

KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2019

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KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2019

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Réamhfhocal

Ar son Chumann Luthchleas Gael Cill Chainnigh is mó an onóir dom fáilte a chur roimh gach duine do Leabhar Bliana 2019. I am honoured to welcome this milestone thirtieth consecutive edition of the Year Book under the current committee.



During their time they have recorded the activities and successes in all codes throughout Kilkenny's greatest era. In addition they has funded many of the developments in Nowlan Park whilst producing every edition and the Results Bible online is a unique and immeasurable resource.

In the inter-county GAA world, Kilkenny is one of the last bastions of the old Irish tradition of the Meitheal - of working together on a voluntary basis. It is a way that has served the County well and the Year Book is just one of the many links of the Kilkenny GAA chain. Once again it promises to be another gem with stories, articles, team photos, player poster, club activity pages and reflections on those who have played a huge part and are no longer with us.

Another new innovation this year, is to record the stair agus scéal, behind the Club Crests. It follows the previous years attempt to record the names of the participating clubs that are no longer with us. Together the results link the sporting, historical, geographical and cultural attributes of each club and give a greater insight into the heritage that drives them on.

On the inter-county playing fields, the pendulum has taken a most welcome swing upwards with the senior and minor Hurlers and the senior Camogie players all appearing on All Ireland Final day in Croke Park. Elsewhere the mens and ladies footballers played their part whilst the success at juvenile handball level is spreading upwards into the adult grades.

After a turbulent year for fixtures, dominated by the new inter county round robin competitions, the Spring tide saw two All Ireland club titles for Dunnamagggin and Ballyhale Shamrocks. More action, than talk, saw a fixtures improvement on many fronts, with much more to do as the Club games continue to attract the crowds and Ballyhale Shamrocks, Tullaroan and O'Loughlin Gaels, took the main hurling titles with Mullinavat and Dicksboro taking the Football and Camogie craobh shinsearach. The participation of all the Carlow Juvenile hurling teams in our leagues was widely welcomed and we look forward to growing together

The recent successful visit of lománaithe sinsearacha Chill Chainnigh to New York for the Super elevens in Citifield, the hosting of a fund-raiser in conjunction with St. Kierans College and the naming partnership with University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre UPMC in Nowlan Park are further milestones for building on both locally and internationally

As we look forward to 2020 our sincere thanks goes to all involved in Kilkenny GAA in any way. They include our main sponsors Glanbia PLC, our various partners, competition sponsors, advertisers, supporters and supporters' clubs. In particular, all of the players, the schools, parent's, referees and the unsung club officials who work endlessly to provide sporting, recreational and playing facilities for all.

This year has seen on-going changes in our clubs and county management teams and panels as all involved try to raise the bar on the previous year to get the edge to success. Whilst many have played their part we extend a special go raibh mile maith agat to Micheál Dempsey who will be front and centre when the thesis of modern day Kilkenny hurling is written.

Faoi dheireadh ba mhaith liom buiochas ó chroi a ghabháil le gach éinne for this year's excellent production, eagathóir Barrie Henriques, Cathaoirleach Pat Henderson co-ordinator Gerry O'Neill, the committee, contributors, photographers and advertisers.

Tá a fhios agam go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh agus tairbhe as an Leabhar Bhliana seo.

*Seamus Breathnach (Jimmy Walsh)
Cathaoirleach, Coiste Chontae Chill Chainnigh.*



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#TheToughest

EDITORIAL

KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2019



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Kilkenny.

FRONT COVER:

Padraig makes a fine catch over
Patrick Horgan in the All Ireland
Senior Hurling Championship
Quarter Final versus Cork.
Photo by Willie Dempsey

POSTER :

Colin Fennelly
Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

This time last year there was an element of hesitancy, even uncertainty, in the expectation of Kilkenny hurling supporters. Having missed the excitement, the razzmatazz that goes with the preparation and craic of All Ireland weekend, for two years, supporters were beginning to despair. Having been totally spoiled by the success ratings of the previous dozen years or so, supporters had become intolerant of failure. The more staid and reasonable among us realised that we had no Divine right to win the Liam MacCarthy every year. They contended that, after a run of success, there is bound to be a fallow period when expectation does not morph into certainty.

Nevertheless, every year brings its own brand of hope. It was the general opinion that Kilkenny were in development mode. There was plenty of potential, but it was going to take a bit of time before the good times would be back. In a training panel of over forty, there was a cohort of "good young lads". The initial expectation was a quarter-final shot at the Championship.

As events unfurled, the "good young lads" did better than that. Brian Cody and his merry band stormed all the way to the All Ireland Final against all of the odds. They didn't win it, but it was light years ahead of the quarter-final expectation. And it took a very good Tipperary team to beat them.

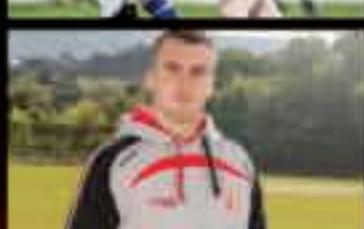
With brutal honesty, it would have to be stated that the success graph of Kilkenny Club and County teams on the National stage was less than impressive. Three nuggets of success would help to lessen the disappointment in that regard. On St. Patricks Day, the Shamrocks produced a masterclass of exquisite hurling under the stewardship of first-time Manager, Henry Shefflin to win the Tommy Moore cup for the seventh time in their splendid History. They comprehensively defeated Galway Champions, St.Thomas' by an impressive seventeen points. Dunnamaggin's Provincial and National triumphs in the Junior equivalent were no less impressive. They took out Dublin's Na Fianna in the Leinster Final, and Castleblayney Hurling club (Monaghan) in the All Ireland Final after a more than difficult encounter. There was great celebration down Dunna way. St.Kieran's won their 23rd senior college's title, beating Presentation College Athlone by 5-19 to 3-16. There were plenty of Handball All Ireland and Provincial winners. The under-20 team won the Leinster Final but were well beaten by a lively Cork outfit in their semi-final. Having beaten the reigning camogie Champions Cork in a titanic semi-final in Limerick, Galway proved too strong for the gallant Kilkenny girls in the Final. Our minor team caught a corker in the under-17 Final in Galway, and that was it for 2019.

I hope you enjoy this year's Yearbook edition. This is our thirtieth edition. I would wish to say a sincere go raibh mile maith agaibh to all of our contributors, including our Pro scribes like Enda Mc Evoy (Kilkenny People/Examiner), and Martin Breheny (Irish Independent). As usual, our advertisers have again been most generous with their support, and I earnestly exhort you all to support every one of them if possible. Most of them are our own local business people giving local employment.

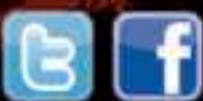
Many thanks to all our contributors, our superb Committee led by Chairman, Pat Henderson. They are all listed at the side of this page, as are our photographers, who do a wonderful job.

I hope and pray that all of my long-standing colleagues who have worked so hard to get this record of the activities of all of our GAA Brotherhood throughout the year will be on God's Earth when I am writing the Editorial for our 31st edition.

*Barrie Henriques
Editor*



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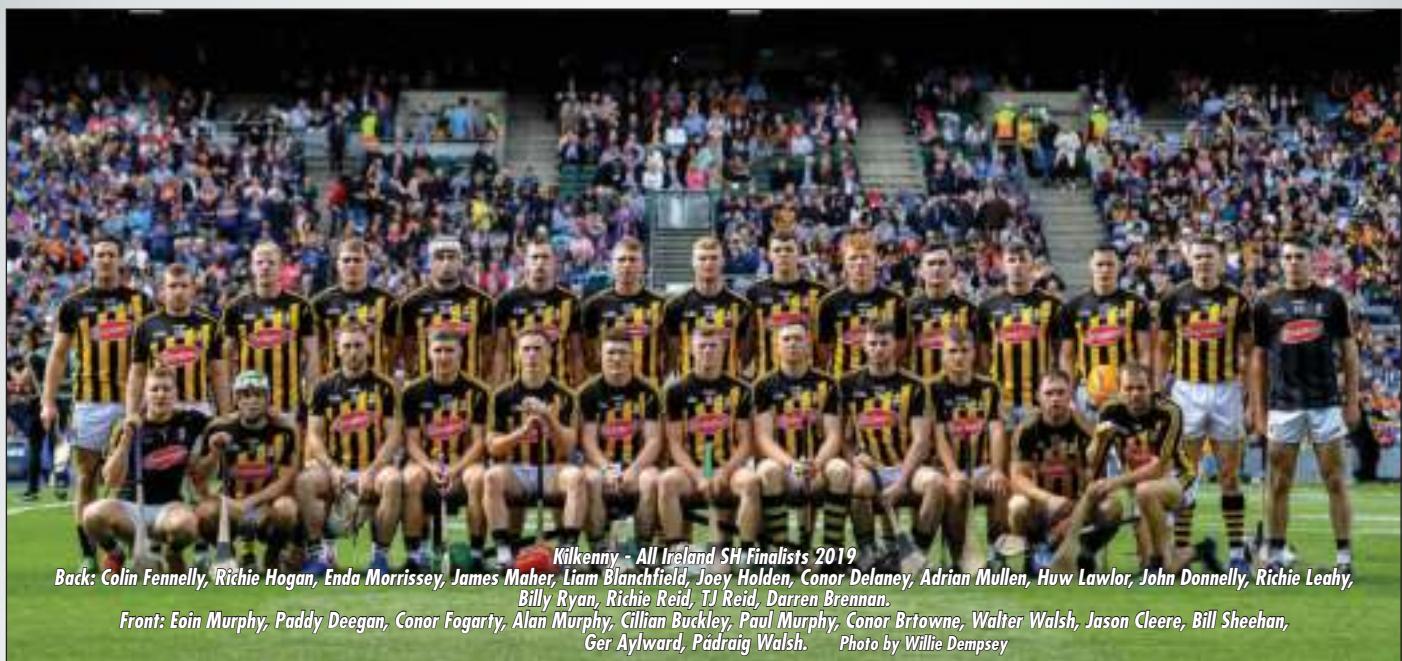


GPA



A BRAVE JOURNEY but Ultimate Disappointment

Inter County Senior Hurling Report by Tommy Lanigan



Kilkenny - All Ireland SH Finalists 2019
Back: Colin Fennelly, Richie Hogan, Enda Morrissey, James Maher, Liam Blanchfield, Joey Holden, Conor Delaney, Adrian Mullen, Huw Lawlor, John Donnelly, Richie Leahy, Billy Ryan, Richie Reid, TJ Reid, Darren Brennan.
Front: Eoin Murphy, Paddy Deegan, Conor Fogarty, Alan Murphy, Cillian Buckley, Paul Murphy, Conor Browne, Walter Walsh, Jason Cleere, Bill Sheehan, Ger Aylward, Padraig Walsh. Photo by Willie Dempsey

While the Kilkenny GAA Yearbook in 2018 opined that the year was a step forward on the road to building a team to win an All-Ireland senior title, the opportunity presented itself earlier than expected to Kilkenny in 2019 as they reached the final against old foes Tipperary. Reaching an All-Ireland final was somewhat of a surprise given the team form and personnel. However, if the year illustrated anything in particular it was the sheer bloody mindedness of a young team who performed heroics and stubborn refusal to accept anything less than victory right up to Final day. Rank outsiders going into that final against Tipperary, they gave their all but had their limitations cruelly exposed on the big day.

What conclusions may we draw about the team's development at the end of a year of such mixed fortunes? It is clear the graph of progress has risen since the poor year of 2017. It is equally obvious we are far from the heady days of the mid noughties or 14/15. In the latter years a relatively ageing team found an extraordinary will to win despite some deficits appearing in the group. The present panel has shown itself to be willing and able and possess several hurlers who would be formidable forces in any era. We have a wonderful goalie and a strong base of high quality players around the field. We also have TJ Reid, one of the great hurlers in any era. However we have a dearth of leadership and that must be the challenge for the players who have been around the team for the past five years or so. The management team has adapted well to the new style championship and Kilkenny achieved so well because they were able to reach peak performance in late July/August. One cannot ask for more from management. At the end of the season Michael Dempsey and Derek Lyng have stepped down to be replaced by DJ Carey and Mickey Comerford as S&C manager. Dempsey's loss is grievous as he has been at the cutting edge of player preparation for almost two decades and his style and nous will be badly missed. Derek Lyng has moved to become U21 manager, a welcome move to bring an edge to an area where we have struggled for many years. May they prosper in their new roles.

That U21 struggle may be symptomatic of something else. Kilkenny seem to be producing fewer quality scoring forwards with strength and guile and the matter must be addressed rapidly from a much earlier base.

But the fundamental challenge in the new hurling format is the imperative of continual improvement and this year Kilkenny have shown that they are masters of the art. The next move is to reach the pinnacle.

Leinster SH Championship Round 1

Kilkenny 2-23, Dublin 1-21

Following the dismal league campaign many supporters had low expectations about the championship, particularly as Dublin had looked so good through the league. Their worst fears seemed to come true when Dublin gained an early initiative and were by far the more impressive team by the interval leading 1-13 to 0-12. Kilkenny reshaped their team, swopping Paddy Deegan and Huw Lawlor in the centre of defence and suddenly the defence began the slow strangulation of a previously lively Dublin attack. Padraig Walsh led with fire and fury and his colleagues responded.

At the other end TJ Reid proved unstoppable and finished the day with

a haul of 2-12 and was best player on the field by quite a margin. A brilliant interchange with Colin Fennelly gave Reid his first goal in the 45th minute. Ten minutes later Fennelly won a booming clearance from Huw Lawlor, was fouled and Reid despatched the penalty to the net. Dublin didn't flinch and fought to the end but by now Kilkenny had a stranglehold on the game and finished worthy winners.

Kilkenny; Darren Brennan, Paul Murphy, Paddy Deegan, Tommy Walsh (0-1), Enda Morrissey, Huw Lawlor, Conor Fogarty, Padraig Walsh (0-1), Alan Murphy (0-3), Adrian Mullen (0-1), Walter Walsh (0-1), TJ Reid (2-12), Billy Ryan, Colin Fennelly, Ger Aylward (0-2). Subs: Richie Leahy (0-2) for Morrissey ht, Richie Hogan for Ryan (39).

Dublin; Alan Nolan, Paddy Smyth, Eoghan O'Donnell, Tomas Connolly (0-1), Chris Crummey (0-2), Sean Moran (1-2), Shane Barrett, Sean Treacy (0-1), Darragh O'Connell (0-1) David Treacy (0-6), Danny Sutcliffe (0-4), Fergal Whitley (0-2), Paul Ryan (0-1), Liam Rushe (0-1), Eamon Dillon. Subs: Rian McBride for T Connolly (50); Conal Keaney for Ryan (60); Cian Boland for S Treacy (65); Jake Malone for D Treacy (71), Ronan Hayes for Rushe (73).

Leinster SH Championship Round 2

Kilkenny 3-22, Carlow 1-14

This was the mismatch of the championship as gallant Carlow found themselves very far out of their depth from the throw-in. A Colin Fennelly goal after 18 seconds followed by a Ger Aylward rocket on 6 minutes put paid to any chance Carlow would mount any significant challenge in this one sided encounter. Admittedly Carlow eventually found their composure and played very well throughout the second half, outscoring Kilkenny over the period. But it was much too late as Kilkenny romped to a facile win. The bad news was that Walter Walsh and Colin Fennelly hobbled off injured though that was tempered by Cillian Buckley's return after an eight month hiatus with injury.

Kilkenny; Darren Brennan, Paul Murphy, Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh, Conor Fogarty, Padraig Walsh, Paddy Deegan, Alan Murphy (0-2), Richie Leahy (0-1), Adrian Mullen (0-1), Walter Walsh (0-1), TJ Reid (1-12), Bill Sheehan, Colin Fennelly (1-10), G Aylward (1-1). Subs - Liam Blanchfield for Fennelly (inj), John Donnelly (0-2) for W. Walsh (inj), Billy Ryan(0-1) for Aylward; Jason Cleere for Deegan, Martin Keoghan for Leahy.

Carlow; Brian Treacy (0-1), Kevin McDonald, Paul Doyle, Michael Doyle, Eoin Nolan, David English (0-1), Richard Coady, Jack Kavanagh, Sean Whelan, John Michael Nolan, Martin Kavanagh (0-5), Edward Byrne, James Doyle (1-1), Seamus Murphy (0-2), Chris Nolan (0-3). Subs; Alan Corcoran for P. Doyle (inj), Ted Joyce for E. Byrne, Jack Murphy for Whelan, Diarmuid Byrne for J. Kavanagh, Ross Smithers for J. Doyle.

Ref; Alan Kelly (Galway).

Leinster SH Championship Round 3

Kilkenny 2-22, Galway 3-20

This year the Leinster championship proved to be the better of the two provincial competitions and results were very tight in most games. It

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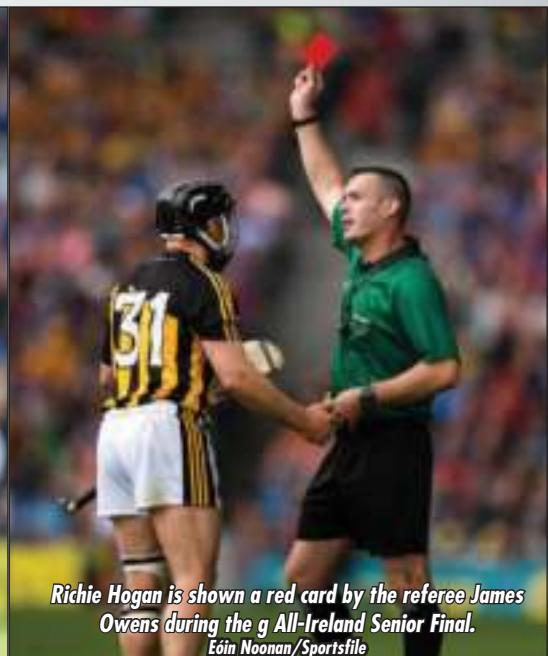
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Pádraig Walsh v Tipp in the Final
John McIlwaine



Richie Hogan is shown a red card by the referee James Owens during the g All-Ireland Senior Final.
Eoin Noonan/Sportsfile

meant that Kilkenny could not afford a defeat in Nowlan Park when Galway came to town. It proved to be Kilkenny's first championship defeat in 2019.

This was an extraordinary game and full of incident. However there was not a nasty stroke pulled in the seventy minutes though fussy referee Colm Lyons somehow found excuses to show fourteen yellow cards and three red, two to Paul Murphy and Ger Aylward and one to John Hanbury.

Galway were marginally better through the first half and Kilkenny drifted eight points behind until a typical resurgence led by TJ Reid managed to haul back the Westerners. During the last quarter the Ballyhale man played magnificently and ensured the contest would go to the wire. In the end there was confusion about the length of injury time to be played but realistically Kilkenny had to give way to a better team. It was by far the best quality game played in the competition so far though Kilkenny continued to struggle for consistency and more forward support for Reid and Fennelly.

Galway; Colm Callanan, John Hanbury, Daithí Burke, Aidan Harte, Padraig Mannion, Gearóid McInerney, Joseph Cooney, Sean Loftus, David Burke (0-1), Cathal Mannion (0-8), Jonathan Glynn (0-1), Adrian Tuohy (0-2), Conor Whelan (1-2), Jason Flynn (0-3), Brian Concannon (1-2). Subs; Johnny Coen (1-1) for Loftus, David Glennon for Tuohy, Niall Burke for Concannon, Sean Linnane for Flynn.

Kilkenny; Darren Brennan (0-1), Paul Murphy, Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh, Conor Fogarty, Padraig Walsh, Paddy Deegan, Alan Murphy (0-1), Richie Leahy (0-2), Adrian Mullen, Billy Ryan (0-3), TJ Reid (2-11), Bill Sheehan (0-2), Colin Fennelly (0-1), Ger Aylward. Subs; R Hogan for Mullen, Joey Holden for T. Walsh, Jason Cleere for A. Murphy, John Donnelly for Sheehan.

Ref; Colm Lyons (Cork).

Leinster SH Championship Rd 4

Kilkenny 1-18, Wexford 0-21.

As it happened all four of Galway, Kilkenny, Dublin and Wexford were level points after the third round. It meant that one of them could end up in the Leinster final or out of the championship, such were the narrow margins.

Given the results of Wexford / Kilkenny encounter of the past two years it was a tall order to travel to Innovate Wexford Park and

get a result. One of the most eagerly anticipated contests of the year furnished a draw but it took some time for officialdom and the crowd to realise that both these teams would face each other again in a Leinster final. It was particularly astounding that Galway missed out on the All Ireland series on scoring difference, thanks to Carlow's brave effort against them in round one.

A draw was a fair result at a packed Wexford Park in this thrilling encounter. Wexford led by three at the interval 0-13 to 0-10 and could have been much farther ahead but for last gasp spectacular saves from Huw Lawlor and Padraig Walsh.

Gradually the game turned Kilkenny's way as TJ Reid again proved to be our best player and when Adrian Mullen found the net after being superbly set up by Colin Fennelly it looked much better for the Cats. However in a helter-skelter finish the sides deservedly ended level. Wexford almost blew the result with Matthew O'Hanlon sending off but Lee Chin saved the day with an awkward free. We rolled on to Croke Park, hardly believing our luck.

Kilkenny; Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Huw Lawlor, Tommy Walsh, Conor Fogarty, Padraig Walsh, Paddy Deegan, Alan Murphy, Richie Leahy, Adrian Mullen, Billy Ryan, TJ Reid, Bill Sheehan, Colin Fennelly, Ger Aylward. Subs: Darren Brennan, Joey Holden, Enda Morrissey, Jason Cleere, Conor Browne, Cillian Buckley, Richie Hogan, John Donnelly, Liam Blanchfield, James Maher, Walter Walsh.

Leinster SH Final

Kilkenny 0-23, Wexford 1-23

For the second time in two weeks Kilkenny faced the ever improving Wexford, this time in the Leinster final in Croke Park. There was silverware at stake and a place in the All Ireland semi-final which would give some breathing space to the victors.

It was a memorable day for the purple and gold. They travelled in their thousands and packed Croke Park. The spectators got value for their money in a riveting encounter that was not decided until very late in the game. Wexford completed a minor/senior double over Kilkenny for the first time since 1968 and brought home their 21st Leinster title. It was their first since 2004. Few would begrudge them as Kilkenny tested them all the way to the final whistle.

The scores were level on ten occasions through

the game. Wexford always looked a better team but found scores difficult to win as Kilkenny defenders held resolute. But as the game entered the final quarter Wexford's running game improved and the pressure increased on Kilkenny defence. Rory O'Connor forced a foul and 'keeper Mark Fanning blasted the ball to the Kilkenny net. The last seven minutes yielded four points but it was Wexford's day and Kilkenny were left to face a quarter final against Cork.

Kilkenny; Eoin Murphy (0-1), Paul Murphy, Huw Lawlor, Joey Holden, Paddy Deegan, Padraig Walsh, Enda Morrissey, James Maher, Conor Fogarty, Richie Leahy, Walter Walsh (0-2), TJ Reid (0-12), Alan Murphy (0-1), Colin Fennelly (0-2), Adrian Mullen (0-3). Subs; Ger Aylward (0-1) for A. Murphy, Billy Ryan for W. Walsh, R. Hogan for Fennelly.

Wexford; Mark Fanning (1-0), Shane Reck, Liam Ryan, Simon Donoghue (0-1), Paudie Foley, Matthew O'Hanlon, Shaun Murphy, Kevin Foley, Diarmuid O'Keeffe (0-2), Liam Og McGovern (0-1), Lee Chin (0-9), Conor McDonald (0-4), Jack O'Connor (0-1), Rory O'Connor (0-4), Paul Morris. Subs; Conor Firman for Reck, Cathal Dunbar for Morris, David Dunne for McGovern, Harry Kehoe for McDonald.

Ref; John Keenan (Wicklow).

All Ireland Quarter Final

Kilkenny 2-27, Cork 3-18.

Kilkenny reserved their very best performance of the season to outgun Cork in a thrilling All Ireland SH quarter-final in Croke Park. This was a day that Kilkenny followers truly believed the team had championship winning potential. They improved hugely on their Leinster final performance and for the first time this year the scoring was spread well through the forwards.

It suited Kilkenny that Cork were happy to play an open game rather than a tight marking affair. Both sets of forwards were given far too much space and Kilkenny were enabled to forge ahead in the final quarter. Then Cork did not have an answer to Kilkenny's thrust for victory and the Leesiders finished quite disappointingly. In hindsight the end of the game flattered Kilkenny as Cork provided a limited late challenge. The Kilkenny forwards had a convincing reply to every Cork score.

The game began in cracking fashion and Eoin Murphy had to be at his best to prevent at least three cork goals in the early stages. Patrick

Horgan was virtually unmarkable as Cork led by two points at half time.

Richie Hogan put Kilkenny in front with a great goal on the restart and Kilkenny scored eight consecutive points. The Kilkenny bench proved to be very good on the day and Walter Walsh made a huge contribution when introduced by scoring three great points. Cork rallied but it was not enough and Kilkenny moved on to the semi-final with great confidence.

Kilkenny; Eoin Murphy (0-1), Paul Murphy, Huw Lawlor, Joey Holden, Paddy Deegan, Padraig Walsh, Cillian Buckley, Conor Browne (0-1), Conor Fogarty (0-2), Richie Hogan (1-2), TJ Reid (0-10), Richie Leahy (0-1), Adrian Mullen (0-1), Colin Fennelly (1-1), John Donnelly (0-2).

Subs; Walter Walsh (0-3) for Buckley ht, Bill Sheehan (0-1) for Hogan, James Maher for Browne, Billy Ryan (0-2) for Donnelly.

Cork; Anthony Nash, Sean O'Donoghue, Eoin Cadogan, Stephen McDonnell, Niall O'Leary, Mark Ellis, Mark Coleman, Bill Cooper, Darragh Fitzgibbon, Daniel Kearney, Conor Lehane, Luke Meade, Alan Cadogan, Pat Horgan, Seamus Harney.

Subs; Robbie O'Flynn for Lehane, Shane Kingston for Kearney, Tim O'Mahony for Cooper, Damien Cahalane for O'Donoghue, Christopher Joyce for Meade.

Ref; James Owens (Wexford).

All Ireland SH semi-final

Kilkenny 1-21, Limerick 2-17

It was not a day for the faint-hearted in Croke Park as Kilkenny nudged past a powerful Limerick side by the narrowest of margins. It is difficult to surprise a team as good as Limerick but Kilkenny managed to do so in the first twenty minutes. They led the Shannonsiders 1-8 to 0-2 following one of the very best starts any team has had this year. Colin Fennelly bagged a 14th minute goal as Kilkenny were sublime. It couldn't last and Limerick gradually fought their way back in to the game despite the loss to injury of their defensive talisman Declan Hannon. An Aaron Gillane penalty brought the deficit to three points at half time and the champions began to find their best game. The second half was the best hurling half of the year. Try as they might Limerick couldn't get ahead of a Kilkenny team that hurled above themselves to the end. The opportunity for a late equalizer was denied Limerick through a linesman's error and, in fairness to them, they did not make an excuse of it.

Would Kilkenny have won the game if Limerick had not given them free rein for the first quarter? Probably not and the Shannonsiders surely wondered how it went wrong. Kilkenny were now in an All-Ireland final, a scenario scarcely believable five weeks earlier.

Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Huw Lawlor, Joey Holden, Conor Fogarty, Padraig Walsh (0-1), Paddy Deegan, Conor Browne, Richie Leahy, John Donnelly (0-1), TJ Reid (0-8), Walter Walsh (0-2), Adrian Mullen (0-4), Colin Fennelly (1-3), Richie Hogan (0-1). Subs: Cillian Buckley for Leahy, Bill Sheehan for Richie Hogan, Billy Ryan for Donnelly, Liam Blanchfield for Walter Walsh, James Maher (0-1) for Fogarty.

Limerick; Nicky Quaid, Sean Finn, Mike Casey, Richie English, Diarmuid Byrnes (0-2), Declan Hannon, Dan Morrissey, Cian Lynch, Will O'Donoghue, Gearoid Hegarty, Kyle Hayes, Tom Morrissey (0-1), Aaron Gillane (1-9), Graeme Mulcahy (0-2), Peter Casey (0-1). Subs: Barry Nash (0-1) for Hannon (ht); Shane Dowling (1-0) for Hegarty, Darragh O'Donovan for O'Donoghue, David Reidy (0-1) for Tom Morrissey, Pa Ryan for Peter Casey.

Ref; Alan Kelly (Galway).

All Ireland SH final

Tipperary 3-25, Kilkenny 0-20.

'Superior Tipperary numbers help class Tipperary charge to comfortable 28th All Ireland victory over Kilkenny'.

So wrote Kilkenny People's reporter John Knox in a title that well reflected the teams respective fortunes. In truth it was a most disappointing All-Ireland final for all except Tipperary, the neutrals having little to enthuse about in a game that ended as a contest at a very early stage. It was difficult to believe that a year earlier Tipp had failed to win a sing le game in the Munster championship. But the return of Liam Sheedy had a powerful effect on a talented group of hurlers and they thoroughly deserved the title.

We knew beforehand that Kilkenny would have to produce a remarkably sustained effort to be in with a chance to win. Cork had surrendered down the home straight, Limerick had given Kilkenny a twenty minute start and the Cats had barely got over these hurdles. This Tipperary side were in no mood to make any concessions.

From the throw-in Tipperary took time to settle but as the first quarter ended were marginally faster to the break, a little stronger in the tackle and more convincing with their combination play. Thankfully both sides eschewed the modern fad of playing a sweeper and tore into each other man-on-man.

Kilkenny had some early advantage, particularly through the enterprising play of John Donnelly though they were finding scoring very difficult against a hard hitting Tipp defence. Yet Kilkenny led Tipp by 0-8 to 0-3 after twenty minutes. After Tipp switched their wing backs at this time, both Donnelly and Walter Walsh, Kilkenny's two best ball winners found life much more difficult. Niall O'Meara's goal at 25 minutes was a hard blow.

Matters dis-improved more when Richie Hogan saw a straight red card following a tackle on Cathal Barrett in the 33rd minute. While it gave Kilkenny a virtually impossible task, control of the game had been slipping away from the Cats for the previous few minutes and Tipperary were punishing them on the scoreboard.



Tipp edged ahead by one point at half time, having out-hurled Kilkenny in the second quarter.

Within two minutes of the restart Seamus Callanan bagged a goal for Tipp and Bubbles added another within a few minutes. Its downhill all the way for Kilkenny tough they try their hearts out in a lost cause.

Referee James Owens mercifully brings the game to an end with Tipp leading 3-25 to 0-20 and the impossible dream ends. It proved a dismal day in Croker with the minors losing heavily to Galway.

Kilkenny: Eoin Murphy, Paul Murphy, Huw Lawlor, Joey Holden, Conor Fogarty, Padraig Walsh (0-1), Paddy Deegan, Conor Browne, John Donnelly (0-2), Cillian Buckley, TJ Reid (0-12), Walter Walsh (0-1), Adrian Mullen, Colin Fennelly (0-1), Richie Hogan (0-1). Subs; Billy Ryan (0-2).

Tipperary: Brian Hogan, Cathal Barrett, Barry Heffernan, Ronan Maher, Brendan Maher, Padraig Maher, Seamus Kennedy (0-2), Noel McGrath (0-2), Michael Breen (0-1), Dan McCormack, John O'Dwyer (0-3), Niall O'Meara (1-0), Jason Forde (0-8), Seamus Callanan (1-1), John McGrath (0-3). Subs: Mark Kehoe (0-1), Willie Connors (0-2), Ger Browne (0-1), Jake Morris (0-1).

Ref: James Owens (Wexford).

LITTLE JOY IN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE

Allianz NHL Round 1

Kilkenny 2-18, Cork 0-17.

Kilkenny got the defence of their Allianz NHL off to a good start with a convincing win over Cork in a game that failed to enthuse the large attendance. Kilkenny dominated the first half and a 27th minute goal from Richie Leahy enabled Kilkenny to lead by 1-10 to 0-7 at the interval. Despite an improved performance from Cork in the second half they depended too much on Patrick Horgan. Billy Ryan added a late goal to give Kilkenny a satisfactory opening to the 2019 senior campaign.

It was all the better as Kilkenny were without the Ballyhale contingent.

Kilkenny: E. Murphy, P. Murphy, H. Lawlor, T. Walsh, C. Delaney, P. Deegan, E. Morrissey, J. Maher, C. Fogarty, J. Donnelly, G. Aylward, G. Malone, B. Ryan, K. Kelly, L. Scanlon. Subs; R. Leahy for G. Malone (inj 18). C. Browne for Maher (44), L. Blanchfield for Scanlon (56), P. Lyng for Aylward (63).

Cork: A. Nash, S. McDonnell, D. Cahalane, C. O'Sullivan, C. Joyce, T. O'Mahony, S. O'Donoghue, C. Cahalane, C. Murphy, D. Kearney, D. Dalton, L. Meade, J. Coughlan, A. Walsh, P. Horgan. Subs; J. O'Connor for J. Coughlan, C. Lehane for C. Cahalane (42), D. Lowney for C. O'Sullivan (52), M. O'Halloran for Meade (62)

Ref; J. Owens (Wexford).

Allianz NHL Round 2

Clare 2-20, Kilkenny 1-22.

Cusack Park is always a difficult venue from which to eke a result and



Kilkenny came up short on a day when Clare punished every error. Nevertheless the game was entertaining and lively at all times. Padraig Walsh made a welcome return and galvanise the team into a late fight back.

Clare led by 1-9 to 0-8 at the interval and should have been more ahead as the Kilkenny defence hung on by their finger-tips at times. With five minutes remaining Clare were five ahead. A Kevin Kelly free found the net and we were treated to a grandstand finish but the locals held out for a good win.

Kilkenny: E. Murphy, P. Murphy, H. Lawlor, T. Walsh, C. Delaney (0-1) P. Deegan, E. Morrissey, J. Maher (0-2), C. Fogarty (capt. 0-1), J. Donnelly (0-1), G. Aylward (0-3), M. Keoghan, B. Ryan (0-2), K. Kelly (1-11), R. Leahy. Subs; C. Browne for Maher, P. Walsh (0-1) for E. Morrissey, L. Blanchfield for Leahy, G. Malone for Keoghan.

Clare; D. Tuohy, R. Hayes, D. McInerney, J. Browne; D. Fitzgerald, C. Cleary, C. Malone, S. Golden (0-2), C. Galvin (0-3), D. Ryan (0-3), P. Collins (1-0), P. Duggan (0-7), C. Guilfoyle (0-1), J. Conlon (1-1), I. Galvin (0-2). Subs; G. Cooney (0-1) for Guilfoyle; R. Taylor for I. Galvin, J. McCarthy for Hayes, M. O'Malley for C. Galvin.

Ref; P. O'Dwyer (Carlow).

Allianz NHL Round 3

Kilkenny 0-15, Limerick 2-18.

Reality bit hard in Nowlan Park as All Ireland champions Limerick tore Kilkenny apart throughout this league encounter. As Brian Cody remarked afterwards, 'we played the best team in the country and there is plenty to learn from it.'

From the beginning Limerick dominated the game. Their superior pace, team work and ability to stretch the Kilkenny defence at will proved to be an irresistible combination. Scores were even coming up to half-time and then Limerick hit an unanswered 2-3 to give them a comfortable interval lead of 2-10 to 0-7. Despite several changes Kilkenny tried hard in the second half but had no answer to the power and pace of a most impressive Limerick side who were never in danger of being seriously challenged.

Limerick; Nicky Quaid, Tom Condon (0-1), Sean Finn, Richie English, Diarmuid Byrnes (0-1), Dan Morrissey, Paddy O'Loughlin, Robbie Hanley (0-1), Darragh O'Donovan, Kyle Hayes, Shane Dowling (1-2), Conor Boylan (1-1), Aaron Gillane (0-9), Graeme Mulcahy (0-1), Barry Murphy (0-2). Subs; Tom Murphy for Boylan, Pat Ryan for Mulcahy, Peter Casey for Murphy, Gearoid Hegarty for Hanley.

Kilkenny; Eoin Murphy, Tommy Walsh, Conor Delaney, Enda Morrissey Padraig Walsh, Paddy Deegan, Paul Murphy, Conor Fogarty, Martin Keoghan; Richie Leahy (0-7), Walter Walsh, James Maher (0-1), Billy Ryan (0-2), Kevin Kelly (0-2), John Donnelly (0-1). Subs; Liam Blanchfield (0-1) for Kelly, Conor Browne for Fogarty, Michael Carey for Morrissey, Ger Malone (0-1) for Maher.

Ref; Fergal Horgan (Tipperary).

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*Overhead View of Completed Training Centre at Dunmore
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Allianz NHL Round 4

Kilkenny 0-18 Tipperary 0-17.

Having suffered defeats to Clare and Limerick, Kilkenny needed not just the points but a good performance in this NHL round 4 game and they delivered with gusto. There was little to separate the sides for most of the game as defences were on top at all times except for the early stages when Kilkenny had built a 0-5 to 0-1 lead by the tenth minute.

However the finale was worthy of the great clashes between these two rivals and it was Eoin Murphy who was the deciding figure in the contest. With Tipp edging ahead in the last five minutes, Murphy stepped up to an enormous free and drove it straight only to be countered by an equally good point from Noel McGrath. The deadlock was broken in the 73rd minute when the goalie again stood over a 90m free to win the game. He arrowed the ball over to send Kilkenny fans home happy and Tipperary wondering how they failed to get a draw.

Kilkenny; Eoin Murphy (0-2), Paul Murphy, Conor Delaney, Tommy Walsh, Conor Fogarty, Paddy Deegan, Jason Cleere, Padraig Walsh (0-2), Alan Murphy (0-7), John Donnelly, Walter Walsh (0-2), Ger Malone (0-1), Billy Ryan (0-1), Liam Blanchfield, Martin Keoghan (0-1). Subs; Richie Leahy (0-1) for Donnelly, Richie Hogan (0-1) for Malone, James Maher for A. Murphy, Niall Brassil for Blanchfield.

Tipperary; Paul Maher, Alan Flynn, James Barry, Ronan Maher, Seamus Kennedy (0-1), Padraig Maher, Robert Byrne (0-1), Michael Breen, Willie Connors, Patrick Maher, Noel McGrath (0-2), John O'Dwyer (0-4), Jason Forde (0-2), Seamus Callanan (0-5), Niall O'Meara (0-2). Subs; Jake Morris for Connors, Joe O'Dwyer for Kennedy, John McGrath for Patrick Maher, Ger Browne for Breen.

Referee - Johnny Murphy (Limerick).

Allianz NHL Round 5

Wexford 1-19, Kilkenny 1-12.

Kilkenny came to a shuddering halt and relinquished their NHL crown with little more than a whimper when they were thoroughly outplayed by Wexford in Innovate Wexford Park. Many years have passed since Kilkenny had such a poor finish to the League as they finished joint last with Cork against whom they must play a game to decide placings since there is no relegation this year.

Kilkenny started with a gale behind them but were not able to match the sprightly and tight Wexford defence. A second minute goal by Liam Blanchfield was not enough to give them a much needed fillip. They trailed 0-8 to 1-10 after playing against the storm and matters became grim indeed when Wexford found their range midway through the second half. The game was over as a contest with twenty minutes remaining and one could only admire the quality of interpassing of Lee Chin, Diarmuid O'Keeffe and Co.

Kilkenny; E. Murphy (0-3), P. Murphy, C. Delaney, T. Walsh, C. Fogarty (capt), P. Deegan, J. Cleere, P. Walsh (0-1), A. Murphy (0-6), J. Donnelly, W. Walsh (0-1), G. Malone, B. Ryan, L. Blanchfield (1-1), M. Keoghan. Subs; Riche Leahy for Malone, James Maher for Donnelly, Richie Hogan for Ryan.

Wexford; Mark Fanning, Damien Reck, Darren Byrne, Liam Ryan, Simon Donohoe, Matthew O'Hanlon, Shaun Murphy (0-1), Jack O'Connor (0-6), Kevin Foley (0-1), Harry Kehoe, Liam Og McGovern (0-1), Lee Chin (0-3), Paul Morris (0-2), Rory O'Connor (0-3), Conor McDonald. Subs; Paudie Foley for Byrne, Diarmuid O'Keeffe for Kehoe, Cathal Dunbar (1-0) for Morris, Aidan Nolan for McGovern, Ian Byrne for Donohoe.

Ref; Alan Kelly (Galway).

Allianz NHL relegation playoff

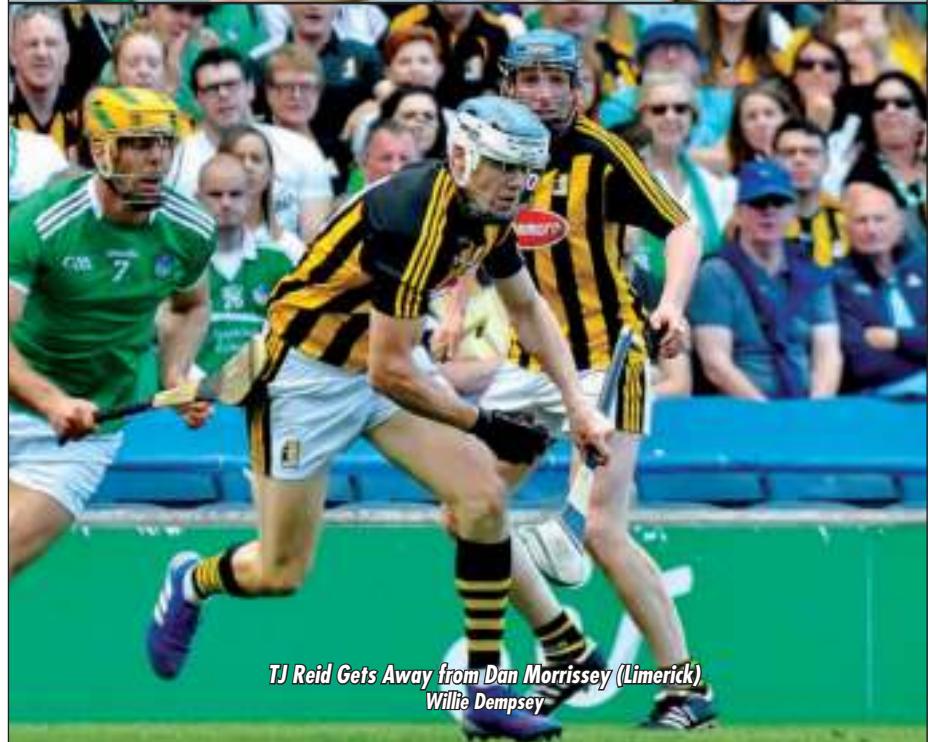
Kilkenny 1-16 Cork 2-15

In a miserable postscript to the campaign, Cork came to Nowlan Park and defeated Kilkenny by two points in one of the most sparsely attended NHL games played at the venue. In a howling and cold wind, Cork made better of the conditions and kept ahead of a very experimental Kilkenny side for the duration. They hit nineteen wides and Eoin Murphy was forced into three outstanding saves. Thus did Kilkenny find themselves at the foot of Div. 1 for the first time in three decades.

Kilkenny; Eoin Murphy, Michael Cody, Paddy Deegan, Ciaran Wallace, Enda Morrissey, Conor O'Shea, Tommy Walsh, James Maher, Conor Browne, Pat Lyng, Alan Murphy, Richie Leahy, Billy Ryan, Richie Hogan, Niall Brassil. Subs; Aidan Nolan for O'Shea, Ger Malone for Lyng, John Donnelly for A. Murphy, Martin Keoghan for Leahy.

Cork; Anthony Nash, Sean O'Donoghue, Damien Cahalane, Darren Browne, Robert Downey, Tim O'Mahony, Mark Coleman, Ger Mellerick, Bill Cooper, Cormac Murphy, Robbie O'Flynn, Luke Meade, Conor Lehane, Aidan Walsh, Shane Kingston. Subs; Jack O'Connor for Walsh, Darragh Fitzgibbon for Murphy, Jamie Coughlan for Kingston.

Ref; James Owens (Wexford).



DARREN BRENNAN



THAT WAS THE **DECADE THAT WAS** - AND IT WASN'T A BAD OUL' DECADE EITHER

By Enda McEvoy (*Irish Examiner*)

Another way of putting it would be to ask this question. Would Kilkenny fans have settled on January 1st 2010 for four MacCarthy Cup triumphs – as many as were yielded by those fabled eras, the 1930s and the 1970s – during the next ten years?

Of course they would have. Given that the noughties constituted a Tutankhamun's tomb of riches for the county, unprecedented and unrepeatable, the decade that followed was always going to bring a hangover. In the event the hangover was little more than a slight headache, a transition from a golden age to a silver age.

Four All Ireland senior titles? We'll have a piece of that, thank you very much.

Two All Ireland minor titles? Not wonderful but acceptable, and in view both of Galway's strength in the grade – the Tribesmen are for a myriad of reasons an outlier at teenage level and one whose consistent success in no way reflects badly on Noreside - and of the manner in which Kilkenny have been the next most prominent county over the past three years, there appears to be cause for quiet optimism in terms of future adult prospects.

On the other hand the Black and Amber have not been All Ireland champions at under-21/under-20 level since 2008, a fact that cannot be regarded as anything other than deeply concerning. The county's 2019 iteration scraped past Wexford in the Leinster final before succumbing lamely to Cork in the All Ireland semi-final. Wexford in their turn shipped eight goals to Tipperary in the other semi-final. Make of this what you will.

In losing to Cork, incidentally, DJ Carey's charges failed to raise a green flag. Par for the course. Scoring goals has become a lost art for Kilkenny teams at all levels. The seniors failed to raise a green flag against Tipperary, which made it a total of three goals in their concluding four games of the summer. In successive provincial finals at Croke Park, come to that, they haven't managed a single goal. As with their

elders against Tipp, so too with the teenagers against Galway earlier in the afternoon. It was perversely fitting that the camogie ladies would also finish their All Ireland final goalless. They're all at it.



In the case of the males, is it a coaching issue? Granted, goalscorers like Eddie Brennan come around only once in a generation, but are youngsters here being instructed to keep the scoreboard ticking over with points instead of putting their head down and going for broke? Goals shape games. Colin Fennelly's early goal shaped the All Ireland semi-final against Limerick, helping to put the underdogs into a lead they'd never lose and ensuring it was the other crowd who had to do the chasing. But there was no goal, either early or late, against Wexford or Tipperary, the upshot being that it was the opposition who shaped proceedings. As a bottom line, because they don't drill opponents with points and have forgotten how to score goals Kilkenny no longer dictate matches. They are constantly reactive, constantly on the back foot, constantly trailing at half-time. One of the first items on the agenda for Brian Cody's new management team should be Goalscoring, and in fluorescent capitals.

A MATTER OF RESOURCES?

Tipperary, incidentally, had 27 people in their backroom this year, among them at least two specific forwards coaches – and that's not to mention Eoin Kelly, who took the forwards for a session from time to time. Kilkenny had 14 people in their backroom. If this constitutes an indication of the direction hurling is taking – Galway in 2017 and Limerick in 2018 had, similar to Tipp, spent ungodly money in winning the All Ireland – then there are grounds for trepidation in these parts. Especially with Cork getting their act together off the field. Especially with Dublin, possessed of monstrous financial and population resources, not much more than one good forward away from being possible Leinster champions and realistic All Ireland semi-final contenders.



*Colin Fennelly of Kilkenny in action against Cathal Barrett of Tipperary during the Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship Final.
Photo by Eoin Noonan/Sportsfile*

In big-picture terms there is still a good deal of credit to be apportioned for 2019. Nobody but Cody could have led this Kilkenny team to an All Ireland final. They overachieved in getting that far, which doesn't mean that the final act was anything less than a bitter disappointment. Remember, they might have departed the championship as early as mid-June, when the concession of an injury-time point in Wexford Park would have finished them off. They were slightly unfortunate when they encountered Davy Fitz's troops again in the Leinster final; this was the archetypal first-goal-wins-it affair except that Kilkenny, as we've seen, no longer do goals. They deserved to beat Limerick but rode their luck in doing so. Against Tipperary they found their level.

Most people feared beforehand that such might prove the case. If it turned into a shootout, just about everyone seemed to acknowledge, Tipp would win. If it was an open game, Tipp would win. If it was close, Kilkenny might grind it out. If they managed to repeat what they'd done against Limerick and choke the life out of their opponents, Kilkenny would win.

See the pattern? Kilkenny the fighters, Tipperary the craftsmen. Kilkenny the team who'd reach a certain scoring quota – 1-22 on a good day, perhaps – and no more, Tipperary whose scoring upside was almost unlimited. Kilkenny seeking to out-scrap the enemy, Tipperary seeking to outhurl them. It was a tacit admission of Kilkenny's lowered status in life and the reduced expectations of their supporters.

Fair enough, it wasn't a 14-point match. With eight minutes to go three scores – all goals, admittedly – separated the protagonists. And Kilkenny brought heart and spirit and determination to the table. Of course they did. But sometimes heart and spirit and determination aren't enough. Particularly when one is reduced to 14 men. Particularly when one is consequently obliged to think one's way around the pitch, to take extra care in moving the sliotar, to sculpt one's deliveries rather than lumping them.

Kilkenny failed abjectly on all these counts. That was the real sting from a Noreside perspective.

Teams down to 14 men have been turning their fortunes around in the second half since time immemorial. They've done so by producing thoughtful, patient, imaginative hurling. Kilkenny did none of that. They produced not thoughtful, patient, imaginative hurling but caveman stuff.

"Of all the teams that could survive a sending-off," a friend of mine mused next day, "we are the most ill equipped tactically and intellectually to deal with such a disadvantage." There can be absolutely no disputing it. We've been here over and over again, dating back to Henry Shefflin's dismissal in the 2013 All-Ireland quarter-final at Semple Stadium. The opposition have an extra defender? Then try going around him instead of lorrying the ball in his general direction and making him look good.

LACK OF INTELLECTUAL RIGOUR

In addition to being unable to score goals, Kilkenny are now unable to intellectualise the game. They're incapable of lateral thinking and they don't seem to want to try. Contrast this with Eamon O'Shea and how he so happily talks about the way the Tipperary forwards "understand structure and space" and how he tries to coach them to be "at one with the ball".

As well as being outhurled by Tipperary, Kilkenny are being out-thought by Tipperary. They beat Limerick because they brought war and thundered into complacent opponents and forced the MacCarthy Cup holders into driving wides (15) that Tipperary wouldn't have driven in a month of Sundays and didn't drive on the third Sunday of August. But success is about more than merely bringing war.

It gives no pleasure to observe, as duty means one must, that the aftermath of the All Ireland final proved a PR disaster for Kilkenny. During their era of absolute dominance under Cody the county were modest and gracious winners. Time and again they won All Irelands without making a song and dance about it or saying the wrong thing – and when they lost they were gracious too, which was only right and proper. This time around, in contrast, the response from Noreside was a long and high-pitched whine. It was unseemly, it became wearing very quickly, it found no sympathy beyond the county borders – why should it have? - and it damaged the brand. Does anyone reckon, by the by, that the chorus of complaint will have endeared Kilkenny to the men in black next season?



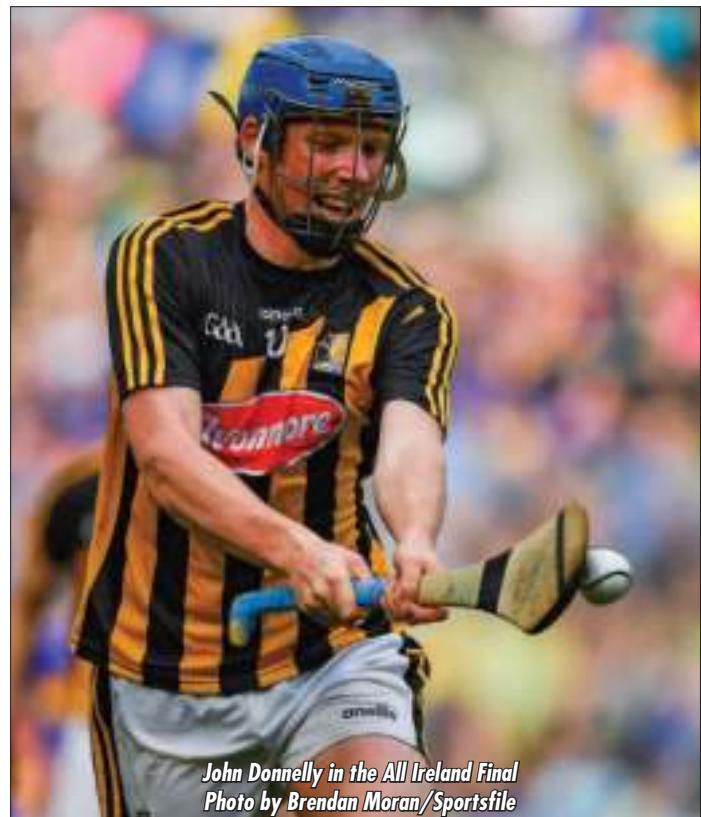
Patrick Horgan of Cork in action against Huw Lawlor of Kilkenny during the quarter-final match between Kilkenny and Cork.
Photo by Ray McManus/Sportsfile



*Conor Brown Determined to clear from Tom Morrissey
Willie Dempsey*



*Referee James Owens shows Richie Hogan of Kilkenny a red card during the All-Ireland Final
Photo by Daire Brennan/Sportsfile*



*John Donnelly in the All Ireland Final
Photo by Brendan Moran/Sportsfile*

All that happened shortly before half-time in the All Ireland final was something that happens all the time in sport. One team got the wrong end of a borderline decision, and in this instance to even term it borderline is being generous. A chap who might have received a yellow card received a red card instead. Thus it goes (and whether Bill Cooper should or shouldn't have received a red card for clotheslining Richie Hogan in the All Ireland quarter-final was sublimely irrelevant). You get on with it and afterwards you bite your tongue. Sometimes you just gotta suck it up. Nobody likes a whinging loser.

Sometimes you gotta acknowledge too that the other crowd are better. Substantially better, in the case of Tipperary in 2019. Superb champions and such a pleasure to watch in full and expansive flow. All those points from distance. All that fluency of stroke and accuracy of shot. Looking at Padraig and Brendan Maher, Noel McGrath and Seamus Callanan in their pomp, the thought occurs that Kilkenny have done extremely well to have won more All Irelands than Tipp in the decade just passing.

Let's finish on an upbeat note. Away from the big arena there was much to satisfy. Ballyhale Shamrocks dazzled in reclaiming the All Ireland club crown. Dunnmaggin had their own big day in Croke Park and a memorable and rewarding one it was. St Kieran's were colleges kings yet again. And TJ Reid franked his status as a superstar; he was scintillating in his Hurler of the Year summer in 2015 but even better – his contribution broader and richer and deeper, in accordance with his county's needs – in 2019.

For all the ochóning I've done about the lack of goals, moreover, perhaps 2019 was the season Kilkenny bottomed out in terms of sourcing scores from play. Adrian Mullen justified the hype in his debut season. John Donnelly, still only 21, had a fine All Ireland final. Billy Ryan has not yet nailed down a permanent starting berth but with enlightened coaching ought to be able to do so in 2020, with his pace a quality acutely required. The manager needed to freshen up his backroom team – needed, on the evidence of the second half of the All Ireland final, to rethink his entire approach to how Kilkenny go about their business inside the white lines – and he wasn't found wanting. This shouldn't have come as a surprise. A look back over the past 20 years shows us that Cody is far more flexible than people like to think.

He has reached another inflection point in his managerial career. A new decade demands a new way of thinking and a complete rewiring of the car. Watching how Cody goes about tackling the task in 2020 will make for fascinating viewing.

KILKENNY'S DECADE 2010 - 2019

(All Ireland Wins in Colour)

Senior Hurling

2010	Tipperary 4-17, Kilkenny 1-18. (Leinster Champions)
2011	Kilkenny 2-17, Tipperary 1-16. (Leinster Champions)
2012	Kilkenny 3-22, Galway 3-11.
2013	Beaten by Cork in Quarter Final
2014	Kilkenny 3-22, Tipperary 1-28. (Leinster Champions)
2015	Kilkenny 2-17, Tipperary 2-14.
2016	Kilkenny 1-22, Galway 1-18. (Leinster Champions)
2017	Tipperary 2-29, Kilkenny 2-20 (Leinster Champions)
2018	Beaten by Waterford in Qualifiers (a.e.t.)
2019	Beaten by Limerick in Quarter Final
	Tipperary 3-25, Kilkenny 0-20

U20/21 Hurling

2010	Beaten by Dublin in Leinster Semi Final
2011	Beaten by Wexford in Leinster Quarter Final
2012	Clare 2-17, Kilkenny 2-11 (All Ireland Final)
2013	Beaten by Wexford in Leinster Final
2014	Beaten by Wexford in Leinster Quarter Final
2015	Beaten by Wexford in Leinster Final
2016	Beaten by Westmeath in Leinster Quarter Final
2017	Limerick 2-23, Kilkenny 2-18 (All Ireland Final)
2018	Beaten by Galway in Leinster Semi Final
2019	Beaten by Cork in All Ireland Semi Final Final

Minor Hurling

2010	Kilkenny 2-10, Clare 0-14
2011	Beaten by Waterford in All Ireland Quarter Final
2012	Beaten by Dublin in Leinster Semi Final
2013	Beaten by Waterford in All Ireland Semi Final
2014	Kilkenny 2-17, Limerick 0-19
2015	Beaten by Galway in All Ireland Semi Final replay
2016	Beaten by Dublin in Leinster Semi Final (a.e.t.)
2017	Beaten by Galway in All Ireland Semi Final
2018	Galway 0-21, Kilkenny 0-14 (All Ireland Final)
2019	Galway 3-14, Kilkenny 0-12 (All Ireland Final)

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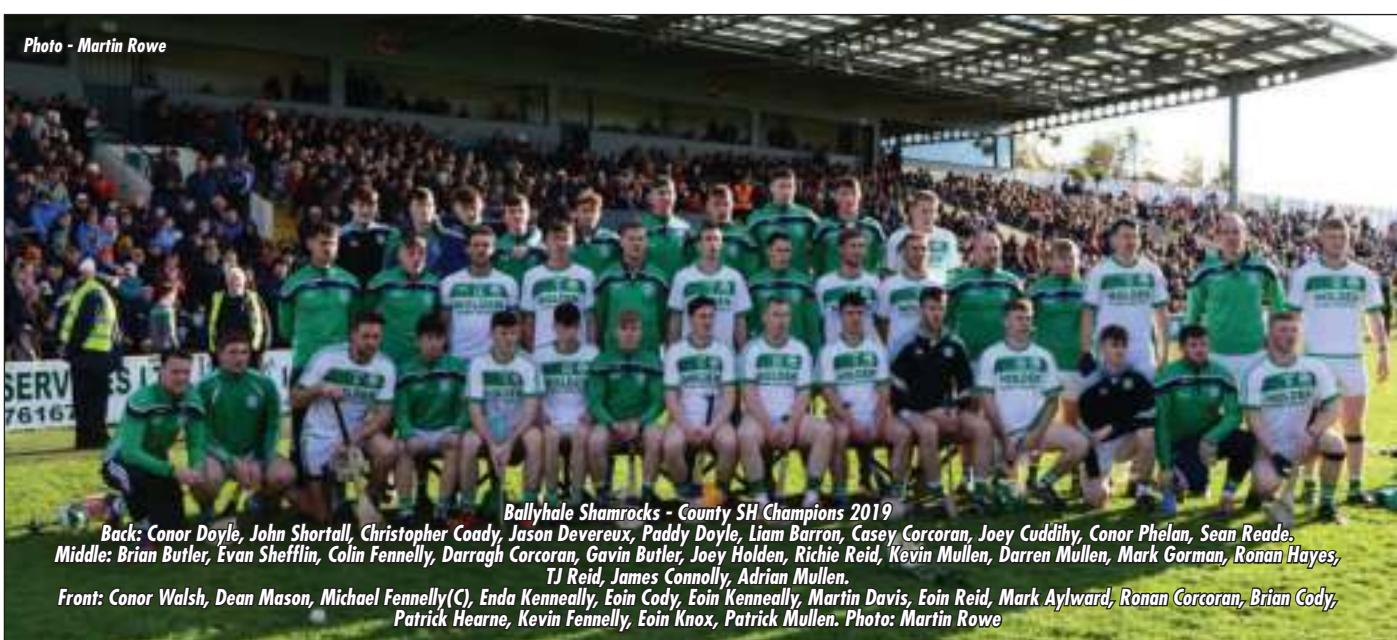
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Unstoppable SHAMROCKS!

County Senior Hurling Report by Tommy Lanigan

Photo - Martin Rowe



Ballyhale Shamrocks - County SH Champions 2019

Back: Conor Doyle, John Shortall, Christopher Coady, Jason Devereux, Paddy Doyle, Liam Barron, Casey Corcoran, Joey Cuddihy, Conor Phelan, Sean Reade.
Middle: Brian Butler, Evan Shefflin, Colin Fennelly, Darragh Corcoran, Gavin Butler, Joey Holden, Richie Reid, Kevin Mullen, Darren Mullen, Mark Gorman, Ronan Hayes, TJ Reid, James Connolly, Adrian Mullen.
Front: Conor Walsh, Dean Mason, Michael Fennelly(C), Enda Kenneally, Eoin Cody, Eoin Kenneally, Martin Davis, Eoin Reid, Mark Aylward, Ronan Corcoran, Brian Cody, Patrick Hearne, Kevin Fennelly, Eoin Knox, Patrick Mullen. Photo: Martin Rowe

Ballyhale Shamrocks won their 17th Tom Walsh Cup courtesy of one of the easiest campaigns they have ever experienced. There are two sides to that contention. First the ease with which they calmly plotted their way to victory points to the clubs remarkable achievement of blending half a dozen youngsters into the team and enabling them to play like veterans. Rarely have they reached such supernal levels of skill, power and craft as in the latter stages of 2019. Their county final performance has shown improvement on their magnificent All Ireland Club championship performance on St. Patrick's Day. The local opposition must surely wonder how on earth they may be overcome. James Stephens certainly didn't have the firepower, strength or craft to challenge them seriously in the county final.

The other side of that contention is where was the viable opposition? James Stephens made it to the final on merit, admittedly through the easier side of the draw, having avoided the other city teams and Clara. But one could seek other viable opposition in vain.

A blistering five minute start by the Village thanks to a top class Tadhg Dwyer goal and a few points to follow gave us hope of a contest. The following twenty minutes illustrated the greatness of Reid and Co. Shamrocks scored 1-10 mostly from play and missed six more easy points to their rivals two. All that without moving above third gear. The

Village plan of Eoin Larkin at centre back / sweeper was shot to bits by Shamrocks changing the point of their attack to either wing and by passing the potential stumbling block. They delighted the 9500 crowd with a display of pinpoint cross-field stick passing and direct running. Credit to the Village who hung in grimly and reduced the deficit to three points by the fortieth minute. Within two minutes the match ended as a contest when Eoin Cody finished a wonderful move started by Colin Fennelly and continued by TJ. The latter's thirty metre pass through the narrowest of gaps to Cody was the highlight of the game and a microcosm of the Shamrocks wonderful tactical and technical nous. The final tally of 2-21 to 1-15 could easily have reached 5-28 if their radar had not been their only flaw on the day.

To win a senior championship a team needs to be very strong in physique, possess a pacey and fruitful attack and almost every player capable of winning the dirty balls. Recent history has shown they need more than one plan of attack. Who might possess these over the next five years? Of the current contenders, none seem to be equipped with all of these traits but we all live in hope!

In reality, for many years there are two distinct categories of senior team. There are at most four who in any year might be called contenders. The remainder too often are content to avoid relegation and aim to cause



No way through!

Matthew Ruth of James Stephens in action against Richie Reid, 7, Colin Fennelly and Michael Fennelly, 6, of Ballyhale Shamrocks.
Photo by Ray McManus/Sportsfile



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Ballyhale Shamrocks Captain Michael Fennelly is presented with the St. Canices (Kilkenny) Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship cup by Eamon McArdle, President, St. Canice's (Kilkenny) Credit Union and Jimmy Walsh, Chairman, Kilkenny County Board, after the Final in Nowlan Park.
(Photo: Martin Rowe)

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James Stephens reversed last year's result against Erins Own in a dour struggle in Nowlan Park. Comer, depending far too much on Michael Murphy in attack posed a very limited threat while the small and lively Village forwards moved with purpose. Shamrocks went straight down the middle against O'Loughlins for twenty six minutes without result. Then a superb goal from Eoin Cody opened the flood-gates and by half time few in the 'Park could see any outcome other than the inevitable Shamrocks cruise to victory.

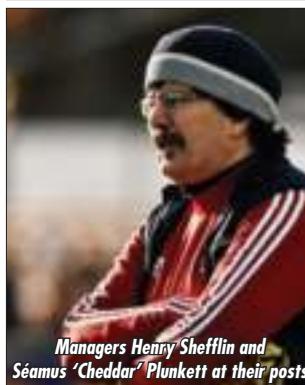
FUTURE PROSPECTS

St. Patrick's Ballyragget fell to Bennettsbridge in the relegation final. The Ballyragget lads have been working for a long time from a small panel of willing players and depending on Kevin Kelly's free-taking. However in his absence they wilted and offered little threat to the 'Bridge men. They are certainly a senior team when all troops are fit and sound but will need to get back to the top table very soon.

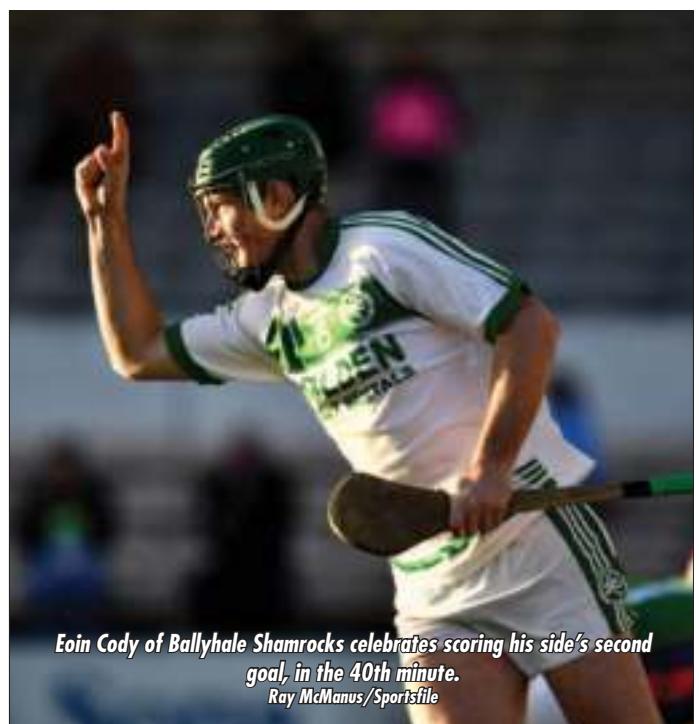
Most disappointing team this year was the 'Bridge. They have several county panellists, many good young hurlers and in Nicky Cleere one of the best free-takers in the game. Only they know what caused their tilt at relegation this year but they need to fix it rapidly. There is little mercy in senior hurling. Danesfort stayed well away from relegation this year

thanks to an early defeat of Dicksboro but they too have hovered on the brink and as we noted so often before, the Hogans have carried too much of a burden for too long. The welcome return of Tullaroan next year will pose a threat the senior status of quite a few.

Self-belief, good organisation and astute coaching are essentials for all teams, particularly the lesser lights. If any of these ingredients is missing then relegation darkly beckons. The power will continue to reside in Ballyhale and the city for different reasons, one for the hard-wired brilliance of generations, the other for the commitment of the city clubs to top class underage set-ups that produce a conveyor belt of young talent. Their problem is that none of them allow the talent to develop by giving a youngster two years to learn the ropes of seriously competitive hurling. Dropping a young player after a bad game is an easier call when there are others waiting on the bench. The rural clubs don't have that luxury and are better for their perceived scarcity of numbers.



Managers Henry Shefflin and Séamus 'Cheddar' Plunkett at their posts

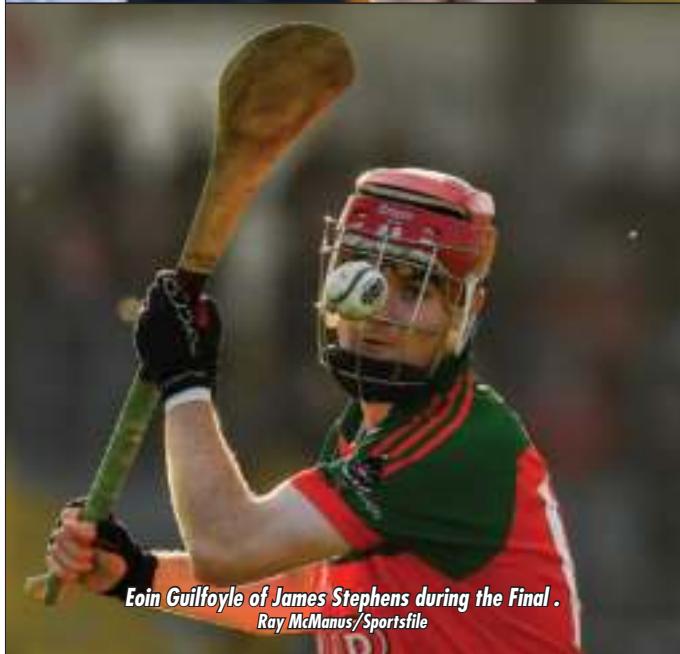


Eoin Cody of Ballyhale Shamrocks celebrates scoring his side's second goal, in the 40th minute.
Ray McManus/Sportsfile

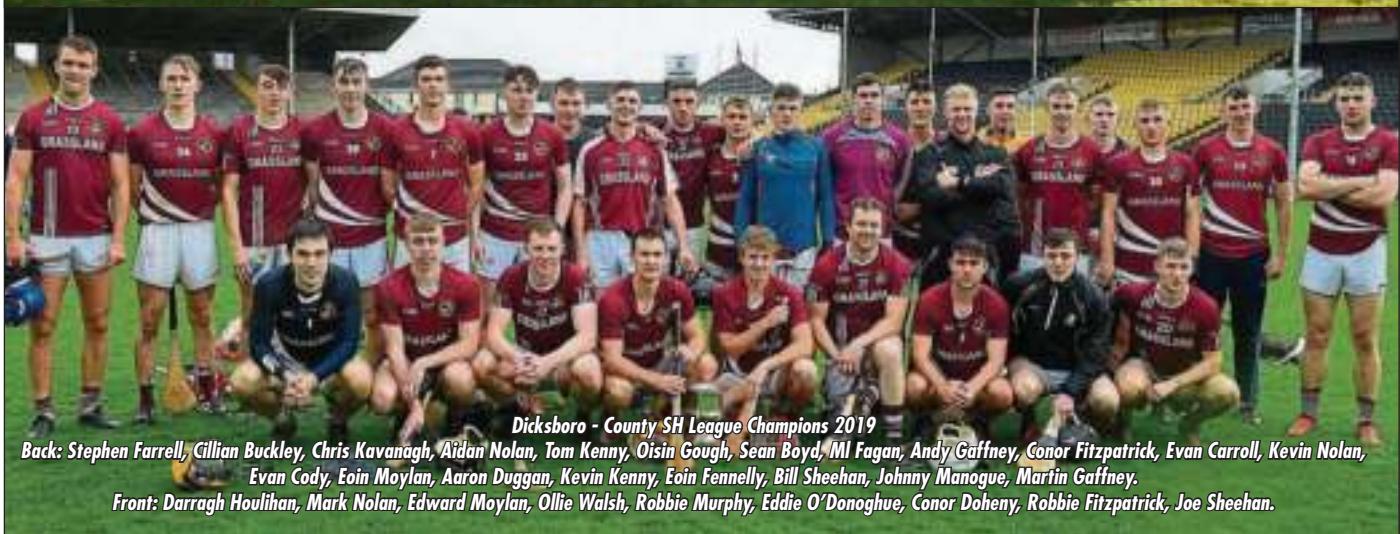
ST CANICE'S CREDIT UNION SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2019			
1st ROUND			
B'hale Shamrocks	5-27	St. Patrick's, Ballyragget	2-16
Erins Own	3-18	Bennettsbridge	2-9
Clara	3-10	Danesfort	1-14
Mullinavat	0-13	Graigue-Ballycallan	1-10 (Draw)
Mullinavat	1-18	Graigue-Ballycallan	1-13 (replay)
QUARTER-FINALS			
Erins Own	1-8	Dicksboro	1-6
James Stephens	0-19	Rower-Inistioge	0-15
B'hale Shamrocks	1-19	Clara	0-17
O'Loughlin Gaels	0-12	Mullinavat	0-12 (draw)
O'Loughlin Gaels	1-14	Mullinavat	0-13 (replay).
SEMI-FINALS			
James Stephens	1-15	Erins Own	2-9
B'hale Shamrocks	2-20	O'Loughlin Gaels	1-14
RELEGATION FINAL			
St. Patrick's	1-16	Bennettsbridge	1-23
FINAL			
B'hale Shamrocks	2-21	James Stephens	1-15.



T.J. Reid of Ballyhale Shamrocks in action against Jack McGrath of James Stephens
Ray McManus/Sportsfile



Eoin Guilfoyle of James Stephens during the Final .
Ray McManus/Sportsfile



a surprise in the knockout stages. They are unable to cause two surprises.

LEAGUE COMPETITION

While fixture makers continue to struggle with the new intercounty format and its generally negative effect on club competition, this year saw more matches being played earlier in the year than previously, despite Kilkenny's run to the All Ireland final. There are many who contend with some justification that players are better off playing more robust club competition than inter county training, much and all as the latter is lauded.

Final League placings matter to most teams since nobody wants to be trapped among the bottom four who are condemned to potential relegation stakes. Shamrocks are the notable exception. Following their long campaign to victory in the All Ireland club championship, they took a break and sauntered through the early rounds of the league finishing second last in their group. Having to play a championship first round hasn't hindered their development in the past two years, nor is it likely to do so in the future.

There is little point detailing the various permutations that existed through early Spring and Summer. Suffice to say the quality of fare throughout the league was quite poor with a few notable exceptions. Rower-Inistioge came from a poor start to perform reasonably well.

O'Loughlins and the 'Boro won most of their games through doggedness and good free taking. The Village turned around two awful displays by catching Shamrocks at their most vulnerable and trimmed them by nine points. In hindsight it might not have been a clever idea. When the championship arrived, Shamrocks trounced St. Patrick's Ballyragget as they did in 2018. Erins Own demolished a very poor Bennettsbridge side, of whom there had been much expectation after last year's county final appearance. Clara, retaining a large number of players heading into their fourth decade, struggled past Danesfort. Mullinavat took two attempts to get past a very young and inexperienced Graigue-Ballycallyan side for whom James Ryall continued to roll back the years.

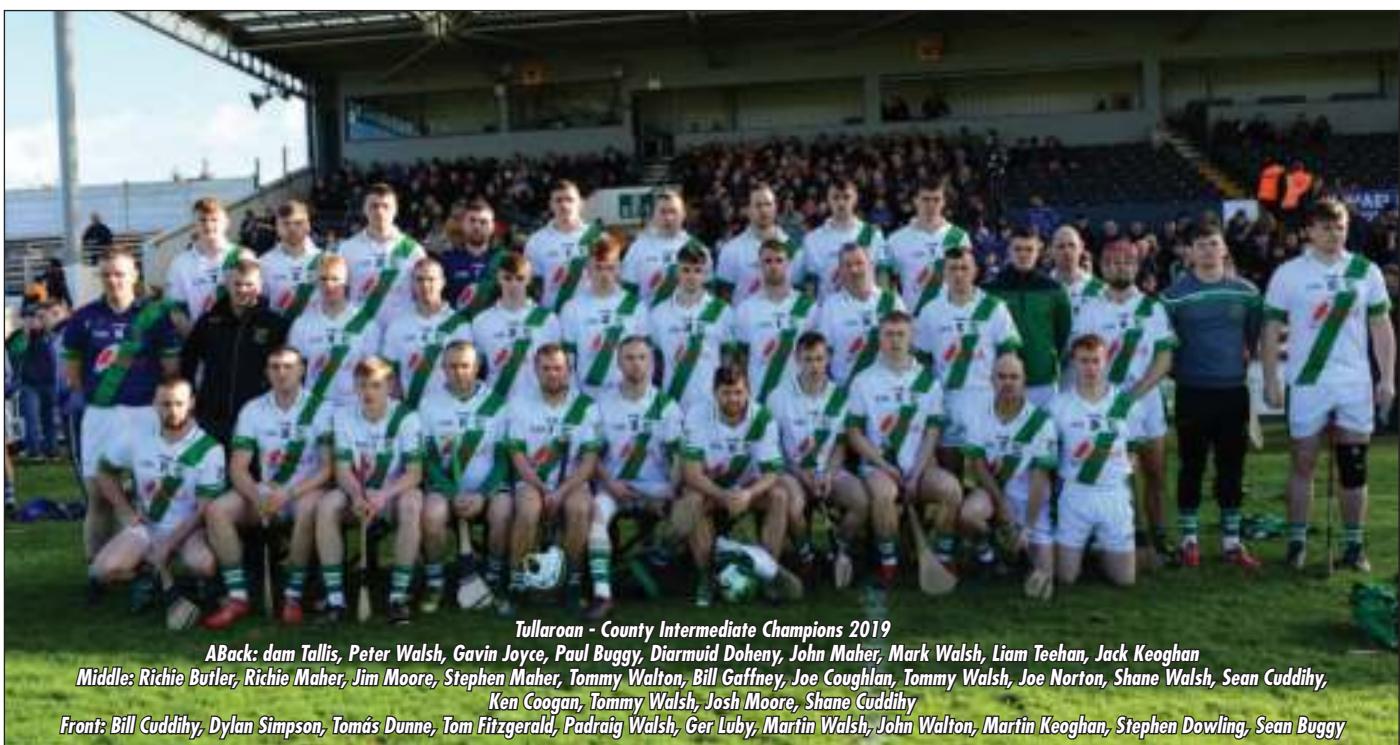
Erins Own and Dicksboro played the first quarter final through one of the worst rain storms of the year. The 'Comer side adapted best to conditions and only when the 'Boro brought on the Gaffney brothers could they gain traction. Comer hung on grimly and seemed to have good prospects going forward. The Village saw off an improving Rower-Inistioge side but looked none too comfortable as the Southerners launched late attacks. O'Loughlins took two games to see off Mullinavat, thanks mainly to the accuracy of Mark Bergin from placed balls as the 'Vat men paid the price for a low scoring campaign.

The best quarter final game saw Clara lead the Shamrocks well into the second half until a magical display from TJ Reid saw the champions home with some comfort. It was the best quality game all year.



TULLAROAN ARE BACK!

County Intermediate Hurling Report Conor Brennan



Tullaroan - County Intermediate Champions 2019

*ABack: dam Tallis, Peter Walsh, Gavin Joyce, Paul Buggy, Diarmuid Doheny, John Maher, Mark Walsh, Liam Teehan, Jack Keoghan
Middle: Richie Butler, Richie Maher, Jim Moore, Stephen Maher, Tommy Walton, Bill Gaffney, Joe Coughlan, Tommy Walsh, Joe Norton, Shane Walsh, Sean Cuddihy, Ken Coogan, Tommy Walsh, Josh Moore, Shane Cuddihy
Front: Bill Cuddihy, Dylan Simpson, Tomás Dunne, Tom Fitzgerald, Padraig Walsh, Ger Luby, Martin Walsh, John Walton, Martin Keoghan, Stephen Dowling, Sean Buggy*

It was there for all to see. The emotion, the tears of joy from men, women and children. The Tullaroan hurling story is a long and fabled one, with the more recent chapters detailing disappointment rather than delight. However, the 2019 chapter will be one that Tullaroan people will be sure to return to in their mind's eye again and again as a tale of persistence and belief, that one day, their chance will come. For having been within touching distance of ultimate success for a number of years, and with the weight of expectation and favouritism lying heavily on their collective shoulders, the wave of relief together with unbridled joy as the final whistle blew on county final day said more than words ever possibly could.

It appeared only a couple of months prior to this that the same potential for disappointment could await Tullaroan once again. Having been in a winning position against Thomastown in the Michael Lyng Motors League Final, they succumbed to defeat once more, handing Thomastown a dramatic 3-19 to 3-18 victory. And it was fair to say as the championship first rounds got underway, with the nature of the league results also proving hard to predict in the vast majority of cases, it was never going to be a championship that would generate an obvious winner.

The first of those aforementioned first round clashes saw last year's junior champions, Dunnamaggan, face Tulloher Rosbercon in Ballyhale. Dunnamaggan enjoyed an ideal start with an early goal from Adam Fitzpatrick but Tulloher fought back with a goal of their own from Walter Walsh. Despite this, Dunnamaggan held a 1-7 to 1-5 lead at the interval. Tulloher continued to battle hard in the early stages of the second half, and did manage to level the score ten minutes into the half. But the momentum of play was with Dunnamaggan as the game entered the final quarter, and with Willie Phelan particularly prominent from long range frees, they opened up a five point lead. Tulloher could only muster another point, as Dunnamaggan deservedly advanced on a 1-16 to 1-12 scoreline, sending Tulloher directly into the relegation battle.



*Tullaroan captain Shane Walsh lifts the cup
Stephen O'Brien/SPORTSFILM*

Whoever joined Tulloher in that battle would be decided by the clash between Fenians and John Lockes in Tom Ryall Park. Goals were the order of the day from both sides with each side netting three times each by the early stages of the second half. The Johnstown men initially led by 3-4 to 1-7 at half-time before the Callan men scored two further goals, including a penalty from Ryan Bergin, within the opening minutes of the second half to take the lead. But credit must go the Fenians, who showed great composure, to retake the lead. John Lockes did manage to score a fourth goal through Brian Doheny to go ahead and create a grand stand finish. But the final minutes proved to be all about the Fenians, as they scored five consecutive points without reply, to win out by 3-15 to 4-9.

A team with the potential for a positive future are Young Irelands, and they met Carrickshock in their opening round game in Thomastown. The Gowran quickly settled into the game and some well taken scores, including goals from Sean Carey and a JP Treacy free saw them lead by 2-12 to 0-7 at the half-way mark. Though Carrickshock did attempt to fight their way back into the game, there was no denying who were the better side. A third Gowran goal from Paul Holden confirmed their supremacy and eventually they won out on a 3-19 to 2-10 score line.

An intriguing clash in the first round was the game between Glenmore and Lisdowney played in Bennettsbridge. An early goal from Vinny Fitzpatrick gave Lisdowney an ideal start and both sides then went point for point for the remainder of the half, which left the Northerners

leading by 1-8 to 0-9. Glenmore then enjoyed a period of dominance scoring five points without replay and holding Lisdowney scoreless for twenty minutes. There were a few nervous moments for both sides, but with Glenmore's county players Ger Aylward, Eoin Murphy and Alan Murphy to the fore, the Southerners were able to hold on for a 0-17 to 1-11 victory.

MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS HYUNDAI



The Winning Team!



Tullaroan Captain, Shane Walsh 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 in Nowlan Park. (Photo: Martin Rowe)

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The quarter final draw saw St. Lachtain's take on Dunnamaggin, Tullaroan face the Fenians, an intriguing pairing of St. Martin's and Young Irelands, and league champions Thomastown play Glenmore. It took a replay to separate St. Lachtain's and Dunnamaggin, with the sides finishing level at 2-17 apiece. Dunnamaggin were dominant in the early stages, and led by 0-9 to 0-3, before the Freshford men fought back to level the scores at 1-7 to 0-10 at the break, thanks mainly to a late goal from Shane Donnelly. With ten minutes to go, a second Freshford goal from Noel McGree gave Freshford the lead, but with practically the last puck of the game, a cross from Ronan Coffey and flicked to the net by Conor Hoban to give Dunnamaggin a share of the spoils. The replay was a far more conclusive result, with St. Lachtain's leading by 0-14 to 0-3 at the interval, and eventually winning by 2-19 to 0-13.

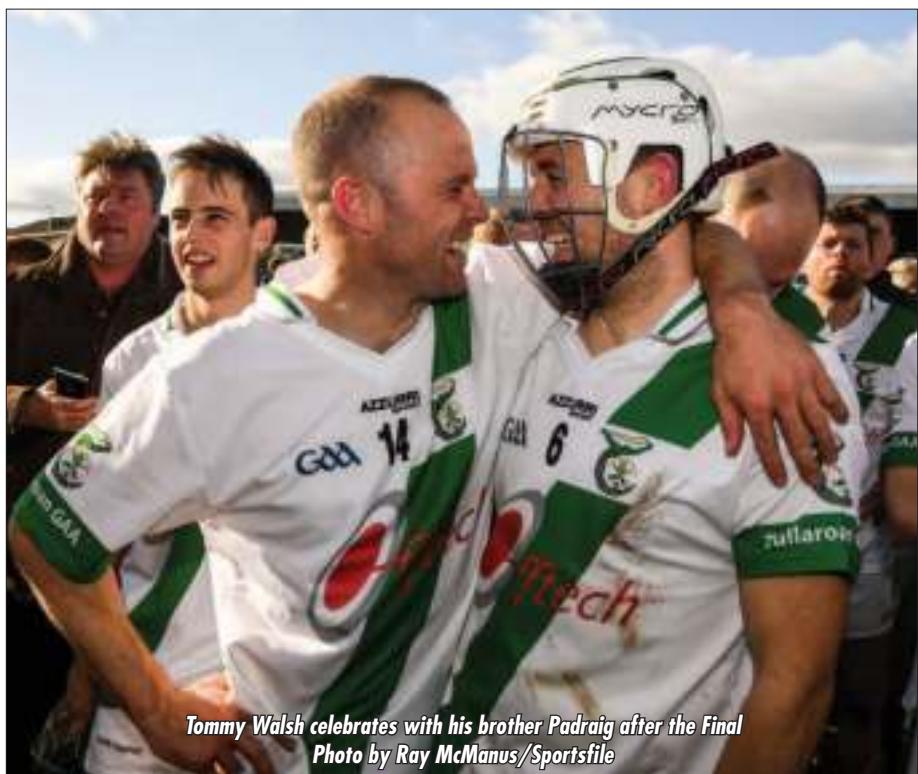
The game between Tullaroan and the Fenians proved to be especially one sided, with the league finalists making a serious statement

of intent in winning by 3-17 to 1-5. They led by 2-10 to 1-2 at the break, with goals from Bill Gaffney and Peter Walsh. A third goal from Tommy Walsh merely confirmed their dominance as they cruised to a fine victory.

A replay was also required to separate Young Irelands and St. Martin's in Clara. Both sides could have pointed to opportunities to win the game, but little separated the sides throughout the entire game. The sides were also level at 0-9 apiece at half-time, but when Brian Cody scored a well taken goal for the St. Martin's men midway through the second half, it looked to be a key score as it gave them a 1-12 to 0-11 lead. But the Gowran men fought back to level thanks to Paul Holden and sub Padraig O'Neill, and both sides looked to take the lead from there on, but were wayward in

their shooting. As a result, a draw was the fairest outcome (1-15 to 0-18). The replay was played in desperate weather conditions and credit must go to both teams for coping in such circumstances. Normal time was still not enough to separate them as they were level at 0-12 apiece. But Young Irelands proceeded to dominate the extra-time, scoring 1-4 without reply, the goal coming from Paul Holden, and deservedly winning by 1-16 to 0-12.

Thomastown had no issue in seeing off Glenmore in their quarter-final clash in Inistioge. Two first half goals from Jonjo Farrell and Thomas O'Hanrahan gave them a 2-9 to 0-11 lead at the interval. But it was in the second half that they showed their real form, with Robbie, Stephen and John Donnelly getting key scores throughout the half, the





Midfield action from the Intermediate Final

latter scoring Thomastown's third goal. Glenmore had little response to the fluidity of the Thomastown attack and although Mark Aylward did score a goal for them, it was merely a consolation. Thomastown had made their dominance tell and were winners by 3-24 to 1-15.

The semi-final pairings brought together Tullaroan with Young Irelands and St. Lachtain's against Thomastown. The opening game proved to be a thrilling affair, with both sides having moments of superiority throughout. As perceived underdogs, Young Irelands started well, but missed chances were far too frequent for their liking. Tullaroan took full advantage to lead by 0-9 to 0-4, with Tommy Walsh showing all his experience to lead the Tullaroan attack in impressive style. But the Gowran men eventually found their way, and a goal from Sean Kehoe eventually brought them back level. A late 65 from Tullaroan's Shane Walsh, did give them the lead once again at half-time approached (0-10 to 1-6).

There was little between the sides during the third quarter as both sides cancelled each other out. A goal from Peter Walsh certainly helped the Tullaroan cause as the final minutes approached. This was the key stage of the game when either side had the winning of it, and it was Tullaroan who took the opportunity with a scoring burst of 1-2, the goal coming from Peter Walsh once again. Young Irelands did score a goal through Paul Holden in the third minute of injury time, but it was too late to add further to the tally, as Tullaroan breathed a collective sigh of relief in winning by 2-17 to 2-15.

Robbie Donnelly was the main Thomastown hero as they dominated the second half to overcome a disappointing St. Lachtain's in the second semi-final. The first half saw both teams cancel each other out in what was a far from eventful opening half, with Thomastown ending the half with a single point lead (0-7 to 0-6). But the aforementioned Donnelly then showed his class with seven points against a single reply from Freshford's James Maher to open up a 0-14 to 0-8 lead. A goal from Jonjo Farrell with ten minutes to play proved the key score. Freshford did score a late goal from Noel McGree, but it was not enough, as Thomastown advanced on a 1-21 to 1-10 score line.

The hope of a high standard final was high, on the basis of the league final played weeks before, and so it proved. Tullaroan opened on the front foot and were very positive from the off. After an early exchange of points, they showed their typical determined attitude and were well worth their lead of 0-5 to 0-2, the highlight being a fine score from defender Stephen Maher. Things got even better on the quarter hour when Peter Walsh fielded a high delivery from Padraig Walsh before drilling a powerful shot to the net to make the score 1-5 to 0-4.

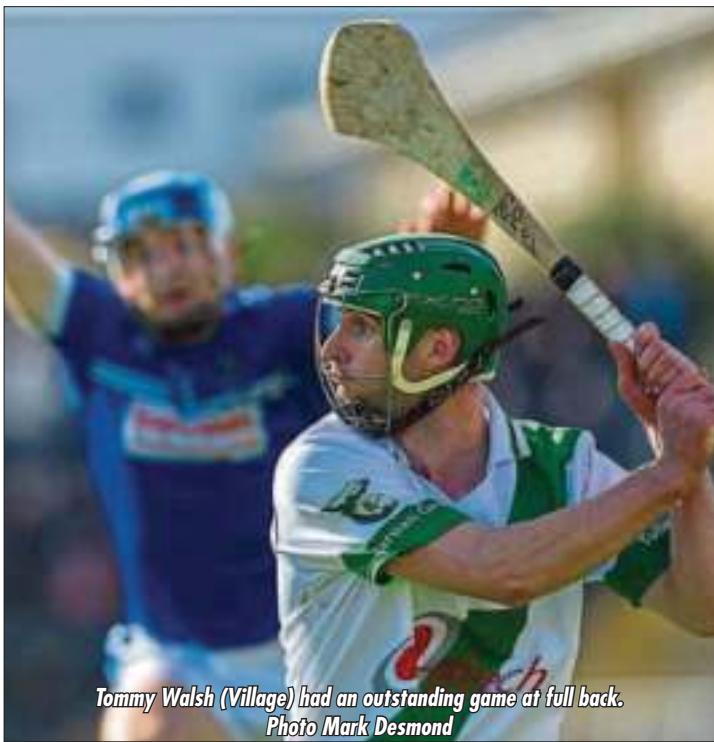
Thomastown, with the help of five points from frees by Robbie Donnelly, forced their back in the game to only be a single point in arrears (1-6 to 0-8). But once again, Tullaroan came back fighting and a second goal from Peter Walsh helped them into a well deserved half time lead of 2-8 to 0-10. Thomastown were backed by the stiffening wind

the second half and they certainly made this advantage count, scoring from long range on a number of occasions. When John Donnelly pointed for Thomastown, it reduced the gap to a single score once again (2-13 to 0-18). But Tullaroan, with their recent history of disappointing defeats from a winning position, weren't going to let it happen this time. It was apt that Tommy Walsh, who was attempting to match his father's achievement of winning a county title at the age of 36, read a back pass by a defender and intercepted the ball before shooting to the net and extending Tullaroan's lead to 3-14 to 0-18. Thomastown desperately tried to make their way back once again, but the goal one felt they needed never came, thanks in no small way to the performance of the Tullaroan full back line, led by the junior but no less important Tommy Walsh. The final score of 3-18 to 0-21 was justifiably fair in the end, and even the most ardent Thomastown supporter could not disagree.

Following the scenes of high emotion, it was left to Tullaroan team captain Shane Walsh to sum up the biggest day in Tullaroan's history in 25 years, and in true style, he did so with typical gusto as he received the Hanrahan Cup. A weight had been lifted.



Peter Walsh (Tullaroan) threatens the goal of Paul Barron (Thomastown) during the intermediate hurling final.



*Tommy Walsh (Village) had an outstanding game at full back.
Photo Mark Desmond*

MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

1ST ROUND

Dunnamagglin	1-16	Tullogher-Rosbercon	1-12
Fenians	3-15	John Lockes	4-9
Glenmore	0-17	Lisdowney	1-11
Young Irelands	3-19	Carrickshock	2-10

QUARTER-FINALS

St. Lachtain's	2-17	Dunnamagglin	2-17
St. Lachtain's	2-19	Dunnamagglin	0-13
Tullaroan	3-17	Fenians	1-5
St. Martin's	1-15	Young Irelands	0-18
Young Irelands	1-16	St. Martin's	0-12 (AET)
Thomastown	3-24	Glenmore	1-15

SEMI-FINALS

Tullaroan	2-17	Young Irelands	2-15
Thomastown	1-21	St. Lachtain's	1-10

RELEGATION FINAL

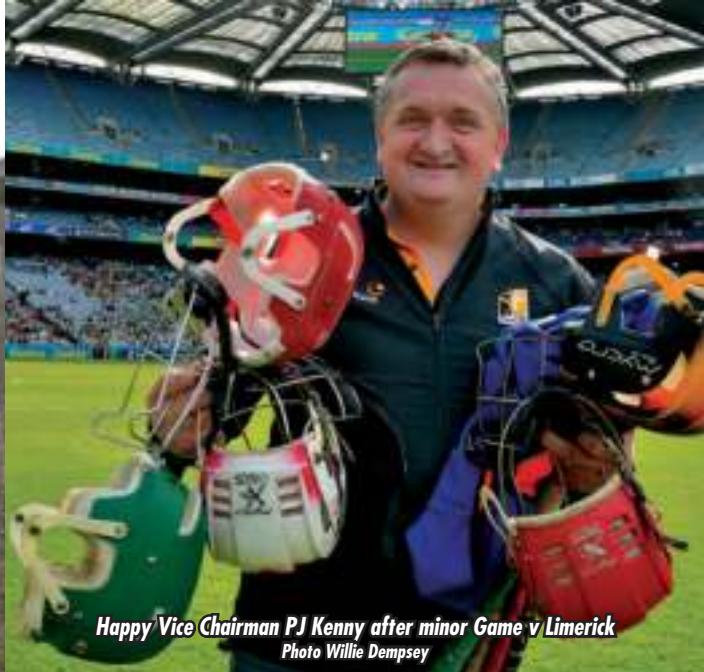
John Lockes	1-10	Tullogher-Rosbercon	1-9
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FINAL

Tullaroan	3-18	Thomastown	0-21
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Bad Day for Business.....



*Happy Vice Chairman PJ Kenny after minor Game v Limerick
Photo Willie Dempsey*

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Loughlin's take the Premier Title

Photos Willie Dempsey

County Junior Hurling Report by John Stapleton



O'Loughlin Gaels - County Junior Champions 2019

Back: Oisin Murphy, Dacel Fwamba, Ben Maher, Owen Wall.

Middle: Kevin Murphy, Gary Kelly, John Doyle, Jamie Ryan, Andy Cantwell, Niall Higgins, Daniel O'Connor, Ross Butler, Ben Tyrrell, Barry Lawlor, Jack Kearns, David Fogarty.

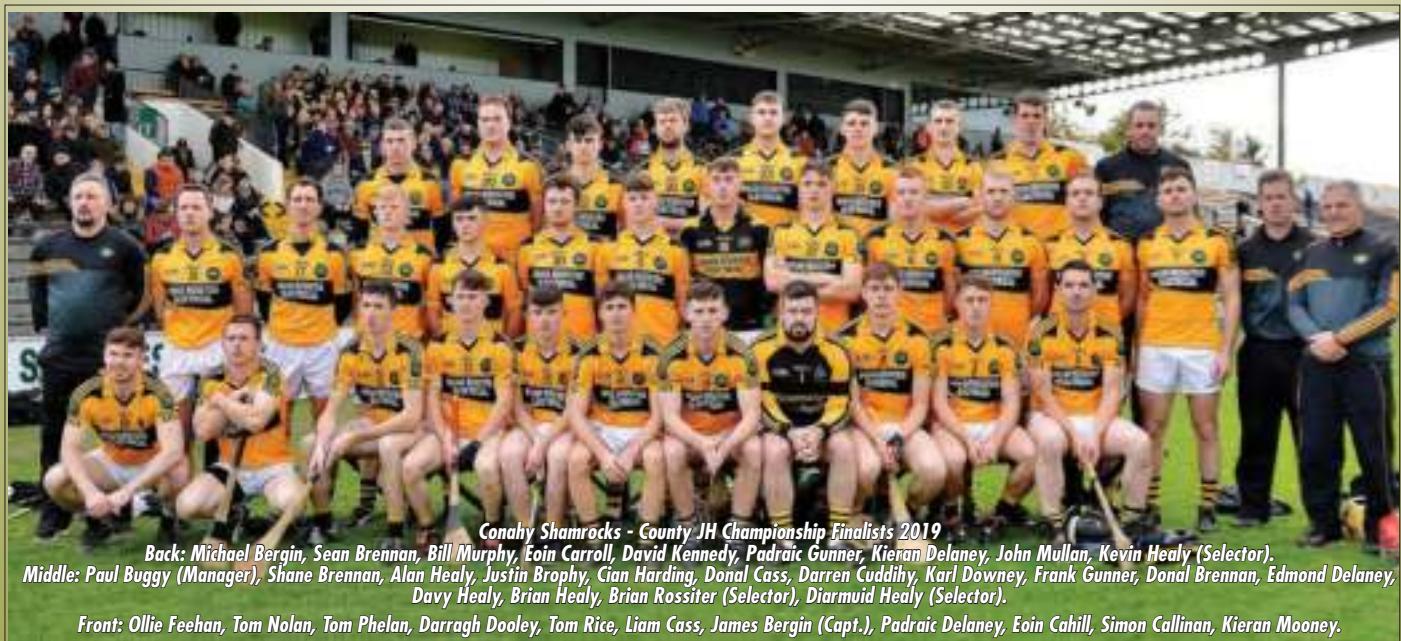
Front: Mark Twomey, Jamie Young, Conor Kelly, Evan Walsh, Sammy Johnston (Capt.), Ferghal Brennan, Billy Leydon, Odhrán Lawlor.

It is a well known fact when starting into a new venture of any type it is best advised to take baby steps first before increasing the stride in your walk or gallop. 2018 was the first big year for the newly established Kilkenny Junior Board and, for all, it was a new experience, being charged with the running of 'All County' competitions. This year the Junior Board really got into its stride and even though it has been a very busy one, the board and fixtures committees managed to have all adult competitions except for the Junior 'A' League final completed before the major Senior, Intermediate and Junior championships kicked into action. This was a major achievement considering the amount of competitions the Board is charged with, but no task was too challenging for the officers of the Board, John Lacey Chairperson, Pat Dunphy Vice-Chairperson, Ned Buggy Secretary, Paul Kavanagh Treasurer and John Stapleton PRO. The premier competition was the J.J. Kavanagh & Sons junior championship. This from the start was a very evenly balanced competition with some serious contenders hoping to reach the summit. Mooncoin and Barrow Rangers were everyone's fancy to win the Junior Championship, but as we all know the best laid plans don't always pan out and Mooncoin suffered a heavy defeat in the second round to the eventual finalists Conahy Shamrocks. The Jenkinstown men were impressive in all their rounds with impressive wins over Kilmacow, the aforementioned Mooncoin, and in the semi-final against Sliieverue. Barrow Rangers were the other favourites and looked odds-on to reach the final. They inflicted heavy defeats on Cloneen and

then Piltown in the quarter-final and were pitted against O'Loughlin Gaels junior team in the semi-final, who had a difficult and very competitive journey through the Section 'B' Junior championship. This semi-final was an epic affair throughout the 60 minutes, but as the saying goes, 'goals win games', and the four goals O'Loughlin's scored proved to be the difference in the end and so they arrived in the final against neighboring parish Conahy Shamrocks. O'Loughlin Gaels had narrowly missed out in the 2017 final against John Lockes of Callan and came back to the 2019 final on Sunday 20th November looking to make amends, as John Knox of the Kilkenny People reports;

"O'Loughlin Gaels were made earn their keep all the way, but they showed a great appetite for battle when winning the junior hurling championship final. This O'Loughlin's crew lit up the championship in recent weeks with some high-scoring efforts.

It was the same in UPMC Nowlan Park on Sunday when they got the better of Conahy Shamrocks. The gap between the teams never grew greater than two points during the absorbing, nerve-testing closing 20 minutes. The winners cut out the pace but game Conahy kept within striking distance. The closing chapter was reached in the 64th minute and it featured Conahy going for broke from one last, close-in free.



Conahy Shamrocks - County JH Championship Finalists 2019

Back: Michael Bergin, Sean Brennan, Bill Murphy, Eoin Carroll, David Kennedy, Padraig Gunner, Kieran Delaney, John Mullan, Kevin Healy (Selector).

Middle: Paul Buggy (Manager), Shane Brennan, Alan Healy, Justin Brophy, Cian Harding, Donal Cass, Darren Cuddihy, Karl Downey, Frank Gunner, Donal Brennan, Edmond Delaney, Davy Healy, Brian Healy, Brian Rossiter (Selector), Diarmuid Healy (Selector).

Front: Ollie Feehan, Tom Nolan, Tom Phelan, Darragh Dooley, Tom Rice, Liam Cass, James Bergin (Capt.), Padraig Delaney, Eoin Cahill, Simon Callinan, Kieran Mooney.



Barrow Rangers - Junior League Champions 2019



Naomh Eoin - All-County League Champions 2019



Erin's Own - JH "A" Champions 2019

Back: Lar Carroll, Darragh Brennan, Sean McDermott, Liam Wallace, Shane Rice, Paddy Brennan, Michael Farrell.

Middle: John Callinan, Gerry Callinan (Capt) Robert Moran, Eddie Brennan, Cathal Holland, Ciarán Brennan, Ross Connolly, Conor Clarke, Billy O' Neill, Dan Coogan, Dermot Wallace, Martin Walsh, Eoin Walsh, David Buggy

Front: Jack Buggy, Peadar Boran, Conor McMahon, Adam Brennan, Declan Buggy, Eoghan Mealey, Jimmy Comerford, Christopher Korff, Nicky Connolly, Sean Buggy.



O'Loughlin Gaels - JH "B" Champions 2019

Back: Daniel O'Driscoll, Jack Kearns, Pacey McFarlane, Peter McNamara, Joe Murphy, Tervine Wallace, Podge Nolan, Jake Fahey, Mark Twomey, David Fogarty.

Middle: James Lenihan, Darragh Larkin, Dacef Fwamba, Kevin Murphy, Ben Tyrrell, Donal O'Leary, Niall Higgins, Ferghal Brennan, Jamie Young, Conor Kelly,

Robbie O'Driscoll, Jack Sheridan.

Front: Odhrán Lawlor, Barry Hogan, Andy Cantwell, Padraig Meaney (Capt), Oisin Murphy, Jamie Malone, Mathew Russell, Jamie Ryan, Sean Baird, Alan Geoghegan.



Bennettsbridge - JH "C" League & Championship Winners 2019



Graignamanagh - JH "D" Championship Winners & League Finalists 2019



Dicksboro - All-County League Finalists 2019

James Bergin had a pop from a 22 metre free almost in front of goal at the country end, but the ball was diverted out over the endline.

The final whistle was blown even before there was time for the puck-out. That final call wrapped-up O'Loughlin's third win in the junior championship - the others were in 1975 and 1995 - and the historic first by their second team.

Because the winners are a second team from the club, they won't, according to rule, be allowed play in the Leinster club championship. The honour of carrying the Kilkenny flag into that competition will now rest with Conahy Shamrocks."

The J.J. Kavanagh & Sons sponsored All-county League always proves to be a very compet-

itive affair and, with a number of Carlow clubs added to the competition, it creates an extra edge. Carlow teams have had great success in this competition so Kilkenny teams were determined to keep the title within the home border. Many of the games were played from April to July in what was the better weather period. When the Junior Board made the draws for this competition earlier in the year, they sectioned it into a number of different divisions ensuring that clubs as much as possible would not have extremely long travel. The competition this year was highly competitive and that was borne out when Dicksboro and Carlow club Naomh Eoin of Myshalmet in the decider. This game ebbed and flowed from start to finish and from early on it looked as if the Carlow men were going to run away with the game when they hit Dicksboro for

two early goals but the City boys came thundering back and led. However, it was the Myshall team who held tight to win in a high scoring and very entertaining game 3-17 to 2-17, so taking the All County League trophy back to Carlow for 5th time since the inception of the competition in 2007.

Naomh Eoin; Brian Tracey, Philip Smithers, Eoin Redmond, James O'Hara, Declan O'Brien, Eoin Nolan, Michael Kavanagh, Micheal Mullins, Ross Smithers, Cathal Tracey, Dwaine Kavanagh, John Michael Nolan, Padraig Nolan, Conor Foley, Cillian McCabe.

Dicksboro; Aaron Duggan, Liam Stynes, Michael Hayes, Evan Carroll, Johnny Manogue, Kevin Nolan, Eoghan Moylan, Joe Sheehan, Mark Nolan, Seán Boyd, Stephen Farrell, Paul O'Flynn, Liam Brennan-Smith, Tadhg Butler, Davy Ryan



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O'Loughlin Gaels Captain, Sammy Johnson 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:Willie Dempsey)

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St Lachtain's- Roinn "B" League Champions 2019



Barrow Rangers - Roinn "B" League & Championship, & Martin Treacy Cup Finalists 2019

(Snr,) Philly Hogan, Mason Clifford, Robert Crotty, Dara Lynch, Jamie Lynch, Ger O'Donohue, Tommy Farrell, Evan Clarke, David Conway, James Gittens, David Glynn.

In the Junior League final which also doubled as a championship quarter final, Barrow Rangers picked up a well deserved piece of silverware on Saturday 28th September at Páirc Na Seamróg when they had a rather facile win over Piltown 2-25 to 0-12.

SUPER SUNDAY; Sunday 25th August was Super Sunday for the Junior 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' finals. Nowlan Park was the venue for the J.J. Kavanagh and Sons Sponsored 'A' and 'B' Championship finals while the picturesque Thomastown GAA grounds staged the Iverk Produce Junior 'C' final and the Country Style Junior 'D' final.

In the Junior 'A' Championship final, Mooncoin were aiming to complete back-to-back wins, but in an entertaining game, it was Erin's Own Castlecomer who won by the narrowest of margins 2-16 to 3-12. The league final at the same grade has yet to be completed with the same teams reaching the final.

The Junior 'B' Championship final again proved to be a 'humdinger' of a game with O'Loughlin Gaels taking the honours by defeating Barrow Rangers 0-18 to 0-15. In the Junior 'B' league final in early August Barrow Rangers again suffered heartache when they were defeated in the J.J Kavanagh and sons league final, this time losing out to Saint Lachtain's 1-11 to 1-10.

The Iverk Produce Junior 'C' final brought neighboring parishes and fierce rivals Danesfort and Bennettsbridge together for what turned out to be an epic clash. These two clubs have always produced wonderful entertaining games and this one was no different.

John Stapleton Report from Kilkenny People;

"Thomastown on Sunday last proved to be a real cracker with nothing spared between near neighbours Bennettsbridge and Danesfort. Both went head to head in the Iverk Produce Junior 'C' County Championship final. Played for the most part in searing heat, both teams served up some terrific hurling. But the day belonged to Bennettsbridge and most especially their ace freetaker Kevin Brennan. We all may delight in the superb marksmanship of TJ Reid but Kevin Brennan, certainly on his performance on Sunday, would be a good match for TJ. Kevin stepped up for a total of 14 frees, eight in the first half and six in the second and scored each one, He also helped himself to an additional 1-01 from play to give a final total of 1-15. The Bridge lads were first out of the blocks in this game and from the start looked as if their physicality would sweep the Danesfort team aside. They weren't able at the early stages of the game able to deal with the Bennettsbridge forwards and were conceding a lot of frees which aforementioned Kevin Brennan converted. Stephen McKenna was keeping the Fort men in touch with equally excellently converted frees. For all the hurling the Bridge team had done, they just were not able to shake off this dogged Danesfort outfit. They switched Dylan Dunphy to midfield midway through the first half and he started to create a good number of openings for his forward line. It was at this stage Bennettsbridge started to concede frees and by half time Danesfort had the score back to manageable proportions 0-13 to 0-09. Danesfort continued the surge and were sweeping up everything in the half backline and at this stage were the better team as the Bridge struggled. Colm Phelan was proving a

thorn in the Bridge defence and broke though their defence to smash the ball past goalkeeper Stephen Holden, bringing the margin to a point. Bennettsbridge, though, soon stemmed the tide by make some tactical switches themselves, moving full forward Barry Lennon into defence and also bringing Ciarán Brennan to midfield. These moves turned things back in favour of the Bridge and when the star of the game Kevin Brennan broke through the Danesfort defence on the 50th minute to blast the ball to the net, it was the sealing of the game for Bennettsbridge. A consolation goal from a penalty by Stephen McKenna was to be one of the final acts in this very entertaining 'C' final.

Best for Bennettsbridge were Kevin Brennan, Ciaran Brennan, Willie Murphy, Luke Dowling, Danny Coyne, while Danesfort were well served by Stephen McKenna, Conor O'Keeffe, Philip Walsh Dylan Dunphy, and Colm Phelan.

Scores for Bennettsbridge; Kevin Brennan 1-15 (0-14 frees), Willie Murphy 0-03, Ciaran Brennan 0-02, Sean O'Connell 0-01, Jamie Harkin 0-01.

Danesfort Scores; Stephen McKenna 1-09 (Goal-Pen, 0-01 Play), Colm Phelan 1-01, Dylan Dunphy 0-03."

Bennettsbridge: Stephen Holden, Liam Dowling (C) Eddie Fitzgerald, Nathan Cullen, Paul O'Neill, Danny Coyne, Shane Byrne, Kevin Brennan, Willie Murphy, Jamie Harkin, Michael Shiel, Hugh O'Neill, Ciaran Brennan, Barry Lennon, Sean O'Connell. Subs; Mark Lewis, Brian O'Neill, Patrick O'Neill. Danesfort; Kevin Ireland, Michael Moylan, Michael Cunningham, Ronan Leahy, Padraig Barragry, Philip Walsh (C) Conor O'Keeffe, Ciaran Mullen, James Cunningham, Dan Dowling, Brendan Cullen, Colm Phelan, Dylan Dunphy, Peter Donoghue, Stephen McKenna. Subs; Conor Condon, Jamie Phelan.

The same pairing had also squared up to each other on the 10th August in the Iverk Produce Junior 'C' League Final. This proved to be a much tighter affair and it was the Bennettsbridge team who edged out their near rivals 1-19 to Danesfort 1-18.

The Country Style Junior 'D' Championship final brought two of the Southern Power houses together. Graignamanagh and Slieverue haven't won too many adult competitions in recent history, so it was at Thomastown they both took to battle to finally get that piece of treasured silverware. From the outset it was

the Graignamanagh team who looked the more clinical and, again in this case, goals were certainly the difference. They got their crucial scores at the right time and it was always felt Slieverue were chasing this game. But the men from the deep south battled with all they had, picking off some terrific scores, but despite an number of attempts, they failed to convert some good goal chances. A deserved win for Graignamanagh against a gallant Slieverue outfit. 2-19 to 0-17.

Winning the Championship final sure made up for losing out to an experienced James

Stephens team early in August in the Country Style Junior 'D' League final. This was a very entertaining high scoring game with James finishing stronger. James Stephens 4-14 Graignamanagh 2-14.

In the J.J. Kavanagh and Sons Martin Treacy Cup Final on August 11th Conahy Shamrocks, who were playing on their home ground, overcame Barrow Rangers 2-17 to 2-15.

The J.J Kavanagh and Sons Kevin Fennelly cup final O'Loughlin Gaels were the victors here in mid July. Playing on home turf they defeated Urlingford outfit Emeralds 1-2- to 2-14.



Conahy Shamrocks - Martin Treacy Cup Champions 2019



Slieverue - Martin Treacy Shield Winners 2019



Oisin Murphy gathers the ball challenged by Tom Rice

James Bergin shields the ball from Barry Lawlor



Captains



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**J. J. Kavanagh and Sons
Junior Hurling Championship 2018**

Championship divided into 2 sections
12 junior proper teams played in section A
8 junior teams of senior clubs played in section B
3 teams qualified for the semi-finals from section A
1 team qualified for the semi-finals from section B

SECTION A				
1st. Round				
Mooncoin	1-24	Blacks and Whites	0-14	
Galmoy	0-13	Slieverue	2-17	
Barrow Rangers	3-18	Cloneen	1-5	
Piltown	2-22	Windgap	0-12	
Conahy Shamrocks	3-31	Kilmacow	2-11	
Graignamanagh	2-10	Emeralds	1-20	
Quarter Finals				
Piltown	0-12	Barrow Rangers	2-25	
Emeralds	2-13	Slieverue	1-17	
Conahy Shamrocks	1-17	Mooncoin	0-8	
Semi-Finals				
Conahy Shamrocks	0-25	Slieverue	0-17	
Barrow Rangers	1-20	O'Loughlin Gaels	4-12	
SECTION B				
1st Round				
Clara	2-15	Ballyhale Shamrocks	2-15	
Clara	3-14	Ballyhale Shamrocks	2-14	
Quarter Finals				
Rower Inistioge	3-20	St. Patricks	2-11	
James Stephens	2-14	Clara	2-13	
Semi-Finals				
Dicksboro	0-22	Rower Inistioge	0-7	
O'Loughlin Gaels	3-24	James Stephens	5-18	
O'Loughlin Gaels	1-16	James Stephens	1-12	
Final Section B				
O'Loughlin Gaels	2-16	Dicksboro	2-12	
COUNTY FINAL				
O'Loughlin Gaels	1-17	Conahy Shamrocks	1-15	

**J. J. Kavanagh and Sons
Junior A Hurling Championship 2018**

1st Round				
Tullaroan	1-12	Graigue Ballycallan	1-20	
Thomastown	0-18	Carrickshock	1-6	
Conahy Shamrocks	2-17	James Stephens	2-18	(Rel. Final)
Quarter Finals				
Young Irelands	1-14	Lisdowney	1-10	
Mooncoin	1-21	Graigue Ballycallan	1-15	
Erin's Own	3-20	James Stephens	0-13	
Dunnamaggin	1-12	Thomastown	2-12	
Semi-finals				
Erin's Own	1-18	Young Irelands	1-11	
Mooncoin	0-20	Thomastown	1-15	
Final				
Erin's Own	2-16	Mooncoin	3-12	

**J. J. Kavanagh and Sons
Junior B Hurling Championship 2018**

1st Round				
Tullogher Rosbercon	0-15	Dicksboro	2-16	
John Lockes	2-17	Fenians	0-11	(Rel. Final)
Quarter Finals				
Glenmore	3-14	St. Martins	3-11	
Barrow Rangers	6-18	John Lockes	1-10	
St Lachtaín's	1-14	Dicksboro	0-15	
O'Loughlin Gaels	4-15	Mullinavat	2-15	
Semi-Finals				
Barrow Rangers	0-20	Glenmore	0-15	
O'Loughlin Gaels	3-13	St Lachtaín's	1-12	
Final				
O'Loughlin Gaels	0-18	Barrow Rangers	0-15	

**J. J. Kavanagh and Sons
Kilkenny Junior Hurling League 2018**

12 clubs entered and were divided into 2 groups of 6 in which each team played five matches with the top team in each group qualifying for the final.

The following are the final league tables.

Group A

Piltown	9	5	4	0	1
Conahy Shamrocks	7	5	3	1	1
Graignamanagh	6	5	3	2	0
Galmoy	5	5	2	2	1
Blacks and Whites	3	5	1	3	1
Cloneen	0	5	0	5	5

Group B

Barrow Rangers	10	5	5	0	0
Mooncoin	8	5	4	1	0
Slieverue	6	5	3	2	0
Emeralds	4	5	2	3	0
Kilmacow	2	5	1	4	0
Windgap	0	5	0	5	0

Final

Barrow Rangers	2-25	Piltown	0-12
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**Iverk Produce
Junior C Hurling Championship 2018**

1st Round				
Windgap	2-23	Carrigeen	2-16	(Rel. Final)
Galmoy	1-27	Emeralds	3-23	
Quarter Finals				
Piltown	2-14	Ballyhale Shamrocks	0-11	
Threecastles	0-21	Mooncoin	1-10	
Danesfort	0-19	Emeralds	0-13	
Bennettsbridge	6-28	Windgap	2-6	
Semi-Finals				
Danesfort	1-18	Piltown	0-11	
Bennettsbridge	4-13	Threecastles	2-7	
Final				
Bennettsbridge	1-22	Danesfort	2-13	

**Country Style Foods
Junior D Hurling Championship 2018**

1st Round				
Dicksboro	2-12	Cloneen	3-16	
St Martin's	3-17	Rower Inistioge	3-8	
Conahy Shamrocks	2-7	Clara	2-20	
Mooncoin	0-16	James Stephens	3-15	
Slieverue	2-18	Lisdowney	1-13	
Blacks and Whites	2-16	Erin's Own	1-7	
Quarter Finals				
Slieverue	1-14	Blacks and Whites	0-15	
Graignamanagh	3-14	St Martin's	0-13	
James Stephens	2-8	Kilmacow	1-19	
Clara	1-20	Cloneen	2-13	
Semi-Finals				
Graignamanagh	2-17	Clara	2-9	
Kilmacow	2-12	Slieverue	3-13	
Final				
Graignamanagh	2-19	Slieverue	0-17	

SHAMROCK BLOOMS BRIGHTEST ON SAINT PATRICKS DAY!

Photos: Willie Dempsey/Sportsfile

By Michael O'Leary



Ballyhale Shamrocks - All Ireland SH Club Champions 2019

Back Row: Bob Aylward, Paddy Doyle, Darragh Corcoran, Conor Walsh, Colin Fennelly, Ronan Hayes, James Connolly, Joey Holden, Kevin Mullen, Conor Phelan, Martin Davis, Gavin Butler, Adam Brenner, Eugene Aylward, Mark Phelan, Eoin Knox, Kevin Fennelly, Mark Gorman, Dylan Aylward, Adrian Mullen.

Front Row: TJ Reid, Enda Kenneally, Ronan Corcoran, Brian Butler, Eoin Reid, Darren Mullen, Eoin Cody, Michael Fennelly, Richie Reid, Evan Shefflin, Mark Aylward, Eoin Kenneally, Patrick Hearne, Dean Mason, Joey Cuddihy, Jason Devereux, Patrick Mullen, Brian Cody.

St. Patrick's Day was memorable once again to Ballyhale Shamrocks as they strolled to their 7th All-Ireland Club title with a comprehensive victory over St. Thomas winning 2-28 to 2-11. The Kilkenny champions led 2-10 to 1-08 after an entertaining first period that saw Colin Fennelly raise two green flags, the second from a sublime piece of skill. However, Shamrocks completely dominated after the restart with TJ Reid, Fennelly and Adrian Mullen scoring at will as they strolled to an effortlessly easy victory.

With 14 men, they had to rely on a last gasp Evan Shefflin goal to overcome Erins Own of Castlecomer, before winning the county decider itself against Bennettsbridge.

Having played very little hurling in 2018 because of Army commitments, Colin Fennelly was a man on a mission and he was refreshed and reposessed.

He displayed that in abundance in their Leinster Semi-Final victory over Naomh Eanna of Wexford as he scored 4-4 in a 6-21 to 4-11 victory.

The Leinster Final played in Netwatch Cullen Park saw Shamrocks secure their 9th provincial crown as they eased to a 2-21 to 0-11 victory over Ballyboden St. Enda's. TJ Reid contributed 0-9 of his sides total, as Adrian Mullen made amends for missing the County Final as he grabbed a brace of goals to enhance his ever-growing reputation.

That Leinster Final victory set up an All-Ireland Semi-Final showdown with Ballygunner.

The first-half was a tame stalemate with Ballygunner edging proceedings at the interval leading 0-8 to 0-7.

However, Shamrocks managed to break down the Ballygunner rearguard, and Eoin Cody who scored 1-4 grabbed the all-important goal in the 44th minute to send Shamrocks on their way to Croke Park. Ballygunner struggled to make any real impact in their attacking division as they were over-relying on the services of Waterford Senior Padraig Mahony who accounted for 0-10 of his side's total as Shamrocks won out 1-15 to 0-13.

St. Thomas just scrapped through against Cushendall to set-up an All-Ireland showdown with the Kilkenny Champions on St. Patrick's Day.

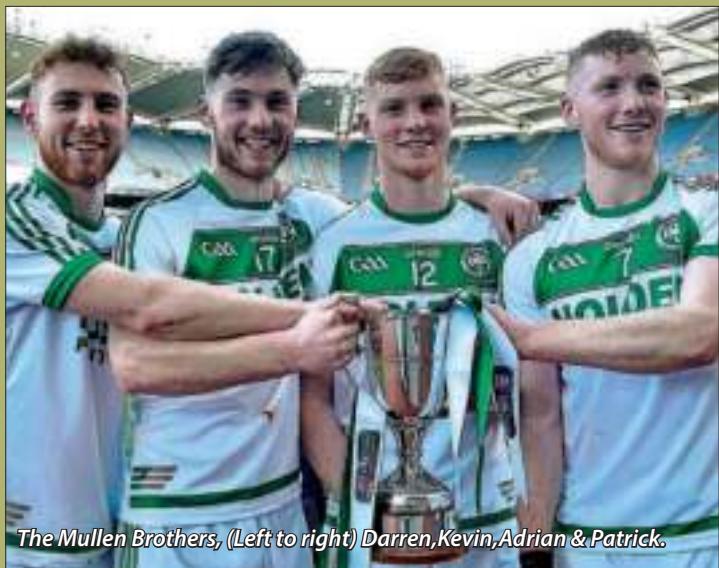
As mentioned, the All-Ireland triumph was a landslide victory for Shamrocks who took control of the 2nd half to run out easy winners as Michael Fennelly collected the Tommy Moore up afterwards and a most fitting captaincy for a player who has given wonderful service.



Captain Michael Fennelly with the Tommy Moore Cup and Uachtaran John Horan.



As the Final Whistle blows



The Mullen Brothers, (Left to right) Darren, Kevin, Adrian & Patrick.



Man of the Match - Colin Fennelly receives his award from Mark Doyle, Chief Marketing Officer, AIB

SHAMROCKS - ALL-IRELAND CLUB FINAL:

Dean Mason; Darren Mullen, Joey Holden, Brian Butler; Evan Shefflin, Michael Fennelly, Richie Reid; ; Ronan Corcoran, Patrick Mullen; Brian Cody, TJ Reid, Adrian Mullen; Eoin Reid, Colin Fennelly, Eoin Cody.

Subs: Mark Aylward for E Reid (42), Conor Walsh for Corcoran (55), Kevin Mullen for D Mullen (58), Joseph Cuddihy for E Cody (58), Gavin Butler for M Fennelly (59).

ST THOMAS:

Gerald Murray; Cian Mahoney, Cathal Burke, Sean Skehill; Donal Cooney, Shane Cooney, Fintan Burke; James Regan, David Burke; Darragh Burke, Conor Cooney, David Sherry; Bernard Burke, Brendan Farrell, Damien McGlynn.

Subs: Mark Caulfield for F Burke (42), Colin Fallon for Regan (52), Cian Kelly for Sherry (56), Damien Finnerty for McGlynn (59).

Referee: Fergal Horgan (Tipperary).



Manager, Henry Shefflin urges on his Charges.



Evan Shefflin and Colin Fennelly in the Final





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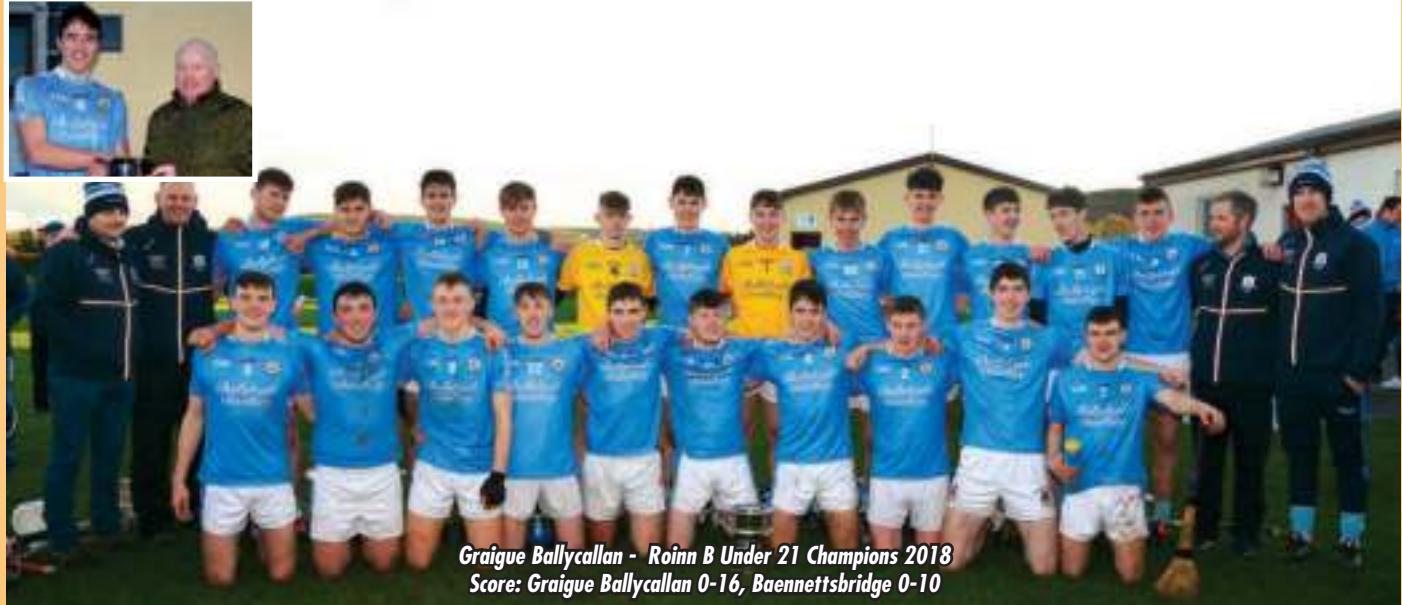
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UNDER 21 WINNERS 2018

Photos: Willie Dempsey



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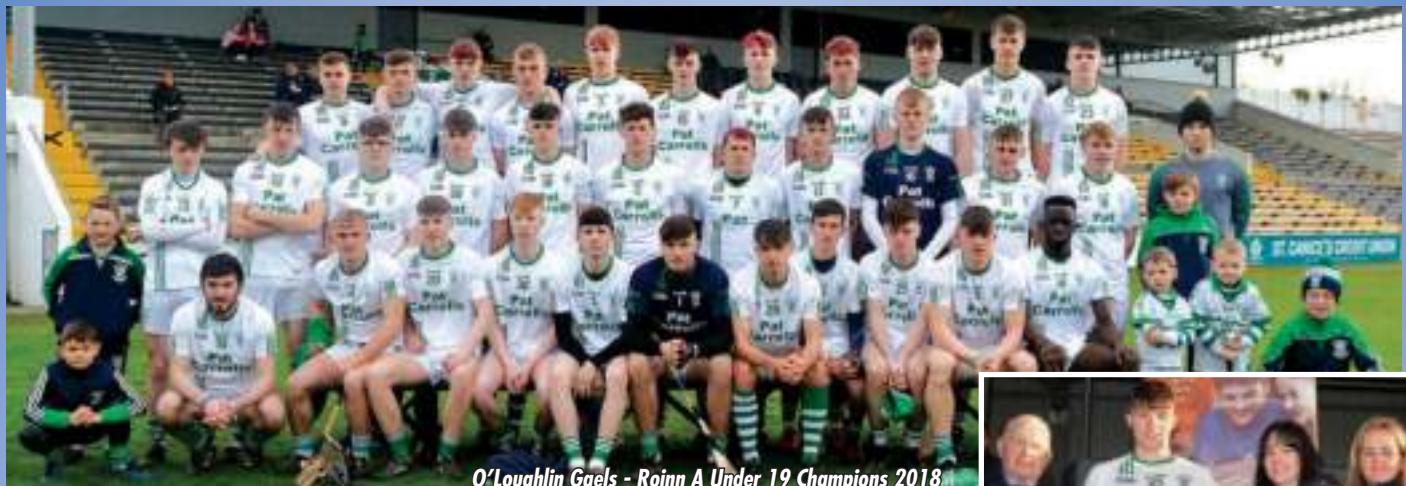
Breandán Long

Maurice Neligan

Turlough O'Donnell

UNDER 19 WINNERS 2018

Photos: Willie Dempsey



*O'Loughlin Gaels - Roinn A Under 19 Champions 2018
Score: O'Loughlin Gaels 2-13, James Stephens 1-14*



*Young Irelands - Roinn B Under 19 Champions 2018
Score: Young Irelands 1-9, Lisdowney 1-8*



*Danesfort - Roinn C Under 19 Champions 2018
Score: Danesfort 1-11, St Martin's 0-9*



*Barrow Rangers - Roinn D Under 19 Champions 2018
Score: Barrow Rangers 3-18, Slieverue 3-10*

All Eyes on the 'Boro

Photos: Willie Dempsey

Bord na nÓg U17
Report
by Pado O'Flynn
PRO



Dicksboro - Minor A Champions 2019

ROINN A

There were eyes on one team alone for this year's A championship and that was in the guise of the all singing, all dancing Dicksboro side with many reckoning it was going to take a herculean effort for any side to stop them, even though there was many talented sides amongst the nine that went to post. Thomastown was the setting for the first round as the clash of the Minor B and A champions from 2018. A late flurry of scores from Mooncoin saw them progress to face a hot Dunnasmaggin outfit but down in the Mooncoin complex they put on a full range of scoring to win by 4-16 to 1-12. James Stephens had a little too much class for Piltown in their victory. In probably the game of the championship, Galmoy/Windgap secured a memorable two point win over O'Loughlin Gaels. Backed by the strong breeze from the off, it was O'Loughlins who set the early pace, with midfielder John McNamara raising six first half white flags to leave the city boys ahead, 0-10 to 0-5 at the interval. Galmoy/Windgap's scores came from four placed balls by Billy Drennan and one from play from Zak Kennedy after catching a good lineball by Eoin O'Brien. The wind was so strong, that one of Declan Murphy's first half puckouts bounced wide at the other end of the field in that first half. Ronan Lavelle and Alex Sheridan were playing very well at this stage for the city boys. Galmoy/Windgap made an impressive start to the new half with four quick fire points to leave it 0-10 to 0-9 by the 37th minute. Two of these came from Jack Doyle who played very well over the hour. Another to impress was U-15 player David Sherman at centreback for the home side. Neither side bothered the score keeper again until John McNamara stretched the visitor's lead with a 51st minute pointed free, 0-11 to 0-9. It was the 60th minute before Galmoy/Windgap drew level when Billy Drennan pointed a 65. A minute later Doyle grabbed a Calum Lonergan clearance and split the posts to put his side ahead, with Drennan applying the final touch from an 80 metre free in the 66th minute.

This win sealed a place in the semi final for Galmoy/Windgap against Dicksboro who simply out pointed Rower-Inistioge in their encounter. The semi-finals proved to be largely one sided affairs as Mooncoin and Dicksboro had too much firepower for James Stephens and Galmoy/Windgap respectively. All eyes then turned towards UPMC Nowlan Park with great interest for a repeat of last years pairings. Dicksboro 0-18 Mooncoin 0-6.

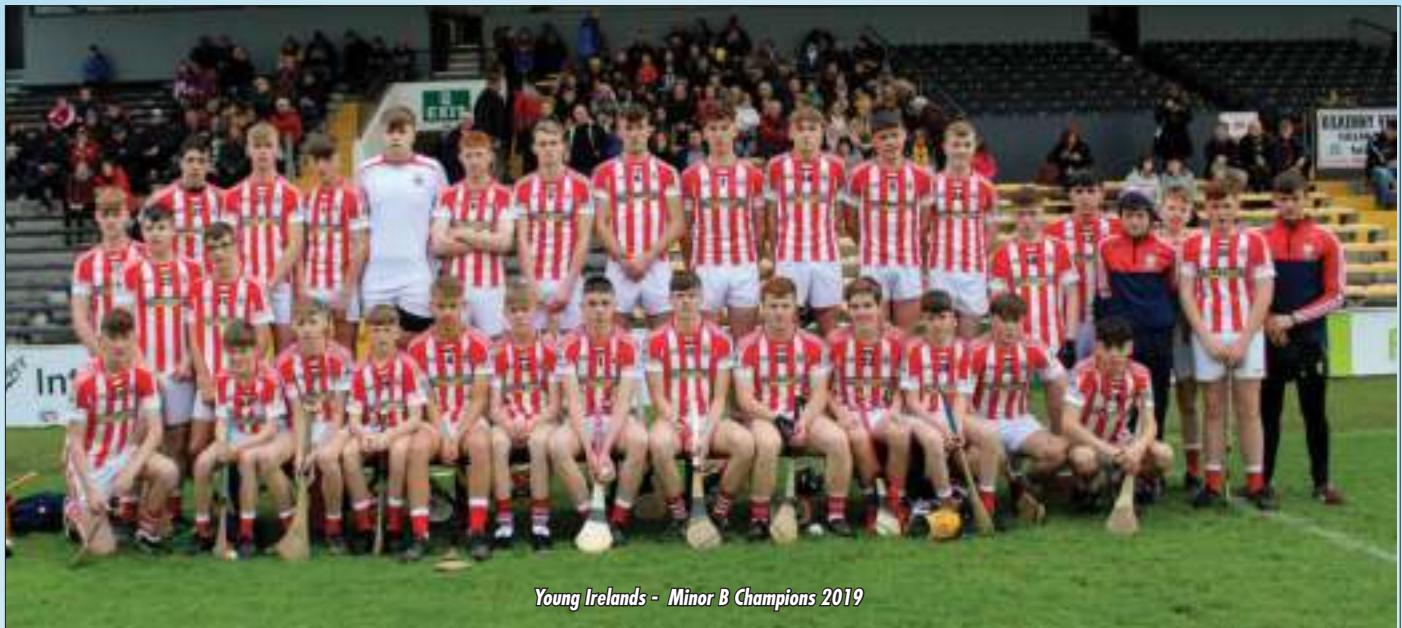
It was far from the perfect performance from Dicksboro, but still they produced more than enough to out-class defending champions,

Mooncoin in a repeat of last year's final in the minor hurling Roinn A championship showdown in UPMC Nowlan Park. The 'Boro shot a sizeable 14 wides, 10 during the opening but they opened very well, Sean Maher shooting two early points. With another from star man, Liam Moore by the sixth minute they led by 0-3 to 0-1. Oisin Henebery registered a Mooncoin point from a free to interrupt the flow. The winners added two more minors to their account by Moore and Mikey Clifford as they widened the gap to 0-5 to 0-1 after 10 minutes. Already they had posted four wides. Mooncoin tried to hang on, but their generally light attack got little change out of a tight and well structured 'Boro defence. From here to the break the losers only returns were points from frees by centre-back, James Aylward and Oisin Henebery. During the same period the 'Boro shot as many wides as scores to lead by 0-11 to 0-3 at half-time. County minor Liam Moore was their main score getter with five, while Sean Maher and Mikey Clifford snatched two each. The wind gained in strength in the early stages of the new half when it backed Mooncoin. However, there was no change by the end of the next quarter, at which stage Dicksboro showed 0-13 to 0-5 in front. For all their honest work, Mooncoin began to fade from there on. They had to wait until the 56th minute when Oisin Henebery scored for their first and only point from play. Mooncoin lost the next three points to Liam Moore (2, one free) and Mikey Clifford, who turned a lovely flicked on pass from Cormac Kennedy into a big gain. With the lead now at 0-16 to 0-5 the game was long gone on Mooncoin as the dominant Liam Moore and Padraig Moylan left their mark on the day for Dicksboro, as did Mikey Clifford, Sean Maher, Charlie Nolan and Niall Rowe, who lorded it in the air.

Scores: Dicksboro; Liam Moore (0-9, six frees, one 65); Mikey Clifford (0-4); Sean Maher (0-3); Timmy Clifford, Nick Doheny (0-1 each). Mooncoin; Oisin Henebery (0-4, three frees), James Aylward (0-2, frees).

Dicksboro: Brian Manning, Charlie Nolan, Niall Rowe, Stephen Dermody, Tom Carroll, Padraig Moylan, Colm O'Hara, Liam Moore, Timmy Clifford, Aran Treacy-Murphy, Cormac Kennedy, Nick Doheny, Mikey Clifford, Harry Shine, Sean Maher. Subs; Rory O'Connor for N. Doheny, James Carroll for S. Maher, Oisin Timmons for M. Clifford, Luca Loli for C. O'Hara, Eoin Dalton for H. Shine.

Mooncoin; Donnacha Hogan, Pauric Murphy, Arron O'Neill, Shaun Sutton, Jack Conway, James Aylward, Robbie Finn, Sean O'Dwyer, Ryan Carroll,



Young Irelands - Minor B Champions 2019

Alan Walsh, Mairtin Gannon, Adam Croke, James O'Keeffe, Oisin Henebery, Michael Ryan. Subs; Liam Hogan for J. O'Keeffe, James Holden for M. Ryan, Evan Cleary for A. Walsh.

Ref; Ray Byrne (Glenmore).

ROINN B

The Kilkenny Honda Centre Minor B Hurling Championship is always a minefield when it comes to predicting who'll actually win the championship as in any given year there may be 10 plus challengers.

First round wins for St. Martins, Graigue-Ballycallan, Tullogher-Rosbercon, Erins Own, Young Ireland's and Carrickshock set up mouthwatering quarter-finals.

In Hugginstown Erins Own and Carrickshock played out a draw although many in the crowd had it down as a win for the 'Shock. Roll on day two in Ballycomey and after extra Carrickshock won by 3-18 to 3-15. Graigue-Ballycallan probably had the beating of Young Ireland's on day one but on day two Killian Carey and Co. didn't make any mistake winning by five. Goals got Glenmore a fine victory over Bennetsbridge whilst St. Martins turned a five point deficit on its head to defeat Tullogher-Rosbercon by five.

Young Ireland travelled down Deep South and

bagged five goals in their semi-final victory over Glenmore and sent out their signal of intent for the year ahead. In Muckalee a late Josh Dempsey point saw St. Martins gain a late late victory over Carrickshock who it must be said had developed into a fine team over the course of the season.

YOUNG IRELANDS 3-7 ST MARTIN'S 2-6

It may not have been the best county final played this year. It certainly wasn't the most stylish, but if ever a competition was hard won it was this all action minor hurling championship Roinn B final in UPMC Nowlan Park. In the end a goal from fine striker, Killian Carey (45th minute) and a point from the equally impressive Patrick Brennan from a free (54th minute) sealed Young Irelands (Gowran) first victory in the B championship. St Martin's (Muckalee) may have lost the match, but they lost nothing in terms of admiration because they played a massive part in turning a dogged contest on a demanding pitch left very yield after heavy rain into a gripping affair. The hurling and effort from both sides during the closing quarter was immense, even if the closing segment produced a mere two scores. Still there were thrills, as both sides missed

chances, and spills galore as the teams let rip and literally tore into each other in what was a most sporting contest.

Young Irelands cut loose from the off, but at no stage could they shake off Martin's who were driven with force by their star men, Jack Farrell, Bill Dowling, Tristan Roche and Josh Dempsey, as well as huge striking goalie, Oisin Kelly. The winners started with a bang. Patrick Brennan opened with a smart strike, pointing a long free from around midfield. With barely two minutes showing on the clock Conor Fitzpatrick picked up a ball near the '50' and he raced at the country end goal before blasting to the net with a one-handed swing of the ash. When Killian Carey shot over a free in the third minute, St Martin's found themselves 1-2 to no score behind without even threatening the opposing goal. They corrected that in the fourth minute when Conor Dooley fired a long ball towards goal that came to ground to the right of the square. As a defender tried to shepherd the ball over the endline Jack Farrell chased and won possession before planting the ball in the net. A quick point from a free by Farrell meant it was game on again, 1-2 to 1-1, after only five minutes. Young Irelands found the scoring trail again after that. The next score was a point from a free from almost 85 metres



Thomastown captain Eddie Donnelly



Tullaroan Captain Jack Keoghan



Dunnamaggin Captain captain Conor Brett



Kilmacow - Minor C Champions 2019

by the deadly striking Patrick Brennan. Next Conor Fitzpatrick pointed. On 13 minutes Killian Carey got a good run on to a ball on the left wing and he raced through to smash a low drive into the bottom left corner of the net (2-4 to 1-1). St. Martin's enjoyed a let off moments later when the opposition drove a penalty shot wide after Conor Fitzpatrick had been fouled. At this stage, some of the striking from Brennan, Fitzpatrick and Carey in the Irelands attack was eye popping, and especially so on a miserable and wet day like Sunday. Russell Kealy kicked on a ball that found Jack Farrell in space on the quarter hour, and he shot a point that inspired a fightback that reduced the interval deficit for Martin's to 1-5 to 2-6.

If the striking during that half was of a high

quality, the sheer intensity of the exchanges afterwards was unreal. After Young Irelands missed a chance of a score, St. Martin's responded with a point from Jack Farrell after Tristan Roche has driven a well aimed ball up the left wing. On 36 minutes Martin's nearly scored a goal by Thomas Lawlor after Dowling put the ball in the danger area, but 'Irelands' goalie, Barry Dunne, saved with his feet. The equaliser was not far off, however. In the 41st minute Thomas Lawlor forced the ball over the line from close range with Farrell close at hand (2-6 each). Moments later Josh Dempsey got a shot away from the right, but the ball came back into play off the far upright. At this stage Martin's were enjoying slightly the better of things. The next score was Killian Carey's all important

goal. The finish was from eight metres on the right, a terrific ground shot. The winners missed three chances in-a-row to extend their lead before their next score arrived in the 54th minute. It came after a Martin's defender was penalised for dropping the hurley while getting away a hand-pass. Patrick Brennan converted to conclude the scoring. St. Martin's chased with all their might to the bitter end, but they couldn't call back the winners, who met fire with fire, as Patrick Langton, Brennan, Carey, Conor Fitzpatrick, Jimmy Lennon, Gavin Manning, David Drennan and company held on for a famous victory.

Scorers: Young Irelands; Killian Carey (2-1, point free), Conor Fitzpatrick (1-1), Patrick Brennan (0-3, frees), Gavin Manning, Jimmy Lennon (0-1)

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each). St Martin's; Jack Farrell (1-4, two points frees), Thomas Lawlor (1-0), Josh Dempsey (0-2).

Young Irelands; Barry Dunne, Bobby Brennan, Cathal Darcy, David Drennan; Patrick Langton, Gavin Manning, Tommy Phelan, Jimmy Lennon, Brogan McAviney, Conor Fitzpatrick, Patrick Brennan, Myles Kehoe, Killian Carey, Padraig Naddy, Jamie Middleton. Subs; David Holland for Middleton, Ben Phelan.

St Martin's; Oisin Kelly, Cathal Keegan, Shane Fahy, Shane O'Neill, Patrick Brennan, Tristan Roche, Matthew Shortall, Bill Dowling, Conor Dooley, Russel Kealy, Joe Reid, Jack Farrell, Josh Dempsey, Thomas Lawlor, Jamie Morrissey. Subs; Cillian Dowling for T. Lawlor, Luke Burke for J. Reid.

Ref; Michael O'Sullivan (Ballyhale Shamrocks).

ROINN C

thirteen sides started off in Roinn C and there were first round victories for Emeralds, Mullinavat, Kilmacow, Barrow Rangers and Ballyhale Shamrocks. Sliieverue had a fine victory over James Stephens second team 1-15 to 1-9. In the quarter-finals Kilmacow's ability to get goals was too much for John Lockes. Mullinavat eventually got the better of a very young Emeralds team in their 3-15 to 2-8 win whilst there was only a puck of a ball in it as Ballyhale Shamrocks at the second attempt got the verdict over Barrow Rangers 4-9 to 3-11. In the last pairing Blacks & Whites had a little too much fire power for Sliieverue. The all southern derby between Mullinavat and Kilmacow proved to be a right humdinger with the home side

Kilmacow holding on for a famous victory 3-14 to 2-12 whilst in Skeough, Blacks & Whites had an early slew of goals which got them over the line against an exceptionally young Ballyhale Shamrocks side.

KILMACOW 5-11 BLACK & WHITES 2-8

The Kilkenny Honda Centre Minor C final was played in crisp winter conditions at MW Hire Dunmore park but the fare on show certainly got the pulses racing. Ryan Murphy got the Skeough men off to the perfect start with a fine pointed free but they were rocked soon after when Ted Doyle booted a goal home after the sliothar has ping ponged around the square. Fergal Suffin and Murphy swapped pointed frees soon after with Murphy tagging on a free from the very next play. Blacks & Whites regained the lead when Sam Byrnes sweet pass sent Senan Doyle racing towards the goal and Doyle duly rifled the shot towards the top right hand corner. Again Murphy and Suffin were proving accurate from placed balls grabbing one each prior to a sweet Suffin point from play after an exchange of passes from Tadgh Connolly and Doyle. Doyle then pilfered a goal after James Walsh found the man on the edge of the square. Walsh quickly added a point but back came the Black & Whites with Doyle sending a white flag waving. A quick double of Murphy pointed frees brought the sides level but Ted Doyle had the last say of the half to give Kilmacow a 2-5 to 1-7 half time lead. This was a lead they would not surrender. Kilmacow started the second half in rip roaring fashion and effectively ended the game as a contest scoring 1-5 without

reply. Fionn Blanche doubled on a Ted Doyle shot to send the green flag waving. Connolly (2), Suffin, Walsh & Stephen Moore all fired over minors before Murphy gained a point back through Murphy but the most influential player on the field James Walsh's shot eventually landed up in the net. In fairness to Black & Whites they didn't throw in the towel and pulled a goal back through a Murphy goal from a '21. Moore ensures the trophy was going south when got Kilmacows 5th goal in injury time which was soon followed by a Connolly point. The score line probably was a bit unfair to Blacks & Whites who missed a number of chances in the second half and had fine performers in the Doyle's Corey and Senan, whilst Sam Byrne and Ryan Murphy had their moments. For Kilmacow this was a much needed tonic to the club and they had a number of stars on the day with Fionn Blanche, Suffin, Kieran Dowling and Ted Doyle all putting their shoulder to the wheel along with the aforementioned Walsh.

Blacks & Whites: John Meaney, Joe Whitty, Daire Moran, Mike Murphy, James Whitty, Michael Prendergast, Corey Doyle, Patrick McDonald, Jack Kelly, Sam Byrne, Senan Doyle (1-1) Sean Ryan, Cian Jordan, Ryan Murphy (1-7, all frees), Daire Murphy. Sub: Pierce Ryan.

Kilmacow: Sean Dowling, Paddy Regan, Kieran Dowling, Jack Murphy, Billy Phelan, Liam Lacey, Dev Lowe, Fionn Blanche (1-0), Tom Butler, James Walsh (1-2), Fergal Suffin (0-4, 0-2 frees) Stephen Moore (1-1) Conor Walsh, Ted Doyle (2-1) Tadgh Connolly (0-3) Subs: Eoin Walsh, Donnacoda Williams, Jack O'Neill, Josh Maher Mate.

Ref: Gay Rafter (Threecastles)

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Report
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PRO

Photos: Willie Dempsey



Dicksboro- Roynn A U15 Champions 2019 Photo: Caroline Clifford)

ROINN A

Many were hoping for a high class affair in the Duggan Steel U-15 Hurling championships as the leagues had thrown up some entertaining encounters which bodes well for the future talents of the county. It ended with Young Ireland's lofting the league trophy for the two in a row.

In the first round James Stephens gained revenge over Graigue-Ballycallan where a flurry of goals from the Village men was enough. Dicksboro had too much for O'Loughlin Gaels where Harry Shine & Co ran riot in the first half whilst they also beat a young Clara side in the county semi-final.

The other semi-final between Young Ireland's and James Stephens was a much tighter affair and on the night Killian Carey proved to be the difference between the sides. All eyes turned towards a repeat of the league final.

Dicksboro 5-13 Young Ireland's 3-10

Dicksboro & Young Ireland's clashed in this Duggan Steel U-15 Roynn A Championship final in Clara with many hoping that would follow the classic nature of the close fought league final played during the Summer. The first half was a slow burner with Harry Shine and Killian Carey exchanging points but it exploded into life in the 15th minute when Shine and Johnny Keane exchanged passes which ended with Mikey Raggett sending the green flag waving. Young

Ireland's instantly responded with Ben Phelan flicking the sliothar to the roof of the net after Daniel Manning had squared the ball to him. Killian Carey followed this up with a goal of his own after the sliothar had ping ponged around the square. The mercurial centre forward followed this up with a pointed long range free. Declan Farrell had a big day in Shines goal which brought the Palmerstown outfit back into contention. Manning and Shine swapped points before Farrell put his side back in front with a fine goal but Padraig Naddy had the final day of the half with a long range point from out on the wing which cut Dicksboro's short whistle lead to 3-2 to 2-4. Ragget & Kyle Maher got the first two points of the new half which saw a tremendous and courageous fight back launched by Young Ireland's led largely by Carey who rattled off five points in a row including four from play which put them back in front and they could have been further in front only for some unlucky wides. Raggett and Keane landed points before Sean Keenan made a surge for goal and he blasted the ball to the roof of the net. Carey briefly lifted the siege with a converted free but Ragget (4) & Keenan kept the pressure on with five points. Carey then blasted a 21 metre free to the bottom right hand corner which put the game back into the melting pot but points from Keenan & Shine came after Carey was somewhat unlucky not to goal. A goal from Maher in injury time sealed the result where the Palmerstown men's accuracy in front of goal proved to be the difference between the sides.



Tullogher Rosbercon - Roynn B U15 Champions 2019



St Martin's - Roinn B U15 Finalists 2019



Fenians - Roinn C League & Championship Winners 2019

Dicksboro: Michael Clarke, Nathan Pollard, Fionn McGarry, Kevin Moore, Tom McPhillips, Mick Carroll, Michael Stynes, Johnny Keaney (0-1), Cillian Hackett (0-1), Kyle Maher (1-1) Declan O'Farrell (1-0), Sean Knox, Harry Shine (1-8, 0-7 frees) (C) Mikey Raggett (1-1) Sean Keenan (1-2)
Subs: Sam Tynan Young Ireland's: Barry Dunne, Robin Carey, Sean Fitzpatrick, Rory Farrell, Darragh Travers, Patrick Langton, Bobby Brennan, Jamie Middleton, Padraig Naddy, Aaron Hosey, Killian Carey (2-9, 1-4 frees) (c), Ray Lawson, Mikey Knox, Daniel Manning (0-1), Ben Phelan (1-0).
Subs: Jamie Clarke.

by five points whilst in Coon, St. Martin's had too much fire power in the guise of Jamie Morrissey and Cillian Dowling for Dunnamaggin.

In Tulloher for the semi-final the home side faced near neighbours Kilmacow and they duly proved victorious 1-8 to 0-6, whilst an early scoring burst by St Martin's saw them get the verdict over Tullaroan in Coon. Onto the county final and the question was would last runners up or the new kids block who hadn't been in a final since 2005 take the cup home.

swung towards half time Martin's came back into with a Dowling free and his cousin Ross Dowling tacked on a point to leave it a close affair 1-5 to 0-5. Jack Handrick had the first point of the afternoon with Ross and Cillian Dowling responded with quick fire points but a long clearance from Lar Murphy saw Glennon get lose and he duly sent the green flag waving. Dan Kennedy and Jamie Morrissey swapped points before St. Martin's came back into it with a hat trick of points through Cillian Dowling (2) and Adam Morrissey, with Glennon briefly lifting the siege with a point. Again came the mighty men from the hills of North Kilkenny with Cillian Dowling leading the way with two points. They could have hit the front with goal chances for Keegan & Morrissey but were level when Dooley split the post with a fine point. Cue Glennon's intervention who was involved in a fine tussle with Tadgh Gill all afternoon. He had able support from Murphy, Lyng and captain Cathal Mooney. For St. Martin's can take pride in their efforts but were just edged out on the day by a time hurting from last years defeat.

Tulloher Rosbercon 3-9 St Martin's 0-14

Having being defeated in the final in 2018 Tulloher Rosbercon were staring the eye of defeat as St Martin's came thundering back into the game in the dying embers with Conor Dooley equalising and the eventual losers looking the more likely winners but in injury time Danny Glennon made sure the Duggan Steel Roinn B U-15 hurling title would be going south with a devastating 1-1. Lar Murphy got the men clad in black off to the perfect start with a pointed free. Jamie Lyng added one soon after and could have being further ahead but for a double save from Niall Shore. Cillian Dowling settled Martin's with a point after some fine play from Jamie Morrissey. Dowling added a free there after. Conor Dooley nudged the Saints in front with a fine point before Glennon scored his first point of the afternoon. The Tulloher tyro booted home a goal to put them in front which was followed by a Jamie Lyng point and a Glennon free. As the game

ROINN B

Seventeen teams went to post in Roinn B and all eyes were on whether Tulloher-Rosbercon would land the title at the second time of asking. They got off to a flyer in th first round defeating Graiguenamanagh.

Piltown and Tullaroan played an epic draw the first day before the men in the sash got the better of them back on home ground. Erins Own & Emeralds were catching the eye after the first round encounters.

Kilmacow were the first side into the semi-final when they defeated Mullinavat 1-12 to 2-7 with a power packed performance from James Walsh.

The big clash of the round saw Tulloher-Rosbercon and Emeralds all square where the home side were in front for most of the game before Danny Glennon engineered a few late goals that saw the Rosbercon men home. Tullaroan had an immense battle with Erins Own before getting the result

Tulloher Rosbercon: JJ Ryan, Ryan Murphy, Cathal Mooney (C), David Kennedy, Aidan Lawlor, Lar Murphy (0-1 free), Padraig Dooley, Marty Murphy, Niall Mooney, Dan Kennedy (0-1), Jamie Lyng (0-1), Kevin Aylward, Jack Handrick (0-1) Danny Glennon (3-5, 0-1 free), Sean Ryan.
St Martin's: Niall Shore, Ewan Buggy, Ciaran Nolan, Peter Downey, Cormac Quirke, Tadgh Gill, Matthew Bolger, Cathal Keegan, Conor Dooley (0-2), Patrick Coughlan, Jamie Morrissey (0-1), Cillian Dowling (0-8, 0-6 frees), James O'Neill,



Captains, Harry Shine (Dicksboro) and Cathal Mooney (Tull/Rosbercon) receive their trophies from John Byrne, Cathaoirleach Bord na nÓg

Ross Dowling (0-2) Michael Keane. Subs: Adam Morrissey (0-1), Sean Hunt, Colin Hayes.

ROINN C

Roynn C was going to be every bit as competitive with as the 15 teams would have fancied their chances from the get go. Kudos to Young Irelands who matched the city sides by entering the second team but Mooncoin had a little too much for them in the locker whilst Ballyhale Shamrocks and St. Patrick's had notable first round victories. In the quarter final Dicksboro B came unstuck against a very plucky Mooncoin side who never gave up and got on top near the finish to garner a deserved win whilst Lisdowney were equally impressive in out scoring Ballyhale Shamrocks whilst Fenians and Cloonen/Railyard had wins over St. Patrick's & O'Loughlin's B respectively. The semi-finals were tight and full of skill as Cloonen/Railyard had a goal to spare over

Lisdowney whilst it took Fenians all their time to eventually get the better of Mooncoin but what all this did tell us was we were in for a close fought final.

Fenians 1-9 Cloneen/Railyard 1-8

The Fenians had a pulsating contest against a well drilled Cloneen/Railyard side. Deep into injury time the Fenians found themselves behind by two points. In very wintery conditions they made one last ditch attempt to rescue the game. Captain Padraig O'Grady won a hard ball deep in the Fenians defence. He made a burst up the field and played a diagonal ball to Cathal Phelan, who had only been placed full forward minutes beforehand. He made a superb catch, but fell. Luckily he had presence of mind to handpass to corner forward Regan Downey who took up a great position. Gaining possession he side stepped his man and placed the sliotar out of reach of Sean Geoghan Moffitt in the

Cloneen Railyard goal. The roar went up , the Fenians had , as they have done so many times before, secured victory from the jaws of defeat. It was a very tense affair overall and did not have the open free flowing hurling which both sides produced in an enthralling League Final decider a few weeks earlier in Freshford. Cloneen /Railyard playing against the wind in the first half made all the running and started brightly to go 1-1 to 0-0 after 8 minutes. The game then ebbed and flowed with both sides missing scoring opportunities throughout the first half. The score at half time read Fenians 0-6 Cloneen/Railyard 1-3. The second half generally was played in the same vein in the second half and a few incidents didn't help the flow of the game. Thankfully the main action stayed between the white lines and the endeavour of both sided must be commended with the honesty of effort outstanding. Entering the final few minutes there was never more than a puc of a sliotar between the teams while again both sided missed scoring opportunities. The evenly contested final finished in a welter of excitement. Both teams gave it their all and produced a game worthy of a County Final.

Best for the well drilled Cloneen/Railyard side were Jack Dinnegan, John Brennan and Liam Walsh, Harry Roche, the hard running Shane Buggy and Cian Mooney. For The Fenians Daragh McCoramack, R.Garrett, Billy Garret, Jerry Henderson, Padraig O'Grady, Tomas Sharkey and Cathal Phelan impressed.

A bright future is in store for a lot of players on view if this game was anything to go by.

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Bord na nÓg U13
Report
by Pado O'Flynn
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James Stephens - Roinn A Champions 2019

ROINN A

Whilst short in numbers the U-13 A championship was full of high drama. In the only quarter-final O'Loughlin Gaels got the better of Young Ireland's in a nine goal score fest 6-6 to 3-7.

James Stephens managed to keep the Johns Park outfit more in check as they won by 2-14 to 2-6. In Thomastown a flurry of goals after half time saw Dicksboro defeat the home side 3-20 to 0-11. All eyes turned towards a truly epic final - one we were all privileged enough to witness.

U-13 A Final

James Stephens & Dicksboro clashed in the Duggan Steel Roinn A County final in Bennetsbridge as they men from the Kell's Road were seeking to be second time lucky in the final. The Palmerstown outfit made the livelier start with Patrick Lacey firing a free over the bar before Ruairí Harrison levelled matters soon after. Noah Minogue and Michael Stynes traded placed balls and Stynes showed great accuracy to land two in quick succession. James Stephens took the lead for the first time when Dara Power flicked the ball to the back of the net after some fine play from Ed McDermott. McDermott followed up with a pointed free and the influential full forward soon found Sean Bergin in space and he duly pointed. Stynes got Dicksboro back into things with a pointed free before Brian Moore's speculative shot landed up in the back of the net. Stynes added another point to leave the Palmerstown outfit 1-6 to 1-4 ahead at the break. Again Dicksboro were prominent in the first half with Lacey and Moore

sending the white flag waving but the Village immediately hit back with a goal from Bill McDermott after his brother Ed had done the spade work. Moore, Stynes and Thomas Treacy all plucked points whilst McDermott converted a placed ball. In sixty seconds the game turned on their head when Moore fired home a rebound. James Stephens went down the field for Dara Power to have the green flag to waving from the next play with McDermott adding two further points. From there on in it was nip and tuck with McDermott firing a free to the back of the net in injury time to draw the game level in the 63rd minute however many in the crowd had it as a one point win for the 'Boro.

James Stephens: Padraig Joyce, Conor McEvoy, Noah Minogue, Conor Heffernan, Larry Phelan, Ed Lauhoff, Sean Deely, Ruari Harrison, Ruari Holland, Jacob Breslin, Sean Bergin, Bill McDermott, Daniel Ring, Ed McDermott, Dara Power.

Dicksboro: Ciaran Power, Luke Kerwick, Evan Murphy, Anthony Clifford, Max Doyle, Michael Stynes, Enda Kavanagh, Ross Doyle, Donnchadh Hennessy, Oisin Henderson, Brian Moore, James Brennan Smyth, Thomas Treacy, Jamie O'Brien, Patrick Lacey. Subs: James Cleere, Josh Duggan. Ref: Paul Cahill (Dunnamaggin)

U-13 Roinn A Final James Stephens 5-10 Dicksboro 4-10

After 120 minutes hurling these great city rivals were only separated by a puck of a ball in the Duggan Steel Roinn A hurling championship



Erin's Own - Roinn B Champions 2019

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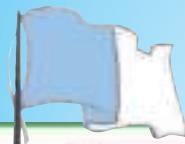
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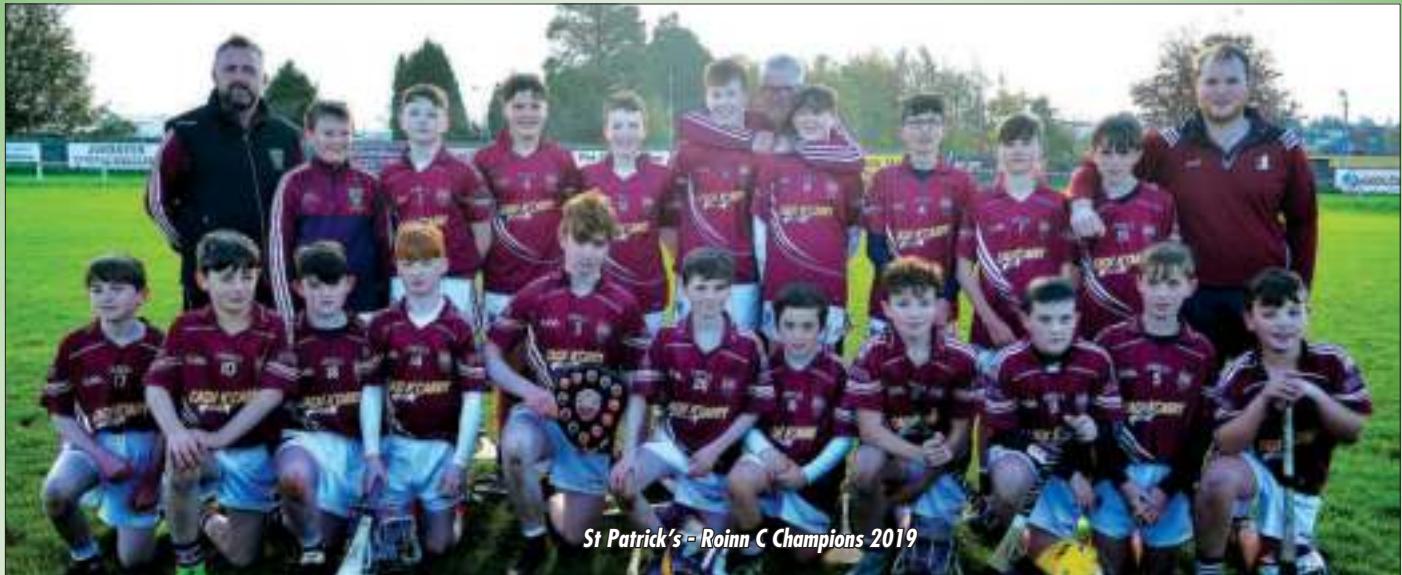


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St Patrick's - Roinn C Champions 2019



Dicksboro - Roinn A Féile Champions 2019



Dunnamaggin - Roinn B Finalists 2019

at a well appointed Gowan venue. The Village men made a roaring start to this encounter with Rory Holland getting a goal after Ed McDermott had settled his side with two early points and this wall all inside the first six minutes. James Brennan Smyth and Patrick Lacey got the Palmerstown outfit into the game with some nice points before McDermott plundered a goal after a neat ball from Larry Phelan. Michael Stynes got the 'Boro back into it with a good goal of his own but Jacob Breslin ensured that James Stephens were up at the break 2-4 to 1-6. The first half may have been tight with both defences on top however the second half saw the attacks plunder 5 goals between

them an average once every 6 minutes. McDermott landed the first point of the half and followed up with goal soon after but Brennan-Smyth and Stynes sent the green flag waving before Dara Power gave the advantage back to the Village and a Breslin goal with 3 minutes to go seemed to settle the matter but the men clad in Maroon and White are made of stern stuff and had it back to two in injury time but a McDermott pointed free got them across the line to cue the celebrations for the Kells Road outfit.

James Stephens: Padraig Joyce, Daniel Ring, Noah Minogue, Conor Heffernan, Larry Phelan, Ed Lauhoff, Sean Deely, Ruari Harrison, Ruari Holland, Jacob Breslin, Sean Bergin, Bill McDermott,

Zack Scanlon, Ed McDermott, Dara Power. Subs: Diarmuid Beehan, James Kelly.

Dicksboro: *Ciaran Power, Luke Kerwick, Evan Murphy, Anthony Clifford, Max Doyle, Michael Stynes, Enda Kavanagh, Ross Doyle, Donnchadh Hennessy, Loults Ragget, Brian Moore, James Brennan Smyth, Thomas Treacy, Jamie O'Brien, Patrick Lacey. Subs: Oisin Henderson. Ref: Peter Bourke (Emeralds)*

ROINN B

It always proves to be a minefield. They could all play each other ten times and the results would wildly vary. Erins Own were the side to watch with many feeling they'd be a handful for many a teams. In the first

round they were emphatic in their victory over Kilmacow. John Lockes, Mooncoin, St Martins, Galmoy/Windgap & Piltown all posted good first round victories.

The quarter finals were very close. St Martins has to have two goes at getting over a Galmoy/Windgap side who came strong in the finish both days. Dunnamaggan got the better of John Lockes whilst Piltown & Erins Own ended the hopes of Tullogher Rosbercon & Mooncoin.

Piltown had every chance in the semi final against Erins Own but they couldn't take the chances at their disposal as the men travelling down from North Kilkenny showed true grit to hang on for 0-14 to 1-7 win. Meanwhile in Coon Dunnamaggan came out on top against St Martins 3-14 to 3-12.

U-13 Roinn B Final

Erins Own 3-16 3-10 Dunnamaggan

In a thrilling Roinn B U-13 Final in Danesfort on Saturday morning, Erin's Own secured a memorable win over Dunnamaggan. Backed by the strong breeze from the off, it was Dunnamaggan who set the early pace, with midfielder Jamie Tallon and full forward Cathal Buckley to the fore driving Dunnamaggan to a 3-7 to 1-3 lead at the interval with the goals coming from Buckley, Sean Lawton and Tim Doherty. Erin's Own scores came from a James Coogan penalty and two frees, with the only score from play by Eoin Brennan. It was only some excellent goalkeeping by Conor O'Sullivan and brilliant defensive work from Jack Comerford, Conor Brophy and Jack Coogan that allowed the Comer boys stay in touch in that first half. Erin's Own rejigged their team slightly at the interval following the loss of Bobby Brennan to a shoulder injury and it really paid dividends with James Coogan, who finished with a personal tally of 3-12, Robert Coogan and Jake Connery storming into the game. While Eoin Shiel and Ross O'Neill did everything they could to stem the tide, Erin's Own were transformed in the second half with Eoin Brennan, Conor Buggy, James Comerford and sub Kevin Buggy causing all sorts of problems for the Dunnamaggan defence. The crucial goal came after twelve minutes of the half following great work at the back by Alec Kerr the ball was delivered upfield by Eamon Brannigan to James Coogan who gave the keeper no chance with a brilliant finish and the ten point interval deficit was now down to two. From there on Erin's Own grew in confidence to record a fully deserved win on a score line of 3-16 to 3-10. Credit must be given to both teams for the standard of hurling produced, it was a game of high intensity and high skill levels throughout by quality young hurlers all over the pitch on both teams.

Erins Own: Conor O'Sullivan, Alec Kerr, Jack Coogan, Jack Comerford, Robert Coogan, Conor Brophy, Eamonn Brannigan, Jake Connery, James Comerford, Cathal Dunny, James Coogan (capt), Leo Downey, Eoin Brennan, Bobby Brennan, Conor Buggy, Subs; Kevin Buggy, Cian Rothwell, James O'Neill, Mathew Rowe, Jamie Cahillane, James Brennan, Will Tynan, Josh Kirwan, Tristan Daly, Luke Connery, Sam Coogan, Mark Kennedy.

Dunnamaggan: Scott McDonald, David Moore, Pierce Costello, Sean Rossiter, Shay Delaney,



Fenians - 13 a side Hurling Championship Winners 2019

Eoin Shiel, Ciaran Hickey, Jamie Tallon, Ross O'Neill, Cathal Buckley, Sean Lawton capt., Conor Lawton, Tim Doherty, Brian Hickey, Noah Cahill. Subs: John Hayes, Jack McCormack, Tommy Steed, Thomas Deegan, Jake Butler, Liam Davis, Conor Aylward, Cathal Rossiter, Ian McDonald, Stephen Walsh. Ref: Colin Tobin (Young Ireland's)

ROINN C

The big question on everyone's lips was would St Patrick's make amends for last year's defeat. They had a fine first round victory over Carrickshock. Conahy Shamrocks, Ballyhale & Emeralds also emerged victorious from their first round engagements. In the quarter finals, a late scoring burst saw Emeralds get the better of Graignamanagh 3-11 to 1-12 whilst St Patrick's, James Stephens B & Ballyhale after some fine work by Jake Mullen got their semi-final berths. Ballyhale Shamrocks repelled a strong last fifteen minutes from James Stephens with Killian Ryan to the fore whilst St Patrick's had too much fire power for Emeralds in the other semi-final.

St Patrick's and Ballyhale Shamrocks squared up in the Duggan Steel Roinn C County final at a well appointed Gowran. St Patrick's were chasing victory after being pipped by Graignamanagh in the 2018 final. Mike Keneally got the southerners off to a perfect start with a fine point after 60 seconds play. St Patrick's responded with a score in kind from Mark Bergin as the early exchanges flowed from end to end. Oisin Troy got the men clad in maroons first goal when he weaved through a few defenders to send the green flag waving. He helped himself to a point soon after before Keneally fired over a point. The young Ballyhale player converted a placed ball but his side was rocked when Mark Doheny hit a fire cracker of a shot to the roof of the net for St Patrick's to retake their dominance. In fairness this Ballyhale side are made of stern stuff and Killian Ryan's clearance eventually found Rian Shefflin who slotted the sliothar home. Troy popped up the other end to gain his own goal and Bergin added to this with a point. Jake Mullen pulled a point back to leave his side trailing 3-5 to 1-4 behind. A strong second half from St Patrick's saw them make sure of victory with Troy's two points & a goal from Christian Connick were the only scores in that third quarter and it was enough to ensure the trophy was going back to Ballyragget.



THE FENIANS 1970 REMEMBERED

*This year Kilkenny County Board welcomed to the County SH Final the surviving members of the victorious Fenians
County SH Title winners of 1970.
The event was sponsored by the Springhill Court Hotel who afterwards provided a reception for these great players.*



Photo: Donal Foley

The Fenians 1970 Veterans at Nowlan Park 27th October 2019

*Back: Jimmy Walsh (Kilkenny County Chairman), Pierce Malone, Paschal Tynan, Frank Hawkes, Mick Garrett, Donal Walsh, Pat Henderson, Nicky Orr, Shem Delaney, PJ Ryan, Emma-Jayne Eaton (Springhill Court Hotel).
Front: Laddie Ryan, Frank Holohan, Fr. Fergus Farrell, Patrick Loughlin, Dick Dowling, Johnny Moriarty, Paddy Broderick.*



The Fenians - 1970 Full Panel

*Back: Gerry Henderson, Eddie Curran, Pat Delaney, Martin Fitzpatrick, Billy Watson, Nicky Orr, Michael Garrett, Michael Dillon, PJ Ryan, Shem Delaney, Frankie Hawkes, Mick Dowling, Seamus Grace.
Front: Paddy Broderick, Pat Murphy, John Moriarity, Tommy O'Connell, Pat Henderson, Dickie Dowling, Donal Walsh, Paddy Fitzpatrick, Mick Gannon, Jimmy Ryan.
(Missing from Photo: Larry Ryan, Frank Holohan, Fergus Farrell, Pat Loughlin)*

Unrelenting in the Pursuit of Perfection

Brendan Fennelly RIP



One of the links in the unbreakable chain that was-and still is the Fennelly hurling dynasty has sadly passed to his Eternal Reward. Brendan, the wearer of the number 13 jersey, left us in Autumn 2019. He had battled a debilitating illness with as much courage, and determination as he showed on the playing pitches of the land from Ballyhale to Balinasloe, from Cork to Croke Park. As an outstandingly intelligent hurler he was a man before his time. He was always thinking, always planning. He had the quintessential thinking hurler's brain. Irrespective of varying circumstances, he was unrelenting in the pursuit of perfection.

Like a great thoroughbred, he was perfection itself when it came to thinking on his feet. His Dad, the late lamented Kevin senior had a particular soft appreciative spot for him- and he often said it to me- when it came to discussion about impending games or tactics. The Fennelly brothers – all seven of them each had abilities that were particularly distinctive to themselves alone. But collectively they were a force that made things happen-many of them had friend and foe alike coming off their seats. As an admirer of their qualities and values to the team ethic once remarked to me in an interview, “sure twas easy to pick that team when you had seven players aytin out of the one trough, and every one of them defying the selectors, one of whom was their Dad to drop them”.

The record books are statistically bursting at the covers when it recounts the astonishing exploits of the Fennellys of the astonishingly successful Shamrocks hurling bteam. No family had such an illustrious hurling CV, nor will they ever. Of course they had great players with them. Of course the Shamrocks club would not have had such magnificent success without the Magnificent Seven. Every one of the players who played with them would most certainly not deny the validation of that statement. As a complete unit that Shamrocks collective brought more gold to their Parish than would satisfy the National Debt of many a small Nation, and Brendan was so much an integral element of that scenario.

When the last hurrah sounded, and the hurling game was no longer an option, Brendan Fennelly married Breeda, and they moved to Kilmoganny. A lucky day for the little three-part village. Brendan Fennelly - I remember listening to some of the Dunnemagan soldiers eulogising about the values that the Ballyhale man brought to their club. A fact for contemplation and verification – Fennelly was involved with 14 Championships wins all Roinn A competitions from under-14 to Senior Championship wins. His astute management skills were well underscored from then on. He went on to win silverware with practically all Clubs with whom he was involved. Kilkenny teams like Windgap, Rower Inistioge,

Kilmacow, and Carrickshock were beneficiaries of his undoubtedly coaching abilities. He influenced the hurling know how of players in Carlow Mount Leinster Rangers, Waterford (De La Sale) and Laois County. He was a very forceful influence with the Kilkenny under-21 team who won the Leinster and All Ireland Finals in 1990. Players like Carey, Ronan, O'Neill, Carter, Murphy, Brophy Shefflin (Tommy), and Shiner Brennan were students of his directives.

Brendan also found time to allocate to worthy causes like the Jean Vanier L'Arche organisation. His influence in that meritorious organisation was more than substantial, and remained constant since first he undertook his voluntary accountancy effort on their behalf over twenty years ago.

I could stay talking and writing about the life and times-alas so short- of one of my dear friends. Of course we didn't always agree. Brendan was such a forceful, focussed individual, that it was not always convivial to discuss problems. His wife Breeda, his rock will miss him. For sure his daughter Shauna will miss her Dad. His ambition to walk her down the aisle on her wedding day never happened. His Creator-in whom he had a stoic belief garnered from his rearing down in Castlebanny with his own parents, intervened. HE had different plans in mind for Brendan. Shauna could wind her around her little finger, but he loved her manipulative endearments. Sons Niall, Kieran and Conor will more than miss their Dad. He was their pragmatic go-to-man. He was a one off, of that I can vouch for.

The Magnificent Seven has suffered a major setback. But Michael, Ger, Kevin, Liam, Sean, and Dermot will miss their talisman. Whenever they are gathered to talk hurling, an empty chair will be visible for the very first time. Brendan's sisters, Monica and Theresa will certainly miss him, as will his nieces, nephews, and the million tentacles of their huge Fennelly Family tree.

From a personal viewpoint, I will miss the talented, argumentative, single-minded, sometime arrogant Shamrock warrior. I'll miss him for all of those qualities, but for certain sure I will miss him for his loyalty, dependability, and for being my friend. When he was around, you could rest assured that your back was more than adequately covered. In times of intensive loyalty demands, he was the personification of unconditional dependability.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.

BH

Br. Damien Brennan

by Liam Lacey

Sula dtosnóidh mé, caithfidh mé a bheith macánta agus a rá libh nár cheapas riamh go mbeadh an Br. Damien Brennan fé chaibidil agam sa tsraith seo ar laochra spóirt Chill Chainnigh. Amhail muintir Challain agus go deimhin amhail muintir an chontae ar fad, cheapas nach mbeadh a chuid ráite agus déanta ag an bhfeair seoid a tháinig i leith chugainn ó chontae Laoise agus a d'fhág rian nach beag ar shaol na ndaoine a bhí sé de phribhléid acu teacht trasna air go deo. Sin é mar atá an saol áfach, agus táimid go léir fágtha le folús inár gcróithe tar éis bhás an fhir a thug a shaol ar fad ar mhaithe le daoine eile.

Before I begin this week I have to admit that I wasn't expecting to be talking about Br Damien Brennan as part of the Kilkenny sporting hero's series. Just like the people of Callan and indeed the people of Kilkenny, I felt that the Laois native had so much more left to say and do in life. Only those who were privileged enough to cross his path can truly understand the impact he had on others. Life can be cruel at times and his passing has left so many people with a void that will never be filled in his absence. The Callan Connection

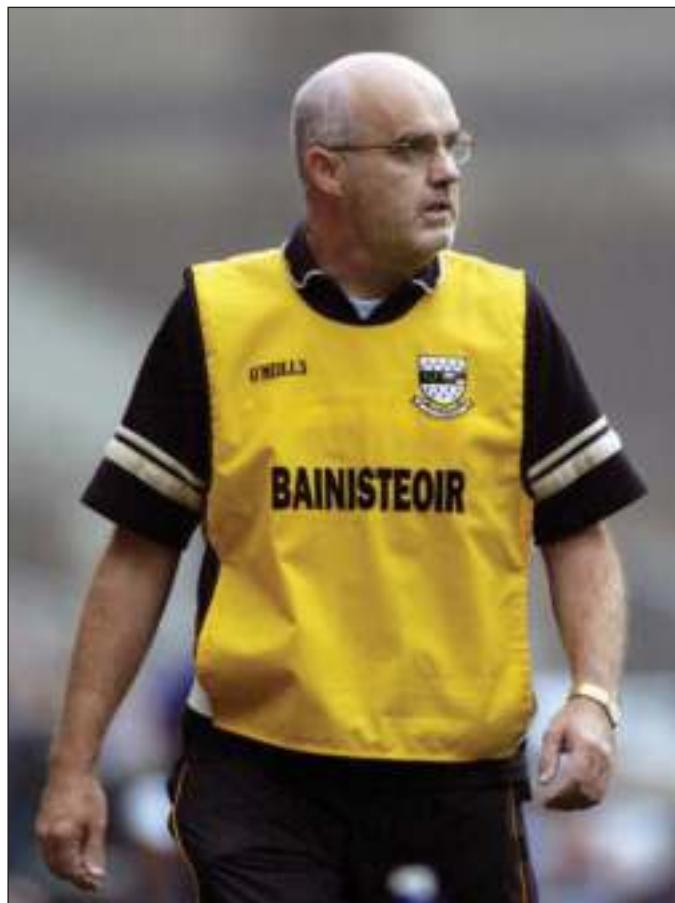
Br Séamus Damien Brennan first arrived in Callan in 1990 as a teacher in the Christian Brothers School. He spent one year there before heading for Dublin where he worked with some of the poorest people in the capital city at the time. He returned to Callan after six years, where he began teaching for a second time in the CBS. He was also appointed as Community Leader for the Callan area shortly after beginning his teaching position. He continued with the two roles until 2012 when he was appointed Vice-Principal. Three years later he was appointed Principal of the school and held the position until he passed away on the 3rd of September 2019.

Profound Influence

The name Br Damien Brennan is widely recognised as the former Kilkenny Minor hurling manager. He led the Kilkenny minors to double All-Ireland success in 2003 and 2004. To refer to him as a hurling manager alone however, would be doing the man a grave injustice. He will be fondly remembered as a teacher, life coach, advisor and councillor that selflessly dedicated his life to helping others. It came as no surprise to those that knew him then when former Kilkenny hurler Jackie Tyrell revealed the profound influence of Br. Damien on both his personal and sporting development.

Inspiring Educator

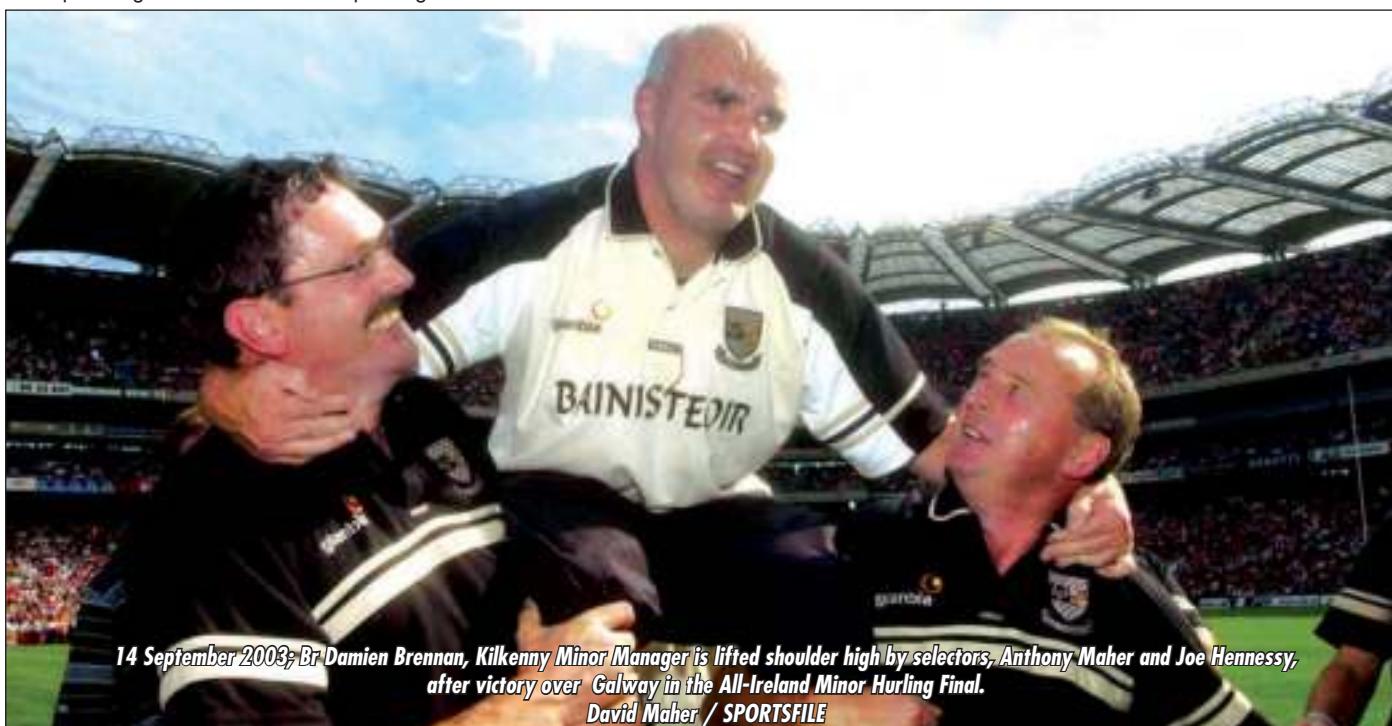
Having spent his entire professional life serving the people of Dublin and Kilkenny he had a clear understanding of the importance of education in the development of young people. He taught Irish with passion and pride for the native language but the student was always at the heart of the learning process in his classroom. His legacy therefore stayed with past pupils long after they had passed through the doors of Coláiste Éaman Rís in Callan. Inspired by the vision of the Edmond Rice schools' thrust he ensured a fair and holistic education for the students under his care. Perhaps his greatest skill was the passing on of the aforementioned



passion to the next generation as they headed embarked on their journey of life.

One would imagine then that it would be easy to put words on the life of Br Damien Brennan. I am going to use the words of the celebrant at his funeral to truly describe the void left behind from his passing. Mourners were told that certain people are sent to us for a reason. Br. Damien was sent to help and guide the people of Callan and surrounding areas. In the Christian Brothers' tradition he worked tirelessly to guide his parishioners, players and students through the highs and lows of life.

The people of Callan will dearly miss their friend, leader and colleague. A man taken far too soon but his profound legacy will live long in our memory indeed. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



14 September 2003; Br Damien Brennan, Kilkenny Minor Manager is lifted shoulder high by selectors, Anthony Maher and Joe Hennessy, after victory over Galway in the All-Ireland Minor Hurling Final.

David Maher / SPORTSFILE



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Lauren Magee
Kilmacud Crokes GAA Club
Dublin

Martin Kavanagh
St. Mullin's GAA Club
Carlow

beko

1939:

THE THUNDER AND LIGHTNING FINAL, BLITZKRIEG, AND DANCIN' JIMMY KELLY.....

80
YEARS
AGO



By Patrick Walsh



*Kilkenny - All Ireland Champions 1939
Back Row: Peter Blanchfield, Paddy Phelan, Paddy Grace, Paddy Larkin, Terry Leahy, Jimmy Walsh (Capt), Billy Burke, Jimmy Kelly.
Middle Row: Mick Dalton, Jimmy O'Connell, Jack Gargan, Sean O'Brien, Jimmy Phelan, Bobbie Hinks, Mick Oakes.
Front Row: Matty Power, Jim Langton, Jack Mulcahy.*

SEPTEMBER 3rd. 1939

London 11:15 AM

'This morning the British Ambassador in Berlin handed the German Government a final note stating that, unless we heard from them by 11 o'clock that they were prepared at once to withdraw their troops from Poland, a state of war would exist between us.'

I have to tell you now that no such undertaking has been received, and that consequently this country is at war with Germany.'

-British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain broadcasting on BBC Radio.

Looking back from the safety of eighty years, the 3rd September 1939 still resonates with a sense of the epic not only in world events but also in GAA legend.

Huge events rarely erupt from nowhere.

There's always a history.

Akin to Germany and the British Empire, Cork and Kilkenny had each other in their sights for a good few years.

While Hitler had the belief that Germany weren't defeated in The Great War and the perceived injustice of the Versailles Treaty, Kilkenny carried the hurt of losing the 1931 All Ireland Hurling Final to Cork after a second replay.

Paddy Larkin, Dick Morrissey and Kilkenny captain Lory Meagher missed the third match through injury and the 'what if's....' would always be there. Such doubts don't just torment the vanquished

Lory Meagher wasn't just any player.

Then at his peak, he was and still is regarded as one of the all - time Kilkenny hurling greats.

According to Dick Walsh, a fellow Tullaroan native, Meagher "had big wide shoulders, a very long back and arms. He could snatch a ball out of the clouds and they all pulling at him. You'd think that he spoke to that ball. He had a drop flick that you don't see at all today and he'd strike it from his toes. You'd never see him hooked".

He was subsequently named on the hurling Team of the Century at midfield.

Although Kilkenny went on to win All Irelands in 1932, 1933 and 1935 with Meagher as captain, there was always a sense of unfinished business with Cork who they hadn't met in the championship since the three game 1931 final.

Eight years later Lory Meagher had retired and although many of the individuals on both teams had changed, the collective memory of Kilkenny hurling was seeking redemption against a young Cork side appearing in their first final since 1931.

CROKE PARK, DUBLIN 3:15 PM

Sunday morning in Dublin bore witness to torrential rain and no doubt persuaded many a neutral to stay at home with an ear cocked to the wireless.

Four hours after British Prime Minister Chamberlain's grave

announcement on BBC radio, the Irish nation awaited Micheal O'Hehir's first ever broadcast of an All - Ireland hurling final on Radio Eireann. Cork had beaten Kilkenny for the third year in a row in the minor final and the stage was set.

The sun shone on the pre match parade with the teams led by their captains Jimmy Walsh (KK) and Jack Lynch (Cork) and the forebodings emanating from London and Europe were put aside.

The rain had stopped, electricity filled the air and the 39,000 crowd in attendance held its breath.

GAA President, Paddy McNamee walked across the sodden Croke Park turf shielding the sun from his eyes and threw in the sliothar to start the match.

What followed was a game for the ages where man's battle with the elements mirrored the intensity of battle on the field of play.

Kilkenny started against the wind with a determination that threatened to overrun Cork.

In his first All - Ireland, Jimmy Phelan from Ballyragget goaled early to get the scoring started.

In later years Jimmy said he remembered little of the goal other than "the ball came in quickly from midfield and I just happened to get a touch to it. The first goal really settled me".

Joe Cody in his superb book 'The Stripy Men' puts more flesh on Phelan's modest recollection describing how Jimmy "eluded a despairing tackle, moved swiftly and cracked a rasping shot past Jim Buttiner".

Seanie O'Brien followed up with a quick point before Jack Lynch got Cork on the scoreboard with a similar score.

Jim Langton scored another point for Kilkenny before Jim Buttiner stemmed the Kilkenny tide with a tremendous save in the Cork goal to defy O'Brien.

Cork needed to get off the back foot and full forward Teddy O'Sullivan duly obliged when out - fielding the ever tenacious Paddy Larkin to strike the ball past Jimmy O'Connell in the Kilkenny goal to leave only a point between the sides.

Kilkenny had done all the hurling in the first half but had little to show for it.

Just before half time they finally put meat on the bones of their endeavours. Jim Langton scored two points, one from a free, the other an excellent score after fielding a Bobby Hincks sideline ball.

Then Jimmy Phelan goaled again, when according to Joe Cody he "jumped to meet a Jack Mulcahy cross and with an overhead backhand flick, sent the sliothar flying to the net".

The boon of a 2-4 to 1-1 halftime lead for Kilkenny was tempered when corner forward Jack Gargan was forced to retire with a broken thumb suffered just before the interval.

On resumption of hostilities, the gathering storm clouds in the sky drew sympathy on the park when a major row erupted after Kilkenny centre back Billy Burke needed attention following some rancorous exchanges. It was the sort of a row that Micheal O'Hehir would generally dismiss on



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the radio "as a bit of a schemozzle". O'Hehir's euphemism could cover a multitude of possibilities ranging from fisticuffs to using the caman as weapon of choice but the lack of detail would leave any investigating officer with little to go on.

The temperature had been set and the elements would mirror, enhance but never overawe the drama that followed.

A Terry Leahy point put Kilkenny seven ahead in a low scoring match but Cork rallied as the skies darkened when Jack Lynch goaled to leave four between the teams.

Lynch, a future Taoiseach and GAA legend was being marked by Paddy Phelan in one of the great battles of the day.

Dick Walshe's recollection of Phelan that day is "he (Phelan) was a genius, you'd think he had the bloody ball on a string he was so full of tricks. He let Lynch rise every ball in '39 out in front and then he took it (demonstrates) from the side of him - and never touched Lynch". Early in the second half the threatening storm sundered the sky, combining the electricity on the pitch with the sombre mood blanketing Europe. Thunder, lightning, hailstones and sheets of rain sparked and splintered all around Croke Park.

Spectators sought refuge from the downpour as best they could and struggled to distinguish the identity of the players through the watery gloom.

Shem Downey, a future Kilkenny senior star but a beaten minor on the day relates that "it got so bad that our trainer brought us into the dressing room. A man by the name of Danny O'Connell was the trainer of the senior team and he got us down on our knees to pray that nothing would happen to any of the players out on the field, it was that bad. The lightning was striking all around the place, the thunder was fierce".

By all accounts the dye was running from the jerseys into the toggs of the players while the Irish Independent reported that journalists had to flee the press box to protect their notes so torrential was the downpour.

The players hurled on through the maelstrom seemingly oblivious to the descending deluge and darkness.

A Teddy O'Sullivan point for Cork was matched by one from two goal hero, Jimmy Phelan who said later "the thunder and lightning did not really affect me or any other of the lads as we were concentrating on the match".

With tension rising, a Jack Lynch free left a goal between the teams with full time beckoning.

Cork drove on and the dam broke.

With a minute left on the clock, a long range free from Cork half back Billy Campbell sailed through a forest of hurls, skidded off the greasy turf and went straight to the net.

The teams were level.

The weather was treacherous and no one would have argued with referee Jim Flaherty from Offaly if he had blown the long whistle and granted the

players the refuge of the dressing rooms.

But the game like the thunder rolled on.

Jack Lynch missed a point to win it for Cork before a Kilkenny foray led to a seventy with the game in injury time.

Paddy Phelan steadied himself in the withering storm but his stroke sliced off the face of the hurl and the sliothar fell short. The half cleared ball was gathered by Jimmy Kelly who whipped it over the bar to put Kilkenny ahead.

On the puck out, the referee blew the final whistle when Kilkenny claimed possession.

The final score was Kilkenny 2-7 Cork 3-3.

Kilkenny had won by what Jack Lynch would later term "the usual point".

In the time since Chamberlain's sombre announcement that morning, the dogs of war had commenced coursing 'cross the continent while the sporting gods had blessed the GAA with one of its greatest finals ever, still referred to as 'The Thunder and Lightning Final'.

In later years, Jack Lynch when Taoiseach on being informed by Dick Walshe that Paddy Phelan, like many others of those times, had to emigrate to England to seek work said "God, I must do something about that. He was greatest hurler I ever met. That's as true as I'm sitting here". Paddy Phelan never did return home to settle, dying and being buried in Coventry in 1971.

Jimmy Kelly danced for joy on the Croke Park sod after getting the winning point and the boots he riverdanced in later turned up as an exhibit in the Lory Meagher Hurling Museum in Tullaroan in the 1980's.

At Lory Meagher's funeral in 1973 his coffin was carried to the hearse by four Cork legends from the 1931 team that defeated Kilkenny in three match epic: Jack Barrett, Eudie Coughlan, Paddy Collins and Jim O'Regan.

The victory of 1939 in apocalyptic circumstances meant the memory of the 1931 trilogy of matches could now be interred peacefully by the Nore with the honour of both counties intact.

The 'what if's....' of 1931 are still unanswered but facilitate the great GAA pastime of replaying matches in our heads and our hearts where there is only one winner.

Ourselves.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The Stripy Men by Joe Cody

Kilkenny People interview with Jimmy Phelan

Sunday independent: Dermot Crowe interview with Dick Walshe.

Irish Examiner: Diarmuid O'Flynn interview with Shem Downey.

ALL IRELAND SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP			MUNSTER CHAMPIONSHIP		
MAY 11 Kilkenny	2-03 1-21	Wexford	JUN 08 Wexford	2-28 0-10	Cork
MAY 12 Waterford	1-18 1-18	Cork	JUN 09 Kilkenny	2-23 0-20	Kilkenny
Round 1			Round 1		
MAY 18 Cork	0-10 0-22	Kilkenny	JUN 15 Tipperary	0-22 1-00	Clare
MAY 19 Dublin	1-22 2-16	Wexford	JUN 16 Limerick	1-08 1-00	Wexford
Round 2			Round 2		
MAY 25 Dublin	0-10 0-22	Kilkenny	JUN 18 Tipperary	0-00 0-08	Waterford
MAY 26 Kilkenny	1-22 2-16	Wexford	JUN 19 Limerick	1-08 1-20	Cork
Round 3			Round 3		
JUN 30 Cork	2-00 2-16	Wexford	JUN 20 Waterford	0-10 2-24	Limerick
Final			JUL 03 Clare	0-10 2-21	Tipperary
MAY 28 Kilkenny	2-00 2-16	Wexford	JUL 03 Kilkenny	2-03 1-21	Wexford
JUN 02 Cork	1-18 2-22	Cork	JUL 04 Tipperary	2-23 1-21	Limerick
Preliminary Quarter-Finals			All-Ireland Quarter-Final		
JUL 07 Waterford	0-20 1-02	Mullingar	JUL 14 Kilkenny	2-23 0-10	Hurling Ireland
JUL 07 Tipp	2-23 0-21	Cork	JUL 14 Tipperary	2-25 1-16	Hurling Ireland
All-Ireland Quarter-Final			All-Ireland Semi-Final		
JUL 21 Waterford	2-23 1-21	Hurling Ireland	JUL 27 Limerick	2-17 1-21	Kilkenny
JUL 21 Tipp	2-25 1-16	Cork	JUL 28 Wexford	2-00 1-20	Tipperary
All-Ireland Semi-Final			All-Ireland Final		
JUL 28 Kilkenny	2-23 1-21	Kilkenny	JUL 28 Kilkenny	2-23 1-21	Tipperary

SEAN CLOHOSEY RIP

One of Kilkenny's Great Stylists



TOMMY O'CONNELL RIP

Hat-trick Hero of '59 passes away



Seán Clohosey's recent death severed another link to Kilkenny hurling in the 1950s.

This decade did not prove one of the county's prolific spells. Its sole Senior title arrived in 1957, with Clohosey at left corner forward. His passing leaves four men of that starting 15 — Denis Heaslip, Johnny McGovern, Billy O'Dwyer and Dick Rockett — with us. Their victory was still more treasured for being the only success between 1947 and 1963.

Above all else, Seán Clohosey counts as a stylist in the classic Kilkenny tradition. Footwork, stickwork, wristwork: every element clicked when the Tullaroan native hit form.

He was one of those hurlers who seized spectators' eyes. Speaking to me, the people who saw him hark to the same word: 'elegance'.

More than natives advance this verdict. Kevin Cashman, perhaps the game's most incisive observer, bracketed Clohosey with the absolutes: Séamus Cleere, John Connolly, Éamonn Cregan, Eddie Keher, Mick Roche, Christy Ring and a few others. Could there be a higher tribute?

Born on October 27, 1931, Séán Clohosey died on October 6, three weeks before his 88th birthday. A Tullaroan background could only have been important. Pat Clohosey, his father, featured on the panel that won Kilkenny's inaugural Senior title in 1904 (and won another medal in 1911).

Having played Minor with Kilkenny in 1948 and 1949, the son's Senior career ran between 1953 and 1963's All Ireland Final against Waterford.

He retired after triumph in the latter contest, having starred in it as a midfielder. Along with those two Senior All Ireland wins, he acquired five Leinster titles (1953, 1957-59, 1963) and one NHL title (1962). A Railway Cup was won in 1956 and a Senior title with Tullaroan in 1958.

An enduring personal regret remained losing 1959's All Ireland Final to Waterford as captain. There need be no reservations about how one native used his God-given talents. Seán Clohosey will forever represent the best in Kilkenny hurling.

Tommy O'Connell was Kilkenny's top scorer with 3-0 in the drawn All-Ireland senior hurling final of 1959. He finished as 3rd highest scorer nationally in that year in games encompassing inter-county league and championship. He played in four successive Kilkenny county senior finals with the Fenians from 1969 to 1972, winning 2 county senior medals in 1970 and 1972. Among his cohorts on those Fenians teams were P.J.Ryan, Shem Delaney, father of current star J.J., Nickey Orr, Pat Henderson, Pat Delaney and Johnny Moriarty.

Tommy was born in London but his family moved to Crosspatrick soon afterwards. Tommy played u-16 and minor hurling with Kilkenny. In the 1957 All-Ireland minor hurling championship, Tommy scored 3-3 in one game, but was not selected for the first fifteen in the All-Ireland final. Tipp won by 4-7 to 3-7 and Tommy came on as a sub.

Tommy hurled senior with Eire Og club from 1958 to 1968, but without success. He made his senior inter-county debut with Kilkenny in 1958 against Dublin. In 1959, Tommy made his mark. He scored 3-3 against Laois, 1-2 against Dublin in the Leinster Final, and then top-scored with 3-0 against Waterford, in the drawn All-Ireland final which ended Waterford 1-17 Kilkenny 5-5. The Irish Press reported 'those goals came from the youngest player afield, 19 year old Tommy O'Connell, who managed 3 goals against Joe Harney, a back who hadn't been beaten for a goal by the great Christy Ring himself in the Munster final.'

Tommy played on the Kilkenny team in 1960 but wasn't picked for Kilkenny in 1961 or 1962, perhaps due to Eire Og's poor form, although he was a sub on the winning NHL side of 1961-62, as indeed he was in 1965-66. He played in the Leinster championship of 1963 but shortly afterwards he was struck down with appendicitis. He won a Leinster medal that year and in 1966. TC as he was affectionately known made friends throughout the whole of the island and was extremely popular. One was always assured of a good humoured reception when you met Tommy with the twinkling eyes and hearty laugh. Hurling in Tommy's era was a cause for friendship.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

From an Interview in Kilkenny GAA Yearbook 2009 with Jim Fogarty.

RICHIE HOGAN:

RARIN' TO GO AGAIN

By Enda McEvoy (Irish Examiner)



Ireland final and other stuff will be discussed in due course. First, on the basis that what a person does for a living is a source of eternal and endless interest to Irish people, what does Richie Hogan actually (italics do (close itals) in Croke Park?

He works as commercial manager for a company called GAA Le Chéile, it emerges. This involves finding new sponsors and partnerships for the Association and the GPA. He's been there since last Christmas and although it's a challenging job he loves it.

"I haven't taken a day's holiday yet. There's always something to do because the GAA is such a strong brand. It covers everything that's good about sport. Volunteerism, sustainability, social responsibility. All sorts of remits. Also, the GAA is seen as the last organisation left that has a high-performance volunteer network of players, which helps too."

In a previous life Hogan spent six years as a teacher ("everyone still refers to me as one!"); did a masters in business and finance; and spent three years in recruitment, sending teachers, IT professionals, financiers and the like to the Middle East. Whatever the future holds for him, he reckons, he'll remain in the business sector.

So now you know where he's at.

LEARNING THE ROPES

An evening in Nowlan Park in the summer of 2007. Hogan, a child prodigy who has been touted as Noreside's coming superstar for the past four years, has not yet turned 19. It is his first training session with Kilkenny and his first training match. Jackie Tyrrell is going down to rise the ball in the corner. Hogan steams in to hit him a shoulder. Something strange happens: nothing happens.

"The two of us just bounced off each other. It continued that way for another ten years. I was expecting him to fall. He was probably expecting me to fall. That evening I got an idea of what the physicality of it was like. It depends on what you're comfortable with. I came in at the same time as TJ. We were both a lot younger than everyone else and for a while we were battling with each other almost for the same place."

It was with a mixture of shock, embarrassment and slight unease during the planning stages for this publication that the editorial committee realised Richie Hogan had never been the subject of an interview/feature in any previous Yearbook. Of all the years, huh..? Which is why we're in the bar of the Croke Park Hotel on a late October afternoon and the Danesfort man has popped across Jones's Road from his office for a chat. The All

Words, he says, cannot describe the difference between club hurling and intercounty hurling. He found out "quickly enough" the areas in which he needed to improve. He had to adapt. He had to realise that there was stuff he could get away with for Danesfort that he couldn't get away with for Kilkenny. Craftier use of the ball; learning to link up with colleagues instead of going for his own score; reading the game better in order to get on the end of a pass. "The whole dynamic of taking a pass, giving a pass. That's what I had to work on. It took me about a year."

The pace of the game in his championship debut against Offaly at O'Moore Park in 2008 was another eyeopener. Hogan won a lot of ball but failed to make optimum use of it. "I couldn't get rid of it. Everything was going so fast."

He had to find his own way. Yet being left "to sink or swim" by the management didn't bother him. He found it to be a source of encouragement, in fact. "While people sometimes complain, you're going to be on your own out there on the pitch. The fact that the management put you out there means they're 100 per cent confident in your ability – and as a result you're 100 per cent confident you belong there. I found that very helpful."

Mick Dempsey ensured he was an athlete, able to get up and down the pitch, instead of going mad on weights. Martin Fogarty had a nice way of pointing out a better way to do things. Look at the way Richie

Power catches the ball or Aidan Fogarty gets in a hook, he'd say. "Martin didn't criticise you as a player. He showed you how to learn from others."

2007: Did his shoulder a/c just after being called up by Brian Cody. Couldn't train for the first six weeks.

2009: Did his hamstring after the National League final and missed the first round of the championship, "a big blow at the time".

2010 I: Lost the top of his finger and missed the entire league.

2010 II: Tore an ankle ligament and missed the All Ireland semi-final. Patched up for the final, started on the bench, came on in the second half "but wasn't able to run". Operation a few weeks later.

2011: No injuries.

2012: Broke ribs and punctured a lung in a tackle during the league match against Galway. Out for three weeks.

2013: No injuries.

2014: Knee cartilage. Missed half of the National League but enjoyed "a great run after that". Hurler of the Year.

2015: Back troubles. Disc and facet joint. Pulled quad muscles before the All Ireland final and barely made the starting XV.

2016: Constant back problems during the league. Broke his wrist at the start of the championship.

2017: Further back problems that led to constant injuries that continued well into 2018.



7 August 2016: Richie Hogan during the All-Ireland Semi-Final between Kilkenny and Waterford
Photo by Eoin Noonan/Sportsfile

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2019: Missed the first round of the championship after hurting his back with Danesfort. Tore knee ligaments in the All Ireland semi-final against Limerick. Didn't train for the final and took the field "completely patched up".

THE STATS

Leo McGough, the Carlow-based GAA statistician, is a fount of knowledge on the deeds of intercounty hurlers. His figures on Richie Hogan are as interesting for what they imply as for what they reveal.

Hogan has played 50 championship games for Kilkenny, 39 as a starter and 11 when coming on. He was replaced 13 times and sent off twice, meaning he's featured in only 24 full championship matches.

His scoring aggregate is 11-90, 11-88 of it from play. He's scored from play in 35 of those 38 starts; scored twice from play in 25 of his 50 games; and scored three times or more from play in 16 of the 50.

Leo has added up Hogan's championship minutes, which come to 3,010. Converting that figure into full championship matches – a legitimate exercise in view of the fact that one fifth of his appearances came off the bench - gives 42. Run the numbers again and Hogan has averaged 2.88 points from play per full championship outing. This figure is nothing short of mindblowing.

By way of comparison, Henry Shefflin also averaged 2.88 points from play per game in 71 appearances (eight of the last nine when coming on as a sub) and Eoin Kelly 2.68 points from play in 63 appearances (seven of the last eight when coming on as a sub).

To put it another way: in an age of scoring machines, Richie Hogan stands tall among the very best of them.

THE ALL IRELAND FINAL

Here's Hogan on the Tipperary defenders, frequent and doughty opponents these past ten years.

"They're well able to hurl, they're not going out to spoil you. They can do a hell of a lot of damage on you in the space of ten minutes in terms of delivering the ball. With short balls, they're very confident in their touch and delivery. Very comfortable left and right. These lads have hurled all their lives, it's all they've ever done. That's why they're so good."

Which brings us neatly to the 2019 All Ireland final. Here's one thing worth remembering about the red-card episode. Richie Hogan is 5'7, a thick-thighed sprite in a land and an era where hurlers have never been bigger, stronger, faster or more muscly. Hogan and Michael Fennelly: for half the decade they were Kilkenny's yin and yang. To reach the eminence he did, Hogan could not afford to take a step back. Ever.

Here's another thing to remember. Not only could he not afford to take a step back, he was bred not to take a step back. His father Sean, the current chairman of the club, captained John Lockes to county junior and intermediate titles in 1987 and 1993 respectively. His grandad Mick McCarthy won six county titles with Bennettsbridge in the 1960s before an eye injury forced his retirement. His other grandfather, Patsy Hogan, won a minor medal in 1950 before joining the navy. The vines of the family tree also feature All Ireland winning cousins like Richie McCarthy, James McGarry, DJ Carey and Mark Kelly. And let's not forget his brother Paddy.

Hogan doesn't regret his decision to tackle Cathal Barrett. "You either go to shoulder him or you don't." Pull out? Hogan couldn't. Couldn't let Barrett stand up and then chase him down the field. Not at that level. Not in an All Ireland final. "Given the choice again I wouldn't do anything differently."

He's not still thinking about it, which doesn't mean he's forgotten about it. He can't. "You don't park it just like that." In any case he's reminded about it all the time. "It's all anybody who sees you wants to talk about." Ouch.

At half-time did he still believe Kilkenny could win? He did. After 15 minutes of the second half he knew they wouldn't. "Tipp were throwing the ball around as if it was a challenge match. The life just sapped out of us."

For a small man Hogan was able to cope under the high ball. He used to watch how DJ and Tommy Walsh caught the sliotar and developed his own technique, timing his jump as best he could. His favourite position



*Richie Hogan, dejected after the Final
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile*

was midfield, or a kind of midfield cum centre-forward berth. This was where he did all sorts of damage against Tipperary in the drawn 2014 All Ireland final, when he finished with 0-6 to his name, and where – strange as it may sound – he was able to get himself into the game under a puckout.

"I wasn't fast but I was quicker to the ball than the big midfielders when it broke. I wasn't marking the other guy but if you're on the ball more than he is you'll do damage. And when I got the ball I was able to know where the inside forwards were and where they should be running to."

Influences on his career? His family. Tom Hogan and John Quane in St Kieran's. Above all, Brother Damien Brennan.

Like many another Kilkenny player Hogan was affected by Br Damien's passing. In his case the relationship started early – a Callan connection through Sean Hogan. Br Damien would pick Richie up for county minor training and was part of his life thereafter.

"It was what he did for people. He pushed them to be better than they were, no matter how good they were or thought they were. Me, I was a good student. But three months before the Leaving he made me take up history and helped me. I didn't need to do it but I loved it and I came out with an A1.

"He also had a great way of bringing people down to earth. If you had a problem in training you could vent to him without doing it in public or damaging the spirit in the camp. In the best possible way he would make demands of you. And he'd do this for anybody."

In more ways than one, then, 2019 finished badly. But January will bring a new year and a new decade. Richie Hogan has one aim and one aim only. "I intend to go as hard as I can for as long as I can until someone drags me off the field."

The way he's always played. The way he was bred to play. The way he'll continue to play.



*Richie Hogan in action against Noel McGrath of Tipperary during the All-Ireland Final.
Photo by Sam Barnes/Sportsfile*

Laoch na Feadóige

Podge Butler RIP



The GAA is so often spoken about as being a unique organisation. An organisation built and moulded on the generosity and good-will of the grass-route members all over the country. Many examples of such heroes immediately come to mind- leading figures in our local communities who selflessly devote their lives to ensure the progression of our national games.

I spent some time thinking and looking for opinions on heroes suitable for the series of Kilkenny sporting heroes. I looked for people who had a profound influence on our unique sporting culture and the development of Gaelic games in the county. Having received many suggestions from the public ranging from male and female players to managers, one name came to light more than others.

I wasn't long digging when it became apparent that a famous hurling referee had influenced so many people all over the county. Podge Butler had dedicated his life to refereeing games of every kind. Thanks to the drive and passion of the O'Loughlin Gaels clubman, players both young and old would enjoy our games in a safe and respectful atmosphere.

Such was the character of Podge that a surname was never required when referring to the man in the middle. He gained huge admiration amongst players as he always treated them with an unconditional respect. Although he never sought attention or publicity, he was widely regarded as a central figure in the development of our games for over half a century. Podge always had a burning desire to be involved and was a noted player in both codes during his playing days in St John's Park. His career was only beginning when he hung up his playing boots with the O'Loughlin Gaels club however. He first took the whistle in the early seventies and thus the most iconic refereeing career in the history of Kilkenny GAA had begun.

He received the biggest refereeing honour in the game when he was chosen to take charge of the 1991 senior hurling county final between Ballyhale Shamrocks and St Martin's. He would go on to referee countless county finals across hurling, football and camogie over the years but will not simply be remembered for his role on the big occasions. Podge will live in our memory as a man who could be depended on regardless of the perceived importance of the fixture.

His last county final action in the middle came unexpectedly during the 2006 county football final as he manned the side-line. When the referee on duty that day had to retire due to a torn hamstring shortly after half time Podge was called into action. Not a word of persuasion was needed to and he took the whistle with pride shortly after his 67th birthday. Need we say anymore?

Refereeing is challenging in any game but Podge made the craft seem effortless. In the midst of heated battle his calming voice of reason often ensured that hurling would be the only thing to prevail. Not only did he deal with infractions promptly but his most valuable skill was to defuse any danger before it would come to the surface.

In Kilkenny, we have been blessed with unforgettable days of success in Croke Park. Naturally people question the roots of such success. Brian Cody has always been honest in his assessment when the question is raised- referring to the people who promote the game on the ground and the thousands of volunteers who instil a love for the game amongst youngsters all over the county. Quite simply tradition takes dedication and time. Reflecting on the relentless commitment of Podge to the cause of Kilkenny GAA one has to admire the key role he played in shaping the lives of some of the greatest hurlers and camogie players ever to play our games. We have so much to be grateful for indeed.

Our silent hero was called to his eternal reward on the 13th May 2019 and the cloud of sadness will last for some time yet over all who knew him. The last of the Blasket Island inhabitants once told us that we would never see their kind again, before abandoning the Island in 1953. It's no exaggeration to say that we will never see Podge butler's kind again. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Caomhnóir na Páirce

Mick O'Neill RIP



He was a man of natural generous nature with the keys to the Kilkenny kingdom that is Nowlan Park, and he became part of the establishment. He was fondly referred to as 'Mr Nowlan Park' and he was laid to rest in St Kieran's cemetery on Monday, not a s to n e's throw from the famous GAA venue. Michael 'Mick' O'Neill (79) from O'Loughlin Road, Kilkenny died on Friday. He was a volunteer at the GAA headquarters for over 40 years. Former County Board chairman, Ned Quinn, said during his eulogy at the funeral, that Mick first received the call to arms from the late County Board secretary, Paddy Grace. "When a call came from Grace, you didn't refuse," Mick was wont to say when recalling the moment with more than a little amusement.

In the early days, his duties involved regular stints as an umpire; often as the scoreboard operator and general helper. He didn't need a title to do the job.

Slowly his role and duties expanded, and they exploded when the venue was redeveloped in the mid-nineties. There was no prouder man when Nowlan Park was judged to be the GAA Pitch of the Year in 2018. He loved the big days at Nowlan Park. He would throw himself into the effort to have it gleaming, looking its best; reflecting well on Kilkenny.

There was no more dedicated man back in 2014 when Storm Darwin ripped part of the roof off Ardán Breathnach. Mick was among the first responders, immediately understanding the fears a damaged asbestos roof might ignite. He was out on the road cleaning up. He visited homes to reassure.

He was the ideal PR man, a go-between to neighbours and friends for the GAA. Being part of the 'Park team' was a labour of love. Mick lived just across the road from the 'Park'. No matter what time of the day or night he was needed, he was there, ready and willing to help out, be that giving access to players, teams or assisting in any number of ways. Mick gave of his time and energy without question, and the warmth and grace of the 'Mick O'Neill welcome' was legendary.

He loved the place, and Kilkenny. That shone through in the easy and relaxed way he went about his duties; friend to everyone.

He was the County Board's representative there on a daily basis, Mr Quinn insisted.

Mick was much loved by visiting media. In an age when time is even more precious to writers and broadcasters because of heightened workloads, he understood. He gave everyone time and space to use all the facilities. There was even a cuppa and a sandwich, if it were available.

In a previous life, Michael O'Neill worked in Smithwick's Brewery, in Fit Remoulds and as a bus and lorry driver with Hehir's in the city. He was a proud member of the O'Loughlin Gaels club. A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect at all games over the weekend and at Monday's annual Convention.

It was our honour to have known him!

To his wife Mary, family members Martina, Michael and Willie, brothers and sisters, Frank, Liam, Patty and Marie, grandchildren and great grandchildren, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Suaimhneas síoraí dá anam

Kilkenny People



Photo - Piaras Ó Midheach/SPORTSFILE

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HUW LAWLOR

VAT BOYS COMPLETE HAT-TRICK

Football Report by Michael O'Leary

Photos: Willie Dempsey



Mullinavat - Kilkenny Senior Football Champions 2019

Back: Mark Mansfield, Robin Davis, Eoin Maher, Sean Fitzpatrick, Brian Phelan, Adam Mansfield, Danny Walsh, Killian Dunphy, Ryan Bland, Ian Duggan.

Middle: Jamie Fennelly, Stephen Law, Michael Walsh, Shane Kelly, Ger Malone, Tom Aylward, Michael Malone, Joe Fennelly, John Walsh.

Front: Oisin Knox, Mark McNamara, Darren Kenneally, Simon Aylward, Mikey Jones (Capt.), Gavin Maher, Jack Byrne Doyle, Conor Duggan, Jack Walsh, Michael Aylward (Manager).

Mullinavat completed the three-in-a-row of County Senior Football Championships when they defeated Railyard 1-13 to 0-10 after a replay in early August.

The teams finished level at 1-7 apiece in the original fixture, but the South Kilkenny men took control of the replay.

They built up a 0-5 to 0-1 lead by the 12th minute with Tom Aylward and Ger Malone gaining supremacy around the middle third, before Ian Duggan added three further points - 2 from frees - to extend the lead at the interval. 0-9 to 0-3.

The clinching score in the 2nd half came in the 38th minute.

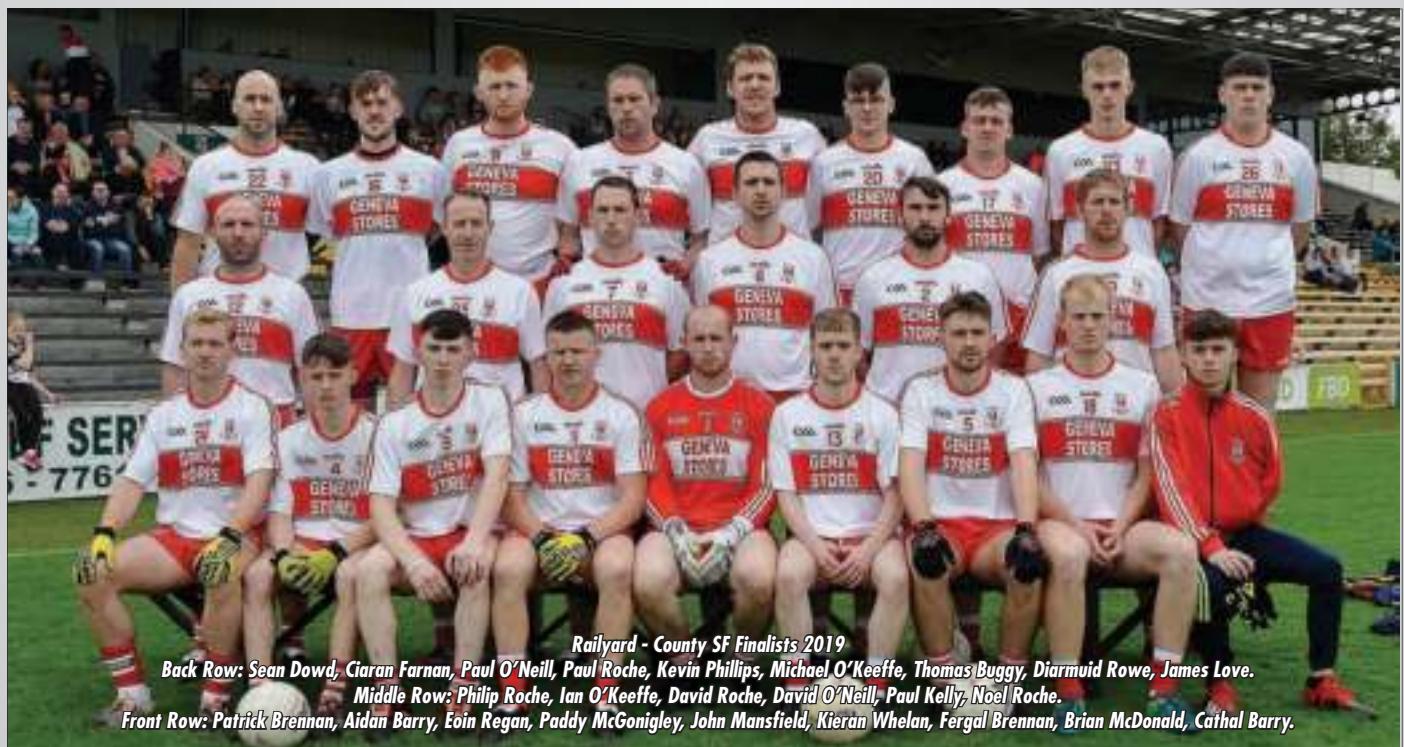
Brian Phelan displayed wonderful sublime skill to set up the perfectly

placed Oisin Knox who rifled home an unstoppable shot. 1-10 to 0-5. It was always an uphill battle for Railyard and despite their best attempts, they never looked in a position to trouble the victors.

After a few rounds of League matches were played, the Championship began in late February.

Four first round games were played with Clara overcoming James Stephens 3-6 to 1-7, Kilmoganny shading Glenmore 0-8 to 0-7, Muckalee overcoming Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-13 to 2-6 while O'Loughlin Gaels brushed aside Danesfort 4-13 to 1-7.

In the Quarter-Finals, Muckalee defeated Dicksboro 2-12 to 0-10 following a replay after the original fixture had ended 2-7 each.



Railyard - County SF Finalists 2019

Back Row: Sean Dowd, Ciaran Farnan, Paul O'Neill, Paul Roche, Kevin Phillips, Michael O'Keeffe, Thomas Buggy, Diarmuid Rowe, James Love.

Middle Row: Philip Roche, Ian O'Keeffe, David Roche, David O'Neill, Paul Kelly, Noel Roche.

Front Row: Patrick Brennan, Aidan Barry, Eoin Regan, Paddy McGonigley, John Mansfield, Kieran Whelan, Fergal Brennan, Brian McDonald, Cathal Barry.

A replay was also needed to decide the O'Loughlin Gaels and Mullinavat clash after the sides finished level at 2-6 to 1-9, before the eventual champions overcame the city outfit 1-10 to 0-7 in the replay.

In the remaining two quarter-finals, Railyard overcame Clara 1-7 to 0-4, while Conahy Shamrocks completed the Semi-Finalists with a 3-11 to 1-10 win over Kilmoganny.

The Semi-Finals played in early July saw Railyard overcome Conahy Shamrocks 0-9 to 0-7, while Mullinavat came from behind at half-time to defeat Muckalee 2-16 having trailed by 5 points just before half-time. However, an Oisin Knox goal from a penalty left just two points between them at the interval.

That goal inspired them onto greater heights during the second-half, as they took control outscoring their opponents 1-9 to 0-2.

Scoring 1-6 without reply including an injury-time goal from Adam Mansfield put a greater gloss on the scoreline as they ran out convincing winners to set up a final showdown.

Mullinavat: Killian Dunphy; Mikey Jones(captain), Joe Fennelly; Darren Kenneally, Mark Mansfield, Shane Kelly, Ger Malone(0-4), Tom Aylward, Michael Malone; Conor Duggan, Ian Duggan(0-6 0-4 frees), Adam Mansfield, Brian Phelan, Jamie Fennelly, Oisin Knox(1-1),

Subs: Simon Aylward for Shane Kelly, Ryan Bland for Michael Malone (black-card), Mark McNamara, Padraig Gahan, John Walsh, Michael Walsh, Daniel Walsh, Robert Malone, Gavin Maher, Robin Davis, Jack Byrne Doyle, Conor Frisby, Sean Fitzpatrick, Jack Walsh, Ian Mansfield, Damien Aylward, Stephen Law, Eoin Maher, James Culleton, Liam Fennelly.

Railyard: John Mansfield, Paul Kelly, Paul Roche(captain), Aidan Barry, Fergal Brennan, David O'Neill, David "Ozzie" Roche, Paul O'Neill, Owen Regen, Noel Roche, Patrick McConicley, Philip Roche, Kieran Whelan, Kevin Phillips, Sean Dowd.

Subs: Tom Buggy for P. Roche, Michael O'Keeffe for Regen, Ciaran Farnan, Brian McDonald, Ultan Walsh, Diarmuid Rowe, Pa Brennan, Ian O'Keeffe, James Love, Cathal Barry, Pauric Mitchell.

SUIRSIDERS CRUISE TO INTER GLORY

Mooncoin cruised to Intermediate Final glory when they easily defeated Erin's Own of Castlecomer 2-8 to 0-4 after making a blistering start with a goal within seconds.

Right from the throw-in, the Suirsiders won possession and Paul Henebry soloed through the Erin's Own defence unmarked before rasping an unstoppable shot that gave Ciaran Brennan no chance.

Patrick Walsh added a point in the 3rd minute, before they firmly put themselves in full control in the 12th minute when Stephen Crowley finished off a superb team movement for their second goal.

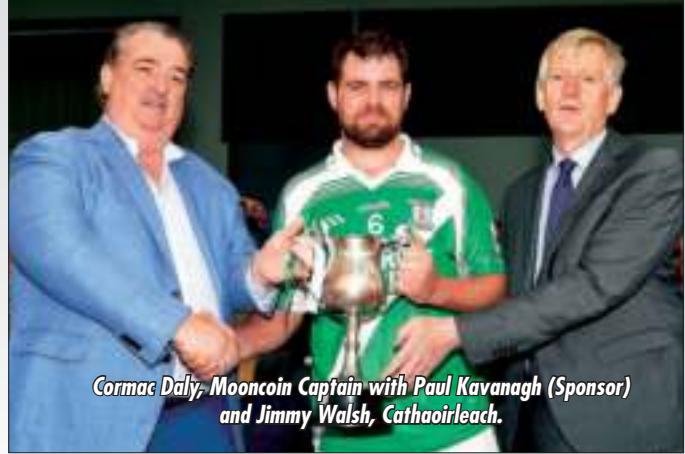
Mooncoin remained in control afterwards, and they led 2-4 to 0-3 at the interval and they maintained a healthy lead throughout the second-half. Stephen Crowley, Seamus Kearns, Patrick Walsh and Paul Henebry all added points as they defensively dominated their opponents during the second-half restricting their opponents to just a solitary point.

Mooncoin have a chance to complete a Championship/League double when they play their League Final clash against Lisdowney, but at time of writing, that fixture is still to be played due to Mooncoin competing in the Junior Hurling Championship.

The Championship winners began their campaign with as they easily



Mikey Jones, Mullinavat Captain with Paul Kavanagh (Sponsor) and Jimmy Walsh, Cathaoirleach.



Cormac Daly, Mooncoin Captain with Paul Kavanagh (Sponsor) and Jimmy Walsh, Cathaoirleach.

brushed aside Blacks and Whites 3-12 to 1-1, while in the semi-final they overcame Piltown 1-14 to 3-3 who themselves defeated Lisdowney 3-5 to 2-7 in the previous round.

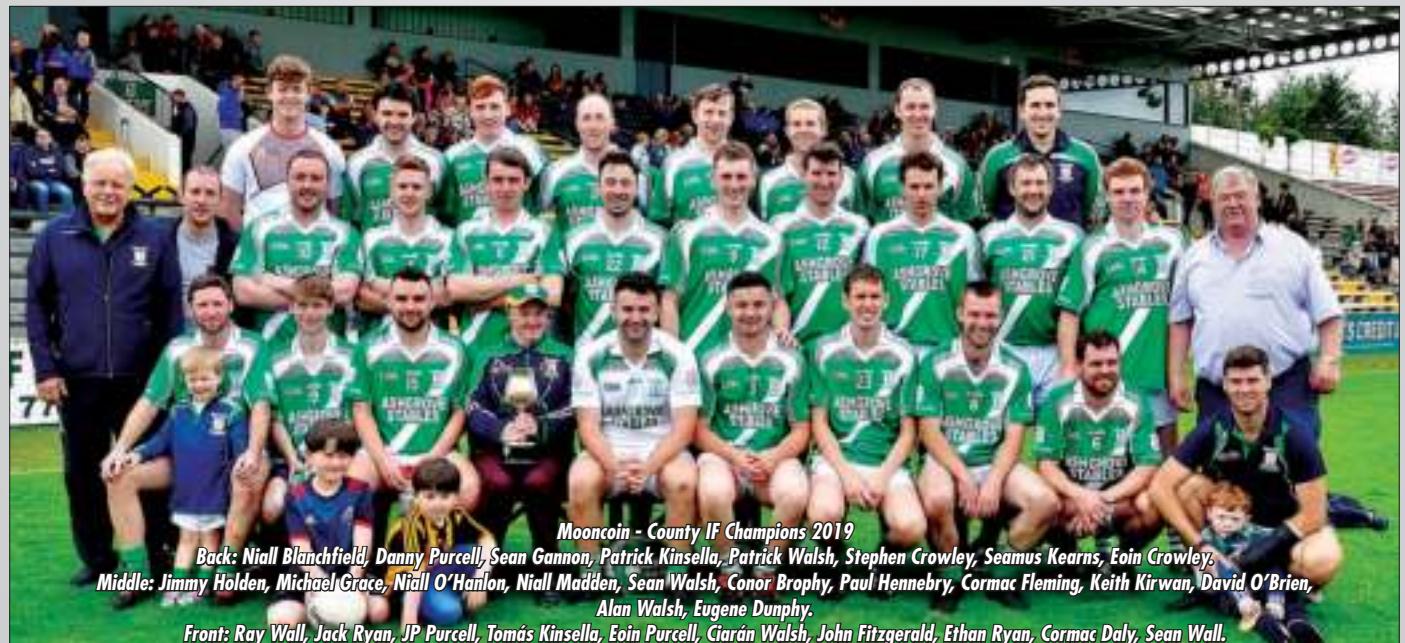
Erin's Own hammered St. Patricks Ballyragget 6-10 to 0-2, before brushing aside Thomastown 4-12 to 1-5 in the semi-final.

Mooncoin: Eoin Purcell, Ray Wall, Ciaran Walsh, Niall Madden, Sean Gannon, Cormac Daly, Seamus Kearns(0-01), Ethan Ryan(0-01), Paul Henebry (1-2 0-1 free), Stephen Crowley (0-01), Sean Walsh, Cormac Fleming, Patrick Walsh (1-2), Alan Walsh, JP Purcell.

Subs: Danny Purcell, Keith Kirwan, Niall Brophy, Ciaran Quilty.

Erin's Own: Ciaran Brennan, Larry Carroll, Liam Wallace, James Brennan, Robert Moran, Eoin Brennan, Michael Farrell, Michael Murphy, Declan Dunne, Colin Phelan (0-2), Jamie Holohan, James Mullins, Stephen Daly (0-1 free), Eddie Brennan (0-1 free), Shane Feehan

Subs: Chris Korff, Niall McMahon, Sean & Declan Buggy.



Mooncoin - County IF Champions 2019

Back: Niall Blanchfield, Danny Purcell, Sean Gannon, Patrick Kinsella, Patrick Walsh, Stephen Crowley, Seamus Kearns, Eoin Crowley.
Middle: Jimmy Holden, Michael Grace, Niall O'Hanlon, Niall Madden, Sean Walsh, Conor Brophy, Paul Hennebry, Cormac Fleming, Keith Kirwan, David O'Brien, Alan Walsh, Eugene Dunphy.
Front: Ray Wall, Jack Ryan, JP Purcell, Tomás Kinsella, Eoin Purcell, Ciarán Walsh, John Fitzgerald, Ethan Ryan, Cormac Daly, Sean Wall.

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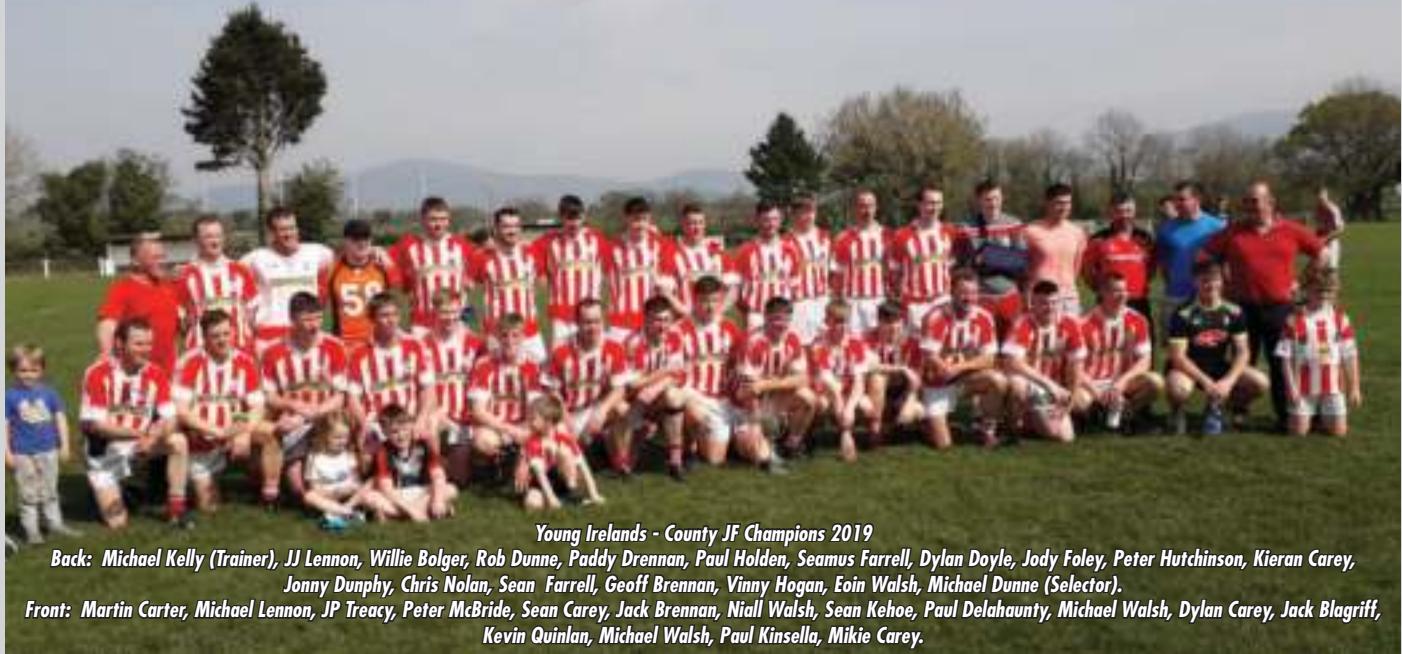
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CENTRA



GOWRAN WIN NEIGHBOURLY BATTLE

Young Irelands Gowran overcame their neighbors Barrow Rangers over the long Easter weekend in the County Junior Football Final. They began their campaign with a 1-9 to 1-5 victory over Railyard, before requiring two tough bruising battles to overcome Tullaroan. In the original fixture, the teams finished level at 2-5 to 1-8, before Young Irelands emerged victorious by a solitary point, 2-7 to 2-6 after a replay. Tullaroan themselves easily accounted for Muckalee at the Quarter-Final stage winning 6-9 to 0-6.

Barrow Rangers overcame Graigue-Ballycallan 3-5 to 1-7, while similar to Young Irelands they were one point victors in their Semi-Final.

In a low scoring contest, Barrow Rangers emerged victorious 2-5 to 3-1 against Windgap who themselves defeated Emeralds 3-9 to 2-8 in the Quarter-Final.

In the Final itself played on Easter Saturday Paul Holden was the successful winning captain as they won out 1-8 to 0-6.

At time of writing, the Junior League Final between Windgap an Graigue-Ballycallan is still to be played.

SCORERS: *Mullinavat - Jamie Fennelly (3-4, 0-2f), John Walsh (1-1, 1-0 penalty, 0-1f), Padraig Gahan (1-1), Michael Malone (0-2), Liam Fennelly, Joe Fennelly and Mark Mansfield (0-1 each).*

Muckalee - Tomás Breen (0-4, 0-3f), Mick Morrissey, Sean Maher (1-0 each), Colin McGrath and Brian Byrne (0-2 each), Tom Morrissey (0-1).

Mullinavat - Killian Dunphy; Shane Kelly, Simon Aylward, Mikey Jones, Ryan Bland, Mark Mansfield, Joe Fennelly, James Culleton, Michael Malone, Conor Duggan, John Walsh, Liam Fennelly, Adam Mansfield, Jamie Fennelly, Brian Phelan. Sub; Padraig Gahan.

Muckalee - Stephen Murphy, Damien Tynan, James Maher, Noel Darcy, Colm Kealy, Paddy Nolan, Jason Shore, Tomas Breen, Mick Morrissey, Brian Coady, Tom Morrissey, John Mulhall, Ollie Walsh, Brian Byrne, Sean Maher.

At time of writing the Senior League Final between Railyard and Kilmoganny remains to be played.

BRITISH HAT-TRICK DREAMS DASHED BY SCOTS

Unfortunately, Kilkenny's attempt at winning their third consecutive British Junior championship was dashed by Scotland in Clydebank at the Semi-Final stage with the Scots winning the final outright defeating Warwickshire by a solitary point, 3-12 to 3-11 in a thriller.

Hopes were high of three-in-a-row following victories in earlier rounds against London and Warwickshire.

Their first game against Warwickshire resulted was a repeat of last years final in which Kilkenny won comprehensively 3-16 to 0-6, before Shane Stapleton kicked 0-8 as they defeated London 0-13 to 1-6 in Nowlan Park, having trailed 1-4 to 0-6 at the interval.

However, there was disappointment in the semi-final, when Scotland put an end to Kilkenny's three-in-a-row hopes winning 1-15 to 0-1.

MINOR PERFORMANCES OFFER ENCOURAGEMENT

Under the stewardship of DJ Carey Kilkenny produced encouraging performances in the Leinster Minor Football championship.

Their first match played during the Easter mid-term saw Kilkenny produce

a valiant effort before losing out to Louth 3-16 to 3-8 in a thriller. The wee county made a blistering start, and by the 11th minute they had built up a 1-4 to 0-0, and it would appear they were going to cruise to an easy victory.

However, Kilkenny displayed admirable fighting spirit in abundance as they kept plugging away.

Vincent O'Grady rifled home an unstoppable shot for Kilkenny's first goal, before he was denied a second goal courtesy of a brilliant point blank save from the Louth goalkeeper.

However, Vincent made amends in first-half injury-time when he converted a penalty to leave 5 points between the teams at the interval. 1-11 to 2-3. Himself and Ryan Murphy added points early in the second-half to narrow the gap to just three points, but that was as close as it was as Louth slowly but surely began to assert themselves.

Similar to the very start of the game, Louth added 1-4 without reply with Luke Matthews adding a second goal to build up a 10 point lead by the end of the third quarter, 2-15 to 2-5 and put the game beyond Kilkenny's reach.

However, Kilkenny responded when Ryan Murphy grabbed DJ Carey's Team's third goal, before himself and Tommy Coogan kicked points to leave five in it again, 2-15 to 3-7.

Louth though had the final say, when Ben Collier added a late goal as they ran out 8 point winners following a valiant effort by Kilkenny.

After the encouraging performance against Louth, hopes were high of a similar display against Wicklow in their 2nd game in Nowlan Park, but unfortunately it was a disaster as they shipped a 38 point beating after they were annihilated 9-20 to 2-3 with the goals coming from a Vincent O'Grady penalty in the first-half, and Evan O'Shea afterwards.

Their third match against Kildare saw Kilkenny produce a more respectable as they lost out 1-12 to 0-5 with goalkeeper Jack Conway performing heroics in a Man of the match display.

The Kilkenny netminder pulled off a host of top class saves including a penalty save as Kildare played effectively a 2nd string Team having already qualified for the Semi-Finals.

Unfortunately, Kilkenny's final game of the Leinster was a chastening experience as they were hockeied 7-22 to 0-2 against Carlow.

Also, at the end of September trials took place for the Fr. Manning Cup which took place in October, and Kilkenny played matches against Waterford, Wexford and Carlow.

KILKENNY MINOR PANEL 2019: *Jack Conway (Mooncoin), Callum Arthurs (Tullogher Rosbercon), Aidan Walsh (Piltown), Fergal Suffin (Kilmacow) Tom Carroll (Dicksboro), John McNamara (O'Loughlin Gaels), Oisin Henebry (Mooncoin), Gavin Manning (Young Irelands), Sean O'Dwyer (Mooncoin), Billy O'Callaghan (Piltown), Conor Walsh (Capt) (Mullinavat), Tommy Coogan (Erins Own), Eoin Crowley (Carrickshock), Ryan Murphy (Blacks & Whites), Vincent O'Grady (O'Loughlin Gaels), Nick Doheny (Dicksboro), Brian O'Shea (Tullogher Rosbercon), Frances Moore (Piltown), Oisin Carroll (Carrickshock), Fionn Blanche (Kilmacow), Rory O'Connor (Dicksboro), Evan O'Shea (Piltown), Liam Treacy (Thomastown), Brian McDonald (Danesfort)*

Extended Panel: *Conor McGowan (Piltown), Jack Skehan (Thomastown), David Maher (Mullinavat), Donnacha Hogan (Mooncoin), Tommy Phelan (Young Irelands), Tom Reid (Piltown), James Carroll (Dicksboro), Richard McEvoy (Lisdowney), Paddy Reagan (Kilmacow), Eamonn O'Reilly (Dicksboro), Conor Fitzpatrick (Young Irelands), John Canny (Danesfort),*



Kilkenny MF Panel 2019

BILLY RYAN



CONOR BROWNE



A Long Life, a Well Lived Life.

By Richie Walsh

Dick of the Church RIP

This year saw the sad passing of Dick & Kitty Walshe of The Church, Tullaroan. Dick was in his 102nd year when he passed. Both were life-long supporters of Tullaroan and Kilkenny GAA.

Dick was born on 15th March 1918 to Larry & Dot Walshe but always celebrated his birthday on St Patrick's Day. He was born at a volatile time in Irish & European history. During his early life, he had the opportunity to discuss directly with many who witnessed some of these significant events of Irish and Tullaroan history long before recording technology was available. He had a terrific memory and could recall actual events in detail and describe with great storytelling ability that would engage the listener.

Dick lived all his life at The Church, marrying Kitty Lawlor from Urringford in 1965. He farmed-tillage, beet, dairy & suckler beef and later worked in Avonmore. This hard work stood to him in later life as his energy and fitness levels were extraordinary right up to his 90's. He was an avid country sportsman who hunted and fished extensively. He had a great interest in politics, was founding member of the local Fianna Fáil Cumann and met De Valera on several occasions.

The GAA and hurling had a special place in his heart. He was a lifelong member and servant of the GAA.

He was the president of the Tullaroan Hurling Club, the last surviving member of the winning 1948 team and a selector of the 1958 winning team.

Tullaroan was one of the founding clubs of the GAA. Dick maintained that Lory Meagher father Henry was at that initial meeting in Hayes Hotel in 1884.

His first All-Ireland was the second replay of the famous 3 game saga to settle the 1931 decider. The third game was eventually won by Cork with Kilkenny's hero and Dick's neighbour Lory Meagher injured and unable to participate in the game.

Dick cycled to Killarney for the 1937 All-Ireland final. That year he had to listen to the Tipperary banter and taunts all the way home as he cycled back through the county. The rivalry with Tipp was long standing and was a great motivator. He was godfather to legendary Pa Dillon. He made great friendships through the GAA including Jimmy Doyle and the Rackards.

He recalled the 1939 All-Ireland (known as the thunder and lightning final) between Cork & Kilkenny on 3rd September. Britain declared war on



Dick and Kitty Walsh

Germany that day which was announced during the game. He often said you could hear a pin drop. But the game played on despite the weather and declaration of war and Kilkenny won.

At the crucial time during the 2009 All-Ireland final between Kilkenny Vs Tipperary when the Richie Power penalty was being disputed, Dick's son Richard in Canada and called Dick and asked 'Will Henry score it?' Dick's response was 'Of course, he will. He is from Ballyhale'. There was a delay in the call and the next words uttered 'I told you so'.

He was a good hurler and competent half back. He played in six county finals. He won a county final in 1948. He played with two of the team of the century Lory Meagher and Paddy Phelan. He broke his leg and that put pay to his inter-county playing aspirations.

He was always there volunteering and willingly available for Hurling Club-cutting the ash for hurley makings was an annual ritual. In many respects, he was no different than many of the past generations and great servants of Tullaroan hurling who predeceased him, but his tenure was longer covering almost a century. He was proud of the many sons of Tullaroan who achieved great success on the hurling field over the years but in particular Tommy Walsh. He would have enjoyed Tullaroan's recent success in the County Intermediate Hurling Final.

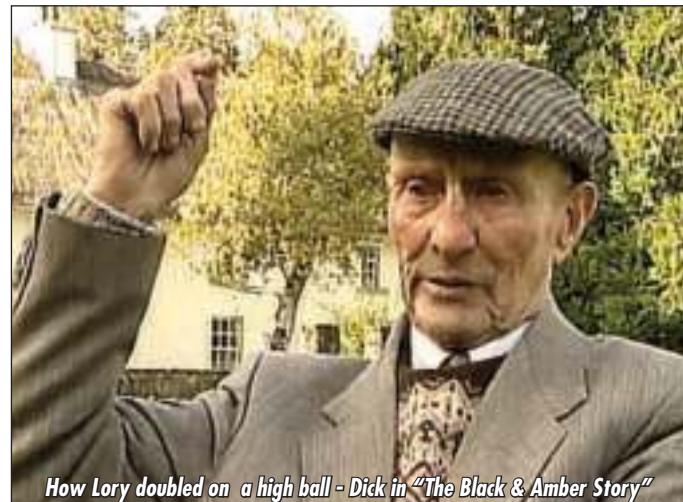
He contributed to a number of documentaries, the most recent being 'The Game-The Story of Hurling' on RTE. After his death, RTE dedicated the last programme in the series to him for his participation and contribution. Books he also contributed to include:

- 'History of Tullaroan-Memories of the Second Millennium'
- 'Land Movement 1879-1891'
- 'A Place of Memories'
- 'History of Hurling'
- 'Hell for Leather'
- 'The Flying Column of West Kilkenny'
- 'The History of Kilmacow Hurling'.

Dick passed away peacefully at home in the early hours of Monday 27th May 2019. He was predeceased by his wife Kitty six days earlier. He is survived by his son Richard and daughter Dorothy.

It was a long life, a well lived life and he loved life. Dick touched lives of many far and wide. Both Dick & Kitty are sadly missed by family, neighbours, friends and Tullaroan Hurling Club.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



How Lory doubled on a high ball - Dick in "The Black & Amber Story"



Tommy and Dick



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CATS COUNTRY - THE ENVY OF ALL AND A HURLING LAND AT EASE WITH ITSELF

Martin Breheny
Irish Independent



SEPTEMBER 1, 1963. I can't say I remember it well, but I do recall it as the day I first saw a Kilkenny hurling team in action.

The Breheny household didn't have a television at the time so it was off across the fields to Dalys, who had acquired the 'magic box' some time earlier. It was only the second year that All-Ireland finals were shown 'live' on *Teilifís Éireann*, as it was known at the time, so the novelty factor still surrounded it. And, no there weren't any pundits, just the game, commentator, Micheál O Hehir and the viewers making up their own minds. When you see the ego-driven showboating some pundits indulge in nowadays, there was a lot to recommend the original model!

Sitting on the floor in Dalys house (the chair count wasn't enough to accommodate youngsters), I watched in wonder as Kilkenny conceded six goals and still managed to win. Conversely, of course, Waterford scored six goals and somehow managed to lose!

And all in 60 minutes too. Not since 1910 (Wexford 7-0 Limerick 6-2) did a team lose an All-Ireland final after scoring six goals. It didn't even happen during the 80-minute finals in 1970-74. Making the 1963 final all the more remarkable was that Waterford's half dozen goals were fired past Ollie Walsh, one of the best goalkeepers of all time. Kilkenny survived the heavy leaking, scoring even more heavily themselves and winning by 4-17 to 6-8.

Even then, they were doing things differently, overcoming Waterford's goal-rush and still having three points to spare at the end. Eddie Keher seemed to be on screen all the time, but then he scored 14 points - ten from play and four from frees.

To these young eyes in Kilkerrin in north Galway, the All-Ireland hurling final looked like something from a different world. Yes, we had a hurling team in Galway, but sadly it wasn't up to much at the time.

In 1959, the county's power-brokers had foolishly agreed to enter the team in Munster championship and four years later they were feeling the full impact of the bad decision.

In fact, Galway won only one game in Munster in 1959-69, before removing themselves from the torture chamber. I am convinced that the bad memories from that lost decade was one of the principal reasons it took so long for Galway to come around to the idea of playing in the Leinster championship, a reluctance that lasted until 2009.

Galway's fortunes had changed for the better many years before that, but there were still those in the county who felt that the Munster experience was so devastating that it would be risky to enter the Leinster den. It wasn't, of course.

Indeed, Kilkenny's very own Nickey Brennan (first as Leinster Council chairman and later as GAA President) played an influential role in the persuasion process, patiently working through opposition in Galway and Leinster too before both sides finally agreed that a link-up would be mutually beneficial.

At the same time as Galway hurlers were enduring hell in Munster in the 1960s, the footballers took the county on its greatest-ever run, winning three successive All-Ireland titles in 1964-65-66. Any wonder 'Big Ball' won the hearts of Galway youngsters in the 'Swinging Sixties'? It certainly did in my part of the county, home to most of that outstanding football squad.

Whereas my generation spent their early years believing that Galway footballers were unbeatable, they regarded hurling as the preserve of Kilkenny, Tipperary, Cork and Wexford, who enjoyed a productive decade in the sixties.

It continued that way for quite some time as Galway patiently built from the bottom in the hope that their fortunes would change. The visionaries who established solid structures at underage level in the county probably never got the credit they deserved, but their work was invaluable.

It was a slow process, but things finally changed in 1975 when Galway won the National League for the first time in 24 years.

By then, I was a young journalist in my local paper, 'The Tuam Herald', happy to report on a remarkable transformation. Kilkenny, then reigning All-Ireland champions, played a significant part in it, not one that they would have wanted, but crucial nonetheless.

Against all odds, the Tribesmen beat them by three points in the League semi-final, a result that was probably quickly forgotten in Kilkenny, but one which older Galway supporters remember to this day.

Galway had beaten Cork in the quarter-final and went on to beat Tipperary in the final, but Kilkenny were the most prized scalp. As would prove to be the case so often afterwards - and very definitely since the turn of the Millennium - they were the yardstick by which opposition really measured themselves.

Beating Kilkenny was, for an emerging team like Galway, hugely important. It sent confidence levels soaring to such a degree that not only did they win the League, they also reached the All-Ireland final four months later, having beaten Cork in the semi-final.



Galway National Hurling League Champions 1975
Back: Iggy Clarke, P. J. Quilter, Frank Burke, Michael Connolly, Niall McInerney, Joe Clarke, Joe McDonagh.
Front: Sean Murphy, Padraig Fahy, Gerry Coone, John Connolly (Capt.), Pat Lally, Sean Silke, Marty Barrett, P. J. Molloy.



Kilkenny - All Ireland Champions 1975

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

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

Kilkenny, the 1972/74 champions and unlucky in 1973 when an injury blitz undermined them for the final against Limerick, were a different proposition than in the League. They preyed mercilessly on Galway's big-day inexperience, systematically forcing them into submission before running out easy winners.

There would be many other occasions over the years when Kilkenny tormented the maroon-and-white, but Galway have had their good days too, including over the last few seasons.

Outsiders looking in on Kilkenny tend to view them in two strands - pre 21st century and the first 20 seasons of the new Millennium. Heading into 2000, they had 25 All-Ireland senior titles, three behind Cork and one ahead of Tipperary.

They are now on 36 titles, six ahead of Cork and eight clear of Tipperary. It's quite

a change in 20 years, underlining just how incredibly successful Kilkenny have been under Brian Cody, winning eleven of the last 20 titles. The other nine were shared between Tipperary (four), Cork (two), Clare, Galway and Limerick (one each). It's a remarkable return for Kilkenny which, if achieved in some other counties, would probably have led to a surge in smugness and arrogance. Certainly, the mood in Cork at the end of 2005, after they had completed an All-Ireland double, was high on self-regard. One suspects that if they completed the treble and went on to enjoy the string of successes achieved by Kilkenny, the hurling world would find them difficult to live with.

That would most likely apply to other counties too. Kilkenny - under Cody - walk a different line. Winning is to be enjoyed, but kept in perspective too. No one owns a Kilkenny jersey - there's always a challenger.



Always a Welcome from Mick and John

"The day you pull on a Kilkenny jersey - or any other jersey for that matter - for the first time is the day you get your opportunity. If you take it, then you decide your own future, not the manager, not the selectors, since a player who keeps performing well won't be dropped," he wrote in his autobiography a decade ago.

A lot has happened since then - most of it hugely positive for Kilkenny - but the template remains the same. It's all about the black-and-amber and what's good for it.

As someone who has spent over forty years on the reporting circuit all over the country, I have found a common theme when it comes to assessing Kilkenny.

There's a massive respect for how the county conducts itself, whether in victory or defeat. Success is never accompanied by gloating and there's no whining after a defeat. That's not the situation everywhere.

As for Nowlan Park, it's my favourite venue outside Croke Park, a view shared by many of my journalistic colleagues. The late Mick O'Neill was much loved by all the media, always helpful and friendly even hours after a game when he came upstairs to check if any of us were still there.

A few of us usually were, whereupon he would jot down his mobile number (we had it, but he did it anyway) and say: 'right lads, would the last man out give me a call? There's no hurry now.'

There's always a welcome from John Healy at the car park gate, but then the whole atmosphere around Nowlan Park on match day is warm and inviting. It points to a county that's comfortable with itself and its esteemed position in GAA life.

And for those who like a debate, Kilkenny have provided a fascinating topic for hurling people all over the country. Carey or Shefflin - who was better? Where do you stand? Everyone has an opinion, but nobody has the answer because there isn't one. Still, it's fun pretending there is and trying to find it.



John Connolly leads the Galway team in the Parade before the 1975 All-Ireland Hurling Final.

PADDY PRENDERGAST,

By Jim Fogarty

a St. Kieran's College, Clara and Kilkenny Stalwart

Paddy Prendergast was born on 2nd February, 1958. During his schooling at St. Kieran's college, he won an All-Ireland senior colleges medal in 1975, defeating Colaiste Iognaid Ris from Cork in the final by 6-9 to 2-3. In the same year he first played for Kilkenny in the minor championship. Paddy, playing at full back, won an All-Ireland medal as Kilkenny defeated Cork by 3-19 to 1-14. He won his second Leinster minor medal in 1976, but Kilkenny were subsequently defeated by Tipperary in the All-Ireland final. In the 1977 All-Ireland u-21 final Kilkenny defeated Cork by 2-9 to 1-9. Match reports describe his performance at left corner-back as being very sound. Paddy made his senior championship debut for Kilkenny on 25th June 1978 in a 2-17 to 1-4 Leinster semi-final win over Offaly. Kilkenny went on to the All-Ireland final, where they were defeated by Cork on a 1-15 to 2-8 scoreline. Paddy played at right corner-back. Kilkenny's backs, including Paddy, were referred to in the Irish Independent as giving seldom less than immaculate cover to goalkeeper, Noel Skehan. If the Kilkenny attack had played as well as their defence, there might have been a different result.

He won his first All-Ireland senior medal in 1979, when Kilkenny defeated Galway by 2-12 to 1-8. Paddy played at full back and one of the features of the final was the tussle between Noel Lane and Prendergast. He won his second All-Ireland senior medal in 1982, when Kilkenny defeated Cork by 3-18 to 1-13. Playing at left half-back, Paddy surged forward from defence to send the Noresiders rampaging for scores. His displays throughout that year's championship saw him being awarded an All-Star. In the same year, he and his beloved Clara won the Kilkenny intermediate hurling final, defeating Carrickshock by 0-13 to 0-9.

His third senior All-Ireland medal was won in 1983. Kilkenny defeated Cork by 2-14 to 2-12. He once again lined out at left half-back. Kilkenny's half-back line of Joe Hennessy, Ger Henderson and Paddy Prendergast were brilliant and stemmed the tide of Cork attacks. The trio whose rating was high beforehand, soared even higher with their displays.

Paddy's greatest pleasure on the hurling field came in 1986, when Clara won their first county senior hurling title, defeating Ballyhale Shamrocks by 3-10 to 4-5. The game exploded from the start with four goals being scored in the first seven minutes, three to the Shamrocks and one for Clara. Clara had the best of the remainder of the half and scored seven points to Shamrocks one.

The sides were level at half-time. Shamrocks were in front near the end, but Clara's sub, Joe Casey, scored the winning goal. Clara were deserving winners. Paddy Prendergast was truly outstanding at full back. His sibling, Anthony Prendergast, also shone, scoring 1-2. Anthony died young R.I.P. But not before he won a senior All-Ireland with Kilkenny in 1993.

As a result of Clara's win, Paddy was named Kilkenny senior captain for 1987. He played at full back, when Kilkenny lost the All-Ireland final to Galway by 1-12 to 0-9. Over the seventy minutes, Kilkenny only scored three points from play. None worked as hard in the Kilkenny



defence as Paddy Prendergast at full back and Ger Henderson at centre half. The Irish Examiner in its match report stated that Prendergast was an outstanding success at full back.

Paddy's son, Shane won an All-Ireland intermediate medal in 2008 and an All-Ireland senior medal in 2015. He captained Kilkenny in the All-Ireland senior final of 2016, which they lost to Tipperary. Another son, David won minor All-Ireland titles in 2002 and 2003. David also won 2 county Dublin SHC medals with UCD. Another son of Paddy's, Neal won an All-Ireland minor medal in 2003.

Paddy Prendergast played 26 championship games for Kilkenny in senior hurling between 1978 and 1987.

He won;

3 senior All-Irelands.

6 Leinster SHC.

3 National League titles.

1 Railway Cup.

1 All-Star.

With Clara:

Kilkenny Intermediate title, 1982.

Kilkenny Senior title, 1986.

Jim Fogarty is the 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.*
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 086 1512946.



Paddy Prendergast v John Fleming (Wexford) 1983

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Part of Who they are.....

By Liam Lacey

Matty Walsh



MATTY WALSH – MW HIRE GROUP

It's a blistering hot day in the city of Seoul, South Korea. This is a world apart from the heat of championship action as rivals Kilkenny and Wexford prepare to go head to head thousands of miles away back home. It may be crunch day in Wexford Park but there's no talk of the Leinster championship in the hustle and bustle of the Korean capital that boasts a population of over twenty-five million people.

As our bus heads to the central shopping area in the famous 'Gangnam' district of Seoul something familiar appears from the fog of Korean shoppers. MW Hire Group on the front of the jersey confirms my suspicion that this was indeed a Laois GAA shirt. When I sat down with Matty to discuss his un-wavered support for the GAA over the years he laughs at the chances but is certainly not surprised.

The Rental Company have now gained world-wide recognition for their standards of excellence with worldwide exports to every corner of the globe. He acknowledges the gravity of such sponsorship however, and agrees that having the company name on the front of an inter-county GAA jersey brings attention from unexpected sources at times.

UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION

Matty Walsh could never have foreseen the success of his Urlingford based company which stemmed from humble beginnings in 1992. The MW Hire Group has been involved in many GAA sponsorship deals in both its native county and in 2009 became the main sponsor to Laois minor, under-21 and senior inter-county teams across both codes. The continued sponsorship leaves them with the distinction of being the third longest sponsorship in the game at present.

The company has also sponsored clubs including Fenians of Johnstown

and has been a regular contributor to Kilkenny GAA for many years now. One of their most recent ventures sponsoring Dunmore centre of excellence ensures the preparation of our county teams to a standard fit for modern day demands.

Perhaps he would have imagined the name Matty Walsh to be remembered in hurling circles as a player to represent the Cats at every grade from u-12 to senior level. After securing his first Celtic Cross when Kilkenny defeated Galway in the 1993 All-Ireland, Matty would begin to focus more time than ever on business pursuits. Like many sporting careers, the early days were challenging and success was slow in coming.

'In the early days, e-mails and internet weren't in existence. Things were an awful lot less efficient and I knew that I would have to focus all my energy on the development of the business'.

HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

As we chat about the unique contribution Gaeilic games on both a local and national level, there's a fundamental question I'm eager to have answered - Why such a dedication to the cause? The answer from Matty is quiet simply giving back to the community has always been high on his priorities.

'As a business you are employing people from a wide range of communities and the GAA is the life and blood of those areas'

He talks about the importance of keeping small rural parishes alive and references both Ballyhale Shamrocks and Tullaroan's county final success as victories for local communities everywhere. Both parishes would have to overcome complex economical obstacles before the process of building a team for county final success would commence. For Walsh, it only serves to hammer home the importance of opportunity and employment when it comes to clubs and communities.

'You'd want to be a stone not to get a buzz from seeing success like that'.

The conversation moves from inter-county affairs to his beloved club as I ask about a blue and white Fenian's jersey bravely displayed in the Urlingford office. For Walsh it all comes back to the club, while Kilkenny have been blessed with success over the years, the role of the grassroots members in such success can never be over-estimated. It's hard to argue against that for sure.

I cast my mind back to that June day in Seoul as MW Hire appears before me in the streets of Gangnam. The irony is undeniable and somewhat humorous- a brand reaching millions of viewers each year splashed proudly across the front of the local minor hurling jersey. AIG take note.

As the year draws to a close and we look forward to a new decade of hurling, human nature leaves us questioning what lies in store. Difficult as it may be to predict, we do know that the cost involved in playing our national games will continue to rise. It's clear from talking to the Fenians' clubman that MW Hire Group plan to remain at the forefront of both club and community support - it's simply part of who they are.



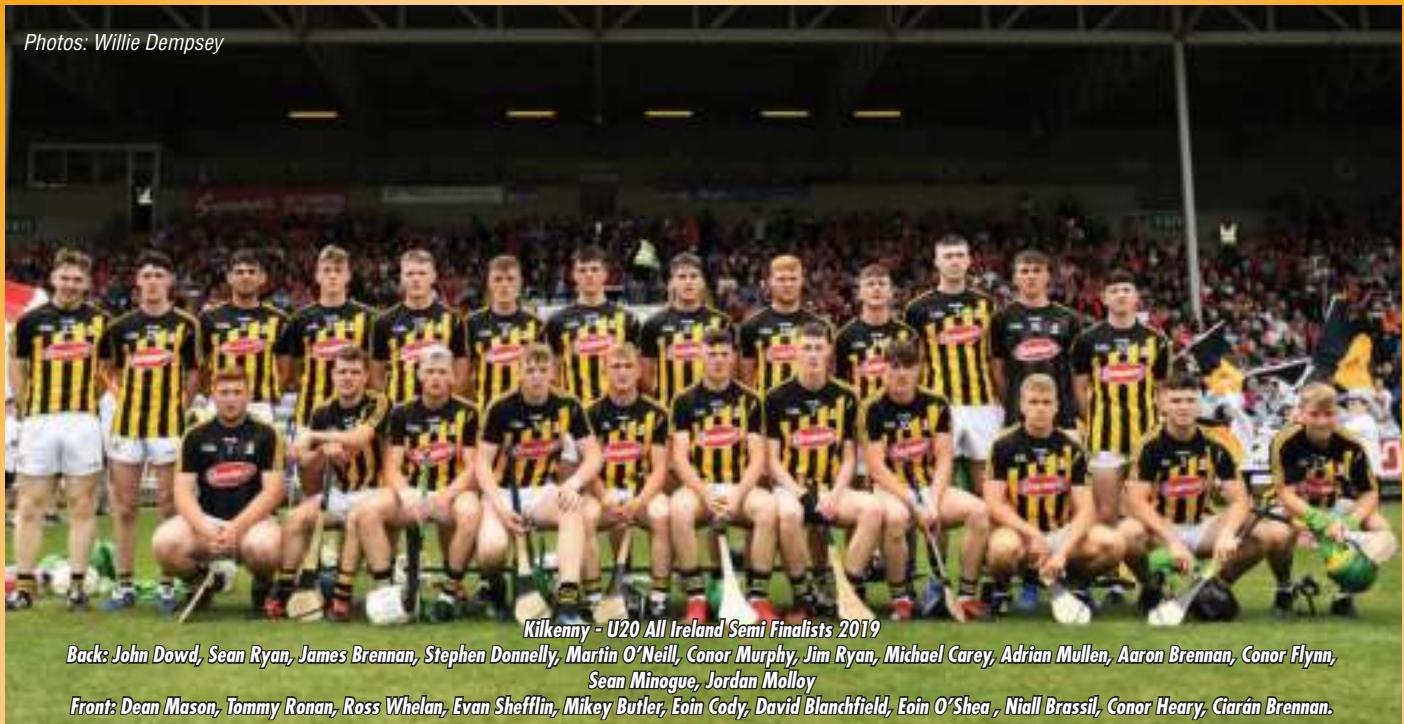
Matty Walsh, MW Hire, (Sponsor Dunmore Training Complex) pictured with Ned Quinn, Chairman, Kilkenny GAA and five former Senior Intercounty Hurlers, Aidan Fogarty, J.J. Delaney, David Herity, Tommy Walsh and Brian Hogan at the dedication of Kilkenny GAA Training Ground in Dunmore. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)



Enjoyable Campaign - Frustrating End

U20 Hurling Report by Paul Fitzgerald PRO

Photos: Willie Dempsey



Kilkenny - U20 All Ireland Semi Finalists 2019

Back: John Dowd, Sean Ryan, James Brennan, Stephen Donnelly, Martin O'Neill, Conor Murphy, Jim Ryan, Michael Carey, Adrian Mullen, Aaron Brennan, Conor Flynn, Sean Minogue, Jordan Molloy
Front: Dean Mason, Tommy Ronan, Ross Whelan, Evan Shefflin, Mikey Butler, Eoin Cody, David Blanchfield, Eoin O'Shea, Niall Brassil, Conor Heary, Ciarán Brennan.

2019 saw the introduction of the U20 championship and by comparison with most recent U21 campaigns, Kilkenny had a very good U20 campaign in 2019, reaching the All Ireland semi-final, before conceding to a very competent Cork team, who in turn had to give best to an excellent team in the final. Kilkenny had three fine wins in the course of their journey.

BGE LEINSTER QUARTER FINAL

Kilkenny 5-21 Laois 0-10

Kilkenny's U-20 campaign began with a strong performance away to Laois in Portlaoise in late June. Both teams started strongly but Kilkenny's dominance started to show in the second quarter with some fine points and two fine goals from James Bergin and Adrian Mullen to ensure they entered the dressing room 2-8 to 0-6 ahead at the break. After the break there was a brief flash of hope for the home side but Kilkenny upped through the gears and dominated the game in the final third with a second goal from Adrian Mullen while substitutes Sean Ryan and Stephen Donnelly also claimed a goal each to effectively end the contest with five minutes to go. Kilkenny ended up running out 5-21 to 0-10 winners setting up a Leinster semi-final clash with Galway.

SCORERS: Kilkenny – Niall Brassil (0-7, 0-5 frees); Adrian Mullen (2-0); Stephen Donnelly (1-1); Eoin Cody (0-4); James Bergin, Sean Ryan (1-0 each); Evan Shefflin (0-3); Eoin O'Shea, Ciaran Brennan (0-2 each); David Blanchfield, Aaron Brennan (0-1 each).

BGE LEINSTER SEMI-FINAL

Kilkenny 1-19 Galway 1-15

Tullamore was the next venue for the U-20 campaign against a fancied Galway side. It was Galway who started the brightest running up four points in quick succession to quickly challenge Kilkenny but a run of points from play Sean Ryan, Aaron Brennan and Adrian Mullen plus two points from frees from Niall Brassil settled Kilkenny quickly into the game and on 20 minutes the score stood at 0-9 to 0-4. Both sides picked off points in the closing stages of the half with Kilkenny entering the dressing room four ahead at the break, the score 0-11 to 0-7. On the restart Galway needed to burst into life, instead it was Kilkenny through Eoin Cody who claimed the games first goal on 45 minutes. It was a hammer blow to the Galway lads who did claim a goal of their own on 56 minutes. When the stadium announcer informed the crowd there would be five minutes of additional time, Galway dreamed again and momentarily caused trouble for Kilkenny but points from Brassil (free) and Cody in the games dying moments ensure victory was within Kilkenny's grasp.

The victory ended Galway's involvement in the U-20 campaign for 2019, while Kilkenny were now booked into Wexford Park for a Leinster Final date with Wexford.

SCORERS: Kilkenny - Niall Brassil (0-7, 0-5 frees, 0-1 65); Eoin Cody (1-3); Sean Ryan (0-3); Stephen Donnelly, Conor Heary (0-2 each); Adrian Mullen, Aaron Brennan (0-1 each).

BGE LEINSTER FINAL

Kilkenny 1-17 Wexford 0-18

A Leinster final clash with Wexford is always going to be a close contest and this was certainly the case. Both sides were nervy from the start but it was Wexford who were ahead by two points after ten minutes and were unlucky not to be further ahead when Sean Keane Carrolls shot came off the woodwork. Kilkenny picked off the next two points and the sides were all square at the end of the first quarter. Over the remainder of the half Kilkenny picked off scores from Shefflin (goal) and Brassil (65, free) while Wexford claimed two points of their own through McGuickan and Reck, but it was Kilkenny who held the lead at half-time entering the dressing room 1-7 to 0-8 ahead. In the second half Wexford quickly closed the gap and the sides were all square after only three minutes but Kilkenny through Blanchfield and Sean Ryan once again opened



Kilkenny captain Evan Shefflin receives the Leinster Trophy from Jimmy Bolger, Cathaoirleach, after defeating Wexford in the final.

up a small lead entering the final third. It was an intense final twenty minutes with Wexford pushing Kilkenny all the way. Despite being five ahead at one stage the lead was cut to two points and Wexford gained renewed hope of a late victory when five minutes of extra time were announced but it was Kilkenny who stood firm and it was Evan Shefflin who had the honour of climbing the steps of the stand to make his victory speech and claim the Robbins Cup.

SCORERS: Kilkenny – Evan Shefflin (1-2); Niall Brassil (0-5, 0-3 frees, 0-1 65); David Blanchfield, Sean Ryan, Eoin Cody (0-2 each); Michael Carey, Eoin O’Shea, Stephen Donnelly, James Brennan (0-1 each).

BGE ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL

Kilkenny 0-13 Cork 1-16

For both Leinster finalists the All-Ireland semi-finals were next up, with Kilkenny as Leinster winners paired with the Munster runners-up which turned out to be Cork. Portlaoise was the venue on the first Saturday in August. Both sides were slow to start in the All-Ireland semi-final with the score at 0-4 to 0-3 in Corks favour after 15 minutes, the three Kilkenny scores coming from Cody and Brassil (Frees X2). Lady luck was to shine on Cork in the 17th minute when a Tommy O’Connell shot found its way past Dean Mason for the game’s only goal. Kilkenny kept their heads and picked off some lovely points before half time through Shefflin, Aaron Brennan, Eoin Cody and Brassil (2). The score stood at 1-6 to 0-8 at half-time. Kilkenny started brightly in the second half and grabbed points through Heary and Cody (free). Kilkenny were briefly in the lead but more scores from Tommy O’Connell lead Cork back in front and from there they never looked back. Cork continued to pick off points and kept the scoreboard ticking over and try as they might Kilkenny couldn’t get the much needed goal. The game ended 1-16 to 0-13 points and it was Cork who progressed to the



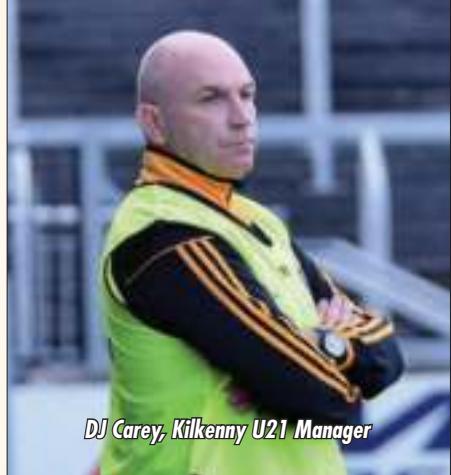
High-flying Conor Heary (Kilkenny) and Tommy O’Connell (Cork) in the semi-final.

All-Ireland Final to meet Tipperary. It was an enjoyable campaign but a frustrating finish for DJ Carey’s men but have no doubt we will see many of these players represent Kilkenny soon at the highest level and these days will be the motivation for them to succeed.

SCORERS:

Cork – Tommy O’Connell (1-10, 0-6 frees, 0-2 65); Brian Turnbull (0-2, frees); Ryan Walsh (0-2); Shane O’Regan, Simon Kennefick (0-1 each).

Kilkenny – Eoin Cody (0-6, 0-5 frees); Niall Brassil (0-4, 0-2 frees); Conor Heary, Evan Shefflin, Aaron Brennan (0-1 each).



DJ Carey, Kilkenny U21 Manager



Michael Carey goes highest to repel a Cork attack in the All Ireland semi-final.

Eddie Keher Jubilee Celebrations

By Barry Henrques

Eddie Keher was the very first minor hurler to play senior and minor inter-county Championship games in the same year. On September 15th Community Radio Kilkenny City decided to honour the legendary Keher at a function in his home place. Pat Treacy (Head of Sport) and Barrie Henrques broached the idea with the Rower-Inistioge Club Committee.

It being the Golden Jubilee of Eddie Keher captaining Kilkenny in the 1969 All Ireland Final against Cork, Pat and Barrie felt that it should be marked somehow with some celebration. In addition it also marked the Diamond Jubilee of Eddie Keher's very first game played with the Kilkenny senior team in an All-Ireland Final.

Eddie, still a Kilkenny minor, was brought onto the senior panel in 1959. He was introduced at the start of the second half. Scoring two points in that second half replay against Waterford, Eddie Keher was the very first minor hurler to play senior and minor Championship games in the same year. Waterford won that final on a score of 3-12 to 1-10.

Keher played minor hurling for Kilkenny for four years, but he never managed to win an underage All-Ireland Final medal.

Cois Amhamh, the Community Centre in the picturesque village of Inistioge played host to a marquee collection of hurling aristocracy. From Wexford, Tipperary and Cork they came to honour the greatest – many would say – hurling star of his time. Many of Eddie's Kilkenny team mates were there, as were his Rower Inistioge colleagues who helped him to win the only Kilkenny senior Championship win by the Rower-Inistioge in 1968. Eddie's family were there including his son Colm, his daughters Clodagh, Deirdre, and Catherine. His wife of 53 years, Kay regaled the packed auditorium with stories of his training regime when they were living in Dublin, and how she balanced his diet with steak, and other high protein food.

It was only on the night that it became known that Eddie Keher was a ciotóg when first he played on the green in the middle of his village. It was Fr. Noonan, an Inistioge man, a newly ordained Priest, a fellow neighbour on the green, and now the retired Parish Priest in Portarlington who actually coached him into changing his grip onto the orthodox style.

The event was filmed for posterity, and the various interviewees had their own anecdotal memories of Keher the hurler, the team mate, the opponent, their friend, their golf partner, their go-to man in the time of need and adversity. Eddie Keher's achievements are myriad, and the stuff of legend. They have been captured in picture and text in a terrific 94 page publication, compiled by Barrie Henrques and Dermot Kavanagh, and originated by Gerry O'Neill, which was available on the night. It is a brilliant compilation by Gerry, with some magnificent photographs, some not having been in the public domain. The night was completed in a brilliant finale when the former Chairman of the Kilkenny County Board, Ned Quinn interviewed Eddie in his own inimitable fashion. And then the coup de grás was delivered by the club Chairman, Richard Tierney when he announced that a very special message congratulating Eddie on his Jubilee, had arrived from a very special man. He read it out, and as the audience was speculating, he finished the letter by saying, "Signed by Michael D Higgins, Úachtarán na hÉireann".

The Hall erupted.



Eddie Keher with Martin Coogan, Fan Larkin, Jim Treacy and Martin Walsh

PICTURES: HARRY REID



Back: Barry Henrques, Dermot Kavanagh and Gerry Lyng

Front: Ned Quinn, Willo Deevey,

World Senior Citizens Day

By Carmel Kenny

World Senior Citizens Day: On Wednesday 21st of August Kilkenny GAA's Health and Well-being committee celebrated World Senior Citizens Day. Over 50 people from 18 clubs were invited into Nowlan Park for a stadium tour. It commenced at 2 pm where the guests were greeted by Jimmy Walsh, County Chairman. Then the guests were split into groups with 15 going to five different venues and speakers around the stadium. Jimmy Walsh and Barry Power spoke about the photographs in the hallways and corridors, Eoin Larkin gave an insight into the gym and dressing rooms. Outside John Coogan gave some interesting information on the pitch and how the pitch was National Pitch of the Year for two years in a row. Seamus Reade brought the groups through the press boxes and into the television studio and Caroline Clifford put the groups through their paces with some chair based exercises.

This was followed by refreshments and a few words from former GAA President Nicky Brennan. Nicky gave some interesting memories from his time as President of the GAA and the work that was undertaken to upgrade grounds in the US. This event has been organised by the health and well-being committee as a social inclusion initiative and it was the first time the event took place. There was some interesting characters present on the day with Phil Leahy noting that in the photograph of the 1945 team the mascot was missing - Phil himself was the mascot on the day.

GAA Addiction and Mindfulness Awareness Evening – An Awareness evening was held on 1st November in Palmerstown. The guest speakers were Justin Campbell and Cecelia Shefflin. 43 people from 13 clubs attended the evening, where Justin and Cecelia shared their expert knowledge and gave their perspectives on addiction and mindfulness. The crowd were enthralled by the experiences of Justin in his work with addicts and how addiction develops over time. Cecelia demonstrated how mindfulness has to be practiced on a regular basis and while it is simple it is not easy to take time to enjoy the moment you are in rather than thinking about the past or the future. Eddie Holohan Dicksboro club chair welcomed everyone and Shane Kavanagh gave a brief outline on what the evening would entail. Carmel Kenny closed proceeding by thanking the speakers, the audience and Dicksboro for hosting the event. All in attendance enjoyed refreshments courtesy of Dicksboro GAA club afterwards.



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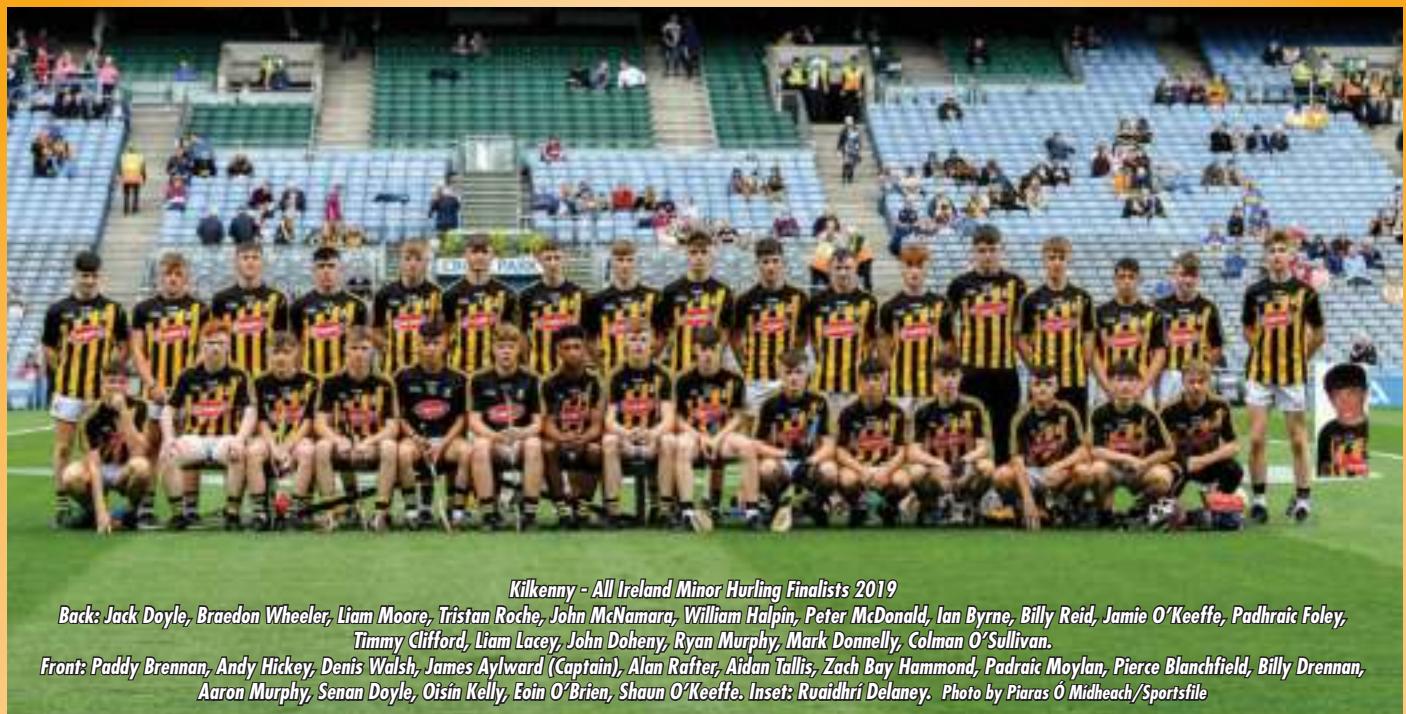


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Some Outstanding Performances - but the same Finale.

Minor Hurling Report by Kieran Cuddihy



Kilkenny's quest to get their hands on the Irish Press Cup for a record 22nd time began in late April with Dublin visiting Nowlan Park.

This was an opportunity for Richie Mulrooney's side to gain some measure of revenge for their defeat in the previous year's Leinster Final. Indeed, the home side enjoyed the brighter of the starts with Billy Drennan leading the way.

Two goals in two minutes for the visitors however left them firmly in control by half time, with a lead of four points.

The conditions didn't lend themselves to high scoring and the second half proved to be a dogged affair. Once again, Billy Drennan proved his importance to the home side with Peter McDonald and Andy Hickey also chipping in, the latter with a decisive point on 59 minutes.

A single point was all that separated the sides (0-15 to 2-8) when the final whistle was blown, with Kilkenny taking home the points before a visit to Enniscorthy to face Wexford the following weekend.

This game proved to be a more high-scoring affair, with both teams sharing five goals.

Two of them in the closing minutes of the game for Kilkenny ultimately made the difference. Though for periods of the first half, it looked like it was destined to be Wexford's day. With the wind at their backs, they dominated the early exchanges.

A red card changed all that. After losing a defender for interfering with an opponent's helmet, the momentum swung in Kilkenny's favour. Points from Billy Drennan and Colman O'Sullivan put some light between the teams but a flurry of goals in the closing minutes (and another red card, this time for Kilkenny) meant that for the second week in a row, Kilkenny emerged the victors by the narrowest of margins. The final score was 3-13 to 2-15.

Those two victories (and a draw between Wexford and Kilkenny) meant that Kilkenny had already sealed their place in the Leinster semi-final before playing Offaly seven days later in Nowlan Park. Despite that, the home side were relentless against the faithful county.

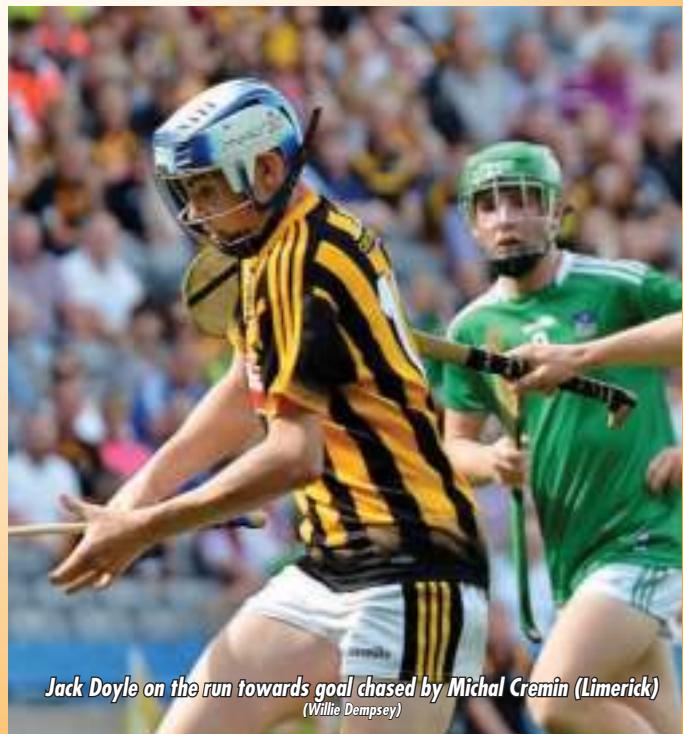
Points from Liam Moore and Andy Hickey, along with a goal from Jack Doyle, helped ease Kilkenny in to an 11 point lead before Offaly got up and running in the 14th minute. That gap was steadily extended over the remaining 46 minutes with the match ending 5-29 to 1-9.

Those three victories earned Kilkenny the right to play Kildare in a Leinster semi-final on June 15th in Newbridge. The lillywhites were massive underdogs but got off to a lively start and after 12 minutes, found themselves enjoying a one point lead. The second quarter of the game told a different story, however. A marked increase in the workrate of the Kilkenny players helped to propel them to an 11 point lead at the break, thanks in large part to goals from Timmy Clifford and Colman O'Sullivan.

Kilkenny maintained that cushion throughout the second half, with the score on 2-20 to 0-15 when the final whistle was blown.

Wexford were now all that stood between Kilkenny and a chance to regain the Leinster title and with so little separating the sides back in May, the omens were good for another tight encounter.

In fact, it was another late surge of scoring that separated the teams this time around. Unfortunately for Kilkenny though, that surge was mostly in



Jack Doyle on the run towards goal chased by Michal Cremin (Limerick)
(Willie Dempsey)

favour of the model county. 1-5 without reply in the closing minutes gave Wexford a seven point lead. Liam Blanchfield managed to snag a last gasp goal for Kilkenny but it was mere consolation.

The defeat meant that Richie Mulrooney and his side would have to contend with the All Ireland Quarter Final group stage for the second year running.

That group competition kicked off on July 6th with a visit to Semple Stadium to play Clare.

After tight opening exchanges, Kilkenny moved into a lead after Drennan and Blanchfield combined well to find the Clare net. That three point cushion was maintained through to half time thanks to some great goal keeping from Aidan Tallis.

Tallis repeated the trick shortly after half time before a goal from O'Sullivan ended any hope of a Banner comeback. The final score was 2-14 to 0-13.

Eight days later, Kilkenny were back in Croke Park, this time to face Galway. It was a first outing for the defending champions and it proved to be a fruitful one.

Having beaten Kilkenny in the All Ireland decider in 2018, Brian Hanley's men started as if they might ease their way to a similar victory this time round. In fact, for a short period in the first half it looked they might improve significantly on their seven point winning margin from 11 months previous.

Two goals from Greg Thomas put the Tribesmen 10 points up at half time. But a remarkable comeback from Kilkenny after the break meant that the teams were level on 2-10 apiece with 10 minutes to go. However, it looked like that effort caught up with the Kilkenny players. Instead of maintaining that momentum and kicking on for victory, it was Galway who snuck a winning goal through Sean McDonagh in the closing minutes.

Ultimately it was three points that separated the teams with Galway emerging victorious on a scoreline of 3-16 to 2-16.

Despite that loss, Kilkenny found themselves facing Limerick in an All Ireland semi final. This time, another sterling second half performance would prove to be enough for Richie Mulrooney and his wards.

Kilkenny started the game in perfect fashion with a goal from Jack Doyle after just 32 seconds. Timmy Clifford added to the haul with three points from play while Drennan added five from frees. Meanwhile though, Limerick were doing their own scoring. Their captain Cathal O'Neill managed seven points, three of those from open play.

All in all, the sides were level on four different occasions in the first half and the difference was a mere two points at the break.

That tight opening half was no portent of things to come, however. Kilkenny outscored their Munster opposition in the closing 30 minutes by 1-12 to 0-5, the goal this time coming from Drennan, with Doyle turned provider.

A final score of 2-24 to 0-18 meant that Kilkenny were back in an All Ireland final, against familiar opposition.

You had to go back to 2010 to find the last time that Kilkenny beat Galway in the minor championship. In their five meetings since, Galway came out on top every time, including as recently as the previous month.

And unfortunately for Kilkenny, that trend was to continue on All Ireland final day.

Two first half goals provided the platform for the defending champions. The first came just shy of 10 minutes when corner forward Davitt skillfully finished a long delivery. Kilkenny fought their way back into contention only for Galway to find the net just before half time, this time from the penalty spot.

That goal gave Galway a five point advantage at the break and they added to it early in the second half. In fact, in the first 12 minutes, they reeled off five points without reply.

Liam Moore and Peter McDonald tried to breathe some life into the Kilkenny challenge but the deficit was too great. A third goal for Galway removed any doubt about the final result and after 60 minutes, the scoreboard read Galway 3-14 to Kilkenny's 0-12.



While 2019 ultimately ended in the same manner as 2018 - defeat in the All Ireland final at the hands of Galway - the players and management can have much to be proud of. Their performances en route to the final were at many times outstanding, particularly against Limerick when they went in as underdogs.

With Richie Mulrooney back in charge for 2020, hopes will be high that the Irish Press Cup may make it back to the banks of the Nore before too long.

Clogh Look Back On Very Successful 2019

Handball Report by Martin Lalor PRO

As one of the top handball counties in the country Kilkenny can look back on the year with satisfaction as there was considerable success on the national stage. Pride of place goes to the Clogh club as a number of players were worthy All Ireland champions. Winning All Ireland titles in three codes of handball the North Kilkenny club reaped the rewards of all the hard work put in over the years.

Earlier in the year the All Ireland 40 x 20 championship finals were played in Kingscourt, in what has become a very popular weekend at the Cavan venue. With all the All Ireland finals in both Singles and Doubles played over separate weekends, the events have become the highlight of the four wall season and have been well supported.

Four Wall

In the Senior Four Wall Singles championship Patrick Funchion (Kells) made it to the semi-final stage where he was beaten by Diarmuid Nash (Clare), 21-9, 21-13, and in the Ladies competition Ciara Mahon (Clogh) was defeated by Fiona Tully (Roscommon) in their quarter final clash, 21-20, 21-8. There was no luck either in the Senior Doubles championships as Kells brothers Patrick and Peter Funchion exited at the quarter final round when going down to Clare's Diarmuid Nash and Colin Crehan, 8-21, 21-10, 21-20. The Clogh/Kilfane pairing of Ciara Mahon and Aoife Holden were semi-finalists against Roscommon sisters, Fiona and Siobhan Tully where they lost in two sets, 21-18, 21-9.

Earlier in the year the All Ireland 40 x 20 championship finals were played in Kingscourt, in what has become a very popular weekend at the Cavan venue. With all the All Ireland finals in both Singles and Doubles played over separate weekends, the events have become the highlight of the four wall season and have been well supported.

This year in the adult Singles championship finals the lone Kilkenny contender was Margaret Purcell (Windgap) who played Laura Finn (Sligo) in the All Ireland Ladies Junior B final. Beaten finalist in 2018, the South Kilkenny player made no mistake this time when she came from one set down to win the title 6-21, 21-15, 21-17. In All Ireland semi-finals against Munster opposition Brian Mahon (Clogh) lost to Clare in Junior Singles, with Diarmuid Burke (Kells) and Noel Doherty (Galmoy) both losing to Tipperary in O35B and Masters B Singles, respectively.

There were no titles won in the Doubles championships with a number of pairings losing out at the All Ireland final stage. In Minor Doubles Jack Holden (Kilfane) and Jack Doyle (Windgap) won the first set 21-9 but lost the next two games 21-16, 21-17 against Monaghan duo Eoghan McGinnity and Konrad Kowal. In U21 Doubles Eoin Brennan and Conor Murphy (Kells) came up against the strong Galway pair Diarmuid Mulkerrins and Cian Chonghaile, losing in two games 21-9, 21-4. There was also defeat in O35B Doubles as another Kells pair, Anthony Martin and Diarmuid Burke came up short when losing to Antrim's Kevin and Fiontan Gamble, 21-11, 21-14.

There were two defeats in All Ireland Doubles semi-finals where Windgap pair Eamonn Hawe and Sean Foley had a tough battle with Tipperary's Aidan O'Flaherty and Liam Bradshaw, with the Munster champions advancing 19-21, 21-12, 21-7. In Ladies

Junior B Doubles Dearbhail O'Keeffe (Kilfane) and Sorcha Delaney (Clogh) put up a strong showing in the first set when losing 21-17 to Tipperary's Eleanor Percy and Sile Spain, but were well beaten in the second game, 21-2.

Softball

Traditionally, Kilkenny have always been successful in the Softball championships, and 2019 was no exception. The county collected titles in various grades, including Minor, Intermediate, Juvenile and an overage grade. Pride of place goes to players from the Clogh club as they collected a number of national titles in what was a great season for the club. In the Intermediate grade Shane Dunne was a two time champion as he was winner of the Singles and Doubles championships. His Singles journey resulted in a comfortable All Ireland final win over Ryan Mullen (Tyrone) in two games, 21-12, 21-7 and in the Doubles championship he teamed up with Keith Bourke (O'Loughlins) to claim a third set victory over Galway's Diarmuid Mulkerrins and Cian O'Conghaile 21-18, 8-21, 21-15. To complete a great Softball season, Shane representing Institute of Tralee Technology, was winner of the Open Singles and Doubles titles, again beating Mulkerrins in the Singles decider.

Not to be outdone by his older brother, Kyle Dunne was also a two time champion as he collected Singles and Doubles titles in the Minor grade. Having won his way through to the Singles decider he faced a tough challenge with Eoghan McGinnity (Monaghan). Losing the first set 21-14, Kyle fought back to take the next two games 21-13, 21-19 to claim the win. Partnered by defending champion, and club mate, Billy O'Neill, the Clogh duo powered their way to the title and were comfortable winners in the final against Monaghan's McGinnity and Tiarnan O'Rourke in two set 21-15, 21-10.

Another two time champion is Gerry Murphy as the Softball season was a very successful time for the Kilfane stalwart in the Diamond Masters B grade. In his Singles final Gerry was a comfortable two game winner over James Fealy (Monaghan), 21-6, 21-13. These two players also met in the Doubles final with the Kilfane man partnered by John Maguire (Galmoy) and again Monaghan provided the opposition through Peter and James Fealy. The first set was a comfortable win for the Noresiders 21-5, with the Ulster champions taking the second by the narrowest of margins 21-20. In the deciding game Gerry and John were in dominant form and claimed the title when winning 21-3.

Defeated finalists in the Softball championships were Windgap ladies Margaret Purcell and Caoimhe O'Shea who lost their Ladies Junior B Doubles final to Limerick's Aishling Shanahan and Ciara McCarthy in three sets, 21-20, 1-21, 13-21. In Ladies Junior Singles, Deirdre Purcell (Windgap) was defeated in two sets by her Sligo opponent.

Those who lost at the semi-final stage to Munster champions were Johnny Brennan (Mothel) and Joe Hennessey (O'Loughlins) who were beaten by Tipperary in Diamond Masters A Doubles and Brendan Burke (Kells) suffered defeat to Limerick in Junior Singles.

Juveniles

Once again Kilkenny Juvenile handballers can look back on 2019 with fond memories as the county collected a number of All Ireland titles along the way. Winning both Singles titles in



All Ireland Diamond Masters B Singles champion Gerry Murphy



All Ireland Ladies Junior B Singles champion Margaret Purcell receives her medal from President Joe Masterson



All Ireland Diamond Masters B Singles champion Gerry Murphy



All Ireland Handball U16 Singles champion Amy Brennan from Clogh with Handball President Joe Masterson



All Ireland Minor Doubles champions Billy O'Neill and Kyle Dunne receive their medals from Joe Masterson



All Ireland Minor Hardball Doubles champions Billy O'Neill and Harry Delaney



All Ireland U15 Champion Conor Holden with runner up Cormac Finn and President elect Dessie Keegan

the Girls U16 grade, Amy Brennan (Clogh) was the number one girl in juvenile handball in 2019. In her 4 Wall final against Clodagh Munroe (Tyrone) Amy was a comfortable 21-14, 21-7 winner and in the Softball decider against Sadhbh Ni Fhlaithearta (Galway) she came from 17-2 in the first game to win 21-19 and sealed victory when winning the second set 21-4.

In the Boys U16 grade Billy Drennan (Galmoy) was in tremendous form when taking the 4 Wall All Ireland title when defeating Mikey Kelly (Galway) 21-13, 21-6. Both these players later met in the Softball decider with the Westerner turning the tables as he secured the win in two games 21-1, 21-17.

There was also victories for Kilkenny in the 4 Wall Boys U15 Singles and Doubles grade with players from Kilfane, Galmoy and Kells. In the Singles final Conor Holden (Kilfane) won the first of his two clashes with Cormac Finn (Sligo) 15-5, 15-12. Later in the year these two boys met in the Softball final in the same grade with the Sligo player coming out on top 15-3, 15-1. There was glory for Harry Delaney (Kells) and David Sherman (Galmoy) as they secured the title when beating Cathal and Daire O'Laoire (Galway) 15-1, 15-4. In the 4 Wall Boys U14 final Michael Brennan (Clogh) and James Purcell (Windgap) lost out to Cavan pair Oliver McCrystal and Adam McKenna in two games 15-3, 15-8.

The county suffered a number of losses in the All Ireland Softball finals with defeats for Conor Holden (Kilfane) in U15 Singles, Emer Barron (Windgap) and Aishling Cooney (Clogh) lost to Tipperary, in Girls U14 Doubles, in Girls U15 Doubles, Lauren Power (Clogh) and Nathania Jackson (Windgap) were beaten by Clare, and in Girls U17 Doubles, Emily Kenny (Talbots Inch) and Lauren Grace (Kells) lost out to Cork.

Hardball

In May the Hardball championships were completed with Kilkenny very much involved in promoting this oldest code of handball. There was more success for Clogh players as Shane Dunne (Intermediate Singles), Shane Dunne and William Love (Intermediate Doubles), Billy O'Neill (Minor Singles) and Billy O'Neill and Harry Delaney (Kells) in Minor Doubles all collected All Ireland titles.

Gael Linn - The Cup section was won by Clogh pair Katie Brennan and Bobby Brennan, and the Plate final resulted in victory for Galmoy duo Una Duggan and Niall Drennan.

Nationals- Here Kyle Jordan (Kilfane) captured the Boys 15 and under in the One Wall Nationals in Mayo. In the Softball Nationals in Wexford, Noelle Dowling (Mothel) was victorious in the Ladies B/C event, Niall Drennan (Galmoy) and Conor Doyle (Windgap) won in the Boys 13 and under grade, Kyle Dunne/Billy O'Neill won in Boys 17 and under, and Amy Brennan partnered Cloda Nic Con Midhe (Tyrone) to victory in Girls 15 and under.

She's Ace - The only Kilkenny winner in this competition was Noelle Dowling (Mothel) when she defeated Cuileann Bourke (Mayo) 25-12 in the Girls 17 and under grade.

Feile Na Gael- There were wins for Windgap (Division 2) and O'Loughlins (Division6) in the Boys 4 Wall competitions, with Galmoy collecting honours in the Girls Division 2. In the Softball events there were victories for Talbots Inch in Boys Division 3 and Windgap in Girls Division 2. In Softball skills David Holden (Kilfane) and Michael Stynes (Talbots Inch) were winners in the Division 2 and 3 events, respectively.

Teams – There was success for Kilkenny in the All Ireland 4 Wall Boys 12/13 championship when they defeated Tyrone in the final. The Kilkenny team; Niall Drennan (Galmoy), Sean Morrissey (O'Loughlins), Cathal Buckley (Kells), Bobby Brennan (Clogh), Conor Doyle (Windgap), Anthony Clifford (Talbots Inch), John Hayes (Kells) and James Kenny (Talbots Inch).

Colleges - In 4 Wall All Ireland second level Colleges finals there were wins for Kyle Dunne and Billy O'Neill (Castlecomer Community School) in Intermediate Doubles and Jack Holden (Grennan College) in Senior Singles. In the Softball championships the county picked up four titles with victories by Noelle Dowling (Presentation, Kilkenny) in Girls Senior Singles, Kyle Jordan won the Junior Singles crown for Grennan College, Thomastown . For Castlecomer Community School there was double delight as Kyle Dunne/Billy O'Neill collected the Boys Senior Doubles title and Amy Brennan completed a great year by winning the Girls Junior Singles title.

Later in the year the Boys U12/13 completed the season with victory in the Softball final when they comprehensively defeated Cork 90-30. The winning team on that occasion was; John Hayes, Noah Minogue and Cathal Buckley (Kells), Anthony Clifford and James Kenny (Talbots Inch), Cian Doherty and Oisin Farrell (Kilfane) and Conor Doyle (Windgap).



All Ireland U15 Doubles champions David Sherman and Harry Delaney with President elect Dessie Keegan



All Ireland Diamond Masters B Doubles champions John Maguire and Gerry Murphy



All Ireland Intermediate Doubles champions Keith Bourke and Shane Dunne



Kilkenny U12/13 team which won the All Ireland 4 Wall title



All Ireland Minor Singles champion Kyle Dunne



Kyle Jordan - Irish Nationals U15 One Wall and Schools Junior Singles champion



Kilkenny U12/13 All Ireland Softball winners

JASON CLEERE

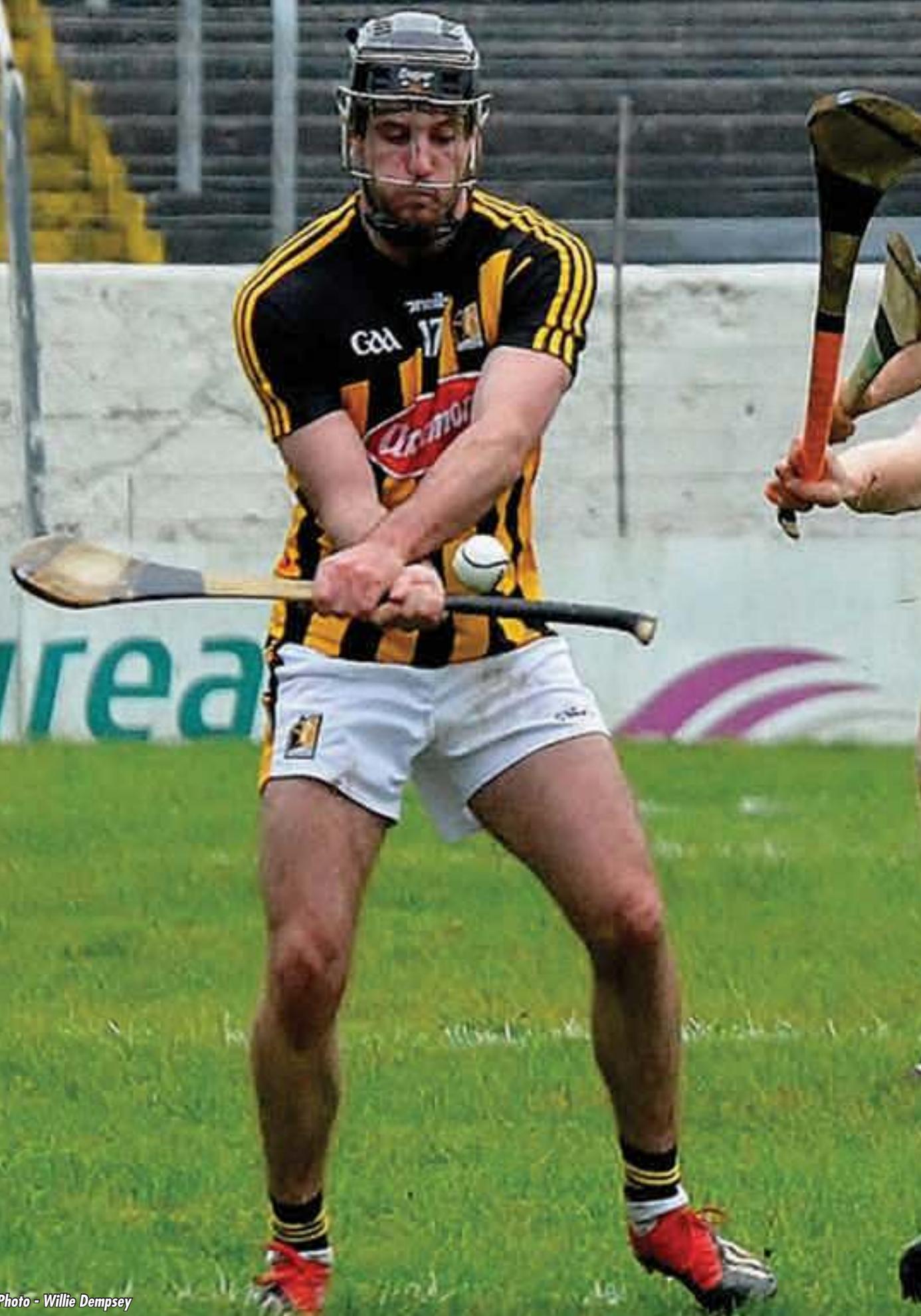


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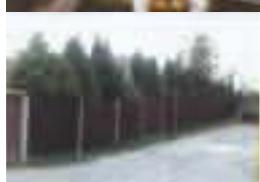
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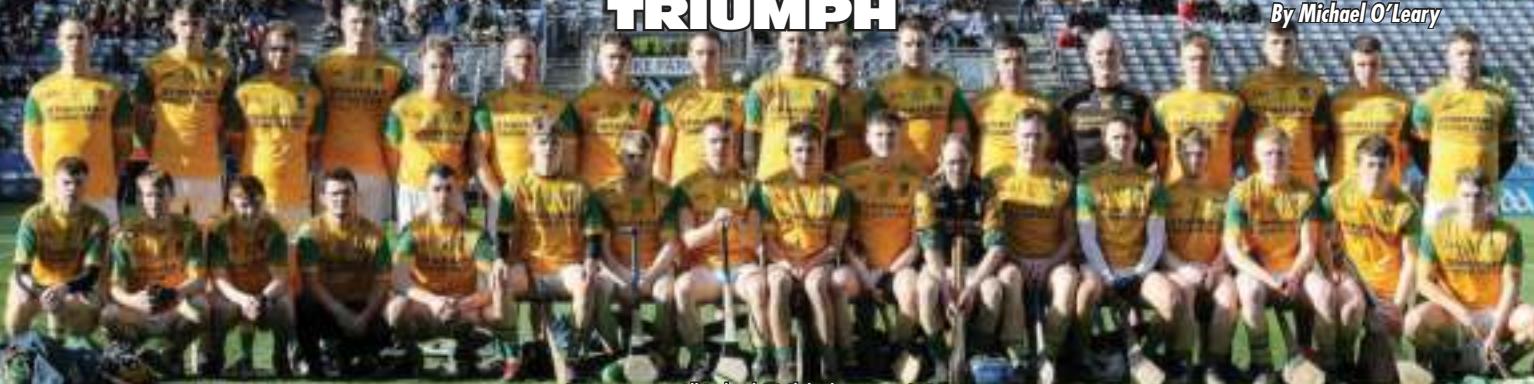
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DUNNAMAGGIN GRIND OUT ALL-IRELAND

TRIUMPH

By Michael O'Leary



Dunnamaggin- All Ireland JH Club Champions 2019

Back: Tommy Maher, Conor Hoban, Conor Long, Brian Farrell, Ian Walsh, Noel Hickey, Luke Fitzpatrick, Mark Heffernan, Jason Doherty, Eoghan Kearney, Anthony Kearney, Darren Fitzpatrick, Canice Hickey, Rory Lodge, John Fitzpatrick, Jamie McLoughlin, Andrew Fitzpatrick.

Front: Jack Brett, Sean Connery, Eddie Dunne, Paddy Delaney, William Moylan, Adam Fitzpatrick, William Bergin, Paul Kirwan, Darragh O'Keeffe, Aaron Doherty, Seaghan O'Neill, William Phelan, Ronan Coffey, Jack Crehan, Ray Cody, Michael Cody, Victor Costello.

Photo: Willie Dempsey

They made heavy weather having been as short as 1/100 to become the 8th Kilkenny club to win the Junior All-Ireland, but Dunnamaggin, after a gruelling battle, eventually managed to wear down a gallant battling Castleblayney and emerge victorious. Following a County final victory over Piltown, Dunnamaggin cruised to Leinster Championship success.

Landslide victories over the Louth Senior Champions Knockbridge and Dublin Junior Champions St. Maurs saw them set-up a Provincial Final showdown against Na Fianna of Meath.

Na Fianna made an excellent start and they built up a 0-5 to 0-1 lead, but that proved the catalyst for a Dunnamaggin rally and goals from Ronan Coffey and John Fitzpatrick turned the game completely in their favour as they led 2-6 to 0-7 at the interval.

Coffey added a 2nd goal during the third quarter to confirm their superior dominace and stretch their advantage as they strolled to a 3-17 to 1-11 win. Following on from their Leinster Final victory, Dunnamaggin qualified for an All-Ireland Semi-Final showdown against the Cork Junior Champions Cloughduv.

It was an absorbing contest in which Dunnamaggin had to rely on all their resilience and character to emerge by a solitary point following a titanic struggle.

Dunnamaggin appeared to have been in a very strong position at the interval as they led 0-11 to 0-5 having played into a very strong wind as Noel Hickey and Willie Phelan dominated from the back.

However, Cloughduv were completely transformed after the interval, and throwing caution to the wind, they really tore into Dunnamaggin who were suddenly rattled.

A 34th minute goal from Mark Walsh narrowed the gap considerably, and by the 53rd minute, they had drawn level from Mark Verling. 0-14 to 1-11.

To their credit, Dunnamaggin responded and Thomas Maher pointed to regain the lead, but their hopes were dashed when substitute Kevin Barry Murphy grabbed a goal in the 61st minute and appeared to have snatched victory. 2-12 to 0-17.

However, John Fitzpatrick was the saviour as he struck over the levelling point to force extra-time.



Dunnamaggin captain William Phelan lifts the cup.
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

The sides remained all square after half-time of extra-time, but Dunnamaggin goalkeeper Seaghan O'Neill denied Kevin Barry Murphy by pulling off a wonderful decisive point blank save.

The 2nd period of extra-time saw points from Thomas Maher (65) and John Fitzpatrick regain the initiative for Dunnamaggin, but Cloughduv were not finished yet.

Mark Walsh pointed to narrow the deficit, and after Maher was on target again, Kevin Barry Murphy pointed to leave the minimum between the teams once again after Dunnamaggin had missed a goal chance seconds earlier.

Shortly afterwards, the referee blew for Full-time much to the joy and relief of the Dunnamaggin contingent.

The All-Ireland Final was expected to be a stroll in the park for Dunnamaggin, but

it certainly didn't transpire like that.

After the early passages of play saw the sides level at 0-2 each, Dunnamaggin pounced on a moment of good that proved decisive.

A short puckout from Jim McHugh went astray, and Ray Cody set-up John Fitzpatrick who took full advantage to rifle home. 1-2 to 0-2.

However, the goal failed to unnerve Castleblayney and they dominated the remainder of the half.

Points from Fergal Rafter from a '65 and a free along with Hugh Byrne drew them level before Byrne showed good vision to hand-pass the ball inside to the unmarked Brian McGuigan who smashed home emphatically approaching half-time.

Thomas Maher pointed to narrow the gap at the interval (1-8 to 1-6) as a turn up for the books looked a distinct possibility.

Ray Cody pointed shortly after the re-start to narrow the deficit, but Castleblayney replied and when they added further points from the outstanding Rafter(2) and Hugh Byrne, the impossible appeared very likely to happen. 1-11 to 1-7.



Castleblayney still had a three point lead as the final quarter beckoned, but Dunnamaggin replied and they produced a storming conclusion to completely overpower Castleblayney and add 7 unanswered points.

Thomas Maher led the charge during that crucial closing quarter adding a further 4 points, as they eventually wore down a gallant Castleblayney after a hard fought battle.

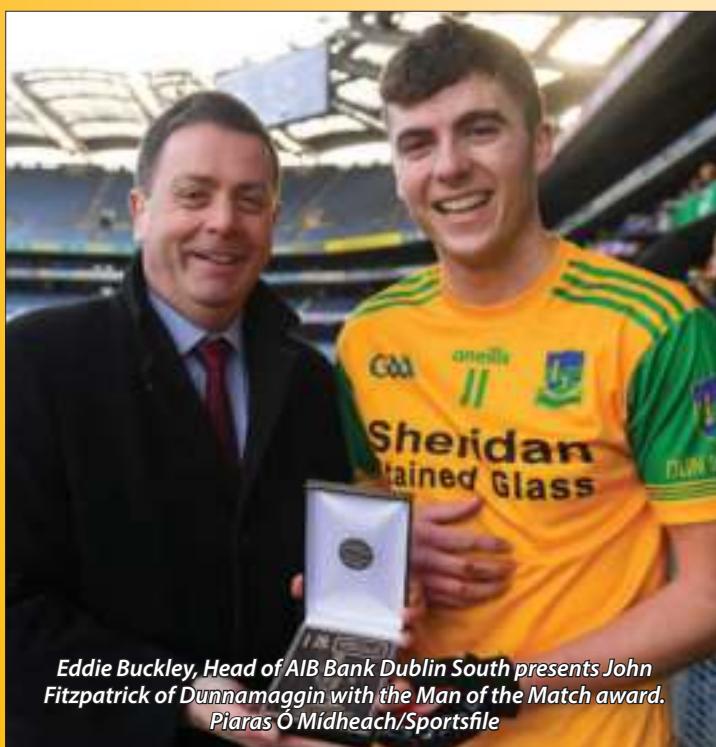
Dunnamaggin: Seaghan O'Neill; Mark Heffernan, Noel Hickey, Victor Costello; Michael Cody, William Phelan, Andrew Fitzpatrick; Darren Fitzpatrick (0-01), Eoghan Kearney (0-01, 0-01f); Thomas Maher (0-07, 0-04f, 0-0165), John Fitzpatrick (1-03), Darragh O'Keefe (0-01); Ronan

Coffey (0-02), Ray Cody (0-02), Adam Fitzpatrick.

Subs: Jack Brett for M Heffernan (36), Ian Walsh for A Fitzpatrick (46).

Castleblayney: Paddy Collins; Eoin Leonard, Jim McHugh, Colin Merrick; Aaron Kenny, Peter Treanor, Cormac McNally (0-01); Brian Flanagan, Paddy Finnegan; Brian McGuigan (1-01), Mark Treanor, Hugh Byrne (0-02); Fergal Rafter (0-09, 0-06f, 0-0165), Craig Callan, Pauric Malone.

Subs: Fintan Finnegan for P Malone (55).



SQUADS on the Road

Report by Pat Tynan

NATIONAL HURLING DAY FOR KILKENNY GAA HURLING DEVELOPMENT SQUAD SAT 31ST AUG 2019

On Sat 31st August 2019 150 young Kilkenny hurlers of Kilkenny GAA Hurling Development Squads travelled to compete in the National GAA Hurling Day. Over 30 mentors and coaches have been working with and developing the young players since March 2019 to prepare them their All Ireland Hurling Day.

Kilkenny U 14 Amber and Black Hurling Squads:

Kilkenny U 14 Amber hurling Squad will be competing in the Tony Forristal in Waterford.

Management Team: Simon Walton/Jim Norris/Mark Bergin/Ben O Mahony

Kilkenny U 14 Black Hurling Squad will be competing in the Sonny Walsh competition in Waterford.

Management Team: John McCormack/Willie Hanlon/Adrian Connick

Kilkenny U 15 Amber and Black Hurling Squads:

Kilkenny U 15 Amber hurling Squad will be competing in the Tipperary Arrabawn Cup.

Management Team: John Buggy/Richie Minogue/Seamus Norris/Seamie Dollard

Kilkenny U 15 Black hurling Squad will be competing in the Tipperary John Doyle Cup.

Management Team: Pat O Grady/Donal Carroll/Angelo Cullen/Pado Flynn/Patsy Brophy

Kilkenny U 16 Amber and Black Hurling Squads:

Kilkenny U 16 Amber hurling Squad will be competing in the Mallow U 16 Competition.

Management Team: Pat Hoban/Pat Nolan/Tommy Brennan/Ger Kirwin

Kilkenny U 16 Black hurling Squad will be competing in the Wexford U 16 Competition.

Management Team: James Gitten/P. J. Ryan



Celtic Challenge Amber Team



Celtic Challenge Black Team



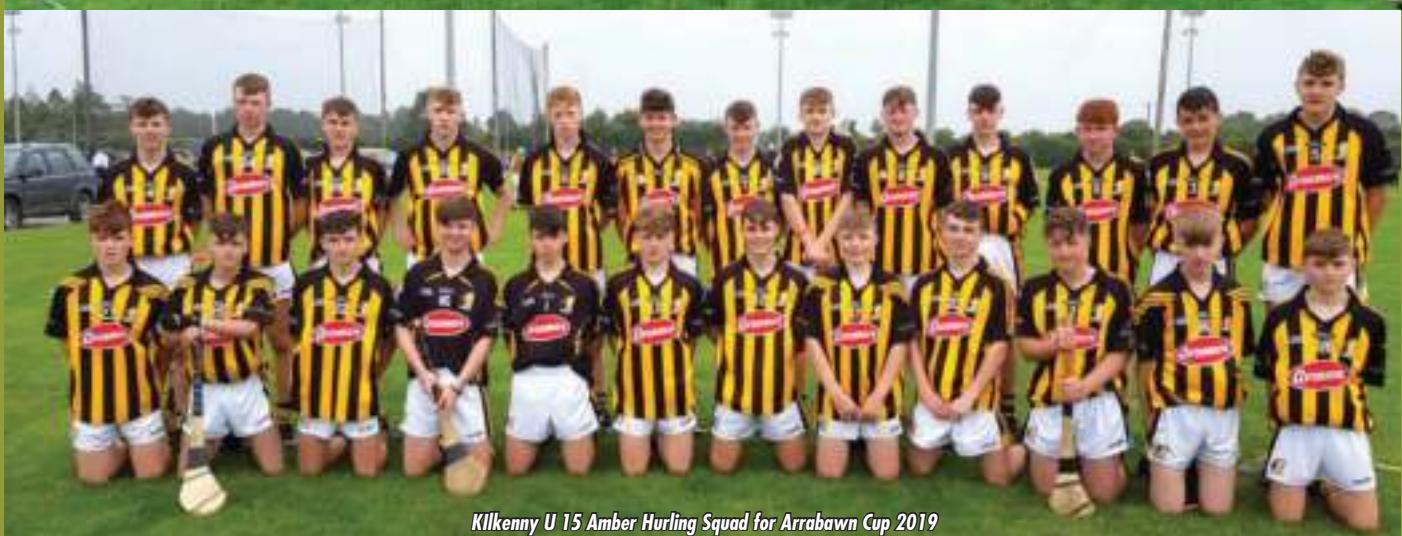
Tony Forristal U 14, Amber Squad 2019



Kilkenny U 16 Amber Hurling Squad won the Michael Foley Cup in Wexford.



Kilkenny U 15 Black Hurling Squad won the John Doyle Cup in Tipperary.



Kilkenny U 15 Amber Hurling Squad for Arrabawn Cup 2019



We would like to thank all the Kilkenny GAA Clubs for their coaching in their clubs and their cooperation with the Kilkenny GAA Hurling Development Squads throughout 2019. Our thanks also to Kilkenny GAA Co. Board and Management and Bord na Nog for their continued support for Kilkenny GAA Development Squads system.

LOTS HAPPENING IN LADIES' FOOTIE

Ladies Football Report by Elena Byrne PRO



Under the excellent guidance of manager Martin Dowd our Junior County side participated and battled well in the Junior National Football league facing teams from Carlow, Louth, Antrim, Derry and Limerick.



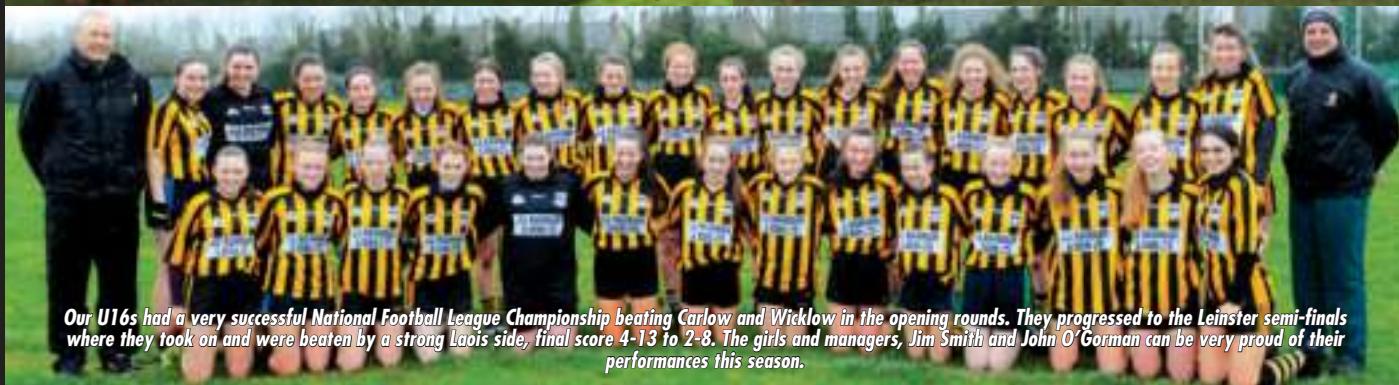
Fantastic to see a female manager in Ciara Coone over the minor panel this year. The girls went from strength to strength as the season progressed and started and finished each match with smiles on their faces. They did their county proud.



On August 25th our u17s took part in the National Ladies Football Blitz in Abbotstown meeting teams from all over the country. The girls represented Kilkenny extremely well.



Our U15s Development squad travelled to Carlow September 8th to take part in the Leinster Ladies Gaelic football development day for this age group. A very successful day was had by this talented group of girls



Our U16s had a very successful National Football League Championship beating Carlow and Wicklow in the opening rounds. They progressed to the Leinster semi-finals where they took on and were beaten by a strong Laois side, final score 4-13 to 2-8. The girls and managers, Jim Smith and John O'Gorman can be very proud of their performances this season.



Kilkenny LGFA u13 squad after blitz in Monasterevin on August 25th in Kildare. Great performances in 4 tough matches. Well done to players and mentors and thanks to Barron's Graiguenamanagh for new jersey sponsorship this season.



50 Kilkenny U12 players turned up to Portlaoise on August 31st for the 2nd Leinster blitz of the summer. We had 2 teams compete in Divisions 3 and 4 and both made their respective finals. The Division 3 team had a straight run winning all their games, including a tight final with Longford in a fierce wind. The Division 4 team lost out in their final by only a few points after winning all their games that morning. Well done to this very successful group managed by Keith Goff.



Our U14 squad and management of Paul Farnan, Regina Moran, Brian Dunne and Séan O Aogallachoir had a very positive 2019 season. The girls enjoyed representing their county immensely and played some fantastic football. Well done to all involved.

CLUB NEWS

JUNIOR

On the 7th September Kilkenny City overcame John Lockes in the St. Canice's Credit Union Junior Ladies Championship final. It was a thrilling first half with very little separating the two sides at half time. The second half saw the city side take control and come out worthy champions. In the preliminary round of the Leinster Junior Championship Kilkenny City overcame a determined Wicklow side, Valleymount, 4:15 to 4:02 to secure a spot in the Leinster Ladies Junior Championship Quarter Finals. They faced a very strong Louth team in the quarter final and it wasn't to be the Kilkenny side's day. They can take solace in the superb performances they had in getting this far in the championship. Earlier in the season Kilkenny City also won the Adult League final against Thomastown. Thomastown won the Junior Shield title 2019. Dunnamaggin LGFC put up a battling first half but the winners pulled away in the last quarter of the game and in the end it was a convincing win.

MINOR

The 2019 Minor Ladies Football League saw teams compete from Clara, Railyard, Muckalee, Erin's Own, Dunnamaggin, Thomastown and Kilkenny City. The Minor League A final saw Kilkenny city beat Clara 8-9 to 3-5 while the B final saw Erins Own defeat Dunnamaggin 5-14 to 2-14.

The St. Canice's Credit Union Minor Shield final was contested on October 26th by Erins Own and Railyard with Erin's Own coming out worthy winners. The Minor Championship final has yet to be played between Thomastown and Kilkenny City.

U16

The St. Canice's Credit Union League A final was won by Kilkenny City who beat Muckalee with a final scoreline of 8-9 to 2-14. The B League final saw Erins Own overcome Dunnamaggin 6-8 to 1-7. The two sides faced each other again later in the season in the U16 Championship Shield Final which was a skilled, close encounter. Dunnamaggin took their points well but it was Erins Own composure in taking their goals that ensured victory with a final score of 4-3 to 1-9. The U16 Championship Final is yet to be contested between Thomastown and Kilkenny City.

U14

The St. Canice's Credit Union U14 Championship Final was won by Kilkenny City A and the Shield Final saw John Lockes beat Piltown. The League finals winners were as follows: A Kilkenny City a; B Erins Own; C Kilkenny City b; D John Lockes; E Clara.

FÉILE

This year saw 3 Kilkenny Ladies Football Clubs qualify for National Féile competitions, Erins Own LGFC, Dunnamaggin LGFC and Kilkenny City LGFC. Each club were in separate divisions and each club more than held their own.

Kilkenny City qualified for division 1 and after a very successful first day they progressed to the division 1 cup semi-final against Clontarf. They beat Lurgan Gaels, 3-5 to 1-3, in a thrilling quarter final and played some unbelievable



Kilkenny City Juniors



John Lockes U14s



U16 Shield Finals Day



U12 squads

football. This in itself was a huge achievement for the Kilkenny ladies football club who can boast being ranked in the top 4 U14 teams in the country. However, it wasn't to be for the girls to progress further and they went down to a very strong Clontarf team with a final score of 3-4 to 1-1.

Dunnamaggan made history for the parish as being the first team from either the ladies football or hurling club to ever qualify for a national féile competition. They also had a fruitful first days battles in division 5 which ended with them being victorious in the division 5 shield quarter final. They faced a strong side in St. Gabrels in the shield semi-final but with grit and determination the Kilkenny side came out on top. It was all to play for in the final and the Dunnamaggan girls gave played with heart and gave it their all. The girls were deserved Shield Champions and returned home to a triumphant homecoming to mark this historic occasion for the rural club.

Erins Own LGFC had a fantastic weekends football at Féile. The girls showed great spirit and character in all their Division 8 games and can look back knowing they gave it their all. Well done to all the supporters who travelled to attend the games and well done to all the players and mentors of all three teams for all the hard work put in. Bring on Féile 2020!!!

U12

The St. Canice's Credit Union U12 League Finals Day was held in Dunmore on Sunday the 16th June. The display of football skills and strength on the day made for some thrilling matches and close games. The A final was won by John Lockes, B by Kilkenny City a, C by Railyard, D final by Muckalee and the E final by Kilkenny City b squad.



Dunnamaggan Féile Winning Squad

On the morning of September 21st over 150 u12 girls partook in the finals day of a series of 7s Street League blitz days that ran all summer. 12 teams from Muckalee, Railyard, Kilkenny City, Tullagher, John Lockes, Piltown, Thomastown, Dunnamaggan and Erins Own played in the games with John Lockes, Dunnamaggan and Clara topping their respective groups.



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MOTHERS&OTHERS IN KILKENNY IS A HUGE SUCCESS!

The Gaelic4Mothers&Others initiative is an innovative way to introduce women to playing Ladies Gaelic Football in a fun, non-competitive and social environment. Gaelic4Mothers&Others provides an opportunity for women to get their recommended weekly exercise in a fun way while meeting other women in the area. The initiative has proved hugely popular with women of all ages and has taken off in all 32 counties with success stories popping up all over the country. No experience is required. Clubs here in Kilkenny take full advantage of the fun and football. Piltown, Dunnamaggan, Tullaroan, Dick'sboro, Thomastown, Erins Own and newly formed club 3 Counties all cater for this group of women and are always welcoming to new members. For more information on all things ladies football in Kilkenny visit our website kilkenneyladiesgaelic.ie or email secretary.kilkenny@lgfa.ie.



Proud Moments



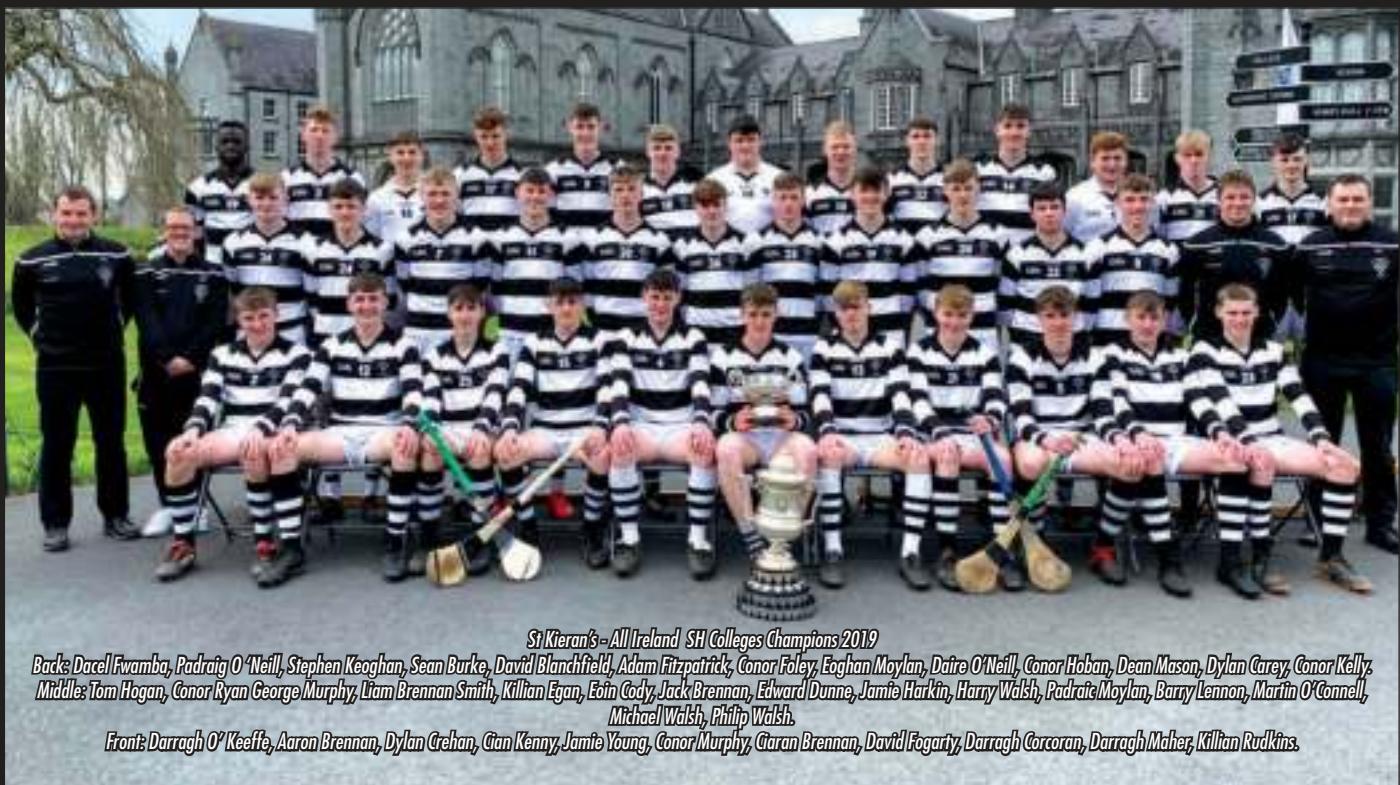
This 2019 season has seen huge support shown to ladies football in Kilkenny by St. Canice's Credit Union and Intosport enabling the launch of the new website www.kilkenneyladiesgaelic.ie. Jackie Kealy of St. Canice's Credit Union said that they are 'delighted with the partnership with the LGFA in Kilkenny as promoting sport is a big part of our ethos... a healthy lifestyle is so important.'

Intosport showed they are '#properfans this year by gifting a set of county jerseys to Kilkenny LGFA.

The Leinster ladies GDO, Suzi Doyle commented on the 'fantastic work going on in Kilkenny at club level' and also highlighted how the Kilkenny county board are so positive and proactive.

KIERAN'S MAINTAIN SUPREMACY

Senior Colleges Hurling Report by Michael O'Leary



St Kieran's - All Ireland SH Colleges Champions 2019

Back: Dace Fwamba, Padraig O'Neill, Stephen Keoghan, Sean Burke, David Blanchfield, Adam Fitzpatrick, Conor Foley, Eoghan Moylan, Daire O'Neill, Conor Hoban, Dean Mason, Dylan Carey, Conor Kelly, Middle: Tom Hogan, Conor Ryan George Murphy, Liam Brennan Smith, Killian Egan, Eoin Cody, Jack Brennan, Edward Dunne, Jamie Harkin, Harry Walsh, Padraig Moylan, Barry Lennon, Martin O'Connell, Michael Walsh, Philip Walsh.

Front: Darragh O'Keeffe, Aaron Brennan, Dylan Crehan, Cian Kenny, Jamie Young, Conor Murphy, Ciarán Brennan, David Fogarty, Darragh Corcoran, Darragh Maher, Killian Rudkins.

Last year's Schools All-Ireland Final was one of the most dramatic games ever played as Presentation Athlone recovered from a 12 point deficit to snatch a draw before St. Kierans took control in extra-time to regain the Croke up that they lost in 2017.

This year's renewal produced the same opponents but without any of the drama of 12 months previously.

However, it was an exciting finish as Kieran's put in a storming closing ten minutes to rescue victory.

Ahead by 1-10 to 0-11 with 10 minutes left, Presentation College, Athlone were in touching distance of a historic win with Mark Kennedy's excellent 38th minute goal putting them in control. However, just when it looked like they had done enough to edge across the finish line, St Kieran's rallied powerfully.

David Blanchfield pointed to narrow the gap before a goalmouth scramble saw Conor Kelly give them the lead in the 52nd minute.

Points quickly followed from Killian Egan and Blanchfield as they suddenly exerted control. 1-14 to 1-10.

That purple patch of 1-3 in the space of three minutes proved decisive as they won out 1-15 to 1-12.

After losing the Leinster Final last year, Kierans regained their provincial crown when defeating Coláiste Eoin 1-17 to 2-7 in the decider, having avenged their Provincial final defeat from 12 months previously when easily brushing aside Dublin North 2-22 to 1-10 in the Leinster Semi-Final.

Against Dublin North, Kierans produced a blistering second quarter as a fine individual goal from Cian Kenny and seven points from Eoin Cody gave them a decisive 1-12 to 1-4 lead at the interval.

Buoyed on by that 2nd quarter and with momentum firmly behind them, Kieran's continued to accelerate and a brilliant solo goal from Conor Kelly put the contest out of the Dublin Schools' reach.

The Leinster Final against Coláiste Eoin was played in O'Moore Park, Portlaoise, and a Ciarán Brennan goal gave them a 1-8 to 2-4 lead at the interval.

They restricted their opponents to just three points after the restart as Brennan, Eoin Cody and Conor Hoban added further points to run out resounding winners and win their 56th provincial title.

Despite being without Ciarán Brennan, Kieran's managed to grind out victory in their All-Ireland Semi-Final clash against Christian Brothers College, Cork when winning out 0-17 to 0-15.

That set-up a repeat of last year's All-Ireland Final against Presentation Athlone who overcame CBS Midleton 1-12 to 2-6.

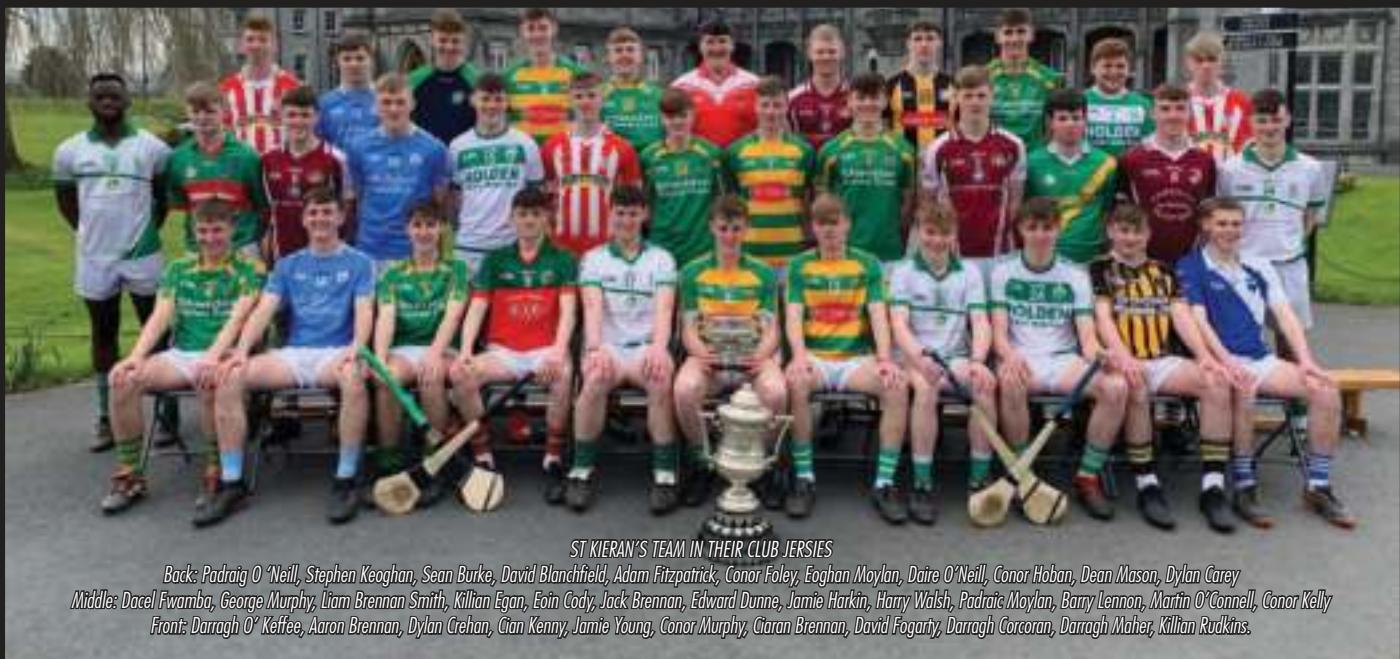
St Kieran's late blitz in the All-Ireland Final secured the same outcome for the famous hurling academy. Back-to-back Dr Croke Cup titles, and a fifth senior national title



Captain Conor Hoban with the Cup.

in the past six years.

KIERANS KILKENNY ALL-IRELAND FINAL: Dean Mason (Ballyhale Shamrocks) Darragh O'Keeffe (Dunnamaggin), Patrick O'Neill (Young Irelands, Gowran) Jamie Young (O'Loughlin Gaels), Darragh Corcoran (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Conor Murphy (Bennettsbridge) Killian Egan (Graigue-Ballycallan) (0-2); Martin O'Connell (Clara) (0-1), David Blanchfield (Bennettsbridge) (0-2); Ciaran Brennan (Bennettsbridge) (0-1), Eoin Cody (Ballyhale Shamrocks (0-8, 0-6 frees), Aaron Brennan (Graigue-Ballycallan) (0-1); Darragh Maher (St. Lachtain, Freshford) Conor Hoban (Dunnamaggin), Cian Kenny (James Stephens) Subs: Conor Kelly (O'Loughlin Gaels) (1-0) for Hoban (47 mins), Dace Fwamba (O'Loughlin Gaels) for O'Connell (51), Jack Brennan (Young Irelands, Gowran) for Murphy (58).



'COMER FALL SHORT IN ALL-IRELAND DISAPPOINTMENT'

Castlecomer Community school enjoyed a whirlwind year, achieving Camogie and Hurling provincial success, with the Camogie girls going all the way to winning the All-Ireland B title following victory against St. Marys Nenagh, and hopes were high that the hurlers would follow suit as they played St. Raphael's of Loughrea in the All-Ireland Senior Colleges Hurling B Final in O'Connor Park, Tullamore.

However, it wasn't to be, as they came up short against St. Raphael's Loughrea losing 1-18 to 1-14 as the Galway school claimed the Paddy Buggy Cup. The Castlecomer school won the Rest of Leinster competition in February following a whirlwind contest against Coláiste Choilm, Tullamore. They appeared to be cruising to a facile victory when leading 2-6 to 0-0 after 23 minutes and at half-time, they led 2-10 to 0-4.

However, the second-half was a completely different kettle of fish. The Tullamore school fought back by the three quarter stage, and they trailed 2-10 to 1-9, before the Castlecomer school responded. They weathered the storm, and pulled clear to 3-14 to 2-9, but, they had to survive a nervous finish before hanging on for a 3-14 to 3-12 victory.

The Leinster Final itself was much more straightforward and decisive as they easily cruised to a 3-19 to 1-2 victory over St. Benildus Dublin. Jack Buggy led the way, accounting for 0-11 of his side's total. Buggy scored 0-7 of the overall first-half tally as a Jack Morrissey goal gave them a 1-10 to 1-1 lead at the interval. Morrissey and Ciarán Cooney added further second-half goals as they ran out resounding winners.

The All-Ireland Semi-Final against St. Francis Rochestown of Cork was played on St. Patrick's weekend in Waterford and the Castlecomer school prevailed by 3-15 to 3-6 with Ciarán Cooney grabbing a brace of goals and Declan Buggy also finding the range.

The All-Ireland Final against St. Raphael's Loughrea was curtain raiser to St. Kieran's showdown against Presentation Athenry, but sadly their All-Ireland dreams were dashed. They trailed 1-10 to 0-8 at the interval and they were always chasing in an uphill battle afterwards. The Castlecomer school battled gamely, but they were unable to bridge the deficit despite a late goal, and the Loughrea school ran out

1-18 to 1-14 winners to win the Paddy Buggy Cup.

CASTLECOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL PANEL:
 Karl Downey (Conahy Shamrocks), Dara Delaney (Cloneen), Colm Kealy (St. Martins), Conor McNamara (Erins Own, Castlecomer), Dan Coogan (Erins Own, Castlecomer), James Brennan (Erins Own Castlecomer), Chris Korff (Erins Own, Castlecomer), Eoin Cahill (Conahy Shamrocks), Declan Buggy (Erins Own, Castlecomer), Darragh Coughlan (St. Martins), Thomas Brennan (Cloneen), Jack Buggy (Erins Own, Castlecomer), Ciaran Cooney (Cloneen), Jack Morrissey (St. Patricks Ballyragget), Michael Doyle (Cloneen), Conor Byrne (Cloneen), Liam Brennan (St. Patricks Ballyragget), Robbie Dooley (Conahy Shamrocks), Jack Murphy (St. Martins), Ronan Shore (St. Martins), Billy O'Neill (Erins Own, Castlecomer), Nicky Connolly (Erins Own, Castlecomer), Joe Reid (St. Martins), Jack Farrell (St. Martins), Paul Murphy (St. Martins), Donal Coughlan (St. Martins), James Love (Cloneen), Oisin Kelly (St. Martins), Dean Bray (St. Martins), Kevin Holland (Erins Own, Castlecomer), Bill Dowling (St. Martins), Darragh O'Rourke (Erins Own, Castlecomer), Mark Gunner (Conahy Shamrocks).



Photos: Willie Dempsey



Castlecomer CS Senior Camogie All-Ireland 'B' Champions.

Back: Sarah O'Neill, Kate Ring, Sarah Brennan, Maedbh Walsh, Carlise Comerford, Grace Mulhall, Katie Houlihan, Therese Kelly, Ciara Brennan, Chloe Ryan, Amy Brennan, Ivonne Dooley, Ava O'Shea, Shauna McCarthy.
Middle: Clara Houlihan, Ellen Gunner, Laura McDowell, Hanna Doyle, Megan Brennan, Shannon Conroy, Shannon Feehan, Angela Fahy, Sarah Smyth, Caoimhe Hennessy, Lydia O'Mahony, Ruth Phelan, Sophia Kerr, Gavin Nolan, Fiona Morrissey.

Front: Holly Browne, Cora Dooley, Lisa Smyth, Sarah Dooley, Robin Morrissey, Joanne Comerford, Katie Brennan Aisling Comerford, Grainne Comerford, Lia McCarthy, Lia Brennan, Grace Healy, Amy Ring

Castlecomer Community School senior camogie team completed a magnificent double for the school on Saturday in Banagher when winning the Masita All-Ireland colleges post primary 'B' final against St Mary's, Nenagh. The victory followed the success 24 hours earlier of the senior hurlers in the Leinster 'B' final. Castlecomer had to win the camogie the hard way. They needed a serious scoring burst during the closing 10 minutes to secure victory.

SCORERS: Castlecomer CS - Grace Mulhall (1-4, three points frees); Amy Brennan (1-0); Carlise Comerford (0-1, free), Meadbh Walsh (0-1). St Mary's - Caroline Browne (0-5, one 45, two frees); Rebecca Forde (0-1, free); Mary Flaherty (0-1). Castlecomer CS - Ellen Gunner; Therese Kelly, Shannon Conroy, Megan Brennan; Sofia Kerr, Carlise Comerford, Kate Ring; Shannon Feehan, Caoimhe Hennessy; Laura McDowell, Katie Holohan (joint capt), Sarah Smyth; Amy Brennan, Meadbh Walsh, Grace Mulhall (joint capt). Subs: Hannah Doyle, Ciara Brennan, Ava O'Shea .



Loreto Kilkenny - Leinster Colleges' Minor Camogie Champions 2019

The Leinster Colleges' Minor Roinn A Camogie Champions 2019 Loreto Kilkenny who defeated Presentation Kilkenny in the final.

Back Row: Caoimhe Carroll (Dicksboro), Niamh O'Hara (James Stephens), Ciara Comerford (Lisdowney), Niamh Holohan (Lisdowney), Róisín Hanlon (St Martin's), Anna Scott (Lisdowney), Ava Dooley (Lisdowney), Erin Morrissey (John Lockes), Emma Mulhall (Conahy Shamrocks), Sadhbh McCormack (John Lockes), Hannah Joyce (James Stephens), Caoimhe Keher-Murtagh (Rower-Inistioge), Emma Corr (Clara), Lisa Kirby (The Harps), Ali Kennedy (Windgap), Lauren East (Graigue-Ballycallan), Marie O'Keeffe (Young Irelands) & Eimear Davis (Freshford).

Middle Row: Lucy O'Sullivan (Danesfort), Margaret-Mary O'Shea (Dicksboro), Amy Lawless (Conahy Shamrocks), Chloe Delaney (Lisdowney), Yoma Etafari (James Stephens), Rachel Brennan (Tullaroan), Ava McCabe (Conahy Shamrocks), Sophie Carroll (Conahy Shamrocks), Heather Hoyne (John Lockes), Rose Kelly (Dicksboro), Orlaith Kirwan (Thomastown), Rachel Dowling (Dicksboro), Isabelle Fahy (Dicksboro), Emily Murphy (Conahy Shamrocks), Isabel Roberts (Dicksboro), Tara McGrath (Dicksboro), Áine Dowling (John Lockes) & Julie Lennon (Young Irelands).

Front Row: Sophie Murphy (Tullaroan), Claire Doheny (Graigue-Ballycallan), Amy Clifford (Dicksboro) & Moya O'Brien (Graigue-Ballycallan) {Captain}.



St Kieran's - Leinster JH Colleges Champions 2019



Good Counsel - Leinster JH Colleges Finalists 2019

ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE 2-21 GOOD COUNSEL 0-16

St Kieran's had a fine win in the Leinster post primary schools junior hurling Roinn A final against a fine Good Counsel (New Ross) side in Thomastown.

SCORERS: St Kieran's College - Harry Shine (0-12, 11 frees); Padraig Naddy (2-1); Nick Doheny (0-3); Padraig Lennon (0-2, one free); Killian Doyle, Conor Cody, Killian Carey (0-1 each). Good Counsel - Jack Redmond (0-11, 10 frees); Conor Foley (0-2, one free); Charlie Phelan (0-2); Danny Glennon (0-1). St Kieran's College - Alan Dunphy (Lisdowney); Paddy Langton, capt (Young Irelands), Adam O'Connor (James Stephens), Sean Moore (Carrickshock); Dara Mason, vice-capt (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Joe Fitzpatrick (Dunnamaggin), Bill Hughes (Bennettsbridge); Killian Doyle (Emeralds), Conor Cody (Clara); Padraig Lennon

(Carrickshock), Naoise Dempsey (Thomastown), Padraig Naddy (Young Irelands); Harry Shine (Dicksboro), Killian Carey (Young Irelands), Nick Doheny (Dicksboro).

Subs - Ben Whitty (Danesfort) for Dempsey; Alex Sheridan (O'Loughlin Gaels) for C. Cody; Jams Carroll (Dicksboro) for Naddy; Tommy Phelan (Young Irelands) for K. Carey; Jimmy O'Neill (Dunnamaggin) for Shine.

Good Counsel (Kilkenny clubs named) - Mikey Kirwan (Glenmore); Gary Porter, Ruaidhri Delaney (Rower-Inistioge), Jamie Lennon; Charlie Phelan (Glenmore), Eoin Whelan, Peter McDonald (Tullogher-Rosbercon); Billy Reid (Glenmore), Darby Purcell; Cathal Parker, Conor Foley, Eoin O'Brien (Rower-Inistioge); Cathal Murphy, Jack Redmond, Danny Glennon (Tullogher-Rosbercon). **Subs** - Cillian Byrne, Kyle Rankin, Ciaran McPhillips.



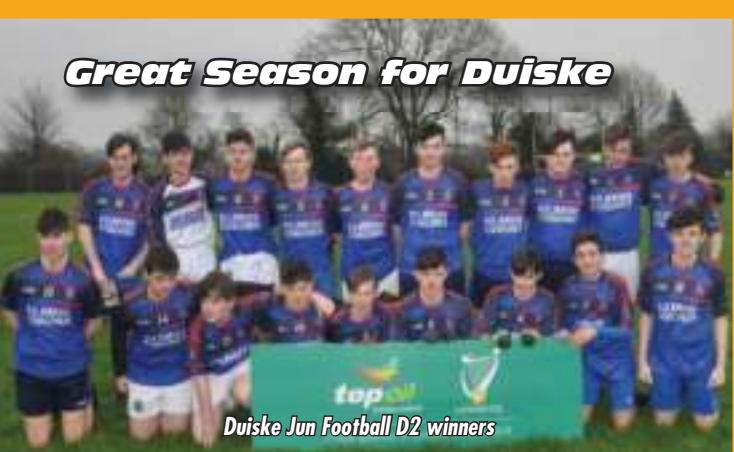
Action from the Final



Captains with referee Patrick Murphy (Carlow)



Great Season for Duiske



All-Ireland Colleges' 7-a-side Roinn A Camogie Champions 2019/2020

Loreto Kilkenny who defeated Presentation Athenry in the final.

Back: Rachel Brennan (Tullaroan), Caomhne Keher-Murtagh (Rover-Inistioge), Emma Mulhall (Conahy Shamrocks), Ciara Dunne (Tullaroan), Chloe Delaney (Lisdowney) & Moya O'Brien (Graigue-Ballycallan).

Front: Marie O'Keeffe (Young Irelands), Amy Clifford (Dicksboro), Claire Doheny (Graigue-Ballycallan) {Captain}, Rose Kelly (Dicksboro), Lauren East (Graigue-Ballycallan) & Orlaith Kirwan (Thomastown).



Duiske South Leinster C winners



Duiske Juv Football 11 aside winners



Duiske-Pobal Osraí Sen Hurling C1 winners



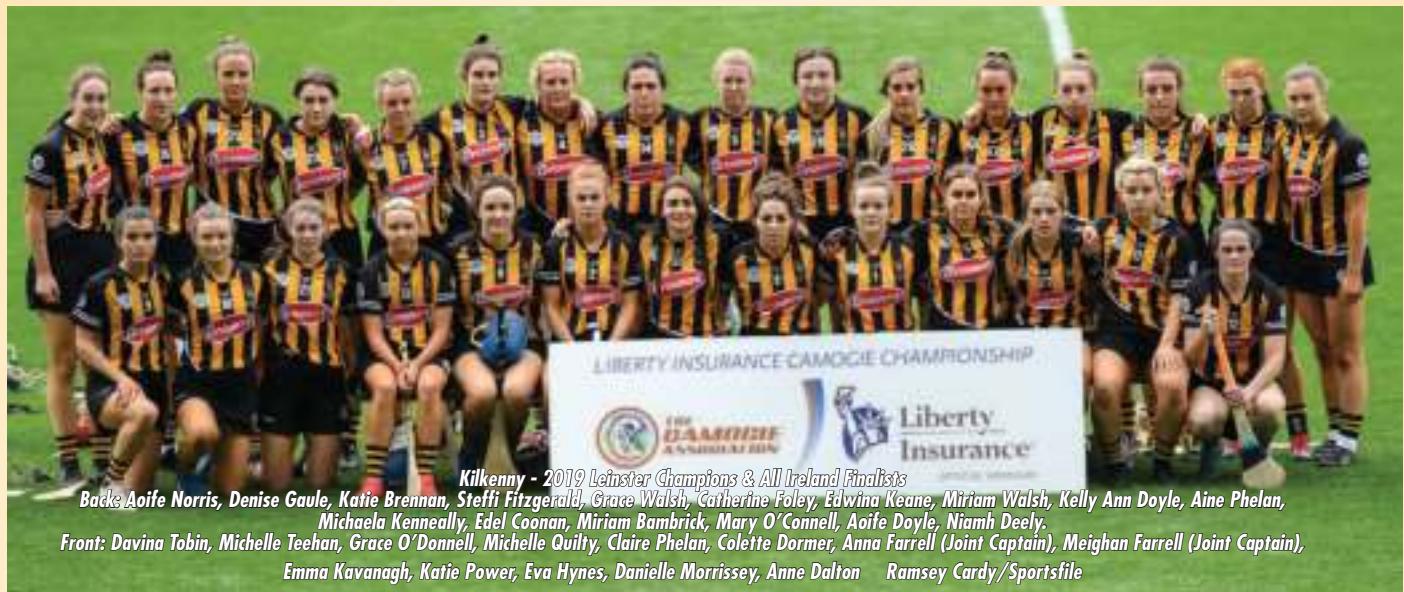
Colaiste Mhuire Jun Hurling B Winners

DENISE GAULE



Tough end to a Great Year

Camogie Inter-county Year Review by PRO Aoife Ianigan



Kilkenny - 2019 Leinster Champions & All Ireland Finalists

Backs Aoife Norris, Denise Gaule, Katie Brennan, Steffi Fitzgerald, Grace Walsh, Catherine Foley, Edwina Keane, Miriam Walsh, Kelly Ann Doyle, Aine Phelan, Michaela Kenneally, Edel Coonan, Miriam Bambrick, Mary O'Connell, Aoife Doyle, Niamh Deely.
Front: Davina Tobin, Michelle Teehan, Grace O'Donnell, Michelle Quilty, Claire Phelan, Colette Dormer, Anna Farrell (Joint Captain), Meighan Farrell (Joint Captain), Emma Kavanagh, Katie Power, Eva Hynes, Danielle Morrissey, Anne Dalton Ramsey Cardy/Sportsfile

SENIOR

The first league match, Kilkenny played Clare at home in John Locke's Park, Callan, winning 1-9 to 0-7. In their second match, also played in John Locke's Park against Dublin and trailed the visitors at half time 0-5 to 0-6 but in the second half, Kilkenny held them scoreless and ran out winners 1-15 to 0-6. Offaly were their next opponents away in the third round and Kilkenny were 20-point winners by 5-18 to 1-10. Up next, they played Limerick in their final group match in LIT Gaelic Grounds, winning by a point, 1-12 to 0-14, the goal scored by Anna Farrell.

In the semi-final, Kilkenny played old rivals Cork in WIT Arena in Waterford. Kilkenny trailed Cork at half-time 0-6 to 0-7. But in the second half, Kilkenny were much stronger, winning out on a 0-12 to 0-9 score line.

The League Final was played as part of a triple header with the hurling and football League Finals in Croke Park. Galway were a very strong and determined side that day, beating Kilkenny 2-8 to 0-16.

In the Leinster Championship, Kilkenny played Dublin in the quarter-final and were victorious 6-14 to 2-10. In the semi-final, they played Westmeath and won comfortably 4-23 to 1-7. This set up a repeat of the last two Leinster Finals against Offaly. The Final was played in Portlaoise. Kilkenny won on a 3-15 to 0-6 score line. It was 3-in-a-row Leinster titles for Kilkenny.

In the first game of the All-Ireland Series, Kilkenny travelled to Athenry to play Galway. Kilkenny were determined to avenge their League Final defeat and they won 1-13 to 0-14. Their second game, Kilkenny played Wexford in Enniscorthy and they had an emphatic win 7-28 to 0-6. Offaly were their next

opponents in a home match in Nowlan Park. Offaly were determined that they weren't going to be beaten by another 18-points like in the Leinster Final. Offaly were a determined and dogged team in this match and Kilkenny won 2-17 to 2-7. In the last group game, Kilkenny played Limerick in John Locke's Park in Callan which they won 4-23 to 1-13.

Kilkenny were through to the All-Ireland semi-final as Group 1 winners, they had to wait until two weeks later to know their opponents following the quarter-finals. After these matches, Tipperary were drawn to face Kilkenny in the semi-final.

After a slow start to the game and being behind 1-3 to 0-3 after 12 minutes, Kilkenny scored 1-2 to go ahead, they got stronger as the match progressed leading 2-9 to 1-8 at the interval. Kilkenny scored another 0-12 to 2-4 for Tipperary, winning by 2-21 to 3-12. This set up a repeat of the League Final against Galway in the All-Ireland Final.

The All-Ireland Final was a tough contest again this year. Kilkenny were leading approaching half time, but Galway scored two quick goals that put them 0-10 to 3-7 ahead at the interval. Kilkenny refused to panic in the second half and worked their way back into the match, narrowing the gap to two points. However Galway closed the door with ten minutes left when they scored four unanswered points to win 0-17 to 3-14.

Kilkenny; Emma Kavanagh, Colette Dormer, Catherine Foley, Edwina Keane, Kelly Ann Doyle, Claire Phelan, Grace Walsh, Meighan Farrell, Davina Tobin, Anna Farrell, Katie Power, Anne Dalton, Michelle Quilty, Miriam Walsh, Denise Gaule.

Subs; Aoife Norris, Danielle Morrissey, Michelle Teehan, Aoife Doyle, Niamh Deely, Grace O'Donnell, Edel Coonan, Steffi Fitzgerald, Mary O'Connell, Miriam Bambrick, Aine Phelan, Eva Hynes, Michaela Kenneally, Katie Brennan, Mairead Power.

INTERMEDIATE

They began their League campaign against Laois at home and recorded an eight-point win, 2-9 to 0-7. In the second game away to Antrim, had a 20-point



Anna Farrell, Senior Captain receives the Leinster trophy from Leinster Chairperson, Hilary Breslin.



Katie Power of Kilkenny in action against Heather Cooney, centre, and Aoife Donohue of Galway during the All-Ireland Final.
Piaras Ó Mídheach/Sportsfile



victory,

5-17 to 2-6. They played Derry away in three game and suffered a point defeat 1-5 to 0-9. The fourth match was played during snow/hail against Dublin, winning by 4 points, 1-6 to 1-2. With three wins and a defeat, they qualified for the quarter-finals against Galway. At half-time they trailed 0-3 to 1-5. In the second half, they came out all guns blazing, keeping Galway scoreless and winning by 4 points 1-9 to 1-5. They received a bye into the Final. The final was against a strong Tipperary side and suffered a 6-point defeat 0-8 to 0-14.

In the Leinster Championship they played Offaly in the semi-final defeating them by 9-points, 0-17 to 1-5. Kilkenny played Carlow in the Leinster Final. At half-time they trailed 0-3 to 1-4. In the second half, Kilkenny came out a different team, keeping Carlow to only a pointed free and winning by 12-points, 2-14 to 1-5.

For their first All-Ireland Championship match, played reigning champions Cork away and won by two-points, 1-10 to 0-11. In their second game, they played Dublin and had a 13-point victory, 2-17 to 2-4. The team then played Westmeath and were defeated 1-11 to 2-15. The next match was away against Antrim and won by 0-11 to 0-9. Their fifth game was home against Kildare and had a 20-point victory 3-17 to 0-6. In their final group game, they played Galway, drawing 1-10 a-piece. Unfortunately, with this draw, they didn't progress to the All-Ireland semi-finals.

MINOR A

The first game of the All Ireland campaign, Kilkenny played Waterford and won 0-11 to 1-5. In the second match, they played Antrim away and won 2-9 to 1-11. They travelled to Ennis for their next match to play Clare and had a 7-point victory 3-10 to 1-6. In final group game, they played Offaly at home and won 1-16 to 0-9. The semi-final was played in very warm weather conditions against a strong Cork side, suffering a seven-point defeat 1-14 to 1-21.

In the Leinster campaign, Kilkenny played Offaly in Birr and won 1-17 to 0-8. In the second match, defeated Dublin by 13-points, 3-13 to 0-9. The third match in the group, they were due to play Wexford, but seeing as both Kilkenny and Wexford had won their first two games, it was deemed unnecessary to play as both teams had already qualified for the Leinster Final. Wexford were a very strong team in the Leinster Final defeating Kilkenny by 6-points 0-10 to 1-13.

U16

The U16 were divided into an A & B teams for Leinster
U16A for All Ireland Campaign

U16A

In the first game of the Leinster campaign, they played Wexford and they had a 26-point victory, 4-20 to 0-6. In their next game, Kilkenny came away with a draw with Dublin, 1-14 to 2-11. In the last group match, they played Offaly and they defeated them by 39 points 8-20 to 0-5. In the Leinster Final, Kilkenny played Dublin again and Kilkenny won 4-15 to 1-13

U16B

In their first Leinster match, Kilkenny played Wexford and won 8-3 to 1-4. In their second match, played Meath and were beaten 2-5 to 1-9. In their last group match, played a strong Carlow side and were beaten 1-6 to 3-13. In the Shield semi-final they played Wicklow and won by 23-points, 3-18 to 0-4. In the Leinster Shield final, they played Wexford again and won by 6-points, 2-8 to 0-8.

U16A All Ireland Championship

In the first game of the All Ireland Championship, Kilkenny played Tipperary and won 1-14 to 1-11. In their second match, they travelled to Cork and they were beaten by 6-points, 4-7 to 4-13. In their last group match, they travelled to Antrim and they had a comprehensive win by 58-points, 20-8 to 2-4. In the All-Ireland semi-final, they played against a strong Galway side, suffering a defeat 2-7 to 7-9.

U15

The U15 panel was as follows:

Libby Begley (Thomastown), Amy Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks), Ciara Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks) Rachel Brennan (Tullaroan), Chloe Brennan (Barrow Rangers), Saoirse Bourke, Aoife Byrne (Glenmore), Katie Byrne (Dicksboro), Caoimhe Carroll (Dicksboro), Eabha Carroll (Carrickshock), Emily Carroll (Carrickshock), Alannah Cody (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Emer Davis (St. Lachtains), Chloe Delaney (St. Lachtains), Claire Doheny (St. Brigids), Lauren East (St. Brigids), Theresa Fogarty (St. Lachtains), Paige Foley (Blacks & Whites), Ellen Gunner (Conahy Shamrocks), Roisin Hanlon (St. Martins), Niamh Houlihan (Lisdowney), Sarah Hudson (Thomastown), Nathania Jackson (Windgap), Lucy Kavanagh (Emeralds), Doireann Knox (Mullinavat), Faye Lanigan (Carrickshock), Amy Lawless (Conahy Shamrocks), Rachel Leahy (James Stephens), Carmel Maher (St. Lachtains), Ailish Mahony (Danesfort), Niamh McCormack (St. Annes), Emma Mulhall (Conahy Shamrocks), Laoise Nolan (Clara), Emma O'Brien (James Stephens), Moya O'Brien (St. Brigids), Orlaith O'Shea (Carrickshock), Margaret Mary O'Shea (Dicksboro), Lucy O'Sullivan (Danesfort), Ciara Queally (Emeralds), Aine Rohan (Carrickshock), Aoife Ryan (Freshford), Mollie Ryan (Tullogher),



Aisling Carey, Intermediate Captain receives the Leinster trophy from Leinster Chairperson, Hilary Breslin.

Ava Shefflin (Ballyhale Shamrocks) Rose Sheridan (Kilmacow), Emma Shortall (Clara), Leanne Simpson (Tullaroan), Fiona Walsh (Mooncoin), Megan Walsh (Danesfort), Rachel Whelan (Clara), Aoife Woods (Mullinavat).

The Management Team for both Amber and Black Squads were:

Jimmy O'Shea (Carrickshock), Brigid Cassin Begley (Thomastown), Canice Brennan (Tullaroan), Tom Brennan (Barrow Rangers), William Lawless (Conahy Shamrocks), Brian Hudson (Thomastown), John Foley (Blacks & Whites), Mary Carroll (Carrickshock).

All Ireland Blitz 28/07/2019

Kilkenny Ambers participated in the Division 1 Group in AbbotsTown. Having topped their group after paying Wexford in a closely contested game and beating Galway in an exciting action-packed game, unfortunately they came up against a strong Dublin Team in the semi-final.

Kilkenny Blacks participated in the Division 2 Group in Naomh Peregrines. They were beaten in the All Ireland final by a very strong Limerick team, having overcome Clare and Cork in thrilling games to get through to the All-Ireland Final.

Both sets of squads played their hearts out on the day and did their jersey proud.

Leinster Blitz 20/07/2019 – Portlaoise, Co Laois

Kilkenny Blacks are 2019 Leinster Champions Division 2, beating Meath in the final having overcome Carlow, Laois, Kildare and Meath in the group stages they beat Meath in the Leinster final to be crowned Leinster Champions for 2019.

Kilkenny Ambers were Division 1 Leinster Finalists losing out to Wexford, in the group stage they drew with Dublin, overcoming Offaly and Antrim and playing Wexford in a closely contested group game. Kilkenny faced Wexford again in the Leinster final and unfortunately ran out of steam on that occasion.

Both Amber and Black Teams participated in a squad development day in St. Martins of Wexford followed by an outing to Curracloe beach.

29/06/2019 – Clara, Co Kilkenny

Kilkenny Ambers played Dublin A, defeating a strong Dublin team tightly contested game on the day.
Kilkenny Blacks played Dublin B and Tipperary B with the Kilkenny Blacks coming out on top in both games.

23/06/2019 – New Ross

Kilkenny Ambers played Wexford in Geraldine O'Hanrahan's GAA Club, New Ross in what can only be described as extreme weather conditions to come victorious on the day with a score line of 6-13 to 5-11.

04/05/2019 – Clara, Co Kilkenny

Both squads played Cork Teams in Clara as part of the development games.

A big thank you to all the players who trialled for the u15 squad in 2019, for the support of their parents and families who made 2019 an incredibly satisfying year. It was fantastic to watch the progression and determination shown by each of the girls as they grew in strength and skills. Lifelong friendships were made both on and off the pitch by the girls, parents and management.

We wish all the players, parents, families and management the very best for 2020.

U14

The teams were divided into three teams, Ambers, Blacks & Stripes

U14 Academy started in CBS grounds CALLAN on Saturday 26th January. Over the next several weeks over 100 girls came to the trials. The 100 would finally become 48. On Saturday 2nd March the 48 girls and their parents came to the CBS grounds, to be given information moving forward regarding training, welfare etc. People who spoke were Damien Donoghue Development Officer and Mark Flynn U14 Manager. On Saturday 9th March the panels were split for training purposes into A and B by this time other mentors were in place to help with training.



U14 Amber team



U14 Blacks team



U14 Stripes team



Minor team - 2019 All Ireland Semi Finalists

*Back: Sinead Farrell, Issey Shine, Aimee Hanrahan, Sarah Doherty, Hazel Moore, Tiffanie Fitzgerald, Emily Kavanagh, Rebecca Roche, Hannah Dunphy, Danielle Quigley, Ruth Ryan, Shauna Treacy, Gillian Costello, Eimear Naddy (Captain), Aine Phelan, Grace Mulhall, Chloe Dooley, Ellen Purcell, Elizabeth Phelan, Sinead O'Keeffe
Front: Mary Ellen Phelan, Aisling Prendergast, Sarah O'Sullivan, Jane (Missy) Rochford, Roisin O'Keeffe, Ciara O'Keeffe, Marlise Flynn, Therese Donnelly, Afton Grace, Clodagh Hanlon, Tara Ronan, Sinead Nolan, Jenni O'Dea, Jane Cass, Darcy Bolger, Eva Hynes (Missing from Photo - Ciara Mullen)*



U16A All Ireland Semi Finalists

The A team (AMBER) would mainly train Saturday morning for 1 -1.5 hours. Training was varied to combine, skills, drills, speed work, sprints, strength and conditioning and always ending in a match scenario, putting into practice what we had been learning during training. The players within the Amber squad would have an input into what they wanted to put into training, but this did not happen until after the Leinster blitz.

After winning the first blitz in Limerick on April 14th, Eileen Carmody Blitz (opposition), Clare, Limerick, Cork, Galway, and Limerick again in the Final, the Amber's played 2 more Blitzes.

Leinster Blitz 12th May (opposition) Dublin, Laois, Wexford and Dublin.

Blitz 6th July (opposition) Dublin, Tipperary, Cork. The Amber squad were beaten in the final and semi-final respectively.

On resuming training, they decided as a group, both players and management to up the intensity level of our training and to highlight certain areas we needed to improve. Part of this was a challenge match between u14 Amber and the Kilkenny u15 squad and also a match between u14 Amber and Wexford u14's.

With increased training time prior to upcoming blitzes and more emphasis on certain techniques, the next 3 blitzes became the platform for which the 24 girls of Kilkenny u14 Amber squad would show what hard work, commitment and enthusiasm would bring.

Wexford Blitz 22nd July (opposition) Waterford, Limerick, Limerick again in semi-final and Wexford in the final, Kilkenny winning in extra time.

Kilkenny Blitz, Bernie Hoban Cup. 5th August (opposition) Dublin, Waterford, Cork, Galway in the final. Kilkenny winning in extra time.

Tipperary Blitz, Orla McDonagh Cup 24th August (opposition) Tipperary, Limerick, Waterford, Dublin in the final. Kilkenny winning in extra time.

With one more Blitz to play the All Ireland in Dublin 7th September (opposition) Cork, Wexford, Dublin, expectations were high, these girls were the best in the county, they were full of confidence and self-belief and everyone believed they could be u14 All Ireland champions, but on the day the girls came up against teams that just managed to out play them.

On the journey home to Kilkenny looking back down the bus at 24 girls who were singing and happy and smiling, it just goes to prove that at this development stage in camogie, not winning didn't seem to be a problem to these girls. As a group they spent 9 months training and playing together as Kilkenny u14 Amber team, they had bruises, broken bones, broken hurls, but everyone came to training and matches regardless of the weather or other sporting interests. They always gave 100% to the manager and to Kilkenny Camogie.

Well done to all the players with u14 Amber squad.

U14 Amber

Won 4 A cups: Limerick Blitz, Wexford Blitz, Kilkenny Blitz

Tipperary Blitz - Final

Leinster Blitz - Semi-final

Dublin Blitz

All Ireland Blitz - 1/4 Final

Amber Panel: Aiden Ryan (Glenmore), Aine Dowling (John Lockes), Siofra Meegan (Thomastown), Anna Cleere (St Lachtains), Grainne Comerford (Conahy Shamrocks), Lucy Walsh (Clara), Moya O'Donoghue (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Sofia Kerr (Conahy Shamrocks), Leah Cooney (Piltown), Louise Hickey (Emeralds), Marie O Keeffe (Young Irelands),



**U15 A-squad - Leinster Final runners up
(Division 1) 2019**



**U15 B-squad - All Ireland Blitz finalist 2019
(Division 2)**

Gara Dunne (Tullaroan), Lauren Ronan (St Brigid's), Caoimhe Kerr Murtagh (Rower Inistioge), Rose Kelly (Dicksboro), Emma Corr (Clara), Cliodhna Murphy (Blacks/Whites), Becky Peters (Dicksboro), Amy Cody (Glenmore), Tara McGrath (Dicksboro), Erin Morrissey (John Lockes), Eva Sumner (St Annes), Cady Boyle (James Stephens), Rachel Dowling (Dicksboro).

The Black u14 Academy trials started back in late January after a few weeks of trials the Black squad was finalised in late February and started weekly training in Callan CBS.

The Blacks first outing was the Limerick Blitz on the 14th April in Limerick IT. In very wet and windy conditions the Black squad had group wins over Offaly and Waterford. A narrow loss to Laois in the final would set up a great rivalry for the upcoming season. The girls acquitted themselves very well as it was the first time for many of the panel to have the honour of putting on their county Jersey.

Training continued for the rest of April and in the meantime most of the girls competed with their clubs in the Féile and league games. The Blacks next outing was to Portlaoise on May 12th for the Leinster Blitz. In glorious sunshine they had good wins over Carlow, Offaly and Dublin. They went into the Division 2 Cup Final v Dublin White winning well to claim the Blacks first silverware of the season.

Their next outing the girls were off to Portmarnock for the Dublin Blitz on the 6th of July. They had wins in the group stages over Offaly and Galway. They went into the semi-final v Cork which was another tight game where they got another win with tight margins. This set us up for a final versus Laois. This was a thriller of a game with some outstanding saves by the Laois goalie keeping them in it and getting them over the line with a one-point win.

Next up was the home blitz in Kilkenny in glorious sunshine in James Stephens GAA grounds we had group wins over Offaly, Dublin and Galway. They were straight into a final against old rivals Laois. This ended up being the game of the season for the Black team winning by the narrowest of margins to lift the Intosport Cup.

Next up was Wexford on an exceptionally windy Sunday in Ferns. They were really up against it, injuries and holidays left the Blacks very light on numbers they had a win over Kildare and Limerick a loss against Meath. This set us up for a semi-final v Cork which proved to be a brilliant game, the girls just didn't have the legs to keep up with a strong Cork team and they ended up losing by a goal.

Next up was Tipperary on 24th August they lost their first game to old rivals Laois, they won their second game v Clare narrowly by one point putting them into a quarter final v Tipperary. Tipperary went on to win this match by a good margin in a match where nothing went right for the Black squad on the day.

Saving the best for last the All Ireland Blitz Sat 7th September 2019 in Trinity Gaels they had tight wins over Offaly, Tipperary and Antrim. They played Galway in the Semi-final coming out on top again with a very narrow margin. This set us up for a final v Cork this ended up being a brilliant game of camogie where the Kilkenny Blacks just couldn't get ahead in the game. Cork ended up the victors, the Black squad left everything on the pitch and died with their boots on as the saying goes.

1. Ali Kennedy (Windgap) 2. Orlaith Kirwin (Thomastown)
3. Robin Delaney (St. Brigid's) 4. Denise Foley (Windgap)
5. Megan Kenneally (Windgap) 6. Aoife Coverdale (Thomastown) 7. Aine Aylward (Moorecoin) 8. Jenna Larkin (James Stephens) 9. Tara Gleeson (Emeralds) 10. Katie Maher (St. Brigid's) 11. Ava Brett (St. Brigid's)
12. Sadhbh McCormack (John Lockes) 13. Laura Phelan



(John Lockes) 14. Aoife O Shea (Carrickshock) 15. Orlaith O'Shea (Windgap) 16. Orla O'Grady (Tullaroan) 17. Grace Healy (St. Martins) 18. Julie Lennon (Young Irelands) 19. Sonya Stanley (Danesfort) 20. Anna Doheny (Tullaroan) 21. Isabelle Fahey (Dicksboro) 22. Laura Bolger (Rower Inistioge) 23. Ciara Bryan (Young Irelands) 24. Grace Glennon (Tullogher) 25. Niamh Galway inj. (Thomastown).

Mentors - Damien Donoghue (O'Loughlin Gaels), Brian Doheny (Tullaroan), Teresa Healy (St. Martins), Jimmy O'Shea (Carrickshock).

The Kilkenny Stripes Team came together later than the Black and Amber teams, having their first training session together on the 4th May and then headed for the Leinster Blitz in Portlaoise at the Laois Training GAA Centre on the following Saturday the 11th May. Having had so little time

together the girls acquitted themselves well with a win over Offaly 2, a narrow loss of a point to Kildare and a loss against a very strong Meath Team. Training continued and their next outing was to be in Dublin. In their group was Limerick 2, Waterford 2 and Galway 3, again it was a case of being very close again and fine margins being at play, losing by a point to Waterford, beating Limerick and in the last minute against Galway conceding a goal to lose by 2 points. The attitude of the girls was something to behold and the girls gave 110% on the day.

Their next blitz was in Carlow which was held in scorching hot weather on the 13th July, their opposition on the day was Laois, Wicklow, and Meath. The girls came out on top and in the final beat Laois to take home the cup. This was only just reward for the girls who had come so near in the previous two competition.

The Wexford Blitz took place the following weekend and they hoped to push on from their win in Carlow. The girls played well and managed to get to the Shield semi-final against Waterford they were once again narrowly beaten by Waterford with only 15 players being able to play due to injuries during the day.

The Kilkenny Blitz was next up and for the start the gods were against them losing a player through injury in the 1st half of the first game. The girls never gave up and showed some fine examples of point taking however lady luck wasn't on their side.

In their next Blitz they headed for Tipperary and their opposition were Clare, Limerick and Cork, the girls played well against all second teams from the respective counties.

The Final Blitz of the year was the National Blitz in Craobh Chiarain on the North Side of Dublin, they were pitted against Meath 1, Derry 1 and Cork 3. The girls gave an excellent account of themselves and had a never give up attitude unfortunately they didn't progress to the knockout stages, but the team were however given the Rosina McManus Fair Play Award for attitude and sportsmanship, which was decided by the referees at the venue.

Throughout the season the players involved were; **Ruth Phelan (Conahy Shamrocks), Rachel O'Keeffe (Piltown), Jessica Cuddy (Tullaroan), Lucy Dunne (Lisdowney), Jessica Roche (Mooncoin), Emily Murphy (Conahy Shamrocks), Aoife Murphy (St. Lachtains), Sarah Dooley (Conahy Shamrocks), Serena Griffiths (St. Martins), Jessica Byrne (Kilmacow/Slieverue), Aine Sharkey (St. Annes), Amber Laherty (Mullinavat), Sinead Carroll (Dicksboro), Leah Alyward (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Cliodhna Walsh (Mullinavat), Caoimhe Hickey (St. Lachtains), Laura Flynn (Mullinavat), Sarah Brennan (St. Lachtains), Julie Nolan (John Lockes), Seana Davis (Mullinavat), Ashling Browne (Dicksboro), Libby Murphy (Kilmacow/Slieverue), Aoife Gamble (Conahy Shamrocks), Angela Carroll (Dicksboro), Aoife Kavanagh (Emeralds), Joanne Comerford (Clara), Aoibheann Dunphy (Carrickshock), Julie Lennon (Gowran), Robyn Delaney (St. Brigids), Aine Alyward (Mooncoin), Ellen Murphy (Rower Inistioge), Rachel Brickell (Clara), Laura Doherty (Glenmore), Ciara Gleeson (Danesfort).**

Mentors: Phil Sharkey (St. Annes), Emma Hickey (St. Lachtains), Frances Gamble (Conahy Shamrocks) and Paula Murphy (St. Lachtains).



Edwina Keane (Kilkenny) -

Having been in the Kilkenny side for many years, Keane's experience was evident for everyone to see this season and she played a crucial part in Kilkenny returning to Croke Park in September. Having bounced back from two cruciate ligament injuries in the past, Keane looks sharper than ever and remains a reliable and solid defender for the Cats, even getting herself on the scoreboard in her side's victory over Tipperary in the Semi-Final. Edwina received her seventh nomination

1. How long have you been playing Camogie? I've started playing with my club when I was 7/8 I think. Started playing county camogie underage when I was 13, I think.

2. How often would you train during the week? I train 3 times with county team and then I try do something extra myself on the other days that I don't have county or club training.

3. What's your favourite position?

I don't really have a favourite position, I don't like midfield so anywhere other than midfield I guess.

4. When younger did you want to play for Kilkenny? Yeah, I think I always wanted to play for Kilkenny. I played loads of sports all the way up but playing camogie with Kilkenny was always top of the list, though.

5. Are you looking forward to 2020 under new management?

Yeah definitely, it will be strange without Ann but I've no doubt but Brian will be great for the coming year.

6. What is it like being called out for that All-Star award on the night?

Big surprise and shock to hear my name being called out to be honest.



Claire Phelan (Kilkenny) –

The centre-back for the Cats has once again proven her worth in the Kilkenny rear-guard having stepped into the centre this season and flourished while playing there. The primary school teacher earned her sixth All-Stars award nomination, such is the impact she has amongst her county teammates

1. How long have you been playing Camogie? I've been playing camogie as long as I can remember. I started with my brothers in the back yard from as early as I can remember

2. How often would you train during the week? The days I'm not actually training with the group I would try get to the gym for recovery session

3. What's your favourite position? My favourite position would be anywhere in the half back line.

4. When younger did you want to play for Kilkenny? Yeah, I think I always wanted to play for Kilkenny. I played loads of sports all the way up but playing camogie with Kilkenny was always top of the list, though.

5. Are you looking forward to 2020 under new management?

Yeah looking forward to it, Ann and the management team the last few years were

unbelievable and brought us to a new level completely. Hopefully Brian and his team can bring us that step further this year and I've no doubt they will

6. What is it like being called out for that All-Star award on the night?

It was an amazing feeling, I've been up there a few times now and there was a bit of relief to getting one this year and being able to give family and friends something to smile about.



Denise Gaule (Kilkenny) -

A household name within the game Denise has had another highly consistent year for the Cats and was instrumental in their run to the All-Ireland decider. The Kilkenny ace lifted the white flag on three occasions in the Final and she was Player of the Match in their group stage victory over Limerick. It was a fifth nomination for Denise

1. How long have you been playing Camogie?

Playing since around 6 or 7.

2. How often would you train during the week? In season train 3 times with team try get gym one or two nights myself.

3. What's your favourite position? Favourite position would be midfield.

4. When younger did you want to play for Kilkenny? Yes always wanted to represent my county great honour for myself and my family.

5. Are you looking forward to 2020 under new management?

Really looking forward to year under new management going back every year is a challenge I think it will be a chance for new girls to establish themselves on the team and bring an added competition.

6. What is it like being called out for that All-Star award on the night?

I wasn't there on the night but I'm sure my mother was delighted gracing the stage on my behalf!! I was happily surprised but for me individual awards aren't the end-all. Hopefully we can win the main prize as a team this year



Michelle Quilly (Kilkenny) –

Michelle was in superb form throughout the Championship campaign and despite being on the wrong side of the result in the All-Ireland decider, she scored eight points for the Cats on the day. Her consistency throughout the Championship was remarkable and she even earned the Player of the Match award in her side's victory over Tipperary in the All-Ireland Semi-Final. It was a sixth nomination for Michelle

1. How long have you been playing Camogie? Since I was 4 (25 years).

2. How often would you train during the week? 4-5 times a week.

3. What's your favourite position? Full-forward line.

4. When younger did you want to play for Kilkenny? Yes, it's always a dream as a kid to play for your county.

5. Are you looking forward to 2020 under new management?

Yes, looking forward to a new challenge and fresh ideas.

6. What is it like being called out for that All-Star award on the night?

It's a surprise when you get called out because there is such talent in the nominees list. So it's great when you do get called out.

MIRIAM WALSH



EMMA KAVANAGH



DICKSBORO break through!

Camogie Club Season Review by PRO Aoife lanigan



SENIOR

Last years champions, Thomastown were beaten by St. Martin's, Wexford in the Leinster Final by 7 points.

Senior League – Piltown and Thomastown contested this final. Piltown were victorious on a 3-15 to 0-10 score line.

Senior All County League – Young Irelands and St Brigid's vied for this title. St Brigid's winning by 2-14 to 1-10.

County Semi-final – Dicksboro V Windgap. Dicksboro secured the spot in the final recording a 1-18 to 0-6 victory.

In the other semi-final, last years finalists Piltown faced St. Lachtains/Lisdowney. Piltown advanced to county final with a comprehensive win 4-15 to 0-7.

The county final saw Dicksboro against Piltown. The latter were the losing finalists from 2017 & 2018. It was a very close encounter in the first half with nothing separating them at 0-4 apiece at the

interval. Heading into the 1st minute of additional time, Piltown were leading 0-8 to 0-6. Dicksboro broke upfield and Jenny Clifford flicked an overhead strike past the Piltown goalie to put the 'Boro ahead. Aoife Doyle did have a chance to get Piltown back into the game, but Kirsty Maher brought off a great save and cleared the danger upfield. Dicksboro were awarded a free and Aoife Prendergast scored the insurance point to see Dicksboro being crowned senior county champions for the first time on a 1-7 to 0-8 score line. Victory set up a Leinster semi-final against St. Martin's (Wexford).

This game has not played at time of going to print but details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com.

INTERMEDIATE

Last year's champions Young Irelands were beaten by St. Rynagh's, Offaly in the Leinster Final by 6 points.

Intermediate League – Barrow Rangers and St Annes/Emeralds contested this final. St Annes/Emeralds were winners,

2-7 to 0-3.

Intermediate All County League – still to be played at the time of going to print. Details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com.

County Semi-Finals – Conahy Shamrocks v. Ballyhale Shamrocks. Conahy Shamrocks won on a 2-10 to 1-7 score line.

Clara v. St Annes/Emeralds. Clara were victorious on a 3-5 to 1-8 score line.

The county final saw Clara and Conahy Shamrocks vying for the title. Clara led 2-6 to 0-10 at half-time. But after a nail biting second half, Clara prevailed 3-11 to 1-16. Victory set them up against St. Rynagh's, Offaly in a Leinster quarter-final. St. Rynagh's were reigning Leinster Champions. It was a tough day for Clara, they were 3-4 to 0-7 down at half time, but during the second half, they went a point ahead, but St Rynagh's fought back and won 2-12 to 6-9.



JUNIOR

St Claire's received a walkover.

Junior All County League had Mooncoin and Piltown battle it out for the honours. Mooncoin won 2-11 to 1-12.

The Junior A County Final - St Claire's and James Stephens played in the final. After a close first half, St Claire's lead 1-3 to 0-4, but they pulled away in the second half, winning 3-9 to 0-9.

Junior B County Final – still to be played at the time of going to print. Details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com.

U21

The U21 Championships were still being played at the time of going to print. Details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com.

MINOR

Minor A County Final was played between Young Irelands and Dicksboro. Young Irelands were victorious 6-9 to 0-8.

Minor A League Final - Thomastown and Young Irelands played in the final. Thomastown won 6-12 to 4-6.

Minor B County Championship – still to be finished at the time of going to print. Details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com.

Minor B League Final – Dicksboro and Emeralds played this final in miserable conditions. Dicksboro won 6-10 to 1-6.

Minor C County Championship – still to be finished at the time of going to print. Details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com.

Minor C League Final – Glenmore and St Lactains vied for the honours in this final. Glenmore won 5-7 to 4-4.

U16

U16 A County Final - Dicksboro and St Brigid's played in this Final. Dicksboro were victorious 1-8 to 0-3.

U16 A League – still to be finished at the time of going to print. Details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com.

U16 B County Final – Emeralds and Conahy Shamrocks vied for honours. Conahy Shamrocks were victorious 5-13 to 2-1.

U16 B Shield – still to be finished at the time of going to print. Details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com.

U16 B League – still to be finished at the time of going to print. Details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com.

U16 C League – still to be finished at the time



St Claire's Junior County Champions 2019



St Annes/Emeralds Intermediate League Champions 2019



St Brigid's Senior All County League Champions 2019



Piltown Senior League Champions 2019



Mooncoin Junior All County League Winners 2019



Young Irelands Minor A County Champions 2019



Thomasstown Minor A League Champions 2019

of going to print. Details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com.

U16 C Shield – still to be finished at the time of going to print. Details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com.

U16 C County Final – Young Irelands and Windgap played for this title. Young Irelands winning 3-12 to 0-7.

U14

U14 A Shield Final had Young Irelands and John Lockes vying for the title. Young Irelands won 3-6 to 2-8.

U14 A County Final – Dicksboro played Conahy Shamrocks. Dicksboro winning 1-10 to 0-3 in miserable conditions.

U14 B Shield Final had St. Martins against Danesfort in the Final. St Martin's winning 3-8 to 1-8.

U14 B County Final featured Windgap against James Stephens. Windgap were victorious 1-7 to 1-5 in miserable conditions.



Young Irelands U16C County Champions 2019



Dicksboro U16A County Champions 2019

U14 C Shield Final had Tulloher and Rower-Inistioge vying for the title. Tulloher were victorious 10-12 to 7-0.

U14 C County Final, St Lachtains and Clara contested the Final. St Lactains winning out after a close encounter, 7-3 to 6-4.

U14 D Shield still to be finished at the time of going to print. Details can be found on kilkennycamogie.com.

U14 D County Final had Blacks & Whites and Barrow Rangers vying for the title. Blacks & Whites won 7-2 to 2-2.

U12

Group 1 Cup Winners – Carrickshock
Group 2 Cup Winners – Windgap
Group 3 Cup Winners – St Brigid's
Group 4 Cup Winners – Thomastown
Group 5 Cup Winners – Barrow Rangers
Group 6 Cup Winners – Danesfort



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The Annual Return!

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Report
by Dermot Dunphy PRO
Photos - Willie Dempsey



St Canice's - Roinn A Champions 2019

A common theme in the Cumann na mBunscoileanna Schools' Board Report each year is the return of teams to Nowlan Park and often the winners' enclosure. While for many teachers, the annual return is more to do with ensuring the right information is sent to the Department of Education, in hurling terms, it has more to do with the fact that schools, especially country schools, often hit a rich vein of players and appear in finals for a number of years on the trot. Once there, they try to honour the old proverb, 'Make hay while the sun shines!' Then it can be a bit of a drought again before the next batch arrive. This year, many teams who appeared in 2018 reappeared in 2019 and while outright success can only be for one team in every competition, reaching a final is a victory in itself and all our finalists deserve to be congratulated!

Under 13

In the last fifteen years, one team has garnered huge success. St Canice's Co-Ed on the Granges Road is one of the largest schools in the county and regularly has a new group of players every year. However, numbers alone don't guarantee victory and the success the school has had in the last decade and a half measures up to the greatest of successes of teams of yore. Last year, with the first team unusually sidelined, the school's second team won the Roinn D title, in possibly one of the greater feats of the year. Those young boys showed their true mettle when seven of them returned to recapture the Roinn A title this year. A tenth title since 2005, they now sit proudly atop the roll of honour in Roinn A Titles! Bravo and congratulations to them.

Spare a thought for the runners-up in Roinn A, Clara. They were returning to Nowlan Park for the third year in a row and again success eluded them. Having contested the Roinn B decider in 2017, Clara opted to play in Roinn A for the past two years and reaching the final in both years, disappointment was theirs each time. This year was particularly hard as they lost their captain to injury just before the final and it was a setback they could not recover from, especially against a top-class side in St Canice's. Thankfully for them, there was success on the double in the INTO Mini-Sevens, a just reward for a talented group of players.

Roinn B saw another returning side in Tullogher-Rosbercon. Narrowly beaten in 2018, the southerners again made the final where they met a talented Graignamanagh-Skeoughvosteen team. In a great game that swung to and fro, it was the team from the Carlow border that prevailed by the smallest of margins. A game won by last minute free from near the sideline that Keher, Shefflin or Reid would have been proud of. For the young Tullogher lads it was heartbreak again, but theirs has been a rich vein in the past few years and they will return again, no doubt.

In Roinn C, it took two games to decide the destination of the Georgie Leahy Cup, and the great man himself would have really enjoyed the contests. Carrickshock's appearance in the decider was no surprise after their great run in last year's Under 11. Coon-Muckalee are a team that always are there or there about. The drawn game was immense, tight and close with no quarter

asked or given. In the replay, it was the northerners who pushed on, and yet another common theme continues as Carrickshock are a third team who returned to a final and were met with disappointment again.

Roinn D saw more returning teams as neighbours Johnstown and Galmoy met for the second time in recent years. It was the young Fenians who prevailed with a strong performance, a repeat of three years ago. Galmoy are to be commended as they fought with all their might but Johnstown were just that bit better. No doubt over the years this rivalry will continue to grow and grow.

The Corn de Bhaldraithe Final saw two Roinn A teams meet, and again saw a team returning for another shot at victory. However, our themes run deep and unfortunately for Gowran, they also were to be disappointed for a second year in a row. This year, it was the boys of St Mary's NS Thomastown who prevailed in the last schools' final to be played this summer. The quality of the game was very high and the margin saw just a puck of a ball separated two skilful teams in a game that was a fitting end to the schools' hurling season.

For the second time in two years, the Tommy O'Brien Cup final saw two teams who had not contested a league final qualify, only the third this has happened since the start of the competition. Back to defend their title were Danesfort who had a whirlwind start to see off a game Conahy side. For once, the returning team were the happy team.

Under 11

Year four of the competition and possibly the most competitive, especially in Roinn A where 14 teams took the field. It was a return to the final for the young boys of Scoil McAuley Rice, Callan, who used their experience from last year to win a first title against near neighbours Kilmanagh. Expect Callan to be making a serious assault in Under 13 next year. Roinn B was the exception to our thematic rule where Ballyhale and Danesfort were new arrivals at this level. The young Shamrocks were outstanding on the night to claim the title and they will be worth keeping an eye on over the next few years. Though they lost out, Danesfort have had a couple of good years and more to come! Finally, in Roinn C, a victory for Windgap who overcame Johnstown with a super first half performance. After missing out in the football championship in the autumn, there was great joy for the southerners. With a very comfortable cushion at half time, there was a run out for every player in the second half, the true essence of Cumann na mBunscoileanna!

INTO Mini-Sevens

Another highly competitive year for the annual INTO Sevens saw one familiar face to the fore and two smaller parishes making the breakthrough again. Clara came through in the two boys' disciplines, winning the Boys' Hurling and Football, some deserved success for a group that have come very close in the fifteen a side game. In the girls' competitions, Tullaroan claimed the honours in the camogie competition while Dunnmaggin went all the way in the Girls' Football. As always, these competitions lead to Croke Park for some

lucky players. In an effort to spread these places around, where possible, not only the victors but some of the finalists and runners-up get to send children to the exhibition games. Clara had three players in total who played at GAA Headquarters, two at semi-final stage and one on All-Ireland hurling Final Day. Ruarc Sweeney played in Kerry colours at the Kerry-Tyrone football semi-final while Pia Langton was in Kilkenny colours for their hurling semi-final vs Limerick. Thomas Langton also donned Kilkenny colours, luckily for him on All-Ireland Hurling Final day. In camogie, Anna Doheny of Tullaroan joined Thomas on All-Ireland day, also wearing black and amber. Molly Conroy from Kilmanagh played at half time in the Wexford-Tipp hurling semi-final. As for the football games, James Brennan from Gowran donned the Dublin colours during their semi-final with Mayo while Ava Lily O'Neill was lucky enough to play on the All-Ireland final day itself when the young Dunnamagggin girl wore the Dublin/Kerry colours. A great thrill for all the lucky children and well deserved for their hard work and commitment to their school teams.

INTO CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL Handball

This year, the Cumann na mBunscol handball competition took place in O'Loughlin Gaels where both courts were put to full use over two days for what was a highly competitive tournament. 90 boys and girls representing schools from the north and south of the county took part on the day. Players participated in Under 11 and Under 13 competitions in both singles and doubles for boys and girls. Players showed a combination of skill, determination and fair play to produce handball of excellent quality.

Results

U 11 Boys singles – Eoin Brennan (Firoda NS) bt Andriú Ó Braonáin (Gaelscoil Osraí)

U 11 Boys doubles – Jack Egan/Shane Doyle (Windgap NS) bt Conor Deegan/Seán Carroll (St. Canices)

U 11 Girls singles – Niamh Drennan (Galmoy) bt Shauna Hayes (Kells)

U 11 Girls doubles – Katie Begley/Kate Ryan (Thomastown) bt Kate O'Brien/Moya Egan (Windgap)

U 13 Boys singles – Niall Drennan (Galmoy) bt Noah Ó Manóig (Gaelscoil Osraí)

U 13 Boys doubles – Éanna O'Keeffe/Alex Begley (Thomastown) bt James Kenny/Bill O'Shea (St. Canices)

U 13 Girls singles – Holly Byrne (Firoda) bt Laura Doherty (Ballyfacey)

U 13 Girls doubles – Aoibhe Ryan/Katie Jordan (Thomastown) bt Aoife Healy/Mia O'Connell (Kells)

All the winners went on to represent Kilkenny in the provincial stage of the Cumann na mBunscoil handball competition which was hosted by the St. Brigid's club in Dublin. Eoin Brennan (U-11 singles), Niamh Drennan (U-11 singles), Niall Drennan (U-13 singles), Aoibhe Ryan/Katie Jordan (U-13 doubles) all went on qualify for the National Finals Day in Kingscourt, Co. Cavan.

Toymaster Roinn A Final

St. Canice's Champions Again

St. Canice's 6-12 Clara 1-4

St. Canice's N.S. recaptured the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Toymaster Roinn A title in impressive fashion when defeating Clara N.S. in Nowlan Park. In winning the 2019 title, the Kilkenny City school has now won ten county finals in fifteen years since their first success in 2005.

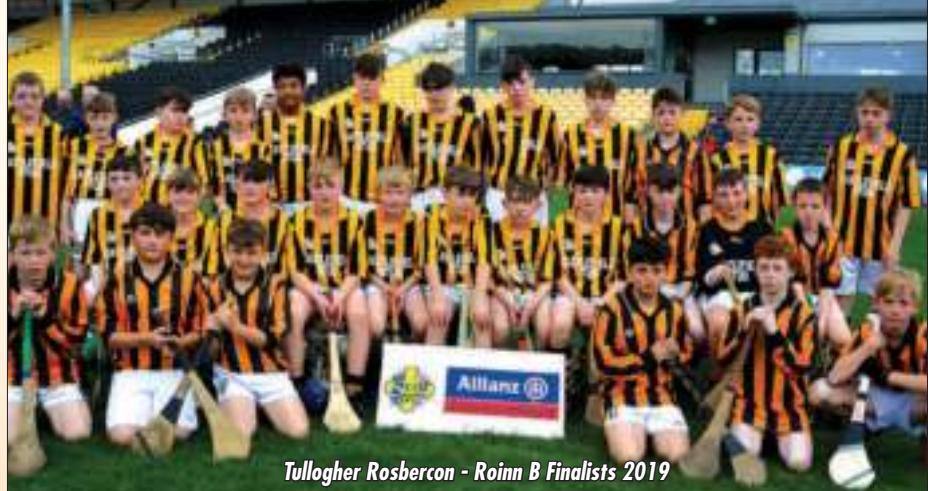
Clara N.S. were seeking their first title since 2009 and were hoping to atone for last year's Roinn A Final loss to Kilmanagh. Fate dealt Clara N.S. a



Clara - Roinn A Finalists 2019



Graignamanagh Skeoughvosteen - Roinn B Champions 2019



Tullogher Rosbercon - Roinn B Finalists 2019



Coon Muckalee - Roinn C Champions 2019

cruel blow before the game when they had to line out without midfielder and captain, Conor Hoyne, who got injured during the week. His absence was clearly a huge disappointment to his team colleagues.

St. Canice's N.S. controlled the game from the throw-in, with a strong spine throughout the team giving the city school lots of possession and scoring opportunities. The winners also had players with an abundance of pace, particularly in attack, and this was key to the creation of many of their scores throughout the game.

Early points for the winners from James O'Neill and Ross Doyle saw them take an early lead which they never surrendered. The first of their six goals came in seventh minute when the excellent James O'Neill found the net. Clara did manage to briefly halt the winners' momentum with a pointed free from Joe Power. A second St. Canice's N.S. goal from James O'Neill was followed three minutes later by another green flag from Patrick Lacey.

The Clara N.S. attack had a number of scoring opportunities in the opening half, but the winners defence excelled. St. Canice's N.S. grabbed a fourth goal just before the interval from James Cleere. Midfielder Ross Doyle also played a big role in his team's success with points from both play and frees. St. Canice's N.S. that led at the break, 4-6 to 0-2.

Despite the margin between the sides, Clara N.S. deserve huge credit for a battling second half performance. The winners continued to enjoy the bulk of the possession, and given the extent of the pressure they were under during the game, the Clara N.S. defence fought tenaciously throughout. James O'Neill scored his third goal in the eleventh minute and another from Billy O'Shea two minutes later was indicative of the city school's dominance. The efforts of Clara were rewarded with a well-deserved goal in the twentieth minute when full-forward Eoghan O'Brien broke two tackles to raise his team's only green flag. It was no more than the efforts of the young Clara side deserved.

St. Canice's N.S. were very impressive winners. The skill of their young players was exceptional and so too was the teamwork throughout the field. With most of the players involved with Dicksboro at underage level, the future looks bright in Palmerstown. Credit to both schools for allowing all their substitutes an opportunity to play some part in this year's final. This is a memory every one of the young players will cherish.

St. Canice's N.S.: Ciaran Power; Aidan Cullen; Max Doyle; Anthony Clifford; Luke Kerwick; Evan Murphy (Captain); Luke Quigley; Ross Doyle (0-8, 0-4 F & 0-1 '65); Enda Kavanagh; Louis Raggett; Oisín Henderson; Bill O'Shea (1-0); James Cleere (1-0); James O'Neill (3-3, 0-1 Free); Patrick Lacey (1-1).

Subs: Charlie O'Neill; Eoin Moore; Adam Quigley; Conor Holahan; Rory McEvoy; Cathal Russell; Bill Clune; Conor Farrell; Ben Henderson; Ben Hogan; Luke Browne; Dan Carroll; Andrew Comerford; Samuel John O'Shea.

Clara N.S.: Luke Lawlor; Hugh Kelly; James Cody; Philip Carrigan; Jake Maher; Thomas Langton; John Bergin; Ruarc Sweeney; Joe Power (0-3, 0-2 '65 & 0-1 Free); Eoin Corr; David Barcoe; Shane Walsh; Conor Lynch; Eoghan O'Brien (1-1); Daniel Murphy.

Subs: Dillon Cummins; Liam Carrigan; Bill Kealy; Sean Byrne; Oisín Reilly Nicholls; Matthew Lehane; Kian Kealy; Daniel Ryan; Sean Cooke; Conor Galvin; James Langton; Adam Matthews Downing; Diarmuid Matthews Downing; Ross Gormley; Conor Doyle (Captain – Injured).

Referee – Paschal Connolly.



Carrickshock - Roinn C Finalists 2019



Johnstown - Roinn D Champions 2019



Galmoy - Roinn D Finalists 2019



Thomastown - Country Cup Champions 2019

TOP OII Roinn B Final

Graig/Skeough victorious in thriller!

Graignamanagh/Skeoughvosteen

2-8

Tullogher/Rosbercon

1-10

Graignamanagh/Skeoughvosteen and Tullogher Rosbercon met in the Allianz Cumann na mBunscoileanna Roinn B final in a sunny but windy Nowlan Park. This was an enthralling, nail-biting game from start to finish with only a last minute free from Graignamanagh/Skeoughvosteen's sharp shooting midfielder Nikki Ryan separating the sides.

Graig/Skeough got off to a dream start with an early goal from tenacious wing forward Gavin Kielthy. Tullogher-Rosbercon had an ace free taker in Sean Ryan and he got their first score of the game from a 65. Skilful full forward Joe Malone added another point for Tullogher-Rosbercon. It was end to end action throughout. Sean Kinsella pointed from 40m for the Graig/Skeough boys before Sean Ryan pointed another 65 for Tullogher-Rosbercon. Tullogher-Rosbercon created a number of chances in the first half but could not breach the goal of the impressive Colin Bolger. Nikki Ryan and Sean Ryan traded points from placed balls to end the first half with Graig/Skeough leading by a point, 1-02 to 0-4.

It was Tullogher-Rosbercon who started the brighter in the second half despite now playing against the strong breeze. They got four unanswered points, one from Andrew Murphy and three from Sean Ryan. Tullogher-Rosbercon were the more dominant team with their towering centre back David Kennedy clearing a mountain of ball. Nikki Ryan pointed a free to settle the Graig/Skeough boys again. Halftime substitute Sean Hanrahan got himself on the scoreboard for Tullogher-Rosbercon after a great low delivery from Sean Ryan.

Score of the game came from Graig/Skeough's speedy centre forward Stephen Kinsella, who pointed on the run from 35m. Sean Hanrahan delivered a terrific cross-field ball to Andrew Murphy whose ferocious ground strike gave Colin Bolger no chance. With only ten minutes to play and leading by five points, Tullogher-Rosbercon looked likely to make up for last year's final defeat but Graig/Skeough had other plans. Stephen Kinsella got another terrific point before Eddie Doyle goaled from what seemed like an impossible angle. Soon after, Nikki Ryan levelled the game with a free after a foul on Kinsella.

Joe Malone made a great catch, and pointed in the 23rd minute to put Tullogher-Rosbercon in the lead again but up stepped Nikki Ryan to point the equaliser moments later. With only moments left to play, Gavin Kielthy gained possession on the right wing and was fouled on his route to goal. The cool Nikki Ryan slotted the free over from a difficult angle to claim the Roinn B title for Graignamanagh/Skeoughvosteen.

With that, referee John McCormack blew the final whistle to end a terrific game of hurling with the final score: Graignamanagh/Skeoughvosteen 2-08, Tullogher Rosbercon 1-10.

Joint captains Nikki Ryan and Stephen Kinsella lifted the Paddy Hennessy Cup to great jubilation. It was disappointment again for Tullogher-Rosbercon but they can take great heart from their performance and their contribution to a magnificent advertisement of underage hurling.

Graignamanagh/Skeoughvosteen:

Colin Bolger, Jack Brown, Shane Phelan, Padraig Phelan, Martin Barron, Kian O'Shea, Keelan



Gowran - Country Cup Finalists 2019



Danesfort- O'Brien Cup Champions 2019



Conahy - O'Brien Cup Finalists 2019



Scoil McCauley Rice - Roinn A Under 11 Champions 2019



Kilmalagh - Roinn A Under 11 Finalists 2019

Gahan, Owen O'Brien, Nikki Ryan (JtC)(0-5; 0-4 f), Senan Kelly, Stephen Kinsella (JtC)(0-3), Gavin Kielthy (1-0), Devon Kielthy, Eddie Doyle (1-0), Sean O'Grady.

Subs: Owen Wade, Rory Cleary, Shane O'Brien, Daniel Wade, Jack Connolly, Cody O'Neill, James Morgan, Tom Breen, Killian Walsh.

Tullogher Rosbercon:

Darren Cody, Adam White, John Murphy [c], Niall Cummins, Dean Kinsella, David Kennedy, Joss O'Connor, Sean Ryan (0-6; 0-2 f, 0-3, 65), James Cummins, Ciaran Cummins, Andrew Murphy (1-1), Evan Fitzgerald, Jamie Connolly Smith, Joe Malone (0-2), Liam Murphy.

Subs: Oisin Mullally, Phoenix Doherty, Sam Ryan, Keelan Ryan, Sean Hanrahan (0-1), Philly Murphy, Jamie Kehoe, Sean Walsh, Rory Tobin, Michael O'Sullivan, Liam McLoughlin, Michael Sydney, Darragh Ryan, Nicky Furness, Lorcan Furness, James Dooley.

Referee: John McCormack



Toymaster Roinn C Final

**Coon Muckalee claim crown in replay.
Coon Muckalee 2-6 Carrickshock 0-12**

Played in near perfect conditions in Nowlan Park on May 27th Coon Muckalee went straight into the attack from the throw in. Michaél Ruane. Rune was early on the scoreboard with the northerners first point. A Carrickshock free from Conor Farrell soon levelled up matters. Farrell added further frees for the southern men as himself and Mikey Rohan ran and ran at their opponents' goal. Handy forward Jake Dowling raised a green flag to lift the siege for Coon Muckalee in the sixth minute. Aaron Farrell and Matthew Bolger had further points for Carrickshock before Coon Muckalee found the net through busy centre forward Micheál Keane. Keane continued on his scoring ways with a point before half-time and Farrell tagged on a series of Carrickshock frees as well as a fine solo effort from play to leave the half time score Coon Muckalee 2-5, Carrickshock 0-8.

Deadly Farrell had a free and then a '65 for Carrickshock at the start of the second period. This left a single point between the teams. Jack Coogan stretched the lead with an excellent point from play and Luke McDonald gave the northern men a two-point lead with five minutes remaining. With Jack Donnelly, Adam Franks and Alex Fennelly driving them forward the Shocks won two vital frees in the dying minutes. Conor Farrell completed his clean sweep of Carrickshock's scores with his last two frees. The full time score read Coon Muckalee 2-6, Carrickshock 0-12.

Carrickshock: Matthew Murphy, Mark Power, Patrick Irish, Conor Duggan, Adam Franks, Alex Fennelly, Jodie Dinneen, Conor Farrell (0-12; 0-8 f, 0-2 '65'), Oisin Drea, Donnachadh Hogan, Mikey Rohan, Jack Donnelly, Cian Franks, Mark Askins, Eoin O Gorman.

Coon-Muckalee: Darragh Fahey, Darragh Purcell, Adam Morrissey, Conor Murphy, Peter Kelly, Matthew Bolger, Tadhg Power, Jack Dooley, Jack Coogan, Jake Dowling, Michael Keane, Dean Herbert, Luke McDonald, Aaron Farrell, Micheál Ruane. **Subs:** Thomas Shore, Jake Dowling

Referee: John McCormack (James Stephens)



Replay:

Coon Muckalee 3-9 Carrickshock 2-6

The replay of the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Roinn C Under 13 Final had to be staged in Palmerstown

due to Senior County training in Nowlan Park. On this occasion both sets of fans were entertained by true Nowlan Park fare. Conor Farrell scored an early free but Coon Muckalee then cut loose with Jack Coogan 1-4 (0-4 frees) and Micheál Keane (1-0) shooting them into a nine-point lead by the tenth minute. Conor Farrell had a close in free blocked out for a '65. Harry Moore managed to claw back a goal for Carrickshock as half-time approached. Mikey Rohan who'd seen action from full back to full forward both days, even managed to take over in goal to stop a penalty from Jack Coogan just before halftime. Carrickshock staged a rally early on in the second half. Conor Farrell landed an early 65 but Coogan had a quick reply before both players traded a pair of points each. Sturdy substitute Luke Cahill broke through in the eleventh minute for a decisive Coon Muckalee goal. Coogan and Farrell shared out the rest of the scores for either side. The Muckalee man scoring two points (0-1 free) and Carrickshock's goal coming from a Conor Farrell penalty.

It was hard to pick out heroes on either team over two hours' hurling. Apart from the main scorers, Goalkeeper Darragh Fahey was particularly inspirational both days for Coon Muckalee. Carrickshock found themselves having to go for goals early in the two games. The spine of the Northern Men's team Adam Morrissey, Matthew Bolger, Jack Dooley and Micheál Keane created a solid platform for their team. Darragh Purcell, Conor Murphy, Peter Kealy and Tadhg Power were tidy backs. Aaron Farrell, Luke McDonald and Dean Herbert were selfless in their work to create scores upfront. Patrick Irish was a steady fullback for the southern men, Conor Duggan, Adam Franks and Oisin Drea gave him good support. Adam Fennelly and Donnachadh Hogan were kept busy by their markers, while Oisin Dalton Jodie Dineen and Eoin O Gorman also gave their all for Carrickshock.

Coon Muckalee: Darragh Fahey, Darragh Purcell, Adam Morrissey, Thomas Shore, Tadhg Power, Matthew Bolger (captain), Peter Kealy, Jack Dooley, Jack Coogan (1-6), Jake Dowling, Micheál Keane (1-2), Aaron Farrell, Luke McDonald, Micheál Ruane (0-1), Dean Herbert. Subs: Luke Cahill (1-0), Daniel Tallis, Dean Herbert.

Carrickshock: Matthew Murphy, Adam Franks, Patrick Irish, Conor Duggan, Oisin Drea, Mikey Rohan, Eoin O'Gorman, Donnachadh Hogan, Alex Fennelly, Conor Farrell (1-6), Mark Askins, Harry Moore (1-0), Mark Power, Jodie Dinneen, Oisin Dalton. Subs: Cian Franks, Sam Mansfield, Jack Donnelly, Dara O'Neill, Christopher Aylward.

Referee: Lester Ryan (Clara)

TOP Oil Roinn D County Final

Johnstown 7-12 Galmoy 0-5

Nowlan Park was in supreme condition as Galmoy. The Roinn D final was a 13-a-side affair, between neighbours Johnstown and Galmoy. Johnstown started the game with the aid of the breeze. And straight from the throw-in, Johnstown's Regan Downey controlled the ball, made a yard of space for himself and sent the ball over the Galmoy bar with barely 10 seconds on the clock! Johnstown meant business! They started the better and already were getting a grip on the game around midfield, where Regan Downey and Rory Garrett

were on top! Downey struck again from distance for Johnstown's second point. Quickly Jack Walsh stroked the ball over the Galmoy bar and in the 6th minute, Rory Garrett struck a smashing point. The Galmoy backline were under pressure but refused to buckle, especially Úna Duggan, who worked tirelessly and was always in the right place at the right timen.

Johnstown had much of their success with long range efforts. Rory Garrett's scorenwas closely followed by points from Regan Downey and

Corn de Bhaldraithe Final

Thomastown Triumph!

Thomastown 2-5 Gowran 1-5

On Thursday 27th of June the curtain came down on the Cumann na mBunscol season with the Corn De Bhaldraithe Final in Nowlan Park. The competing finalists Gowran and Thomastown served up a wonderful game for the large support. From the beginning, it was evident that both teams were evenly matched.

ALLIANZ CUMANN NA MBUNSCOILEANNA SCOREBOARD 2019

Toymaster Roinn A	St Canice's	6-12	Clara	1-4
TOP Oil Roinn B	Graig/Skeough	2-8	Tullogher-Rosbercon	1-10
Toymaster Roinn C	Coon-Muckalee	2-6	Carrickshock	0-12
	Johnstown	3-9	Carrickshock	2-6
Replay	Coon-Muckalee	7-12	Galmoy	0-5
TOP Oil Roinn D	Thomastown	2-5	Gowran	1-5
Allianz Corn de Bhaldraithe	Danesfort	6-7	Conahy	0-6
Allianz Corn Ó Briain				
Toymaster Under 11 Roinn A	Scoil McAuley-Rice	5-7	Kilmalagh	1-6
TOP OIL Under 11 Roinn B	Ballyhale	8-6	Danesfort	0-5
Toymaster Under 11 Roinn C	Windgap	7-7	Johnstown	0-2
INTO Mini-Sevens Hurling	Clara			
INTO Mini-Sevens Football	Clara			
INTO Mini-Sevens Camogie	Tullaroan			
INTO Mini-Sevens Girls Football	Dunnamaggin			

Cillian Purcell from midfield, along with a beauty of a point from out wide near the sideline from Jack Walsh.

Regan Downey lashed in a terrific effort on goal, only to see Galmoy 'keeper Órla Duggan stand tall and make a great stop before Jerry Henderson collected a Galmoy puckout clean from the air and he sent it back over the bar. Galmoy's task was building. Nine points down but they would have the strong wind to aid them in the second half.

All of a sudden, the game ran away from Galmoy. In the space of three minutes, they were dealt hammer blows when Rory Garrett, Eoghan Summer and Jack Walsh (2) all rattled the net! At the break the score was 4-9 to 0-0.

Galmoy were playing with the wind for the second half but it was Johnstown, however, who struck two more goals to break Galmoy hearts. Jack Walsh again on the double. When Eoghan Summer pointed for Johnstown on 8 minutes, the writing was on the wall. This Galmoy side have a fierce pride in their school and jersey and refused to buckle! Captain Niall Drennan got Galmoy's opening score, and in a five-minute spell added another three. The Galmoy forwards were starting to ask some serious questions of the Johnstown defence.

Johnstown answered with a point from Rory Garrett which was quickly followed on by a goal when he sent in a long ball which ended up in the net. These scores steadied the ship.

Niall Drennan added another point but Galmoy efforts proved to be in vain, however as the Johnstown team stood strong. When referee Lester Ryan blew the final whistle, Johnstown celebrated a deserved victory. Their Captain, Darragh O Grady collected the Cup from Cathaoirleach, Cumann na mBunscol, Pádraig Ó Móráin.

The final score of 7-12 to 0-5 shows a deserved victory for a classy, hardworking and talented Johnstown team, but does not reflect the heart, determination and refusal to buckle from Galmoy, especially in the second half. Maith sibh uile! An bród sa scoil, sa gheansaí agus sa pharóiste le feiscint go rí-shoileáir ón dá fhoireann! Todhcháin mórompu! Bígí ag faire amach dóibh!

Both teams started well and created a number of chances. A feature of the game was the excellent skill level in both blocking and hooking. Scores were hard won and it took until the seventh minute before we had our first score. Gowran broke the deadlock when following an excellent line ball by Billy O'Keeffe the ball broke to Michael Keating and he duly slotted over the score. Thomastown responded instantly with great interplay and Colm Treacy fired a wonderful point.

For the next period, both defences dominated. Following some excellent pressing Colm Treacy won a free and converted for Thomastown. Both goalkeepers were called into action over the next ten minutes and both made excellent saves to keep the scores to a minimum.

Our next score came following an excellent line ball by Colm Treacy. The ball broke near the goal and the lively Colin O'Neill finished to the net.

Gowran again came down the field with another close effort. Thomastown responded again. It began with a well-placed line ball which broke to Séan Denieffe who cleverly centred to the excellent Éanna O'Keeffe and he finished to the net. As we approached half-time, Gowran won a free and Michael Keating slotted over from a difficult angle. This was the final score to end the half. Half-time score Gowran 0-3 Thomastown 2-2. The second half continued in the same frantic fashion with both sides creating chances. Following another close effort by Gowran, Thomastown cleared and with some excellent interplay Conor Monks drifted upfield and slotted a great point.

It was Thomastown again who pointed from two Colm Treacy frees. Michael Keating slotted two frees for Gowran to keep the game alive. Defences were very much to the fore in the final quarter. Gowran finally had some reward for their efforts when Cian Phelan struck a great goal from a free some thirty metres from goal.

However, this proved the final action as the referee blew the final whistle and Thomastown were the deserved victors on the night.

The Thomastown team were excellent on the night with goalkeeper Alex Begley, Matthew Cullen, Conor Monks, Colm Treacy and Éanna

O'Keeffe the pick of a very good team. For Gowran, Dan Brennan, David Langton, Cian Phelan, Billy O'Keeffe and Michael Keating and their teammates tried valiantly to the end.

The winning captain, Colm Treacy was presented with the Corn de Bhaldrain Trophy by Cumann na mBunscol vice chairman Bill Cassin.

Thomastown: Alex Begley, Oisín Farrell, Matthew Cullen, Darragh Dack, Ciarán Coone, Conor Monks (0-1), Conor Kelly, Colm Treacy (Capt 0-4; 0-3f), Tyler Nolan, Darragh Coverdale, Séán Denieffe, Tadhg McMahon, Colin O'Neill (1-0), Éanna O'Keeffe (1-0), Conor Barcoe.

Subs: Cian Doherty, Reuben Allen Grace, Joshua O'Hara, Caleb Mullen.

Gowran: Ben Drennan, Matthew McAviney, David Langton (Capt), Ruairí Phelan, James Brennan, Cian Phelan (1-Of), Kieran Timmons, Billy O'Keeffe, Jim Conlon, Sam Brennan, Jake Byrne, Jake Kelly, Michael Keating (0-5; 0-3f), Tadhg Ahern, Alex Kenny.

Subs: Charley Phelan, Eoin Brennan, Michael Holland, Aidan Keating, Kealan Barcoe, Tomás Carroll, Darragh Doyle, Timothy Brennan, Kieran Carter.

Tommy O'Brien Cup Final 2019

Danesfort Double!

Danesfort 6-7 Conahy 0-6

Danesfort were the deserving winners of this year's Tommy O'Brien Cup Final following a fine team performance over a hard working Conahy side. A scoring burst of three goals in the second quarter of the game was the foundation for the Danesfort victory, and they were able to extend their lead throughout the remainder of the game, claiming this valued title for the second year in a row! The opening minutes saw the two teams exchange points from placed balls from Fionn Mahony (Danesfort) and Jake Dooley (Conahy). An opportunist goal from Timmy Corr gave Danesfort the lead but Conahy responded well with two pointed frees from Jake Dooley.

It was at this point that Danesfort imposed themselves on the game with a scoring burst to which Conahy could not respond. A goal from Liam Ireland Wall started the ball rolling, followed soon after by another goal from Fionn Mahony, a point from James Kavanagh, and a further goal from Fionn Mahony after a strong run through the Conahy defence. This left the score 4-3 to 0-3 in Danesfort's favour at the half-time interval, and while it may seem unfair on Conahy after such an effort in the first half, there was no denying the opportunism of the Danesfort side as they took their break at half-time.

Jake Dooley tried to rally his Conahy team mates with his fourth pointed free at the start of the second half, but Fionn Mahony soon responded in kind for Danesfort. A point from Conor Dillon and a goal from Aiden Cowley for Danesfort definitely put the game beyond Conahy, who kept battling heroically until the end. Further scores extended Danesfort's lead and the final whistle was sounded shortly afterwards, with jubilant Danesfort supporters joining the winning team on the Nowlan Park sod.

In all, it was a great team performance by Danesfort, led by team captain Alan Cunniffe in goal and Calum Murphy and Mark Reddy in

defence, and Liam Ireland Wall and scorer in chief Fionn Mahony in attack. For Conahy, their defence was well served by Craig Comerford, Daniel Mooney and Aoife Gamble, while Jake Dooley, Jack Rhatigan, Cormac Diver and Patrick Kennedy tried hardest in the forward line.

Danesfort: Alan Cunniffe (Capt.), David Travers, Calum Murphy, Patrick Kelly, Charlie Sheehan, Mark Reddy, Cian Dermody, Mathew Kavanagh, Aiden Cowley (1-0), Conor Dillon (0-2), Fionn Mahony (3-4), Coleman Dunne, Timmy Corr (1-0), Liam Ireland Wall (1-0), James Kavanagh (0-1), Patrick Sinnott, Jonathan Kennedy, Daniel Smith, Daragh Dunne, Louie Lalor, Cathal Fanning, Matthew Corr, Jonathan Gillian, Patrick Cuddihy.

Conahy: Brian Phelan, Conor Hennessy, Craig Comerford, Daniel Mooney, Killian Lacey, Charlie Carroll, Aoife Gamble, Jake Dooley (0-4), Jack Rhatigan (0-1), John Kennedy, Cormac Diver, Patrick Kennedy (0-1), Ben Duggan, Tommy Mulhall, Eli Dunne, James O'Mara, Siofraidh Kennedy, Sarah Webster, Rory Sherman, Finn Sherman, Adam Morrissey, Joe Boland, Tadhg Hennessy, Rory Rhatigan, Pádraig Quinn, Eoin Coyle Twomey.

Toymaster Under 11 Roinn A Final

Classy Callan

Bunscoil McAuley Rice, 5-7 Kilmanagh 1-6

Bunscoil McAuley Rice, Callan captured the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Toymaster Under 11 Roinn A title in impressive fashion when defeating neighbours, St Aidan's Kilmanagh in Nowlan Park. It was a first title for the Callan boys at this grade and one they deserved richly.

Kilmanagh has the first chance to score through Michael Tynan in the first minute but Callan showed they meant business when captain John Power set up Ollie O'Donovan to fire a goal. A double hammerblow for Kilmanagh came when Eoghan Lynch's long ball in bounced and evaded everyone to also hit the net and with three minutes gone, Callan had two majors on the board. Ben McEvoy replied with a fine individual point for the St Aidan's boys but the next five scores all went to Callan. Luke Power, fired two lovely points in a row before Ollie O'Donovan struck for his second goal driving through on the breaking ball. Paddy O'Brien's long free also found the net before another long ball in found the net. A quarter of an hour gone and the Callan boys were flying. It could have been worse for Kilmanagh but for a great double save by Shane Hogan. Kilmanagh dug deep and outscored their opponents by two points to one in the final five minutes of the half, scoring two Ben McEvoy frees to a like reply from John Power. Still at the break the Kilmanagh lads faced an uphill task as Callan led 5-3 to 0-3.

Cormac Neary moved to midfield for Kilmanagh and made an immediate impact when he was fouled in front of goal. Ben McEvoy went for goal but his shot was saved. Throwing caution to the wind Kilmanagh captain, Martin Brennan went to the edge of the square and his shot for goal was deflected for a 65 which McEvoy pointed. Kilmanagh were piling on the early pressure but the Callan backs showed great defence and held firm, and when Denis O'Sullivan found his midfield partner Eoghan Lynch, they opened their account for the second half. The game ebbed and flowed for the half, but Callan kept the gap throughout.

Luke Power fired two more lovely points to take his total to 4, all from play while Aidan Ging and Cormac Neary (free) relied for Kilmanagh. Kilmanagh struck for a late goal through Martin Brennan and after another fine double save by Shane Hogan, John Power concluded the scoring with a last point. Final score Bunscoil McAuley Rice 5-7 Kilmanagh 1-6.

The Callan team had heroes throughout the field, led by captain John Power who accepted the trophy on behalf of his team and school. It won't be long before Kilmanagh will be back at the top table and they deserve great credit for fighting to the bitter end.

Bunscoil McAuley Rice, Callan: Donagh O'Neill, Mícheál Jackman, Tommy Hoyne, Jack Kennedy, Joseph Butler, Paddy O'Brien (2-0; 1-Of), Ollie Molloy, Denis O'Sullivan, Eoghan Lynch (1-1), Paddy Grace, Ollie O'Donovan (2-0) Eoghan Cassin, Luke Power (0-4), John Power (Capt, 0-2; 0-1f), Sean Morrissey.

Subs: Shay O'Donovan, Oisín O'Neill, Andrew O'Halloran, Jack Dawson, Pádraig Croke, Ruadhán Doran, Charlie Goff, Séan Henrques, John Keher, Joe Nolan, Max Edwards.

St Aidan's, Kilmanagh N.S.: Shane Hogan, Cian Ronan, Oran Hoynen, Martin Brennan (Capt, 1-0), Rory Buckley, Cormac Neary (0-1,f), Séan O'Halloran, Michael Tynan, David Walton, Andrew Tector, Ben McEvoy (0-4; 0-2f, 0-1 65), Séan East, Martin Wall, Aidan Ging (0-1), Darragh Burke.

Subs: Donnacha Kenny, Joshua Malone, Séan O'Dea, Cathal Cahill, Tom Brennan, Nathan Young Power, Dean Smith, Keelan Lynch, Dara Barut.

Referee: John McCormack.

TOP Oil Under 11 Roinn B Final

Brilliant Ballyhale!

Ballyhale 8-6 Danesfort 0-5

The Allianz Cumann na mBunscoleanna TOP Oil Under 11 Roinn B final got off to a flying start with a goal in the opening minute from Ballyhale centre forward Jake Mullen, who drove right through the defence before finishing smartly. The Danesfort boys responded well with a pointed free from their captain, Timmy Corr. Both sets of defences were on top for the next ten minutes with scores hard to come by. Captain, Tommy Walsh kept the scoreboard ticking for the Ballyhale lads with a point. The skill on display from both teams was fantastic, with hooking and blocking all over the field. Ballyhale settled into their stride and added more scores through Jake Mullen and the skilful Michael Barron. Though under enormous pressure, Danesfort defence cleared ball after ball with great work from corner back Cathal Fanning and centre back Cian Dermody. At the whistle for half time, Ballyhale had established a good lead of 3-4 to Danesfort 0-1.

Jake Mullen of Ballyhale started the second half just like the first with a carbon copy goal, which was also replied to by Mathew Corr with a pointed free. Danesfort's Patrick Sinnott got in behind his marker but his shot was excellently saved by David Kolodziej in the Ballyhale goal and cleared away. It was Danesfort's best chance of a goal in the game and one they needed. James Ryan added a few frees for Ballyhale to keep the scoreboard busy. Timmy Corr played a real captain's role for Danesfort, winning ball after ball and scoring a fantastic point from a solo run through the middle. However, the young Shamrocks were

not to be denied. The dangerous Tiernan Shefflin scored their seventh goal and when Séan Rooney fired home their eighth moments later, his great celebration told everyone that Ballyhale were in the driving seat. Killian Ryan was pointing place balls with the accuracy of TJ Reid. When Conor Dillon cleared a great ball that trickled over the endline, Danesfort knew the day was not theirs and when Julian O'Dwyer blew the long whistle, Ballyhale were clear winners by 8-6 to 0-5.

This was a game of great skill by both sides with the ability of both sides to field the sliotar most notable. Though the difference on the scoreboard suggested a rout, Danesfort had heroes all over the field, especially captain Timmy Corr, Cian Dermody, Conor Dillon and Daniel Smith. Ballyhale were class throughout the field. Jake Mullen led the line brilliantly while Tommy Walsh was super in the middle of the park. Killian Ryan scored frees for fun and Michael Barron's footwork also entertained the crowd, including a certain Marty Morrissey!

Ballyhale: David Kolodziej, Brón Ryan, Cathal Coogan, Donnchadh Grant, Rory McMahon, Killian Ryan, Séan O'Mahoney, James Ryan, Tommy Walsh (Capt), Michael Barron, Jake Mullen, Séan Rooney, Henry Shefflin, Theo Drennan, Tiernan Shefflin.

Subs: Luke Cummins, Jamie Murphy, Conor Holohan, Eric Murphy, Jim Connolly.

Danesfort: James Reddy, Darragh McCabe, Jonathan Kennedy, Cathal Fanning, James Tierney, Cian Dermody, Conor Dillon, Timmy Corr (Capt), Conal Doyle, Lorcan Mahony, Daniel Smith, Oisín Barry, Enda Cunningham, Patrick Sinnott, Mathew Corr.

Subs: Nial Dwane, Andrew Dillon, Cillian Maher, Patrick Cuddihy, Adam Butler, Jonathan Gilligan, Jay Maher, Oisín Maher.

Referee: Julian O'Dwyer

Toymaster U11 Roinn C Final

Windgap's Wonderful Win!

Windgap 7-7 Johnstown 0-2

Johnstown were in jubilant mood after their fine win at Roinn D Under 13 schools' final and returned to Palmerstown for the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Under 11 final against Windgap. A week is a long time in politics and also in sport. You are up one day and then the next day it's another team's opportunity, but this is the attraction of sport as you learn to take the rough with the smooth, huge character building for sure. Windgap set down a very early marker, and in a fourteen-minute spell in the first half they had amassed 4-7 on the scoreboard while Johnstown had yet to register their first score.

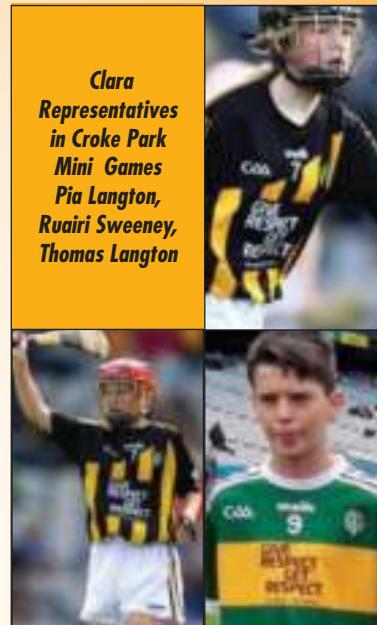
The scoring machine was powered by Jules Seagrave 3-0, Ona Kennedy 1-1, Conor Power 1-2, Jack Egan 1-0, Tadhg Kennedy 0-2 and these scores were crafted with the huge assistance from support players Aidan O'Shea, Conor Power and Aidan Doyle. To be fair to Johnstown they fought right to the end and some impressive performances by goalkeeper Aaron Phelan, Sinead Henderson, Luke Walsh, Aoife O'Grady and Macy Downey who scored Johnstown's two points.

The Under 11 grade is very much developmental and allows for more accurate grading of teams in the Under 13 age level. Windgap will be very well prepared for the Roinn C Under 13 grade on this showing and Johnstown can begin rebuilding for the future. The games played at this level are popular with the younger children who get the first taste of league hurling while proudly wearing the school jersey. Thomastown and Scoil McAuley Rice have used this grade to fashion great victories this year in Under 13 Corn de Bhaildráithe and Roinn A Under 11.

Teams

Windgap: Mikey Saunders, Aidan Doyle, Jack Egan, Darragh Holohan, Darragh Enright, Aidan O'Shea, Conor Power, Tadhg Kennedy, Ona Kennedy, Jules Seagrave, Joe Moloney, Alyn Hearne, Killian Weldon. **Subs:** Hugh Seagrave, Kate O'Brien, Ruairí Quigley, Shane Doyle, Shane Norris, Cathal Barron, Moya Egan.

Johnstown: Aaron Phelan, Chloe Phelan, William Colclough, Sinead Henderson, Luke Walsh, Aoife O'Grady, Jack Renehan, Beibhinn Tobin, Niadha Garrett, Sean Tierney, Adam Hogan, Cathal O'Donovan, Tiernan O'Connor. **Subs:** Will Walsh, Mary Downey, Mark Boland, Chloe Harvery Whelan, Ellen McEvoy.



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Kilkenny Schools Football team 2019



Roinn A Presentation

Roinn B Presentation

Roinn C Presentation by Mrs Rita Leahy



Roinn D Presentation

Corn de Bhaldraithe Presentation

Tommy O'Brien Cup Presentation



U11 Roinn A Presentation

U11 Roinn B Presentation

U11 Roinn C Presentation



Anna Doheny Tullaroan, Ava Lily O'Neill Dunnasmaggin, James Brennan, Gowran representing Kilkenny in Croke Park Mini games

CÚL CAMPS 2019



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KILKENNY SUPPORTERS CLUB

Rásai na gCapall 2019

Gowran Park, Saturday 3rd June 2019

Photos: Willie Dempsey



GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Raonaithe na Bearbhá



Our victorious U12 team who beat St. Martins in the county final.



Our u8's.



Intermediate players Sarah Maher, Róisín Breen and Miriam Bambrick pictured with Alan McCullagh (McCullagh Blasting) who sponsored a set of jerseys for our Intermediates



Our u9's.



Our u10's who played at half-time of the senior camogie match between Kilkenny and Offaly in Nowlan Park. Pictured with Miriam Bambrick and Collette Dormer.

GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Droichead Binéid



Bennettsbridge U14's



Bennettsbridge U10's

Bennettsbridge U8's



Bennettsbridge U12's



Bennettsbridge Juniors

GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Dúbh & Bána



Blacks & Whites Junior team 2019

Back: Leah Doyle, Niamh Nolan, AnneMarie Lennon, Sinead Kelly, Sophie Barcoe, Sharon Doherty, Claire Kirwan, Emma Carroll, Aisling Cullen, Lauren Maher, Brid Kelly, Aoife Carroll, Emma Carroll, Aoife Carroll, Aoife Drennan.

Front: Sophie Phelan, Georgia Barcoe, Erin Barcoe, Paige Foley, Grace McDonald, Nicola Doyle, Emma Ryan, Kate Drennan, Sinead Nolan, Laura Moore, Roisin Moran, Aoife Moore.



U8s

U12s Shield Winners



U10s

U14 Roinn D Winners



Blacks & Whites 1933.

Back: Jim Moylan trainer Bramblestown, Muriel Hennessy Paulstown, Biddy Hayden Mooneenmore, Katty Barcoe Coolatogher, Nell Kelly Curragh Lane, May Gorey Sheepstown, Mary Malone Anbalack, Alice Corcoran Bramblestown, Jim Murphy.

Front: Aggie Kennedy Sheepstown, Babs Moylan Bramblestown, Staith Malone Annalack, Biddy Doherty Tinnahinch, Breda Kelly Curragh Lane, "Toss" Ryan Killeen, Nan Barcoe Coolatogher.

GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Carraig Seabhaich



U12 Group 1 Winners 2019



U16 supporting Hurls and Curls table quiz 2019



Fun Run Starting Line 2019



Fun Run Winners 2019



U8 selection at Summer blitz



Action Shot



U10 selection Summer Blitz



Carrickshock Camogie Banner with crest

GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Clárach

In 2007 Anne O Shea designed the Clara Crest, her design incorporated well known landmarks from Clara. The Maroon and White crest shows Clara Castle which Anne can see from her home, built in the 15th Century is steeped in local history was inhabited until 1905. Freestone Hill, visible from Clara GAA Grounds, known locally as 'Cruic na Mooga' (Hill of the Huts) is one of Kilkenny's most important prehistoric site, with evidence of a Bronze Age settlement. The Hurls, Sliotar and Football represent the core activities of our club, Hurling, Camogie and Football which are played with pride by both male and female members.



GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Seamróga Conachaidh



Intermediate County Final 2019



U14 team at 2019 feile



Windgap U8's 2019

U16 County Final Winners 2019



U16 County League Final 2013

GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Dún Fearta



Danesfort Schools Camogie Roinn D Winners



Danesfort U8 Camógs 2019



Danesfort U6 Camogie Team



Danesfort U13 Camogie Team



Danesfort U16 Camógs



Danesfort U10 Camogie Team



Danesfort Intermediate Camogie Team



U12 Camogie - Winners of Mini League Group 6

GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Dicksboro



Dicksboro Minor Roinn B League Champions 2019



Lucinda Gahan cup presentation



U6 Blitz 2019



U8 Team Photo



U12 Team Photo



U10 Team Photo

GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Na hLáthghlasáí



Emeralds Under 16 Roinn B Finalists 2019



Under 14b



Under 14



Under 10a



Under 14's

Under 8 and 10



Under 8 and 10's

Under 12's

GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Rogha Éireann



This year saw Erins Own Camogie field the first U-14 Team



Finished up the year with a training session for our u-12's and U-14's with Martin Fogarty, National Hurling Development Manager.



U12 Team



Erins Own Camogie U-6



U8 Team



U10 team

GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Gleann CDÓR



Glenmore 1992/1993 Team

Back: Marie Ennett, Edel Drohan, Dolores Kehoe, Anna Boyle, Marie O'Shea, Margaret Aylward, Josephine Dowling, Anne Garvey, Catherine Hennessy, Joan Aylward, Aine Coady, Karen Phelan, Chris Dollar.

Front: Anna Doherty, Bridget Murphy, Olive Mullally, Bridget Mullally, Margaret Doherty (capt.), Owen Murphy; Helen Murphy, David Garvey, Annette Phelan, Marie Hanrahan, Frances Phelan, Martina Murphy.



Memory Lane

GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Gráig na Manach



U6 girls who took part in 7 aside blitz in Mooncoin



U8 girls at Thomastown blitz.



U10 girls - last game of the season, days beginning to shorten



U12 team



U14 team & mentors

GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Seamus Sciopháin

The Club Crest contains an arch and a pump - from the arch to the pump in this section of the parish represented the original heartland of the city club - The Village. To this day it remains a catch cry for the Club - 'Up The Village' The pump is situated at the entrance to Coote's Late from Patrick Street - opposite Larkin's Shop.



U14's - 2019



Our U14 team were narrowly beaten in the Roinn B final on a very wet day in Thomastown and our U16 team were beaten in the Roinn A semi final by St. Brigid's after a very strong league campaign. The U16 grade is a very strong group with most of the teams of similar ability resulting in lots of competitive matches.



We were delighted to announce Meubles as the Club's main sponsor for the next three years. There was a launch night in our Club Rooms with many players and members attending along with the local press to capture events on the night.

Juniors 2019



It was another strong year for the James Stephens Camogie Club as numbers joining continue to grow at the U6 to U10 age groups. All our teams were competitive in their respective grades which resulted in a longer year which will benefit all the players. Our U12s were defeated in the championship semi-final and it was great to be able to enter two teams at this age group in order to provide more games for all the girls. Our Minor team were beaten in the Championship quarter-final by Emeralds and our Junior team were beaten in the County Final by St. Claire's. Both of these are very young and we hope will continue to play into the future as our under-age players come through to join them.

U12's - 2019



U10's - 2019



U6-8 - 2019

GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Séan Lochá



U8 Camogie 2019



U12 Camogie 2019



U13 Camogie 2019



U10 Camogie 2019



U14 Camogie 2019



All Ireland Outing

GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Cill Mochua



Kilmacow U6's 2019



Kilmacow U8's 2019



Kilmacow U10's 2019



Kilmacow U12's 2019



Kilmacow U14's 2019

During 2019 Kilmacow Camogie Club participated in U6, U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, Minor, U21 and Junior. Our Juniors play under St Claire's which is the amalgamation arrangement with Sleverue.

In 2017 our club struggled to field teams in the older under age groups so for the past two years, we arranged with Sleverue to combine our U14, U16, Minor and U21 groups. By doing this we had sufficient numbers to field teams and therefore competed well in all groups.

We formed a new competition at U13 level this year as we have large numbers at both U13 and U14. This new competition was created in a conscious effort to help player retention within our club. We invited Glenmore, Tullagher, John Lockes and Danesfort to take part and it culminated in Cup & Shield finals in October, kindly hosted by John Lockes.

Our Junior team St. Claire's went a step further this year in winning the County Final.

The club had 10 girls represented on County teams and Developing Squads in 2019.



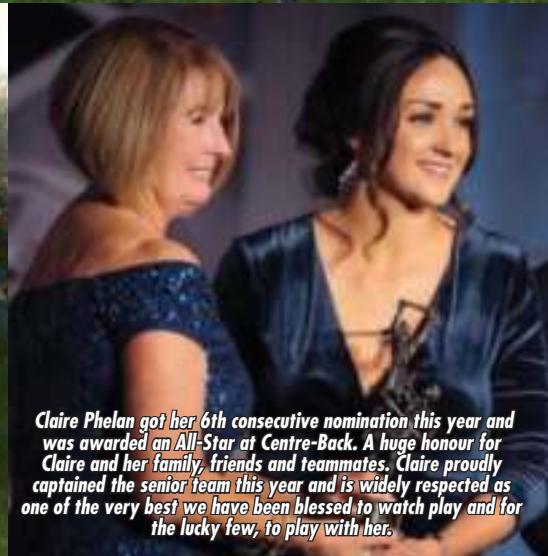
Kilmacow U16's 2019

GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Lios Dúin Fhiaich



Senior team is amalgamated with St. Lachtain's and had their most successful year since joining up. They reached the county semi-final in October and the 7's team won the Shield Final in Tullaroan in August. Holly Moore captained the team on the day. The team was managed by Michael Farrell and selectors were Lizzy Fogarty and Gillian Dillon.



GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Móin Choinn

The crest was designed by Josephine Wall with some advice from Tom O'Hanlon in 2000. Josephine was the Juvenile Secretary with the hurling club at the time. On the crest, the hurleys and football are a symbol of both activities played in the club. Mooncoin's and Kilkenny's anthem is 'The Rose of Mooncoin', hence the rose symbol was also used along with the club colours of green and white.



GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Gaeil Úi Lochlainn



O'Loughlin's U10's Team



U6 Team (Blitz in Dicksboro)

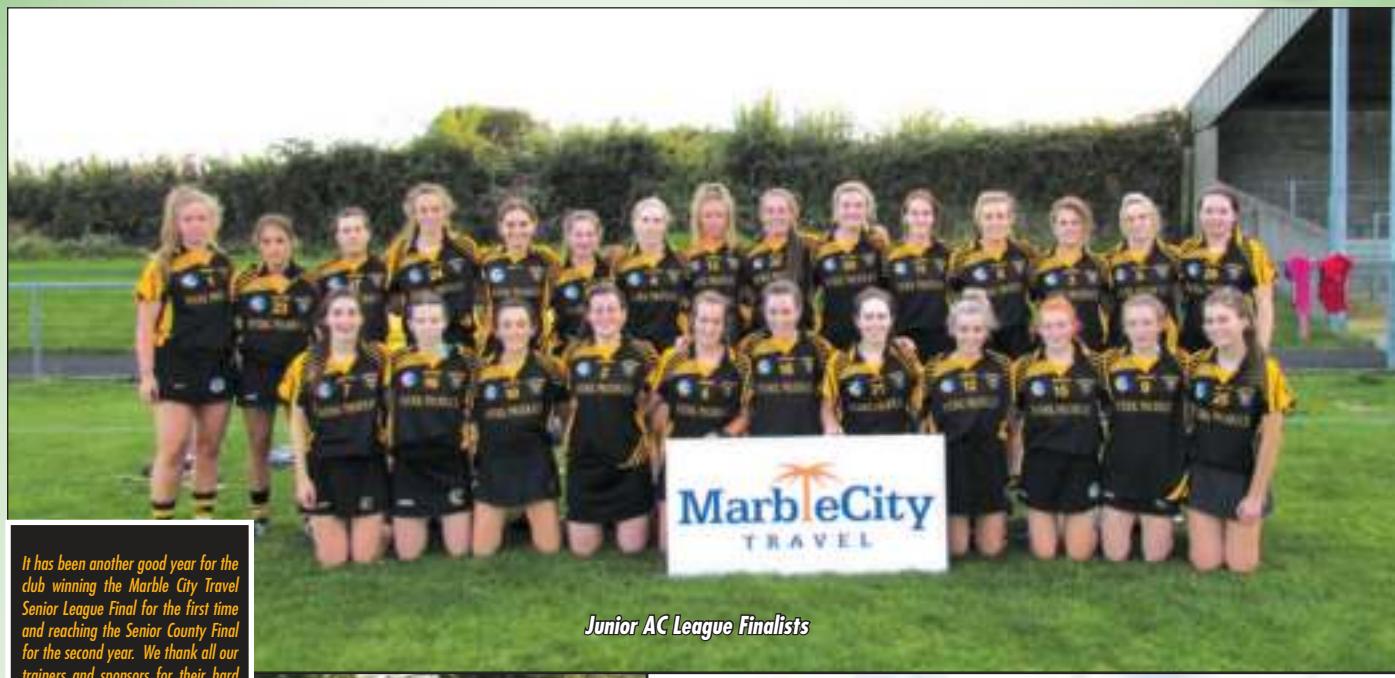
U 16 Leinster Summer 7s shield winners



Rena Sheridan Blitz winners



U8 girls had a busy year



It has been another good year for the club winning the Marble City Travel Senior League Final for the first time and reaching the Senior County Final for the second year. We thank all our trainers and sponsors for their hard work and continued support.

Junior AC League Finalists



Piltown U10 Team



Piltown U12 Team



Piltown U14 Team



Piltown U8 Team

Naomh Bríd

2019 in St Brigid's has been a very enjoyable one, particularly in underage sections proving the future is bright in St Brigid's for the years ahead and a promising 2020 awaits. This year the club has been sad at the loss of an active member in the club with the passing of Tom Brennan. Tom throughout the years was always the first to offer help at events and was always a great voice of encouragements on the sidelines. St Brigid's Camogie Club offers its deepest sympathies to Carmel, Katie, Mark and James.

The club would like to thank its main sponsor Ballykeefe Distillery for their support through the year, it has been much appreciated. The club would also like to thank Cleere Life and Pensions for the sponsorship of two sets of underage jerseys. A big thank you to anybody who supported the girls in the club through the year it has not gone unnoticed particularly Carpet Options.

Senior

Senior girls were up against some tough opposition this year. Senior girls reached the quarter finals of the championship against Piltown. Piltown proved a much stronger team and reached the county final this year. It is good achievement for a young team to compete in senior and keep our senior status. Senior girls reached the All County League Final against Gowran on 20th October in John Locke Parke. A good crowd was present at this match and it was played before the Senior Camogie County Final. Our girls won 2.14 to 1.10. An excellent team performance, by our younger girls particularly Molly Butler, Isobel Colbeck and Tara Ronan. Thanks to Cian, John and Eamon for the year.

U18

MINOR CAMOIGE 2019 was always going to be a big ask as we were now in ROINN A after our great success in beating Thomastown in u16 Roinn A final in 2018. The challenge to be competitive was made more difficult as we only had one girl up to the age of 18. Not with standing that we had a bunch of girls who had shown great character over the past few years. So Minor 2019 would be a challenge, a year of learning and a year of maintaining our competitiveness. Only six teams entered ROINN A league 2019 so we were in great company with favourites Thomastown, Gowran, Piltown, St Martins and Kilmacow-Slieverue. Training this group was always going to be difficult as we had half team over 16 team and balance were under 16. As a club under 16s trained as underage while over 16 girls trained with senior team therefore meaning we had little or no access to the older girls.

A major change in how we train is required in 2020 if we are to maintain our competitiveness and success in 2020.

April 2019 and we were down to play three LEAGUE games

First one was at home against Piltown and after a great battle on a miserable evening for hurling we won on a score of St B 3-4 Piltown 2-5.

Next up were Gowran away and this was always going to be difficult as they were the 2017 Minor champions with 13 of the team still eligible. As predicted it was a difficult night and while we didn't play the younger girls we started off well but an injury of a player prove vital. We lost out on a scoreline of 5-13 to 1-8 and we returned back down to earth after they great win in first round.

Round 3 we had the favourites for MINOR-U21-SENIOR camogie in 2019 Thomastown. Thomastown won 2-13 to 1-9 . St. Brigid's were delighted with their performance against a top team the younger girls didn't look out of place.

Round 4 was up against St Martins. St Brigid's came out on top in the end STB 2-10 St Martins 2-5. Exam break for May and June took place so next match wasn't until early July where we played combination Kilmacow-Slieverue away. We beat Kilmacow/Slieverue 6-12 to 1-6. This was one of these nights when all that you hoped came together. So we ended with 3 wins and 2 defeats in LEAGUE we were contented and competitive.

Championship format changed and DICKSBORO were back up in A after winning the B league comfortably. We drew them in the quarter final and were well aware of their potential. So two days after the ALL IRE senior hurling final on a Tuesday night in Palmerstown we fell into the trap. Poor attitude and a poor display cost us dearly. We had hoped for better. We were short 3-4 of our preferred starting team but that would be unfair to Dicksboro, they were the better team and if didn't matter who we were short. They were first to every ball and that meant they had the advantage. What a pity as we promised so much especially with our two previous displays. On the night we would all rather forget we lost out on a scoreline of 5-15 to 2-5. Mentors John Caldbeck, Adrian Ronan, Mary McCluskey

U16

We were coming in to this season as Roinn A county champions after beating Thomastown last year. A young and truly talented bunch of young girls. The girls put in a powerful year in 2019 and this showed when they reached the County Final against a very hot favoured Dickboro team. Dickboro been u14 champions, senior champions, minor runner ups. The girls just did not turn up on the day and were outclassed and outplayed by a brilliant Dicksboro team. We loose 8 of this starting team heading into next years u16 championship. The girls have reached the League Final and will play Clara. Big well done to all girls for efforts through the year.

U14

U14 started off the year by reaching the Feile Final against another strong Dickboro side and were unfortunately beaten. All league matches were won except one. The girls reached the championship semi final against Conahy, a one that got away from us and where nerves took hold on the day. Conahy got 3 points in the final minutes which gave them the win. A great year with many top class performances and a big well done to the older u12 girls who stepped up onto the panel. Thanks to Mary, Anne Marie and Bridget who really encouraged and brought on this team this year. A promising 2020 season looks ahead.

U12

The team of the season in St Brigid's this year, unbeaten. The girls won a every match thrown at them this year even challenge matches. A wonderful bunch of girls. The girls won out their Mini League Final on 24th September and it was well deserved after the year. The determination and work rate put in this year has been in creditable. Thanks to all the management team in particular Sinead Millea who has been a big bonus to have in the management structure of the club this year. Heres to 2020 where a very bright future looks ahead.

U10

Our u10 girls had a very enjoyable season. The girls played their last match against Urlingford in early September. The girls played great and came out with the win. Each girl was presented with a hurling ball and a certificate for all their hard work this year. All girls have improved greatly throughout the year. Looking forward to next year and to see what is to come. Thanks to Mary Comerford, Amy O Connor and Laurence Me Cormack.

U8

Our u8 girls finished up their season on 1st September at Danesfort Family Fun day. Girls played three tough competitive games against Clara, Danesfort and Ballyhale coming out on top in all three games. The girls worked really hard all year, showed great attendance at training and matches. The future looks bright for this super bunch of camogie players.

The outer crest shape incorporates the Celtic Triquetra to represent the three interconnecting Parishes of Ballycallan, Kilmanagh and Killaloe, the parishes can be seen in the vesicae piscis shape or fish symbol which represents the church through Christ (The fisher of men) bringing meaning to the unity of the three parishes.

In Celtic terms it symbolises Gods Trinity and is also representative of the feminine divine. The crossed hurds and slotar pull the design into the Camogie scene with the establishment date of the club central to the design.



St Brigid's U6 Team



St Brigid's U8 Team



St Brigid's U10 Team



St Brigid's U12 Team



St Brigid's U14 Team

U6

U6 girls finished up their season on 28th August in Kilmanagh v Tullaroan. A hard fought match that finished with goodies and presentation of a slotar from the club to each girl. Attendance at training and matches was excellent throughout the summer. Look forward to seeing all girls back in April.

GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Naomh Mairtin



St. Martin's U12 team



Tullaroan 7's Cup Winners



St. Martin's U16



St. Martin's Senior Team



Congrats to Edwina
on her
2nd All Star award!



St. Martin's U8's



Katie & Clodagh Co.
Intermediate team



St. Martin's U10



St. Martins girls on CCS All Ireland winning team

GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Tulach Thoir/Ros Bearrcon



Tullogher CC Junior ladies team



Tullogher CC U8s



Tullogher CC U12'sw



Tullogher CC U6s



Tullogher CC U10's



Tullogher CC U16



Tullogher CC U14



Tullogher CC U16 Rower tournament winners

GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Bearna na Gaoithe



U10 Players and Parents



Windgap U8's 2019



U12 Mini League Winners



U14 B County Champions



U16 County Finalists

GIOTAI CAMÓIGE

Éire Óg



U10s in Bennettsbridge



U12 Camogie to Leinster Trip



U12 Group 4 Finalists



Leinster Intermediate finalists 2018



U14 Shield Winners

STUDY SPORT



- BA in **SPORT COACHING & BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (GAA)** – CW807
- BA in **SPORT COACHING & BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (Soccer)** – CW827
- BA in **SPORT COACHING & BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (Rugby)** – CW817
- BA (Honours) in **SPORTS MANAGEMENT & COACHING** – CW858
- BSc (Honours) in **SPORTS REHABILITATION & ATHLETIC THERAPY** – CW188
- BSc (Honours) in **SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE** – CW138
- BSc (Honours) in **STRENGTH & CONDITIONING** – CW148
- HC in Science - **PHYSIOLOGY & HEALTH SCIENCE** – CW106
- MSc in **STRENGTH & CONDITIONING** – CWS05
- MSc in **SPORTS PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS** – CWB05

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Anseo is Ansiúd

Seamroga Baile hÉil

Founded in January 1972, Ballyhale Shamrocks – originally known as Shamrocks – chose its tripartite crest so as to reflect the geography and the sporting history of the parish. The new club amalgamated the parish's two existing clubs, Ballyhale and Knocktopher. The 'KBK' motif on the shamrock crest likewise recognizes Knockmoylan, an earlier club in the parish that went out of existence in 1958. The club's crest therefore recognizes the three centres of community life in the parish of Ballyhale.



17 March 2019; Ballyhale Shamrocks fans show their support prior to the AIB GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Club Championship Final match between Ballyhale Shamrocks and St Thomas at Croke Park in Dublin. Photo by Harry Murphy/Sportsfile



Clodagh Doyle, sister of deceased club member Eoin Doyle, raises the Tommy Moore Cup after the All Ireland Club Final on St Patrick's Day. Photo by Willie Dempsey

BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS

Our juvenile section continued its work under Tom Coogan (Chairman). Mentors undertook vital work. U6: Paul Hurley and Vincent Kiely. U7: Aidan Cummins and Paul Shefflin. U9: John Darcy, Martin Dunphy, Louis O'Neill and Séamus Ryan. U11: Tom Coogan, Richie Grant, Dermot Ryan and Tom Walsh.

The U13 panel, looked after by Michael Carroll (Trainer), Dave Gallagher, Dermot Ryan and John Shefflin (Manager), made substantial progress. Having finished fourth in their league group, they successively beat Young Irelands B (7-8 to 2-4), Bennettsbridge (6-8 to 1-8) and James Stephens B (2-8 to 1-5). They battled hard but lost the County Final to St Patrick's, 4-11 to 2-5.

U13HC C Michael Barron, Bríain Wilson, Thomas Murphy, Tiernan Shefflin, Tommy Walsh, Jack Holden, Killian Ryan, Jake Mullen 0-1 (f), Séán Shefflin, Rian Shefflin 1-0, Michael Kenneally 0-1, Aidan Grummell, Charlie Lennon, John Fitzpatrick captain 1-3 (0-3f), Cathal Coogan.

Subs: James Ryan for Cathal Coogan (ht), Daniel Kolodiej for Charlie Lennon (41m), Logan Fitzgerald for Aidan Grummell (46m), Jack Deacon for Tiernan Shefflin (59m), Daniel Devereux for Bríain Wilson (59m), Rory McMahon, Séán O'Mahony, Séán Óg O'Farrell, Cian Walsh.

The U15 panel, looked after by Jim Cullen (Manager) and John Shortall, were again short on numbers but finished second in their 13 a side league group. Having beaten Conahy Shamrocks in the first round, 1-16 to 2-4, they lost a quarter final with Lismore, 1-14 to 1-9.

U15HC C Tom Cleere, Michael Lyons, Michael Cullen, Michael Kenneally, Jack Holden, Larry Cody captain 0-1 (65), Aaron Doyle, John Fitzpatrick, Thomas Murphy, Séán Shefflin, Niall Shortall 0-3 (1f), Jack Cody, Rian Shefflin, Killian Corcoran 1-5 (0-1f), Aidan Grummell.

Subs: Jack Deacon for Aidan Grummell (41m), Charlie Lennon for Rian Shefflin (57m), Bríain Wilson (away).

The Minor panel, looked after by Pat Cullen and Michael Paul Drennan (Manager), was much restricted in numbers but finished third in their league group. Spirit was good and St Patrick's were beaten in the first round, 6-22 to 3-13. A thrilling draw with Barrow Rangers, 0-14 to 2-8, led to a replay win in great style, 4-9 to 3-11. The semi final was lost to Blacks and Whites, 5-17 to 1-2.

MHC C Thomas Murphy, Michael Cullen, Cian Cullen, Michael Kenneally, Larry Cody, Dara Mason 1-1 (0-1f), Tomás Barron, Edmond Fitzpatrick captain, Niall Shortall, Killian Corcoran 0-1, Finnian Shefflin, John Fitzpatrick, Jack Holden, Andrew Devereux, Jack Cody.



Aftermath....
Subs: Michael Lyons for Michael Kenneally (ht), Séán Shefflin for Jack Cody (ht), Tom Cleere (away).

The Junior panel, looked after by Bob Aylward, James Fitzgerald (Manager), Brendan Mason and David Walsh, finished seventh in their league group. Having drawn a first round tie with Clara, 2-15 apiece, they lost the replay, 3-14 to 2-14.

JHC Eoin Knox, Patrick Doyle, Eugene Aylward, Casey Corcoran, Patrick Hearne 0-1, Conor Phelan, Gavin Butler captain, Darragh Corcoran 1-0, Kevin Mullen, Martin Davis 0-1, Enda Fitzpatrick, Kevin Fennelly 0-1, Eoin Kenneally 0-1, Mark Gorman 1-10 (0-8f), Jason Devereux.

Subs: James Connolly, Christopher Coady for Kevin Mullen (46m), David Hoynes for Kevin Fennelly (51m), Bob Aylward, Dylan Aylward, Liam Barron, Conor Doyle, Ronan Hayes, Enda Kenneally, Séán Reade, John Shortall, Stephen Barron (inj), Adam Brenner (inj).

The third adult panel, in its sixth season, was looked after by Pat Cullen, Liam Grant, Michael O'Sullivan (Manager) and Éamonn Walsh. Sixth in their league group, they lost a quarter final with Piltown, 2-14 to 0-11.

JHC C Michael Paul Drennan, Conor Doyle, Aidan Cummins, Christopher Coady, Keith Nolan, Casey Corcoran, Brandon Ryan, Liam Barron, Jason Devereux, David Hoynes 0-5 (2f), Paul Shefflin, Eoin Knox captain 0-1, Ronan Hayes, Kevin Fennelly 0-4, John Shortall.

Subs: Donnchadh Fitzpatrick 0-1 for John Shortall (ht), Tom Coogan for Ronan Hayes (42m), Dylan Doran for Eoin Knox (45m), Séán Reade for Brandon Ryan (inj, 60m), Stephen Barron (inj), Adam Brenner (inj), Enda Fitzpatrick (away), David Harrington (away), Enda Kenneally (away), Mark Phelan (away).



Ballyhale Shamrocks captain Michael Fennelly with his nine month old son Teddy after the Co Final. Photo by Ray McManus/Sportsfile

The U19 panel, looked after by Aidan Cummins, John Kennedy, Séán Reid (Manager) and Paul Shefflin, awaited a first round with Dunnabragh. The U21 A panel, looked after by Tom Coogan (Manager), Liam Grant, David Hoynes and Eoin Reid, awaited James Stephens in a quarter final.

The club was deeply shocked and saddened by the passing of Eugene Aylward, one of our players, as well as saddened by the passing of Brendan Fennelly, Tim Heaslip and Paddy O'Keeffe (Kiltoran).

Anseo is Ansiúd

Raonaithe na Bearðha

The Barrow Rangers (Paulstown/Goresbridge) crest is relatively new and is only in existence since 2004. Prior to that the Club had no crest. Because of the Club's name and the fact that the river Barrow borders it the brief for the design was a river with a bridge over it. The bridge on the crest is not a likeness of any in the Parish.



Barrow Rangers young Hurlers and Camogs on final day of training for this year



Barrow Rangers Under 9 team



Barrow Rangers Under 7 team



Barrow Rangers Under 11 team

Anseo is Ansiúd

Droichead Binéad

The crest is green and gold in colour and is divided into three sections. One section depicts the famous Round Tower and cross of Tullaheran. The second section shows a hurl on the flag of Bennettsbridge Gaa club while the top section depicts the Bridge with the river Nore flowing under it. The crest was first used in 2006 when Bennettsbridge national school and Bord Na Nog ran a competition in sixth class to choose the design. The winning Crest was designed by Sarah Dooley and has been used on all club gear since.



Our under 14 hurlers travelled to Cork in June to take part in the All Ireland Feile Division 8 competition. The team was hosted by Millstreet and were very well looked after by our host club. In the group stages Bennettsbridge played Cloughduibh and Millstreet of Cork and Castleblayney of Monaghan, winning all three games. In the quarter final the lads defeated Ballinora of Cork to set up a semi final against Kinnity / Lusmagh of Offaly. In a tough game the Bridge Lads came through 2-5 to 0-5. The final was against another Cork team, Bishopstown and after another great game the Bridge Lads took the title on a score line of 6 point to 4, sparking scenes of great celebrations. Well done to a great bunch of lads and the management team on a great achievement.



Junior Champion Luke Dowling receives Championship Cup from Pat Dunphy. Bennettsbridge junior hurlers had a superb year winning the Iverk Produce Junior C league and championship double , defeating Danesfort in both finals. This is a young team with a great future ahead for many of them . Well done to all the lads on a great year.



Training went well with our juveniles this year with good numbers particularly in the under 7 and under 9 grades. We hosted an inaugural under 9 tournament this year named after former club and county great Mickey Kelly, with O Loughlins defeating Bennettsbridge in a great cup final.



David Blanchfield , Conor Murphy, Ciaran Brennan and Jamie Harkin won senior colleges All Ireland's while Bill Hughes and Timmy Kelly won Leinster junior medals. First year Leinster medals were won by Paddy Walsh, Timmy Kelly and Joe Hughes.

Memory Lane



Bennettsbridge Under 12 Hurling Team County Final Winners (Major C) 1977

Back Row : Jim Phelan, Frankie Moran, Liam O'Neil, Mickey Hayes (Captain), John McNamee, Michael Cleere, Frank O'Gorman, Jim Doyle (Trainer) Harry Hayes, Michael Lutze, John Bracken.
Front : Mark Phelan, Liam Moran, Tom O'Neil, Kevin Moran (Captain), Paul Hayes,

INTERCOUNTY HURLING
Bennettsbridge was represented at senior level by Liam Blanchfield , Robert Lennon, Enda Morrissey and Jason Cleere . At under 20 level, David Blanchfield, Conor Murphy and Ciaran Brennan won Leinster medals. At the development squads Ivan Kelly , Bill Hughes, Paddy Walsh, Joe Hughes, Daniel Murphy, Timmy Kelly , Kyle Ryan, Jack Campion and James Hughes represented the club at various times during the year. Jamie Harkin won the county senior Long Puck competition and represented Kilkenny in The Leinster long puck .

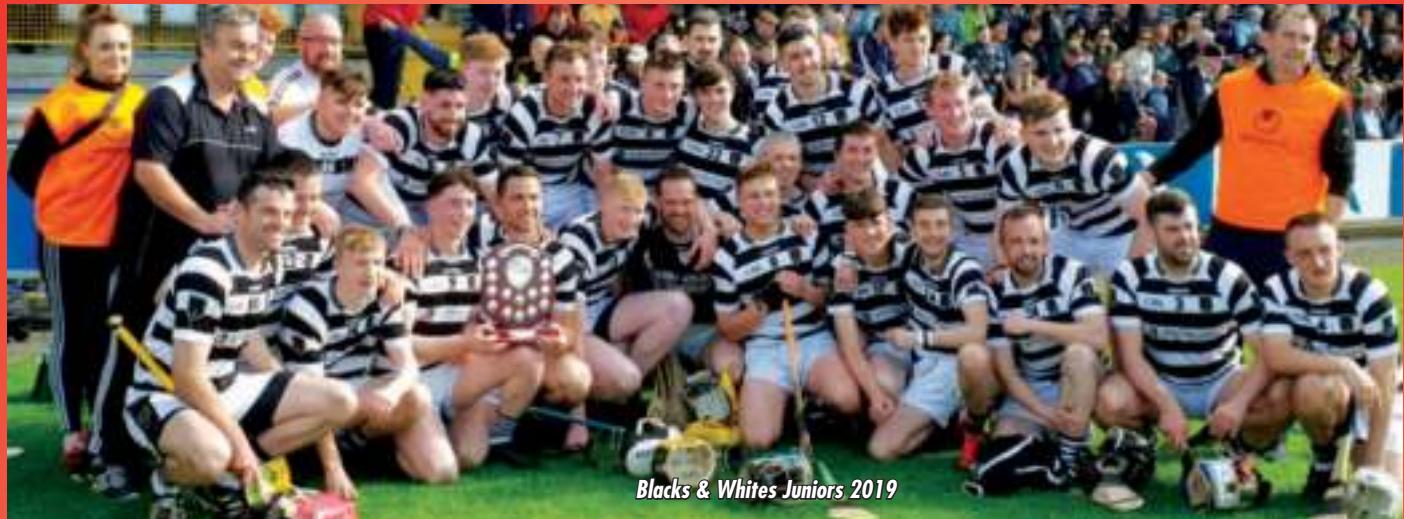
SYMPATHY

Bennettsbridge Gaa would like to express our deepest sympathies to the families of the members and supporters who passed away during the year. We remember Dick Power , who won 5 county medals in the fifties and sixties, Stella Byrne who was a former officer of the club, Bridget Hayes, Kathleen Conway and Billy Cleere . May they rest in peace.

Anseo is Ansiúd

Dubh agus Bána

As the name Skeaghvasteen derives from in part the 'Sceach' or Hawthorn, a 'Sceach' Bush was included in our crest and to bring in the Gaa we simply added crossed hurds, a football and the siotar for hurling/camogie which are now our dominant sports. The only colours in the crest are black & white which are our club colours. The crest was designed by Eamon O'Rourke.



Blacks & Whites Juniors 2019



U11's



U17's



U7's



U9's

Memory Lane



Included in the picture below is Tom Walsh (sitting 4th from right) after whom the Blacks and Whites Gaa pitch is named.

Anseo is Ansiúd

Carraig Seabhaic

The crest centres around the Battle of Carrickshock near Hugginstown in 1831 during the Tithe War. Stonecarthy cemetery (Stoneyford) and Aghaviller Round Tower and Church (Newmarket) feature in the background. The famous battle, commemorated in poem and song, had 17 casualties. Locals, armed with little more than rocks, scythes and hurls, killed 14 defenders of the dreaded Tithes. The origin of Carrickshock's renowned fighting spirit!

The year 1928 marks the founding of Carrickshock GAA club, when the Hugginstown and Knockmoylan clubs joined.



John Tennyson meets his match!



U9s - Eyes only for the ball!



U9s - Rower Inistioge Blitz



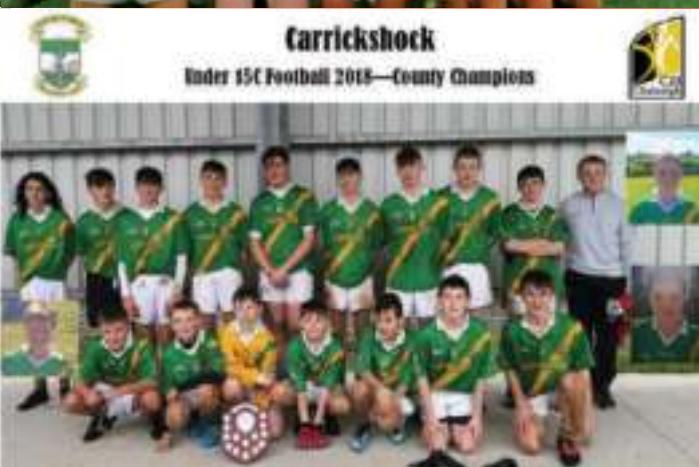
U6 & 7 End of Season Party



Minors - Piltown 7s Tournament Winners



U11 Go Games Final Day



Carrickshock

Under 15C Football 2015—County Champions



Kilkenny hurler being consoled after the All Ireland!

Obituaries

Carrickshock extends its condolences to all families associated with the club who suffered bereavements in the past year, especially the families of Ellen Duggan Hugginstown, Ellen Cassin Ballygerda, Frances Maher Kyleva, John Joe Wallace Ennisnog, Andy Brennan Stoneyford, Eddie Roggett formerly Ballycaun, John O'Connell formerly Stoneyford, as well as the family of Brendan Fennelly, former manager of Carrickshock senior hurlers.



Carrickshock - 2019 County League Division 2 - Finalists

Back: Dima Kenneally, Jamie Barron, Jody Dwyer, Michael Rohan, Brian Donavan, Rory Doyle, Jake O'Dwyer, Dan Blanchfield, Eddie Dunphy,

Aaron O'Neill, John Tennyson, Eanna Martin, Darragh Brennan

Front: Shane Power, Michael Murphy, John Cahill, Kevin Farrell, Niall Tennyson, Michael Rice, John Power (Stoneyford), John Dalton,

John Power (Lismatigue), James Grace, Liam Walsh

Anseo is Ansiúd

Carraigín

The Carrigeen crest was designed around 2009 and the main features are the Carrigeen colours of black and amber, the hurley, sliothar and football signifying Carrigeen's participation in hurling and gaelic football competitions in kilkenny.



The most prominent feature is the salmon and river, symbolising the tradition of salmon snap net fishing on the river suir by members of Carrigeen club over the years and by the people of Carrigeen. Carrigeen is the most southerly club in the county on the banks of the River Suir.



Carrigeen Adult Team 2019

Back: Gary Law, Ger Foran, John Leahy (Coach), (Juvenile Player), James Blackmore, Peter Dunlea, Kevin Dowley, Richie O'Brien, Johnny Cooney, Dean Gates, Cathal O'Keeffe, Eoin Gallagher (Selector), Brian Gallagher, Michael Murphy (Treasurer), Niall Gallagher.

Front: Joey O'Hanlon, Kevin Law, Stephen Blackmore, Richie Doyle, Kevin Murphy, Sean Martin, Shane Walsh, Hilary Delahunt (Juvenile Player), Frank Law.



Proud Daddy
Father and son Stephen and James Blackmore
who both played for Carrigeen in junior c
league/championship in 2019.

Contemplating the Woodlands



Giants of the Ash



Liam & Friends



Carrigeen team from five yrs ago - winners of Bob O'Keeffe Cup v Borris on Ossory/Kilcotton

Memory Lane



Carrigeen lost one of its most loyal supporters when Kathleen Power(nee Quinn) of Luffany, Carrigeen, Mooncoin was laid to rest in September 2019.

Kathleen was a former committee member and a loyal supporter of club teams and functions over the years. Indeed all Kathleen's family have been an integral part of Carrigeen GAA Club. Her proudest moment would have watching her son James play for Carrigeen for many years. The Carrigeen club offers its sympathy to her husband Noel, daughter Siobhan, sons James, David and Michael, sister Jodie, brothers Jimmy, Rex, John, Anthony, Pat, Eamonn and all extended family and relatives. May she rest in peace.

Anseo is Ansiúd

Clárach

In 2007 Anne O'Shea designed the Clara Crest, her design incorporating well known landmarks from Clara. The Maroon and White crest shows Clara Castle which Anne can see from her home, built in the 15th Century is steeped in local history, and was inhabited until 1905. Freestone Hill, visible from Clara GAA Grounds, known locally as 'Cruic na Mooga' (Hill of the Huts) is one of Kilkenny's most important prehistoric site, with evidence of a Bronze Age settlement. The Hurls, Sliotar and Football represent the core activities of our club, Hurling, Camogie and Football which are played with pride by both male and female members.



Anseo is Ansiúd

Cluainín

The top left panel of our crest represents the mining heritage of the parish. The top right panel shows Cloneen bridge which is midway between both sides of the parish and the bottom panel shows the aim of the club - to promote hurling



Cloneen U15 Hurling League and Championship finalists



Cloneen U19 Shield winners 2018



Cloneen U11 Team



Past v Present Team

Anseo is Ansiúd

Seamróga Conachaidh

The current Conahy Shamrocks crest was redesigned in 2012. The club itself has always held the symbol of the Shamrock as its crest in one form or another since the early part of the 20th century. The camogie club, which began in 2009, has also used the shamrock symbol as part of their crest.



Conahy Shamrocks U10s
Winners of the Kevin Bergin tournament in Conahy



The annual "Future Stars" Summer Camp was once again another great success. Many thanks to all the coaches who helped out



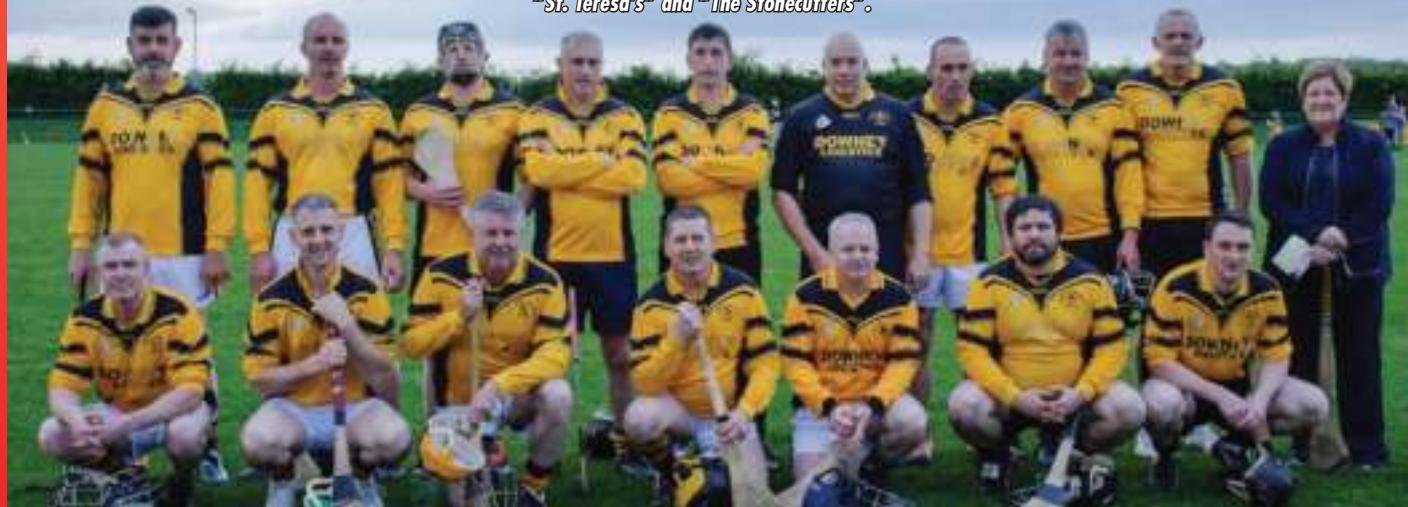
Conahy Shamrocks - U11s Go Games Winners



Conahy Shamrocks U10s - Winners of the Fr Delaney Cup in Coon



Conahy Shamrocks Bórd na nÓg held a fundraising Parents Novelty Match in May, and it was a great success. Pictured are both teams, "St. Teresa's" and "The Stonecutters".



Anseo is Ansiúd

Dún Fearta

The Danesfort Crest is a beautiful reflection of distinctive elements within our community. The Black & Amber stripes on the top left hand side represents our club colours, simulating the County colours. The Turret, top Centre of the Crest is the landmark building which sits atop of a ring fort, easily seen at the motorway interchange. Dating back thousands of years it was used as a vantage point on which the Turret was built. As part of the Wemyss Estate, the Turret was initially used for shooting deer and later as a more civilized tea house for the Gentry. The two castles shown are Burnchurch Towerhouse on the right and its gatehouse to the left of the Crest, built in circa 1200 AD. The last building on the lower right is the Schoolhouse in Cuffesgrange, the oldest functioning schoolhouse in the country, built in 1813. The River Nore ebbs through the townland and so is displayed on the bottom left of the Crest. Finally, the year 1922 shows the year our club, Dún Fearta was established.



Danesfort U7 Hurlers



Danesfort Feile Team 2019



Danesfort U13 Roinn C League Football Champions



Danesfort U15 Hurlers



Danesfort U9 Boys

Anseo is Ansiúd

Dicksboro

The Dicksboro GAA Club crest comprises of four quadrants with the image of St Canice's Cathedral round tower in the centre. The club is based in the parishes of St. Marys and St. Canices, the top left quadrant depicting St. Marys Cathedral while the top right shows St. Canices parish Church. Below St. Canices Church is an image of the Black Abbey, a Dominican Church, which is also in the Dicksboro area. The last quadrant comprises of a hurley and slothar to represent our Gaelic games. The crest has the name of the club around the outside and also the date the club was originally formed.



Dicksboro Denis Philpott Team.

Presentation Of Feile Gear from Niall Lacey with Martin Morrissey and Eugene Begley to Boro U14 players



U10 Blitz in Palmerstown in Aid of the Holy Spirit



U11 Danesfort Tournament Winners



Easter Camp 2019

Anseo is Ansiúd

Dún lomagán

The three areas of the Dunnamaggin Parish - Dunnamaggin, Kells and Kilmoganny are represented in the Club crest. The Hills to the rear are the Walsh Mountains overlooking Kilmoganny, The Round tower is in Kilree, Kells while the High Cross and River Glory are found in Dunnamaggin.



Our U13 Hurlers played some super hurling all year and contested the Roinn B Co Final. They led at half time but Erin's own had a strong second half to lift the cup.



Club development continues with the Dressing Rooms in Kilmoganny nearing completion and work will soon start on upgrading the floodlights in Dunnamaggin

It was great to see All the Schools, Hurling Club & LGFC's silverware on display at the Annual Easter Parade. 10th February 2019 will always be remembered as a special day for the club as we were crowned All-Ireland Junior Hurling Champions.



Thanks to Joe Sheridan of Sheridan Stained Glass for his continued sponsorship of the Dunnamaggin GAA adult club this year and to all our sponsors. Picture shows Joe presenting New Jersey's used in the club All Ireland Final.

Our U9's had a super year finishing up by winning our own Thomas O'Shea Blitz.



Our U10's played some super hurling at the Ballyhale blitz to be crowned divisional champions.

Anseo is Ansiúd

Na hLathghlasáí

The Emeralds GAA Crest was introduced in the mid noughties during the Chairmanship of Dan Norton. Three areas of the parish are represented in the circular crest overlaid by crossed hurds and a football. In the upper left is the ruined spire of Clomantagh Church, in the upper right is Urlingford Castle over the River Goul while in the lower half is Graine Hill with the road running over the hill. The year 1972 represents the formation of Emeralds when the clubs of Urlingford and Clomantagh merged to form a single GAA club in the parish. The crest was designed by local artist, Sinead Holohan.



U9s team 2019



Club Legend Taggy on the run



Conor Martin takes on a Graiguenamanagh player in this years championship



U15 league Champions 2019



Ex Club Chairperson and Kilkenny team driver Jimmy Tone on All Ireland Sunday.



Killian Doyle captains Emeralds to an U15 league title.



The two Johnnies with club men Billy Fitzgerald, Francis Clohessy and Damian Fitzgerald during filming for Up For The Match.

Anseo is Ansiúd

Rogha Cireann

The logo is a depiction of the name of Castlecomer. The name Castlecomer comes from the Irish Caisleán an Chumair which means "the Castle at the confluence of the Waters", the "waters" referring to the rivers Deen, Brocagh and Cloghogue while the "castle" refers to the Norman castle built in 1171 on the mound opposite the gates to "Castlecomer Demesne". The club was formed in 1885.



U11 Denis Philpott 7 Aside Champions 2019



U7 Team with County Stars Conor Fogarty and Conor Delaney



U-10 Team 2019



U17 Team 2019



U9 Go Games 2019



U11 Team 2019



U14 Feile Qualifiers and League Winners

Anseo is Ansiúd

Na Finíni

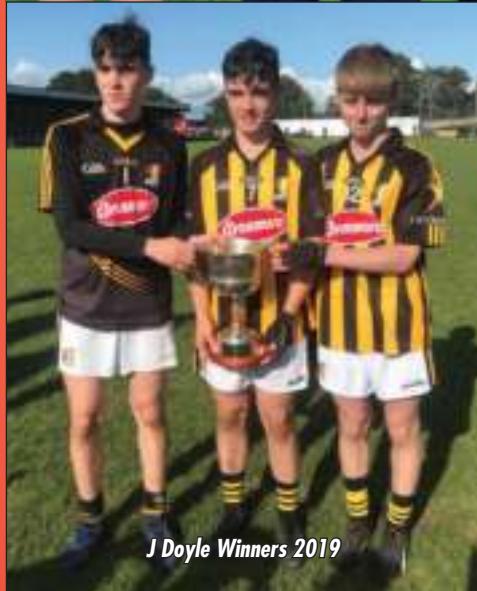
The Fenians Hurling Club was formed on the 17th March 1968. The symbols used are "The Harp", "The Hurl", and "The Rising Sun". The harp is significant as the Printers in Johnstown were the first Printers in the country to publish the harp without the crown overhead. Part of the harp (right hand side) dovetails into a hurl, which is an integral component of the Hurling club. The Rising Sun signifies the Annual Rising that takes place in the Parish after the winter as the Club "rises" to the new exciting season ahead.



M Foley Shield Winners 2019



Ned Quinn, Pat Henderson, Barrie Henriques and Ned Buggy in the Fenians Golf Classic (Elderly Persons Section) 2019



J Doyle Winners 2019



M Foley Cup Winner 2019



Billy Garrett James Dermody Poc Fada



Fenians Adult Players present Tops to our Underage Players

Anseo is Ansiúd

Gabhal Mhaoth

The white diagonal sash had been the distinctive traditional emblem of Galmoy G.A.A. Club jerseys for decades. In 2003, the sash was dropped from the new set of jerseys that were sponsored by Billy McEvoy of Oldtown Construction. The famous blue and white was retained, however, and in 2004 the sash was embedded in a new crest which was then added to the Galmoy jersey. The crest was designed by Michael Vaughan of Rathpatric, Galmoy and developed for the jersey by Noel Doherty, one of the Galmoy players. In addition to the background sash, the crest displays two symbols intimately associated with Galmoy's history. The first is the Sword of the Archangel St. Michael, the patron saint of Galmoy. In front of the sword is a shield bearing a red cross, part of the regalia of the Knights of Templar, founded in the twelfth century to fight on the crusades. Among the lands owned by the templars, were those of Erke, the civil parish that contains present day Galmoy. The crest is completed with the Irish language name from which Galmoy is derived, Gabhalmaigh 'the plain of the river Gabhá'.



Galmoy/Windgap Panel which took part in the 2019 Lisdowney Sevens Competition



Galmoy Girls Div 2 Féile Handball Winners 2019



Kilkenny Minor Billy Drennan, along with his parents Liam & Triona, in Croke Park on September 28th to receive his Electric Ireland Minor Team Of The Year Award



Galmoy/Windgap Minor Hurling Team 2019 which reached the semi final of the Roinn A Championship for the first time ever.



Galmoy Under 11s 2019



Galmoy Junior C Team 2019:
Back: Paul Delaney, Stephen Delaney, George Bassett, Eoin Glendon, Brendan Phelan, Conor Drennan, James Dunne, Padhric Gray, Tom Phelan(Castletown) & Donnacha Gray.
Front: Jack Delaney, Frank Phelan, Colm Smith, Patrick Doyle, Micheál Phelan, Tom Corcoran, Odhrán Moloney & Phil Russell.



Galmoy Boys Féile Div 3 Plate Winners 2019

Anseo is Ansiúd

Gleann Mór

The basis of the Glenmore GAA club crest is of An Gleann Mór (the big glen), which was designed by the late Richard Murphy of Ballyfacey for general parish use and also adopted by the Glenmore hurling and football club, along with the Glenmore camogie club. The crest comprises sheaves of corn to represent the parish's farming community, a hurl and sliotar incorporating one of the nations national sports, and also a hammer and trowel which includes the trades and skillbase of many parishioners and club personnel and players. With the club colours of green and gold to the fore the crest is all encompassed with a view of roaming hills and valleys, streams and trees which are very much part of the rural base of Glenmore and its hinterland.



U11 Molloy's League (B) Winners



Glenmore U7's 2019



Glenmore U15 Panel 2019



U9 Dunnamaggin Shield Winners



NED MERNAGH – It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Ned Mernagh, Jamestown, Glenmore on July 25th 2019. The Glenmore camogie club very much appreciate the very generous support for many years given by Mernagh Transport when the formation of the club took place and Ned and family gave wholesome support. Glenmore born and reared Ned enjoyed his life including his well known haulage business work which thrives to this day, his love of family and Ned also enjoyed the company of others and was a very sociable person. Sympathy is given to his wife Maudie, son and daughters, and extended Mernagh family members. May the gentle soul of Ned rest in peace.

TOM MERNAGH – In 2019 Glenmore GAA club lost one of its long serving Kilkenny County Board representatives. Tom Mernagh of Jamestown, Glenmore passed away on March 10th 2019 and was the hurling and football county board rep for close on twenty years and the club owes Tom a great debt for his personal time, effort and commitment over the many years on behalf of Glenmore GAA club. Tom loved each and every hurling and football match and travelled the length and breadth of the county and country following his native Glenmore as they contested and battled on into interclub stages of national competition. Sympathy is given to wife and family, brothers and sisters and extended family at this time. May Tom's soul rest in peace.



**Glenmore team at the Littlewoods Ireland Go Games Provincial Days in Croke Park.
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile**



Glenmore U10 Panel 2019



Glenmore U12 Panel 2019

Anseo is Ansiúd

Graig na Manach

The Club Crest was Designed by Mark Cushen and incorporates many scenes synonymous with Graignamanagh.



Duiske Abbey features prominently as does the Bridge over the River Barrow; A canal Boat which is an integral part of the town's boating Tradition; Brandon Hill with its cross on the summit, and of course the Crossed hurleys and sliotar. This crest first appeared on the Green and white hooped Jerseys in 2003



Graignamanagh MH Shield winners Dec 2018

Damien Kielthy with the Shield



Damien Kielthy with the Shield

Last Man Standing winners Presentation

Michael Walsh-2nd, Nicholas O'Donnell- Club organiser,
Adrian Waldron - 1st place winner, Adrian Bolger & Martin Kelly
Sean Cosgrave 3rd Place missing from picture.

Graignamanagh U11 winners of the Cup in our U11 Tournament



Graignamanagh U11's Celebrate their Cup win



Graignamanagh GAA Club were very proud to have Pierce Blanchfield represent the Club on the Kilkenny Minor Hurling Team 2019.



Our Christmas fundraiser this year was a novelty Match between a mix of our Hurlers & Camogie Team on St. Stephens Day 26.12.18

Anseo is Ansiúd

Graig Baile Calainn

The two former clubs in the parish, Graigue and Ballycallan are represented in the crest by the two crossed hurds, with the slothar representing their aim of promoting hurling under the banner of Graigue-Ballycallan GAA / An Gráig Baile Uí Chaoilán. The crest incorporates the year of the foundation of the new club.



2019 saw Graigue-Ballycallan GAA celebrate its 50th Anniversary, having been founded in 1969. During the year the Club marked this milestone with various events, among which was an open air Mass in the Club, co-celebrated by Club Patrons F. Taylor and Fr. Buckley. Afterwards a family evening and barbecue was enjoyed by the large attendance. In November, the club launched their Souvenir Book- A reflection on 50 years of Graigue-Ballycallan GAA in an event in the Set Theatre. Congratulations to Conor Flynn, Sean Ryan, Tommy Ronan, Jesse Roberts and Aaron Brennan who were part of the Kilkenny Panel who won the -U20 Leinster Final. Unfortunately, the club lost some great supporters and past players throughout 2019 and sincere sympathies go to the families of the following dearly departed: Tommy Butler, Mary Corrigan, Mary Harney(nee Nugent), Alice Taylor, Sarah Dunne (nee Walton), Michael Tynan, Tom Brennan, Phyllis Carroll, Liam Hennessy, Ciara Walsh, Seamus Hennessy.

Anseo is Ansiúd

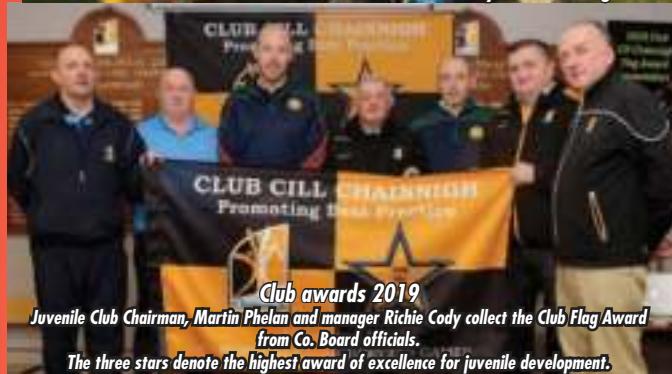
Seamus Stiopháin

James Stephens GAA club crest was designed by Eamon Hogan in 1978. Background and surround colours have been changed in 2019.

The three part shield features the Arch dividing the City from the Village. Most of the Arch was removed in 1883. The Village pump was the social focal point from 1860 until its removal in 1961. It was also the source of the local water supply. A replica now stands on the site. The intertwined letters JS commemorate the Fenian founder (1824-1901) after whom the club is named. He was born in a house on the Canal Walk.



The U10s had a busy year, participating in tournaments in Dublin, Cork and Tipperary. Here they are after a great day in UCD at the Kilmacud-Crokes blitz.



Club awards 2019
Juvenile Club Chairman, Martin Phelan and manager Richie Cody collect the Club Flag Award from Co. Board officials.
The three stars denote the highest award of excellence for juvenile development.

MEMORY LANE



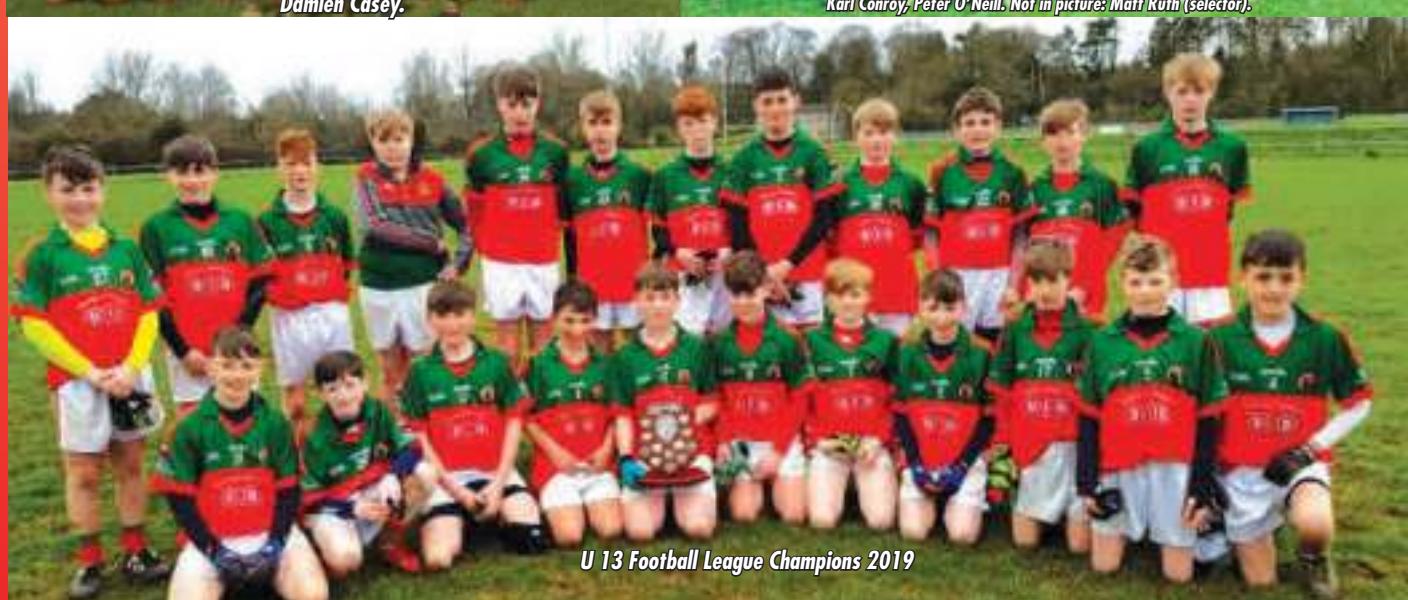
Kilkenny U21 Hurling Champions 1994
Back: Martin Phelan, Liam Smith, Brian McEvoy, Brian Dooley, Malcolm Murphy, Kevin Grogan, Conor O'Dwyer, Peter Barry.
Front: Philip Larkin, Shane Doyle, Francis Cantwell, Fergal Cantwell (capt), Brian Leahy, Barry Smith, Tobias White.



Lisdowney Sevens Champions 2019.
Selectors are Joe Hennessy, Liam 'Chunky' O'Brien and
Damien Casey.



James Stephens - Feile na nGael 1994
Back: Liam Tyrrell (chairman), Val Malone (selector), Gary Whelan, Nigel Skehan, Shane O'Grady, Paddy O'Brien, John Morgan, Hugh Gannon, Ian Morrissey, John Cullen, Brian O'Dwyer, Shane Egan, Tom Keane (selector), Joe Murray.
Front: Eoghan Walsh, Brian Skehan, David Delaney, Brian Tyrrell, Joe Murphy, Eoin O'Neill, Alan Dunne, Karl Conroy, Peter O'Neill. Not in picture: Matt Ruth (selector).



U 13 Football League Champions 2019

Anseo is Ansiúd

Séan Locha

The John Lockes crest, presented in the saffron and blue club colours, is a representation of the original Town Seal of Callan. One of the principal towns of the Ormond domain, Callan, a walled town with eight castles, had its own Corporation and leader, known as the Sovereign. It is believed the town seal was created around 1650, most probably designed by the Corporation. The three castles depicted are believed to be the Western, Eastern and Southern ones and the bricked wall represents the walled town.



John Lockes U-9 Hurlers 2019



John Lockes U-17 Hurlers 2019



John Lockes U-11 Hurlers 2019



John Lockes U-12 Hurlers 2019



Club Secretary Paul Morrissey Club Chairman Sean Hogan with Ronan McCarthy Cork Senior Football Manager



John Lockes U-13 Hurlers 2019



Club Chairman Sean Hogan with Dublin Football Manager Jim Gavin

Anseo is Ansiúd

Cill Mochua

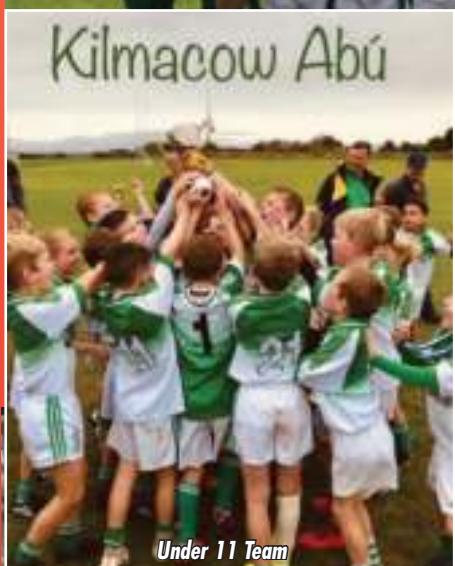
The Kilmacow colours of Green & White were the colours worn by St. Senans in the period from 1950 to 1989, and the colours adopted by Kilmacow Hurling & Football club in 1990 on the formation of the new club, which amalgamated both codes under one club in the parish. This unification is represented on the club crest by images of both Hurling and Gaelic football



U17 Team 2019



Feile Football Shield winners 2019



Under 11 Team



Group Photo of the Bob Croke memorial Cup, held on New Years Day, in memory of our young club mate Bob Croke. Over €4,000 raised for local charity Teac Tom.

Anseo is Ansiúd

Lios Dúin Fhiach

The first offering of a Lisdowney crest was seen in 1978 for Féile. Back then, it was just a Black Raven. The Raven was chosen as a symbol as it's a derivation of Lios Dúin Fhiach, Fort of the Raven. (Fhiach is the Irish for Raven.) The current shape - the circle background - came later to create a crest shape and so the Raven was placed on a Blue and White striped background- the colours of the hooped Lisdowney club jersey. The year of the club's founding was 1939 which can also be seen as well as a motto - Mol an Óige.



Anseo is Ansiúd

Móin Chóinn

Mooncoin GAA club is one of the oldest in the county, having been founded in 1886. They played in their first county hurling final the following year against great rivals Tullaroan. The Mooncoin Logo contains crossed hurleys and a gaelic football, representing the main sports played by the club. A Rose sits at the top, which has become the *de facto* symbol of the parish ever since a local school teacher, Watt Murphy, wrote a famous song about lost love in the 1850s.



U6 Girls Blitz in Mooncoin - August 2019



U7 Boys at Glenmore Blitz



Mooncoin Players on Kilkenny Minor Football Team 2019



U9 Shield Winners - Mount Sion Blitz 2019



Pat Hogan (Minor Manager) Club presentation to James Aylward



U10 - Shield Winners in Kilmacow 2019



U12 Clonea Power Tournament Winners 2019



Anseo is Ansiúd

Mádh Collidhe

2019 SEASON

Senior Football league commenced on 26th January 2019 with exciting draw against The Village in Kells Road with score of 08 points each. Glenmore conceded our second league match on 02nd February. The final league match was against Railyard on 09th February where our team lost gallantly on a score line of Railyard 2 – 08 to Muckalee 1 – 06. The above results meant that the team had to play in the first round of Football championship.

The first round Senior Football championship commenced against Tullogher Rosbercon in Tullogher on 23rd February. Following a closely contested match Muckalee won on a score line of 1 – 13 to 2 – 06.

Muckalee played Dicksboro in the Quarter final on 02nd March in Palmerstown. Dicksboro secured a draw with a last minute penalty. Final Score 2 – 07 each.

The replay was played against on 08th March in Muckalee. Muckalee were ahead for most of the game and secured a good victory on a score line of 2 – 12 to 0 – 10.

The Semi Final was against Mullinavat on 06th July in Danesfort. The match was evenly contested in the first half with Muckalee ahead by two points at half time, but Mullinavat were much stronger in the second half and won on a score line of Mullinavat 2 – 16 to Muckalee 1 – 11. The Club wish to thank the very good response from the players during the year for all matches.

The Junior players representing the Club put in an excellent input to all the games played during the league and championship. The first round of the Junior Football league was against Railyard on 25th January and ended in a draw of 08 Points each. The second junior match was played in Urlingford against Emeralds and finished with a great victory for the team with a score of 2 – 11 to 1 – 11. The final league match was played in Dunmore against Graigue Ballycallan on 08th February. Graigue won a keenly contested match on a score line of 3 – 07 to 2 -06.

The first round of the Junior Football championship was against Tullaroan in

The Muckalee Football Club crest depicts the uplands of Coon, Muckalee and Ballyfoyle which constitutes the greater part of the Parish of Muckalee. The Football at the centre illustrates the fact that Muckalee is an exclusively Football club, one of the very few in County Kilkenny. The club colours of Green and Gold are reflected in the overall colours of the crest.



Tullaroan on 24th February. Tullaroan proved to be much better than our team on the day and won by 6 – 11 to 0 – 06. Special thanks to all the players at both grades who competed for the Club during the year.

SPONSORSHIP

Special thanks to our team sponsor Mr Jim Bolger and all those that helped the club in any way during the year.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT

There is continuous work on the new Club House and pitch during the year. Special thanks to all members and players who continue to help in improving the facilities at the Club.

BEREAVEMENTS

The club would like to extend sympathies to all club members who suffered bereavements during the year,



MUCKALEE GAALEIC FOOTBALL CENTENARY COMMITTEE

Back: Brian Cahill, Richard O'Shea, Paddy Morrissey, John Buggy, Bridie Tyran, Seamus Tyran, Anthony Maher, Paddy O'Flynn, John Ryan, Michael Grennan, Pat Geoghegan.
Front: Tom Dickey, Richard Nolan, Patsy Murphy, Larry Maher, Paddy Tyran, Pat Fitzpatrick.

Anseo is Ansiúd

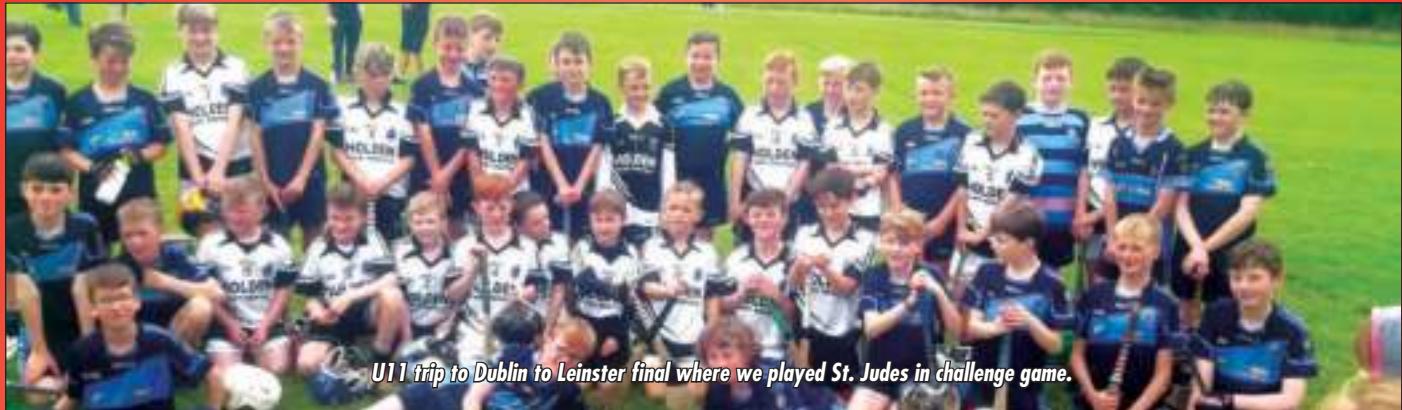
Muileann an Bhata

The Mullinavat GAA crest features three well known area landmarks, namely, Poulnassy Waterfall, the cross at Tory Hill and Mullinavat's Old Mill.

Poulnassy Waterfall is about one mile past the GAA grounds.

The cross at the top of Tory Hill, which is also an area attraction, is a spot from where visitors enjoy a tremendous view of the entire local landscape.

Finally, the Old Mill of which it is said that the stones used to build it were taken from the ruins of a nearby castle.



U11 trip to Dublin to Leinster final where we played St. Judes in challenge game.



U10 Group runners up in Slieverue O'Donovan Cup tournament.



Mullinavat Minor Squad 2019



Mullinavat at Feile 2019



U9 Black & Amber blitz in Mullinavat

Anseo is Ansiúd

Gaeil Úi Lochlainn

The Club Crest shows a Triangle of Landmarks associated with the main areas of St. John's Parish - the Fort in Dunmore, the Holy Well in Johnswell and the O'Loughlin Memorial Church of the Evangelist in the City - all converging on the O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Clubhouse at St. John's Park in the centre.



A Section of club members enjoying the 50th Anniversary Celebration Night at St. John's Park Complex in August



Paddy & Pauline Greene at a presentation to mark their retirement from 30 years clubhouse service with Club Secretary Margaret Hanlon and Chairman Brian Murphy.



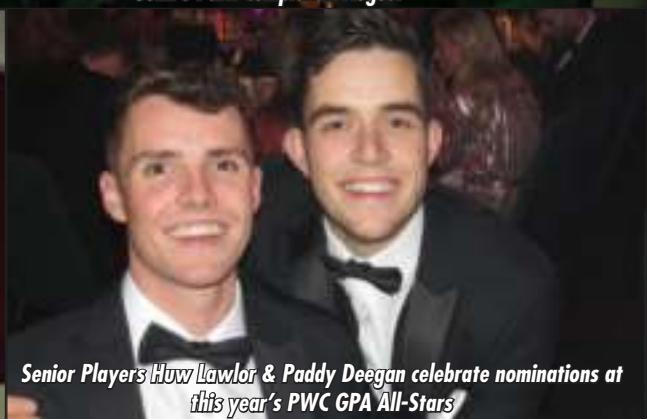
Brothers Seanie, Dinny, Paddy, Brian and Gerry Tyrrell enjoy the 50th Anniversary Celebration Night



Tomás Mulcahy & Michael Duignan talk to Mick Nolan, Aidan Fogarty and Andy Comerford at the Club's 50th Anniversary Celebration Night held at the Club's St. John's Park Complex in August



Martin Comford, Niall Bergin and Brian Hogan in conversation with Tomás Mulcahy and Michael Duignan at the 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner in August



Senior Players Huw Lawlor & Paddy Deegan celebrate nominations at this year's PWC GPA All-Stars

O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Club celebrated 50 years in 2019 and honoured its founding members with a Celebration Night held at the Club on the August Bank Holiday Weekend. The event was hosted by Tomás Mulcahy & Michael Duignan and celebrated 50 years of the club through stories and images recounting the clubs growth.

2019 was a year also that the club celebrated success on the field with two of our adult teams winning Championships at Junior B and Junior Hurling so that for the first time O'Loughlin Gaels will field Senior and Intermediate Teams in next years championships. We celebrated our intercounty stars also with minor player John McNamara toggin with the Kilkenny Minors in this years All-Ireland and Paddy Deegan & Huw Lawlor receiving the ultimate recognition for their efforts through their nominations for PWC GPA All-Stars. O'Loughlin Gaels GAA wishes all it's members and players a very enjoyable 2020

President: Marty Hanlon
Chairman: Brian Murphy
Vice-Chairman: Bryan Skehan
Secretary: Margaret Hanlon

Treasurer: Sean Casey
PRO: Eoin Lawlor
Juvenile Chairman: Brian Fox



Memory Lane

Anseo is AnSiúd

Baile an Phoill

The Piltown G.A.A. Club Crest depicts three outstanding landmarks in the parish; Leac an Scáil Dolmen in Harristown on the northern end of the parish, Kilkieran High Cross in Kilkieran on the western side with the Tower in Piltown to the south. In the context of the crest on the jerseys they signify united parish hurling, football & camogie teams.



Bill Costello Hurling School of Excellence



History was made when 4 Kinsella brothers lined out & started for our club



U-8's in Croke Park for Littlewoods Ireland Go Games Provincial Days



Official opening of the Astroturf Pitch by Uachtarán John Horan



Presentation by The Gahan Family of monies raised at the Annual Ann Gahan Walk of Remembrance, towards a new defibrillator for the club



U-11 City League Champions being presented with the cup & medals by Uachtarán John Horan

Anseo is Ansiúd

Clós an Rial

Railyard GFC Crest consists of a sheaf of Corn to the left, a miner's pick in the center, and a Quill's feather to the right. The Sheaf of Corn and the Pick represent the farming and mining community of Moneenroe and Clagh, while the Quill's feather is in recognition of two teachers, Michael Hayes Moneenroe NS and Aidan Fullen Clagh NS, who trained the youngsters of the parish in the 40s and 50s.



Action from the County SF Final against Mullinavat



U-15 Team Leinster Shield runners up



2018 Junior Champions, Final played in Feb 2019.

Back Row: Michael O'Keefe, Ger Campion, Geraroid O'Neill, Ultan Walsh, Adrian Ronan, Paddy Byrne, Paul O'Neill, Ciaran Farnan, Brian McDonald, Eddie Roche, Paddy Ward, Aidan Barry, Damien Purcell
Front Row: Sean Geoghan, Ryan Maguire, Kieran Whelan, Ian O'Keefe (Capt), Caleb Roche, Tom Buggy, Sean O'Neill, Eoghan Regan, Cathal Murtagh.

Memory Lane

RAILYARD - 1966 COUNTY SF CHAMPIONS WITH THE FR MAHER CUP

Back: Martin Meally, Murt Brennan, Tim Wilson, Mike Kelly, Richie Keating, Michael Meally, John Nash, Tom Shalloe.

Front: Seamus Walsh, James O'Shea, Tom Brennan, Kieran Meally, Michael Browne, Pat Nash, Danny Dowd.



Anseo is Ansiúd

An Róthar Inistioge

The Rower-Inistioge GAA Club crest consists of three images representing different parts of the parish. The bridge is inspired by the 18th century 10 arch bridge spanning the river Nore in Inistioge. The castle represents Coolhill Castle in the Rower which is a 13th century castle overlooking the river Barrow. The third image is St. Brendan's church in Clodiagh which is situated between the villages of Inistioge and the Rower.



The 2019 Rower-Inistioge U7 Panel



The 2019 Rower-Inistioge U9 Panel



The 2019 Rower-Inistioge U17 Panel



The 2019 Rower-Inistioge U15 Panel

Neil Lyng and Mickey Lyng of Michael Lyng Motors presenting a new set of jerseys to players Sean Lyster and Shane Ryan and Chairman Richard Tierney to mark their continued sponsorship of the Rower-Inistioge.



The 2019 Rower-Inistioge U11 Panel

Anseo is Ansiúd

Sliabh Rua

Our club crest is emblematic of the history of our ancestors. The top is ornamented by a scroll carrying the proud name of our parish and club.

The circular centre represents a football, or shlother, objects which are central to club activity. It is wrapped in the colours of our national flag. The castle, of which there are three in the parish, is representative of the disproportionate society which our forebears experienced.

The club enjoys the same birth date as our parent association – 1884.



Our U14 team



Caroline Kennedy was presented with the Player Of The Match in the Junior County Final



Under 10 hurlers that took part in the Annual Eamonn O'Donovan Tournament



Our Junior team got to their 3rd successive semi final.

Anseo is Ansiúd

Naomh Lachtain

The crest for St. Lachtain's G.A.A. Club is in use since 1983. It was adapted from the cover of a club magazine produced by the pupils and staff of Scoil Lachtain in 1982. The cover of the magazine was designed by Pierce Phelan and incorporated a drawing of the reliquary of St. Lachtain's Arm which once held the relics of St. Lachtain, the patron saint of Freshford. The reliquary dates from the 12th century and is part of the Treasures of Ireland exhibition at the National Museum in Dublin.



Above the drawing is the official club name, Cumann Lachtain, while below the drawing is the Irish name for Freshford, Achadh Úr.



Philip Kinnane Cup Team 2019



St Lachtain's Intermediate Shield League Winners 2019



Colin McGree Shield Team 2019



Andrew Dalton, from St Lachtain's during the Littlewoods Ireland Go Games in Croke Park.
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



Memory Lane

The Scoil Lachtain team which played Oban and Fort William in Scotland on June Bank Holiday weekend 1983 was the first team to wear a set of jerseys with the club crest.

Back: Tom Hickey, Ronan Cahill, Michael Doyle, Noel Tracy, Ian Crosby, Patrick McGrath, Keith Bowden, John Dermody, Joe Dermody.
Front: Bobby Dillon, Noel Dalton, Frank Keoghan, James Burke, Declan Rafter, Paul Phelan, Marty Campion, John Ryan, Jason Turner, Jason Moriarty.



St. Lachtain's team at the Littlewoods Ireland Go Games Provincial Days in Croke Park.
Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

Anseo is Ansiúd

Naomh Mairtín

The three areas of Muckalee Parish - Coon, Muckalee and Ballyfoyle are represented in the St Martin's crest by crosses from the three districts: - Coon, by St Brigid's Cross, Muckalee by St Brendan's Cross, (St Brigid and St Brendan are the patron saints of Coon and Muckalee respectively), while Ballyfoyle is represented by the Market Cross - a unique geological feature of Dunmore Caves, situated in the Ballyfoyle locality. The crest colours - red and green - reflect the St Martin's colours



Anseo is Ansiúd

Naomh Pádraig

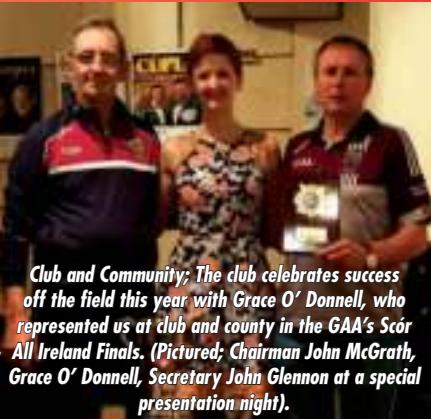
The St. Patrick's GAA Ballyragget club crest was based on the stained glass window once found in the window of Stapleton's bar (now the Hogan Stand) on the square of Ballyragget. The owner at the time David Stapleton had photographed numerous scenes around Ballyragget, and took them to a man in Waterford to create a piece for him. But it wasn't till 2003 when the club asked could they base the crest on its design and the local man was delighted for us to use it. This is where the club took it to local woman Anne Stone, who painted a crest for them. From there it was taken to Portarlington to a man who created a template of it, for it to be sewn by a woman in Monasterevan. The crest was also cut in to stone and erected above the club house in 2005. It wasn't till May 2014 that the club PRO Ger Butler placed the crest online to represent the club's image on all their online platforms



Young Pride; U13's showing what it means to have club pride from a young age.



Club and Family; Chairman John McGrath caring for his grandchild on the sidelines, prior to throw in, with club secretary John Glennon.



Club and Community; The club celebrates success off the field this year with Grace O' Donnell, who represented us at club and county in the GAA's Scór All Ireland Finals. (Pictured; Chairman John McGrath, Grace O' Donnell, Secretary John Glennon at a special presentation night).



Young Team Bond; U13's gather together before the game to focus as a team



Senior Team Bond; Adult team gather together before the game.



Team Joy; U13's run out to their team mates after final whistle.



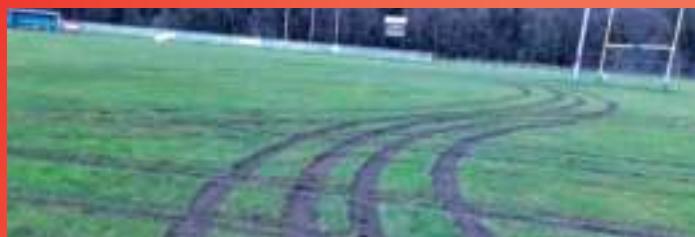
Memory Lane

St. Patrick's (Ballyragget); County Intermediate Champions 1979
Back: Shem Brophy, Matt Ruth, John Treacy, Ted Ruth, Tom Phelan, Pat Gannon, Ned Brophy, Aidan Brophy, Martin Fitzpatrick (trainer).
Front: Kevin O'Shea, John Holland, Eugene Ruth, Mick O'Shea, Patsy Trait, Noel Callinan, Jimmy Ruth.

Anseo is Ansiúd

Baile Mhic Andáin

Thomastown GAA Club is fortunate to have one of the most historic and scenic playing grounds in the country. Situated on the bank of the River Nore, generations of young Thomastown people have grown up learning the crafts of hurling, gaelic football and camogie in the shadow of the imposing Grennan Castle - centrepiece of our crest.



Co Final Colours



Anseo is Ansiúd

Bán na Duach

Our club crest is relatively new. It was updated and has been in use since 2007. The colours are used to showcase our club's colours.

The three towers used in the crest, and after which the club is named, were three castle towers which formed part of the old medieval city walls. The ruins of two of these towers can still be seen in the locality today. The crest was designed by Threecastles local Mary Traill.



Plough Thru the City which we ran for the first time last year



Emotions run high at the Tug of War



Almost unbearable tension in the Men's Sack Race



On the Field of Play



Threecastles Team 2019

Back row: Canice Pratt, Conrad Cooper, David Cleere, Eoin O'Donnell, Eddie Bourke, Nicholas O'Shea, Jack Boland, PJ Dalton, Tommy Rafter.
Front row : Brian Cleere, Ciaran Dalton, Ross Walsh, Vincent O'Donnell, Kevin O'Brien, Eamonn Hennessy, Frank Keoghan.

Anseo is Ansiúd

Tulach Ruáin

The crest was designed by local lady Joanne Sweeney in the early 2000's.

It features an ash tree and two hurds crossed with the year 1884 underneath, representing the year the club was formed.



It is surrounded by a round celtic design that becomes a hurler catching the ball at the top of the crest.



Under 7s in Dicksboro tournament



Under 9's in St Kierans



Wallstown Eagles winners of inaugural Dick of the Church All Ireland



Foyle Warriors winners of Dick of the Church League



Under 9's after receiving certs of excellence from County Board in Dunmore



After the Final! - Photos by Ray McManus/SPORTSFILE



Anseo is Ansiúd

Tulach Thoir/Ros Bearrcon

In recent years, the hurling and football club adopted the current title of Tullogher/Rosbercon, and also had a new crest designed for their black and amber club jerseys. The crest features in the centre a cross and the inscription St Moling - he being the Patron Saint of the Parish. In the background are drawings of the hills overlooking the Saint's Holy Well in Mullinakill. Two hurleys feature on the border of the crest encircling a football and underneath is the date the club was founded-1888.



U11 Team 2019



U6 Team 2019



U17 Team 2019



U7 Team 2019

Memory Lane

TULLOGER ROSBERCON County Junior Hurling Champions 1989

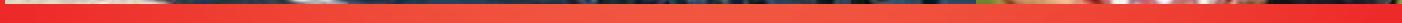
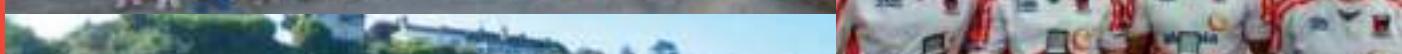
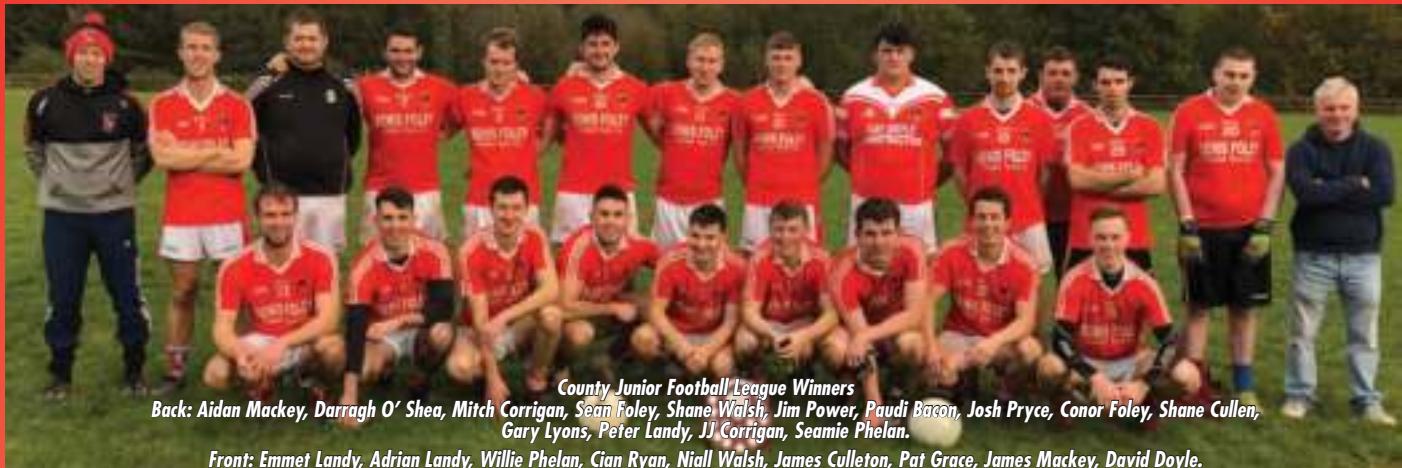


Back: John Murphy (B/F), Jimmy Heffernan, Pat Bookle, John Ryan, Ed Walsh, Eamon Phelan, Shem Cummins, Jim Cody, John Murphy (Castle), Seamus Kennedy, Tom Murphy, Seamus Phelan, Paddy Heffernan, Luke Bird, Pat Phelan [Trainer].
Front: Tom Heffernan, Tommy Morrissey, Eamon Bookle, Paddy Gaule, Mick Ryan, Seamus Bookle, Joe Conway, Shemmy Murphy, Liam Heffernan (Capt), Sean Kennedy, Denis Power, Donie Lyng, Richie Power [Coach], John Ryan. Inset John Murphy (B/R)

Anseo is Ansiúd

Bearna na Gaoithe

The Windgap Crest links the Heritage and Sporting history of the parish. It contains the 1100 hundred year old Killamery High Cross and the Killamery brooch that is now in the National Museum. It includes the Miners Egg sculpture located in the Slatemarries whose Footballers played in the All Ireland Senior Football championship semi-final in 1900. They are accompanied by the Ogham stone from another football stronghold Lamogue, before the codes expanded with Hurling Handball and Camogie to form Bearna na Gaoithe in 1954.



Windgap Captain, Niall Walsh receives the County Junior Football Trophy from Dan Kenny

Anseo is Ansiúd

Éire Óg

The club crest was designed in 2002 as part of the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the club's foundation. The crest depicts the historical St. Mary's Church, Gowran. The crossed hurds & sliotar along with the camogie player & footballer in the top corners represent the codes played within the club. The year the club was founded, 1952, is written underneath. The club's red and white colours are predominant in the design.



Lisdowney Seven's Team that reached the Shield Final



Intermediate Hurlers who lost out to eventual winners Tullaroan in the Championship semi-final.



Inaugural Young Ireland's Easter Sports Camp saw over 80 boys and girls put through their paces!

Memory Lane



2019 marked the 30th Anniversary of the club's Minor A Championship winning team in 1989.



Our U11 Boys who took part in the Dicksboro Tournament.



Another successful U12 Tournament saw the home team welcome Clara, Danesfort, Graignamanagh, John Lockes, Mount Leinster Rangers, Piltown & Thomastown to Castle Ellis.



Proud to support
Kilkenny GAA

Your Hospital and Cancer Centre in the South East.

UPMC Whitfield
Butlerstown North, Cork Road, Waterford
www.upmcwhitfield.ie

UPMC | WHITFIELD

KILKENNY'S ALL STARS 2019



Kilkenny's 2019 Camogie All Stars receiving their awards from Uachtarán Kathleen Woods
From left: Claire Phelan, Edwina Keane, Joan Gaule on behalf of her daughter Denise, and Michelle Quilty.

2019 ALL-STARS CAMOGIE TEAM

(Number of awards included after each player)

Goalkeeper: Sarah Healy (Galway) – 1st
Right Corner-Back: Shauna Healy (Galway) – 1st
Full-Back: Sarah Dervan (Galway) – 6th
Left Corner-Back: Edwina Keane (Kilkenny) – 2nd
Right Half-Back: Heather Cooney (Galway) – 2nd
Centre Half-Back: Claire Phelan (Kilkenny) – 1st
Left Half-Back: Lorraine Bray (Waterford) – 1st
Midfield: Aoife Donohue (Galway) – 3rd
Midfield: Niamh Kilkenny (Galway) – 6th
Right Half-Forward: Niamh Mulcahy (Limerick) – 1st
Centre Half-Forward: Denise Gaule (Kilkenny) – 3rd
Left Half-Forward: Amy O'Connor (Cork) – 1st
Right Corner-Forward: Michelle Quilty (Kilkenny) – 3rd
Full-Forward: Ailish O'Reilly (Galway) – 4th
Left Corner-Forward: Beth Carton (Waterford) – 2nd

2019 ALL-STARS HURLING TEAM

(Number of awards included after each player)

Goalkeeper: Brian Hogan (Tipperary) – 1st
Right Corner-Back: Sean Finn (Limerick) – 2nd
Full-Back: Ronan Maher (Tipperary) – 2nd
Left Corner-Back: Cathal Barrett (Tipperary) – 2nd
Right Half-Back: Brendan Maher (Tipperary) – 3rd
Centre Half-Back: Pádraig Walsh (Kilkenny) – 2nd
Left Half-Back: Pádraig Maher (Tipperary) – 6th
Midfield: Noel McGrath (Tipperary) – 3rd
Midfield: Diarmuid O'Keeffe (Wexford) – 1st
Right Half-Forward: Lee Chin (Wexford) – 1st
Centre Half-Forward: TJ Reid (Kilkenny) – 4th
Left Half-Forward: Colin Fennelly (Kilkenny) – 2nd
Right Corner-Forward: Aaron Gillane (Limerick) – 1st
Full-Forward: Seamus Callanan (Tipperary) – 4th
Left Corner-Forward: Patrick Horgan (Cork) – 4th



Adrian Mullen, Young Hurler of the Year, with Kilkenny's All Stars of 2019 - TJ Reid, Colin Fennelly and Pádraig Walsh,
Photo by Seb Daly/Sportsfile

ar bhealach na FIRINNE



BILLY CLEERE

Billy Cleere, late of 19, Woodlawn, who died in Cornwall, England on February 15th, was laid to rest in Bennettsbridge Cemetery on Friday March 1st, 2019. He was one of seven children born to Liam and Iris Cleere and his death at the young age of 53 is regretted by all. The long wait for Billy's remains to come from Cornwall, came to an end on the Thursday evening with one of the largest funerals seen in the village for some time. A guard of honour comprising Bennettsbridge GAA and Soccer Clubs met the cortège just outside the village and progressed, via Woodlawn Estate, where the hearse stopped outside the family home, to St Bennett's Church, where the remains were received by Canon Pat Duggan. The Parish Choir sang during the reception.

Requiem Mass was celebrated by Canon Patrick Duggan who welcomed everybody to the celebration of Billy's life. Fr Duggan shared some memories of Billy with the congregation. An important part of his life was his involvement in hurling at local and county level. He was a member of the Bennettsbridge team which won the 1983 Minor A Championship and the Under 21A championship of 1985. Billy played on the Kilkenny minor team in 1984 that won the Leinster title and narrowly lost out to Limerick in the All Ireland Final replay. He was also a valued member of the Bennettsbridge club team until his emigration. It was fitting that Bennettsbridge and Kilkenny jerseys lay side by side on the coffin. The attendances at both services included GAA and political representatives, work colleagues extended family and friends, an indication of the high regard in which he and his family are held in the community.

Billy emigrated to England at an early age and eventually settled in Cornwall where he worked as a painting contractor. Ireland was always close to his heart and he regularly brought his children home on holidays. Fr Duggan offered sympathy to the family on behalf of the parish.

The lessons were read by Jim O'Sullivan (cousin) Prayers of the Faithful were recited by Ray Cleere (cousin)

The Offertory Gifts reflected some of his interests and included, A Hurling Ball and Paint Brush, carried by his nephew, Ben. Family Photograph and medals, carried by Tadgh and Niamh (son and daughter)

The Water and Wine, carried by Fintan and Ciarán (brother and son)
Music throughout the mass was provided by John Maddock and Tony Cleere (brother-in-law and cousin)
Billy is survived by his daughters, Chandon, Niamh and Alannah and sons, Ciarán and Tadgh and wife Roberta. He is also mourned by his parents Liam and Iris, brothers, Eamonn, Gerry, Mark and Fintan, sisters, Fiona and Jenny, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, extended family, neighbours and friends.

May Billy Rest in Peace.



PADDY MACKEY (1931 – 2019)

Paddy Mackey of Main Street, Gowran passed away on February 16th , 2019. A native of the Rower, he moved to Gowran in 1965 with his wife Áine, who was a teacher in Gowran National School.

Paddy served as a selector with various adult club teams. He served on the underage committee from 1974 to 1981. During these years, he travelled with teams to Féile na nGael competitions in Limerick & Galway, and also to midland Féiles in Westmeath.

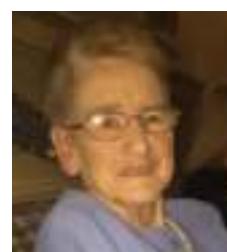
Paddy was a great supporter of club and county. He who loved to attend matches at all levels. His recall and knowledge when it came to GAA facts was notable & he was often called on to settle an argument over such matters.

Paddy is survived by his wife Áine, sons Michael, Paul & Patrick, Daughter-in-law Claire & granddaughters Meadhbh & Grace, relatives & friends.



JACK BOLGER

Graignamanagh G.A.A Club are sad to announce that after a short illness the final whistle has blown for "Legend of the Ash "Jack Bolger from Barrow Street. The name Jack Bolger will always be synonymous with the words Graignamanagh G.A.A Club. Jack went down in the local history books in 1972 as he was the first man to Captain the famous Green and White hoops to Co Final Glory. Jack served our club as Player, administrator, & mentor, and was very proud to do so and he also had huge passion for the juvenile side of our club. As a player Jack first came to prominence with Kilkenny u14s in 1951 and again with Kilkenny Minors in 54 and 55. Jack often spoke about and was very proud to have been the great Ollie Walsh's full back in that minor team period, indeed Jack and Ollie struck up a lifelong friendship which lasted until Ollie's untimely death in 1996. Ollie also held Jack in high esteem and had no hesitation in asking Jack to join as a Kilkenny Junior Selector in Kilkenny's All Ireland success in 1986. Jack was a massive Kilkenny and Graignamanagh hurling supporter and had no problem in letting everybody and anybody know his feelings on the matter if the subject of hurling came up for debate in Jack's presence. No matter how important the game or where the Green and White were tooting out Jack Bolger was guaranteed to be there. His presence will be sorely missed at our games from now on. He may be gone, but the contribution to our club development from 1953 of our Great Friend "Big Jack" will not be forgotten by our club's band of very loyal supporters. "Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis". We extend our sympathy to Jack's wife Breda, Órla, Shearon, Damien, Conor & Eoin, his Grandchildren and extended family.



NANCE PRENDERGAST

Graignamanagh G.A.A Club would like to acknowledge the death of Nance Prendergast 20 High Street. Nance was a great supporter and a very proud member of our club all her long life. Nance's brother John was the first secretary of our club in 1953. Nance was a very proud mother of Peter ,Tommy, & Johnny and their contribution to our club both on and off the field of play. The great turnout of past and present members for her "Guard of Honour "showed the great esteem in which she was held. We extend our sympathy to Peter, Tommy, Frankie, Johnny, Rose & Liz and their Families and also to her brother John Bolger. May her soul Rest in Peace.



BILLY PURCELL

The untimely death occurred during the year of Fenian Billy Purcell, aged 57. Billy represented his club, The Fenians at the various age levels for over 3 decades, finishing his playing career as a sprightly 47 year old. He terrorised Full backs the length and breadth of the county for two of the three decades when Fenians were competing strongly at Senior Grade in the county. He had sublime hands and was the clubs most consistent forward for many years. Indeed Billy Purcell never played any game at Senior level for the club without having his name on the Kilkenny People as a Fenian scorer, a testament to his accuracy from placed balls and open play and against some of the strongest full backs of the times. He thoroughly enjoyed the social side of training and games, and just loved playing the game, making him a very popular and valued member of the hurling and wider community.

Billy played in 2 Minor All-Irelands, two U21 All-Irelands, and 5 Senior Hurling County Finals. He also hurled for the Kilkenny Senior Hurling team in National League and Leinster campaigns, culminating in winning 2 National Hurling League Titles, 2 Senior Hurling All-Irelands with the Kilkenny Teams of 1982 and 1983 , the team which completed the famous Double Double.

Billy is survived and will be sorely missed by his wife Annette, sons Martin, Timmy and Enda, his grandchild, relations , his neighbours, and his very large circle of friends in and around the parish.

Ar dheis dé go raibh anam dílis



DICK BLANCHFIELD

Dick Blanchfield of Skinstown, Lisdowney, died on the 20th July, 2019 at the age of 79. His beloved wife Bernie (nee Murphy) passed away just seven months previously. He was son of the late Oliver and Ellen Blanchfield (nee Dargan).

Dick was born on the 28th September, 1939. World War 2 was just four weeks into its over five and a half years of death and destruction. Ireland was spared the death and destruction. However, shortages did occur in food, fuel and commodities and rationing was introduced. So during the first six years of Dick's life the people of Ireland were deprived of many of the comforts and little luxuries of life. He attended the local National School in Clontubrid. He grew up

on the family farm where he developed a love of the land. Dick and Bernie worked hard and ran an efficient and productive dairy farm. Their six children benefited from having loving parents who instilled in them their own qualities of integrity, diligence, love and loyalty. Gregarious by nature, Dick, Bernie and family became involved in the life of the parish community and actively supported the social and sporting organisations.

Dick was interested in all sports. Hurling, however, was his favourite sport. From an early age his talent for the game was evident. His skill, dedication and competitive spirit would see him compete at the highest level. With his local club, Lisdowney (founded the year he was born) he first showed his talents. He was a member of the Lisdowney team that won its first County junior title in 1960. He was just twenty-one years old. In 1961 he made his debut with Kilkenny in the National Hurling League versus Limerick. In 1962 he played his first match in the championship versus Dublin in the Leinster semi-final. Kilkenny won but lost to Wexford in the Leinster Final. In 1962 Lisdowney reached the Senior County Final. Their opponents, Bennettsbridge had won six of the previous nine finals and were again victorious. In 1966 he won the first of his two Oireachtas medals. He played at corner forward in the National hurling League Final of 1967 which Wexford won. He scored 1-1 in the Leinster semi-final against Dublin. Following that win over Dublin Dick won a Leinster medal playing at corner forward against Wexford. On the panel for the 1967 All-Ireland championship he came on as a sub in the final and played a significant role in Kilkenny's win over Tipperary. He won his second Oireachtas medal when Kilkenny beat Clare in the Final. He played in the National League Final of 1968 which Kilkenny lost to Tipperary. He also played in Wembley tournaments in London. He played in Gaelic Park, New York and in Chicago. Dick was a member of a group of Kilkenny players that laid the foundations of Kilkenny's unprecedented success when they won 22 of 52 finals between 1963 and 2015.

Dick's contribution to Lisdowney hurling lasted all his life. He was a selector and coach with the team of 1978, beaten by O'Loughlin Gaels in the County Final. In the 90s, Dick with his friends Paddy Dunphy and Tommy Maher coached the minor teams which won County Roinn C Championship and League Titles. They won the final of the Roinn B League but were beaten in the final of the Championship the following year. He trained The Harps of Durrow to a Laois minor title in 1992.

Dick had many interests and loved to read and travel. His family was central to his life. His commitment to the Parish and the community has been passed on to his sons and daughters. As a neighbour he was kind, generous and helpful. He loved his visits to Germany, where his daughter, Teresa lives. He also travelled to Wales to visit his daughter Brede and to Australia twice to visit son John Paul.

Dick is survived by his children Teresa, Olly, Brendan, Brede, John Paul and Richard, his sister Mary O'Brien, his brothers Watty and Mick sister-in-law Brede Murphy, his brother-in-law Tom Cleere and the late Bernie's brother-in-law, Ned Naddy. His wife Bernie (nee Murphy), 1918 and his sister Kitty Cleere predeceased him December 2018 and March 2017 respectively.

We offer our sincere sympathy to all of them. They have many happy memories of a life well lived and we hope that recalling them will help them bear their great loss.

Suaimhneas síorrai dá anam uasal dílis



SAMMY KIRWAN

On 17 October our community lost Sammy Kirwan. Sammy lived much of his life at Castlecomer Road where his family owned a local shop.

Sammy was an outstanding servant of James Stephens club from 1956 to 1963. He played minor hurling and football with the club in 1956 without much success. However in 1957 James Stephens won both county minor hurling and football titles with Sammy playing at right half forward in all games.

His senior hurling career began immediately in 1958 when he was drafted into goal for the senior team against Tullaroan. While the Village were hammered by the eventual county champions, according to the local paper, 'Sammy Kirwan performed miracles in goad and kept scores to acceptable proportions.'

His tough times in goal continued in 1959 when Erins Own overcame James Stephens in a notoriously nasty county semi-final, when again, he performed very creditably.

His last game for James Stephens came in 1963 in goal when they lost to Tulloher. Later he played with the short lived Newpark Sarsfields club in St. John's parish.

To his brother, John, and circle of family and friend we offer our sympathy.



LENA MCCARTHY

Lena McCarthy
St. Fiacre's Place, Kilkenny

James Stephens Club would like to extend sympathies to the McCarthy family on the sad passing of Lena in March 2019. Lena was a stalwart of the Ladies Committee in the club. No catering job or event on the club was too big or small for a dedicated band of parents who worked very hard to ensure all guests were well fed and a watered during a multitude of occasions through the seventies and eighties.

Lena's husband Jim "Florrie" was an outstanding hurler, committee member and club officer for many years. Their sons Ger, John, Seamus, Martin and Cancie all played with the club at various levels.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sí.



DICK COYNE

James Stephens GAA club lost one of its Vice-Presidents on 31 May with the passing of Dick Coyne after a long illness.

For many years he worked in Fit Remoulds on the Dublin Road and with his late wife Marie raised a family of five children in St. Fiacre's Place. The whole family have been involved in the life of the club. When the first juvenile committee was founded in 1981, Dick was elected vice-chair, a post he held until 1993. He represented the club as Bord na nOg delegate from 1981-86 and was football board delegate from 1990-1992.

Dick was unanimously elected club Vice-President in 2002, a position of which he was very proud. He was a regular attendee at weekly club meetings and a great supporter of every venture.

In his early days he hurled with St. Patrick's and James Stephens and was a panellist when the club won the county Junior title in 1956.

A member of one of the oldest Village families, Dick was a mine of knowledge about the parish and city. He was also an outstanding gardener.

We extend sympathies to his children Cora, Frankie, Murt, Tony, Jim, extended family and wide circle of friends.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

as county and Féile titles flowed and local players made their appearances and mark in the black and amber.

Eddie was also a visionary and along with Fr. Darcy and friends they ran the carnivals in Windgap where legendary hurling tournaments involved the great club teams. After financing the new church and school and with the club playing in Walsh's Bog Field the provision of "their own place" took its turn. Along with Fr. Garret Phelan, James Power, Dan Phelan and a team of volunteers land was purchased and through a series of swaps a site was created for the pitch, an amenity area and an extension to the new school.

With the site now located high up on the slope, a cut and fill operation was required to create the pitch where Kilkenny played Tipperary in the opening game. What commenced is still growing and sees the Windgap Club battle above its weight as it was followed by the Handball Alley and Amenity area that provides sporting, educational and recreational facilities for a huge area.

Elsewhere Eddie was behind the, the retirement houses, St. Vincent De Paul and the purchase of the hall. He also led the church choir and provided employment opportunities in Ferum Fabrications. After his retirement Eddie moved to the Canal Walk in the City and with Nora were regulars at every Kilkenny game and loved being amongst the throngs at county training in Nowlan Park.

Eddie will be sadly missed by his wife Nora daughters Ailish, Brid, Roisin, Blathnáid and Sinead, sons Sean and Thomas, grandchildren, brother Jack extended family neighbours and friends

Ar ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam

Dick will be sadly missed by his wife of fifty years, Bridget, sister Masie, sons John, Richard, Paul, daughter Maura, six grandchildren, relatives, neighbours and friends.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh sé



VAL MURRAY (1929-2019)

Val Murray was born in Roscon and lived for over fifty years across the road from St. Goban's monastic ruins and High Cross in Killamery. It was a time when football was the dominant game in the area and Val played on the half forward line with both the Cottestown and Lamogue teams winning a County Junior Title with Cottestown against Castle Rovers (Goresbridge) in 1951. A skilful player he got a number of runs and played in goal for the county team. Val had a keen interest in farming and gardening and was a pioneer of the change from horse drawn machinery and owned the first combine harvester in County Kilkenny which he used for extensively for contract work. After retiring he kept up with the latest technology and was comfortable using both the computer and iPhone. During his life he maintained a great interest in the games where his sons excelled over a long period with the Windgap hurlers.

Val will be sadly missed by his Lizzie sons, Eamon, Michael, Val Óg, Larry, Joe, James, daughters Ann and Liz and his sister Sr. Josephine, grandchildren, brother Jack extended family neighbours and friends.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam



DICK MCKENNA (1933 - 2019)

Dick McKenna was born on the 16th July 1933. Early life in Garrythomas was dominated by farming, hurling and football. In the early 1900s football was the dominant sport played in the area. Dick followed in his father Jack McKenna's love of the game. Jack had played in two Leinster Senior football finals with Kilkenny. Dick played Football in the half forward line with the local sides Cottestown, Lamogue and St. Nicholas Kilmoganny reaching numerous Senior finals but were beaten each occasion by the great Railyard team of the 50s. The team won many tournaments and contested in Senior and Junior finals. Attention turned to hurling after the founding of the Windgap GAA club in 1954. Dick played in the half back line with the Windgap Hurling team from its foundation until the early 60s. Having farmed all his life Dick was a great supporter of the club and his family and attended all the games. In recent years he provided two bench seats for spectator comfort to go with the ones that had arrived from Pairc Uí Caoimh.

Then, as the new club found its feet, in reaching a Southern Final on the way to Senior Status, Eddie was a trainer, selector and the long serving Cisteoir.

EDDIE KELLY (1935 - 2019)

Eddie Kelly arrived in Windgap, as a young school principal just four years after the Hurling Club was founded in 1954. A noted sportsman, Eddie had hurled with his school teams and his native Thomastown, and was a fine footballer at college. Living in the School House and after playing against Windgap in a local tournament game, Eddie immediately threw in his lot with the local club where he always wore the number nine jersey.

As the new club found its feet, in reaching a Southern Final on the way to Senior Status, Eddie was a trainer, selector and the long serving Cisteoir.

As the Múinteoir hurling was played in the school-yard and with just a few school matches and less cars, Eddie transported the teams on trips that were akin to going to play in Croke Park. Later with his chief lieutenant Eamon Cronin they ran the juvenile club



STELLA BYRNE

In May of this year the Bennettsbridge community lost a parishioner who had contributed much to the parish in numerous ways. Stella died in Gowran Abbey Nursing Home on 30th May having been in their care for a number of years.

A native of Bennettsbridge, she was born in 1945, one of four children of Michael and Marcella Kealy, Marian Place. She was educated in Bennettsbridge National School where she lived all her life. Her working life was spent in Mosse's Mills, Kells Wholemeal and in latter years with the A Team Tree Services.

In July 1970 Stella married Michael Byrne and their only child Sinéad was born in 1977. Michael, who was a salesman in Statham's Garage, died at a young age and Stella assumed the role of father and mother

to Sinead. In the words of Sinead, "she was the best mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend". She was pre-deceased by her sister, Kathleen who died in January of this year. Bennettsbridge has long been renowned for its community spirit and this title came about because of people like Stella that gave freely of their time and energy for the good of the parish.

In the late seventies she was responsible for the setting up of a playgroup in the village and this "free of charge" facility was a godsend to young mothers. It was based in the old St Bennett's Hall and mothers and children have fond memories of it. Many will remember the daily mantra, "Thank you Jesus for milk and biccies".

As secretary of the GAA club, her skills were put to good use, she was a member of the committee which was responsible for the purchase of the GAA field in the early eighties. She was a passionate supporter of Kilkenny hurling and travelled far and wide to matches.

Stella was also involved for years with the Bennettsbridge Credit Union and was on the board of directors. She was a committed member of the Ladies Club and served as an officer many times.

A talented Irish dancer she took part in feiseanna all over the country amassing a sizeable collection of medals. Stella carried this love of dancing into adult life and was a member of the Bennettsbridge Set

Dancers in the seventies and eighties that won numerous awards. They were successful in competitions as far afield as London. In helping to tutor under age dancers, she passed on her love of Irish dancing. Family, friends and many neighbours assembled in Johnston's Funeral Home for Rosary and Vigil Prayers recited by Canon Pat Dalton. On Saturday morning, Bennettsbridge GAA provided a guard of honour which escorted the remains to St Bennett's Church for Requiem Mass.

Stella is survived by her daughter, Sinéad, brother, Paddy, sister, Mary, her son-in-law Anthony, granddaughter Kayla, sisters-in-law Tess and Una, brothers-in-law Eddie, Kevin and Jimmy, nephew, nieces, extended family and friends and neighbours.

Rest in peace.



JOE COMERFORD

Joe passed away on the 20th April 2019 following a short illness and proved to be a huge shock to his family and friends and across the whole community all of whom held him in the highest regard. Joe was a past player of Erin's Own and more recently his son Jimmy has proudly worn the 'Comer' jersey with the Avalon House Hotel across his chest. As our main club sponsor we have The Academy Plaza Hotel and the Avalon House Hotel proudly displayed on our jerseys as a constant reminder of the ongoing generosity of Joe, Julie and the Comerford family to Erin's Own GAA.

On Joe's insistence, our Bord Na nÓg annual trip to the Leinster Final always includes a stop off in the Academy Plaza Hotel to help feed the travelling group before heading to Croke Park. Always a popular spot to fuel up before the big Kilkenny matches – espe-

cially on All Ireland day. Earlier this year the Avalon House Hotel re-opened its doors under the Joe and Julie's ownership and its success continues to grow and grow.

It is difficult to put into words the true generosity of the man that impacted the whole community and further afield except simply to say you will be missed and thank you.



PADDY O'KEEFFE

Paddy O'Keeffe was born on August 24, 1929. A Ballyhale native, he grew up on the family farm in Kiltoran, which he eventually took over.

A capable hurler, Paddy gave a stint with Castle Rangers during the early 1950s. A short-lived outfit that drew from Ballyhale, Mullinavat and Thomastown, this team ceased when the 'one parish rule' arrived in 1954.

Paddy became a Knocktopher hurler, a keen performer in their colours. Once his days on the pitch finished, he served as an official. As of late 1971, he was Chairman of Knocktopher GAA Club and played a crucial role in the negotiations that brought about an amalgamation with Ballyhale GAA Club in January 1972. John Fitzpatrick (Kilcready) was Ballyhale Chairman at the time. Wise counsel led to their two names being put in a hat, with Fitzpatrick's name the one drawn.

Paddy O'Keeffe happily took on being the new club's Vice Chairman. He likewise acted as a selector for the panel that won Junior honours in 1973 and Intermediate honours in 1974. The club's current membership and players can never sufficiently thank the people who had the foresight and the wisdom to set in motion a process that has garnered, as of late 2019, 17 Senior titles and 7 Club All Irelands.

One man took his own quiet pleasure in these developments, events in which his integrity and willingness to work with others proved decisive. To widespread sadness, Paddy O'Keeffe passed away on August 13, 2019. His life was well lived and he will be much missed by family, friends, neighbours and Ballyhale Shamrocks GAA Club.



TIM HEASLIP

Tim Heaslip was born on June 6, 1929. He grew up in Knocktopher and worked in the family business, the village's well known shop.

An older brother of Denis Heaslip, who won two Senior All Irelands with Kilkenny in 1957 and 1963, Tim was an accomplished hurler in his own right. One of Knocktopher's most dependable performers,

he featured with Kilkenny at Junior level during the 1950s into the early 1960s.

The Heaslip family became a key element in the amalgamation of Ballyhale GAA Club and Knocktopher GAA Club in January 1972. Their support for this project carried great influence and ended up a significant factor in its acceptance.

As the years and then the decades moved on, Tim took quiet but deep satisfaction in the new club's remarkable triumphs at county level, provincial level and All Ireland level. He took the same satisfaction in many native hurlers' achievements while wearing a Kilkenny jersey. Tim's beaming smile in the shop, after a match had been successfully negotiated, counted as one of local life's pleasures.

To everyone's sadness, throughout South Kilkenny and beyond, Tim Heaslip passed away on October 15, 2019. His life was well lived and he will be much missed by family, friends, neighbours and Ballyhale Shamrocks GAA Club



EUGENE AYLWARD

"I never thought I'd end up marking DJ Carey...!" Those words, amused and bemused and delighted, came from Eugene Aylward, out on the field in Grennan after 2013's Junior A County Final. Ballyhale Shamrocks had just beaten Young Irelands by two points.

Typical Eugene, drôle and incisive. Not quite 17 but assured at corner back on the evening, he picked up the legendary hurler after his introduction.

That victory meant still more since his teammates included midfielder Eoin Doyle. More like a brother than a first cousin, Eoin passed away following a motorbike accident in April 2018. His cousin's shock was profound.

Born on October 31, 1996, Eugene Aylward lost his life in a car accident on October 5, 2019. Some families experience way too much of life's unfairness. Numbness in Ballyhale and beyond knew no bounds. A proud native, the youngster enjoyed close local life, attending St Patrick's NS and Scoil Aireagail. His mother is an Aylward from Knockmoylan, a family at the heart of hurling in the parish since the 1920s. The loss is searingly felt by Marie, father Pat, brother Cian, grandparents Pat and Eileen, granduncles, grandaunts, uncles, aunts, and many cousins.

A Senior panellist since 2012, Eugene Aylward contributed to three County titles, two Leinster titles and two All Ireland titles. Often a lynchpin in defence, he performed strongly at all levels. Perhaps his finest hour arrived in 2017's U21 A County Final against James Stephens, when the Shamrocks snatched victory and Eugene made himself a powerhouse at wing back.

This young man became notably popular for good nature and wit. His compadres in the club won together and lost together and stayed together. These friends insisted on digging Eugene's grave, on carrying the coffin the length of Ballyhale's Main Street for his final journey.

Their mixture of respect and stoicism, amid such grief, speaks for every generation in the parish. Eugene Aylward will always be much missed by Ballyhale Shamrocks GAA Club.

Kilkenny GAA Results 2019

SENIOR HURLING		UNDER 19 HURLING (2018)	
County SH C'ship Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-21 James Stephens 1-15	Roinn "A" U19 C'ship Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 2-13, James Stephens 1-14
SH League Final	Dicksboro 2-15 O'Loughlin Gaels 2-14 (aet)	Roinn "B" U19 C'ship Final	Young Irelands 1-9 Lisdowney 1-8
SH Shield Final	Rower Inistioge 3-11 Clara 0-17	Roinn "C" U19 C'ship Final	Danesfort 1-11 St Martin's 0-9
New SH League	Ballyhale Shamrocks 3-20 Mullinavat 2-16	Roinn "D" U19 C'ship Final	Barrow Rangers 3-18 Slieverue 3-10
SH Relegation Final	Bennettsbridge 1-23 St Patrick's 1-16	MINOR (U17) HURLING	
INTERMEDIATE HURLING		Roinn "A" MH C'ship Final	Dicksboro 0-18 Mooncoin 0-6
County IH C'ship Final	Tullaroan 3-18 Thomastown 0-21	Roinn "B" MH C'ship Final	Young Irelands 3-7 St Martin's 2-6
IH League Final	Thomastown 3-19 Tullaroan 3-18	Roinn "C" MH C'ship Final	Kilmacow 5-11 Blacks and Whites 2-8
IH Shield Final	St Lachlain's 0-21 St Martin's 0-11	Roinn "A" MH League Final	Dicksboro 1-20 Dunnamaggan 0-10
New IH League Div 3	Lisdowney 1-16 Young Irelands 0-15	Roinn "B" MH League Final	To be Completed
IH Relegation Final	John Lockes 1-10 Tullogher Rosbercon 1-9	Roinn "C" MH League Final	To be Completed
JUNIOR HURLING		UNDER 15 HURLING	
County JH C'ship Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 1-17 Conahy Shamrocks 1-15	Roinn "A" U15H C'ship Final	Dicksboro 5-13 Young Irelands 3-10
County JH C'ship Section B Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 2-16 Dicksboro 2-12	Roinn "B" U15H C'ship Final	Tullogher Rosbercon 3-9 St Martin's 0-14
County JH League	Barrow Rangers 2-25 Piltown 0-12	Roinn "C" U15H C'ship Final	Fenians 1-9 Cloneen 1-8
All County JH League Final	Naomh Eoin 3-17 Dicksboro 2-17	Roinn "A" U15H League Final	Young Irelands 0-14 Dicksboro 0-13
JUNIOR HURLING A		Roinn "B" U15H League Final	Emeralds 4-12 Mullinavat 2-6
County JH A League/C'ship Final	Erin's Own 2-16 Mooncoin 3-12	Roinn "C" U15H League Final	Fenians 3-14 Cloneen 4-8
League Final	Erin's Own v Mooncoin	Roinn "C" 13 a/side C'ship final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-9 Conahy Shamrocks 2-6
JH A Relegation Final	James Stephens 2-18 Conahy Shamrocks 2-17	UNDER 13 HURLING	
JUNIOR HURLING B		Roinn "A" U13H C'ship Final	James Stephens 4-8 Dicksboro 2-14 James Stephens 5-10 Dicksboro 4-10
County JH B League/C'ship Final	O'Loughlin Gaels 0-18 Barrow Rangers 0-15	Roinn "B" U13H C'ship Final	Erin's Own 3-16 Dunnamaggan 3-10
League Final	St Lachlain's 1-11 Barrow Rangers 1-10	Roinn "C" U13H C'ship Final	St Patrick's 4-11 Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-5
JH B Relegation Final	John Lockes 2-17 Fenians 0-11	Roinn "C" 13 a/side C'ship final	Fenians 2-11 Lisdowney 1-6
JUNIOR HURLING C		Roinn "A" U13H League Final	James Stephens 2-21 O'Loughlin Gaels 4-12
Championship Final	Bennettsbridge 1-22 Danesfort 2-13	Roinn "B" U13H League Final	Erin's Own 3-13 Tullogher Rosbercon 0-3
League Final	Bennettsbridge 1-19 Danesfort 1-18	Roinn "C" U13H League Final	St Patrick's 6-19 Young Irelands 1-2
JH C Relegation Final	Windgap 2-23 Carrigeen 2-15	Roinn "C" 13 a/side C'ship Final	Fenians 8-12 Tullaroan 1-2
JUNIOR HURLING D		Paddy Grace Féile Final	Dicksboro 2-3 Graigue Ballycallan 0-4
Championship Final	Graignamanagh 2-19 Slieverue 0-17	PRIMARY SCHOOLS HURLING	
League Final	James Stephens 4-14 Graignamanagh 2-14	Roinn "A" U13H Final	St Canice's 6-12 Clara 1-4
CUP COMPETITIONS		Roinn "B" U13H Final	Graig/Skeough 2-8 Tullogher-Rosbercon 1-10
Martin Treacy Cup	Conahy Shamrocks 2-17 Barrow Rangers 2-15	Roinn "C" U13H Final	Coon Muckalee 2-6 Carrickshock 0-12 Coon Muckalee 3-9 Carrickshock 2-6
Kevin Fennelly Cup	O'Loughlin Gaels 1-20 Emeralds 2-14	Roinn "D" U13H Final	Johnstown 7-12 Galmoy 0-5
P Cahill & J Walsh Cups	Not Played	Corn de Bhaldraithe	Thomastown 2-5 Gowran 1-5
UNDER 21 HURLING (2018)		Corn Uí Bhriain	Danesfort 6-7 Conahy 0-6
Roinn "A" U21H Final	Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-22 O'Loughlin Gaels 2-16	Roinn "A" U11 Final	Scoil McAuley-Rice 5-7 Kilmanagh 1-6
Roinn "B" U21H Final	Graigue Ballycallan 0-16 Bennettsbridge 0-10	Roinn "B" U11 Final	Ballyhale 8-6 Danesfort 0-5
Roinn "C" U21H Final	Tullogher Rosbercon 1-15 Graignamanagh	Roinn "C" U11 Final	Windgap 7-7 Johnstown 0-2

SENIOR FOOTBALL		JUNIOR CAMOGIE	
County SF Final	Mullinavat 1-7 Railyard 1-7 Mullinavat 1-13 Railyard 0-10	Junior Championship Final	St Claire's 3-9 James Stephens 0-9
County SF League Final	To Be Completed	Junior "B" Championship Final	To Be Completed
INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL		Junior League Final	St Claire's received walkover
County IF Final	Mooncoin 2-8 Erin's Own 0-5	Junior "A" All-County Lge Final	Mooncoin 2-11 Piltown 1-12
County IF League Final	Mooncoin 3-6 Lisdowney 1-5	Junior Shield Final	To Be Completed
JUNIOR FOOTBALL		UNDER 21 CAMOGIE	
County JF Final	Windgap 2-3 Graigue Ballycallan 1-5	U21 A Championship Final	To Be Completed
County JF League Final	To Be Completed	U21 B Championship Final	To Be Completed
MINOR FOOTBALL (2018)		MINOR CAMOGIE	
Roinn "A" MF Final	Danesfort 2-6 Kilmoganny 2-5	Minor A C'ship Final	Young Irelands 6-9 Dicksboro 0-8
Roinn "B" MF Final	Mooncoin 3-7 Glenmore 2-5	Minor B C'ship Final	To Be Completed
Roinn "B" MF Final	Young Irelands 2-13 Blacks & Whites 1-2	Minor C C'ship Final	To Be Completed
U15 FOOTBALL (2018)		Minor A League Final	Thomastown 6-12 Young Irelands 4-6
Roinn "A" U15F Final	Not Completed	Minor B League Final	Dicksboro 6-10 Emeralds 1-6
Roinn "B" U15F Final	Tullogher Rosbercon 5-7 Glenmore 4-8	Minor C League Final	Glenmore 5-7 St Lachtain's 4-4
Roinn "C" U15F Final	Carrickshock 1-4 Clara 1-2	U16 CAMOGIE	
U13 FOOTBALL		Under-16 A C'ship Final	Dicksboro 1-8 St Brigid's 0-3
Roinn "A" U13F Final	Dicksboro 2-13 James Stephens 1-4	Under-16 B C'ship Final	Conahy Shamrocks 5-13 Emeralds 2-1
Roinn "B" U13F Final	Erin's Own 0-7 St Martin's 0-7 Erin's Own 3-11 St Martin's 1-7	Under-16 B Shield Final	To Be Completed
Roinn "C" U13F Final	St. Patrick's 5-6 James Stephens U11 A 2-4	Under-16 C C'ship Final	Young Irelands 3-12 Windgap 0-7
Roinn "A" U13F League Final	James Stephens 7-15 Kilmoganny 1-2	Under-16 C Shield Final	To Be Completed
Roinn "B" U13F League Final	Erin's Own 3-5 Tullogher Rosbercon 2-2	Under-16 A League Final	To Be Completed
Roinn "C" U13F League Final	Danesfort 7-4 Dicksboro B 1-4 Danesfort 7-4 Dicksboro B 1-4	Under-16 B League Final	To Be Completed
SCHOOLS FOOTBALL (2018)		Under-16 C League Final	To Be Completed
Roinn "A" U13F Final	St Canice's 3-7 Thomastown 1-7	U14 CAMOGIE	
Roinn "B" U13F Final	Gowran 2-12 Tullogher Rosbercon 0-4	Under 14 A C'ship Final	Dicksboro 1-10 Conahy 0-3
Roinn "C" U13F Final	Kilkenny School Project 3-4 Windgap 2-4	Under 14 A Shield Final	Young Irelands 3-6 John Lockes 2-8
Corn na Tuaithe Final	Gowran 1-9 Clara 1-2	Under 14 B C'ship Final	Windgap 1-7 James Stephens 1-5
Roinn "A" U13F Final (2019)	Gaelscoil Osraí 3-8 St Patrick's DLS 1-0	Under 14 B Shield Final	St Martin's 3-8 Windgap 1-8
SENIOR CAMOGIE		Under 14 C C'ship Final	St Lachtain's 7-3 Clara 6-4
County SC Final	Dicksboro 1-7 Piltown 0-8	Under 14 C Shield Final	Tullogher 10-12 Rower Inistioge 7-0
County SC League Final	Piltown 3-15 Thomastown 0-10	Under 14 D C'ship Final	Blacks & Whites 7-2 Barrow Rangers 2-2
All-County SC League	St Brigid's 2-14 Young Irelands 1-10	Under 14 D Shield Final	To Be Completed
Senior Relegation Final	St Martin's 6-12 Mullinavat 4-15	PRIMARY SCHOOLS CAMOGIE	
INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE		Primary Schools A Final	Bunscoil McAuley Rice 4-3 St Canice's A 1-2
County IC Final	Clara 3-11 Conahy Shamrocks 1-16	Primary Schools B Final	St Aidan's Kilmanagh 7-4 Mooncoin 4-2
IC League Final	St Anne's/Emeralds 2-7 Barrow Rangers 0-3	Primary Schools C Final	Tullaroan 6-9 Mullinavat 1-5
All County IC League Final	To Be Completed	Primary Schools D Final	Danesfort 6-2 Rower Inistioge 2-2
Intermediate Relegation Final	Glenmore 2-15 Carrickshock 1-6	Primary Schools E Final	Dunnamagglin 3-3 St Canice's B 1-1

* As of November 24th 2019. Results of finals too late for inclusion here will be recorded in Kilkenny GAA Bible 2020, on www.kilkennycamogie.com, and kilkennygaa.ie