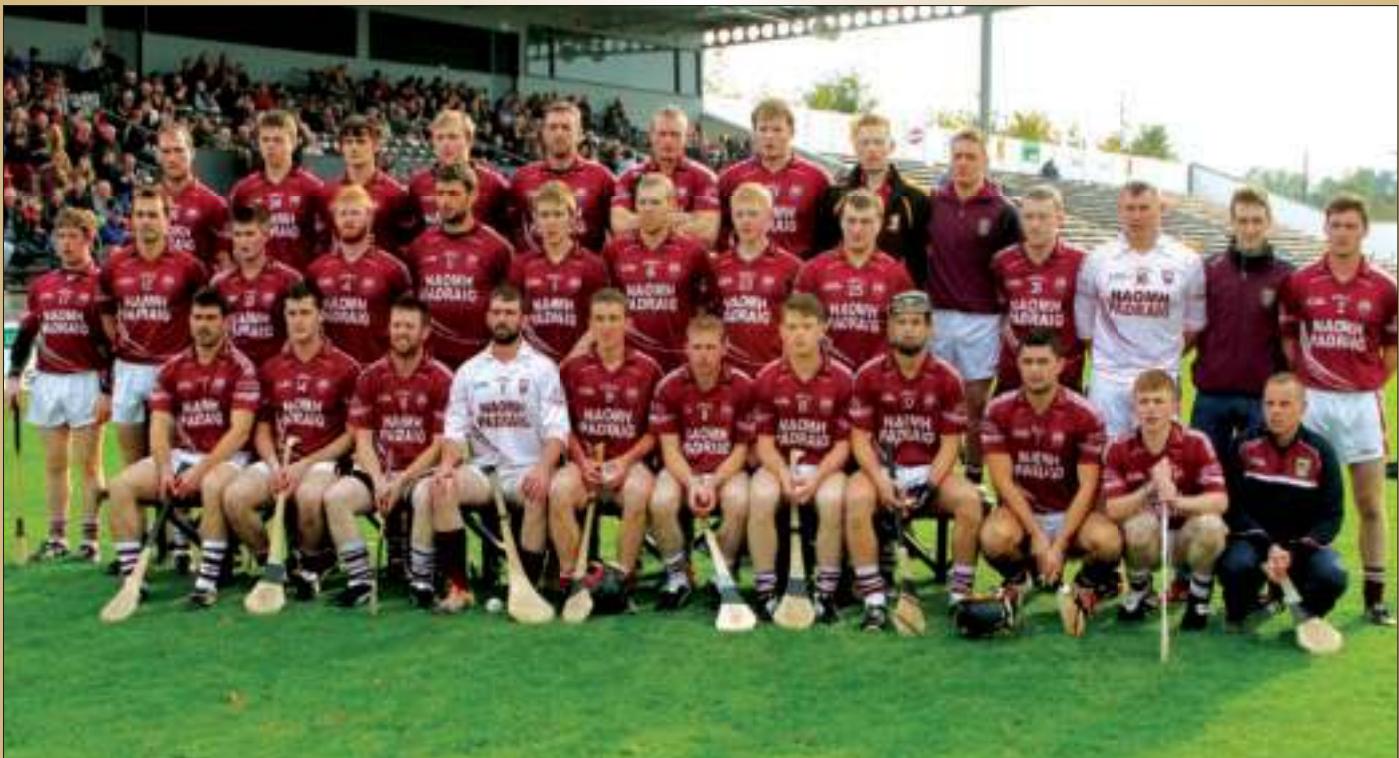
Tullogher-Rosbercon and Emeralds have



Bennettsbridge captain, Enda Morrissey lifts the Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling Championship cup after the Final Replay in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

enjoyed high moments in previous years, but disappointing results in the league meant the loser of this game would face into a relegation final. A goal by Jason Shiely following good work from Walter Walsh set the Southerners up for a 1-8 to 0-9 half-time lead. Though the Urlingford men tried manfully to turn the tide in their favour, mainly through the leadership of Aidan Fogarty, a second goal from Tullogher's Cian O'Donoghue was the killer blow. In the end, the Tullogher men won out by 2-17 to 0-15. Conahy Shamrocks had enjoyed a great start to their league campaign with three victories, but then lost their final two games against Young Irelands and Thomastown to miss of quarter-final qualification. Lismore enjoyed mixed results in the league, though had drawn with Bennettsbridge, the eventual winners. Goals proved to be the difference between the teams on this occasion. Lismore held the ascendancy in this regard, with Ciaran Mackey and Vinny Fitzpatrick scoring opportunist goals to ensure their side led by 2-4 to 0-7 at the interval. Conahy did fight back through a James Bergin goal, but further Lismore goals from Mackey and Michael Kenny meant Lismore continued to stay in front. Though Conahy attempted to salvage something from the game, the second goal they needed didn't come, as Lismore held on to win by 4-8 to 1-15.

Thomastown secured their place in the quarter-finals with their victory over Dunnamaggin. In what was a high-scoring



ST PATRICK'S - COUNTY INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONS 2015 (Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Dermot Brophy, Paddy Brennan, Paddy Gannon, Niall Dowling, Kieran Delaney, Joseph Phelan, Billy Morrissey, Donal Brennan, Paddy Cahill.

Middle: Robert Healy, Kevin Kelly, Alan Ruth, Paddy McEvoy, Seoirse Kenny, Mark Staunton, Sean Mooney, Richie McEvoy, David Kelly, Jack Ryan, Ger Staunton, Barry Staunton, John Mooney.

Front: James Gannon, Eoin Bergin, Conor Delaney, Michael Gannon, Bill Staunton, Brian Phelan, Michael Brennan, Joe Brennan, Geoff Brennan, Oisin Brennan, John Butler.

game, Thomastown led by 1-11 to 0-13 at the interval. The scoring rate continued throughout the second half but it was Thomastown who scored a crucial second goal immediately at the start of the second half to keep their noses further ahead. Despite Dunnamaggin's best efforts, Thomastown held on to win by 2-18 to 0-22. The loss meant Dunnamaggin would face Emeralds in the relegation final. St. Patrick's and Graigue-Ballycallan faced off in the final first round game in Palmerstown. The game was far from a classic but the Ballyragget men were able to advance on a 0-16 to 1-8 score line.

The quarter-final draw pitted St. Patrick's against Young Irelands, Bennettsbridge against Tullogher-Rosbercon, Thomastown facing Tullaroan, and a local derby pairing of Lisdowney and St. Lachtain's. The Ballyragget men made their intentions clear against the Gowran men with a decisive victory by 1-18 to 0-10. With Kevin Kelly, Joe Brennan and Bill Staunton to the fore, they were far too strong for a lacklustre Young Irelands side. Bennettsbridge and Tullogher-Rosbercon faced off in Ballyhale and though the Bridge started well, it was Tullogher who finished the opening half the stronger with a great goal from Edmund Cullinane to leave the score 0-9 to 1-5 in Bennettsbridge's favour. A goal immediately at the start of the second half from Liam Blanchfield gave the Bridge a tonic start but the Southerners once again proved their mettle by reducing the lead to a point later in the half thanks to a Cian O'Donoghue goal. But when Liam

Blanchfield scored his second goal in the final minutes, it was the Bridge who advanced by winning 2-16 to 2-10.

Tullaroan, having dropped down to the intermediate ranks, had slowly but surely found some consistent form throughout the league, and though defeated in the league final, were optimistic for their championship prospects. However, Thomastown clearly did not read from this script, as they produced a fine performance to qualify for the county semi-finals. Tullaroan seemingly had no answer to the swift interplay of the Thomastown men, who had a dream start with an early

goal from Dylan Waugh. It saw Thomastown towards a 1-7 to 0-5 half-time lead. Tullaroan did fight back, however, and managed to leave the deficit to the minimum by the midway point of the half (1-8 to 1-7). However, that was as good as it got for them, as Thomastown showed a real sense of calm to score consecutive points during the final quarter to win in the end by 1-14 to 1-8.

Neighbours Lisdowney and St. Lachtain's faced off in the final quarter-final in Ballyragget. The Freshford men made a bright start to lead by 1-4 to 0-1 after ten minutes. Though Lisdowney did respond



Liam Blanchfield (Bennettsbridge) handpasses the sliotar away as Paddy McEvoy (St. Patrick's) closes in during the Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling Championship Final Replay in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

well to close the gap, the Freshford men, whose ability to score goals was a highlight of their league campaign, scored a second crucial goal through Liam Hickey to ensure a 2-8 to 1-5 lead at half-time. The second half saw the exchanges remain in a state of parity all through, though Lisdowney did their best to reduce the gap. However, St. Lachtain's deservedly advanced to the semi-finals on a 2-15 to 1-12 score line.

The relegation final between Emeralds and Dunnamaggin saw a victory for the southerners by 0-19 to 0-15. With both sides naturally nervous and edgy in their play, the experience

that Dunnamaggin could call on through the likes of Canice & Noel Hickey, Seaghan O'Neill and Kenny Moore was enough to see off the challenge of the Urlingford men. Though Emeralds will be disappointed with a return to the junior grade, they can look to the return of Glenmore, this year's junior champions, as incentive to repeat that feat in 2016.

The opening championship semi-final paired together Bennettsbridge and St. Lachtain's. The early exchanges were

Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling Championship 2015

First Round

Tullogher Rosbercon Emeralds	2-17 0-15	St. Lachtain's Lisdowney	2-15 1-12
Lisdowney Conahy Shamrocks	4-8 1-15	Bennettsbridge St. Lachtain's	Semi-Finals 3-18 2-14
Thomastown Thomastown	2-18 0-22	St. Patrick's Thomastown	2-23 2-13
St. Patrick's Graigue-Ballycallan	0-16 1-8	Dunnamaggin Emeralds	RELEGATION FINAL 0-19 0-15
Quarter-Finals		St. Patrick's Bennettsbridge	FINAL 3-11 0-20
St. Patrick's Young Irelands	1-18 0-10	Bennettsbridge St. Patrick's	Replay 1-16 1-14
Bennettsbridge Tullogher-Rosbercon	2-16 2-10		
Thomastown Tullaroan	2-14 1-8		

even until the Brdge enjoyed good fortune in scoring a second goal just before half-time to lead by 2-10 to 1-7 at the interval. The Freshford did their level best to get back into the game throughout the second half. However, seven minutes from the end, a third Bennettsbridge goal put any thoughts of a genuine St. Lachtain's comeback to bed. Though they did respond with a second goal of their own in the final minute, it was too little, too late as Bennettsbridge advanced to the county final by 3-18 to 2-14. The form of Hugh O'Neill and Liam Blanchfield was central to

to 1-7. The Ballyragget men levelled affairs at 1-10 apiece within three minutes of the second half until Thomastown scored their second goal from Jonjo Farrell. It was score for score until the final quarter when St. Patrick's suddenly found another gear and scored nine points without reply to guarantee them victory by 2-22 to 2-13. Though ultimately the outcome could be seen as somewhat harsh on Thomastown, one could not argue with the class of the likes of Kevin Kelly, Joe and Michael Brennan, and the strength of Seoirse

THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS TOOK PART IN THE 2015 KILKENNY IH CHAMPIONSHIP

Bennettsbridge Enda Cleere, Enda Morrissey, James moran, Cormac Wafer, Jason Cleere, Robert Lennon, Aidan Cleere, Darragh Wafer, Kevin Blanchfield, Hugh O'Neill, Nicky Cleere, Brian Lannon, Sean Morrissey, Liam Blanchfield, Kevin Brennan, Michael Shiel, Edward Murphy William Murphy.

Conahy Shamrocks Paul Buggy ,Nicholas Feehan, Peter Dollard, Philly Cass, Davy Healy, Brian Healy, Kieran Mooney, Alan Healy, Donal Brennan, Edward Delaney, Oliver Feehan, John Mullan, Paddy mullan, Declan Buggy, James Bergin, Shane Brennan, Tom Phelan, Donal Cass.

Dunnamaggin David Herity, Michael Cody, Willie Phelan, Mark Heffernan, Pat Delaney, Noel Hickey, Canice Hickey, Darren Fitzpatrick, Eoghan Kearney, Kenny Moore, Tommy Maher, Seaghan O'Neill, John Fitzpatrick, Kieran Bergin, Roan Coffey, J J Dunphy, Jason Doherty, Mark Dowling.

Graigue Ballycallan P. J. Trant, Darragh Egan, Ger Teehan, Eoin Corcoran, Eamon Egan, James Ryall, Dara Walton, Eddie Brennan, Colum Prenderville, Niall Milea, Shane Butler, Vinny Teehan, Billy Ryan, Michael Ryan, Michael Hoyne, Sean O' Dwyer, Ciaran Hoyne, Bob Murphy, Philip Cahill, Tomas Ryan.

Emeralds Darragh Phelan, Niall O'Gorman, Damien Fitzgerald, Tomas Moriarty, Brian Troy, Padraig Phelan, Patrick Doheny, Shane Norton, Eoin Moriarty, Conor Martin, Francis Clohosey, Jamie Ryan, Cathal Walsh, Aidan Fogarty, Emmett Kavanagh.

Lisdowney Liam Dunphy, Niall O'Hara, Martin Phelan, Niall Mackey, Eoin Walsh, Sean Phelan, Anthony O'Hara, Pat Carroll, Dylan Jordan, Conor O'Carroll, Michael Kenny, Rory Hickey, Eddie Hickey, Vinny Fitzpatrick, Ciaran Mackey, Kevin Sweeney, Aaron Fogarty, Peter Bergin.

St. Lachtain's Darren Brennan, Tommy Flynn, Michael Kavanagh, Michael Cormack, Barry Hughes, Seamus Hayes, Simon Rafter, Brian Kavanagh, Mark Kavanagh, Noel McGree, John Fitzpatrick, David Brennan, James Maher, Liam Hickey, Shane Donnelly, Brendan Quinn, Philip Campion.

St. Patrick's Michael Gannon, John Mooney, James Gannon, Paddy McEvoy, Mark Staunton, Kieran Delaney, Geoff Brennan, Kevin Kelly, Brian Phelan, Conor Delaney, Seorise Kenny, Joe Brennan, Bill Staunton, Mark Staunton, Michael Brennan, Rob Healy, Paddy Cahill, Eoin Bergin Sean Mooney, Barry Staunton, Paddy Gannon.

Thomastown Dylan Walsh, Johnny Barron, Peter O' Hanrahan, David Prendergast, James Burke, Michael Donnelly, Brian Murphy, Dessie Walsh, Barry Whelan, John Donnelly, John Joe Farrell, Darren Burke, Robbie Donnelly, Adrian Burke, Dylan Waugh, Derek Lanigan, Danny Monks, Rob O' Hanrahan.

Tullaroan Richie Butler, Diarmuid Doheny, Eddie Campion, Stephen Dowling, tommy Walsh, Jack Keoghan, Padraig Walsh, Paul Buggy, Martin Walsh, Ken Coogan, Martin Keoghan, Shane Walsh, Shane Hennessy, Mark Walsh, Richie Maher, John Walsh.

Tullogher Rosbercon Martin Roche, Anthony Cottrell, John Hartly, Sean Murray, Moling Murray, Pat Hartly, Donnacha O'Connor, Brendan Lawlor, Walter Walsh, Liam Barron, John Cottrell, Jason Shiely, Conor Hennessy, Edmond Cullinane, Cian O'Donoghue, Terrance Croke, Daire McGrath.

Young Irelands Martin Carey, Niall Walsh, Michael Walsh, Michael Lennon, J.P. Treacy, Emmett Byrne, Ciaran Carroll, J.J. Lennon, Paul Delahunt, Paul Holden, Sean Kehoe, Thomas Carroll, Sean Carey, Dick Carroll, Paul Kehoe, Martin Carter, Geoff Brennan, Chris Nolan, John Morris.

Bennettsbridge's victory, with the two players responsible for scoring 2-3 and 1-2 respectively for their side.

St. Patrick's and Thomastown faced off in the second semi-final, with the Ballyragget men appearing in an Intermediate semi-final for the fourth consecutive year. It was the Thomastown men who held the advantage during the opening half, leading by 1-10

Kenny, which brought Ballyragget through to the county final.

St. Patrick's and Bennettsbridge, based on their previous matches in the lead-up to the final, promised a high scoring affair, and it did not disappoint. The Ballyragget side enjoyed the better start and led by 2-2 to 0-2 at the fifteen minute mark, the goals both coming from the opportunist Michael Brennan. However, Bennettsbridge were able to stay in close proximity to their opponents due mainly to indiscipline in the St. Patrick's defence which was duly punished by the always accurate Nickey Cleere. St. Patrick's still managed to lead at half-time by 2-6 to 0-10 and when Michael Brennan scored his third goal early in the second half, things began to look promising for them. Yet their continuing difficulty with the concession of scorable frees meant that Bennettsbridge still could not be shaken off. In all, Nickey

Cleere managed a remarkable total of 0-16, with fifteen from frees. It was this, amongst other factors, which ensured that both sides would live to fight another day, drawing 3-11 to 0-20.

The replay saw the reverse of the drawn game with Bennettsbridge make the better start thanks to a well-taken goal from Brian Lannon, who showed great leadership on behalf of his side all through the game. St. Patrick's were forced to start without midfielder Brian Phelan due to injury, which was a major blow for the Ballyragget men. But they did fight back well, and indeed managed to take the lead before half-time when full-forward Eoin Bergin claimed a high ball and finished superbly to the net. This left St. Patrick's ahead at the break by 1-10 to 1-8. The second half was an incredibly tense affair, with never more than one point separating the sides until

the final minutes. Despite this, the standard of hurling was never diminished and great credit must go to both teams in the circumstances. It was the frees of Nickey Cleere and Kevin Kelly that both sides depended on mainly for scores and it was the Bennettsbridge man who got the majority of chances, which he unerringly scored to ensure his team a famous victory. In the end, only two points separated the sides, with the Bridge winning by 1-16 to 1-14. Having remained unbeaten throughout 2015 (save one draw during the league), one could not argue that it was not what they duly deserved. To also make the journey from junior to senior ranks into two years is something all associated with Bennettsbridge GAA should surely rank at the greatest achievement in a storied club history.

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Glenmore Captain, Ger Aylward is presented with the J.J. Kavanagh & Sons Junior Hurling Championship cup by Paul Kavanagh, sponsor, J.J. Kavanagh & Sons and Ned Quinn, Chairman, Kilkenny County Board, after the Final in Nowlan Park.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

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GLENMORE BOUNCE BACK!

COUNTY JH REPORT BY
NED BUGGY



GLENMORE - COUNTY JH CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2015 (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Ben Maher, Mark O'Connor, Eoin Aylward, James Aylward, James Irish, Ben Doherty, John Gahan, Tommy Maher, P.J. Roche, Eoin Heffernan, Stephan Cody, Brian O Donoghue.

Middle: Michael Boyle, Mick Cody, Philip Roche, Fergal Freyne, Shane Doherty, Shane Walsh, Mark Phelan, Alan Murphy, Ciaran O'Connor, Paddy Murphy, James Cody, Colm Foran, Ritchie Mullally, Eoin Murphy.

Front : Dean Croke, Adrian Doherty, Paddy Hennessy, Ger Aylward, Mark Aylward, Sean Duggan, Davy Aylward, Emmett Vereker, Shane Murphy, Michael Phelan, Darren Aylward, Colm Doherty.

J. J. KAVANAGH AND SONS JUNIOR HURLING LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

20 teams took part in the 2015 Kilkenny Junior Hurling Championship.

The 12 junior proper teams played in section A while the 8 junior teams of intermediate and senior clubs played in section B.

3 teams qualified for the semi-finals from section A while 1 team qualified from section B

The draw for the championship was based on the final position of the clubs in the county junior hurling league.

A total of 19 games were played

Section A

First Round

Blacks and Whites	1-18	Graignamanagh	0-12
Windgap	1-14	Galmoy	1-12
Mooncoin	2-17	Cloneen	0-9
Glenmore	2-17	John Lockes	1-1
Barrow Rangers	1-24	Piltown	1-17
Kilmacow	3-14	Slieverue	2-18

Second Round

Kilmacow	2-12	Blacks and Whites	0-12
Mooncoin	2-14	Barrow Rangers	2-12
Glenmore	2-17	Windgap	1-8

Section B

First Round

St. Martin's	w/o	Erins Own	scr
Clara	3-17	Mullinavat	3-13

Second Round

Ballyhale Shamrocks	4-16	Clara	2-14
Dicksboro	2-27	St. Martin's	1-7

Third Round

O' Loughlin Gaels	1-20	Ballyhale Shamrocks	0-11
Dicksboro	1-19	James Stephens	0-11

Fourth Round

Dicksboro	0-18	O' Loughlin Gaels	1-12
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Semi-finals

Glenmore	1-15	Mooncoin	0-15
Kilmacow	1-12	Dicksboro	1-10

County Final

Glenmore 1-12 Kilmacow 2-6

Relegation Final

Erins Own 3-13 Mullinavat 1-7



Glenmore Regain their Intermediate Status.

Easy Win Over Kilmacow In Poor Game

Glenmore 1-12 Kilmacow 2-6

Glenmore won their 5th county junior hurling championship title with this defeat of Kilmacow and as a result return to the intermediate grade following their demotion last year.

Glenmore were reduced to 14 players before the game began following an incident in which Michael Phelan (Glenmore) was shown a straight red card and Kilmacow's star player Luke Harney retiring with a facial injury.

Despite playing with only 14 players Glenmore were the better team throughout and led by 0-8 to 1-0 at half time. Although Kilmacow outscored their opponents by 1-6 to 1-4 in the second half they never looked like winners.

Glenmore Scorers: M. Aylward 1-7, S. Murphy 0-2, G. Aylward 0-1, E. Vereker 0-1, A. Murphy 0-1.

Kilmacow Scorers: J. Hayes 2-2, R. McNamara 0-4.

Glenmore: David Aylward, Sean Duggan, Fergal Freyne, Shane Doherty, Philip Roche, Richie Mullally, Mark Phelan, Eoin Murphy, Colm Doherty, Shane Doherty, Michael Phelan, Emmett Vereker, Ger Aylward, Alan Murphy, Mark Aylward. Subs Used. James Cody, Darren Aylward.

Kilmacow: Richie O' Neill, Brian Fleming, Ray Hennessy, Diarmuid O' Dwyer, Ian Ahearn, Conor Dowling, Dean Power, Willie O' Toole, Sean Flynn, Emmett Blanchfield, Peter Mullally, Andy Kearns, Richie McNamara, Johnny Hayes, Paddy O' Keef. Subs. Conor Dowling, Shane Gaul, Liam Kearns, Ryan McKenna, Richie Kearns.

Referee Eugene Ryan (Fenians)

JJ KAVANAGH & SONS COUNTY JH LEAGUE 2015

20 teams took part.

12 teams in section A which was divided into 2

groups of 6

8 teams in section B which played in 1 group.

31 games were in section A

28 games were played in section B

The finishing places in the league tables decided the pairings for the championship

The following were the final league tables.

Section A Group A

Team	P	W	D	L	P
Galmoy	5	4	0	1	8
Mooncoin	5	3	0	2	6
Barrow Rangers	5	2	1	2	5
Kilmacow	5	2	1	2	5
John Lockes	5	2	0	3	4
Graignamanagh	5	1	0	4	2

Section A Group B

Team	P	W	D	L	P
Blacks and Whites	5	5	0	0	10
Glenmore	5	4	0	1	8
Slieverue	5	2	0	3	4
Piltown	5	2	0	3	4
Cloneen	5	2	0	3	4
Windgap	5	0	0	5	0



KILMACOW - COUNTY JH CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS 2015 (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

Back: Shey Dempsey (inj), Liam Kearns, Richie Kearns, Maurice Costelleo, Shane Gaule, Conor Dowling, John Daniels, Willie O'Toole.

Middle: Johnny Barron Nicky Barron, Richie O'Neill, Johnny Hayes, Andy Kearns, Dean Power, Jack McGuire, Brian Fleming, Paddy O'Keeffe.

Front: Ray Hennessy, Stephen Haberlin, Emmett Blanchfield, Ian Aheurne, Luke Horney, Peter Mulally, Richie McNamara, Sean Flynn, Diarmuid O'Dwyer, Ryan McKenna.

Section B	P	W	D	L	P
O'Loughlin Gaels	7	5	1	1	11
James Stephens	7	5	1	1	11
Dicksboro	7	4	1	2	9
Ballyhale Shamrocks	7	4	1	2	9
Erins Own	7	3	1	3	7
Clara	7	2	1	4	5
Mullinavat	7	2	0	5	4
St. Martin's	7	0	0	7	0

Final section A			
Galmoy	1-22	Blacks and Whites	0-21
Final Section B			
O'Loughlin Gaels	v	James Stephens	Not played

Despite their shock defeat by Windgap in the 1st round of the junior championship, Galmoy roared back to capture their second cup of the season when they defeated old rivals Blacks and Whites in the county junior hurling league final which was played in Jenkinstown. Galmoy had already beaten the same opposition to capture the northern junior championship title. The scores were level on ten occasions and at full time but in extra time a goal by Galmoy's star forward Phil Russell was the deciding factor.

Galmoy's scorers: P. Russell 1-12, N. Stanley 0-3, T. Phelan 0-2, J. Dunne 0-2, S. Murphy 0-1, N. Doherty 0-1, K. Duggan 0-1.

Blacks and Whites scorers: P. Nolan, J. Byrne 0-5, M. Moloney 0-4, J. Lennon 0-2, N. Kennedy 0-1.

Galmoy: Stephen Murphy, Paul Delaney, Brendan Phelan, Michael Murphy, Kieran Phelan, Donnacha Gray, Niall Doherty, Stephen Delaney, Nigel Stanley, Tom Phelan, Kevin Duggan, James Dunne, Phil Russell. Sub, J. Stanley.

Blacks and Whites: John Murphy, Joe Kelly, James Brennan, Padraig Joyce, Eddie Murphy, Peter Cleere, John Lawlor, Paul Murphy, Martin Kelly, Patrick Nolan, Aidan O'Dowd, Niall Kennedy, John Lennon, Michael Moloney, James Byrne. Subs. Charlie Ryan, Emmett Foley, Michael Moloney.

Referee: Eoin Hayes (Thomastown)

21st ALL COUNTY JUNIOR HURLING LEAGUE. (Sponsored by JJ Kavanagh & Sons)

26 teams entered to play in the above league in 2015.

20 teams from Kilkenny and 6 from Carlow. The teams were divided into 5 groups, with 5 teams in 4 groups and 6 teams in 1 group. A total of 55 games were played in the league section with the top two teams in each group

qualifying to play in the knockout stages in which a further 9 games were played.
The following are the final league tables.

Group A

Team	P	W	D	L	P
Mount Leinster Rangers	4	3	1	0	7
Mooncoin	4	3	0	1	6
Glenmore	4	2	1	1	5
Dicksboro	4	1	0	3	2
Clara	4	0	0	4	0

Group C

Piltown	4	3	0	1	6
O'Loughlin Gaels	4	3	0	1	6
Graignamanagh	4	2	0	2	4
Naomh Brid	4	2	0	2	4
St. Martin's	4	0	0	4	0

Group D

John Lockes	4	4	0	0	8
Sliieverue	4	3	0	1	6
Mullinavat	4	2	0	2	4
James Stephens	4	1	0	3	2
Ballinakillen	4	0	0	0	0

Group E

Barrow Rangers	5	4	1	0	9
Blacks and Whites	5	4	0	1	8
Galmoy	5	2	1	2	5
Kilmacow	5	2	0	3	4
Erins Own (Carlow)	5	1	0	4	2
Naomh Moling	5	1	0	4	2

All County League Knockout Stages

Preliminary Rounds

Naomh Eoin	3-18	O'Loughlin Gaels	2-13
Mooncoin	3-20	Sliieverue	1-15

Quarter Finals

Mt L. Rangers	3-18	Blacks & Whites	0-15
Mooncoin	3-17	Erins Own	1-11
Barrow Rangers	4-22	Piltown	1-13
Naomh Eoin	3-13	John Lockes	0-8

Semi-Finals

Mt L. Rangers	2-16	Barrow Rangers	1-14
Naomh Eoin	2-16	Mooncoin	2-12

Final

Mount Leinster Rangers	1-23	Naomh Eoin	1-22
------------------------	------	------------	------

Mount Leinster Rangers Win Title For the 5th Time

Mount Leinster Rangers won the Kilkenny All County League Title for the 5th time when in an all Carlow final they beat their neighbours Naomh Eoin by 1 point after extra time in Tom Walsh Park in an keenly contested game. Rangers led at half time by 1-12 to 1-9, and at the end of 60minutes the sides were level at 1-17 each.

Mount Leinster Rangers Scorers: Denis Murphy 0-14, Ted Joyce 1-2, Edward Byrne 0-3,

Padraig Nolan 0-2, Paul Cody 0-1, Derek Byrne 0-1.

Naomh Eoin Scorers: Padraig Nolan 0-12, Jack Kavanagh 0-4, Ross Smithers 1-0,

John Michael Nolan 0-2, Dwain Kavanagh 0-2, Conor Foley 0-1, Kevin Foley 0-1.

Mount Leinster Rangers: Frank Foley, Edward Cody, Garry Doyle, Garry Kelly, Michael Malone, Richard Cody, Richard Kelly Diarmuid Byrne, Paul Cody, David Phelan, Edward Byrne, Derek Byrne, Ted Joyce, Jack Murphy, Denis Murphy.

Subs used: John Cody, Kevin McDonald, Padraig Nolan, Brian Nolan. Naomh Eoin: Brian Treacy, Ronan Nolan, Shane Kavanagh, Shane Cranny, Dwain Kavanagh, James O'Hara, Eoin Nolan, Padraig Nolan,

Keith Hogan, Martin Clowry, Ross Smithers, Kevin Foley, Cillian McCabe, Jack Kavanagh, John Michael Nolan,

Subs used: Martin Doyle, Tommy Nolan, Conor Foley, Eanna Kavanagh, Eoin Redmond.

Referee John Bennett (Tullogher Rosbercon)

PADDY CAHILL MEMORIAL CUP

This knockout competition was confined to the 10 clubs that finished in 3rd and 4th places in the 5 groups in the All County Junior Hurling League 2015.

Scoreboard

Preliminary Round

Naomh Brid	1-14	Windgap	1-11
Dicksboro	2-17	James Stephens	0-7

1st. Round

Graignamanagh	w/o	Galmoy	scr
Glenmore	0-17	Kilmacow	0-11
Dicksboro	1-15	Cloneen	0-11
Naomh Brid	w/o	Mullinavat	scr



GALMOY - NORTHERN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP AND COUNTY JUNIOR HURLING LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2015
Back: Paul Delaney, Brendan Phelan, Frank Phelan, Nigel Stanley, Stephen Delaney(Capt.), James Dunne, Martin Duggan, John Phelan, Jack Delaney, Kieran Phelan, Tom Phelan(Castletown) & Martin Phelan
Front: Phil Russell, Michael Murphy, Stephen Maher, Niall Doherty, Tom Phelan(Bawn), Noel Doherty, Sean Phelan, Joe Dollard, Jason Stanley, Stephen Murphy, Kevin Duggan, Eoin Glendon.



TULLAROAN - COUNTY JH A CHAMPIONS 2015
Back: Richard Holland, Shane Walsh, John Walton, Jason O' Riordan, Liam Teehan, Ger Looby, John Maher, Gavin Joyce, Josh Moore, Eddie Teehan, Bill Simpson, Sean Cuddihy.
Front: Tom Fitzgerald, Joe Norton, Bob Cuddihy, Bill Cuddihy, Peter Walsh, Jack Holmes, David Sweeney, Eddie Campion, Martin Keoghan.
Missing from the photograph: Eoin Brennan (Capt.) Injured, Jim Moore, Danny Coogan, Bill Gaffney, Shane Joyce, Daniel Burke.



LISDOWNEY - NORTHERN & COUNTY JUNIOR A LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2015
Back: Shane Clyne (Captain) Niall O Hara, Ciarain Mackey, Ciarán O'Carroll, Liam Dunphy, Paddy Bowden, Eoin Lyons, Eoin Walsh, John Brennan, Brian O Carroll, Joe Bergin, Stephens Delaney, Peter O Sullivan.
Front: Jamie Bergin, Jack Dunphy, Paul Sweeney, Edward Kenny, Dylan Jordan, Brian Kavanagh, Kevin O'Sullivan, Willie Kenny, Darragh Mackey, Anthony O Hara, Eoin Delahanty, Morgan Grace Cashin, Jamie Kavanagh, Gerry Buckley.



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Semi-Finals				Kilmacow	2-12	Graignamanagh	Quarter Finals			
Glenmore	1-13	Graignamanagh	1-11	0-12			Con. Shamrocks	2-23	O' Loughlin Gaels	0-6
Dicksboro	0-17	Naomh Brid	0-16	Windgap	1-18	Slieverue	Tullaroan	1-24	Emeralds	2-16
		Final		Semi-finals			St Lachtain's	5-8	Fenians	2-6
Dicksboro	2-18	Glenmore	1-13	Glenmore	0-14	Windgap	St Patrick's	2-8	Lisdowney	0-11
KEVIN FENNELLY MEMORIAL CUP (Sponsored by JJ Kavanagh & Sons)				Kilmacow	4-19	John Lockes	1-10			
				Final						
				Glenmore	1-13	Kilmacow	0-15			

This knockout competition was confined to the 6 teams that finished in 5th and 6th places in the All County Junior Hurling League.

Northern Section

Scoreboard

1st Round

B. Shamrocksw/o	St. Martin's scr
St. Mullins bt	Ballinkillen

Semi-Finals

Clara w/o	St. Mullins
Erin's Own 2-14	Ballyhale Shamrocks

Final

Erin's Own	Clara
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JJ KAVANAGH AND SONS NORTHERN JH CHAMPIONSHIP (Rafter Cup)

If ever a game was to qualify as a game of two quarters, then this Iverk Produce Southern Junior Hurling Championship final in well presented cold and windy Slieverue would be a front-runner.

It was amazing in a number of categories. With the strong breeze at their backs in the first half , the far better Glenmore looked home and hosed and led at Half time by 0-12 to 0-2. Within six minutes of the restart they added a further 1-1 to their tally ,but then Glenmore took their foot off the throttle and for the next 24 minutes Kilmacow dominated the game scoring 13 points without replay but although they lambasted the Glenmore defence in the dying minutes they were unable to get the vital score.

Glenmore Scorers: A. Murphy 1-3, M. Aylward 0-5, E. Vereker 0-4, D. Aylward.

Kilmacow Scorers: R. McNamara 0-7, J. Hayes 0-3, R. O'Neill 0-2, W. O' Toole 0-1, S. Guale 0-1, P. O'Keeffe 0-1.

Glenmore; Davy Aylward, Shane Doherty, Fergal Freyne, Sean Duggan, Philip Roche, Richie Mullally, Mark Phelan, Liam Hennessy, Darren Aylward, Alan Murphy, Michael Phelan, Emmett Vereker, Mark Aylward, Dean Cooke, Eoin Aylward. Subs. Shane Murphy, Brian O'Donoghue, Ben Doherty, James Aylward.

Kilmacow; Richie O' Neill, Brian Fleming, Ray Hennessy, Ryan McKenna, Ian Aherne, Luke Harvey, Dean Power, Willie O'Toole, Sean Flynn, Emmet Blanchfield, Shane Guale, Shay Dempsey, Richie McNamara, Johnny Hayes, Paddy O' Keeffe. Subs. Diarmuid O'Dwyer, Referee Gavin Quilty (Slieverue).

Northern Junior A Hurling Championship Final Report.

Tullaroan 1-14	St. Lachtain's	0-13
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Tullaroan booked their place in the county junior A hurling final when they secured a four points victory over neighbours St. Lachtain's in a lively northern final played in St.John's.

Played before a good attendance the game produced really competitive fare and in the end a stronger Tullaroan outfit took the spoils.

Tullaroan led at half time by 1-9 to 0-8.

This was Tullaroan's third time to win the Martin Egan Memorial Cup having previously won it in 2001 and 2011.

They will now meet Carrickshock in the county final.

Tullaroan's scorers: S. Walsh 1-6, J. Walton 0-4, P. Walsh 0-2, J. Maher 0-1, G. Joyce 0-1.

St. Lachtain's scorers: P. Guinan 0-6, D. Lennon 0-2, J. Bowden 0-2, S. Rafter 0-1, M. Nolan 0-1, P. Campion 0-1.

Tullaroan: Richie Holland, Eddie Campion, Bill Simpson, Bob Cuddihy, Ger Luby, Josh Moore, David Sweeney, Peter Walsh, Martin Keoghan, Shane Walsh, John Maher, Gavin Joyce, Jack Holmes, Bill Cuddihy, John Walton. Subs Jim Moore, Jason O' Regan, Tom Fitzgerald.

St. Lachtain's John Campion, Harry Burke, Seamus Hayes, Darragh Quinn, Paul Mullan, Michael Cormack, Simon Rafter, Paul White, Philip Campion, Barry Hughes , Michael Farrell, Mark Nolan, John Bowden, Dennis Lennon, Paul Guinan.

Subs. Fintan White, Shea Burke, Shane McGree.

Referee	Eamon Mansfield (Cloneen)
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The southern junior A hurling championship was also played on a league basis in 1 group of 7 with the top team receiving a bye into the semi-final and the top 4 qualifying for the semi-finals of the league.

The following is the final league table.

Name	P	W	D	L	P
Mooncoin	6	5	1	0	11
Thomastown	6	4	0	2	8
Rover Inistioge	6	3	1	2	7
Tullogher Rosbercon	6	3	1	2	7
Dunnamaggin	6	2	0	4	4
Carrickshock	6	1	1	4	3
Glenmore	6	1	0	5	2

IVERK PRODUCE SOUTHERN JUNIOR A HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2015

1st. Round

Tull Rosbercon 1-13	Rover Inistioge	0-11
Dunnamaggin 2-11	Thomastown	0-7
Carrickshock 0-13	Glenmore	1-8

Semi-finals

Dunnamaggin 2-18	Tullogher Rosbercon	2-12
Mooncoin		0-13

Final

Carrickshock 0-18	Dunnamaggin	0-17
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Clara w/o	St. Mullins
Erin's Own 2-14	Ballyhale Shamrocks

Final

Erin's Own	Clara
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JJ KAVANAGH AND SONS NORTHERN JH CHAMPIONSHIP (Rafter Cup)

Erins Own 5-26	St. Martin's
Galmoy 1-22	Clara

Blacks & Whites w/o	James Stephens
Dicksboro 3-24	Cloneen
Galmoy 1-17	Erin's Own
O'Loughlin G's 4-15	Barrow Rangers

Blacks & Whites 2-13	O'Loughlin Gaels
Galmoy 1-13	Dicksboro

Final	Blacks and Whites
Galmoy	1-17

Galmoy Win The Northern Junior Championship for The 12th Time
Galmoy1-17 Blacks & Whites 1-16

A cracking 62nd minute goal by midfielder Kevin Duggan earned Galmoy victory in the northern junior hurling championship final in St. John's Park.

Galmoy Scorers: K. Duggan 1-3, P. Russell 0-5, S. Delaney 0-3, Noel Doherty 0-2, Niall Doherty 0-1, N. Stanley 0-1, J. Phelan 0-1 J. Dunne 0-1.

Blacks and Whites scorers: J. Byrne 1-3, P. Nolan 0-5, A. O' Dowd 0-3, M. Moloney 0-2, P. Murphy 0-1, J. Lennon 0-1, M. Kelly 0-1.

Galmoy: Stephen Murphy, Michael Murphy, Brendan Phelan, Paul Delaney, Kieran Phelan, Jason Stanley, John Phelan, Kevin Duggan, Niall Doherty, Stephen Delaney, Nigel Stanley, Noel Doherty, James Dunne, Phil Russell, Stephen Maher, Sub Frank Phelan.

Blacks and Whites: John Murphy, Padraig Joyce, James Brennan, Joe Kelly, Edward Murphy, Peter Cleere, Thomas Joyce, John Lawlor, Martin Kelly, Patrick Nolan, Aidan O' Dowd, Paul Murphy, John Lennon, Michael Moloney, Jamie Byrne. Subs. Emmett Foley, Tommy Farrell.

JJ KAVANAGH AND SONS NORTHERN JH CHAMPIONSHIP (Rafter Cup)

Scoreboard
1st Rounds
Glenmore 1-19
Windgap 2-15

Quarter Finals
John Lockes 3-16
2-10
Glenmore 1-5

Ballyhale Shamrocks
Mullinavat

1-7
1-16

JJ KAVANAGH AND SONS NORTHERN JUNIOR A HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2015

Preliminary Rounds
Emeralds 2-12
Fenians 2-18

Graigue Ballycallan
Young Irelands

0-11
1-6

Young Irelands
Young Irelands



BARROW RANGERS COUNTY JUNIOR B HURLING CHAMPIONS 2015

Back: Noel Brennan, John O'Neill, Paddy Hennessy, Eoin Rudkins, Liam Walsh (Capt.), James Hogan, Eugene Kealy, Graham English, Brian Kelly, William Hanlon, Paddy Purcell, Marc Drennan, Thomas Whitley, Tom Brophy.
 Front: Adam O'Neill, John O'Neill, Robert Gleeson, Arron Nolan, Conor Brennan, Darragh O'Connor, Keith Flavin, Sean Murphy, Martin Kealy.



SOUTH JUNIOR HURLING SELECTION JIM FARRELL WINNERS 2015

Back: Ross Kelly, Slieverue; Johnny Hayes, Kilmacow; Kevin Walsh, Piltown; Conor Brophy, Mooncoin; Cian Ryan, Windgap; Richie O'Neill, Capt., Kilmacow; Bill McCormack, John Lockes; Ger Purcell, Windgap; Willie O'Toole, Kilmacow; Niall Blanchfield, Mooncoin; Jack McDowell, John Lockes.
 Front: Aaron Cullinane, Slieverue; Richie McNamara, Kilmacow; Paul Rockett, Slieverue; Neil Kelly, Piltown; Kevin Crowley, Mooncoin; Danny Purcell, Mooncoin; Paddy Kennedy, John Lockes; James Mackey, Windgap; Eoin Cody, Windgap.



CARRICKSHOCK-SOUTH JH "A" CHAMPIONS AND COUNTY FINALISTS 2015

Front: Jody Dwyer, John Butler, Niall Tennyson, Aaron Roche, James Grace, Conor Aylward, Chris Price, Sean Grace, Seanie Gibbons, Liam Walsh, Ciaran, Lennon.
 Back: Ger Power, Pat Dalton, Aaron O'Neill, Jerry Mulcahy, Edward Power, Darren O'Dwyer, Edward Dunphy, John Power, David Sutton, David Moore, Darragh Brennan, Damien Walsh.



PILTON - SOUTH JUNIOR B CHAMPIONS & COUNTY FINALISTS 2015

Back: Shane Doody, Vinnie Long, Tommy O'Gorman, Stephen Moroney, Aidan Ryan, Eoin Walsh, David O'Shea, Kevin White, Ryan Gallagher, David Byrne, James Kirby, Niall Kinsella, Sean Mundy, David Burchill, Ian Flynn, Pa Connolly
Front: Conor Friend, Andrew Norris, Shane O'Dwyer, Thomas Murray, Martin Kirby, Ronan Ryan, Jamie Norris, Micheal Dunne, Philly Kenny (C), Tadgh Whelan, David Kinsella, Richie Phelan, Donal Ryan, Aaron Gallagher Mascot: DJ Knox

(Photo: Lena Power Photography)



CARRIGEEN - SOUTH JUNIOR B LEAGUE WINNERS 2015

Back: Mark Long, Jonny Jacob, Joey O'Hanlon, Cathal o Keeffe(Capt), Johnny Cooney, Chris O'Hanlon, Wayne Kelly, Anthony O'Brien, Thomas O'Brien.
Front: Fintan Dermody, Frank Law, Dean Gates, Hilary Delahunt, Kevin Law, J.J. Butler, A.J. Cronin, Jamie Carroll, Pat Phelan, Brian Gallagher, Stephen Blackmore, Craigh Collins

Southern Junior A Championship Final.
Aaron O'Neill is the Late Late Hero.
Carrickshock 0-18 Dunnamaggin 0-17

The form book on this Junior A hurling final told us that there would be very little between these two neighbours and great rivals in Mullinavat. The form book did not lie and fans were treated to a tremendously exciting encounter in which the end result was always in doubt right up to the final whistle.

Well into injury time man of the match Aaron O'Neill received a great pass from Edward Power and using all of his composure scored the winning point for Carrickshock

Carrickshock scorers: J. power 0-6, D. Brennan 0-4, A. O'Neill 0-3, G. Mulcahy 0-1, J. Butler 0-1, E. Power 0-1, p. Dalton 0-1.

Dunnamaggin Scorers: T. Maher 0-2, J. J. Dunphy 0-3, A. Kearney 0-3, S. O'Neill 0-2, K. Bergin 0-1

Carrickshock: Aaron Roche, Jody Dwyer, Niall Tennyson, Liam Walsh, Eddie Dunphy, Darren O'Dwyer, James Grace, Chris Price, John Power, Aaron O'Neill, Gerry Mulcahy, John Butler, Ger Power, Edward Power, Darragh Brennan. Subs. Seanie Gibbons, Pat Dalton, Ciaran Lennon, Sean Grace.

Dunnamaggin: Ray Cody, Mark Dowling, Aaron Doherty, William Moylan, Aidan Donavan, Andy Fitzpatrick, Willie Hughes, Conor Long, Paul Kirwan, Tommy Maher, J. J. Dunphy, Liam Heffernan, Kieran Bergin, Anthony Kearney, Seaghan O'Neill. Sub. Victor Costello

Referee Maurice Flynn (Mooncoin)

NORTHERN JUNIOR A HURLING LEAGUE
The northern junior A hurling league was played in 2 groups of 5
The following are the final league tables:-

Group A

Team	P	W	D	L	P
St. Lachtain's	4	4	0	0	8
Young Irelands	4	2	0	2	4
Tullaroan	4	2	0	2	4
O'Loughlin Gaels	3	1	0	3	2
Emeralds	3	0	0	3	0

Group B

Name	P	W	D	L	P
Conahy Shamrocks	4	4	0	0	8
Lisdowney	4	3	0	1	6
Fenians	4	2	0	2	4
St Patrick's	4	1	0	3	2
Graigue Ballycallan	4	0	0	4	0

Northern Junior A Hurling League Semi-Finals					
Young Irelands	5-11	Conahy Shamrocks	1-1		
Lisdowney	0-14	St. Lachtain's	0-11		

Northern Junior A Hurling League Final

Lisdowney	5-15	Young Irelands	2-7
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Southern Junior A Hurling League Semi-Finals

Tull Rosbercon	2-14	Mooncoin	0-12
R/Inistioge	3-18	Thomastown	3-7

Southern Junior A Hurling League Final

R/Inistioge	0-22	Tullogher Rosbercon	3-11
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County Junior A Hurling League Final

Lisdowney	2-25	Rower Inistioge	2-23
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KILKENNY JUNIOR B HURLING LEAGUE AND CHAMPIONSHIP 2015

115 clubs entered teams to play in the northern league/championship

11 clubs entered teams to play in the southern league/championship

The northern clubs played the championship on a league championship basis with the teams divided into three groups of five with the final positions in each group deciding the draw for the first round of the championship.

The northern clubs also played a league with three groups of five with two teams from each group qualifying for the knockout stages of the league.

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GRAIGNAMANAGH - JOE WALSH CUP WINNERS 2015

Back: John Meaney (selector) Ger walsh, Padraig Whelan, Leonard Blanchfield, Bernard Hennessy, Sean Cahill, Dirmuid O'Neill, Adrian Doyle, Michael Bolger, Terry Dreelan.
Front: Syl Cushen (selector) John Osborne, Cathal Roche, Dane Flood, Ian Kavanagh, Neil Jordan, Thomas O'Donnell (Capt), Niall Hayden, Richard Foley, Jim O'Donnell.



MT LEINSTER RANGERS - ALL COUNTY JUNIOR LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2015

Back Row; Left to right; Seamus O'Brien, Shane O'Neill, James Kelly, Richard Coady, James Hickey, Gary Kelly, Garry Doyle, Brian Nolan, Richard Kelly, Edward Byrne, David Phelan, Michael Malone, Edward Coady, Denis Murphy, Dara Tobin, Jack Murphy, Derek Byrne, Paul Coady, Padraig Nolan, Chris Nolan, Michael Doyle.
Front; Daniel Ryan, Ted Joyce, Gary Lawlor, Luke Roche, Dean Grennan, David Grennan, Seamus Kelly, Frank Foley, Conor Fenlon, Diarmuid Byrne, Kevin McDonald, John Coady, Willie Hickey



NAOMH EOIN- ALL COUNTY JUNIOR LEAGUE FINALISTS 2015

Back: Seamus O'Brien, Shane O'Neill, James Kelly, Richard Coady, James Hickey, Gary Kelly, Garry Doyle, Brian Nolan, Richard Kelly, Edward Byrne, David Phelan, Michael Malone, Edward Coady, Denis Murphy, Dara Tobin, Jack Murphy, Derek Byrne, Paul Coady, Padraig Nolan, Chris Nolan, Michael Doyle.
Front: Daniel Ryan, Ted Joyce, Gary Lawlor, Luke Roche, Dean Grennan, David Grennan, Seamus Kelly, Frank Foley, Conor Fenlon, Diarmuid Byrne, Kevin McDonald, John Coady, Willie Hickey



The eleven clubs in the south played in a one group with the top four qualifying for the league semi-finals and the bottom six playing in the first round of the championship.

NORTHERN JUNIOR A HURLING LEAGUE
After 30 matches were played the following were the league tables.

Group A	P	W	L	D	P
Erins Own	4	3	1	0	8
Blacks and Whites	3	1	1	1	3
Clara	4	1	3	1	3
Conahy Shamrocks	3	1	2	0	2
St. Lachtain's	4	0	2	2	2

Group B	P	W	L	D	P
James Stephens	4	3	1	0	6
Danesfort	4	3	1	0	6
Barrow Rangers	4	2	2	0	4
Cloneen	4	1	3	0	2
Lisdowney	4	1	3	0	2

Group C	P	W	L	D	P
St. Martin's	4	4	0	0	8
Bennettsbridge	4	2	1	9	5
Dicksboro	4	2	2	9	4
Threecastles	4	1	2	1	3
Galmoy	4	0	4	0	0

League quarter Finals			
Barrow Rangers	1-13	Threecastles	0-7
James Stephens	2-16	Lisdowney	2-11
Semi-Finals			
James Stephens	1-13	Bennettsbridge	0-6
Danesfort	1-19	Barrow Rangers	3-10
Final			
Danesfort	2-22	James Stephens	0-10

Northern Junior B Hurling Championship

First round				
Blacks & Whites	2-18	Galmoy	9-19	
St. Lachtain's	2-15	James Stephens	0-13	
Threecastles	4-10	Clara	3-10	
St. Martin's	2-10	Lisdowney	1-12	
Bennettsbridge	1-22	Cloneen	0-8	
Danesfort	4-21	Con. Shamrocks	2-6	
Barrow Rangers	4-12	Dicksboro	1-16	
Erins Own	Bye			

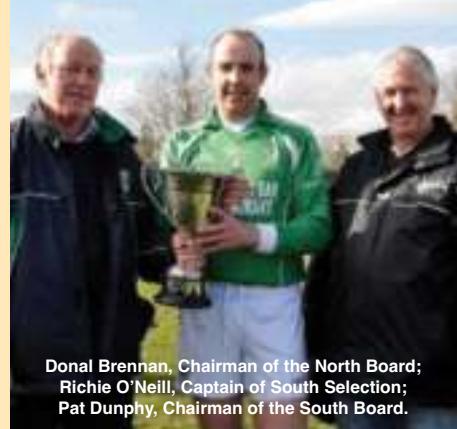
Second Round				
Barrow Rangers	4-11	Blacks and Whites	0-10	
Bennettsbridge	2-24	Erins Own	1-8	
Danesfort	1-18	St. Martin's	2-4	

Threecastles	3-10	St. Lachtain's	
1-8			
Semi-finals			
Barrow Rangers	1-22	Threecastles	1-8
Danesfort	1-21	Bennettsbridge	3-10

Final			
Barrow Rangers	3-14	Bennettsbridge	0-13

Country Style Foods Junior B Hurling League/championship Final league Table

Team	P	W	L	D	P
Kilmacow	10	8	2	0	16
Piltown	10	7	2	1	15
John Lockes	10	6	4	0	12
Carriageen	10	6	4	0	12
Windgap	10	6	4	0	12
Ballyhale Shamrocks	10	5	5	0	19
Mooncoin	10	5	5	0	10
Graignamanagh	10	3	5	2	8
Rower Inistioge	19	3	6	1	7
Slieverue	10	2	8	0	4
Tullogher Rosbercon	10	2	8	0	4



JOE WALSH MEMORIAL CUP

For junior B teams that did not qualify for the play-off stages of the northern and southern junior B leagues.

Northern Group				
Preliminary Round	Erins Own	3-12	Conahy Shamrocks	1-13
Quarter Finals	Blacks & Whites	3-12	Cloneen	2-7
	St. Martins	2-17	Erins Own	1-10
Semi-Finals	Blacks and Whites	0-12	St. Lachtain's	2-5
	Dicksboro	1-15	St. Martin's	2-11
Northern Final				
	6-5	Dicksboro	1-18	

Southern Group				
Semi-finals	Mooncoin	3-10	B. Shamrocks	0-14
	Graignamanagh	2-11	Slieverue	1-10
Southern Final	Graignamanagh	0-18	Mooncoin	3-9
	Graignamanagh	4-6	Mooncoin	1-7
County Final				
	0-15	Blacks and Whites	1-8	



Photos Eoin Hennessy & Willie Dempsey

5 Star Boro Stroll to U21 Honours after Replay

2014 Under-21 Championship Review By Michael O'Leary



Emeralds Under 21 Roinn B Champions 2014

Back: Niall O'Gorman, Shawn Fitzgerald, Brian Brennan, James Tobin, Michael Fitzgerald, Shane Pollard, Anthony O'Farrell, Micheal Troy, Conor Martin (Joint Captain), Gearoid Troy, Andrew Morgan, James Kenny, Shane Quinlan, Joseph Kavanagh.

Front: Shane Moriarty, Eoin Moriarty, Eoghan Doyle, Darragh Phelan, Cathal Walsh, Toddy Moriarty (Joint Captain), Nicholas Walsh, Jamie Ryan, Brian Troy, Jack Kavanagh, David O'Gorman.

Under-21 Roinn A Championship

For the 2nd time in 3 years, the Under-21 County Championships were delayed as a result of Kilkenny's All-Ireland Final replay against Tipperary, and the B competition was finished just a few days before Christmas. However, the Roinn A Championship was behind schedule, and it wasn't finished till mid-January when Dicksboro easily defeated Thomastown after a replay.

The Boro were worthy winners of the Under-21 Championship, and indeed they had to require another replay earlier in the competition when defeating Clara in the semi-final of the Northern section.

The Northern Final against Bennettsbridge played the first weekend in January was a titanic struggle.

In the last minute of normal time, the sides were level at 2-8 to 0-14, but the Boro dug deep and points from Andrew Gaffney and Eoin Fennelly sealed victory, but not before goalkeeper Aaron Duggan pulled off a critical save in the dying seconds to deny Kevin Brennan.

In the Southern section, Thomastown secured the title defeating Glenmore 0-19 to 2-8 just 4 days before Christmas Day last year.

Despite playing into a strong breeze during the opening-half, Thomastown led 0-7 to 0-3 coming towards half-time, before Glenmore grabbed a goal to leave a solitary point between the teams at the interval.

Thomastown started to slowly exert an influ-

ence during the 3rd quarter, and they opened up a 6 point lead with the Donnelly's Robbie and Michael scoring at will.

That scoring burst proved decisive as Thomastown would wait to see who would eventually come through from the North.

The County Final between Dicksboro and Thomastown was played in Nowlan Park on the 11th of January, and it produced an epic and dramatic finish with Thomastown snatching an unlikely draw with two late last gasp goals.

Thomastown made a flying start aided by the wind, and a John Donnelly goal gave them a 1-7 to 0-4 coming towards half-time.

However, the Boro responded and a well worked goal from Kevin Kenny halved the deficit by the interval. 1-8 to 1-5.

Barring the dying stages, the Boro men totally dominated the re-start, and up until injury-time, they outscored their opponents by 0-10 to just a concession of a solitary point to lead 1-14 to 1-9.

The Boro had victory within sight, but no one could write the script of the closing stages.

A Danny Monks goal in the 59th minute gave Thomastown hope, before Monks struck again 4 minutes into injury-time to prove an unlikely saviour for the South Kilkenny men.

The replay took place a week later, and Dicksboro made no mistake as they easily dismantled Thomastown 5-9 to 0-10.

However, the Boro appeared up against it from an early stage when Andrew Gaffney was dismissed.

In a mostly low scoring first-half, Dicksboro led 0-5 to 0-4 by the 25th minute, before going on a crazy goalscoring blitz late in the half which crucified Thomastown's hopes.

All of a sudden, goals from Daragh Holohan, Robbie Murphy and Kevin Kenny opened up a decisive and commanding advantage, and there was no way back for their opponents. Holohan and Conor Fitzpatrick added further goals during the second-half to kill off any hopes of a Thomastown revival as the Boro strolled to victory.

Squads:

Dicksboro: Aaron Duggan (captain), Aidan Nolan, Evan Cody, James Gittens, Jim Dillard, Eoin Gough, Rory Glynn, Robbie Fitzpatrick, Conor Doheny, Robbie Murphy, Eoin Fennelly, Andrew Gaffney, Conor Fitzpatrick, Daragh Holohan, Shane O'Brien, Jamie Byrne, Peter Turley, Eoin Cantwell, Stephen Tynan, Enda O'Donoghue, Bill Sheehan, James Murphy, Alex Quinlan, John Hanrick, Rory Morrissey, Kevin Kenny, Stephen Farrell,

Thomastown: Daragh McGarry, James Burke, Barry Whelan, Johnny Barron, Robert O'Hanrahan, Craig Butler, Eoin Manning (joint captain), Michael Donnelly, John Donnelly, Gary Lehane, Robbie Donnelly, Jamie Lanigan, Adrian Burke, Dylan Caulfield, Eddie Corway, Kevin Butler, Colin Corway, Mark Walsh, Danny Monks, Brian O'Hanrahan, Eamonn O'Donnell, Aaron Kehoe, Bobby Joe Walsh, Thomas O'Hanrahan (joint captain)

Blistering Start Secures Emeralds "B" Honours



Dicksboro 2014 U21H "A" Champions

Back: Enda O'Donoghue, Rory Morrissey, James Murphy, John Hanrick, Aidan Nolan, Conor Fitzpatrick, Jamie Byrne.

Middle: Robbie Murphy, Daragh Houlihan, Stephen Tynan, Alex Quinlan, Peter Turley, Conor Doheny, Bill Sheehan, Robbie Fitzpatrick.

Front: Stephen Farrell, Shane O'Brien, Rory Glynn, Evan Cody, Kevin Kenny, Eoin Gough, Aaron Duggan, James Gittens, Jim Dillard, Eoin Fennelly, Andrew Gaffney.

Blistering start secures Emeralds "B" honours
The Under-21 Roinn B Final was played a few days before Christmas as Emeralds held off a late Dunamaggin surge to win 2-13 to 2-9.
Emeralds defeated Conahy Shamrocks in a low scoring encounter 0-9 to 0-7 in the Northern decider, while Dunamaggin made amends for losing the Southern final 12 months previously when overcoming Graigue-namanagh 1-10 to 1-8.
The B County decider was played just 4 days before Christmas Day, and a blistering start by the Urlingford men proved very decisive.
Two goals inside the opening 20 minutes helped opened up an 11-point lead, 2-6 to 0-1, and it was always going to be difficult for Dun-

namaggin afterwards.
However, to their credit they responded.
A Peter Kenneally goal in the 27th minute narrowed the gap by half-time. 2-7 to 1-3.
Emeralds responded and entering the final 10 minutes, they were in control holding a 9-point lead.

However, Dunamaggin added a second-goal in the 53rd minute to provide a glimmer of hope, but despite their late fightback, Emeralds held out to secure their 2nd Under-21 Roinn B in 3 years winning 2-13 to 2-9.

TEAMS

EMERALDS: Daragh Phelan, Anthony Morgan, Thomas Moriart(joint captain), Niall O'Gorman, Anthony Farrell, Eoin Moriarty, James

Tobin, Brian Troy, Michael Fitzgerald, James Ryan, James Kenny, Conor Martin(joint captain), David O'Gorman, Joey Kavanagh, Nicky Walsh, Shane Moriarty, Michael Troy, Shane Pollard, Shane Quinlan, Eoin Doyle, Cathal Walsh, Jack Kavanagh, Brian Brennan, Sean Fitzgerald, Gearoid Troy,

DUNAMMAGGIN: Andrew O'Dwyer, Conor Long, William Moylan, Aaron Doherty, Paul Kirwan, Eoghan Kearney, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Paddy Delaney(captain), Victor Costello, Michael Cody, Peter Kenneally, John Fitzpatrick, Adam Kenneally, Anthony Kearney, Ronan Claffey, Jason Doherty, Jack Brett, William Bergin, Greg O'Donnell, Brian Farrell, Ray Cody,



Liam Aylward MEP



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

Congratulations once again to the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team and Ballyhale Shamrocks on their All Ireland SH Club Title.

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Dicksboro Hang on in Thriller

Minor Bord na nÓg report by Pado O'Flynn PRO



Dicksboro - Roinn A MH Championship Winners 2015

Roinn A

The highlight of the year for Bord na nÓg is undoubtedly the Kilkenny Honda Centre Roinn A Championship. It started off with two fantastic games in the first round, which saw Mooncoin edge out Tullaroan by 2-13 to 2-11 and Ballyhale defeat Danesfort 0-16 to 0-14. In the other first round game Dicksboro had too much for a game Graigue Ballycallan.

The quarter-final matches proved to be a mixed bag with O'Loughlin Gaels, James Stephens, Dicksboro and Mooncoin garnering victories over Sliieverue, Piltown, Ballyhale Shamrocks and Thomastown respectively. Mooncoin gave O'Loughlin Gaels as good as they got but the two

goals from the St John's outfit proved to be the difference in the first semi final with the St. John's Park based team winning by 0-12 to 2-14 whilst James Stephens and Dicksboro squared up in the other semi-final with the Palmerstown based side coming out the right side of a 0-13 to 0-11 scoreline.

Dicksboro minors produced a fantastic second half performance to win the Roinn A County Minor Championship final at Nowlan Park on a dry winter's afternoon. They went a goal down after a penalty was awarded to O'Loughlin Gaels early in the second half and it looked like their city rivals would pull away as they were ably led by the drive of Robbie Buckley and Jordan Molloy through-out much of this period of

dominance. However Dicksboro grimly hung on and the St John's Park outfit never went more than three points up. As the game entered injury time Dicksboro sensed blood and went for the jugular and in so doing ended O'Loughlin Gaels terrific run at under age level in Kilkenny where they'd been undefeated for some time.

They winners came up with two fantastic scores to clinch victory to make up for last year's agonising defeat at the hands of the same opposition. The two final scores came from midfielder Chris Kavanagh and inspirational team captain, Robbie Murphy, who was a late inclusion, to leave the final score 1-14 to 1-12 in favour of the maroon clad outfit. Victory in the end could probably be attributed to the greater need and desire



O'Loughlin Gaels - Roinn A MH Finalists 2015



John Lockes - Roinn B MH Champions 2015



Young Irelands - Roinn C MH League & Championship Winners 2015

of Dicksboro to win and bring to a finish the dominance of O'Loughlin Gaels at underage level. The 'Boro raced into an early lead in the first half thanks to Andy Gaffney (free) and Robbie Murphy before O'Loughlins came more into the game. Vitally, the Boro scored the only goal of the half from Robbie Murphy after good work by Gaffney and Chris Kavanagh out the field. At the end of the first half, the Boro led by a point 1-7 to 0-9 after O'Loughlins were guilty of a few bad misses before the half time whistle was blown. In the second half, O'Loughlins upped the tempo and after they were awarded and converted a penalty, they went two points up. A further point from play after nine minutes meant the 'Boro were down three points with less than 20 minutes remaining and from there on in they chipped away at the deficit.

Roinn B

The John Lockes minor team of 2015 became the first one since 1997 to secure a title in the grade when they overcame Dunamaggin on a 0-16 to 0-10 scoreline in Nowlan Park on Sunday November 1st. All year the two fancied teams in the Kilkenny

Citroen Roinn B Championship were the near neighbours but there was a fierce amount of competitive hurling before the meeting between the pairing came to pass. The big shock of the first round was the defeat of St Martin's who many had expected to challenge the top two but they had no answer for a Conor Hennessy led Tullogher Rosbercon. Erin's Own, Lisdowney, Bennettsbridge, Galmoy/Windgap, Kilmacow and Conahy Shamrocks all made their exits in the first round of the championship. Dunamaggin signalled their intentions for the year with a huge margin of victory over Emeralds, while John Lockes had a similar margin of victory the following evening over Clara. Tullogher Rosbercon and Rower Inistioge completed the semi-final pairings with victories over Fenians and Glenmore. Fireworks ensued in both semi finals as they were tight affairs until the later stages but in the end the two fancied sides came through in the shape of Dunamaggin and John Lockes.

In the final both teams gave it their all with a noticeable nervousness in the early exchanges and a title at stake between two

neighbouring Parishes. The first half was all about the respective free takers on both sides with Morgan Thomas doing the business for Dunamaggin and James Power equally unerring for the Lockes, both from placed balls and open play. The teams retired at the break level at six points apiece.

The new half saw the Lockes up the tempo considerably with their team getting a grip in the middle third and driving at the Dunamaggin defence enabling James Power to punish all misdemeanours. He finished with a final tally of eleven points from frees and two more from play, a telling statistic of his contribution to this victory. The Lockes' six backs of Jack Lynch, Brian Kirwan, Nicholas Butler, John Burns, Cathal McGrath, Ryan Bergin and goalkeeper Owen Byrne, who never put a foot wrong, can take a bow holding the opposition forward division goalless. This feat was all the more noteworthy in that Dunamaggin had scored 14 goals in the previous three rounds. In doing so the John Lockes defenders set up a platform for their colleagues further afield to build on. Sean Power ran himself to a standstill in the



Dunnamaggin - Roinn B MH Finalists 2015

second half as did Eoghan Scriven to keep a grip on the midfield exchanges while up front wing men TJ Tierney, Cian Bogue and his replacement Josh Doheny kept up the fight for the full hour in securing vital ball for the inside line where Robert Kerwick (0-2), Conor Murphy (0-1) and Padraig Purcell, who did his best work when moved outfield, all made valuable contributions to the victory.

In the end Dunamaggin probably wouldn't dispute that over the sixty minutes John Lockes deserved their victory but with so many players underage again next year

Dunamaggin will surely will be a force to be reckoned with at this level in 2016.

Roinn C

Young Irelands and Barrow Rangers got proceedings under way for the Kilkenny Honda Centre minor hurling Roinn C Championship with the men clad in red and white getting the spoils on a score line of 2-15 to 0-16.

James Stephens B had too much class for the Cloneen/Railyard challenge and edged them out 4-8 to 2-7. In another derby clash for Young Irelands they over-came

Graignamanagh convincingly whilst Dicksboro B saw off Carrickshock in the other quarter final. In a dour semi final Young Irelands ground out victory eventually against St Patrick's 1-9 to 0-5. In the battle of the B teams Dicksboro again came out on top against James Stephens 2-16 to 2-8. In a very close county final, in which where both sides might just have been happy with a second bite of the cherry, Young Irelands won by 2-10 to 2-9, thanks to a late goal from a Sean Carey free.

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Dicksboro captain, Robbie Murphy, is presented with the Minor Hurling Championship cup by Willie Dempsey, Chairman, Bord na nÓg and Cathal O'Neill, Kilkenny Vehicle Centre after the Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

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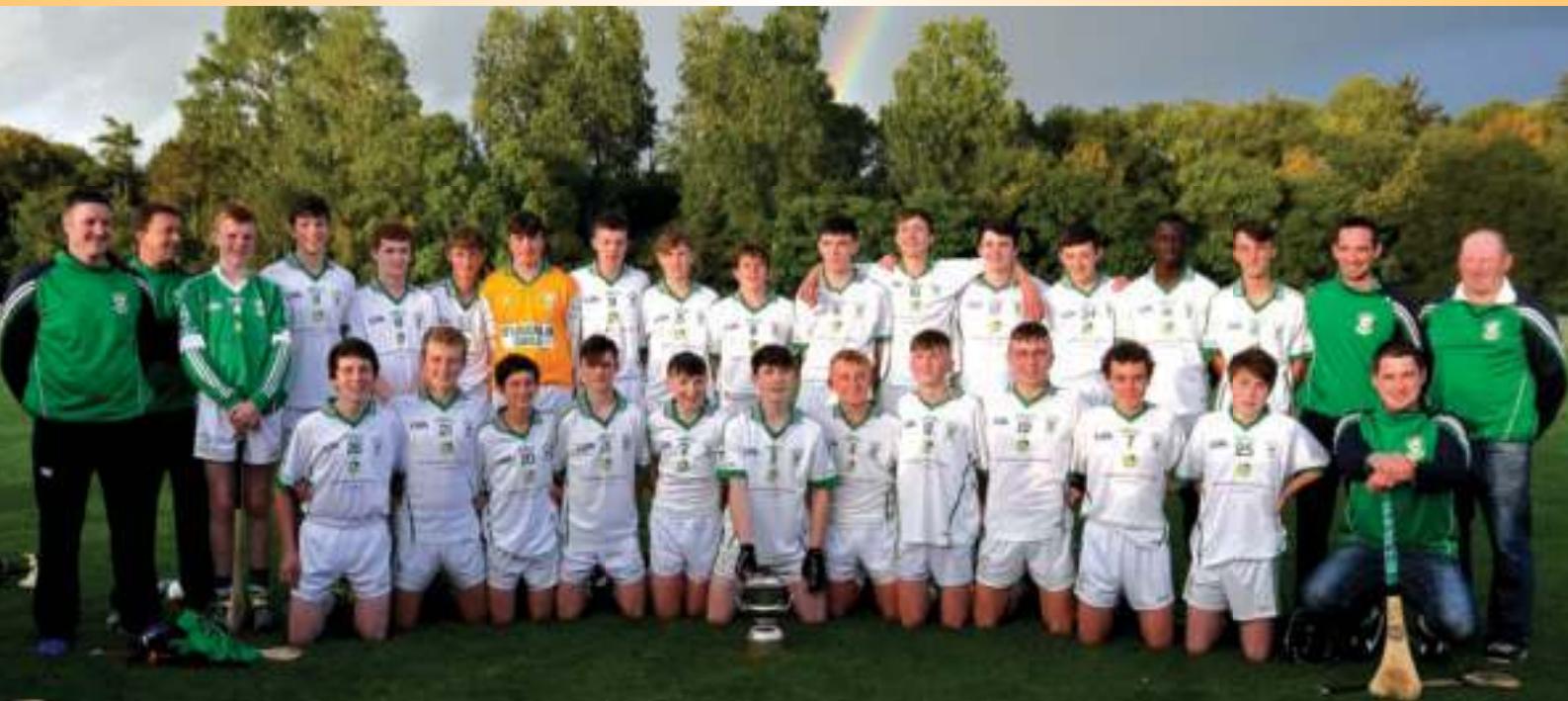
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Two-in-Row for O'Loughlins

Under 16 Bord na nÓg report by Pado O'Flynn PRO



O'Loughlin Gaels - Roinn A Championship & League Winners 2015

Roinn A

The Under 16 Duggan Steel Roinn A Championship saw 10 teams taking on O'Loughlin Gaels in an attempt to wrest away the title they had won so convincingly in 2014.

Similar to the Under 14 championship Erins Own and James Stephens squared up in the first round where the influence of Robert Butler proved to be the difference between the sides as the Larchfield men gained revenge for their defeat in the younger age group with a 2-16 to 3-10 victory here. The other first round fixtures saw O'Loughlin Gaels and Thomastown score good victories over Bennetsbridge and Graigue Ballycallan.

A clash of last year's county finalists saw Dicksboro and O'Loughlin Gaels square up in a game where Eoin Wall, Eoin O'Shea and Ronan Buckley inspired O'Loughlin's to a thoroughly deserved victory but the Palmerstown outfit would surely regret some of their missed goal chances, The final score line was O'Loughlin Gaels 0-16 to Dicksboro's 2-6.

James Stephens and Thomastown again had high-scoring wins over Danesfort & Mooncoin but probably the tie of round was between Dunamaggin and Ballyhale Shamrocks with the Ballyhale men being made work for every ball before the influence of Adrian Mullen told in the end as they won by 1-17 to 1-11.

The semi finals proved to be top class affairs where James Stephens possibly had the chance to end O'Loughlin Gaels reign but the St John's outfit showed some resolve and more to win out by 1-18 to 3-8. The battle down south in the other semi final proved to be just as interesting but in the end Ballyhale overcame Thomastown 3-15 to 1-15.

O'Loughlin Gaels completed a two in a row in the Duggan Steel Under 16 Roinn Championship Roinn A Hurling Final played before a large attendance at Thomastown. Whilst the St Johns outfit were the warm favourites they didn't have it all their own way and were lucky to be ahead at half time as both sides showed some wonderful touches but the city team powered on in the second half with captain Jordan Molloy

leading the charge from full back whilst Eoin Wall was on fire scoring 1-5 from play and his partner in the other corner Ben Maher was just as effective contributing a tally of nine points to his sides cause.

The first half was a see-saw bout with Adrian Mullen getting the Shamrocks off to a flyer with a pointed which was soon followed by an Eoin Cody point. It took the eventual winners till the 10th minute to get on the score board with Sean Kenny grabbing a minor. Mullen and Eoin O'Shea swapped points. By the 21st minute Ballyhale held a two point lead after Martin Davis pointed. Ben Maher pointed a free soon after. The Gaels were under pressure at this stage but the re-siting of Dacel Fwamba to centre forward proved vital and he duly pointed from his new surrounds.



Kilmacow - Roinn B U16 Finalists 2015



Lisdowney - Roinn B Champions and League Finalists 2015

Ballyhale at this stage of the game missed three good goal chances and drove a number of wides with only a Mullen free to show for their efforts. Adam Flynn levelled matters soon after but the vital game changing score arrived shortly afterwards. Dean Mason, in the Ballyhale goal, had pulled off a top class save from Eoin Wall moments earlier but when the diminutive corner forward had a second chance soon after he made no mistake hitting the ball to the roof of the net. Ballyhale did take the sting out of it with an Adham Masood point to leave it 0-6 to 1-5 at half time.

Flynn and Maher both pointed early on before Martin Davis grabbed his second of the afternoon. Further points by Eoin Wall and Maher (3) saw the St John's outfit further ahead, with an Adrian Mullen's converted free being the sole response. Wall & Maher again tagged on further points as they were now in a commanding position and in truth the game was over as contest by the 50th after Wall put O'Loughlins 1-16 to 0-10 ahead. To the victors go the spoils and despite Ballyhale showing some lovely hurling particularly in the first half they'll be the first to applaud and admire the sweet stick men of Loughlin Gaels.

O'Loughlin Gaels: David McCormack, Luke Hogan, Jordan Molloy(Captain), Mikey Butler, Barry Lawlor, Conor Heary, Oisin Murphy, Ronan Buckley, Eoin O Shea, Ryan Poyntz, Adam Flynn, Sean Kenny, Eoin Wall, Dacel Fwamba, Ben Maher. Subs Eoin Neary, Ian Clifford, Joe Murphy, Robert Boyd & Jamie Ryan.

Ballyhale Shamrocks: Dean Mason, Conor Doyle, Patrick Hearne, Keelan O'Donoghue, Casey Corcoran, Evan Shefflin, Darragh Corcoran, Adham Masood, Jason Devereux, Martin Davis, Adrian Mullen, Eoin Kenneally, Ronan Hayes(captain), Stephen Barron, Eoin Cody. Sub: Eoin Walsh

Roinn B

The Under 16 Roinn B Hurling championship is a notoriously difficult competition to predict and often in most cases league form can go right out the window. In the preliminary round there were convincing victories for Galmoy/Windgap and Piltown over Clara and Sliieverue.

Fourteen other teams entered the competition at this stage and there were a number of high quality close encounters. Lisdowney squared up to last years county finalist Galmoy/Windgap and they overcame them 4-15 to 2-15 in a game where Niall Brennan and James Phelan shone brightest despite the best efforts of Oisin Phelan and Conor Grace. St Martin's recorded their first victory at Under 16 level

for a few years by defeating Graignamanagh 2-10 to 2-9. The other tie of the round of saw Liam Grant carry Emeralds to a 2-15 to 1-17 victory over Rower Inistioge.

In the last eight Lisdowney sent out a statement of intent with a big victory over St Martin's, whilst John Lockes & Glenmore defeated St Lachtain's and St Patrick's. Kilmacow and Emeralds served up a classic where the southerners only pulled away in the dying embers of the match. Kilmacow and Lisdowney saw off the semi final protagonists in the shape of Glenmore and John Lockes which signalled that the two strongest sides were about to clash in the county final.

On the day before Kilkenny claimed the All Ireland Final Kilmacow and Lisdowney served up a thriller in Thomastown that



Mullinavat - Roinn C U16 Champions 2015

ebbed and flowed like the river Nore beside it. The return of Gary O'Sullivan from injury probably tipped the scales in favour of the Lisdowney men but many of this Kilmacow team went on to win the U-14 title a few weeks later. Final score 2-7 to 0-12.
Lisdowney:

Roinn C

Nine teams sought glory in the Duggan Steel Under 16 Roinn C hurling championship. In the only first round game it was a battle of the B teams as O'Loughlin Gaels gained a big victory over Dicksboro.

The St John's outfit quickly followed this up with an equally impressive victory against Tullaroan in the quarter final. James Stephens B defeated Cloneen-Railyard whilst Mullinavat won out the southern derby against Carrickshock.

Fenian's caused something of a minor upset when they swept aside O'Loughlin Gaels quite comfortably in the county semi final whilst Mullinavat just about got the better of James Stephens B registering a 2-7 to 1-8 win.

A classic unfolded in the county final where nine goals were shared between the sides. Oisin Knox proved to be the difference between the sides banging in five goals. The sides were level in injury time before Jordan Clarke proved to be the hero of the hour landing the winning score to spark scenes of jubilation, among Mullinavat supporters.



Glenmore - Roinn B U16 League Champions 2015



James Stephens- Roinn C U16 League Champions 2015



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Some Mighty Games All Through

Under14 Bord na nÓg report by Pado O'Flynn PRO



O'Loughlin Gaels Roinn A and Paddy Grace Feile Champions 2015

Roinn A

The 2015 Duggan Steel Under 14 Roinn A Championship promised much and boy did it live up to expectations. Right from the very off when James Stephens and Erins Own clashed in the first round of the championship in Jenkinstown there werw some mighty games all the way through. Erins Own eventually hung on for a deserved one point victory to keep their momentum going after their league success.

Prior to that in the preliminary rounds Thomastown's burst for goals saw them overcome a competitive Mooncoin side whilst Lisdowney and Bennettsbridge had too much in the tank for Graigue Ballycallan and Danesfort respectively. In the other game it took Dunnamaggin all their time and might to overcome Dicksboro 3-9 to 2-9.

In the quarter finals O'Loughlin had too much class for Dunnamaggin and eventually pulled away for victory. Goals were the order of the day when Bennestbridge eventually edged out Lisdowney 6-16 to 4-15 whilst in the other quarter final St Lachtains overcame Thomastown.

The semi finals saw Erin's Own eventually come good against a persistent St Lachtains side and O'Loughlins had simply too much for an inexperienced Bennetsbridge side to set up the same final pairing as 2014.

O'Loughlin Gaels put back to back Under 14

Roinn A Duggan Steel hurling championships when they defeated league champions Erin's Own in an epic final in Ballyragget.

A 2-4 burst just before half time from the O'Loughlin Gaels full forward line transformed a 0-4 to 0-3 deficit to a 2-7 to 0-4 lead. Two early Conor Kelly pointed frees had put the St Johns outfit into an early lead before Jack Buggy & Jamie Maher responded with a point a piece.Jack Buggy briefly put Erin's Own into the lead with a converted but Conor Kelly grabbed his first from play.

A Buggy pointed free again had Comer in front after the 22nd minute but then the O'Loughlin Gaels full forward line took hold of the game. Ethan Kerwick, Mikey Wallace & Kelly all pointed before Vinnie O'Grady pounced with the first goal of the game.

Kerwick soon after found Wallace in a good position and he duly rifled the ball to the roof of the net to leave the defending champs nine clear at the interval, 2-7 to 0-4.

A quick Kelly point pushed O'Loughlins further clear before Buggy registered two quick points for the 'Comer side. A further Wallace point was quickly followed by an Ethan Kerwick goal for the city side. Lesser teams would have folded but credit to Erin's Own they immediately hit back with a Chris Korff goal from a free.

Keelan Ring & Maher grabbed points before Jack Buggy hit a thundering shot which sent the green flag waving. Two Conor Kelly points were responded to with a goal from relocated full back Dan Coogan which was soon followed by a Daragh O'Rourke point. The next score would be vital and it duly came for O'Loughlin's when the pacy Mikey



Erin's Own - Roinn A League Champions & Championship Finalists 2015



Kilmacow - Roinn B and Feile Champions 2015

Wallace sealed the title for O'Loughlin's with a fine goal.

Scorers: O'Loughlin Gaels: Mikey Wallace (2-2), Conor Kelly (0-7, 0-3 frees, 0-1 65), Ethan Kerwick (1-2), Vinnie O'Grady (1-0).

Erin's Own: Jack Buggy (1-5, 0-3 frees), Dan Coogan & Chris Korff (1-0 each), Jamie Maher (0-2), Kealan Ring & Darragh O'Rourke (0-1 each)

Erin's Own: Nicky Connolly, Billy O'Neill, Dan Coogan, Lee Holden, Dean Brey, Chris Korff, Thomas Judge, Conor Clarke, Jack Buggy (Capt), Kealan Ring, Jamie Maher, Killian Hogan, Daragh O'Rourke, Kevin Holland, Shane Coogan

Subs: Ashley Kerr, Kevin Smyth, Luca Downey, Ciaran Meagher, Brian Holland, Cathal O'Reilly, Owen Comerford, Alan Smyth, Liam Doyle

O'Loughlin Gaels: Ronan Lavelle, Peter McNamara, David Fogarty, Donal O'Leary, Ciaran Murphy, Jamie Young, Niall Higgins, Declan Coffey, Charlie Maher, Conor Kelly, Ben Tyrrell, Jack Sheridan, Vinnie O'Grady, Ethan Kerwick, Mikey Wallace

Subs: Declan Murphy, Niall Flanagan, John McNamara, Ian O'Keefe, Harry Bland, Sean Lawlor, Jake Hickey, Joe Leydon, Joey Byrne, James Phelan, William Slattery, Sam O'Connell, Chase Leefarr, Luke Hennessy, Matthew Hogan (Inj), Mark Gormley (Inj).

Roinn B

As was the case in Roinn A, the league Champions were defeated in the county final. James Stephens defeated John Lockes in the preliminary round but were handed a heavy beating in the next round by Kilmacow. Piltown, Galmoy/Windgap, Emeralds, Graignamangh, Dicksboro B and O'Loughlin's B all exited in the first round. In the quarter finals, a Barrow Rangers two goal blast either side of half time helped them to see off Glenmore whilst the Rower Inistioge, Kilmacow and St Martin's all had a bit to spare in their defeats of Young Irelands, Clara and Ballyhale Shamrocks. The semi finals proved to be close run

affairs with St Martin's eventually seeing off Barrow Rangers after getting a mighty scare, recovering from an eight points deficit to win. The other semi final proved to be just as dogged with Kilmacow holding out for a four point victory against a gallant Rower Inistioge.

Goals win matches is the simple saying and in the final, Kilmacow took their chances whilst St Martin's missed theirs and ultimately it gave Kilmacow a platform for a victory which they thoroughly deserved. Kilmacow got off to a flying start in this Duggan Steel Under14 Roinn B County Final when Dylan Moore pounced on a breaking ball on the edge of the square after only 30 seconds play. Justin Manning replied for St Martin's with a huge point from 70 metres.

Keith Butler added two pointed frees for the Southerners sandwiched between a Ronan Shore free. The young St Martins half forward was beginning to get on more ball and duly picked off a point from out on the wing.

Points from Colm Lyons, Patrick Ryan and Tom Costelloe saw Kilmacow into 1-6 to 0-3 half-time lead.

The men from the north of the county needed a big start to the second half but instead Dylan Moore had the green flag waving moments after the restart for Kilmacow which was followed by a monster of a free from Brian O'Mara. Keith Butler got in on the scoring act with a point.

Martin's took over for the next ten minutes with the introduction of some fresh legs adding life to their challenge. However for all their efforts they'd only points from Ronan Shore (free) and Tristan Roche to show for their efforts. They simply couldn't get the goal which would have given their challenge the oxygen it needed.

Keith Butler's breakaway goal settled the matter as Kilmacow led from start to finish to make up for their loss in the national Féile finals in Belfast.

Scorers: Kilmacow: Keith Butler (1-4, 0-3 frees), Dylan Moore (2-0), Tom Costelloe, Patrick Ryan, Dean Scully & Brian O'Mara (0-1 each).

St Martin's: Ronan Shore (0-3, 0-2 frees), Tristan Roche & Justin Manning (0-1 each).



St Martins - Roinn B and Feile Feile Finalists 2015

Kilmacow: Ronan Leech, Tom Butler, Fergal Suffin, Kieran Dowling, Billy Phelan, Brian O'Mara, Sean Blanchfield, Dean Scully, Patrick Dollard Ryan, Dev Lowe, Conor Lyons, Finn Lonergan, Keith Butler, Dylan Moore, Tom Costello.

Subs: Stephen Moore & Eoin Walsh.

St Martin's: Dan Doyle, Paul Murphy, Harry Kealy, Matthew Shortall, Andrew Buggy, Justin Manning, Bill Dowling, Tommy Butler, Adam Agar, Tristan Roche, James Carrigan, Ronan Shore, Donal Coughlan, James Dowling, Daragh Quinlan.

Subs: Shane Fahy, Darragh Coughlan, Jack Murphy, Joe Reid.

Ref: Owen Kenny

Roynn C

The Duggan Steel Under 14 Roynn C Championship saw 10 teams go to post. In the first rounds Carrickshock edged out Slieverue by 4-6 to 2-6 in a typical tight southern derby. In the other first round game a five goal blast from Fenians saw them overcome Black & Whites.

The quarter finals were largely competitive with the pick of the games the clash between Cloonen/Railyard and Tullogher Rosbercon with the northern team emerging victorious on a 2-6 to 1-8 scoreline. Elsewhere St Patrick's, Tullaroan and Mullinavat all had fine victories over Conahy Shamrocks, Fenians and Carrickshock respectively.

In the semi-finals the goals rained in with a total of 21 scored between the two games. As it turned out Mullinavat just had that little extra pep in their step to over-turn Cloonen Railyard whilst St Patricks eventually got the better of Tullaroan 7-11 to 4-9.

Mullinavat took the honours in the final on a day where the game ebbed and flowed but their goal taking saw them win out 5-7 to 2-12.



Mullinavat - Roynn C Champions 2015



Tullaroan - Roynn C League Champions 2015

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CUMANN NA MBUNSCOILEANNA REPORT 2015



St Canice's - Roinn A Champions 2015

With the end of the last year's football competitions the Kilkenny Schools' Board brought the curtain down on seventy five years of action in schools' games. Over the winter months, plans were put in place to honour this remarkable anniversary as the Board reached three quarters of a century. In early March, over two hundred gathered in Langton's of John Street to celebrate. Board members, past and present, friends old and new, representatives from National Cumann na mBunscol all came together for a lovely meal and a night of reminiscing and looking forward. Guest speaker on the night was Brian Cody, Kilkenny manager and long-time mentor in St Patrick's de la Salle in Coote's Lane. Liam McCarthy was joined for the evening by Sam Maguire and the great Football trophy was very much in demand throughout the night! Overall, a lovely evening was had by all and a great start was made to the new hurling year.

The end of the year brought another celebration. To celebrate its golden anniversary Cumann na mBunscoileanna had produced a history called *Caoga Bláin Óg*. With another twenty five years of action, a new book to remember these years was produced by the Board entitled *Ó Fhás go hAois*. Gerry O'Neill and Dermot Dunphy were responsible for producing the 324 page full colour which details the history of the board from 1989 – 2014. Hurling, Football, handball and seven-a-side competitions are all covered with some extra articles and profiles of county stars who have all won School Board Medals in their youth! The unveiling of the book was held just before Hallowe'en with the official launch done by Henry Shefflin, who stars in this book as well as his own well received autobiography.

In between the celebrations, the hurling competitions continued as usual. It's all well to celebrate, but the show must go on. And go on it did, with another series of great finals. For the second year running, the Roinn A final went to a replay and for the second year running, the boys of St Canice's on the Granges Road carried the day, their victims this year being Thomastown. Glenmore added to the Roinn B football title by winning the hurling version as well as the Corn de Bhaldraithe (Country Cup).

Graiguenamanagh-Skeoughvosteen also doubled up with the Roinn C and Corn Ó Briain titles, both at the expense of brave Carrickshock. Tullaroan continued winning ways with a win in the Roinn D 13-a-side while the 11-a-side competition was between Windgap and Galmoy. These clubs regularly join together to compete in Bord na nÓg competitions but were thrown into battle where Windgap came out on top.

Victories in the INTO Seven-a-side competition were Mooncoin in hurling and St Canice's in Football, Camogie and irls' Football. Congrats to all the young children who represented Kilkenny in Croke Park – Mairtin Gannon (Mooncoin – All-Ireland Hurling Final), Timmy Clifford and Mikey Clifford (St Canice's – All-Ireland Football Semi-Finals) Eva Collins (St Canice's – All-Ireland Hurling Semi-Final), Emer Stynes (St Canice's) and Sarah Barcoe (Thomastown – both All-Ireland Football Final).

Congratulations to all the winners in INTO Handball. Over twenty schools participated in A and B competitions with all the A winners who participated in Leinster listed in our results section! Well done all.

Allianz Roinn A League Final "St Canice's and Thomastown Finish All Square" St Canice's 3-04 Thomastown 2-07

This Allianz Cumann na mBunscoileanna Educational Supplies Roinn A final produced a grandstand finish to send the game into a replay. With breezy conditions tormenting both sides there was the feeling that the team that coped best defending against the breeze would hold the advantage. The half time score of 1-05 to 0-02 in favour of Thomastown suggested that the city side would have it all to play for in the second half and this is what they did.

From the throw in at the start the exchanges were frantic. Thomastown drew first blood with a point while St Canice's scored two points both from their corner forwards Cillian Hackett and Brian Manogue. From the tenth minute Thomastown took back control of the game to open a two point lead. A long ball out of the Thomastown defence found Naoise Dempsey in the right place and he slotted home his side's first goal to open up a considerable lead. St Canice's response was not to panic keeping the Thomastown defence on its toes and the Thomastown lead was six points at the break.

St Canice's started the second half positively and added a point from a 65. Thomastown moved the ball well to create a golden chance for ace corner forward Naoise Dempsey to finish to the net. St Canice's stormed back into the match and in the fifteenth minute of the half their corner forward Cillian Hackett found that all important goal that put his side back in the game. A missed chance from a free brought relief to Thomastown who at this stage were finding the going tough. St Canice's sent full back Stephen Dermody into attack and his presence around the square created many problems for Thomastown. Harry Shine popped up for a sweet point with five minutes to go and as matters played out it proved to be a vital score. With a single goal between the teams and Thomastown unable to find that insurance point as the clock ticked it looked more and more like this game was not going to be won on the night and almost on the stroke of full time the all important goal for St Canice's came from the hurley of Cillian Hackett. Both teams lived to fight another day. Full time score Canices 3-04 Thomastown 2-07.



Henry Shefflin Launches "Ó Fhás go hAois" with authors Gerry O'Neill and Dermot Dunphy.

F O'Brien, J Doup, T O'Brien, Z McHardy, C Nolan, E O'Reilly, A Dorney, M Raggett, K Moore, O Timmons, D Walsh, K Maher. Thomastown: T Collins, S Forristal, L Mc Nena, T Buckley, J Bambrick, L Treacy, J Skehan, B Tennyson, Z B Hammond, P Collins, P Mc Donald (Capt), C Coady, L Connellan, J Knight, N Dempsey. Subs: C Holden, R Malone, S O'Neill, L Skehan, A McGowan, D Cullen, C Moore, C O'Neill, C Watts, D Fennelly.

Allianz C na mB Educational Supplies

Roynn A Final Replay

Historic 4 in a row for St Canice's

Canices 5-11 Thomastown 4-1

Not often does the near perfect performance occur in a team sport, but when it does, it's special. So it was in St John's when St Canice's retained the Roynn A hurling title against a spirited, talented Thomastown side.

This replay only happened because of a heroic final ten minutes by the Granges Road side which gave them the opportunity of a second chance.

When ref Eddie Mahon called in the captains for the toss, St Canice's decided to play with the aid of the significant breeze in the first half. St Canice's were extremely lucky not to be a goal down after 30 secs when an early Thomastown attack lead to a shot hitting the post!

The city team soon settled down. The early exchanges were keenly contested as both sides searched for an early advantage. St Canice's opened the scoring with a well taken point from captain Patrick Fitzgerald who gave a display throughout! Cillian Hackett followed with perhaps the score of the evening, a lovely point after a super sidestep!"

Timmy Clifford blasted to the net with the next attack, after an assist from Brian Manogue, and all was looking rosy for St Canice's! But Thomastown responded quickly a point, followed by a goal, and the match was back in the melting pot! However five unanswered points before half time saw St Canice's 1-7 to 1-1 to the good at the break. When Thomastown raised an early green flag early in the new half, the match was back to a one-score game, and the breeze was at their backs.

What followed was a dominant performance of the highest quality from St Canice's who scored the next 4-2 without reply! It started with a little luck, when a well hit free from Brian Manogue near the road sideline found its way straight to the net just after Thomastown's goal. In the next attack, Timmy Clifford scored the second of his hat trick of goals to set us on our way. Mikey Clifford converted two placed balls before Timmy rounded off with his third goal, David Walsh scored the final goal and the title was St Canice's. With only minutes left, Thomastown took desperate measures that saw their big men moved into attack. They did score two late goals but St Canice's closed the scoring with a final free from Mikey Clifford. 5-11 to 4-1

Thomastown were brave throughout but undoubtedly the day belonged to St Canice's who duly completed a four-in-a-row!

Allianz C na mB Toymaster Roynn B Final

Glenmore turn on the style!

Glenmore Ballyfacey 5-10

Tullogher Rosbercon 1-4

Glenmore Ballyfacey captured their second ever Allianz Toymaster C na mB Roynn B title in convincing fashion against a gallant Tullogher-Rosbercon team played in ideal conditions in Nowlan Park. Both teams must be commended on the incredibly high standard of hurling witnessed.

Glenmore faced into a stiff breeze in the first half but this didn't seem to deter them as they started brightly registering 1-1 in the opening eight minutes. Tullogher, to their immense credit, thundered into the game and an excellent point from Colman O'Sullivan who cut in from the right handside lifted their spirits and when full forward Brian Walsh found the back of the net after 11 minutes, it really was game on. However Glenmore upped their game. Corner forward Charlie Phelan latched onto a breaking ball



Thomastown - Roynn A Finalists 2015



Glenmore - Roynn B Champions 2015



Tullogher Rosbercon - Roynn B Finalists 2015



Graig/Skeough- Roynn C & O'Brien Cup Champions 2015

and made no mistake finding the back of the net and soon followed up with another well taken goal. Cathal Beirne and Ian Byrne also added two very well taken points to give the Glenmore boys into a commanding lead after twenty minutes of play. A feature of Glenmore's play was their fantastic teamwork and resolute defending as Tullogher kept coming at them in the search of scores. Scores were traded by both sides and when referee, Paul Hunston, brought the first half proceedings to an end shortly after, the scoreline was Glenmore 3-5 Tullogher 1-2.

Tullogher-Rosbercon, who were now against the elements, needed to make a bright start to the second half. They certainly did this but unfortunately for the Tullogher boys it didn't show on the scoreboard with a great shot agonisingly whistling past the post three minutes after the resumption. This, spurred Glenmore into action and they tacked on another 1-3 from the fourth to the tenth minute, the goal coming from Jack Aylward once again. Balls that did happen to go through to the Tullogher full forward line were mopped up by the very good full back line Colman O'Sullivan and centre back Simon Kennedy really carried the fight to the Glenmore boys. Glenmore kicked on again and Byrne scored a beautiful point along the left sideline this time off his left side and when nippy half forward Cathal Beirne added a goal with ten minutes of play remaining, it left Tullogher with a huge mountain to climb as the score now read 5-8 to 1-2. One would have to admire the heart and battling qualities of the Tullogher team as they simply refused to throw in the towel. It was fitting that the imperious Ian Byrne scored the last point of the game and when the final whistle went, it was greeted with huge celebrations from the deserved winners. Indeed, it was a real team effort from Glenmore with all of their panel playing a huge part in this victory. The same can be said of Tullogher who certainly lost nothing in defeat.

Final score: Glenmore 5-10 Tullogher 1-4

Scorers:

Glenmore: Ian Byrne (0-8), Jack Aylward (2-0), Charlie Phelan (2-0), Cathal Beirne (1-1), Evan Halligan (0-1)

Tullogher Rosbercon: Colman O'Sullivan (0-3), Brian Walsh (1-0), Danny Glennon (0-1)

Tullogher Rosbercon: Pat Doyle, Eoin Kennedy, Jamie Power, Brian O'Shea, Thomas Handrick, Simon Kennedy, Conor Ryan, Jack Mullally, Lar Murphy, Mikey Handrick, Colman O'Sullivan, Danny Glennon, Jamie Brennan, Brian Walsh, Darragh Murphy, Dan Kennedy, Kevin Aylward, Josh Quinn, Evan Morrissey, Jack Handrick.

Glenmore: Mickey Kirwan, Jack Ryan, Patrick Walsh, Jack Cody, Alex Hughes, Conor Morrissey, Cian Connick, Ian Byrne, Billy Reid, Cathal Beirne, Jack Aylward, Evan Halligan, Charlie Phelan, James Hendrick, Paul Murphy, Kevin Saunders, Tomas Mullally, Niall Doolan, Alan Lacey, Richie Dunphy, Dominic Roche, Jack Barry, Leon Garvey, Colm Roche, Eamon Roche.

Referee : Paul Hunston



Carrickshock- Roinn C & O'Brien Cup Finalists 2015



Tullaroan - Roinn D Champions 2015



St Canice's 2nd Team - Roinn D Finalists 2015

This Top Oil Roinn C Hurling Final produced a thrilling game which remained in the balance right up to the final whistle. On a breezy evening in Nowlan Park, spectators were treated to an exhibition of honest, skilful hurling by both teams.

It was the Carrickshock lads who were favoured by the wind in the first half and they took the lead in the sixth minute with a point from centre-forward Eoin Crowley. This was quickly followed by a goal from corner-forward, Ryan Grace as the Carrickshock forward line enjoyed plenty of possession.

Graig/Skeough had their first score in the eighth minute when Senan Doyle pointed from play. This was answered by two Carrickshock points – a free from Denis Walsh and an Eoin Crowley score from play to leave the score 1-3 to 0-1. Graig/Skeough were creating some good chances at this stage and Carrickshock 'keeper, Darragh Dwyer, brought off a couple of outstanding point-blank saves to keep his team in front. Pierce Blanchfield tagged on a free for Graig/Skeough and there followed a sustained period of end-to-end hurling that thrilled the Nowlan Park attendance. The final score of the half was a point for Graig/Skeough to leave just a goal between the sides at the break – Carrickshock 1-3 : Graig/Skeough 0-3.

Carrickshock, now playing into the strong wind, extended their lead

to four points with an Eoghan O'Neill free. Graig/Skeough landed three of the next four points, however, with two frees and a '65 from Senan Doyle. When Eoghan O'Neill converted a free for Carrickshock halfway through the second period, it left the score at 1-6 to 0-6.

Then came a crucial point in the match. Ryan Grace, who had scored the Carrickshock goal in the first half, was now playing in the goalkeeper's position and produced an outstanding save at full-stretch. The resulting '65, however, took a deflection as it dropped and ended in the net. Carrickshock regained the lead with another Eoghan O'Neill free, but a point from Michael Sheehy and a free from Senan Doyle put Graig/Skeough ahead for the first time in the game, 1-8 to 1-7. The sides traded points in the whirlwind of the last five minutes and Padraig Lennon then levelled the game for

Carrickshock with a point from play. With only a minute of normal time remaining, a draw looked to be in prospect. However, a great point from Michael Sheehy, put Graig/Skeough in front again. The victory was sealed in style during injury time as Simon Connolly produced a blinding burst of speed down the left to connect with a breaking ball and finish to the Carrickshock net.

For the winners, Pierce Blanchfield (captain) led the attack with great resolve and was ably supported by Sam Byrne and Daire Murphy. Liam Cahill and Michael Pendergast were very solid in defence and 'keeper Ryan Murphy made some vital saves. Carrickshock had fantastic performances from centre-back Padraig Lennon and Denis Walsh at mid-field. Eoin Crowley, Jack McGuirk and Eoghan O'Neill all had fine games as had both Darragh Dwyer and Ryan Grace on goal.

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Graig/Skeough Scorers: Senan Doyle 0-6, Pierce Blanchfield 1-1, Ger Prentice 0-1, Simon Connolly 1-0, Michael Sheehy 0-2.

Carrickshock Scorers: Eoin Crowley 0-3, Ryan Grace 1-0, Eoghan O'Neill 0-4 (frees), Padraig Lennon 0-1 and Denis Walsh 0-1 (free).
Graig/Skeough : Ryan Murphy, Jack Ryan, Liam Cahill, Daire Moran, Seán Lanigan, Michael Pendergast, Kian Murphy, Tom O'Shea, Gerard Prentice, Daire Murphy, Pierce Blanchfield (Capt.) Senan Doyle, Jack Dunne, Sam Byrne and Michal Sheehy.

Subs: Ted Dunne, Jack Kennedy, Ivan Bolger, Shane Cleary, Greg Hoban, Ultan Irwin, Simon Connolly.

Carrickshock; Darragh Dwyer, James O'Shea, Jack McGuirk, Patrick Hickey, Stephen Neville, Padraig Lennon, Tomás Barron, Shane Fennelly, Oisin Doyle (Capt.), Adam Long, Eoin Crowley, Mason Byrnes, Ryan Grace, Eoghan O'Neill, Denis Walsh.

Subs: Tom Lodge, Edward Dwyer, Larry O'Shea, Josh Dineen, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Joseph O'Connell, Michael O'Shea, Joseph Aylward, Conor Brennan, Chris Audoire.

Allianz C na mB Top Oil Roinn D Final

"Two in a Row for Tullaroan"

Tullaroan 6-2 St Canice's B 2-1

Tullaroan retained their title in the Allianz C na mB/Top Oil Roinn D league final played out in splendid conditions at Nowlan Park. This competition was introduced initially for the smaller schools who struggled to field 15 a side teams but last year it was revised even further to include the second teams of the larger city schools. This gave the division a greater competitive edge and gave the chance for players in larger schools to experience playing hurling for their schools. Tullaroan have perfected this form of school's hurling and might now look at returning to full 15 a side competition where the standard of play is really pitched at their level.

Tullaroan's start left the attendance in no doubt of their intent, and on three minutes they won a penalty. It was taken "one on one" and Richard Cash crashed to the net. Within five minutes centre forward Bill Walton also found the net with a fine goal . A pointed free during this purple patch for Tullaroan had them firmly in the driving seat. St Canices began to find their rhythm in the twelfth minute when Oisín Timmons cut through the Tullaroan defence to bag himself a well taken goal. Oisín was back tormenting the Tullaroan rearguard again three minutes later when he blasted another shot to the net. Now only a point separated the teams and the very considerable breeze favoured Tullaroan. Tullaroan gathered a ball way out under the stand and fired towards goal it didn't look threatening but it made its way to the net and it brought a sigh of relief from the whole team. When the half time whistle sounded Tullaroan enjoyed a four point lead but they would doubt that this margin would suffice when on resume of play the aid of the wind would be with St Canice's.

The start of the second half removed any doubt about the wind advantage. Super sub Amy Cleere, Tullaroan, finished a fine strike to the net to open a seven point lead after three minutes. The in form Bill Walton at the centre of all attacks fired over a point to drive his team onwards. It was all Tullaroan now. St Canice's few attacks produced little threat and two goals within two minutes of each other sealed victory for Tullaroan. Aaron Dorney tried very hard to lift St Canice's spirits and he scored a lovely point on the 18th minute which really ended their score tally for the half. On the final whistle Tullaroan were wild with joy and co captains Brendan Walsh and Richard Cash accepted the cup on behalf of all their fellow heroes.

Tullaroan: N Holland, P O'Mahony, T Dillon, J Cash, R Cash, E Og Holland, B Walsh, L Walsh, J Walton, B Walton, P Og Mulligan, G Dunne, B Keogh. Subs: Amy Cleere, Ella Dillon, Sinead Murphy, Aislinn Treacy

St Canice's B: B Dunne, D Walsh (Capt), S Tynan, L Loli, C Nolan E O'Reilly, M Raggett, Z Mc Hardy, J Kelly, O Timmons, K Moore, A Dorney, J Keane. Subs: N Doheny, K Maher, P Conroy, M Kelleher, J Duop T O'Brien C Kavanagh, K Maher, M Carroll J Culleton, C John C Farrell, DJ Delaney



Windgap - Roinn E Champions 2015



Allianz C na mB TOP Oil Roinn E Final

Windgap win through!

Windgap 4-9 Galmoy 2-2

The Allianz C na mB Finals got off to a lively start in Nowlan Park when Windgap tasted victory in the TOP Oil Roinn E Final. This competition might have originated to cater for the small rural schools, it is played as an 11-a-side competition, but it was big on entertainment.

Although Galmoy had first use of the strong breeze, it was Windgap who opened the scoring with a good goal after four minutes when Zac Kennedy finished off a lovely passing move! Galmoy were quick to respond, Matt Delaney firing over a lovely point before Billy Drennan converted a free. Windgap began to get a grip on the game after that and their pressure paid off with a goal for Mark McCoy followed by a point a piece for Jack Doyle and McCoy. Galmoy found it difficult to stay with their physically stronger opponents. Sean Purcell fed Mark McCoy who goaled again and Zac Kennedy scored a third Windgap goal to leave the half-time score Windgap 3-2 Galmoy 0-2.

Galmoy had a huge task on their hands now facing the breeze and a sizeable Windgap lead. Jack Doyle pointed again and Zac Kennedy completed his hat trick and Galmoy were in deep trouble. They refused to give in, Billy Drennan made a great run which ended with a foul and the first one on one penalty in a Kilkenny Schools' Final. Billy took the penalty and made bit of hurling history giving goalie Killian Enright no chance with his well taken goal.

Windgap were not going to be denied however, and jack Doyle slotted two quick points in reply. Jay Maguire made good stops in the Galmoy goal but further points from McCoy, Doyle and Kennedy sealed victory for Windgap. Galmoy fought to the end with Billy Drennan capping a marvellous performance with his second goal.

Windgap were worthy winners but Galmoy can take great pride in a gritty display.

Scorers: Windgap: Zak Kennedy 3-1, Jack Doyle 0-6, Mark McCoy 1-2. Galmoy: Billy Drennan 2-1, Matt Delaney 0-1.

Windgap: Killian Enright, Sean Barron, Sean Purcell, Adam O'Shea, Eoin O'Brien, Blade O'Gorman, Sontae Jackson, Niall O'Brien, Jack Doyle, Mark McCoy (Capt), Zac Kennedy. Subs: Killian Doyle, Karl McCoy, Shane Houlihan, Eoin Freaney, Cian Hogan, Ciadna O'Shea, James Purcell, Jack O'Shea, Kyle O'Callaghan, Liam Connelly.

Galmoy: Jay Maguire, David Sherman, Kellyann Ryan, Aine Duggan, James Darcy, Billy Drennan, Matt Delaney (Capt), Callum Lonergan, Daniel Hanrahan, Niall Drennan, Rohan Lonergan. Subs: Kassia-Belle McNamara Tully, Darren Kelly, Kate Doyle, Laura Phelan, John Dermody, Colman Moloney, PJ Delaney.

Allianz C na mB Corn de Bhaldraithe Final

Strong Glenmore win in thriller!

Glenmore 3-10 Mooncoin 5-3

A strong performance saw Glenmore charge back from an early setback to beat Mooncoin and land the Corn de Bhaldraithe spoils. Aided by a stiff breeze Mooncoin raced into an early lead thanks to an Adam Croke goal and a point from Liam Hogan. Despite that setback, Glenmore settled into the game and made light of the elements. By the 20th minute Charlie Byrne, Jack Aylward and Cathal Byrne had all hit the back of the Mooncoin net, full forward James Hendrick provider in chief with two deft passes. Ian Byrne added three points and Mooncoin looked to be in trouble, but a quick 2-1 from Oisin Henneberry towards the end of the half left the score at the break Glenmore 3-3 Mooncoin 3-2.

Having hurled against the wind in the first half Glenmore were well placed to drive on and began the second half quickly with points

little threat and two goals within two minutes of each other sealed victory for Tullaroan. Aaron Dorney tried very hard to lift St Canice's spirits and he scored a lovely point on the 18th minute which really ended their score tally for the half. On the final whistle Tullaroan were wild with joy and co captains Brendan Walsh and Richard Cash accepted the cup on behalf of all their fellow heroes.

Tullaroan: N Holland, P O'Mahony, T Dillon, J Cash, R Cash, E Og Holland, B Walsh, L Walsh, J Walton, B Walton, P Og Mulligan, G Dunne, B Keogh. Subs: Amy Cleere, Ella Dillon, Sinead Murphy, Aislinn Treacy

St Canice's B: B Dunne, D Walsh (Capt), S Tynan, L Loli, C Nolan, E O'Reilly, M Raggett, Z Mc Hardy, J Kelly, O Timmons, K Moore, A Dorney, J Keane.

Subs: N Doheny, K Maher, P Conroy, M Kelleher, J Duop T O'Brien C Kavanagh, K Maher, M Carroll J Culleton, C John C Farrell, DJ Delaney.

SCOREBOARD 2015

Educational Supplies' Roinn A		SCOREBOARD 2015	
St Canice's	3-4	Thomastown	2-7
St Canice's	5-11	Thomastown	4-1
Toymaster Roinn B			
Glenmore	5-10	Tullogher Rosbercon	1-4
TOP Oil Roinn C			
Graig/Skeoughvosteen	2-10	Carrickshock	1-9
TOP Oil Roinn D			
Tullaroan	6-2	St. Canice's	2-1
TOP Oil Roinn E			
Windgap	4-9	Galmoy	2-2
Allianz Corn de Bhaldraithe			
Glenmore	3-10	Mooncoin	5-3
Allianz Corn Ó Briain			
Graig/Skeoughvosteen	4-6	Carrickshock	3-7
INTO Mini-Sevens Hurling		Mooncoin	
INTO Mini-Sevens Football		St. Canice's	
INTO Mini-Sevens Camogie		St. Canice's	
INTO Mini-Sevens Girls Football		St. Canice's	

INTO Mini-Sevens Handball

	Girls	Boys
Under 11 Singles	Amy Brennan (Moneenroe)	Daniel Hanrahan (Galmoy)
Under 11 Doubles	Lauren Power	Conor Holden
	Holly Byrne (Firoda)	Kyle Jordan (Thomastown)
Under 13 Singles	Noelle Dowling (Muckalee)	Billy Drennan (Galmoy)
Under 13 Doubles	Kelly Ann Duggan	Seán Purcell
	Áine Duggan (Galmoy)	Eoin O'Brien (Windgap)



Mooncoin - Mini 7's Hurling Winners 2015



St Canices - Mini 7's Camogie Winners 2015

Allianz C na mB TOP Oil Roinn E Final

Windgap win through!

Windgap 4-9 Galmoy 2-2

The Allianz C na mB Finals got off to a lively start in Nowlan Park when Windgap tasted victory in the TOP Oil Roinn E Final. This competition might have originated to cater for the small rural schools, it is played as an 11-a-side competition, but it was big on entertainment.

Although Galmoy had first use of the strong breeze, it was Windgap who opened the scoring with a good goal after four minutes when Zac Kennedy finished off a lovely passing move! Galmoy were quick to respond, Matt Delaney firing over a lovely point before Billy Drennan converted a free. Windgap began to get a grip on the game after that and their pressure paid off with a goal for Mark McCoy followed by a point a piece for Jack Doyle and McCoy. Galmoy found it difficult to stay with their physically stronger opponents. Sean Purcell fed Mark McCoy who goaled again and Zac Kennedy scored a third Windgap goal to leave the half-time score Windgap 3-2 Galmoy 0-2.

Galmoy had a huge task on their hands now facing the breeze and a sizeable Windgap lead. Jack Doyle pointed again and Zac Kennedy completed his hat trick and Galmoy were in deep trouble. They refused to give in, Billy Drennan made a great run which ended with a foul and the first one on one penalty in a Kilkenny Schools' Final. Billy took the penalty and made bit of



St Canices - Mini 7's Football Winners 2015

save from Darragh Dwyer and was on hand to finish to the net. For Carrickshock, Josh Dineen got on the end of a great cross to finish to the net in fine style. Two pointed frees from Eoghan O'Neill kept the 'Shocks' out in front by a single goal 2-07 to 2-04 and nobody was checking their texts such was the intensity of the game. Graigue Skeough continued to defend stubbornly and when a fine save was pounced on by Tom O'Shea, he levelled matters again with a fine goal. It now became a matter of who was going to blink first. Eoghan O'Neill appeared to have secured the all important score that would send Carrickshock over the victory line with his goal late in the half but when substitute Greg Hoban goaled again he was hailed a hero as Graigue-Skeough claimed the Tommy O'Brien cup for the second year in a row.

*Graigue-Skeough: R Murphy, J Ryan, L Cahill, D Moran, S Lanigan, M Prendergast, K Murphy, T O'Shea, G Prentice, D Murphy, P Blanchfield (Capt), S Doyle, J Dunne, S Byrne, M Sheehy.
 Subs: T Dunne, J Kennedy, I Bolger, S Cleary, G Hoban, U Irwin, S Connolly
 Carrickshock: D Dwyer, J O'Shea, J McGuirk, P Hickey, S Neville, P Lennon, T Barron, S Fennelly, O Doyle (Capt), A Long, E Crowley, M Byrnes, R Grace, E O'Neill, D Walsh.
 Subs: T Lodge, E Dwyer, L O'Shea, J Dineen, A Fitzpatrick, J O'Connell, M O'Shea, J Aylward, C Brennan.*



KILKENNY CUMANN NA mBUNSCOILEANNA Photo: Eoin Hennessy

Officers & Reps Past & Present at 75th Anniversary Dinner February 2015

Back: Dermot Dunphy, Jim Neary, Tom Hickey, Pat O'Neill, Richie Mulrooney, Niall Bergin, Jim Murphy, Damian Aylward, John Byrne, Tomás O'Dowd, Tom O'Brien, Richie Tierney, Richie Walsh, Pádraig O'Neill, Tom Duggan, John Cooney, Brian Cody.

Front: Paul Kinsella, Dick O'Neill, Joe Dunphy, Jim Fennelly, Brendan O'Sullivan, Mark Connolly, Fr Liam Dunne, Tommie Hayes, Ned Quinn, John Knox.

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Congratulations to All Cumann na mBunscoileanna Winners in 2015

SEAN TYRRELL R.I.P.

Sean Tyrrell, President CLG Sheamuis Stiopháin

The GAA community in Kilkenny was particularly saddened to hear of the passing of Sean Tyrrell on 15 January 2015. Aged 83, Sean had lived a full life, a great family man, a great community man and a great GAA man. He was predeceased by his wife May, from whose loss two years previously, he had never recovered. Sean and May reared a family of twelve children, nine boys and three girls, many of whom have gone on to make major contributions to Gaelic life.

At his graveside, Liam Tyrrell, Vice President of James Stephens GAA club paid a glowing tribute to Sean's huge influence on his beloved club James Stephens and Kilkenny County Board.

Sean was born in Barrack St. in 1931 and attended The Lake School and St. John's De La Salle. His first hurling title was the schools u14 championship in 1943. Having finished school, he worked for a time in the Kilkenny Journal newspaper and in Green Vale Woollen Mills on the Bleach Road, both long gone. In 1950 he was approached by his cousin Mick 'Weeks' Tyrrell to take up an apprenticeship as a painter/decorator. Around that time St. John's club folded and he joined the Village, who were also in the doldrums. Mick Tyrrell, father of current club Vice President Liam, was an All Ireland senior (1935) and minor (1931) medal winner and was an outstanding club hurler.

Sean played with the club throughout the decade until his retirement in 1959. In the days when full back lines were the preserves of hardy men, Sean was a powerful corner back and team captain when James Stephens won the county junior title in 1955. He went on to captain Kilkenny to the All Ireland junior title in 1956, leading a team that included later All Ireland senior winners Jim Link Walsh, Tom Walsh and Denis Heaslip. The final was played in New Eltham, London, with Kilkenny defeating London by 5-2 to 2-8. The journey and brief experience in the world's largest city at the time was a truly

remarkable one for a group of young men who had never been outside their own province!

Following his retirement from playing, he became involved on the club committee as an officer and team selector. Along with Bill Cody and Sean Georgie Leahy, Sean was a major influence in guiding the resurgence of the Village in the late 1960s and '70s. He was a senior selector throughout the glorious decade of the 1970s when James Stephens won three Kilkenny senior titles and were first Leinster club team to be crowned All Ireland club hurling champions in 1976. He was a Kilkenny senior hurling selector in 1970/71.

Sean served as County Board and Northern Board delegate from 1971 to 1980 and 1986 to 2008, promoting and defending the cause of James Stephens with common-sense, fairness and integrity, hallmarks of the man. But Sean contributed far more than that. His interest was in helping the Board promote hurling at every level. Sean did not seek officerships but acted as a sounding board and support to a host of outstanding GAA officials, Mick O'Neill, Paddy Grace, Ted Carroll, Tommy Murphy and, in particular Ned Quinn. His house opposite Nowlan Park was the scene for many animated discussions on the development of Kilkenny GAA. Sean served on a host of county board committees and was highly respected for his sound advice and support.

He was universal choice succeeded Bill Cody as President of James Stephens in 2002, a mark of the esteem in which he was held by the membership and an honour of which he was immensely proud.

He was a warm and sunny personality with a great sense of humour. Sean possessed a great turn of phrase and had a terrific memory, which qualities made him a wonderful raconteur.

Sean's family continues to have an extraordinary involvement in the GAA with



Sean and May Tyrrell admire the NHL Trophy



Sean and May Tyrrell meet President and Martin McAleese

several members of his family working actively in each of the three city clubs and grandchildren playing with all three clubs. His final guard of honour, one of the largest seen in Kilkenny for many years, comprised members of James Stephens, O'Loughlins, Dicksboro and the County Board as the GAA community paid well merited tribute to a man of honour, passion and great integrity.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Kilkenny - all Ireland JH Champions 1956 - Sean Tyrrell (Captain) 3rd from left.

My Learning Curve with Hurling



**60 MINUTES
sports**

Rome J Hartman Producer, '60 Minutes Sports'



As a producer at 60 Minutes Sports, a key part of my job is to find out as much as I can about whatever subject we're preparing a segment on. Usually I'm starting from a pretty solid base of knowledge. After all, I'm a life-long sports fan, and I've produced dozens of stories somehow connected to sports. For example, we're currently working on a profile of a top golfer. I know golf. I've played it for years. I'm surrounded by people who love the game, and my brother-in-law is a golf writer who has a wealth of knowledge he's willing to share.

But when correspondent Jack Ford came to me in the spring of 2015 and said "Let's do a story about hurling," the only response I could muster up was "what's hurling?" That conversation has been repeated many times in the months since. "What are you working on, Rome?" "I'm doing a story about hurling." "Hurling? Is that the game where they slide a smooth stone down a lane of ice?" "No, that's curling." "OK, so what's hurling?"

These days, of course, you're only a few keystrokes away from the answer to any question, so it didn't take me long to get the basic

information. Hurling is a game played mostly in Ireland, where its roots are deep and broad. It has been called both the oldest field game on earth and the fastest game on earth. Fifteen men to a side, a hurley and a sliotar, three points in the goal and one point over. A single Google search gave me the basics, and led me to more than a few eye-opening YouTube videos.

Then the REAL work started. 60 Minutes Sports is not the kind of place where you can do a few internet searches and declare yourself an expert. I began a research project that lasted months, beginning with scores of phone calls, Skype conversations and e-mail exchanges. Those were followed by a research trip to Ireland in June, and the project culminated in a 'shooting' trip with camera crews in early September. During that September shoot, we filmed interviews with Irish President Michael D. Higgins, journalist Damian Lawlor, and former players Henry Shefflin and Donal Og Cusack. We visited St. Kierans College in Kilkenny, attended the All Ireland Hurling Final in Croke Park, and then followed the Liam MacCarthy cup through the streets of Kilkenny and into Ballyhale.

Two of my first conversations in the early stages of research set the stage for and shaped the final story in important ways. I contacted journalist Damian Lawlor, then read his Book Fields of Fire, which tells (as its subtitle puts it) "the inside story of hurling's great renaissance." It documents Kilkenny's 21st century hurling dynasty, as well as attempts by other Irish counties to challenge that domi-



Scores of hurls outside St Patrick's Church at St Kieran's Student Mass.

nance. I also reached out to Seamus Reade, the public relations officer for Kilkenny's county GAA organization. Both Seamus and Damian displayed a generosity of time and spirit that set the tone for nearly everyone I encountered along the way in Ireland, whether on the phone or in person. People simply put aside what they were doing to share their expertise and help make our story as good as it could be. This was true at the Kilkenny GAA, at Croke Park, at RTE Sport...everywhere and everyone. During my research trip, Henry Shefflin gave up his lunch hour while working at the Bank of Ireland to sit down and meet with me, then met me again on Saturday morning at his home pitch in Ballyhale. When I visited Cork, Donal Og Cusack picked me up after his workday at Johnson & Johnson ended, and drove me to his home village of Cloyne to give me an in-person illustration of the role the local

GAA plays in that community. When I went to St. Kieran's College in Kilkenny, Adrian Finan devoted most of a day to 'educating' me about the school and the game.

Near the end of that same research trip, I was finally able to attend my first-ever hurling match at Nowlan Park on June 21. Kilkenny vs. Wexford. Seamus arranged for Barrie Henriques to meet me in the press box, sit next to me during the game, and 'interpret' for my un-trained eyes the fast-paced action I was seeing on the field. Needless to say (but I will), seeing a match in person far surpasses any YouTube video, and having someone with Barrie's expertise to guide me through the match was the best learning experience I could have asked for. Barrie told me lots of stories that day as well...some of them may even have been true.

The Irish people have a very special sport in hurling. The men who play it at the highest level display skill, stamina and courage on the pitch that puts athletes in most other sports to shame. Off the pitch, they display humility, grace, and a 'grounded-ness' that is very rare in modern sport. They are connected to their communities, and committed to their clubs, in a way that is refreshing for any true American sports fan.

I'm not sure the sport will ever really be 'exported' much beyond Ireland and Irishmen. But it deserves to be. I'm not sure that a grassroots organization like the GAA can or will ever be replicated elsewhere. But the world would be a better place if it could. And for a journalist trying to learn as much about the sport as he could as quickly as he could, the phrase "you're very welcome" was, well, very welcome.

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20th All-Ireland Secured for Kierans

All Ireland SH Colleges Final 2015
By Michael O'Leary



ST KIERAN'S - ALL IRELAND COLLEGES SH CHAMPIONS 2015

Back Row: Daniel O'Connor, Conor Byrne, Brian Kirwan, Joe Connolly, James Mullally, Aidan Nolan, Tommy Walsh, Billy Ryan, Eoghan Kearney.

3rd Row: Robert O'Flynn, Edmond Delaney, Kevin Murphy, Martin Keoghan, Ben Lawlor, Geoff Brennan, Jason Barcoe, Sean Carey, Niall Walsh, Victor Costelloe, Mr Ger Flood (trainer).

2nd Row: Mr Ken Maher (trainer), Jonathan Barron, Kevin Brennan, Adrian Mullen, Richie Leahy, Edward Moylan, Michael Cody, William Spencer, Sean Brennan, Eamonn Fennelly, Darren Mullen, Evan Carroll, Mr Liam Smith (trainer).

Front Row: Eamon Egan, Jack Keoghan, Jason Byrne, Jason Cleere, Liam Blanchfield, Sean Morrissey (captain), Ray Lahart, Eoin Walsh, Tadhg O'Dwyer and Shane Byrne.

(Eoin Hennessy)

St. Kierans College defended the All-Ireland Colleges title for the 5th time in their history as they secured their 20th All-Ireland title defeating Thurles CBS in a thrilling final on the Easter weekend in Semple Stadium, Thurles. Having defeated Borris Vocational School to win the Leinster League Final just before Christmas last year, attention turned to the championship once the new year beckoned, and Kierans began the campaign against their city rivals Kilkenny CBS in a repeat of last years Leinster and All-Ireland Finals.

Kierans prevailed 1-14 to 2-3, but it was all square at the interval 0-6 to 1-3.

Victory over their city rivals set-up a Provincial Semi-Final clash with Good Counsel of New Ross, and it was much more straightforward for Kierans from the word go.

Having led 0-8 to 0-0 after 15 minutes, and 0-14 to 0-2 at half-time, Kierans ran out resounding 1-18 to 0-5 winners with Tadhg O'Dwyer scoring a superb individual solo goal early in the second-half.

St. Peter College of Wexford provided the opposition in the Leinster Final, and despite Kierans shooting several wides, they

eventually won 1-14 to 1-6.

In a low scoring first-half, Kierans led 0-5 to 0-4, but they were setback early in the second-half when John Lee Meyler grabbed a St. Peters goal.

However, Kierans responded and they added three points in quick succession to regain the lead, before establishing control with a 34th minute goal from Richie Leahy. 1-8 to 1-4.

There was no way back for the Wexford school afterwards, and Kierans were in control afterwards as they claimed their 53rd Leinster Colleges Title.

Next up was an All-Ireland Quarter-Final clash on St. Patricks weekend against St. Francis College Rochestown of Cork with Kierans prevailing 2-11 to 0-10.

Kierans trailed 0-5 to 0-2 after 17 minutes, but by half-time, they had turned it around and a Tadhg O'Dwyer goal in the 28th minute gave them a 1-5 to 0-5 lead at the interval.

The All-Ireland Champions stretched the advantage to five points by the midway point of the second-half, but the Harty Cup Finalists fought back to trail by just two points with 5 minutes remaining.



St. Kieran's College Senior Hurling captain, Sean Morrissey, lifts the cup after the All-Ireland Final in Semple Stadium. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



St. Kieran's College Senior Hurling players celebrate at the final whistle in Semple Stadium. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



St. Kieran's College Senior Hurling management, Liam Smith, Ger Flood and Ken Maher with Adrian Finan, Vice-Principal, St. Kieran's College, Dermot Ryan, President, St. Kieran's College and John Curtis, Principal, St. Kieran's College, with the All-Ireland Colleges cup in Semple Stadium. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

However, Kierans dug deep and Jason Byrne pointed from a superbly executed sideline cut, before substitute Niall Walsh ensured their semi-final place when slamming home having been set up by Billy Ryan.

A week later, Kierans played Presentation Athenry, and after a long struggle, they qualified for another All-Ireland Final winning 0-19 to 0-17.

In a superb contest, the sides were level at 0-9 each at the interval, and with Evan Niland performing superbly for the Athenry school, the sides remained level until the 55th minute. 0-15 each.

Joe Connolly and Richie Leahy pointed as Kierans grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck, but Athenry to their fought back and they drew level with points from a Niland free and Brian Burke as the match appeared to be heading for extra-time.

Kierans though displayed the grittiest of determination and they grinded out victory when late points from Sean Morrissey and Connolly sealed the deal to set-up an All-Ireland Final showdown with Harty Cup Champions Thurles CBS on Easter weekend.

The stern test that Kierans received in their semi-final clash stood to them, and it also proved that they could win when their backs were against the wall.

Kierans made a bright start, and they built up a 0-4 to 0-1 lead after 10 minutes with points from Billy Ryan, Ray Lahart(free), Liam Blanchfield and Sean Morrissey.

Thurles CBS responded and a Michael Connors goal drew them level before edging ahead from a Niall Heffernan free. 1-2 to 0-4.

Kierans replied, and a Ray Lahart goal in the 17th minute regained the lead. 1-4 to 1-2.

Buoyed on by that goal, Kierans stretched the lead to five points 1-9 to 1-4 with points been added from Billy Ryan(2), Lahart(Free) and

Tadhg O'Dwyer, before Thurles CBS narrowed the gap by the interval. 1-10 to 1-7.

Scoring weren't as frequent throughout the second-half as Kierans continue to keep the Tipp school at bay.

Jack Skehan and Niall Heffernan pointed early after the restart to leave the minimum between the sides, before Kierans replied and exerted control with points from Richie Leahy, Niall Lahart(2) and Jason Byrne to restore their 5 point lead entering the closing quarter. 1-14 to 1-9. Thurles CBS tried manfully, but Kierans still led by 4 points as injury-time beckoned. 1-15 to 1-11.

Robbie Long pointed to narrow the deficit to three points, and that ensured a tense last few seconds.

The Tipp school were awarded a free inside the Kierans half well into injury-time.

However, the Kierans defence held firm with Tommy Walsh, Jack Keoghan and Jason Cleere leading the way as they recorded their 20th All-Ireland Colleges title.

St. Kierans College Team All-Ireland Final:

Adrian Mullen (Ballyhale Shamrocks); Michael Cody (Dunnamaggin), Tommy Walsh (Tullaroan), Jack Keoghan (Tullaroan); J Barron (Thomastown), Jason Cleere (Bennettsbridge), Eoin Walsh (Lisdowney); Jason Byrne (Clara) (0-1), Richie Leahy (Rower-Inistioge)(0-2); Sean Morrissey (Bennettsbridge)(0-2),(Captain) Liam Blanchfield (Bennettsbridge) (0-1), Joe Connolly (Clara); Ray Lahart (James Stephens) (1-5 0-4 frees), Billy Ryan (Graigue-Ballycallan (0-3), Tadhg O'Dwyer (James Stephens) (0-1).

Subs: Eamonn Egan (Graigue-Ballycallan) for Barron (47 mins), Niall Walsh (Windgap) for Connolly (48), Eoghan Kearney (Dunnamaggin) for Walsh (57), Martin Keoghan for Walsh (62).

AROUND THE COLLEGES

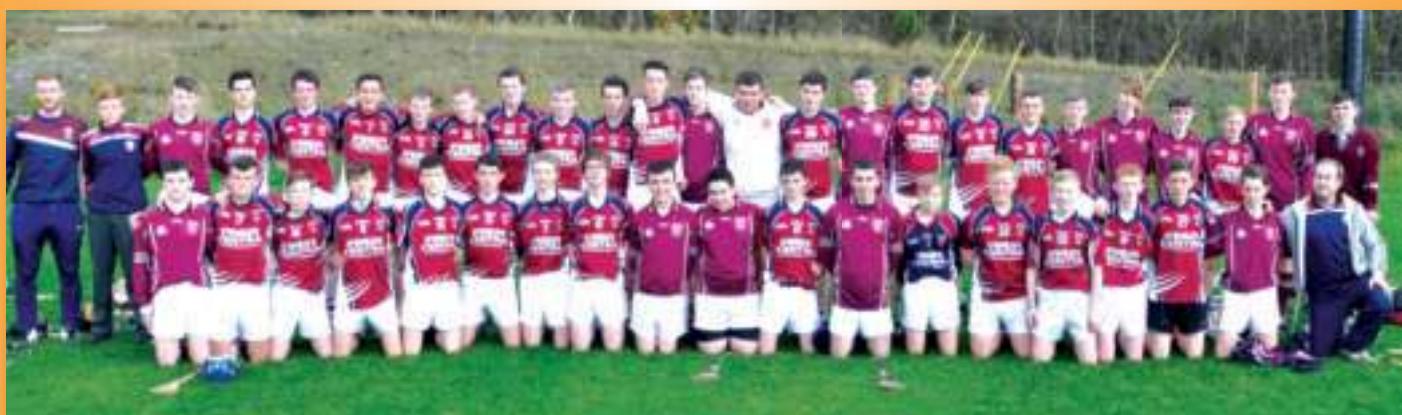


ST KIERAN'S PANEL WHICH DEFEATED KK CBS IN LEINSTER JUNIOR A COSGRAVE CUP FINAL

Jesse Roberts, Ciarán Brennan, Tommy Ronan, Eoin Ó'Shea, James Phelan, Eoin Wall, Brian Staunton, Daithí Barron, Diarmuid Phelan, Eoin Moylan, Evan Shefflin, Adrian Mullan [capt], Jamie Young, Rory Lodge, Luke Murphy, Ciarán Hogan, Adam Tallis, Dacel Fwamba, Cian Dawson, Ciarán Brennan, Mark Nolan, Tom Dunphy, Cillian Egan, Ryan Scanlon, Conor Murphy, Conor Ó'Keeffe, Jack Nolan, Liam Brennan-Smith, Ross Whelan.



KILKENNY CBS TEAM - COSGRAVE CUP FINALISTS 2015



BORRIS CS WHO DEFEATED CASTLECOMER CS IN LEINSTER JUNIOR HURLING C SHIELD FINAL 2-15 TO 1-13

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CASTLECOMER CS - LEINSTER JUNIOR HURLING C SHIELD FINALISTS 2015



KIERANS JUVENILE SQUAD WHO DEFEATED KK CBS BY 2-10 TO 0-14 IN THE LEINSTER A FINAL BARRY CUP

Included are: Harry Walsh (Dunamaggin), Conor Kelly (O'Loughlin Gaels), Conor Hoban (Dunamaggin), Ruairí Breen (Barrow Rangers), Eric Kearney (James Stephens), Conor Murphy (Bennetsbridge), Mark Nolan (Dicksboro) (Capt.), Dacel Fwamba (O'Loughlin Gaels), Ciarán Brennan (Bennetsbridge), Padraic O'Neill (Young Irelands, Gowran), George Murphy (Rower-Inistioge), Aaron Brennan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Danny Coyne (Bennetsbridge), Jamie Young (O'Loughlin Gaels), Eoin Cody (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Conor Kealy (Clara), Daragh Corcoran (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Jack Brennan (Young Irelands, Gowran), Padraig Moylan (Dicksboro), Martin O'Connell (Clara), Adam Fitzpatrick (Dunamaggin), Daragh Maher (St. Lachtain's Freshford), Cian Kenny (James Stephens), Liam Fennelly (James Stephens), Adam O'Brien (Graigue-Ballycallan), Barry Lennon (Bennetsbridge), Jason Butler (James Stephens), Dylan Carey (Young Irelands, Gowran), Jack Roche-Callan (John Lockes, Callan), Eoin Walsh (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Eoin Guilfoyle (James Stephens).



COLAISTE MUIRE, JOHNSTOWN TEAM WHO DEFEATED ST MARY'S CBS ENNISCORTHY IN THE SOUTH LEINSTER SCHOOLS FINAL BY 1-10 TO 1-8

Enda Kelly, Ryan Murphy, Ben Tallis, Eoghan Doheny, Karl Campion, Liam Grant, Darren Quinlan, Conor Madden, Niall Brennan, Padraig Delaney, Oisin Phelan, Gary O'Sullivan, Patrick Killeen, Ciaran Colclough, David Nolan, Gerard Kavanagh, Jordan Muldowney, Cathal O'Leary, Dominik Fraczek, Lee McCann, Marty McEvoy, Padraig Donnelly, Elijah Garrett, Pauric Dunne, John Kennedy, Conor Tallis, Calvin Ryan, Conor Holohan, Mark Fitzpatrick, Rory Deegan, Ollie Kenny.



DUISKE COLLEGE SENIOR HURLING TEAM DEFEATED BY NEW ROSS CBS IN THE SOUTH LEINSTER SENIOR HURLING C1 FINAL

Steven Cahill, Tadhg Delaney, Conor Jordan (capt), T.J. Murphy, Michael Barcoe, Mitchell Maher, Aaron Foley, Niall Hayden, Killian Phelan, Padraig Murphy, Terry Dreelan, Pierce Blanchfield, Jason Lacey, Adrian Doyle, Dylan Cahill, Cian Murphy, Thomas Doherty, Bill Lyng, Jim Lyng, Seamus Cleere, Oran Canning, David Doherty, Jason McGrath, Taighe O'Brien, Liam Cahil, Greg Hoban.



Borris CS - Leinster Senior League A Finalists 2014,



The opening of the second full-sized, all weather GAA pitch in Castlecomer CS



Loreto Kilkenny All-Ireland Colleges' 7-a-side Roinn A Camogie Champions 2016 who defeated Cross & Passion Ballycastle in the All-Ireland Final by 7-5 to 2-5

Hazel Moore (St. Martins), Ciara O' Shea (Dicksboro), Jane Cass (Dicksboro), Hannah Kelly (James Stephens), Ruth Kent (Danesfort), Ciara O'Keeffe (Young Irelands), Rachel Kelly (James Stephens), Caoimhe Dowling (Dicksboro), Steffi Fitzgerald (Young Irelands), Nicole Carter, Captain (Young Irelands), Tara Clifford (Dicksboro), Grace O'Donnell (Young Irelands), Katie Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks)



Hannah Kelly, All-Ireland Féile Skills Winner 2015 with the highest score on record of 205/230.



Chairman CLG Cill Chainnigh Ned Quinn presents St Kieran's captain Adrian Mullins with the Cosgrave Cup



THE ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES' JUNIOR ROINN A CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 2015 WHO DEFEATED PRESENTATION ATHENRY IN THE ALL-IRELAND FINAL BY 3-11 TO 2-6.

Included are: Grace O'Donnell (Young Irelands), Michelle Teehan (James Stephens), Rebecca Cuddihy (Tullaroan), Ciara O'Keeffe (Young Irelands), Hannah Murphy (Conahy Shamrocks), Ruth Kent (Danesfort), Rachel Hickey (Freshford), Kate Dempsey, Hannah Kelly (James Stephens), Aoibheann Murphy (Lisdowney), Evelyn Phelan (Conahy Shamrocks), Eimear Leahy (Emeralds), Jane Cass (Dicksboro), Elaine Cullinane (Dicksboro), Nicole Carter (Young Irelands), Rachel Kelly (James Stephens), Eimear Walsh (Lisdowney), Annie O'Connor (Dicksboro), Issey Carroll (Dicksboro), Claire O' Carroll (Lisdowney), Siobhán Mullan (Conahy Shamrocks), Ella Moore (Tullaroan) {Captain}, Aisling Morrissey (Dicksboro), Ciara O'Shea (Dicksboro), (Freshford), Grace Byrne (Danesfort), Sophie O'Dwyer (James Stephens), Aisling Maher (Conahy Shamrocks), (Dicksboro), Aideen O'Connor (Paulstown), Eimear Keoghan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Aoife O'Carroll (Lisdowney), Caoimhe Dowling (Dicksboro), Niamh Deely (James Stephens), Tara Walsh (Graigue-Ballycallan), Tara Clifford (Dicksboro), Saoirse Comerford (James Stephens), Caoimhe Bergin, Katie Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks)

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A YEAR OF GREAT ACTIVITY IN THE ALLEYS

HANDBALL REPORT by JOSEPHINE COONEY PRO



All Ireland Adult winners: Ducksy Walsh Masters A Singles 60x30 winner. Kirsty Maher and Denise Love Ladies Junior B Doubles 40x20 winners, Ducksy Walsh and DJ Carey Masters A Doubles 40x20 winners All Ireland Colleges ID Winners: Shane Dunne and Padraig Cooney Castlecomer Community School Intermediate doubles 40x20 Colleges Winners



All Ireland Hardball Winners: Intermediate Singles Ciarán Neary, Junior Singles Brendan Burke. All Ireland Gael Linn winners Kyle Dunne and Amy Brennan Clogh

Kilkenny Handball Report

11 teams entered the County Gael Linn, Two pairs came out of the county to go forward to Leinster and they were Kyle Dunne and Amy Brennan Clogh and Tom Holden and Roisin O Keeffe Kilfane. Both pairs won Leinster and went on to the All Ireland stages. All four Kilkenny Juveniles gave a great display of handball on the day and the sportsmanship from Kyle, Amy, Tom and Roisin was excellent. Kyle Dunne and Amy Brennan Clogh defeated Tuamgreeney, Clare bringing the All Ireland Gael Linn title back to Kilkenny.

40x20 Post Primary Handball

Many secondary schools from the county took part in the 40x20 Post Primary Handball with a lot of schools reaching Leinster Finals. In the Junior Singles Eoin Brennan St. Kierans, College won the Leinster Final and was defeated in the All Ireland semi final. In the

Intermediate Doubles Padraig Cooney and Shane Dunne Castlecomer Community School won the Leinster Final and also went on to win the All Ireland final. This was a great win for Padraig and Shane as they have won Intermediate doubles in both alleys in the one school year. In the Senior Doubles Emmet Landy and Darragh O Shea Coláiste Éamonn Ris Callan won their Leinster final and were defeated in the All Ireland final and in the Girls Junior Singles Aoife Holden Grennan College Thomastown won her Leinster final and was defeated in the All Ireland final.

Juvenile Teams

There were All Ireland wins for Kilkenny u12/13 and u16/17 40x20 teams.

Kilkenny U12/13 Team of Billy Drennan, Gearoid Phelan, Padraig Lennon, Kyle Dunne, Jamie Maher, Padhraic Foley, Jack Doyle, Sean Purcell won their Leinster Final and defeated a well fancied Clare in the All Ireland final. Kilkenny U14/15 Team of Billy O'Neill, Dylan Crehan, Robert Culleton, Conor Drennan, Patrick Doyle, Shane Cullen, Jack Hayes, Jack Buggy won their Leinster final but were defeated by Monaghan in the All Ireland semi final by 2 aces. Kilkenny U16/17 Team of Cathal Barry, Connor Condon, Jack Crehan, James Culleton, Eoin Regan They had defeated Laois in the Leinster semi final and received a walkover in the Leinster Final and All Ireland semi final and defeated Tipperary in the All Ireland final by 4 aces. In the 60x30 Kilkenny U12/13 team of Adam O Shea, Jack Doyle, Sean Barron, Sean Purcell, Padhraic Foley, Eoin O'Brien, Ryan Grace, Tom Holden

were defeated in the Leinster Final, the U14/15 team of Robert Dowling, Shane Fahey, Michael Power, Kieran Buckley, Jack Kerins, Joe Cowhig, Conor Hoban, James Love were defeated in the All Ireland Final.

Hardball

The following represented Kilkenny at Hardball Padraig Cooney, Shane Dunne Brendan Burke, Ciarán Neary, Kirk Greene, William Love and Daniel Love in singles and doubles and the county featured in three All Ireland finals. Junior Singles was won by Brendan Burke Kells, Intermediate Singles was won by Ciarán Neary Talbots Inch and Shane Dunne Clogh was unfortunate to lose the Minor Singles. Well done to all who participate and are trying to keep the oldest code of Handball alive.

Feile na nGael

Windgap, Kells and Galmoy competed in the 40x20 Handball Feile na nGael with Windgap and Galmoy girls coming home victorious. Windgap won the boys Division 2 40x20, Windgap team Robert Culleton, Jack Doyle, Eoin O'Brien, Padhraic Foley Galmoy won the Girls Division 2 40x20, Galmoy Team Kelly Ann Ryan, Noelle Dowling, MaryEllen Phelan, Katie Ryan Kells Feile competed in Division 4 40x20, Kells team Dylan Crehan, Michael Prendergast, Dillon Wall, Kieran Buckley, James Shirley Noelle Dowling won Bronze medal in the Girls Feile skills.

World Handball Championship

The World Handball Championships were held in Calgary, Canada in August with 4 Gold and 8 Silver Medals won by Kilkenny players. President is Con Moore O Loughlin's Handball Club. Con has been re-elected as President of the World Handball Council for another 3 year term and along with serving his three year term on the World Handball Council, he will also serve a two year term as President of the World Wall Ball Association.

The Kilkenny players who competed at the championships were Eoin Brennan, Dan Breen and Brendan Burke from Kells, Fergal Lalor, Ciarán Neary, Jimmy Neary and Michael Ducksy Walsh from Talbots Inch, Kyle Jordan, Pat Jordan and Willie Holden from Kilfane, Jack Doyle



Top: World U13 Singles 40x20 semi finals – Jack Doyle Windgap dft Jason O Toole Galway in semi final with Ducksy Walsh. Jack was r/up in the final. Middle: Worlds U13 Doubles one Wall r/up – Jack Doyle Windgap and Brodie Winter Australian. Bottom: Masters A Doubles 40x20 r/up – Ducksy Walsh and David Moloney Tipperary were dft by Gavin Buggy Wexford and Dominic Lynch Kerry.

and Shane Doyle from Windgap and Billy Drennan from Galmoy, unfortunately due to injury Martin Lalor was unable to travel. There was great success at the Championships with all players reaching quarter or semi finals of their respective grades and 6 of the players bringing home World Medals. The next World Championships will be held in Alaska in 2018.

Medal Winners were:

Kyle Jordan (2 Silver in One Wall and 2 Gold in 40x20)
 Jack Doyle (1 Silver in One Wall and 1 Silver in 40x20)
 Ciarán Neary (1 Silver in One Wall)
 Michael Ducksy Walsh (2 Gold in One Wall and 40x20 and 1 Silver in 40x20)
 Willie Holden (1 Silver in 40x20)

Irish Collegiates 60x30 finals

Irish Collegiates 60x30 finals took place in Kilkenny in October with a number of Kilkenny players taking part. Rachel Hogan Kilfane representing DCU won the Womens A Final. Rachel also won the Womens Open Doubles Final with Aisling O Keeffe. Ciara Mahon Clogh representing TCD was defeated 11-10 in a tie break in the Womens Open Final. Brian Mahon Clogh representing UCD was dft in the Mens Open final. Brian was part of the UCD team which won the Open team final. Emmet Landy was part of the UCD team which won the Mens B team final. Deirdre Purcell UL progressed to the semi final of Womens B singles, Ronan Egan NUIM and Robert Dowling NUIG progressed to quarter final on Mens B singles.

40x20 Juvenile

County Leinster and All Ireland Results for 40x20 and 60x30

County League

Girls U13 (1) Singles Ciara Walsh (Kells)
 Girls U13 (2) Singles Roisin Foley (Windgap)
 Girls U15 Singles Edel Mulholland (O'Loughlins)
 Girls U17 (1) Singles Dearbhail O'Keeffe (Kilfane)
 Girls U17 (2) Singles Áine Dunne (Windgap)
 Boys U16 (1) Singles Conor Murphy (Kells)
 Boys U16 (2) Singles Rory Lodge (Kells)
 Ladies Singles Mary Phelan (Clogh)
 Minor Singles Shane Dunne (Clogh)
 Masters 2 Singles Tom Dooley (Kilfane)

County Championship

GU10 Singles Aisling Cooney (Clogh)
 GU10 Doubles Katie Brennan/Holly Byrne (Clogh)
 GU11 Singles Lauren Power (Clogh)
 GU11 Doubles Galmoy
 GU12 Singles Amy Brennan (Clogh)
 GU12 Doubles Aine Duggan/Katie Ryan (Galmoy)
 GU13 Singles Kelly Ann Ryan (Galmoy)
 GU13 Doubles Olivia Mahony/Meg Ryan (Kells)
 GU14 Singles Edel Mulholland (O'Loughlins)
 GU14 Doubles Noelle Dowling/Rebecca Roche (Mothel)
 GU15 Singles Dearbhail O'Keeffe (Kilfane)
 GU15 Doubles Kym Ryan/Kate Cowhig (Kells)
 GU16 Singles Margaret Purcell (Windgap)
 GU17 Singles Caoimhe O'Shea (Windgap)
 GU17 Doubles Aine Dunne/Margaret Foley (Windgap)

U12 Singles Billy Drennan (Galmoy)

U12 Doubles Kyle Jordan/Conor Holden (Kilfane)

U13 Singles Kyle Dunne (Clogh)

U13 Doubles Jack Doyle/Padraig Foley (Windgap)

U14 Singles Jack Holden (Kilfane)

U14 Doubles Jack Buggy/ Billy O'Neill (Clogh)

U15 Singles Eoin Brennan (Kells)

U15 Doubles Conor Drennan/Patrick Doyle (Galmoy)

U16 Singles Conor Murphy (Kells)

U16 Doubles Eoin Regan/Cathal Barry (Clogh)

U17 Singles Dion Bourke (Mothel)

U17 Doubles Marc Purcell/Aidan Barry (Clogh)

Minor Singles Shane Dunne (Clogh)

Junior B singles Aaron Devitor (Goresbridge)

Junior B Doubles PJ Barron/Darragh O Shea (Windgap)

Junior Single Brian Mahon (Clogh)

Junior Doubles Padraig Cooney/Shane Dunne (Clogh)

Intermediate Singles Kirk Greene (O Loughlins)

Intermediate Doubles Philip Lonergan/Eamonn Hawe (Windgap)

Senior Singles Peter Funchion (Kells)

Senior Doubles Peter/Pat Funchion (Kells)

Master B Singles Willie Holden (Kilfane)

Masters B Doubles Pat Funchion/Paddy Fennelly (Kells)

Masters C Singles Liam Drennan (Galmoy)

Ladies Junior Singles Kirsty Maher (Kells)

County Juvenile B Results

U10B Singles Michael Brennan Clogh

U11B Singles Luke Flanagan Clogh



Interclub A and B Windgap Winners and Galmoy r/up in both pictures

Leinster Winners

U12S Billy Drennan (Galmoy)
 U13S Kyle Dunne (Clogh)
 U13D Jamie Maher (Clogh)/Jack Doyle (Windgap)
 U15S Eoin Brennan (Kells)
 U15D Conor Drennan/Patrick Doyle (Galmoy)
 U17D Marc Purcell (Clogh)/Dion Bourke (Mothel)
 GU12S Amy Brennan (Clogh)
 GU12D Aine Duggan (Galmoy)/Ciadhna O Shea (Windgap)
 GU16D Margaret Purcell (Windgap)/Sorcha Delaney (Clogh)
 U21 Doubles Brian Mahon (Clogh)/JJ English (Goresbridge)
 Inter. Doubles Ciarán Neary (Talbots Inch)/Brendan Burke (Kells)
 Masters A Singles Ducksy Walsh (Talbots Inch)
 Masters A Dbls Ducksy Walsh (Talbots Inch)/DJ Carey (Goresbridge)
 Emerald Masters A Dbls Johnny Brennan (Mothel)/Joe Hennessy O'LG.
 Ladies Junior B Singles Kirsty Maher (Kells)/Denise Love (Clogh)



All Ireland Finals

GU16D Margaret Purcell (Windgap)/Sorcha Delaney (Clogh) r/up
 U17D Marc Purcell (Clogh)/Dion Bourke (Mothel) r/up
 Inter. Doubles Ciarán Neary (Talbots Inch)/Brendan Burke (Kells) r/up
 Masters A Singles Ducksy Walsh (Talbots Inch) r/up
 Masters A Dbls Ducksy Walsh (Talbots Inch)/DJ Carey (G'bridge) winners
 Ladies Jnr B Singles Kirsty Maher (Kells)/Denise Love (Clogh) winners



60x30

County Championship

U10 Singles David Holden (Kilfane)
 U10 B Singles James Purcell (Windgap)
 U10 C Singles Bobby Brennan (Clogh)
 U10 Doubles Michael Brennan/Eamonn Power (Clogh)
 U11 Singles Kyle Jordan (Kilfane)
 U11 B Singles Luke Flanagan (Clogh)
 U11 Doubles Conor Holden/Gillian Kelly (Kilfane)
 U12 Singles Kyle Jordan (Kilfane)
 U12 Doubles Conor Holden/Gillian Kelly (Kilfane)
 U13 Singles Jack Doyle (Windgap)
 U13 Doubles Padhraic Foley/Eoin O'Brien (Windgap)
 U14 Singles Jack Holden (Kilfane)
 U14 Doubles Billy O'Neill/Kyle Dunne (Clogh)
 U15 Singles Eoin Brennan (Kells)
 U15 Doubles Michael Power/Joe Cowhig (Kells)



Top: World Mens C Singles One Wall Finalists – Ciarán Neary was dft by Jonathan Berger New York. Middle: Masters A Singles World One Wall Finalists – Ducksy Walsh dft Eddie Ramos New York. Bottom: Mens C Worlds 40x20 r/up - Noel Holohan Wexford and Dan Breen Kells.



Juvenile teams Top All Ireland U12/13 40x20 team of 6 winners Billy Drennan, Gearoid Phelan, Padraig Lennon, Kyle Dunne, Jamie Maher, Padhraic Foley, Jack Doyle, Sean Purcell Bottom right All Ireland U14/15 60x30 team of 6 r/up Robert Dowling, Shane Fahey, Michael Power, Kieran Buckley, Jack Kerins, Joe Cowhig, Conor Hoban, James Love Bottom Right All Ireland U16/17 40x20 team of 4 winners Cathal Barry, Connor Condon, Jack Crehan, James Culleton, Eoin Regant

U16 Singles Conor Murphy (Kells)
U16 Doubles Cathal Barry/Eoin Regan (Clogh)
U17 Singles Aidan Barry (Clogh)
GU10 Singles Emer Barron (Windgap)
GU10 B Singles Katie Jordan (Kilfane)
GU10 Doubles Holly Byrne/Katie Brennan (Clogh)
GU11 Singles Lauren Power (Clogh)
GU12 Singles Amy Brennan (Clogh)
GU13 Singles Kelly Ann Ryan (Galmoy)
GU14 Singles Roisin O'Keeffe (Kilfane)
GU14 Doubles Noelle Dowling/Partner (Galmoy)
GU16 Singles Dearbhail O'Keeffe (Kilfane)
GU17 Singles Catriona Lawlor (Clogh)
GU17 Doubles Cora/Sorcha Delaney (Clogh)
Minor Singles Dylan Caulfield (Kilfane)
Junior B Singles Dylan Caulfield (Kilfane)
Junior Singles Shane Dunne (Clogh)
Junior Doubles Padraig Cooney/Shane Dunne (Clogh)
Intermediate Singles Shane Dunne (Clogh)
Intermediate Doubles John O'Neill/JJ English (Goresbridge)
Senior Singles Ducksy Walsh (Talbots Inch)
Senior Doubles Ciaron Neary/Canice Quigley (Talbots Inch)
Masters A Doubles Noel/Willie Holden (Kilfane)

Leinster Winners

U13 Singles Jack Doyle (Windgap)
U13 Doubles Eoin O'Brien/Pauric Foley (Windgap)
U14 Singles Jack Holden (Kilfane)
U14 Doubles Kyle Dunne/Billy O'Neill (Clogh)
U15 Singles Eoin Brennan (Kells)
Girls U12 Singles Amy Brennan (Clogh)
Girls U13 Singles Kelly Ann Ryan (Galmoy)
Girls U15 Singles Dearbhail O'Keeffe (Kilfane)
Ladies Minor Singles Aoife Holden (Kilfane)
Ladies Min Dbles Aoife Holden (Kilfane)/Deirdre Purcell (Windgap)
Ladies Junior B Singles Kirsty Maher (Kells)
Ladies Junior B Doubles Aishling Maher/Aoilean Hennessy (Clogh)
Ladies Intermediate Singles Rachel Hogan (Kilfane)
Minor Singles Shane Dunne (Clogh)
Masters A Singles Michael Ducksy Walsh (Talbots Inch)
Silver Masters B Singles Billy O'Keeffe (Kilfane)

All Ireland Finals

U14 Singles Jack Holden (Kilfane)- winner
U14 Doubles Billy O'Neil/Kyle Dunne (Clogh)-winners
U15 Singles Eoin Brennan (Kells)-winner
Girls U15 Singles Dearbhail O'Keeffe (Kilfane)-winner

Girls U16 Doubles Margaret Purcell (Windgap)/Sorcha Delaney (Clogh)-r/up
Girls U17 Singles Catriona Lawlor (Clogh)-r/up
Minor Singles Shane Dunne (Clogh) r/up
Sr Dbles Michael Ducksy Walsh/Ciaran Neary (Talbots Inch) - r/up
Masters A Singles Michael Ducksy Walsh (Talbots Inch)-winner
Silver Masters B Singles Billy O'Keeffe (Kilfane)-r/up
Ladies Minor Singles Aoife Holden (Kilfane)-r/up
Ladies Minor Doubles Aoife Holden (Kilfane)/Deirdre Purcell (Windgap)-r/up
Ladies Junior B Singles Kirsty Maher (Kells)-r/up
Ladies Jnr D Bles Aishling Maher/Aoilean Hennessy (Clogh)-r/up

One Wall - County winners
Mens A Michael Walsh (Talbots Inch)
Mens B Shane Dunne (Clogh)
Masters (A) John Morrissey (O'Loughlins)
Masters (B) Michael O'Shea (Windgap)
Masters (C) Ray Ryan (Kilfane)
Ladies Marie Walshe (Kells)

Leinster Juvenile winners

U11 Doubles Conor Holden/Kyle Jordan Kilfane
U12 Singles Jay Maguire Galmoy
U14 Singles Jack Holden Kilfane
U14 Doubles Kyle Dunne/Billy O'Neill Clogh
GU11 Doubles Amy Brennan/Lauren Power Clogh
GU15 Singles Dearbhail O'Keeffe Kilfane
GU15 Doubles Noelle Dowling Mothel/Kelly Ann Ryan Galmoy
GU16 Doubles Roisin O'Keeffe Kilfane/Edel Mulholland O.L.G.
GU17 Doubles Catriona Lawlor Clogh/Aoife Walsh Kells



U11D National winners Billy Drennan and Daniel Hanrahan Galmoy HBC winners of U11 doubles Irish 40x20 Nationals with President of Handball Willie Roche



Worlds Top: U11 Singles Worlds 40x20 winner - Kyle Jordan Kilfane with World Handball President Con Moore O Loughlins HBC. Bottom Left: World Mens B 40x20 Singles finalists - Willie Holden Kilfane was dtf by Robert Doyle Wexford. Bottom Right: World U11 Doubles 40x20 winners — Kyle Jordan Kilfane and Sean Callan Monaghan with World handball President Con Moore O Loughlins HBC.



O Loughlins HBC John Morrissey County 40x20, 60x30 and One Wall winner.
Rebecca Mulholland US Open Womens A/B Singles winner



Kells HBC (random) Peter Funchion, Paddy Fennelly, Pat Funchion, Brendan Burke, Eoin Brennan, Conor Murphy, Michael Power, Joe Cowhig, Dylan Crehan, Conor Condon, Kieran Buckley, Conor Hoban, Olivia Mahoney, Aoife Walsh, Kirsty Maher, Marie Walshe (Missing) Meg Ryan,



Sports Stars Top Leinster Ladies Award Ciara Mahon Clogh with Seamus Reade
Leinster Chairman and Pat Ryan Leinster Secretary. Middle: Beat 102-103 award for
May to Brendan Burke Kells and Ciarán Neary Kells for their Hardball victories in May.
Bottom: Leinster Male award Peter Funchion Kells with Seamus Reade Leinster

Kilfane HBC (random) Ray Ryan, Ava Ryan, Noel Holden, Jack Holden, Conor Holden, Dearbhail O'Keeffe, Roisin O'Keeffe, Willie Holden,
Billy O'Keeffe, Rachel Hogan, Dylan Caulfield, Kyle Jordan, Katie Jordan, Tom Holden, David Holden



Windgap HC 2015

The Great Matty Power of Dicksboro, Garda, Kilkenny, Dublin, Leinster and Ireland fame.

By Jim Fogarty

Matty Power may be dead for 50 years, but he is still considered to be one of the all-time greats of hurling. He won 5 All-Ireland SHC, 4 with Kilkenny in 1922, 1932, 1933 and 1935, and 1 with Dublin in 1927. He lost an All-Ireland SHC final with Dublin in 1930 and 3 with Kilkenny in 1931, 1936 and 1937. He won 12 Leinster SHC medals—9 with Kilkenny in 1922, 1923, 1925, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1936 and 1937 and 3 with Dublin in 1927, 1928 and 1930. Matty played with Leinster from the inception of the Railway Cup competition in 1927 to 1936 inclusive and was on the winning side in 1927, 1932, 1933 and 1936. He also played for Ireland in the Tailteann games of 1928 and 1932, winning both matches. He won a NHL medal with Dublin in 1929 and another with Kilkenny in 1933. Together with another former Kilkenny CBS stalwart, Eddie Byrne, they created an all-time record by playing in 6 All-Ireland hurling finals in 4 years, 1930 with Dublin, 1931 in the 3 game saga for Kilkenny against Cork, and again with Kilkenny in 1932 and 1933.

Matty(or Mattie as he preferred to spell his name) was born at the turn of the Twentieth Century in Graiguenamanagh. At a very early age he moved with his family to live in St. Ríoch's Street, Kilkenny. He played his first hurling with Kilkenny CBS. The late Christian

Brother P.P. O'Farrell discovered Matty's ability as a hurler and one of his most treasured possessions was a hurley that Matty tused.

Matty was a star of the Dicksboro team, which won the Kilkenny senior hurling final in 1923. On moving to Dublin in 1925, he won 6 SH county medals with the Garda club, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1931. As a member of the Garda Siochana, Matty was tied to playing with the Garda club until the end of his career. In 1931, he availed of the non-resident rule, and declared

for his native county. He played with Kilkenny for the rest of his hurling career, until 1937, when he played his last inter-county game in the All-Ireland final of that year.

Matty scored 34-28 in 41 championship games for Kilkenny. He also played 13 championship matches for Dublin. He made his reputation as a corner-forward, one of the greats in that position. He had an innate penchant for scoring goals. Just 2 examples will suffice; for their opening tie in the Leinster championship of 1935, thanks to 3 second half goals by Matty, Kilkenny beat Offaly by 7-7 to 2-6. In the 1931 Dublin county SH final, when Garda beat Faughs, Matty scored 3-2 in the second half to give his team their 6th Dublin senior championship. He also made many scores for colleagues. His key attributes were speed, quick thinking and a great sense of position. For almost 17 years his name dominated hurling in Kilkenny, Dublin, Leinster and Ireland. He was beloved by his contemporaries for his gentleness, kindness, humility and sportsmanship. His memory is perpetuated in the Matty Power Cup which is presented to the winners of the senior hurling league finals in Kilkenny.

D'imirigh Matty ar Shli na Firinne sa bhliain 1965.

*Jim Fogarty is author of
The Dan Breen Cup - Tipperary
County SH Finals 1931 to 2011.
The Cross of Cashel - All-Ireland
U-21 hurling finals 1964 to 2014.*



Matty Power (front Right) in Garda Depot

ROWER INISTIOGE 1968 COUNTY CHAMPIONS REMEMBERED

This year Kilkenny County Board welcomed to the County SH Final the surviving members of the victorious Rower Inistioge 1968 County SH Champions team. The event was sponsored by the Springhill Court Hotel who afterwards provided a reception for these great players.



The Rower Inistioge Senior Hurling Champions from 1968 who were honoured before the County SH Final in Nowlan Park

Back: Micheál Roche, Dermot Kavanagh, Martin Kavanagh, Fr Tommy Murphy, Fr Liam Cassin, John Mahon, Jim Dunphy, Johnny Cottrell, Pat Galavan, Jim Morrissey.

Front: Seamus O'Carroll (Springhill Court), Donal Kavanagh, Jim Murphy, Fintan Murphy, Martin Walsh, Billy Murphy, Pat Kavanagh, Eddie Keher, Ned Quinn (Co Chairman).

(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Rower Inistioge - 1968 County SH Champions

Back : John Mahon, Michael Murphy, Martin Walsh, Fintan Murphy, Pat Murphy, Tom Murphy, Tom Waters, Eddie Keher, Jim Dunphy, Martin Kavanagh, Dermot Kavanagh, Pat Kavanagh, Johnnie Cottrell.

Front : L. Cassin, P. Galavan, "Shorn" Morrissey, Martin Freeman, "Gee" Murphy, Michael Walsh (Capt.), John Walsh, Eamonn Flood, Billy Murphy, Donal Kavanagh, Danny White,

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS



New Wheelchair Area in Ardán de Grás



New Ard-Comhairle Section Ardán Breathnach



Studio Area in Media Section of Ardán Breathnach



Inside the new Media Area in Ardán Breathnach



Matty Walsh, MW Hire, (Sponsor Dunmore Training Complex) pictured with Ned Quinn, Chairman, Kilkenny GAA and five former Senior Intercounty Hurlers, Aidan Fogarty, J.J. Delaney, David Herity, Tommy Walsh and Brian Hogan at the DEDICATION OF Kilkenny GAA Training Ground in Dunmore. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Proposed Improvements to Áras Ó Cearbhaill with pitch seating area extended.



Proposed Áras Ó Cearbhaill Viewing area



TJ Reid beats Larla Tannian to a high ball in the All-Ireland Final.
Picture credit: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE



KNOCKTOPHER JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1965

Back: N. Walsh, F. Cummins, N. Fitzpatrick, D. Gorey, M. Mason, T. Walsh, F. Aylward, J. Mason, B. Mason, O. Cummins, D. Gorey.
Front: O. Dermody, J. Fowler, J. O'Donnell, W. Dalton, D. Rice, P. Carroll, S. Ryan, M. Aylward, T. Maher, D. Heaslip.

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CONTINUING TO GROW

Ladies Football Report by Seamus Norris PRO



Kilkenny City Junior County Champions

ADULT CLUB FOOTBALL

Kilkenny Ladies Gaelic Football continues to grow at juvenile level and the addition of the Dunnamaggin club on the back of a successful schools campaign in 2014 followed by a highly successful Gaelic4Girls project has been a huge highlight in 2015, with the new club gaining national recognition on the Ryan Tubridy show. However, it was disappointing that reigning junior champions, Thomastown did not field at adult level in 2015. They were replaced by Kilkenny City who went on to win their first county adult title in Nowlan Park beating Erins Own by 1-13 to 3-3.

KILKENNY CITY: Laura Tynan, Michaela Reilly, Saoirse Comerford, Jennifer O'Keeffe, Shauna Valentine, Michelle Teehan, Lauren Valentine, Aoibha O'Gorman (0-1), Hannah Scott, Roisin Treacy (0-1), Sophie O'Dwyer (0-2 - C), Jenny O'Keeffe (0-2), Ally O'Keeffe (0-3, 2f), Ciara Delaney (1-2), Beth Behan
Subs: Aoife Cantwell (0-2), Caoimhe Holland, Laoise Prendeville

Panellists: Catriona Gough, Sarah Smith, Andi Snyder, Niamh O'Connor, Kate Ryan, Ava Fitzgerald, Clare Curtin, Niamh Deely, Jennifer Cunningham

ERINS OWN: Megan Walsh, Caohlinn O'Hargon, Emer Kelly (C), Meabh Delaney (1-0), Frances Farrell, Ailish O'Neill, Rebecca Brennan, Aoife Dunne, Ciara Cody, Katie Nolan (1-1, 0-1f), Danielle Morrissey, Roisin Allen, Alice Farrell (0-2, 1f), Kelly Comerford, Aine Murphy (1-0)

Subs: Maeve Walsh, Lisa Kehoe

Panellists: Amy Nolan, Michelle Farrell, Laura Walsh, Eimear Rice, Lisa O'Rourke, Sarah Molloy, Aine Walsh, Kate Butler, Laura Moloney, Anna Boland

The City team had a good win against Tullamore in the first game of the Leinster Junior Championship winning 4-8 to 2-8. Next up was Carlow outfit Tinryland/Bennekerry but the Carlow outfit proved too strong in Palmerstown winning 6-11 to 2-7 in the Quarter Final.

COUNTY MINOR

Once again, Kilkenny did not field at Minor inter county level, but hopes are high for a return in 2016.

COUNTY UNDER-16

Success eluded the Under-16's as they were beaten by Carlow in the Leinster "B" Shield Final by 3-5 to 8-7.

PANEL: Aoibha O'Gorman (Kilkenny City, Capt), Laura Tynan (Kilkenny City), Emily McCarthy (Piltown), Saoirse Comerford (Kilkenny City), Rebecca Brennan (Erins Own), Roisin Treacy (Kilkenny City), Blathnaid Galway (Thomastown), Eadaoin Murphy (Kilkenny City), Hannah Scott (Kilkenny City) Ciara Delaney (Kilkenny City), Danielle Morrissey (Erins Own), Nicole Carter (Kilkenny City), Roisin Allen (Erins Own), Denise Byrne (Barrow Gaels), Lizzie Buckley (Thomastown), Catriona Gough (Kilkenny City), Kate Drennan (Kilkenny City), Andi Snyder (Kilkenny City), Kate Maher (Erins Own), Nicole Dwyer (Thomastown), Sinead Fitzpatrick (Thomastown), Hannah Moran (Barrow Gaels), Meabh Delaney (Erins Own), Niamh Deely (Kilkenny City), Sarah Smith (Kilkenny City), Beth Behan (Kilkenny City), Jennifer O'Keeffe (Kilkenny City), Jane Cass (Kilkenny City), Michelle Farrell (Erins Own), Jenny McGuinness (Thomastown), Caroline Howes (Kilkenny City)

COUNTY UNDER-14

The Under-14's succeeded where the Under-16's failed as they beat Carlow 4-7 to 2-4 in horrendous weather conditions on the June Bank Holiday in Graignamanagh to win the Leinster 2C Shield Final.

PANEL: Jane Cass (Kilkenny City - Capt), Niamh Ward (Kilkenny City), Sophie Phelan (Barrow Gaels), Jennifer O'Dea (Piltown), Aóibhe Galway (Kilkenny City), Alanna Keegan (Muckalee), Kate Dempsey (Kilkenny City), Ruth Ryan (Thomastown), Emily Hughes (Clara), Rebecca Roche (Kilkenny City), Meabh Walsh (Erins Own), Lucy Keane (Kilkenny City), Shannon Feehan (Erins Own), Marlise Flynn (Piltown), Hazel Moore (Muckalee), Danielle O'Brien (Piltown), Cliodhna Donnelly (Thomastown), Sarah Smyth (Erins Own), Aoife Bergin (Erins Own), Cara Brennan (Erins Own), Sinead Bass (Kilkenny City), Clodagh Hanlon (Muckalee), Anna McCabe (Kilkenny City), Chloe Power (Piltown), Anna O'Brien (Piltown)
Management Team: James Neary (Thomastown), Andy Korff (Erins Own), Patsy Dempsey (Kilkenny City), Ann Prendergast (Thomastown)

DEVELOPMENT SQUADS

A series of Development Squad session were run at Under-12 during the year with Leinster blitzes taking place subsequently in Carlow and Portlaoise.

Kilkenny Under-12 Development Squad: Sarah Hudson, Sinead Galway, Roisin Moran, Anna Cass, Sarah Barcoe, Una Galway (Thomastown), Grace Barcoe, Katie Ryan, Keara Ryan, Grainne Glynn, Peig Carrigan, Eve O'Dwyer, Robyn Denieffe, Grainne Mallon, Sophie O'Shea, Laoise Phelan, Rachel Whelan,

*Emma Shortall, Anna Walpole, Julia Patterson (Clara), Rachel Doherty, Niamh Walsh, Ciara Mulhall, Laura Davis (Dunnamaggin), Lucy Coogan, Ellen Lawlor, (Muckalee), Amy Brennan Lauren Power (Railyard), Sarah O'Gorman, Kate Furlong, Alison Smyth, Eva Collins, Abigail Egan, Freya Herdy-PetitdeMange, Sadhbh O'Leary, Ellie Peters, Maedhbh Richardson, Anna Doheny, Lucy Harte, Niamh Phelan, Riona Crowley, Katie Byrne, Eadoin Cody (City), Kitty O'Driscoll, Rhianna Kelly, Allie Ryan, Leah Doyle (Barrow Gaels), Sophie Kealy, Angela Fahy, Kate Purcell (Muckalee), Michelle Kennedy, Ellen Nolan, (Erins Own),
Mentors: Anne Barcoe, James Neary, Teresa Aylward, Tommy Nolan & Niall Patterson*

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

In September, the county board hosted for the first time a blitz for 1st and 2nd year students in Kilkenny schools. The "A" Final was won by St. Brigids College (Callan) who beat Duiske College (Graignamanagh) by 4-6 to 0-2. The Shield Final featured two teams from Castlecomer Community School with the 3rd team beating the 2nd team by 5-2 to 1-1.

Piltown had three players (Emily McCarthy, Aoife Doyle and Kelly Ann Doyle) involved in the Munster Senior Colleges "A" Final as Scoil Mhuire (Carrick-On-Suir) played Colaiste Dun Iascaigh (Cahir). Victory though went to the Cahir school by 2-9 to 4-8.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Thirty-two schools are taking part in the very popular primary schools championship, a competition which is the jewel in the crown of Kilkenny Ladies Gaelic Football. Huge credit goes to competition co-ordinator, Ger O'Reilly. The competition finals are planned to be completed before Christmas.

Roinn A/B

Thomastown, Clara, Gowran, Graignamanagh, Owning/Templeorum, Piltown, St Canices "A", Muckalee, Kilmanagh, Gaelscoil Osrai, Urlingford, Kilkenny School Project

Roinn C

Dunnamaggin, Tullaroan, Callan, Presentation Castlecomer, Ballyhale, St John of God

Roinn D

Windgap, Rower Inistioge, Goresbridge, Paulstown, Mullinavat, Carrickshock, Mooncoin, St Canices "B", Moneenroe, Firoda/Wandesforde, Conahy, Ballyragget, Freshford, Presentation Kilkenny.

JUVENILE CLUB

At juvenile level, there were two new clubs, Dunnamaggin as previously mentioned and a club with a long standing tradition at adult level, Railyard, fielded at Under-10 and Under-12. There was also the introduction of an Under-13 competition and an Under-16 competition with reduced teams.

Club Under-16

The Under-16A final will feature Erins Own and Kilkenny City while Piltown, Dunnamaggin and Clara still feature in the new reduced sides, "B" competition.

Under-14 Féile Na nGael

A record eight juvenile clubs took part in the county Féile Na nGael competition. Kilkenny City won their fourth consecutive County Féile Na nGael title beating Thomastown in the final by 3-4 to 1-2. However, it was Erins Own that represented Kilkenny in the National Féile in Wexford. The County Féile Skills competition was won by Emily Hughes (Clara) who went on to



Kilkenny City U14 Feile Squad



Kilkenny U12A Development Squad



Kilkenny U12B Development Squad



Kilkenny City Under12A Winners



Kilkenny U14 Leinster Shield Winners

represent Kilkenny at the national finals in Portlaoise.

KILKENNY CITY Laoise Holland, Sinead Bass, Niamh Ward, Hannah Clifford, Sarah Martin, Kate Dempsey, Ailbhe Galwey, Jane Cass, Rebecca Roche, Niamh Moore, Lucy Keane, Anna McCabe, Alisha Shannon, Ciara Mullan, Brid Walsh, Aoife Bergin, Neassa Ruane, Aoibheann Power, Ella Dillon, Jenna Cass, Ciara Adams, Aislinn Treacy, Lizzie McGee, Elizabeth O'Shea, Eimear Stynes, Katie Breen, Aoife Maguire, Grainne Butler, Aisling Ward, Sophia O'Shea.

ERINS OWN: Kady Young, Sarah Smyth, Shauna Kerr, Ellen Buggy, Amanda Molloy, Shannon Feehan, Meabh Walsh, Eva Brennan, Alice Byrne, Nicole Allen O'Keefe, Sophie Bourke, Colleen Booth, Nicole Dowling, Eimear Stone, Ava Brennan, Sarah O'Neill, Aoife Cahalan, Katie Holahan, Niamh Moore, Cara Brennan, Megan Brennan, Molly Coogan
Mentors: John Cahalan, Eugene Dowling, John Moore, Fiona Maher

Under-14

Draws were the order of the day at Under-14 where both the "A" and the "C" Finals ended level with replays due to take place. The Roinn D title was awarded to new club Dunnamaggin.

Roinn A

The Roinn A County Final was a repeat of the Féile Final with Thomastown playing Kilkenny City. A brave Thomastown came back to snatch a replay this time in Clara on a score of 4-3 to 2-9.

KILKENNY CITY: Laoise Holland, Sinead Bass, Niamh Ward, Aoife Bergin, Niamh Moore, Kate Dempsey, Ailbhe Galwey, Sarah Martin, Rebecca Roche, Lucy Keane, Ella Dillon, Anna McCabe, Alisha Shannon, Ciara Mullan, Aislinn Treacy, Aisling Ward, Neassa Ruane, Aoibheann Power, Hannah Clifford, Jenna Cass, Ciara Adams, Brid Walsh, Lizzie McGee, Elizabeth O'Shea, Eimear Stynes, Aoife Maguire, Grainne Butler, Emily Kavanagh, Eva Collins, Anna Doheny, Jane Cass

THOMASTOWN: Cliodhna Donnelly, Roisin Dempsey, Dearbhala O'Reilly, Eabha Galway, Orla O'Keefe, Ciara Prendergast, Sinead O'Keefe, Ruth Ryan (Capt), Eva Hynes, Sarah Barcoe, Laoise Fennelly Hunt, Nicole Dunne, Sarah O'Neill, Therese Donnelly, Keri Whelan, Darragh Donohue, Sadhbh Croke O'Neill, Keely Maher, Amy Walsh, Kaelah Begley, Caoimhe Kelly Brennan, Hannah Monks, Sinead Galway, Roisin Moran, Anna Cass, Roisin O'Keefe

Roinn B

The Roinn B Final saw the winners of the previous two years competition, Piltown and Erins Own clash in the final again in Clara. Victory went to the Castlecomer club, 5-9 to 2-2.

ERINS OWN: Nicole Allen/O'Keefe, Molly Coogan, Alice Byrne, Colleen Booth, Katie Holahan, Maedbh Walsh (Vice-Capt), Niamh Moore, Cara Brennan, Sarah Smyth, Ellen Buggy, Amanda Molloy, Shauna Kerr, Aoife Cahalan, Shannon Feehan (Capt) Nicole Dowling, Orlaith Condell, Emma Ring, Megan Brennan, Eva Brennan, Sarah O'Neill, Sophie Bourke, Eimear Stone, Aisling Delaney, Kady Young, Ava Brennan

PILTON: Danielle O'Brien (Joint Capt), Jennifer O'Dea, Anna O'Brien, Rebecca Doyle, Aine Doyle, Patsy Kenny, Chloe Power, Ciara Dunne, Sarah Tobin, Rebecca Derwin, Bríbhanna Doody, Emma Culleton, Marlise Flynn, Melissa Byrne, Sally Moroney, Jodie Keever, Chloe Walsh, Sarah Driscoll, Aisling Brophy, Elle Ann Matthias, Laura Power (Joint Capt), Fiona Downey.

Roinn C

The Roinn C final also saw a repeat with Clara playing Muckalee in Paulstown. The first game was a thriller, probably one of the best ever, ending in a draw, 6-4 to 5-7.

CLARA: Lucy Cody, Ellen Hughes, Orla Farrell, Reece Carter, Abby O'Connell, Laura Langton, Nya Lee, Zoe Fenlon, Caitlin Simpson (Capt), Emily Hughes, Anne Marie Darcy, Saoirse Smith, Lenika Artini, Sinead Healy, Miriam Brennan, Marie Nolan, Lisa Prendergast, Emer Tobin, Eva O'Donnell, Orlaith Byrne, Rachel Heenan, Aoife Corr, Kelly Brennan

MUCKALEE: Sinead Healy, Eadaoin Coady, Caoimhe McGuinness, Sophie Kealy, Orla Nolan, Alannah Keegan, (Capt), Ellen Lawlor,



Kilkenny - Leinster Mini Games Squad



Barrow Gaels U12E Finalists



Clara Green U12B Finalists



Clara Pink U12B Finalists

Clodagh Hanlon, Hazel Moore, Lucy Coogan, Aoife Murphy, Kate Cullen, Aimee Healy, Laura McDowell, Kate Purcell, Saoirse McGuinness, Ava Coogan, Angela Fahey, Sarah Manning, Hannah McCarthy, Chloe Patterson, Amelie Bolger, Nicole Healy, Niamh McDowell, Roisín Hanlon, Sarah Brennan

Club Under-13

The Under-13 competition is still in progress with nine teams taking part in two groups of a round robin series. They are Piltown, Dunnamaggin, Barrow Gaels, Clara Green and Clara Pink, Erins Own, Thomastown, Muckalee and Kilkenny City.

Club Under-12

Under-12 saw several blitzes and a league take place with all clubs taking part in the league. Kilkenny City and Thomastown competed in the "A" Final. The City side with a population advantage with huge numbers available to play won against a brave Thomastown team that is always competitive by 5-11 to 3-2. The "B" Final went to Clara with two teams from the club sharing the spoils. The "C" final was a tremendous game with Piltown taking the honours by 6-6 to 4-3 against Muckalee. Both the "D" and "E" finals produced maiden titles for the new juvenile clubs. In "D", Dunnamaggin beat Erins Own by 2-2 to 0-2 while in the "E" final, Railyard beat Barrow Gaels by 6-2 to 1-6.

Again in 2015, Kilkenny fielded a group of girls playing Longford during the Leinster Finals held at Dr. Cullen Park, Carlow. They were Patsy Kenny (Piltown), Rosin Moran (Thomastown), Ella Nolan (Erins Own), Allie Ryan (Barrow Gaels), Julia Patterson (Clara), Eva Collins (Kilkenny City), Rachel Doherty, Ciara Mulhall (Dunnamaggin), Amy Brennan, Katelyn Farnan (Railyard), Chloe Patterson (Muckalee), Sarah Barcoe from the Thomastown club donned the green and gold of Kerry during the half time mini game at the All-Ireland Semi Final between Kerry and Tyrone at Croke Park.

Club Under-10

Under-10 saw the young girls enjoy several blitzes around the county.

Carlow/Kilkenny Leagues

Once again in 2015, a number of clubs took part in Carlow/Kilkenny Leagues with some success. Thomastown won the Under-13A beating O'Hanrahans in the final by 3-6 to 1-5

Thomastown: Cliodhna Donnelly, Sadhbh Croke O'Neill, Eabha Galway, Roisín Dempsey, Dearbhla O'Reilly, Roisín O'Keeffe, Orla O'Keeffe, Daragh Donohue, Therese Donnelly, Sarah Barcoe, Amy Walsh, Sarah O'Neill, Keely Maher, Caoimhe Kelly Brennan, Hannah Monks, Kaelah Begley

Mentors: Anne Barcoe, Gabrielle Durack, Brendan Cooke

There was also success for Clara who won an all Kilkenny Under-12 final beating Thomastown 2-11 to 2-3.

GAEILIC4MOTHERS&OTHERS

Gaelic4Mothers and Others is the fastest growing section of Ladies Football in Kilkenny. For the social players there are now active clubs in Piltown, Dunnamaggin Thomastown, Conahy, Clara and Erins Own. The social game is rapidly growing in popularity for women over 18 and all levels of ability. The highlight of the year was the National Blitz in Portmarnock which about 1500 players from 100 teams and involved all six Kilkenny clubs.

DEVELOPMENT

A Fundamentals Coaching course took place in January at Duiske College Graignamanagh. A further fundamentals course is planned and a Level 1 course for those who have completed the fundamentals course.

FUTURE

The future of Kilkenny Ladies Gaelic Football is dependent on getting more people involved at both club and county level while also creating a more competitive club scene. The number of juvenile clubs in the county has doubled in the last three years and John Lockes are due on board. Kilkenny Ladies Football County Board would like to thank all who supported the sport locally in 2015 especially Kilkenny County Board, clubs who supply pitches, referees, the mentors. Club coaches and officers as well as the local media, all who have done so much to promote the game and of course the players and the parents of juvenile players who commit so much time to the game.



Dunnamaggin Gaelic4Mother-Others



Dunnamaggin U12D Winners



Erins Own Gaelic4Mother-Others



Erins Own Junior County Finalists



Erins Own U14 Feile Squad



Erins Own U14B Winners



Muckalee U10



Muckalee U12C Finalists



Piltown Gaelic4Mother-Others



Piltown U12C Winners



Piltown U14B Runners Up



Railyard U12E Winners



Thomastown Gaelic4Mother-Others



Thomastown U12A Finalists



Thomastown U14A Finalists

DREAMS POSTPONED ONE YEAR

Camogie Report by TJ Mills PRO



Kilkenny Senior Team Leinster Champions 2015

INTER-COUNTY SCENE

Senior

The Kilkenny senior teams dream of claiming back the O'Duffy cup for the first time since 1994 will go into another year as Cork dashed their All Ireland title bid when they defeated them in All Ireland semi-final in Walsh park in Waterford in August.

Kilkenny began the year under the stewardship of new manager Fintan Deegan with an away trip to the aforementioned Cork in the opening round of the league. In a close tough encounter in the Mardyke Sports Grounds in Cork it was the home team that claimed the points on a 0-09 points to 0-05 score line, a game that could be classed as one that got away from the Cats. In the second round, Kilkenny entertained Derry in Canon Kearns Park, in Castlecomer. Kilkenny made no mistake in easily defeating the Mourne side 4-17 to 0-09 points to get their campaign back on track with a bang. In the third round Kilkenny entertained a high-flying Dublin side in Danesfort. In a tough encounter Kilkenny came out on top by 1-12 to 1-05. In their final game Kilkenny travelled to Clonlara in Clare to take on the home side. In a one-sided contest Kilkenny emerged easy 4-15 to 0-10 point winners. This victory set up a league semi-final against 2013 All Ireland Champions Galway in Tullamore. In the semi-final Kilkenny came up against a goal-hungry Galway side and came up short 5-07 to 2-09.

With Galway ending Kilkenny's league campaign, their attention had to be focused on the Leinster championship that began in May. Kilkenny began the campaign with a trip to Newbridge to take on Kildare, managed by Kilkenny's Stephen Dormer, in the Leinster semi-final. Kilkenny emerged winners 3-18 to 1-18, but the game was tougher than the score line reflects as Kildare led after forty five minutes. This victory over the Lilywhites set up a Leinster Final berth against Offaly in Nowlan Park. In a tough close-fought encounter it was Kilkenny who emerged victorious on a 2-11 to 1-09 score line to claim back the Leinster crown for the first time since 2013. This victory set Kilkenny up nicely for the All Ireland Championship campaign that began in June.

Kilkenny began their All Ireland championship campaign with an away trip to Parnell Park to take on Dublin. Kilkenny began the game brightly and easily accounted for the Dubs 3-13 to 1-10. In the second round Kilkenny entertained Clare and ran out easy 2-22 to 0-06 point winners. In the third round Kilkenny made the long trek to Swatragh in Derry. The home side went toe to toe with the Cats but then Kilkenny let loose and ran out easy winners by 8-22 to 2-10. In their final game Kilkenny entertained Tipperary in Freshford where a win would secure an All Ireland semi-final spot. Kilkenny continued their



Kilkenny Leinster Intermediate Champions 2015

goal-hungry run and ran out easy victors 8-15 to 0-04.

In the semi-final Kilkenny faced Cork in Walsh Park in Waterford. Kilkenny made a great start to the game and led by 1-04 to 0-02 points after twelve minutes. Cork stormed back into the game and led 1-07 to 1-06 at half time. In the second half Cork hit a devastating spell and scored three goals that killed off Kilkenny and ran out 4-10 to 1-10 victors ending Kilkenny's interest in the championship for 2015.

Intermediate

The Intermediate side must wait another year for their chance to get back to the All Ireland Final as they failed to qualify for the later stages of the All Ireland championship but only just, as a strong finish by Waterford in their final group game ended their All Ireland Championship bid.

They began their league campaign with a home game against Meath in Thomastown. The Kilkenny side made no mistake and defeated the Royals on a 1-07 to 0-03 point score line. In their second group game they travelled to The Ragg to take on Tipperary. In a one-sided contest Kilkenny emerged victorious 3-14 to 0-04. In their third match they entertained the previous year's Junior All Ireland Champion, Down in Danesfort. In an impressive display Kilkenny emerged victorious by 3-10 to 0-10. In the fourth round of the league Kilkenny travelled

to Carrignore to take on a highly fancied Waterford side. Kilkenny came up short as the home side emerged victorious 2-13 to 1-06. To qualify for the later stages of the league they needed to record a win in their final group game against Cork in Mooncoin. Trailing by a point deep in to injury time, it looked like the Rebelettes would claim the victory but a Therese Muldowney goal with the last puck of the game secured a 1-12 to 0-13 victory. This win secured a semi-final spot against Laois.

In the semi-final Laois edged out Kilkenny in extra time with Laois minor Aoife Burke getting in for a goal in the dying moments to record a 1-10 to 0-09 victory. This ended Kilkenny's league title hopes for the second year in succession. Kilkenny then had to turn their attention to the Leinster championship campaign.

In the Preliminary Round of the Leinster Championship Kilkenny travelled to Artane to take on Dublin. Boosted by the addition of players from the victorious All Ireland winning side, a goal-hungry Kilkenny dismantled Dublin 6-09 to 0-13. In the semi-final Kilkenny entertained Wexford in Thomastown. Trailing going in to the final moments a late point by Emma Comerford secured the draw with a late point on the stroke of full time and a replay was needed. In the reply played in New Ross, Kilkenny made no mistake and ran out easy 4-08 to 2-07 victors to set up a final showdown with Meath. The final was a tough tense battle with the royals pushing Kilkenny



Kilkenny All Ireland Minor Champions 2015

to their limits but Kilkenny held firm and recorded a 1-13 to 1-09 victory to claim the Leinster crown. This set Kilkenny up nicely ahead of their All Ireland campaign.

In the opening game of the All Ireland series Kilkenny played a very strong Kildare side in Thomastown. Kildare proved too strong for the hosts and ran out 3-07 to 1-06 victors. In their second game they travelled to Ahoghill in Antrim and made no mistake as they ran out 2-15 to 1-09 winners. A victory over Waterford in their final game would secure a semi-final spot. In a tough game in Walsh Park, goals were key as Waterford ran out 3-05 to 0-12 point winners in a game that got away from Kilkenny. This loss ended Kilkenny's All Ireland bid. The future is bright for the side and they will be the ones to watch in 2016.

Minor

Having been very unlucky in 2014, the Kilkenny minor side were determined to redeem themselves in 2015, and that is what they did, finishing the year as Leinster and All Ireland champions.

They began the year with the All Ireland series in February. In their first game they entertained Clare in Thomastown. A goal-hungry Kilkenny side showed no mercy and ran out 4-08 to 0-06 victors. In their second group game Kilkenny met Wexford in Thomastown. In a determined display Kilkenny and ran out 1-13 to 1-07 victors. In their third match Kilkenny travelled to The Ragg to take on Tipperary. Kilkenny put in a strong performance and ran out 2-05 to 1-06 winners. In their final game they entertained Cork in Thomastown, where a victory would definitely secure a semi-final spot. Kilkenny made no mistake and ran out 5-11 to 2-08 victors. In the semi-final Kilkenny took on Limerick in Birr. Kilkenny made no mistake and recorded a 3-11 to 0-06 victory to set up a final berth against Tipperary. In classic rip-roaring final in Birr, goals were the difference as Kilkenny ran out 3-09 to 1-12 winners to claim the title.

The side had a long wait for the Leinster championship that didn't begin till July. In their opening game Kilkenny travelled to New Ross to take on Wexford. In a tough contest Kilkenny emerged victorious on 2-10 to 0-12 point score line. In their second game Kilkenny travelled to Birr to take on Offaly. Offaly put in an impressive second half display and ran out 2-18 to 2-11 winners to end Kilkenny's unbeaten run. In their third game Kilkenny entertained Dublin and bounced back brilliantly by recording a convincing 7-14 to 0-11 point victory. This victory ensured Kilkenny qualified for the final in September where they took on Offaly in Rathdowney. Kilkenny made sure lightning didn't strike twice and put in a determined display and ran out 3-06 to 1-05 victors to claim the Leinster title.

This was a terrific year for the side. Having suffered the heartache of some narrow losses in both championships last season, to bounce back this year by claiming both the All Ireland and Leinster crown, just shows the character within the squad and great credit must go to the players but also the management team of Mike Wall and Ger Walsh.



Kilkenny U16 All Ireland Championship Team 2015



Kilkenny Under 15 A All Ireland winning team

The conveyor belt is firmly turning and the future is very bright.

U16

The under 16 team also claimed silverware this season and, similar to their Intermediate and Senior counterparts, this came in the Leinster decider.

Under the stewardship of David Williams, the team began the year in March in the Leinster Championship where the side was divided into two teams in the A & B championships.

In the A championship Kilkenny began the year with an away trip to Dublin. The Kilkenny side dominated the opening period of the game but a goal-hungry Dublin side staged a gallant second half comeback to run out 3-08 to 0-12 winners. In their second game Kilkenny

entertained Wexford and put in an impressive display to run out 4-14 to 2-05 winners to get their campaign back on track. In their final group game Kilkenny entertained Offaly. In a high scoring encounter, Kilkenny ran out 5-16 to 4-05 victors to secure a final berth against Dublin. In the final, played in Carlow, Kilkenny gained vengeance for their group defeat by the Dubs and made no mistake when they ran out 3-09 to 1-07 victors to claim the Leinster crown.

The B side began their Leinster campaign with a home game against Wicklow and ran out comprehensive victors on a 17-14 to no score line. In their second game Kilkenny travelled to take on Meath in an entertaining high-scoring encounter, Kilkenny emerged victorious on a 5-09 to 4-07 score line. In their final game Kilkenny travelled to take on Dublin, and in an entertaining encounter Dublin edged out

the Cats by 3-06 to 2-07. Despite the loss the side qualified for the Leinster semi-final where they took on Westmeath. In an entertaining encounter the side finished level in normal time but Westmeath just edged out the Cats in extra time by a point - 4-12 to 6-05 - to end their Leinster hopes.

The two sides merged again for the All Ireland series that began in July. The side were very unlucky to be drawn in the tougher side of the draw. In their first game they travelled to Birr to take on Galway. In a tough encounter it was the Tribeswomen who claimed the spoils on a 3-08 to 2-10 score line. In their second game they travelled to take on Clare. In a tough low-scoring encounter, the home side edged the game 0-08 points to 0-05. In their final game they entertained Cork in Dicksboro. In a high-scoring encounter it was the Rebelettes who emerged victorious on a 5-08 to 3-12 score line. This loss ended Kilkenny's interest in the All Ireland series.

It was a disappointing end to a good year for the side suffering some narrow losses in the All Ireland series but they recorded a terrific achievement in claiming the Leinster crown. This is a young side and will be the ones to watch out for in 2016.

U15

The Kilkenny Under 15 team had an exceptional year by any standards. Under the guidance of Damien Donoghue, Mary Ryall, David Kent and Shauna Donohue, the team was divided into two panels the A & B teams. The A panel captained by Caroline Kennedy, Slierveue, swept all before them, winning every game and four out four tournaments. Victories in Dublin, Clare and Wexford were followed up by winning the All Ireland Blitz held in Kilkenny at the end of August.

Meanwhile the achievements of the B panel, captained by Orla Grace, Carrickshock, were particularly gratifying. They reached the Roinn B All Ireland final only to be beaten by Dublin while they also reached the final of the Roinn A Clare Blitz, this time only to be pipped by their A panel colleagues. All players and their parents are to be congratulated for their season long commitment. Beginning last March, they trained in all weathers a total of 35 times ensuring the creation of an unshakeable team spirit that laid the foundation for all their successes over the summer. Special thanks too to Con Dooley and Barry Atkins for their match day contributions

U14

In early February, 147 players representing every club in the county took part in a six week development academy. As part of this, a decision was taken that three teams would be entered in competitions for 2015. From the underage academy 71 players were chosen to go forward and compete at U14 this year. The Kilkenny teams continued the success achieved in 2014 by reaching finals at every competition entered, most notably during the Leinster blitz when two Kilkenny teams reached the shield final and, added to this, in the other final played that day Kilkenny beat a strongly fancied Dublin team.

On the August bank holiday weekend "The Bernie Hoban Kilkenny Blitz" took place, classed as one of the strongest and best run Blizzes in the country. In the C final it was our neighbours Carlow who triumphed. In the A and B blitzes it was Kilkenny who continued their good run by claiming victories in both finals. More success followed for the Kilkenny sides with another A and B win at the Waterford blitz and a B win in the Orla McDonagh Tipperary blitz. At the National Competition the B team narrowly lost a final in extra time versus a very strong Antrim team, while the A team lost a semi-final to eventual winners Cork, and the C team narrowly lost out to Laois in a very strong competition.

All in all it has been a very successful year. Seven trophies in total were won by a fantastic bunch of players and great credit has to go to the players but also the management team. The future of Kilkenny camogie is safe hands.



Kilkenny Under 14 Amber Team 2015



Kilkenny Under 14 Black Team 2015



Mullinavat Senior League and County Champions 2015



Kilkenny Under 14 White Team 2015



Mullinavat Senior League and County Champions 2015

CLUB SCENE

Senior

2015 will be a year to remember for Mullinavat as they finished the year after claiming the league/ Championship double. The semi-final pairing for the league saw Mullinavat take on St Lachtains/Lisdowney and in the other semi-final Thomastown took on Piltown. In a thrilling encounter Thomastown proved too strong for 2014 intermediate champions Piltown on a 2-15 to 2-13 score line. In the other semi-final it took three games to separate Mullinavat and St Lachtains/ Lisdowney. In the first game of the saga the sides drew Mullinavat 1-15 to St.Lachtains/ Lisdowney 3-09. The second day was a cracker with goals galore but again there was no separating the sides as they drew again Mullinavat 5-10 to St.Lachtains/ Lisdowney 4-13. In the third encounter it was Mullinavat who proved stronger on the day and qualified for the league final Mullinavat 0-17 to St Lachtains /Lisdowney 1-07. The final saw a repeat of last year's county final with Thomastown and Mullinavat going to battle. It was Thomastown who made the brighter start and raced into a 1-08 to 0-02 half time lead, with Anna Farrell securing the Thomastown goal. Mullinavat stormed back into the game in the second half to secure victory on a 2-10 to 1-10 score line to cap off a gallant comeback.

The business end of the Championship took place in September with Thomastown taking on St Lachtains/Lisdowney and Mullinavat taking on Windgap who edged out Piltown in a cracking semi-final 0-15 to 1-11. Thomastown, the reigning champions, made no mistake as they lay down their intentions of holding onto their crown when they defeated St Lachtains/Lisdowney 1-16 to 1-06. In the other semi-final Mullinavat proved too strong Windgap on a 3-16 to 1-14 score line to secure a repeat of the league final against Thomastown. The final, played in Ballyhole in early October, was one that many considered hard to call. Would Mullinavat regain the title that they lost to Thomastown a year previous or would Thomastown secure the two in a row and avenge their league final defeat of two weeks previously? In a spirited first half display Mullinavat got the goals and led by 3-08 to 1-07 at the break. Thomastown came back into the game in the second half but it was Mullinavat's day as they ran out 5-17 to 1-10 victors to regain the senior county title last won in 2014.

In the All County League final Mullinavat were due to take on Thomastown. At the time of going to print the final had not been played but full details of this fixture can be found on www.kilkennycamogie.com.

Intermediate

The intermediate club action began in February with Piltown taking on Clonduff of Down in the All Ireland Intermediate club



Glenmore Intermediate ACL Champions 2015



St Brigid's Intermediate League Champions 2015



Tullaroan Intermediate County Champions 2015

championship semi-final in Clane Co. Kildare. (See Michael O'Leary's report, following)

In the intermediate All county league the final pairing saw the 2014 Junior champions Glenmore take on Rower Inistioge. Goals were the difference between the sides as Glenmore proved too strong for Rower Inistioge on a 2-06 to 0-07 point score line.

In the league final stages of the league Tullaroan secured safe passage through to the final having topping their group. In the semi-final St Brigid's took on St Anne's. In an exciting encounter it was St Brigid's who proved the stronger and ran out 1-15 to 2-06 winners. In the final St Brigid's put in an impressive display and edged out Tullaroan in a close hard fought final on a 2-09 to

2-05 score line.

The championship semi-finals saw St Brigid's taking on Rower Inistioge while Tullaroan took on Clara. In two cracking semi-finals, the sides could not be separated in normal time and extra time was needed in both games. Tullaroan proved the stronger in their clash with Clara in the extra time period and ran out 5-17 to 3-08 victors. In the other semi-final Rower Inistioge and St Brigid's couldn't be separated after extra time and a replay was needed as they drew - St Brigid's 0-11 Rower Inistioge 1-8. In the replay the game proved just to be as tight and a late Rower Inistioge point secured a draw again and extra time was needed again. In extra time Rower Inistioge proved the stronger and edged out St Brigid's 3-10 to 3-08.

The final was a cracking encounter. Rower Inistioge made the better of the first half and led by 1-05 to 0-04 at half time. Rower Inistioge continued their good run in the second half and were leading by 2-07 to 0-10 going into the final four minutes but a late Miriam Walsh goal for Tullaroan secured a draw and extra time was needed. In extra time the side couldn't be separated and half time in extra time saw the sides level again Rower Inistioge 2-10 to Tullaroan's 1-13. The second period of extra time was just as tight and a replay was needed as it finished Rower Inistioge 2-12 to Tullaroan's 1-15. In the replay Tullaroan made no mistake and raced out of the traps and led by 1-06 to 0-02 at half time with Miriam Walsh getting in for her side's goal. Rower Inistioge came back into the contest in the second half getting two goals through an Aine Gannon sideline puck and a Catriona Ryan twenty one meters free, but it was Tullaroan's day as they ran out 1-12 to 2-04 victors to claim the Intermediate title.

Junior

In the Junior A All County league final Conahy Shamrock's proved too strong for Mooncoin as they ran out 5-08 to 1-01 victors in an impressive display. The Junior B All County league was a cracking encounter with Piltown edging out neighbours Carrickshock 3-03 to 1-10.

The junior league semi-finals saw Young Irelands proving too strong for Mooncoin 4-20 to 3-6. The other semi-final saw Emeralds taking on Conahy Shamrocks. After a cracking tussle the sides couldn't be separated as they drew Emeralds 1-10 Conahy Shamrocks 2-7 and a replay was needed. In the replay Emeralds proved too strong for Conahy Shamrocks and ran out 1-10 to 2-05 victors.

The league final saw Emeralds and Young Ireland's going to battle. In an impressive display Young Ireland's proved to be strong for Emeralds and ran out 3-10 to 0-07 victors.

The Junior B championship final saw Blacks and Whites taking on Thomastown. In an impressive display it was Thomastown who proved too strong for Black and Whites and ran out 2-10 to 2-04 victors to claim the title.

The Junior A title saw Carrickshock taking on league champions Young Ireland's. In an exciting final the sides couldn't be separated in normal time and extra time was needed as they drew Carrickshock 2-06 Young Ireland's 0-11 points. The extra time period was just as tight an encounter, but Carrickshock finished the stronger and claimed the Junior A title by 2-11 to 0-15.

U21

At time of going to print the Under 21 championship had not begun. Full details of the competition can be found on www.kilkennycamogie.com.

Minor

The Minor A league final saw last year's County Champions taking on Piltown. In a terrific final it was Piltown who emerged victorious and ran out 3-11 to 2-07 victors. In the County final the two league finalist came together again with Piltown hoping to dethrone the reigning champions. In a terrific contest where Dicksboro looked dead and buried they staged a late comeback to claim the Minor A title for the second year on a 3-07 to 2-07 score line.

In the Minor B league final Slieverue took on Kilmacow. In a



Conahy Shamrocks Junior A ACL Champions 2015



Piltown Junior B ACL Champions 2015



Young Irelands Junior League Champions & Championship Finalists 2015



Thomastown Junior B county Champions 2015



Carrickshock Junior A County Champions 2015



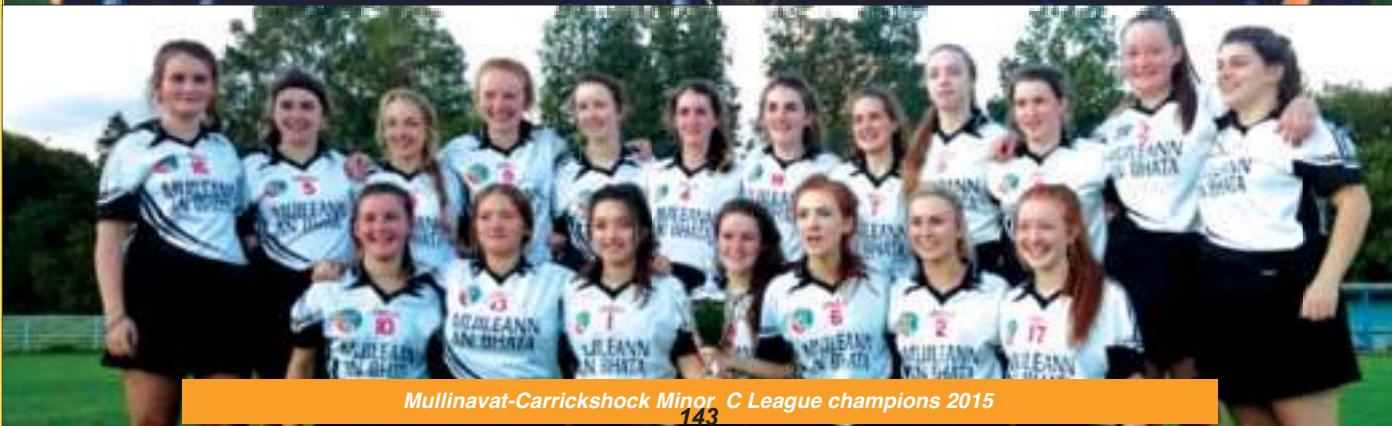
Piltown Minor A League Champions 2015



Slieverue Minor B League Champions 2015



St Brigid's Minor B County Champions 2015



Mullinavat-Carrickshock Minor C League champions 2015

determined performance Slieverue emerged victorious on a 2-8 to 1-4 score line. At the time of going to print the Minor B county final had not been played but Slieverue were to take to play Windgap. Full details of this fixture can be found on www.kilkennycamogie.com.

In the Minor C league final Mullinavat Carrickshock took on a strong Young Irelands side in an impressive display, it was Mullinavat/ Carrickshock who emerged victorious on a 4-12 to 2-2 score line. In the C County final Mullinavat/Carrickshock were to take on Young Irelands. At the time of going to print the county final had not been played but full details of this fixture can be found on www.kilkennycamogie.com.

U16

In the Under 16 A Dicksboro are double champions after claiming both the league and Championship titles. In the A league final Dicksboro proved too strong for Conahy Shamrocks on a 3-05 to 0-03 score line. Both sides met again in the final. In a tough encounter Dicksboro edged out Conahy Shamrocks by 0-15 points to 1-03.

In the Under 16 B Young Irelands and St Fiachres battled out both the league and County finals. In the league final Young Irelands just edged out St.Fiachres in a cracking final on a 3-04 to 1-06 score line. In the County final goals were the key as Young Irelands defeated a brave St.Fiachres side by 6-07 to 0-06.

In the Under 16 C league both Rower Inistioge and Carrickshock /Mullinavat qualified for the final. At the time of going to print the league final had not been played but full details of this fixture can be found on www.kilkennycamogie.com.

In the C County final Rower Inistioge and Carrickshock/Mullinavat played out two epic finals after initial drawing in their first encounter on a 2-07 apiece score line. In the replay Rower Inistioge staged a second half comeback to win 2-06 to 1-08 after an exciting encounter.

U14

In the Under 14 A shield final Danesfort edged out Piltown after a great final by 0-04 points to 0-03. In the Under 14 A championship Thomastown took on Young Irelands in two terrific finals after drawing the initial final Thomastown 2-5 Young Irelands 3-2. The replay was a close tight affair with Thomastown edging out Young Irelands 0-05 to 0-03.

In the under 14 B Shield, St Brigid's edged out Mooncoin 3-08 to 2-04 after a great final. St Martin's are the Under 14 B county champions after proving too strong for Conahy Shamrocks on a 4-09 to 1-03 score line.

In the under 14 C shield final Mullinavat/ Carrickshock edged out Clara on a 3-05 to 3-01 score line after an enjoyable final. Windgap are the under 14 C county champions after defeating Ballyhale Shamrocks on a 3-05 to 2-01 score line.

Slieverue are the under 14D shield champions after proving too strong for Lisdowney on a 2-06 to 2-00 score line. In the under 14 D county final goals were the difference when Goresbridge/ Paulstown defeated Naomh Brid 3-05 to 2-00.

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Finals

The Cumann na mBunscoil finals took place in Nowlan Park in June. In the Roinn A Final St Aidan's N.S. Kilmanagh proved too strong for a brave St. Mary's N.S. Thomastown and ran out 3-08 to 0-02 victors. In the Roinn B decider Scoil Ruadhain, Tullaroan edged out Clara in an exciting encounter on a 4-02 to 2-01 score line. The Roinn C Final saw Mooncoin / Carrigeen prove too strong for brave Conahy side on a 11-03 to 1-02 score line. In the Roinn D Final Bunscoil McAuley Rice, Callan proved too strong for a brave Tullogher on a 8-02 to 3-00 score line. A great day was had by all sides and the future of camogie is in safe hands.



Dicksboro Minor A County Champions 2015



Dicksboro Under 16 A League and County Champions 2015



Young Irelands U16B League and County Champions 2015



Rower-Inistioge Under 16C County Champions.tif



Thomastown U14A County Champions 2015

PILTON SECURE FAMOUS CROKER VICTORY
By Michael O'Leary

The greatest day in Piltown Camogie Club arrived on a wintry and blustery day in Croke Park on Sunday March 1st, as they held off a strong finish from defending All-Ireland Champions Lismore to win by a solitary point in the All-Ireland Intermediate Club Final. Piltown were driven on by the hurt of almost 18 months previously, when they lost out by a solitary point to Ballyhale Shamrocks in the County Intermediate decider after extra-time in October 2013, with the Shamrocks girls going all the way to the All-Ireland decider before losing to Lismore after a replay.

However, Piltown responded and with a young squad that enjoyed under-age success from Under-12 right through to Minor, it was inevitable that their day would come

Those young girls who all enjoyed success at underage level formed the backbone of their squad with twice Inter-County Senior All-Star Katie Power and Republic of Ireland Soccer International Karen Duggan leading the experience.

The South Kilkenny girls turned their attention to the Leinster Championship, and having safely negotiated Birr 1-11 to 0-4 in their opening game, they were given a far sterner test of their credentials by the twice previous All-Ireland Junior Club Champions, Myshall of Carlow.

In a tough close dogged encounter, Katie Power was the supreme difference as Piltown emerged victorious 1-12 to 1-9 to set up a Leinster Final showdown with Camross of Laois.

A seven goal thriller emerged as Piltown edged out their Laois opponents 3-10 to 4-5 to secure a first provincial title.

Clane was once again the venue for their semi-final showdown, and Piltown eventually emerged victorious 3-5 to 0-6 but not after an almighty struggle.

Piltown marched onto Croke Park and the biggest day in their history to face an experienced Lismore outfit who were the defending All-Ireland Champions having defeated Ballyhale Shamrocks last year

The Piltown girls ran out onto the Croke Park surface to be greeted by conditions more suited to Siberia as snow descended upon GAA headquarters.

Regardless of conditions, Piltown were not going to be distracted from the ultimate goal and the ultimate prize.

Having trailed to an early Aoife Hannon free, Piltown replied with



Danesfort U14A Shield champions 2015



St Martins U14B County champions 2015



Paulstown-Goresbridge Under 14D County champions 2015



Piltown All Ireland Intermediate champions 2015

three points in a two minute spell from Edel Long, Alice Talbot and Niamh Culleton. The South Kilkenny girls took a firm grip on proceedings when Chloe Blackmore blasted home a low shot to the net in the 12th minute to lead by 5 points. 1-3 to 0-1. Piltown maintained that 5 point lead coming towards the interval, but Lismore were firmly back in the contest by the half-time whistle when Aoife Hannon blasted home a 20 metre free to narrow the gap to two points, 1-6 to 1-4. However, Piltown's strength of character and resilience was significant in their success and they regained a grip on proceedings when Chloe Holden and Aoife Talboy pointed early after the restart to double their advantage. 1-8 to 1-4. Scores were often difficult to come by amongst the wind and snowswept conditions, although the tension was apparent throughout. Piltown maintained that four point lead with seven minutes remaining (1-10 to 1-6) when points from Katie Power and an inspirational captain's effort from Laura Norris added to their tally. However, Lismore refused to relinquish their All-Ireland crown without a fight, and they added three late points from two pointed Hannon frees either side of a point from play by Grainne Kenneally. Piltown though held out, and their defence held firm led by player of the match Kellyanne Doyle superb, as the final whistle signalled the start of the celebrations.

Scorers Piltown v Lismore

Piltown – Alice Talbot 0-4(0-3 frees), Chloe Blackmore 1-0, Laura Norris 0-2, Niamh Culleton, Katie Power, Edel Long and Chloe Holden 0-1 each

Lismore – Aoife Hannon 1-7(frees), Grainne Kenneally and Nicola Morrissey 0-1 each,

Piltown Team All-Ireland Final:

Aoife Norris, Mairead Power, Elaine Kenny, Jennifer n Doyle, Laura Norris(captain), Alice Talbot, Niamh Culleton, Katie Power, Edel Long, Chloe Holden, Chloe Blackmore, Leanne Long

Subs: Georgina Culleton for Talbot 47 minutes, Lisa McCarthy for Holden 59 minutes, Katelynn Phelan for Phelan 61 minutes,

Rest of Squad: Carol McCarthy, Niamh Dermody, Ellen Commins, Sinead McCarthy, Aine Power, Nicola Phelan, Maria Foley, Leanne Dunne, Siobhan Dermody, Fiona Long, Jean Power, Antonia Power.



St Aidans, Kilmanagh Cumann Na mBunscoil Roinn A champions 2015



Tullaroan NS Team. Cumann Na mBunscoil Roinn B champions 2015



Slieverue Under 14D Shield Champions 2015



Mooncoin-Carrigeen Cumann Na mBunscoil Roinn C champions 2015



Windgap Under 14C Champions 2015



Bunscoil McAuley Rice, Cumann Na mBunscoil Roinn D champions 2015

CAMOGIE REPORT

CARRICKSHOCK



Carrickshock Schools Camogie Team 2015



Carrickshock U10 Camogie Team 2015



Carrickshock U6 Camogie Team 2015



Carrickshock U12 Club Team 2015



Carrickshock U16/18 players who played as
Mullinavat/Carrickshock in 2015

CAMOGIE REPORT

CLARA



New sponsors Enviroclad presenting new jerseys to Chairperson Theresa Aylward and players from the U14/U16 teams.



Our U14 team had a great year



The U12 at the annual Liam Ryan Memorial Hurlaton. Pictured with Shane, Lester, Conor and Chris the Clara players that where part of the All-Ireland winning Kilkenny team. Also pitcured is the famous Liam McCarthy Cup.



Players enjoy a Black and Amber Disco to show their support for all the Kilkenny teams, Camogie, Hurling and Football.



The U12 Captains that took part in a interesting League Final as numbers were so big two teams were entered and both got to the league final which ended in a draw.



Both the U12 Green and Pink team that played in the U12 League Final.

CAMOGIE REPORT

GORESBRIDGE PAULSTOWN



Victorious U14 Féile Shield winners in The Loup, Derry in June



*Our U10 team front row who played Setanta Carlow
back row in Paulstown.*



*Our U8 team front row who played Setanta Carlow
back row in Paulstown*



:Our U12 team who were in the Shield Final this year.



*U14 County Final Captain Shauna Treacy with
the Trainers Charlie Byrne and Tom Brennan
after winning the U14 County Final*

*Caoimhe Kelly,
Kate Byrne and
Kayla Joyce Foley
hugging after
winning the
shield final at
Féile.*



CAMOGIE REPORT

JAMES STEPHENS



Hannah Kelly, James Stephens Camogie Club-Winner of the National Feile Camogie Skills Competition 2015 pictured with Martin Skelly, National Feile Committee and Catherine Neary, James Stephens Camogie Club and President of the Camogie Association Ireland.



Catherine Neary, James Stephens Camogie Club who was elected President of the Camogie Association Ireland in March 2015 for a term of three years. All in James Stephens Camogie Club are very proud of Catherine on achieving the highest honour in Camogie and wish her all the best for her term in office.



Members of the James Stephens U12 Camogie panel pictured with Aoife Neary, James Stephens and Kilkenny Senior Camogie Team at the Meet and Greet evening held in Larchfield on 9th June, 2015.



The Road to the Feile na nGael Ulster 2014

St Brigid's U14 Camogie team along with their Management team of Jim O'Brien, Mick Walsh, Carmel Brennan, Cathriona Lanigan and Claire Roberts began their journey to Ulster on 19th April 2014 with the group stages of the competition along with Rower Inistioge, Freshford and Naomh Brid. St. Brigid's played Rower Inistioge first and won. Next match was against Freshford, a victory secured again. The final match was against Naomh Brid which St. Brigid's won 3-4 to 1-3.

The county semi-final was the next stop. This took place in Clara GAA grounds on 3rd May 2014. The draw was St. Brigid's V Mooncoin and Emeralds V O'Loughlins. St. Brigid's emerged the finalists and, on the same day, St. Brigid's were crowned the winners and became the Kilkenny representatives for the Feile na nGael in Ulster 2014.

After much fundraising and organising, the St. Brigid's team travelled to Lavey, Co. Derry where the Kilkenny girls were placed in Division 1, group C along with Erin's Own Lavey, Derry, Ballygalget, Down, and Scariff Ognellye, Clare, playing for The Purcell Trophy.

The first match on Friday, 20th June was against Lavey (our hosts) which St. Brigid's won. On Saturday St. Brigid's played 3 matches and progressed to a Shield Final on Sunday. This crucial match was against Wexford team, Cranford who, after a tough battle against St. Brigid's, claimed victory. However, the St. Brigid's girls did Kilkenny proud in every respect and a wonderful weekend was had by all.

CAMOGIE REPORT

MOONCOIN



Girls Taking Part in Hurl Smart Week



U12 County Championship Final



Eimear Fleming Schools Team Captain



U10 Mini Games



U14 walk up Slievenamon

CAMOGIE REPORT

MULLINAVAT



Mullinavat/Carrickshock U14 Shield Winners



Minor Captain Eimear Brennan



Mullinavat U8 Team 2015



Mullinavat U10 Team 2015



Senior Captain 2015 Miriam Frisby



Mullinavat U12 Team 2015

CAMOGIE REPORT

NAOMH BRÍD, BALLYRAGGET



The Naomh Brid, Under 14 team, with their Coaches Jackie Lawless, Caroline Phelan andt



The Naomh Brid under 8 team 2015



Naomh Brid Camogie Club, Ballyragget, won 3rd prize in the Kilkenny GAA Hurlers' Co Op Draw, Number 3. The secretary, Sheila Gunner , was presented with the 600 Euro holiday voucher for the Castlemartyr Resort ,Co Cork, by John Glennon, the St. Patrick's GAA club draw Co-ordinator, who sold the winning ticket.

Officers 2015

Chairman – Noel Cummins

Vice Chair – Michelle Brennan

Secretary/Treasurer- Sheila Gunner

PRO- Seamus O'Doherty

Child Welfare Officer- Betty Smith

Co. Board Delegates –Sheila Gunner /John Gunner / Noel Cummins.

Committee

Brid Kavanagh, Bernie O'Doherty, Karen Phelan, Mags Southgate, Caroline Phelan, Shiela Walshe.

Coaches

Brendan Walshe, Caroline Phelan, Jackie Lawless, Aidan Morrissey, John Gunner & Martin Foley

A well attended AGM was held in the St Patrick's club house on Tuesday, January 27th.

Over fifty girls registered with Naomh Brid for the 2015 season and they were active up to September.

Our main team, the under 14s had a long season during which they played ten competitive League & Championship games. The team, captained by Sinead Walshe, reached the Roinn D county final, but lost to Paulstown by 3-5 to 2-0, having beaten Rower Inistioge in the semi final. The team also played in the Feile Blitz, at Kilmanagh, in April.

The under 12 team, although very young, played well in their League and also participated in three Blitz days, one of which was hosted superbly, by Naomh Brid, in Ballyragget on May 9th.

The under 10 team participated in two development Blitz outings, during the season and we were delighted with their performances.

The under 8 team had some enjoyable outings also and these girls continue to improve their skills. They played very well in two practice games at Castlecomer in September. Thanks to everyone who helped with transport during 2015. A special note of appreciation is due to Morgan O'Kelly and Michael Foley for their help with the pitch, which was in top class condition for all of our games.

Our end of year party was held in the club house, on Tuesday, September 15th and was well attended. The county final runners up medals were presented to the team, while presentations were also made to departing under 14 Coaches Brendan Walshe and Caroline Phelan – as well as our other four dedicated coaches Jackie Lawless, John Gunner, Martin Foley and Aidan Morrissey.

The Secretary, Sheila Gunner and PRO, Seamus O 'Doherty were also acknowledged for their commitment to the club. There was a free draw afterwards and 20 prizes were won by registered players. Thanks to Ballyragget Pharmacy and Xtreme Beauty for sponsoring prizes.

The club enjoys tremendous goodwill locally and we thank everyone for their ongoing support. Thanks also to St Patricks GAA Club and its Bord na nÓg section.

The Kilkenny People newspaper published our notes throughout the season, which kept everyone informed about our activities and was much appreciated.



Retiring Naomh Brid Under 14 Coaches, Brendan Walshe and Caroline Phelan, receive a presentation from team members Mollie Southgate and Michaela Ryan.

CAMOGIE REPORT

O'LOUGHLIN GAELS



U12 County Group Winners 2015



Laura Greene and Laura Murphy - All Ireland Minor Champions 2015



Rebecca Cleere, Aisling Butler and Laura Murphy Leinster Intermediate Champions 2015



O'Loughlin Gaels U6 Camogie Team 2015



O'Loughlin Gaels U10 Camogie Team 2015



O'Loughlin Gaels U8 Camogie Team 2015



O'Loughlin Gaels U14 Camogie Team 2015



O'Loughlin Gaels U16 Camogie Team 2015



O'Loughlin Gaels Minor Camogie Team 2015

CAMOGIE REPORT PILTON



Piltown Camogie U8s, 2015



Piltown Camogie U10s, 2015



Piltown Camogie U14s before their Shield final in Ballyhale



Piltown Camogie U12s who won their Group Championship



Laura Norris raises the Agnes O'Farrelly Cup in Croke Park after Piltown Camogie Club won the Intermediate Camogie Club All Ireland, 1st March, 2015

CAMOGIE REPORT

ROWER INISTIOGE



Rower Inistioge Intermediate County Final runners up



Rower Inistioge U12 Winners 2015



Rower Inistioge U6 to U16 girls after training

CAMOGIE REPORT

SLIEVERUE



Slieverue U12 Camogie Team 2015.

For photos of Slieverue Minor Roinn B League Winners and U14 Roinn D Shield Winners, see County Camogie Report.

DOHENY'S CRASH REPAIRS

Westcourt Business Park, Callan, Co.Kilkenny

E-mail: chris@dohenycrashrepairs.ie • Web: <http://www.dohenycrashrepairs.ie>

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Fax:056 7755679
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CAMOGIE REPORT

ST ANNE'S



Intermediate Captain, Edel Maher.



Intermediate Team 2015, Captain Edel Maher.



U16 Shield Champions 2015, Captain Jessie Brennan



U21 Captains, Mary Wall Pauls Town,
Siobhan Corcoran St.Annes.



U21 County Champions 2015, Captain Siobhan Corcoran.



U21 County Champions, Selfie Queens

CAMOGIE REPORT

ST BRIGID'S



St Brigid's U14 Shield Winners 2015



Maura Comerford wins 1st prize in Piltown Draw
Eileen Heafey (Treasurer), Maura Comerford, Josie Ronan (Ticket Seller, Pat Hayes (Club Chairman)



St Brigid's U12's 2015



Josie Ronan Presenting Minor Captain Ciara Murphy with Gearbags.



St Brigid's U16's 2015



St Brigid's U10's 2015



St Brigid's U8's 2015

St. Brigid's camogie club have had a fantastic 2015 season. All teams have had a successful year with several pieces of silverware coming back to the club. Our u8s and u10s all had brilliant games throughout the year in several blitz competitions. Our U12s got to the semi final of the championship and also won the Rena Sheridan memorial tournament. Our u14s got to the final of the Kilkenny feile competition and were also shield final winners.

Our U16s got to the quarter final after a great year and our minors came out on top of Roimh B this year with a county final win over Windgap. Our intermediates after losing the county final last year were league champions of 2015 and championship semi finalists.

At county level we had several representatives from the club. At senior level Aisling Dunphy had a great year and has been nominated for an All Star award in the midfield position. Therese Muldowney and Ciara Murphy played with the Intermediates. Ciara Murphy also represented the club at minor level and Eimear Keoghan and Eadaoin Murphy were the stars in u16. On the U15 squads Leah Lanigan, Laoise Prendergast, Claire Quigley, Kyn Ryan and Tara Walsh represented the club. Katie Brennan, Maeve Ging and Shona O'Brien played u14 county. Also many of our girls had success at school and colleges level.

We had a fantastic year in terms of fundraising too as our whist drives, annual Mary McGrath tablequiz, '80s Disco night' and our 'Predict the Score' competition for the All-Ireland were complete successes. Maura Comerford won 1st prize of a car in the 1st Piltown draw, ticket sold by Josie Ronan. Our minors and intermediates were presented with gear bags for their achievements. Thank you to all who were involved with the club and we hope to have an even better 2016.

CAMOGIE REPORT

ST FIACHRA'S



St Fiachra's U14 girls who represented Kilkenny in the Ulster Feile.



St Fiachra's U12 team 2015



St Fiachra's U10 team 2015



St Fiachra's U8 team 2015



U16 Roinn B, Finalists in both League & Championships

CAMOGIE REPORT **ST LACHTAIN'S**



U6 St Lachtains Camogie Club



U12 County Finalist St Lachtains



U14 St Lachtains Camogie Club



U16 semi finalist St Lachtains



U10 & U8 St Lachtain's Camogie Club



**U16 Poc Fáda winner
Maria Brennan from
St Lachtains**

CAMOGIE REPORT

ST MARTIN'S



St. Martins sponsor Donald Birnie with St. Martins players Edwin Keane, Stacey Quirke and Chairperson Richard Nolan

St Martin's U16B Shield Winners 2015



St Martin's U12 Team 2015

St Martin's U8 Team 2015



St Martin's Seniors, Minors and U16's 2015

CAMOGIE REPORT

THOMASTOWN



U/10 Camogie 2015

By Fiona Power

The U/10 Camogie season kicked off in early April (just after Easter). An eager and committed group of girls made up the panel of 15, some of whom were playing for the first time.

After a few weeks of training the blitzes began firstly hosted by Mullinavat, then Callan, next our home blitz. These saw the girls coming up against some very strong opposition. A combination of losses and victories gave us the focus of what needed to be worked on in our training sessions.

Challenge matches against Bennettsbridge, Gowran, Danestfort, Blacks and Whites and Graiguecamaanagh were played. The girls were growing in confidence and going from strength to strength.

The season culminated with the Danestfort U/10 Cup tournament on September 12th, where we set out to defend, if not better, our shield victory from 2014. The girls showed their determination, combined with the skills learnt and practiced throughout the season, and put on their finest display beating James Stephens, Callan and Dicksboro to bring home the cup.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the support and commitment of the parents, so a huge thanks is owed to them.

Truly a great season... well done girls!

Thomastowns young Under 13 camogie girls retained their All Ireland camogie 7s at St Judes in Dublin on the weekend of the senior Camogie All Ireland Final. Many of the Thomastown players were Fresh From their victory over Gowran in the U 14 county Final the Previous weekend. In St Judes the girls played great all through the competition and won through to the Final where they beat the Carlow Champions. Thomastown Captain Roisin O Keeffe lifted the cup to huge cheers From their Supporters. Therese Donnelly was named player of the tournament.



Five Thomastown Girls On Kilkenny Minor Team.
Sarah Walsh, Eimear Corr, Eimear Donnelly,
Laura Tennyson, Aoife Farrell.



Thomastown U10's 2015



Thomastown U6's 2015, after their first challenge game against The Rower/Inistioge. The start to a very successful year.



Thomastown U8's 2015

CAMOGIE REPORT

TULLOGER



Tullogher Camogie Club U14 team: Roinn C League semi-finalists



Tullogher U10 camogie team who had a successful year competing in the Go Games blitzes.



Tullogher Camogie Club U8 team: Successful year competing in the Go-Games blitzes



Parish schools team: Finalists in Cumann na mBunscoil pictured in Nowlan Park.



Tullogher Camogie Club U12 team pictured in Croke Park: Finalists in U12 Championship



Tullogher Camogie Club Junior Team: Unbeaten in Kilmacud Crokes Blitz

CAMOGIE REPORT

WINDGAP



Windgap - Senior County Semi-finalists 2015



Windgap - Minor County Finalists 2015



Windgap U8's 2015



Windgap U12's 2015

CAMOGIE REPORT

YOUNG IRELANDS



Young Irelands - Championship, League and Féile Finalists 2015



Young Irelands - Minor Championship Winners & League Finalists 2015



Young club members meet our county panelists
Emma Comerford and Sarah-Ann Quinlan at the
"Meet & Greet" evening



U10 girls and coaches on last night of coaching for 2015



U8 girls and coaches on last night of coaching for
2015.

CLUB REPORT

BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS



Vital work, led by new Chairman Michael Carroll, drove the juvenile section.

U6: Tom Coogan, Patrick Cummins, Richie Grant, Henry Shefflin and Tom Walsh (Manager).

U8: Tom Coogan (Manager), Patrick Cummins, John Drennan, Richie Grant and Tom Walsh.

U10: Tom Cleere, Dave Gallagher and John Shefflin (Manager).

U12: John Corcoran, Jim Cullen (Manager) and John Shortall.

The U14 panel, looked after by Michael Carroll (Manager), Paul Coady and Éamonn Walsh, put in solid work, despite limited numbers. Having defeated O'Loughlin Gaels B (5-18 to 3-1), they lost their quarter final with Kilmacow, 3-13 to 1-7.

U14HC B Dara Mason, Tom O'Dwyer, Cian Cullen, Tomás Barron, Finnian Shefflin, Casey Corcoran (captain) 1-4 (0-3), Christopher Coady, Rhys Anderson, Edmund Fitzpatrick, Andrew Devereux, Stephen Barron 0-2 (f), Liam Barron 0-1, Niall Shortall, David Lawler, Brandon Ryan. Subs: Michael Cullen for Niall Shortall (ht), Séan Reade for Brandon Ryan (46m); Larry Cody (away), Killian Corcoran (inj), Hussain Masood (inj).

Lisdowney Sevens panel: Tomás Barron, Larry Cody, Killian Corcoran, Cian Cullen (captain), Andrew Devereux, Edmund Fitzpatrick, Dara Mason, Tom O'Dwyer, Finnian Shefflin, Niall Shortall. Having defeated Barrow Rangers (1-7 to 1-3), this spirited group exited to Clarecastle, 9-6 to 0-1.

The U16 panel, looked after by Niall Mason, Patrick Phelan, Séan Reid (Manager) and Tommy Shefflin (Trainer), enjoyed a fine season. Quarter final winners over Dunnamaggin (1-17 to 1-11), semi final winners over Thomastown United (3-15 to 1-15), they went down fighting to O'Loughlin Gaels in the County Final, 1-21 to 0-11.

U16HC A Dean Mason, Conor Doyle, Patrick Hearne, Keelan O'Donoghue, Casey Corcoran, Evan Shefflin 0-1 (f), Darragh Corcoran, Martin Davis 0-3, Jason Devereux, Adam Masood 0-1, Adrian Mullen 0-4 (3f), Eoin Kenneally, Rónán Hayes (captain), Stephen Barron, Eoin Cody 0-2. Subs: Liam Barron, Eoin Walsh for Keelan O'Donoghue (41m), Christopher Coady, Cian Cullen, Edmund Fitzpatrick, James Reid, John Shortall; Dylan Drennan Smyth (inj).

The Minor panel, looked after by Tom Coogan, Niall Mason, Séan Reid (Manager) and Tommy Shefflin (Trainer), made progress. Having defeated Danesfort (0-16 to 0-14), they fell to O'Loughlin Gaels in the quarter finals, 1-14 to 0-18.

MHC A Conor Reid, Patrick Hearne, Conor Phelan, Enda Kenneally, Patrick Doyle, Darren Mullen 0-1 (f), Sully Masood, Adam Brenner, Evan Shefflin, Dylan Aylward, Adrian Mullen 1-6 (0-6f), Dean Mason, Eoin Cody, Joe Cuddihy (captain), Martin Davis 0-1. Subs: Andrew Moran for Dean Mason (51m), Darragh Corcoran, Rónán Hayes, John Hession, Keelan O'Donoghue; Dylan Drennan Smyth (inj), Kevin Fennelly (inj), Eoin Kenneally (inj).

No gaelic football team could be entered in 2015, due to the Senior hurlers' All Ireland campaign.

The Junior panel, looked after by Séan Holden, John Kenneally, Patrick O'Sullivan (Manager) and Tom Walsh, improved on 2014. First off, on July 26, they lost a South Championship first round with Glenmore, 1-19 to 1-7.

Later, they came fourth in their league group, ensuring the grade for 2016. Championship commenced with a win over Clara, 4-16 to 2-14. Next up (for a depleted squad) was exit to O'Loughlin Gaels in the third round, 1-20 to 0-11.

JHC Eoin Knox (vice captain), Conor Phelan, Brian Butler, Tom Coogan, Eugene Aylward, Jack Kenneally, Eoin Doyle 0-1, Willie Coogan 0-1, Darren Mullen 0-3 (1f), Dylan Aylward 0-1, Patrick Reid 0-1, Patrick Mullen 0-4 (3f), Joe Cuddihy, James Connolly, Patrick Doyle. Subs: Conor Reid, Anthony Walsh for Eugene Aylward (46m), John Hession, Mark Phelan; Michael Carroll (inj), Rónán Corcoran (tied), Aidan Cummins (tied), Pádraig McDonnell (captain; tied), David Hoynes (tied), Adrian Mullen (inj), Kevin Mullen (tied), Keith Nolan (tied), Shane Timmons (away), Eddie Walsh (away).

The Junior B panel was looked after by John Dermody (Manager), Séan Holden, Keith Murphy and Paul Shefflin. Notably improving on last season, they won five of their ten league ties.

Championship wise, the Junior Bs defeated Tullogher Rosbercon by 1-19 to 2-3. An understrength selection lost to Kilmacow in a South quarter final, 0-14 to 0-9.

JHC B Conor Reid, Eddie Walsh, Brian Butler, John Dermody 0-1, Niall Smyth, Jack Kenneally, Anthony Walsh, Willie Coogan, Connor Phelan, Michael O'Sullivan 0-1, James Connolly (captain) 0-4 (3f), Patrick Doyle, Andrew Moran 0-1, James Deasy 0-1 (f), Mark Phelan. Subs: John Hession 0-1 for James Deasy (inj, 25m), Dylan Doran for Mark Phelan (ht), Derek Fitzpatrick for Andrew Moran (54m), Adam Brenner, Shaun Donnelly, Dave Gallagher, Shane Timmons; Dylan Aylward (work), Michael Carroll (inj), Joe Cuddihy (Kilkenny Minors), Kevin Fennelly (inj), Kieran Grace (away), Enda Kenneally (inj), Adrian Mullen (away), Keith Murphy (inj).

The U21 panel, looked after by Aidan Cummins, John Drennan (Manager) and Michael O'Sullivan, beat Mullinavat by 0-21 to 1-11 in a South quarter final.

U21HC A Evan Shefflin, Conor Phelan, Brian Butler, Eugene Aylward, Darren Mullen 0-1, Jack Kenneally (captain), Kevin Mullen, Rónán Corcoran, Patrick Doyle, Brian Cody 0-3, Patrick Mullen 0-1 (1f), Eoin Doyle, James Deasy, Joe Cuddihy 0-1, Adrian Mullen 0-5. Subs: Dean Mason, Eoin Kenneally for James Deasy (55m), Martin Davis for Joe Cuddihy (57m), Enda Kenneally for Eugene Aylward (59m), Adam Brenner, Shaun Donnelly, Andrew Moran, Tom O'Keefe; Dylan Aylward (inj), Patrick Hearne (inj), Mark Phelan (inj), Conor Reid (inj).

The club was saddened by the passing of Pat Connolly, Margo Coogan and Bob Phelan.



Junior Team: Back L-R: Conor Reid, Eugene Aylward, Tom Coogan, John Hessian, Brian Butler, Paddy Reid, Jack Kenneally, Eoin Doyle, James Connolly, Anthony Walsh, Darren Mullen. Front L-R: Patrick Mullen, Paddy Doyle, Eoin Knox, Joey Cuddihy, Willie Coogan, Dylan Aylward, Conor Phelan, Mark Phelan.



Junior B Team: Back L-R: Brian Butler, Anthony Walsh, John Dermody, Derek Fitzpatrick, Eddie Walsh, Shaun Donnelly, James Deasy, John Hessian, Dave Gallagher, Jack Kenneally, Adrian Mullen, Dylan Aylward, Keith Murphy. Front L-R: James Connolly, Kevin Fennelly, Andrew Moran, Adam Brenner, Mark Phelan, Enda Kenneally, Willie Coogan, Paddy Doyle, Conor Phelan, Michael Sullivan, Conor Reid.



U21 Team. Back L-R : Dean Mason, Evan Shefflin, Jack Kenneally, Darren Mullen, Joey Cuddihy, Adrian Mullen, James Deasy, Brian Cody, Brian Butler, Eugene Aylward, Kevin Mullen, Eoin Doyle, Paddy Mullen, Tom O'Keefe, Front L-R: Adam Brenner, Andrew Moran, Ronan Corcoran, Paddy Doyle, Conor Phelan, Enda Kenneally, Patrick Hearne, Eoin Kenneally, Martin Davis, Shaun Donnelly.

CLUB REPORT

BARROW RANGERS



Anxious faces in the crowd



U 8's in Croke Park



*Captain Paddy Purcell
with the Junior B Cup*



Under 10's in Nowlan Park



Barrow Rangers team at Roanmore in 2001
*Back: Ciarán Breen, Michael Whitley, Tom Brennan,
Paul Connolly, Michael O'Brien, Edward Prendergast,
Kevin Brennan.*
*Front: John Brennan, Michael Lonergan, Tommy Wall,
Daniel O'Neill and Eoin Kavanagh.*

CLUB REPORT

BENNETTSBRIDGE



A Young 'Bridge supporter with the All Ireland Trophy.
(Photo: Willie Dempsey)



Bennettsbridge Captain, Enda Morrissey with club sponsor, P.J. Cullen, after the IH Final.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



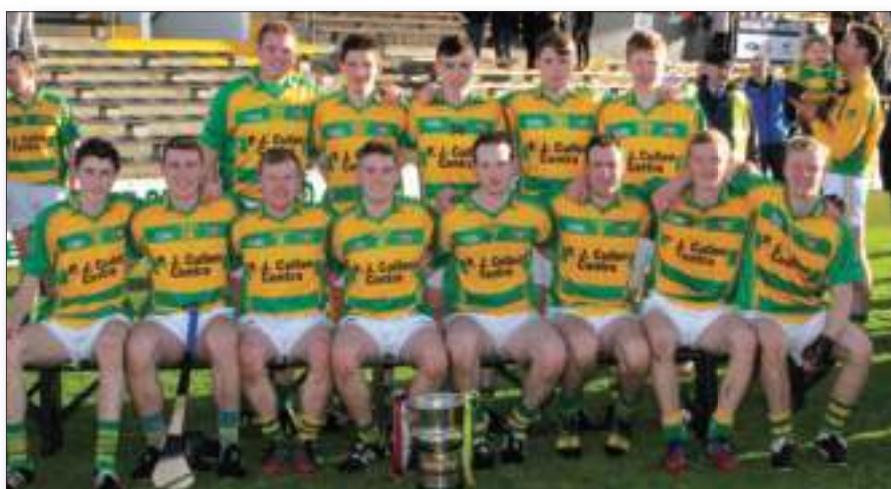
Jason Cleere and Kevin Blanchfield (Bennettsbridge) celebrate after the Intermediate Hurling Final (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Bennettsbridge supporters at the Junior Hurling All-Ireland Final in Croke Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Ecstasy in Croke Park (Photo: Willie Dempsey)



Bennettsbridge sets of brothers from back, Patrick O'Neill, Hugh O'Neill, Brian O'Neill, Aidan Byrne, Shane Byrne and front, Kevin Blanchfield, Liam Blanchfield, Darragh Wafer, Cormac Wafer, Aidan Cleere, Nicky Cleere, Sean Morrissey and Enda Morrissey.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Bennettsbridge players, celebrate at the full time whistle after the All-Ireland Final.
(Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

Once again 2015 has not been all about celebrations when we said goodbye to a number of club members and supporters. The Club would like to extend our sympathies to the families of all those who passed away during the last 12 months. The club also lost a good friend when neighbour Johnny Ryan died following an accident. Johnny was a regular visitor to The Bridge over many years and will be missed by all who knew him. Again may they all rest in peace.

CLUB REPORT

BLACKS & WHITES



B&W U8's at Gowran Blitz 2015



Above: B&W U12's at Conahy Blitz 2015

Lower Right: B&W U8's at our
Annual Inter-County Blitz



Some of the B&W U6's at our
Annual Inter County Blitz



Teams from the B&W Annual Inter County Blitz 2015

CLUB REPORT

CARRICKSHOCK



Carrickshock Under 10s brought a smile to all the locals who braved the elements for the Stoneyford Field Day, winning the hurling blitz in a close final against Dunnamaggin.



The Under 12s finished off a great year by winning the Piltown blitz, beating Carrick Swans in a thrilling final.



The Under 6s met all 3 city clubs as well as the famed Liam McCarthy in the O'Loughlin's Tournament.



The Under 8s made the trip to Dunnamaggin for their field day back in August and took home the silverware in the final against their hosts.



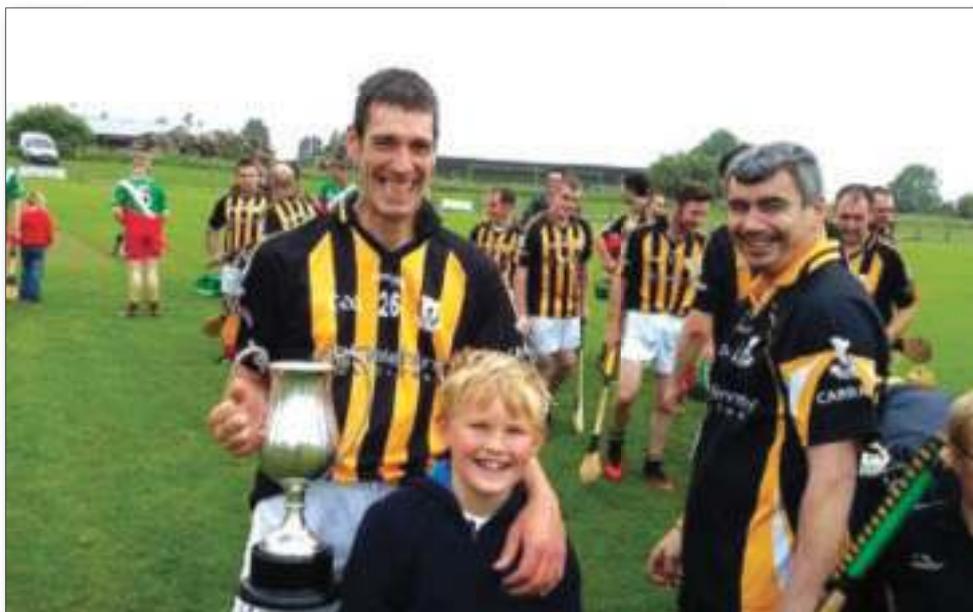
Well done to the Under 14s, winners of Lory Kiely Tournament, St. Molleran's, Carrickbeg for the 2nd year in a row.

CLUB REPORT

CARRIGEEN



Bob o Keeffe Memorial Cup Winners Carrigeen retained the Bob O'Keeffe memorial Cup by beating Borris in Ossory/Kilcotton on a scoreline 1-19 to 1-18. Seen here is Carrigeen captain Cathal O'Keeffe, goalkeeper Jamie Carroll and young supporter Matthew Walsh with the Bob O'Keeffe cup.



The Annual Underage Hurling and Camogie Astro Turf tournaments were held in the early part of 2015. Included in this Photo is the captain of the Abbeyside U13 team receiving the Eddie Quinn memorial cup from Anthony Quinn. Also included is Pat Dunphy Secretary and former Chairman Richie Quinn. Also for the first time ever Camogie was played as a tournament in Carrigeen. Piltown defeated Thomastown in the Cup Final while Mooncoin defeated Windgap in the Shield Final.



South Junior B League Finalists Carrigeen have reached the final of the South Junior B League (Final not played at time of print)
Back: Mark Long, Jonny Jacob, Joey O'Hanlon, Cathal O'Keeffe(Capt), Johnny Cooney, Chris O'Hanlon, Wayne Kelly,
Anthony O'Brien, Thomas O'Brien, Noel Butler, Cathal Quigley, Eoin Gallagher, Liam Roche, Richie O'Brien.
Front: Fintan Dermody, Frank Law, Dean Gates, Hilary Delahunt, Kevin Law, J.J. Butler, A.J. Cronin, Jamie Carroll, Pat Phelan,
Brian Gallagher, Stephen Blackmore, Craigh Collins.

CLUB REPORT

CLARA



Shane and Neal Prendergast celebrating winning the Senior County final. Shane has had a great year for club and County, playing in the Leinster Final and both the All-Ireland Semi-Final and All-Ireland Final with Kilkenny. Topping off the year winning the Senior League and Championship with the club. May all the success continue.



Carmel Brennan the first female chairperson of a GAA Club in Kilkenny.



Ladies Gaelic Football is growing stronger every year. Pictured is this years U8 team. A nursery program was also run this year for U6 down which was a great success. Well done to all involved.



Senior players celebrate winning the County Final.



U10 Hurlers at the annual Liam Ryan Memorial Hurlaton in Wall slough. This yearly blitz is a great end of year event for all age groups from U6 to adults in both Hurling and Camogie.



U14 Ladies Football County Champions proudly sponsored this year by Mark Murphy Motors. This team is going from strength to strength. Congratulations to all the Team, Management and Club Officials on the great year all the teams have had.

CLUB REPORT

CLONEEN



Cloneen Golf Classic Winners
Martin Joe Mealy, Freddie Booth, Sean
Mansfield, Willie Brennan



Cloneen HC Management team
Alan Hosey (Selector), John
McDonald (Manager), John Paul
O'Neill (Selector)



Cloneen HC Run 2015



Cloneen Railyard Summer Training Camp 2015



Cloneen Hurling team - Leinster League Finalists

Back: Liam O Neill, Kevin Brennan, Sean Geoghegan, Brian Cahill, Kevin Phillips, Conor McDonald, Shane Kieran, Ronan Walsh, Gary Delaney, Eoin Doyle, Daniel Brennan, Paul Donnelly, Tom Joe Comerford, Fergal Brennan, Gearoid O Neill, Cormac McDonald, Graham Lawlor, Padraig Delaney, Ciarán Cooney.

Front: Sean Feehan, Padraig Cooney, Conor Delaney, Philip Roeh, Paul Kelly, Sean O Neill, MJ Feehan, Cyril Stedmond, Ian Brennan, Mark Maguire, Breannain Buggy, Marc Purcell .

CLUB REPORT

CONAHY SHAMROCKS



The under-6 and under-8 hurlers who were in action against St. Lachtain's earlier this year.



The club hosted a Foundation Level Coaching Course at the start of the year which was facilitated by Kilkenny GAA Games Manager Brian Ryan and Kilkenny GDA James Meagher. Well done to all who took part.

BLAST FROM THE PAST – Conahy Shamrocks Under-14 hurlers before the parade for Féile na nGael 1978.



The under-12 hurlers enjoyed a very successful year, the highlight of which was the winning of the Jim Comerford Memorial Tournament, organised by the club in September.

CLUB REPORT

DANESFORT



Treasurer Michael Corr, Paul Murphy, Tom Finn of Euromedic, Richard Hogan and Chairman Finbarr Kelly. Euromedic are a very big part of our club and we are very glad to have them on board.



Our new floodlit pitch. The pride of the parish and of all those who contributed through our local Lotto.



Some representatives of the JJ Reddy 5k, 10k and half marathon Committee. Their work is much appreciated and a great day was had by all.



Danesfort U10 Team



Danesfort U14 Football Team



Danesfort's Richie Hogan and Paul Murphy with their 2015 All Star Awards

CLUB REPORT

DICKSBORO



Launch of Dicksboro GAA & Camogie Club's "Buy a Block for the 'Boro" campaign 20 July. (from left): Seamus Rochford, Mandy Butler, Jim Murphy, Eddie Holohan, Ted Carroll, John Treacy and Pat Moylan.



Preparing for the off in the 2015 Dicksboro Kilkenny Cycling Challenge.



Launch of the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Series in Palmerstown. RTE's Marty Morrissey with club members Mick Byrne, Seamus Rochford (Treasurer) and Declan Gough.



**3 Finalists in the Marty Morrissey Look-alike Competition.
Winner Tom O'Donoghue (Centre)**



A day the U11 and U12s of Dicksboro will never forget with GAA president Aogán Ó Fearghail, Cillian Buckley, Kieran Bergin (Tipp), Andy Smyth (Galway) and Noel Connors (Waterford) at the launch of the All Ireland hurling series



Photographed on Friday, August 3 at the Dicksboro Summer Camp are County Hurling Stars Joey Holden, Colin Fennelly and Padraic Walsh with the participating children, team leaders and Camp Co-Ordinators John and Grainne Timmons.

CLUB REPORT

DUNNAMAGGIN



Alex Walsh was the lucky juvenile club member whose name came out of the hat and got to carry the Liam McCarthy trophy to a podium on the field which both teams fled past as they headed to warm up. Alex then carried the cup back up to the podium in the presentation area on the steps of the Hogan Stand. Well done to Alex for doing a great job and for representing our club so well on another great day for Kilkenny.



Dunnamaggin Gaa & Dunnamaggin LGFC held a very successful Field day in August. Thank you to all who helped out in any way or attended to make it such a great day out.



The purchase of a new training field in Kilmoganny was completed this summer. The Field has now been fenced off, leveled, drained and sown and will be ready for use in 2016.



Our U12's had a very busy season playing in a variety of blitzes. They won the Tullogher/Rosbercon Blitz and also won the Danesfort Shield also. Well done to all involved.



Our junior hurlers reached the South final this year and in a cracking game just missed out by the slimmest of margins against neighbours Carrickshock.

CLUB REPORT EMERALDS



Emeralds u-14 football team 2015



U-11 Emeralds hurling team. Winners of Dicksboro blitz 2015.



Emeralds u-8s hurling team 2015



Some friends at Aidan Fogarty's Retirement Night.



Jim's wife Noreen presenting the cup to Aidan Fogarty after the final.



Winning team from the Jim Tobin memorial cup which was held in Urlingford in August.

CLUB REPORT ERIN'S OWN



Erin's Own Under 6s 2015



**Andrew Korff and John Buggy
Kilkenny People of the Year 2015 Award
winners for commitment to youth.**



Erin's Own Under U-8 Team 2015

John McGuinness, T.D

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For appointments please call Ann Bergin, Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm



CLUB REPORT

FENIANS



Karina Nolan, Noel Nolan, Eileen Nolan, Marguerite Dermody, Kathleen Webster and Audi Garrett at the J.J. Delaney Exhibition match in Johnstown. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Butchers Richard Hayes and Shem Delaney (J.J. Delaney's father) at the J.J. Delaney Exhibition match in Johnstown. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Fenian captain John Henderson receiving the Credit Union SH Shield from Ned Quinn Chairman Co Board.



Fenians team who won the Credit Union Senior Shield.



JJ's All Star Selection before the J.J. Delaney Exhibition match in Johnstown. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Fenian officers and supporters, Michael Ryan, Milo Quinlan and Padraig Delaney at Fenians dog night.



Young Fenian hurlers at the J.J. Delaney Exhibition match in Johnstown. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

CLUB REPORT

GALMOY



Mary Stanley, Galmoy and Liam O'Neill at U21 Challenge in Trumera



GALMOY U8's 2015



Galmoy Féile Winning Girls Handball team



Galmoy GAA Club Volunteers Frank Grace, Brendan Sherman, Liam Drennan & Pat Glendon painting the Galmoy Handball Alley in September



Three Galmoy Players who played on Kilkenny Development Squad teams in 2015



The three Galmoy players who represented Ireland overseas in 2015 and are regular players in Galmoy Pavilion: (L to R) Billy Drennan (Handball in Canada in August), Daniel Hanrahan (Racquetball in Dominican Republic in November) & Mary Ellen Phelan (Racquetball in Dominican Republic in November).



Galmoy GAA Club volunteers out cutting timber on St Valentines Day for the Annual Club Auction

CLUB REPORT

GLENMORE



Glenmore players celebrate at the final whistle after the Junior Hurling Championship Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Ger Aylward with his All Stars 2015 Trophy
(Photo: SPORTSFILE)



Glenmore u 14 team who won Roinn B football county final and also Roinn B shield.



Glenmore's Eoin Murphy and Ger Aylward celebrate after victory after the All Ireland Final.

Diarmuid Greene / SPORTSFILE

The Glenmore GAA club extend sympathy to the families of people from the parish who were bereaved in the last year and it is with great sadness that the club remembers Martin Cass, a son of Glenmore's townland of Aylwardstown who was club Chairman in the 1980's. Martin oversaw successes developing within the club from the underage structure upwards in his time as club chairman.

Ted Dollard from Ballyfacey, was a selector with Glenmore's senior hurling county final winning team of 1990 who went on to secure the club All-Ireland title of 1991 on St. Patrick's day of that year in the GAA's headquarters of Croke Park which brought great pride and joy to the parish of Glenmore.

The club also records the passing of Donie Cody of Carrigdoney, a much regarded and respected young gael of the parish who died at a tender young age of 33 years in the closing days of November 2013. Donie served as club secretary in the early 2000's and was also involved with teams in his playing years. Donie was a great club person, and follower of both club and county teams.

Glenmore's club President Seamus Dunphy of Ballyverneen passed away in early March of 2015, having made a huge contribution to the Glenmore GAA club as a long time secretary of the club spanning over forty years service to his beloved and native Glenmore. Seamus greatly influenced a generation of young men of the parish and was delighted to see these young men achieve great success on both club and, county hurling teams, and was a major part of the club structure for many years. In years gone by when cars weren't a common sight across the parish, Seamus Dunphy was always at the ready to collect the young players and get them to the designated field of play, wherever that may be in the county of Kilkenny, and his generosity and kindness of spirit is a great memory for those many young men who travelled with him.

Nicky Fitzgerald of Rickardsland was laid to rest most recently, and Nicky a very well known, and respected Glenmore GAA club supporter, who never missed a match, be it hurling, or football, from underage matches all the way up through the age groups of the club's teams.

Ar dheis De go raibh a n-anamhacha dilis.

CLUB REPORT

GRAIGNAMANAGH



Finished wall 2015



U14's 2015t



Graignamanagh U10's in Nowlan Park June 15



*Above: U8's from Ken Walsh 2015
Left: Juveniles in Parade 2015*



MEMORY LANE

Graignamanagh Footballers 1972

Back: Pat Cahill, Larry Butler, Paddy McDonald, Hugh Ryan, Seamus Holden, Liam Cody, Donal Cullen, Colm McDonald R.I.P, Tom "Tucker" Foley, Sean O'Neill
Front row: Peter Prendergast, Jack O'Connor, Michael Walsh, Ger Kavanagh, Paul Hickey, Thomas Kinsella, Pat Kavanagh, Dicko Foley.



CLUB REPORT

GRAIGUE BALLYCALLAN



Forecast Winner Presentation
L to R: Pat Hayes, Chairman; Philomena Brennan,
Secretary; Lory Comerford, Sold Winning Entry;
Philip Cass, Winner; Dave O'Neill, Vice-Chairman;
Eileen Heafey, Treasurer:



Ballycallan Ballad Group in Croke Park on All Ireland Final Day 2015
L to R: Patricia Power, Tracy Millea, Mary B. Dunphy, Anne Ging, Alex McCluskey,
Nicola Molloy, Vinnie Cleere.

CLUB REPORT

JAMES STEPHENS



Clare O'Dwyer is presented with the winning voucher from the Piltown Draw for a new car which she bought from James Stephens GAA Club. With her are Catherine Kinsella, seller of ticket, Tom Keane, Treasurer, and Seamus Daly, Secretary, James Stephens GAA Club. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Four in a Row: Diarmuid Cody, Eoin Larkin, Jackie Tyrrell and Matthew Ruth celebrate with the Liam McCarthy Cup in the dressing rooms in Croke Park.



Brian Cody returns to St. Patrick's De La Salle with the Liam McCarthy Cup for the eleventh time.



Mick Crotty, Paddy Neary and Val Malone hold the two great trophies of Irish sport at the launch of the Cumann na mBunscoileanna history.



Club stalwart Patrick Millea keeps his son Paul aloft as they celebrate a great day in Kilkenny hurling.

CLUB REPORT

JOHN LOCKES



The John Lockes Club currently fields teams in hurling, Camogie and Ladies Gaelic Football with ages ranging from u-6 to adult in all codes. The Club boasts some of the finest facilities in the county



John Lockes U.6 team 2015. Stars of the future.



John Lockes Junior Football team who returned to compete in the Kilkenny Championship after an absence of a number of years reaching the semi final and have qualified for the League Semi Final



John Lockes U12 team enjoyed a very good campaign in 2015 and all are looking forward to enjoying the year ahead.



John Lockes Junior County Finalists 1982.
Back: Pat Power, Mick Meagher, Tom Ryan, John O'Dwyer,
Ollie Fennelly, E.J.Ryan, PJ.Townsend, Mick Power.
Front: Mick Walsh, Paddy Scriven, Barrie Henriques, Jimmy
Donovan, Jimmy Condon, Tommy Freeman, Mick Wall.



John Lockes ladies football team 2015 competed in Carlow/Kilkenny Intermediate League and beaten Kilkenny semi finalists

CLUB REPORT

KILMACOW



Kilmacow U8s 2015 - had another great and busy year, playing Blitzes and games in Mullinavat , Mooncoin , Sliieverue , Glenmore and the Roanmore Ground Hurling Blitz. Thanks to Mark McDonald, Ed Murphy and Trevor Grant. Well done to all.



In 2015 our U11 hurlers went unbeaten in the Waterford City League and won Div 2. They also played games versus the Division 1 winners Ballygunner, and more than held their own. They showed great improvement and seem to have a never ending appetite for learning and hurling having training days with Richie and John Power and also Derek McGrath (Waterford senior Manager). Huge thanks and credit to Rory Williams and Dev Lowe and all the parents for they support.



The U12s as seen here in Windgap at the annual Heritage Week Final, this team are constantly improving. They also met the Powers and Derek McGrath for some coaching and had a mid term wall ball session with John Burns in Ferrybank. They played in the WCL and the Kilkenny Go Games and thanks go out to coaches Dev and Rory, the players and their parents.



U6s - had a great year, with 26 players registered and played games versus Piltown, Mooncoin , Roanmore , Sliieverue , Dunamaggin and Mullinavat. Thanks to coaches John Daniels, Shane Power and James O'Neill, all the players and parents



Kilmacow U10s who were runners up in both the Eamonn O'Donovan Memorial Blitz in Sliieverue and the Dicksboro U10 Blitz. These young men had a great year. Well done to all and especially coaches Eamonn Ready and Ger Long.



Down Memory Lane - Feile 2007 Div Final Kilmacow versus Bennetsbridge. Of the 9 lads still hurling, 7 started the 2015 Co Junior final

CLUB REPORT LISDOWNEY



Development work - New Scoreboard



Development Work - New seating on village side of pitch



Dicksboro- JJ Kavanagh & Sons Lisdowney 7's winners



GraigueBallycallan- JJ Kavanagh & Sons Lisdowney 7's
Shield Winners



Lisdowney Legends Return Team plus Guests

CLUB REPORT

MOONCOIN



Helpers who kept the barbecue going at Mooncoin Fun Day.



Willie Kearns presenting cheque to Mooncoin Hurling Club
who came second in Iverk Show Tug O War.



Lucy Quinn, Clare Walsh, Joan Daly with two other helpers at Mooncoin Fun Day.



Mooncoin Under 10's 2015



Mooncoin Under 7's 2015



Runners at the start of 2nd Annual Mooncoin Fun Run



Eoin Doyle presenting sponsorship
cheque to Paddy Crowley and
Danny Purcell



Mooncoin New Beginners.

CLUB REPORT

MUCKALEE GFC



Captains Colin McGrath(Muckalee) and Kevin Phillips (Railyard) with referee Conor Everard before the drawn Co SF Final (Willie Dempsey)



Paddy Nolan (Muckalee in action in the Co SF Final (Willie Dempsey)

The highlight of the year for the Club was the qualification of senior football team in reaching its seventh Senior championship final in succession.

The league commenced on the 3rd February 2015 and the team had wins over Thomastown, O'Loughlins, James Stephens. The league semi final was played against Railyard on 21st February 2015 with Railyard winning on a score line Railyard 1-8 Muckalee 0-6 after a keenly tight match.

The championship first outing was a win over Conahy by 3-8 to 1-6. The semi final was played against Glenmore and was won by score line 3-11 to 0-6 and thus the club qualified for its seventh senior county final on the trot. The final was played against Railyard on 04th July 2015 and after a very exciting game it finished in a draw on a score line of Muckalee 0-8 to Railyard 1-5.

The replay was played on the 23rd August 2015 and after an excellent

match Railyard were the victors 2-8 to 1-09.

The junior football team completed well in its matches in the league but the team lost the first round of the championship in a well contested game to Railyard by 1-7 to 1-6.

Congratulations to players Noel Darcy, Ollie Walsh and Robert Shore who played a major part in winning the British Junior Championship with Kilkenny in 2015.

Special thanks to our team sponsor Mr Jim Bolger and all those that helped the club in any way during the year.

Club Development

The club upgraded the surface of the walking track around the pitch during 2015. New lights have also been installed around the walking

track which will encourage all the members of various clubs within the parish to make more use of the facilities available at the Club grounds. The walking facility is available year round for all the people of the parish. Finance of the upgrade was partly funded by Kilkenny County Council.

Confirmation of significant funding from the governments Sports Capital Programme was announced in October. This funding will help significantly to finance the next stage of development on the dressing rooms which the Club hopes to complete during 2016 and has planning permission in place to proceed.

Bereavements

The club would like to extend sympathies to all club members who suffered bereavements during the year.



Resurfaced walking Track with new Lights



Coon Muckalee U13 School Team 2015

CLUB REPORT

MULLINAVAT



our U6 team at a blitz in St.Kierans



Monsignor Tommy Maher RIP
In the year where we recall the passing of Kilkenny G.A.A. legend Monsignor Tommy Maher Mullinavat G.A.A. club would like to record its appreciation of the huge contribution made by Monsignor Maher to hurling in the parish. In 1983 he was appointed Parish Priest of Mullinavat and immediately became involved in the local hurling scene. It came as no surprise to anybody that in 1984 Mullinavat won the Junior Championship for the first time since 1939. His influence on our club endures to this day. Two of our senior hurling selectors, John Dunphy and Tommy Frisby and senior camogie manager JohnJoe Aylward were players on that victorious Junior side of 1984.



Mullinavat Under 12 team 2015



Mullinavat Under 10 team in Nowlan Park 2015



Mullinavat Victorious Senior Camogie Team with Fans

CLUB REPORT

O'LOUGHLIN GAELS



Captain David Fogarty hoists the Feile Peil Div 5 Winners trophy aloft in front of a very happy u14 squad.



Esther Maher and Lorraine Maher receive their cheques from Club Chairman Eddie Buckley after winning the Club Lotto in August.



Brian Hogan receives a special presentation from County Board Chairman Ned Quinn on behalf of O'Loughlin Gaels GAA in recognition of his achievement as a player. Picture includes Club President Eamon Doyle, Vice Chairman Martin Hanlon and Chairman Eddie Buckley



Chairman Eddie Buckley and Juvenile Sponsors, Mc Donagh Junction Shopping Centre, with section of the over 200 strong participants from this years very successful O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Summer Camp



Eddie Leahy and Eamon Doyle present the "Eamon Leahy Cup" to the Sarsfields GAA captain after his team won the inaugural Eamon Leahy Memorial Minor tournament held at St. John's Park in August.



Mark Kelly and Niall Bergin address the juvenile players at O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Summer Camp 2015



The O'Loughlin Gaels players from the Juvenile Celebration Night held in January celebrating the success of u14, u16 and Minor teams in the 2014 season.

CLUB REPORT PILTON



U-8 team at the Go-Games in Croke Park



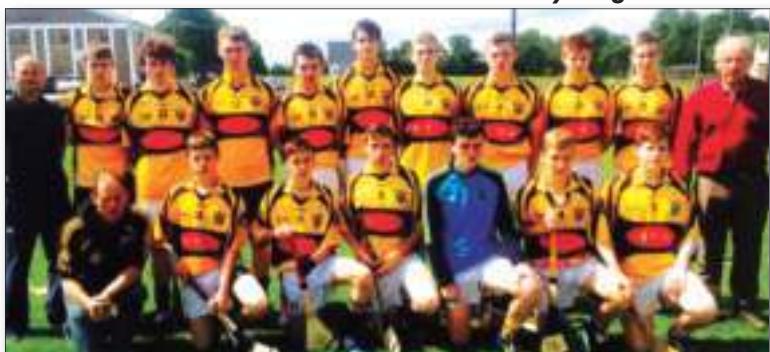
U11 team - winners of Waterford U-11 City League



U12 team - winners of Waterford U-12 City League



U-13 team - Shield winners at Glenmore U-13 Tournament



Minor team that won the annual Niall O'Brien Tournament;

Obituaries:

Willie Maher, Oldcourt, Templeorum, Piltown

Johnny O'Neill, Oldcourt, Templeorum, Piltown

Ned Butler, Harristown, Templeorum, Piltown

Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.



Bill Costello Hurling School of Excellence summer camp.

CLUB REPORT

RAILYARD GFC



**Ger Champion (secretary), Jim Treacy (winner club Lotto),
John Maher (ticket Seller)**



**Jimmy Roche (chairman), Florence Brennan (Sponsor),
Kevin Phillips (Capt.), Ger Champion (Secretary)**

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CLUB REPORT

ROWER INISTIOGE



MLM Sponsorship of Senior Hurling Team. Michael and Mary Lyng present sponsorship to Club officials, Team mentors and players for the Senior Hurling team.



Fr. Tom Murphy, Eddie Keher, Pat Hartigan, Fr S. Scriven, J.P. McManus and TJ Ryan at the opening of GAA facilities in Inistioge in May.



GAA Club officials and Guests at opening Ceremony.



New Electronic Scoreboard. Representatives of local Building Firm Tierney & O Neil handing over sponsorship to GAA Club officials and Committee Members for the Electronic scoreboard that was installed in Inistioge in May 2015.



Clockwise from bottom left:
Referee James Owens with Kilkenny Captain Joey Holden and Limerick Captain Donal O'Grady.
1st Prize success in Hurlers Co-Op Draw. GAA Club Chairman Michael Byrne, Breda English Treasurer, Jack Lyng, Michael Lyng and Neil Lyng presenting Kathleen and John Wilmot with their first Prize in the Hurlers Co-Op Draw. 2015 U-10 team that played Tullogher at the interval in the Kilkenny Limerick game to mark the opening of GAA facilities in May 2015.

CLUB REPORT

SLIEVERUE



Club officials Peter Gaynor, Andy Murphy, Jim Walsh, Ger Frisby, Mary Rockett and Michael Connolly at the presentation of a defibrillator to the parish of Slieverue by the GAA club which was erected in the John O'Donovan Parish Centre.



Our Minors competed in Roinn A this year for the first time in the clubs history. In the League we had a 50% win rate and competed very well against James Stephens in the Quarter Final of the championship. Despite losing its been a good year and great progress has been made to date and more is to come.



Our 7,8,9 & 10 boys & girls had a season-end day in the Dunmore East Adventure Centre. It was a great way to reward the young players for their hard working during the past year.

The juniors are making progress under new manager Liam Knox. It wasn't easy this year having to rebuild a team and start to play the younger players which will benefit the club in the long run. We lost to Kilmacow in the Quarter Final of the Championship a game which could have gone either way. It was good year despite having no silverware but hopefully we will have that success next year.



Another fantastic year was had at the annual Eamonn O'Donovan Memorial U10 tournament. Disappointing that our own team didn't win but there's always next year. It's the highlight in the club's calendar.

CLUB REPORT

ST FIACHRA'S



U14's 2015



U16 Football 2015



Schools Roinn C Champs 2015

CLUB REPORT ST LACHTAIN'S



St Lachtain's U8's in Croke Park back in July 2015



Easter Camp that was held earlier in the year in Pairc Lachtain.



St Lachtain's SH Team 1968 - beaten one point in County Semi-final by eventual winners, Rower Inistioge
Back: Mikie Dowling, Richie Teehan, Neilius O'Connor, Pa Dillon, Tom Butler, John Teehan, Sean Flynn, Paddy Brennan, Donal Heaphy, Martin Dalton, Jack Lacey.
Front: Denis Butler, John Joe Quinn, Jimmy Cullinane, Paddy Butler, Sean Buckley, Jimmy Dooley, Alfie Hickey, Jimmy Dwane.

CLUB REPORT

ST MARTIN'S



U 14 Captain receiving League Trophy from P O'Flynn



Minor Captain Eoin Murphy receiving Shield Trophy from Joe Pyke



**Three Muckalee Youngsters
Pakie Lawler with Shane and Thomas.**



Anna, Mary, June and Lorraine at Feile weekend.



Field Day in Coon

St. Martin's GAA Development
St. Martin's field development continued in 2015 with the completion of a pedestrian entrance at the school end, which will make access to our grounds much safer. Thanks to all who worked on the installation.

Kildergan Enterprises LTD (Seamus Coady) has kindly sponsored a new scoreboard which will be installed very soon.

Thanks also to our local sale of work committee and drama group (The Kilquan Players) for their donations to the field committee which are greatly appreciated.

The plan for 2016 is to give our dressing rooms some attention and install new pitch side railings to complement previous project work. Lights are to be installed on the all-weather area and an indoor training facility will be back on the agenda for 2016.

Best of luck for 2016, St. Martin's Abu



Minor team who won Shield Final

CLUB REPORT

ST PATRICK'S



Clubman Kieran Delaney creates a GAA & Game of Thrones inspired throne and it makes headlines on various online sites.



Up for the match arrives in the club to film for upcoming All Ireland final between Kilkenny and Galway. Using the Throne designed by clubman Kieran Delaney as their focal point for the segment.



USA baseball player visits our club grounds with James Stephens in association with AIB's "The Toughest" Program aired on TV3 this year.



Club committee, members and players all gather on the grounds to help out with the stone picking for the second field, currently being developed by the club.



The club fundraiser event "Rose of Hurley" is on 21.NOV.15 and this was the first time the 'Roses' met their 'Escorts' and members of the Event Committee.

CLUB REPORT

THOMASTOWN



New mural on dressing room wall in Grennan



U21s after winning the Southern championship



Our U10s in Grennan with their silverware



GAA and Vintage Club presenting Carlow/Kilkenny Home Care with cheque from field day proceeds



Intermediate team before the IHC semi final in Nowlan Park



Our U8s in Croke Park

CLUB REPORT

THREecastles



Loyal supporters Tina Walshe, Jib Dalton and Victor Hennessy enjoying a chat at half time



Threecastles v Cloneen



Winners of the Road hurling competition on St. Stephen's day 2014



5km Fun Run Oct. 2015



Some action at the Threecastles v Erin's Own Junior B League match



Threecastles Team 2015

CLUB REPORT

TULLAROAN



U6 Team after playing Freshford



Tullaroan U10 team



Tullaroan U11 team, Ballyragget Tournament winners 2015



**Richie Holland and Tommy Walsh accept the
Leinster League trophy**



Tullaroan U12 team



Tommy, Jack, Sam, Derek and Catherine Holmes and Ruth Costello at the night for 'Tommy Walsh Life' in Langtons.



Some of the audience who attended the Tullaroan GAA Celebration night for Tommy Walsh in the style of 'This is your Life' in Langtons. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

CLUB REPORT

TULLOGER ROSBERCON



**Tulloher Rosbercon
Under 8's
in
Brownstown**

**Tulloher Rosbercon
Under 10's
retain
Eamonn O'Donovan
Cup in Slieverue**



**Tulloher Rosbercon
Under 14's
at Paddy Grace Tournament
in Thomastown**



**Tulloher Rosbercon
Under 12's
at our own
Richie Young
Tournament**



CLUB REPORT

WINDGAP



Windgap U6 Team at Clogh Blitz



U9 Boys and Girls at Callan Blitz



New Seats at Windgap GAA Grounds



Mike and Dermot



Windgap Juniors Team 2015

CLUB REPORT

YOUNG IRELANDS



2015 saw the clubs new development at Castle Ellis progress significantly with the 2 playing surfaces sown and a fresh green carpet of grass (and a few stones!) emerging. It is planned to commence phase two of the development in 2016.



A special presentation was made to Shem Gibbons at the Club Medal Presentation Night to mark his retirement from refereeing.



Young Irelands U10's in Coon 2015



Young Irelands U8's at Luke Roche Tournament 2015



Young Irelands U13's in Lisdowney 7's 2015



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Closing date for Applications is 23rd September 2016



For Further Information Contact:

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Email: sport@wit.ie

Web: www.wit.ie/sportrec



Top Row: Aleisha Cullen in action for Ladies, Ashbourne Cup Camogie Champions 2015, Conor Murray In action for WIT, Mikey Jones From Mullinavat.
Lower Row: Ger Teehan from Graig Ballycallan, Jack Langton From Clara, Johnny Hayes from Kilmacow, Kieran Joyce and Eoin Murphy with the Fitzgibbon and McCarthy Cups, Meighan Farrell from Thomastown, Miriam Walsh from Tullaroan.

WATERFORD IT GAA CLUB REPORT 2015

WIT GAA club celebrated a fantastic 34th year with four All Ireland titles coming to the college with the highlight being the senior camogie team recapturing the Ashbourne Cup from UL while our Senior Hurlers reached the Fitzgibbon Cup Final. Our Junior footballers won the Div 4 League and the Munster Junior championship, Our Fresher 2 hurling team beat UCC to win the All Ireland title, and our Fresher camogie team captured the seven aside title in fine style. On the handball court Stevie Lawlor and Martin Mullins collected the All Ireland 60x30 doubles. This just shows that WIT is being well represented across all codes of GAA.

Senior Football

WIT senior football team qualified for the Trench Cup weekend for the first time in four years with some fantastic displays including a memorable win v DKIT in Louth with some fine performances from Wexford's Niall Harney, Wicklow county player Jamie Snell and Nigel Murphy of Laois. Unfortunately the law enforcers of the Garda College beat the lads in the semi final as they went on to become Trench Champions. However a Division 4 league title and a second Munster Junior title in two years gives hope for more success in 2016 at Trench Cup level.

Senior Hurling

It was a case of so near and yet so far for our Fitzgibbon hurling team in 2015. The group stage saw Colm Bonnar's men defeat IT Carlow away in a fantastic performance before suffering defeat in a wake up call away to Mary Immaculate. Wins would follow against DIT and NUI Maynooth as WIT advanced to Fitzgibbon Cup weekend in Limerick IT. A performance of real character v CIT in the semi final was spear headed by Waterford stars Austin Gleeson, Jake Dillon, Gavin O'Brien and Kilkenny man Jack Langton. WIT came back to bring the game to extra time before an impressive showing in that period meant University of Limerick (UL) would be WIT's opponents in the decider. With storm like conditions in the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick, WIT would come from behind to take the game to extra time through the impressive introduction of Kilkenny man Johnny Hayes. Again the side showed tremendous spirit and came from behind to lead, but with time almost up UL converted a huge free from Tony Kelly to take the final to a replay. In the replay WIT didn't reach the heights of the drawn game and UL deservedly took the honours. Our Fresher 1 hurling team lost opening round of the championship in Dublin v St. Pats, but that defeat was the catalyst in our Fresher 2 hurling team winning the All Ireland title with the hurt and pain combined with some brilliant skill making sure an All Ireland title was collected.

WIT Fitzgibbon Cup Panel 2015

Darragh Stapleton (Limerick), Tom Fox (Tipperary), Ger Teehan (Kilkenny), Jerome Maher (Waterford), Thomas Hammill (Tipperary), Martin O'Neill (Waterford), Owen McGrath (Kilkenny), Stephen Roche (Waterford), Harry Kehoe (Wexford), Pauric Mahoney (Waterford), Austin Gleeson (Waterford), Gavin O'Brien (Waterford), Liam McGrath (Tipperary), Jake Dillon (Waterford), Richie Walsh (Tipperary), Tommy Kavanagh (Tipperary), Barry Whelan (Waterford), Stephen O'Neill (Waterford), Johnny Hayes (Kilkenny), Ciaran O'Brien (Cork), Joe O'Dwyer (Tipperary), Daniel Murphy (Dublin), Eoin Ryan (Offaly), Robert O'Leary (Wexford), Ger Malone (Kilkenny), Jerry Lane (Cork), Oisin Royston (Galway), Philip Lavery (Waterford), Philip Campion (Kilkenny), Brian Byrne (Kilkenny), Jim Walsh (Tipperary), Patrick Bergin (Waterford).

Camogie

Written off by all outside the camp WIT senior camogie team produced an incredible performance in the Ashbourne Cup to win back their title from University of Limerick in a fantastic weekend in DCU in February. NUIG were the opposition in the semi-final and it proved to be the real game of two halves. Ciara Quirke hit a crucial goal for WIT in the run up to half time and this score saw the sides level at the break WIT 1-4 NUIG 0-7. Manager Ann Downey really lifted the dressing room at half time with her team talk and it was the catalyst in what was arguably WIT's best half of camogie all season as they out played NUIG by 2-13 to 0-2 in the second half with the goals coming from Marie Morrissey and Miriam Walsh. If WIT had wrote the script for the start they wanted, they certainly got it as Marie Morrissey and Ciara Quirke played the leading roles by both scoring goals inside the first six minutes to give WIT a 2-0 to 0-1 lead. UL fought back strongly but points from player of the tournament Patricia Jackman, Ciara Quirke and Emma Comerford had WIT in front 2-8 to 0-8 at the interval.

UL got within five points just moments into the second half, however that was to be as close as they would get as Emma Comerford was deadly accurate with frees to keep WIT six clear points ahead until the end, as they held on for a famous 2-12 to 0-12 victory. Vikki Falconer became the first ever Waterford native to lift the Ashbourne Cup for WIT, fittingly in the 100th year of the famous competition. Ann Downey was an inspirational manager and she was ably assisted by Wexford's Ursula Jacob, and Kilkenny duo Conor Phelan and Paddy Mullaly.

WIT Ashbourne panel 2015

Orla McEniry (Tipperary), Jenny Logue (Tipperary), Ruth Jones (Kilkenny), Vicki Falconer (Waterford) (Captain), Sarah Crowley (Kilkenny), Patricia Jackman (Waterford), Sheila Ryan (Tipperary), Meighan Farrell (Kilkenny), Louise Sinnott (Wexford), Julie McLoughlin (Westmeath), Laura Treacy (Cork), Miriam Walsh (Kilkenny), Emma Comerford (Kilkenny), Ciara Quirke (Carlow), Brid Quinn (Tipperary), Miriam Walton (Kilkenny), Claire Nolan (Kilkenny), Marie Morrissey (Wexford), Valerie O'Brien (Waterford), Aoife Forde (Clare), Deirdre Phelan (Kilkenny), Mary Corcoran (Kilkenny), Marianne Murphy (Tipperary), Maeve Mansfield (Kilkenny), Nicola Butler (Tipperary), Nicola Collins (Cavan), Aimee Morrissey (Kilkenny), Aine O'Neill (Kildare), Maggie Nolan (Kilkenny), Sarah Banville (Wexford).

Ladies Football

WIT qualified for the Lynch Cup weekend by topping their group after wins over UCD 2, UL 2 and a memorable win over Cork IT in Carriganore. Some fantastic displays from wexford stars Clara Donnelly and Ashling Murphy v CIT meant that a semi final showdown versus DIT in the O' Connor Cup weekend in CIT was on the cards. However the team left their best behind them for the semi final and lost out to a deadly accurate DIT despite impressive performances from Wicklow natives Aine Byrne and Paula Faulker and Michaela Nolan of Kildare who was named as an All Star.

Handball

WIT's dominance of the 60 x 30 team event continued into its sixth season as Martin Mullins and Stevie Lawlor collected the doubles title. Kate Ni Mhorain also travelled to Portland Oregon for the Collegiate championship and secured a top eight finish.

Kilkenny's 2015 All Stars



KILKENNY ALL-STAR AWARD WINNERS 2015

6 November 2015; Kilkenny players, left to right, Ger Aylward, Cillian Buckley, TJ Reid, Michael Fennelly, Paul Murphy, Joey Holden, and Richie Hogan, with their GAA GPA All-Star Awards at the GAA GPA All-Star Awards 2015 Sponsored by Opel. Convention Centre, Dublin.

Picture credit: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

CAMOGIE ALL STARS FOR 2015

Aoife Murray (Cork)
Pamela Mackey (Cork)
Sarah Dervan (Galway)
Heather Cooney (Galway)
Rena Buckley (Cork)
Gemma O'Connor (Cork)
Lorraine Ryan (Galway)
Niamh Kilkenny (Galway)
Ashling Thompson (Cork)
Orla Cotter (Cork)
Niamh McGrath (Galway)
Kate Kelly (Wexford)
Brioge Corkery (Cork)
Molly Dunne (Galway)
Ailish O'Reilly (Galway)

Senior Players' Player of the Year:

Gemma O'Connor (Cork)

Intermediate Players'

Player of the Year:

Patricia Jackman (Waterford)

Junior Players'

Player of the Year:

Kate Nolan (Carlow)



6 November 2015; TJ Reid, Kilkenny, with his GAA GPA All-Star Award, and his Hurler of the Year Award at the GAA GPA All-Star Awards 2015 Sponsored by Opel. Convention Centre, Dublin.

Picture credit: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

GAA/GPA HURLING TEAM OF THE YEAR 2015

1. Colm Callanan (Galway)
2. Paul Murphy (Kilkenny)
3. Joey Holden (Kilkenny)
4. Noel Connors (Waterford)
5. Daithí Burke (Galway)
6. Tadhg de Búrca (Waterford)
7. Cillian Buckley (Kilkenny)
8. Michael Fennelly (Kilkenny)
9. David Burke (Galway)
10. Cathal Mannion (Galway)
11. Richie Hogan (Kilkenny)
12. TJ Reid (Kilkenny)
13. Ger Aylward (Kilkenny)
14. Séamus Callanan (Tipperary)
15. Maurice Shanahan (Waterford)

Obituaries



Johnny Ryan

The word legend is all too casually used. But Johnny Ryan truly was a legend in every sense of the word. He was an incredible family man, a man who was immensely proud of his family, club and parish, a man who worked hard on the farm and in the community for the betterment of everyone. Johnny never sought the limelight, never looked for reward.

Indeed such was his influence that senior hurling side captain Keith Hogan said Johnny Ryan was their 16th man on the field as he lifted the county cup high just weeks ago at Nowlan Park. His sons Lester, Liam and Tom hurled out of their skins in that very county final and it was clear from their post match emotion as they hugged their mother, Lilly, that they too wanted to do Johnny and the parish proud on such an incredibly happy yet sad day.

Everyone who knew Johnny Ryan and indeed the many more who never met him but knew of the impact he had on others were utterly stunned by his death in a freak farm accident at the start of the year.

The GAA was at the core of Johnny's DNA. His father Liam was a founding member of Clara GAA club and it was Johnny who started juvenile training for young players on Saturday mornings. He was an outstanding hurler with Clara and, along with his brothers Harry, Lester, and Kevin, was a member of Clara's Senior Championship winning team of 1986.

He captained Kilkenny to win the All Ireland Masters title in 1995 and was also a member of the winning teams in 1997, 1998 and 1999. He was also a winner off the pitch and the only time anyone didn't like to see Johnny and the rest of the Ryans arrive en masse was at a table quiz. They were quiz masters and won on virtually every occasion.

Johnny wanted to play the game at any level. If the Junior or Junior B team needed a player, Johnny, even in his 40s, was willing to tog out. If the club needed a steward, a linesman or umpire, someone to help in development works or fundraisers, Johnny was always willing help out for the love of the game and the club/county.

Johnny and Lilly were overjoyed when Lester, Liam and Tom togged out with the Clara side which were crowned County Champions yet again in 2013. The entire Ryan family, club

members and the entire parish and county were again celebrating in September 2014 when Lester captained the Kilkenny Senior Hurling team to victory in the All Ireland Final. Everyone in the parish stood together and ten foot tall when Lester brought the Liam McCarthy cup home to Clara the night after the homecoming celebrations.

Club officials had a job convincing Johnny that same night that it wouldn't be appropriate for him to steward in a car park as they awaited the victorious Kilkenny team – such was his humble nature and his eagerness to play his part. Who would have thought that just days into 2015 that all of our elation would turn to unimaginable shock and utter devastation when Johnny was taken from us in a farm accident. Johnny will be fondly remembered as a true and giving gentleman and a committed hurler. He left everything on the pitch. He was passionate about family, club and community and exceptionally highly regarded among his farming colleagues throughout Kilkenny IFA and further afield.

All of the big names in the GAA and the IFA descended on the Ryan home in the hours and days after his untimely death. And a parish, a county and the entire GAA community stood together with Johnny's IFA colleagues in stunned silence for his funeral. Johnny Ryan was and will always be an irreplaceable part of Clara and of Kilkenny.

And as Clara march on this year with hopes of being in Croke Park on March 17, we know that Johnny and other great Clara men and women will be watching down on us from heaven, wishing they were with us in the stands and on the sideline. Johnny Ryan will always be in our hearts and they will never, ever be forgotten. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.



**Margaret (Peg) Walsh
1926 – 2014**

The sad passing of Peg Walsh was a loss to her family and friends. All her life she had a great interest in sports especially hurling, camogie and athletics. Peg was immersed in hurling early in life, with her brother Billy Gaffney winning a County Senior Title with Tullaroan in 1958.

Peg was a driving force within the Athletics Association and a key figure in the clubs trip to Germany in 1977, that included her athletic

daughters. She was a powerful influence and support to all her children's sporting careers, whatever sport they became interested in. She cherished all their sporting achievements, especially the under 12 County Championship, when all her sons Dick, Tom, Michael & William were involved and later the Clubs Senior County Title 1994, when her sons Dick and Michael played on the winning team.

A great sense of pride and devotion was nurtured when her grandchildren became involved in sports. All visitors to Peg's house were subjected to a detailed account of each grandchild's sporting prowess. Peg was so excited by and involved in her grandchildren Tommy, Grace, Padraig and Miriam's sporting careers. Indeed Peg was forever loyal to all her grandchildren despite some living in Counties Waterford, Dublin and Carlow. However, she couldn't understand why the black & amber was not their first choice!

She was a great storyteller with a wonderful ability to reflect on the past. She felt her late husband Tommy missed out on so much of their grand children's sporting careers, most especially 'the red helmet' (Tommy). A career that gave so much entertainment down through the years, displaying a magical skill and talent on the hurling field.

Well established gatherings in the home to watch matches on the television became a family routine. Of course Peg often watched matches with her eyes closed!

Peg maintained lovely friendships and loyal friends to the end. The family sincerely thank Tullaroan Parish, Hurling & Camogie Clubs, Guard of Honour and friends at the time of her passing.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam.



Bill and Joe Hennessy

On the 27th of May 2015, the parish of Tullaroan were saddened to learn of the death of Bill Hennessy (Snr). Only a short few months later, on the 5th of October, the parish was saddened once again to hear that Joe Hennessy, Bill's twin brother had also passed away. Joe, formally of Tullaroan lived with his wife and family on the Dunmore Rd. Kilkenny for many years and he was a true Tullaroan man at heart. On the 14th of July 1936, twins Bill and Joe were born into a family of 13 children. Bill and

Joe had a love for hurling all their lives. They first learned the skill of hurling in Tullaroan national school. The five Hennessy brothers played alongside each other for many years and one of the highlights for them was winning the County final with Tullaroan in 1958. It was probably a rare and unique occasion where five brothers lined out together that day.

The twins were very talented carpenters, starting their apprenticeships at the age of fourteen with Dick Brennan of Graine. In later years they worked together on the Lory Meagher heritage project (Bród Tullaroan) which once housed the Kilkenny G.A.A. Museum.

Both Bill and Joe had great interest in the Tullaroan hurling club. They followed all the hurling from underage matches, all the way up to the senior ranks. Bill enjoyed nothing more than watching his grandchildren play both hurling and camogie for Tullaroan. Bill (Jnr) son of Bill had the honour of captaining Kilkenny when they won the National League in 1995. He became the first Tullaroan man since Lory Meagher in 1935, to lead Kilkenny to a National senior title.

Both Bill and Joe will be sadly missed by a wide circle of family, friends and all who knew them. Bill is survived by his children Breda, Tom, Majella, Cindy, Bill, and Paul, son in laws, daughter and in laws, and grandchildren.

Joe is survived by his wife Alice, children Pauline, Marie Ned and Sue, son in law, daughter in law, his grandchildren and great grandchild.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.



Bill Costello
1942 – 2014

Bill Costello, Tybroughney, Piltown and formerly of Currow, Co Kerry passed to his eternal reward on the 8th December 2014 following a long illness, borne with great dignity and amazing resilience, fulfilling his duties as Secretary of the Piltown GAA Club right up to the time of his death.

In his early years he played football with his home club of Currow & later in life returned to the Kingdom to play a leading role in his adopted parish of Ballymacelligott where his organizational skills & expertise helped the local G.A.A. Club to move up the ranks to Division 1 status.

He came to Piltown in the mid-eighties. Since then he has held many roles at local G.A.A.

level, including Chairman of the Juvenile Club, where he placed great emphasis on coaching & brought many top level coaches to the club. He served on many committees during his life and carried out his roles with little fuss and put in tireless and invaluable hours at the club on committee meetings and on projects involving pitches, lights and fundraising, to name a few. His motto, and constant emphasis, was that the only place success came before work was in the dictionary.

Bill was a retired C.A.O. of Teagasc, Kilkenny, and given his expertise in this area, he helped many G.A.A. clubs and other organisations with field developments etc.

Such was Bill's contribution to Piltown GAA that the inaugural Bill Costello Hurling School of Excellence Summer Camp took place last August and was so well received by the children and parents of the club and parish that it will now be an annual fixture in the club's calendar of activities.

Bill was a true gentleman, loving husband, devoted father and grandfather. He is sadly missed by his family and friends together with the local & wider G.A.A. family as well the broader agricultural community.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam!



Paddy Ryan

The Good Lord blew the full-time whistle on the life and times of Paddy Ryan, Green Street in Callan on Wednesday 22 July. He had passed into his 96th year. The many facets of his life during its transitional stages from boyhood in Clonoulty in Tipperary to his final abode in Callan were memorable, different, rewarding. His youth was fired with a Republican ethos; his life's journey never deviated from that ethos. His morals and ethics were dictated by his unabridged belief in his Catholic upbringing, his political affiliations, and Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. To the best of my knowledge he was never compromised on any of those three ideals.

Around the middle of the '60s, when his sons, Tom, and EJ, were starting to come on stream with hurling in Callan CBS, Paddy Ryan immersed himself in the GAA World. It was not always easy for a Tipp man in volatile Callan, but through pure cussedness, and an iron will Paddy Ryan devoted much of his time to the

John Lockes Club, together with Harry Bryan, John Roughan, Ben McCormack, Richie Condon (Snr), Br. Shreenan and others. That band of solid men was stoically interested in the promotion of our games among a burgeoning Callan youth. Many youngsters in the town responded with great interest and determination to improve. Paddy was a selector, later graduating to the adult John Lockes scene, where he acted again as a selector. In the '70s with the progress of the club, Paddy became Treasurer of the John Lockes, a position he vacated many years later when he felt that his son, EJ might be "up to the job". The 70s was a time which witnessed a major transformation in the life of the John Lockes Club. They needed a new home, someplace that they could call their own exclusive base. The idea fermented in the minds of people like Paddy Ryan, Paddy Meagher, John Roughan, Jack Lyons, Fr. Liam Dunne, and the list expanded as those men hatched a plan that eventually saw President of the GAA, Mr. Con Murphy open John Locke Park in 1978. Paddy Ryan was one of the proudest men in the entire Universe the evening when Kilkenny played Tipperary on the evening Con Murphy was thrilled to open what has become the hallowed centre of GAA life in Callan. Paddy did enormous work during the development of the John Locke Park—nobody did more. He was Treasurer for a very long time, eventually ending up as President of the club he built. Paddy Ryan gave his life to the John Lockes Club. No man could possibly have given more. The present newly developed John Locke Park is a legacy to the great work done initially by people like Paddy Ryan, and those mentioned. Our sympathies are extended to his wife Kitty, his only daughter, Nora Keogh, his sons Tom, EJ, Gerard, Dermot, his daughters-in-law, son-in-law, his fifteen grandchildren, his only living sister, Bidna, and extended family.

Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís.



James (Seamus) Skehan

James (Seamus) Skehan of Ballinacurragh, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny

It is with great sadness that the club acknowledges the passing in September 2015 of Seamus Skehan. Seamus loved both Kilmacow GAA, Kilkenny GAA, and the wider GAA family but was a true sports fan. Seamus was born in 1957. He played underage

hurling and football for St Senan's and adult football with St Patrick's from the mid-1970s until the late 1990s. He attended St Paticks NS Strangemills and after trying Slieveue VS for a few weeks, parted ways and he went on to become a boarder in the Salesian College in Ballinakill Co Laois. He spent 6 years there and completed his Leaving Cert, which included Latin. He very much enjoyed his school days, and was very strong on Irish history. The brothers up in Laois may have had one eye on the priesthood as a career for Seamus, but thankfully for us in Kilmacow that didn't work out for them. Seamus was a huge supporter and admirer of Michael Collins, and would never be afraid to make his views on Irish history and politics known. He was a supporter of many many charities, and if he had any one failing it was that he couldn't say no to someone asking for support. But that was the man.

He began his working life by laboring with local farmers and in the Royal Oak in Rathkieran before taking employment in the Water Maintenance Section of Waterford Corporation, which he joined in 1979 and remained until 2001. It was around this time that his underlying illness first became obvious. He loved Manchester United and Crew Alexander F.C. and Kerry football. He loved all sports and loved an odd bet on the horses.

He was a founder member of St Patricks and administrated in that club for many years. He was also a player and administrator with the newly formed Kilmacow H&F club and managed the minor and U21 teams within the new club. He was a gentle giant but would support and defend Kilkenny and Kilmacow to the last. One of our favorite stories was when he the late Huge Smith (RIP) were discussing in the late 80s about who held the most All Ireland medals, and Seamus handed Huge his coat in the Sean Ti and proposed that they both walk to Cloyne to count Ring's 8 medals and then to Holycross to count John Doyles 8 medals and that after that, they would walk to Bennetsbridge to count Noels Skehan's 9 medals.

St Patricks finest hour came in 1987 and it was fitting that Seamus captained that championship winning team. His speech before that match has gone down in folklore, and it was without doubt the highlight and happiest sporting moment of his sporting life and career. He was also a player on the Junior B winning team 1981, which means he played on the two only 2 adult titles that we have won since the double of 1956.

He was member of St Senans Athletics' club and was very strong at the longer distances and completed the Dublin City marathon once. His time was circa 3 hours, and let's just say that his lifestyle was not one of 'pasta and chicken' in the run up to the event, but that's Seamus all over. Once he set his mind to something, that was it, he was going to be the best. He loved playing soccer and kicked ball for Slieverue FC , Kilmacow FC and Kilbarry Rangers. His soccer position was that of

sweeper or Centre back.

We know that Kilkenny hurling's great recent run of success gave him great satisfaction and comfort during his illness. He watched the 2015 final about 2 if not 3 times a day from the day after the match until his passing soon afterwards. He was and remained to his last days a staunch Kilmacow and Kilkenny supporter and he carried himself with great dignity and grace in difficult circumstance right to the end this autumn past.

They don't make them like Seamus any more, that's for sure. He made friends everywhere he went, either in work or sport. That's the mark of a great man. We in Kilmacow H&F Club would like to pass our sincere sympathy to his family and friends.



Andy Phelan

Dicksboro club was dealt a severe blow with the sudden death, at his home, of Andy Phelan, Newtown, Bonnettstown.

A trojan worker with the club, where his family have made a huge contribution on and off the field, he passed away in the early hours of the morning, aged 63.

And a minute's silence was observed at Dicksboro's junior semi-final in memory of a kind and decent human being.

He is survived by his heartbroken wife, Patsy and children Mark, Drew, Elaine and Shauna; grandchildren Sean and Taghg, brothers Joe and Shem, sister, in-laws, relatives and friends. The club formed a guard of honour after his funeral Mass in St. Canice's Church on Monday morning. A cremation service was held on Monday afternoon in Mount Jerome Crematorium, Dublin with St Canice's PP, Fr Jim Murphy presiding.

Everyone at the funeral had nothing but kind words to say about Andy who was groundsman for a number of years at Palmerstown. He was a greenkeeper at Kilkenny Golf Club.



Phil Doyle

There was an empty seat at the weekly card night in Dicksboro GAA club in Palmerstown on Thursday of last week.

For the first time players observed a minute's silence for a man who epitomised all that is good about the club, the GAA and community. Phil Doyle, Lord Edward Street, Kilkenny and formerly of Firhouse, Kilkenny, who was in his mid-60s and recently retired from Kilkenny Borough Council, lost his battle with illness on Thursday, 6th August 2015.

He was a great 'Boro man and as well as playing for the club for many years on the hurling field, he supported every initiative and never missed a game and attended most of them with his close friend, Sean Kerwick.

At his funeral Mass everyone agreed they had never met him in bad form. He always had a smile on his face. Even when he was playing with the 'Boro, opponents found it hard to rile him.

There were huge numbers at his removal and funeral mass and it must have come as some consolation to his heartbroken wife Stella a member of the Doheny family.

He was also a member of Kilkenny fire service and members also formed a guard of honour as did members of Dicksboro.

He was a great outdoors man who had great respect for nature and for people.

Club chairman, Eddie Holohan said the club had lost a true friend in Phil and he passed on his condolences to all of Phil's family.

Phil is also survived by his brothers, sisters, in-laws, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Ar Dheis dé go raibh sé



Jim Bennett

The death occurred on 31st December of Jimmy Bennett, Raheny, Dublin. A native of Stroan, Thomastown, he was one of six children born to Michael and Elizabeth Bennett. Jim had been ill for a long number of years. He died in the care of the staff at St Gabriel's Nursing Home, Edenvale. Jim was predeceased by his sister Barbara and brother Liam.

Always a competitive sportsman, he was involved in many sporting activities. He was a member of Thomastown Athletic Club, and played under 16 and Minor hurling with Bennettsbridge. He later graduated to senior

status at club and county level. Being such an accomplished athlete, he was a terrific handballer, winning many Tournaments and titles.

Jim played at right corner forward on the Kilkenny team that had that never to be forgotten victory against Tipperary in 1967. That team was captained by his Bennettsbridge friend and colleague, Jim Treacy. He won Oireachtas medals in 1966/67, and of course Leinster Championship medals in the same years. He captained Kilkenny in 1968, but unfortunately they were defeated by Wexford in the Leinster Final. He is also a holder of National Hurling League Medal 1965/66 and Railway Cup honours 1967. Holder of three senior titles with Bennettsbridge in 1964/66/67, he was also on the teams beaten in 1965, '68, '72.

Following Bennettsbridge's defeat to Rower Inistioge in 1968, he emigrated to England and was a member of the London team in 1969, defeated by Kilkenny in All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final. Jim hailed from a notable GAA family. His brother Tony assisted Bennettsbridge in the early sixties collecting senior honours. His late brother, Liam manned the full back line also collected senior honours. Jim's son, Greg, featured with the Dublin team at minor, U21 and Senior level, and is presently playing senior hurling and football with Raheny Club.

Jim attended Bennettsbridge's "20 Golden Years" celebrations on St Patrick's night in 2000.

A number of his Bennettsbridge teammates attended the funeral services at St Gabriel's Care Home Edenmore. Bennettsbridge GAA Club was also represented at his Requiem Mass in St Monica's Church, Edenmore and his remains were cremated in Glasnevin.

A minutes silence was observed prior to the North U-21 Final in James Stephen's grounds.

Jim is survived by his wife, Collette, daughters, Susan, Michelle, Sally-Anne, Dawn and Greg. He is also mourned by his loving family, grandchildren, brothers, Tony and Johnny, sister Mary, relatives neighbours and friends.



Dan McEvoy

Dan McEvoy, or Danny Mac, as he was affectionately known, grew up in the shadow of Nowlan Park. His family home features in the earliest photographs of the Park. One of his earliest memories was of assisting Fr Willie Brennan, Curate in St Mary's, and a hurling fanatic, to plant the cypress saplings which were to grow up and surround Nowlan Park for so many years. Fr Brennan charged the young Dan with looking after the trees when he grew up. And look after them he did as the last of them were only removed a few years ago. Dan McEvoy loved the GAA and hurling lore, and over the years, made several contributions to this publication. He attended every All Ireland involving Kilkenny from 1945 to 2015, with the exception of last year's replay - a span of seventy years' attendance.

He grew up at a time when Kilkenny was a much smaller place, and people knew each other. Danny knew them all, the characters, the hurlers, the farmers, the lame dogs and the high and mighty. His formidable memory made him a most eloquent source of stories and yarns about them all. His son Enda's article in this Yearbook has a sad irony about it in regard to people like Danny who had so much to tell. He was a familiar sight to all, patrolling the Continent with his pilgrim's staff, and, for many years before that, on his bike. He had a word for everyone and loved to have what he called a "gallery" with anyone who crossed his path. Danny was an extremely Christian man, whose many good deeds, like so many of his stories, are not recorded. He was a devoted visitor to St Luke's hospital and to the various Nursing Homes to chat with patients and bring to them his unique good cheer. His many, many acts of kindness are unrecorded and unsung.

Dan McEvoy's sudden death on November 19th came as a great shock to all who knew him. It is hard to envisage Kilkenny without him. The phrase "Ni bheidh a leithéid ann arís" could not me more apt in his case, for he was unique. He will be sadly missed by his wife and lifelong companion, Breda, and his children Enda, Mary and Liz, by his brother Jim, his sisters Olive and Rose, all his relations, connections, friends, and by the people of his beloved Kilkenny.

Ba bhreá le Danny a bhaile dhúchais agus muintir an bhaile. Ba bhreá leis an iomáint, agus seanchas na hiomána. Bhí sé dílis i gcoínamh don Gaeilge agus bhiodh an cúpla focal aige do gach duine a chas air. Thar aon ní eile, bhí sé fíal dá chlann, da chomharsain, dá chairde agus don Críostaíocht.

I measc na Naomh go raibh sé.

Solas na bhFlaitheas ar Anamnacha na Marbh

Kilkenny GAA Results 2015

SENIOR HURLING		UNDER 21 HURLING	
County SH Final	Clara 2-12 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-13	Roinn "A" U21H Final	To Be Completed
SH League Final	Clara 1-19 Rower Inistioge 0-13	Roinn "B" U21H Final	Danesfort v Dunnamaggin
SH Shield Final	Fenians 1-18 O'Loughlin Gaels 0-17	Roinn "A" U21H C'ship North Final	To Be Completed
SH Relegation Final	St Martin's 2-13 Carrickshock 0-13	Roinn "A" U21H C'ship South Final	Glenmore v Rower Inistioge
INTERMEDIATE HURLING		Roinn "B" U21H C'ship North Final	
County IH Final	Bennettsbridge 0-20 St Patrick's 3-11 Bennettsbridge 1-16 St Patrick's 1-14	Roinn "B" U21H C'ship South Final	Dunnamaggin 0-12 Galmoy Widgap 1-8
IH League Final	Bennettsbridge 2-20 Tullaroan 2-15	MINOR HURLING	
IH Shield Final	St Lachtain's 1-14 Young Ireland 0-14	Roinn "A" MH Final	Dicksboro 1-14 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-12
IH Relegation Final	Dunnamaggin 0-19 Emeralds 0-15	Roinn "B" MH Final	John Lockes 0-16 Dunnamaggin 0-10
JUNIOR HURLING		Roinn "C" MH Final	
County JH Final	Glenmore 1-12 Kilmacow 2-6	Roinn "A" MH League Final	Dicksboro v James Stephens
Northern JH Final	Galmoy 1-17 Blacks & Whites 1-16	Roinn "B" MH League Final	Dunnamaggin v John Lockes
Southern JH Final	Glenmore 1-13 Kilmacow 0-15	Roinn "C" MH League Final	Young Irelands 4-14 Cloneen 1-7
County JH League Final	Galmoy 1-22 Blacks & Whites 0-21	UNDER 16 HURLING	
All County JH League Final	Mt Leinster Rangers 1-23 Naomh Eoin 1-22	Roinn "A" U16H Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 1-21 Ballyhale Shamrocks 0-11
County JH Relegation Final	Erin's Own 3-13 Mullinavat 1-7	Roinn "B" U16H Final	Lisdowney 2-7 Kilmacow 0-12
JUNIOR HURLING "A"		Roinn "C" U16H Final	Mullinavat 5-10 Fenians 4-12
County JH A Final	Tullaroan 2-19 Carrickshock 1-12	Roinn "A" U16H League Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 3-15 Graigue Ballycallan 1-11
County JH A League Final	Lisdowney 2-25 Rower Inistioge 2-23	Roinn "B" U16H League Final	Glenmore 3-6 Lisdowney 0-8
Northern Junior A Final	Tullaroan 1-14 St Lachtain's 0-13	Roinn "C" U16H League Final	James Stephens B 2-7 Cloneen 1-9
Southern Junior A Final	Carrickshock 0-18 Dunnamaggin 0-17	UNDER 14 HURLING	
Northern Junior A League Final	Lisdowney 5-15 Young Irelands 2-7	Roinn "A" U14H Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 4-11 Erin's Own 3-9
Southern Junior A League Final	Ballinkillen 0-18 Erins Own (Carlow) 0-16	Roinn "B" U14H Final	Kilmacow 3-9 St Martin's 0-5
JUNIOR HURLING "B"		Roinn "C" U14H Final	Mullinavat 5-7 St Patrick's 2-12
County JH B Final	Barrow Rangers 2-14 Piltown 2-11	Paddy Grace Féile Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 1-9 James Stephens 0-9
County JH B League Final	Danesfort John/Lockes/Carrigeen	U14H Féile Féile Final	Kilmacow 2-12 St Martins 1-3
Northern Junior B Final	Barrow Rangers 3-14 Danesfort 0-13	Roinn "A" U14H League Final	Erin's Own 5-18 Mooncoin 1-14
Southern Junior B Final	Piltown 1-18 Windgap 1-16	Roinn "B" U14H League Final	St Martin's 7-17 Clara 1-2
North Junior B League Final	Danesfort 2-22 James Stephens 0-10	Roinn "C" U14H League Final	Tullaroan 3-7 Mullinavat 3-6
South Junior B League Final	Carrigeen w/o John Lockes scr	PRIMARY SCHOOLS HURLING	
CUP COMPETITIONS		Roinn "A" U13H Final	St Canice's 2-7 Thomastown 3-4 St Canice's 5-11 Thomastown 4-1
Byrne Cup Final	Clara 0-17 Rower Inistioge 1-10	Roinn "B" U13H Final	Glenmore/Ballyacey 5-10 Tullaroan Rosbercon 1-4
Aylward Cup Final	Graigue/Ballycallan 1-21 Mullinavat 1-15	Roinn "C" U13H Final	Graigue Skeough 2-10 Carrickshock 1-9
Paddy Cahill Cup	Dicksboro 2-18 Glenmore 1-13	Roinn "D" U13H Final	Tullaroan 6-2 St Canice's (B) 2-1
Kevin Fennelly Cup	Clara 2-17 Erin's Own (Carlow) 2-9	Roinn "E" U13H Final	Windgap 4-9 Galmoy 2-2
Joe Walsh Cup	Graignamanagh 0-15 Blacks and Whites 1-8	Corn de Bhaldraithe	Glenmore/Ballyacey 3-10 Mooncoin 5-3
Jim Farrell Cup	South Selection 0-14 North Selection 0-13	Corn Uí Bhriain	Graigue Skeough 4-6 Carrickshock 3-7

* As of November 25th 2015. Results of finals too late for inclusion here will be recorded in Kilkenny GAA Bible 2016, and on kilkenneygaa.ie

SENIOR FOOTBALL		JUNIOR CAMOGIE	
County SF Final	Railyard 1-5 Muckalee 0-8 Railyard 2-8 Muckalee 1-9	Junior "A" Championship Final	Carrickshock 2-11 Y. Irelands 0-15
County SF League Final	Railyard v Mooncoin	Junior "B" Championship Final	Thomastown 2-10 Black & Whites 2-4
INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL		Junior "A" League final	
County IF Final	Danesfort 0-9 Dicksboro 1-5	Junior "A" All-County Lge final	Young Irelands 2-10 Emeralds 0-7
County IF League Final	Erin's Own 2-5 Blacks & Whites 2-3	Junior "B" All-County Lge final	Conahy Shamrocks 5-8 Mooncoin 1-1 Piltown 1-10 Carrickshock 3-3
JUNIOR FOOTBALL		UNDER 21 CAMOGIE	
County JF Final	Graignamanagh 1-6 Railyard 1-4	U21 A Championship Final	Dicksboro 2-10 Thomastown 1-3
County JF League Final	To Be Completed	U21 B Championship Final	Clara 3-14 St Brigid's 1-10
MINOR FOOTBALL		MINOR CAMOGIE	
Roynn "A" MF Final	To Be Completed	Minor A C'ship Final	Dicksboro 3-7 Piltown 2-7
Roynn "B" MF Final	To Be Completed	Minor B C'ship Final	St Brigid's 2-8 Windgap 2-5
Roynn "C" MF Final	To Be Completed	Minor C C'ship Final	Young Ireland's 5-2 Mullinavat/Carrickshock 2-5
U16 FOOTBALL		Minor A League Final	
Roynn "A" U16F Final	To Be Completed	Minor B League Final	
Roynn "B" U16F Final	To Be Completed	Minor C League Final	
Roynn "C" U16F Final	To Be Completed	U16 CAMOGIE	
U14 FOOTBALL		Under-16 A C'ship Final	Dicksboro 0-15 Con Shamrocks 1-3
Roynn "A" U16F Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 7-11 Danesfort 2-6	Under-16 B C'ship Final	Young Irelands 6-7 St Fiachra's 0-6
Roynn "B" U16F Final	Glenmore 4-8 Graigue Ballycallan 3-4	Under-16 C C'ship Final	R/Inistioge 2-07 C'shock/M'vat 2-07 R/Inistioge 2-06 C'shock/M'vat 1-8
Roynn "C" U16F Final	Mullinavat 5-3 Cloneen 2-2	Under-16 A League Final	Dicksboro 3-5 Con Shamrocks 0-3
Roynn "A" U16F League Final	Kilmoganny 4-10 Bennettsbridge 1-6	Under-16 B League Final	Young Irelands 3-4 St Fiachre's 1-6
Roynn "B" U16F League Final	To Be Completed	Under-16 C League Final	Rower Inistioge 1-4 Carrickshock/Mullinavatvat 0-4
Roynn "C" U16F League Final	To Be Completed	U14 CAMOGIE	
SCHOOLS FOOTBALL		Under 14 A C'ship Final	Thomastown 2-5 Young Irelands 3-2 Thomastown 0-5 Young Irelands 0-3
Roynn "A" U13F Final	St Canice's 3-11 Glenmore 0-4	Under 14 A Shield Final	Danesfort 0-4 Piltown 0-3
Roynn "B" U13F Final	To Be Completed	Under 14 B C'ship Final	St Martin's 4-9 Con Shamrocks 1-3
Roynn "C" U13F Final	Bennettsbridge 3-7 Goresbridge/Paulstown 1-4	Under 14 B Shield Final	St Brigid's 3-8 Mooncoin 2-4
Corn na Tuaithe U13 Final	To Be Completed	Under 14 C C'ship Final	Windgap 3-5 Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-1
SENIOR CAMOGIE		Under 14 C Shield Final	M'vat/Carrickshock 3-5 Clara 3-1
County SC Final	Mullinavat 2-10 Thomastown 1-10	Under 14 D C'ship Final	Goresbridge/Paulstown 3-5 N. Brid 2-0
County SC League Final	Mullinavat 5-17 Thomastown 1-10	Under 14 D Shield Final	Slieverue 2-6 Lisdowney 2-0
Senior/Intermediate All County Final	Mullinavat v Thomastown	Feile Na nGael A Final	Thomastown 3-2 Young Irelands 0-2
SC Relegation Final	St Martin's 1-4 Ballyhale Shamrocks 0-6	Feile Na nGael B Final	St Fiachres 4-0 St Brigid's 0-2
INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE		PRIMARY SCHOOLS CAMOGIE	
County IC Final	Rower Inistioge 2-12 Tullaroan 1-15	Primary Schools A Final	Kilmanagh 3-8 Thomastown 0-2
IC League Final	St Brigid's 2-9 Tullaroan 2-5	Primary Schools B Final	Tullaroan 4-2 Clara 2-1
All County IC League Final	Glenmore 2-6 Rower Inistioge 0-7	Primary Schools C Final	Mooncoin/Carrigeen 11-3 Conahy 1-2
		Primary Schools D Final	Callan 8-2 Tulloher 3-0

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