

KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2020

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KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2020

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Réamhfhocail

2020: Bliaín a thosaigh mar aon bhliain eile - imreoirí agus clubanna an chontae dóchasach agus misniúl faoin séasúr a bhí rompu. Ansin bhain an tubaiste duinn - Covid 19 - a rinne scrios ar an saol iomlán, agus cursáí spóirt ina measc. Níor chuir sé stop, áfach, le fir agus mná spóirt Contae Chill Chainnigh ina gcuid iarrachtaí sna laethanta dar gcionn..



2020 was another year for ambitious plans and dreams for all of our players, clubs and for Kilkenny. Its activities were scheduled to end with the National commemoration of Bloody Sunday on Saturday November 21st. However, as winter and spring rolled towards Lá Fhéile Pádraig, life as we knew it, ar fud an domhain, stopped unexpectedly. What followed was unplanned and undreamt of, as the New Normal of the Covid Pandemic became the accepted way of life. It replaced the time when fixture dates were the driver, as HSE, NPHE, an Rialtas agus an pobal pulled together with an array of Covid 19 restrictions, regulations and levels that became the league tables that mattered.

On the way it was all hands to the wheel as every club showed great leadership in adjusting to become community leaders with volunteers arranging the collection of groceries, prescriptions, calling to neighbours and caring for vulnerable persons. On the ground, innovation and flexibility took over, and as training was restricted, club grounds closed and travel boundaries implemented, it saw Zoom and Teams became the new method of communication.

The year since the last publication had started very well with three All Ireland club titles for Conahy Shamrocks, Tullaroan and the Shamrocks as their potential successors eyed their winning paths. On the way there were hopes and disappointments as the competitions were initially deferred before the CCC's successfully altered formats saw the games being played in front of céad nó dhá chéad supporters as Conahy Shamrocks, Lismore and the Shamrocks collected cherished County titles. Still on hold is the culmination of the Football, the U19, U21, some of the Camogie, Ladies Football and Handball games at some levels.

On the inter-county playing fields, all of the Kilkenny teams are still in the running and carry our best wishes, with the return of the Bob O'Keeffe Cup being the highlight to date as the Senior Hurlers and Camogie players train on for All Ireland semi-finals. Elsewhere, the other county representatives await the Covid starter's whistle.

As we look forward to post Covid life with vaccines, sincere thanks go to all involved in Kilkenny GAA in so many ways. They include our main sponsors Glanbia PLC, our various partners, competition sponsors, advertisers, supporters and supporters clubs, whose loyalty has been greatly appreciated. In particular, all of the players, the schools, parents, referees, coaches and the unsung club and county officials who work endlessly to provide, facilitate and promote our games which also included distributing tickets for club matches.

A particular mile buíochas is extended to the media - written, oral and visual at local and national level who provided endless and exciting match coverage. They include CRKC, KCLR, the Kilkenny People and Advertiser, the national TV Stations and Nemeton and the many clubs that brought a new dimension to viewing matches through streaming.

This Covid year has seen many changes in our lifestyle with the additional time and space giving a greater appreciation of our predecessors, history and heritage. The recognition of the Bloody Sunday supporters who like our own James Nowlan had remained buried in unmarked graves for far too long has provided an opportunity to re-link with the past in our clubs.

A reflection of how our clubs have developed so much in the past century appears in this year's edition as it brings us aerial photos of the facilities in every club in the county. In addition, it includes articles and features on great servants, past players, club activity, and reflections on those who are no longer with us. It is hoped this production shortens the long dark evenings and generates conversation between the loyal band of Kilkenny people who love a chat no matter where they are.

Faoi dheireadh ba mhaith liom buíochas ó chroí a ghabháil le gach éinne for this year's unique production, our eagarthóir Barrie Henriques, cathaoirleach Pat Henderson, co-ordinator and compiler Gerry O'Neill, the committee, contributors and advertisers.

Tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh agus tairbhe as an mBláiniris seo.
Gach rath oraibh uilig, agus fanaigí slán.

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



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KILKENNY GAA YEARBOOK 2020

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EDITORIAL



Elsewhere in this year's publication, our regular contributor – the Examiner's finest - Mr. Enda Mc Evoy - headlines one of his efforts with his customary banner, "That was the year". And what a year it was.

For us it started with all three Kilkenny Club Champions bagging all three Provincial and National Titles. The Shamrocks from Ballyhale won their 8th title when beating the Tipperary and Munster Champions by 0-18 to 0-15. A last second point by Shane Walsh was the catalyst of an excitement in the Kingdom of Tullaroan that other clubs might only aspire to in their dreams. They took out Fr. O'Neill's from Cork in an epic. Conahy, who represented Kilkenny in the Junior Final by virtue that the County Champions were excluded from competing by rule, made it a clean sweep for the Kilkenny clubs when they accounted for the considerable challenge of yet another Cork team, Russell Rovers from East Cork.

The County senior hurlers were fired for their attack on the National League. A loss against Wexford in the Walsh Cup didn't perturb them – certainly not twelve days into the month of January. Two facile wins against Dublin and Carlow primed them for their first rattle against a more daunting Wexford down in Wexford Park. A two-point loss precipitated a hard-earned draw in Nowlan Park with Clare. Loreto College won the senior and junior camogie double.

Little did we know then that our next game against Laois in Nowlan Park on March 1st was to be the last for a very long confusing time.

Enter Covid 19.....

Conversations about hurling, players, wins and losses were usurped by talk about epidemiology, dermatology, and virology ----- and Donald Trump.

What about a Yearbook?

*Our little Committee decided that come what may, we would be "at the fair" with our 31st edition for Christmas.
And here we are.*

Driven by our Chairman, Pat Henderson, and Gerry O'Neill I feel that what you see before you stands upside anything that has been done since first we brought out a GAA Yearbook in 1990.

For that I thank all our contributors, our Professional scripters, our photographers. You will know that the core value of the Yearbook annually is the promotion of our Association within the Kilkenny GAA Family. This year's edition is no different in that regard. I think that it has not wavered from the high standards set over the years. Nobody can say that they were ignored, and you will see why I say that with confidence as you trawl through the 208 pages.

Many thanks again to our Advertising support. I exhort you to support them whenever possible, and especially now, during this tough time.

Nollaig faoi shéan dibh uilig.

Barrie Henriques



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We live in hope.....

Inter County SH Report by Tommy Lanigan

Photos: SPORTSFILE & Willie Dempsey



Kilkenny Team v Clare February 2020

Back: James Meagher, Aidan Nolan, Bill Sheehan, Huw Lalor, Ger Aylward, Tommy Walsh, John Donnelly, Michael Carey, Conor Delaney, Cillian Buckley, Darren Mullins, Conor Browne, Michael Cody.
Front: Tadhg O'Dwyer, Luke Scanlon, Paddy Deegan, Ciaran Wallace, Darren Brennan, Richie Leahy, Walter Walsh, Eoin Cody, Alan Murphy, Richie Hogan, Billy Ryan.

At the time of writing Kilkenny hurlers have just annexed the Bob O'Keeffe Cup, their first since 2016.

They await the All Ireland quarter-final winners in two weeks. On the evidence of this year's championship so far, only Limerick, newly crowned Munster champions, have shown themselves capable of raising their game to the highest standards. Reaching an All Ireland final, and hopefully winning it, would be an exceptional achievement even by the remarkable standards of Brian Cody. But that possibility beckons strongly. The bounce has returned to the Kilkenny team's collective step and they have been forced to hew out wins in difficult circumstances. May that continue....

Leinster Senior Hurling Final – Croke Park, 14 November 2020

Kilkenny 2-20, Galway 0-24

Kilkenny have rarely gone into a provincial final as underdogs and had only ever lost three consecutive finals in 1919-21. If we had known their three highest scoring and most experienced forwards would not fire well on the day, we would wonder how they might win this game.

There are many ways to succeed and a classy substitute on a mission of redemption was Kilkenny's main route to this well merited and hard earned Leinster title. Richie Hogan's introduction in the 45th minute galvanised a hitherto poor Kilkenny forward division and the Danesfort man's guile and pace unhinged a tough Galway defence. His 58th minute goal was a delight to behold and was followed within a minute by a typical TJ Reid strike. Suddenly Galway's five point lead was wiped out and they had to struggle to regain an advantage. But Kilkenny's defence performed heroically in the closing ten minutes and provided a platform for a succession of points that left Galway quite bewildered. Substitutes Blanchfield and Brassil further energised the

attack as Kilkenny strode to a victory that seemed unlikely during the first 45 minutes.

Kilkenny had hung in grimly as Galway made much of the early pace and led all the way on the scoreboard. Kilkenny's defence lived dangerously at times but crucially, didn't concede a goal. For a game played in wet and blustery conditions it was a credit to both sides as they probed and switched play with pace and purpose to try and unhinge the opposing defences. In the end the guile of two veterans proved to be the difference between the teams.

This was the first game in 2020 in which Kilkenny avoided a poor twenty minutes and it was a tribute to a mighty team effort. They never allowed Galway to play flowing hurling and each substitution improved the team. Here is a side built in the image of its manager and he has rarely enjoyed a victory over Galway as much as this final.

Kilkenny: E Murphy, C Delaney, H Lawlor, T Walsh, P Walsh, C Buckley, C Browne (0-2), R Leahy, C Fogarty, J Donnelly (0-1), M Keoghan (0-2), TJ Reid (1-10, 9f), W Walsh (0-3), C Fennelly, E Cody (0-1). Subs: R Hogan (1-2) for W Walsh, L Blanchfield (0-1) for Fennelly, R Reid for Fogarty, N Brassil for E Cody, A Murphy (0-1) for Leahy.

Galway: E Murphy, S Loftus, Daithi Burke, S Cooney, G McInerney, J Cooney (0-1), J Coen (0-2), P Mannion, J Canning (0-14, 10f, 1s), C Mannion, C Cooney, B Concannon (0-1), N Burke, C Whelan (0-2). Subs: A Harte for Loftus, J Flynn (0-1) for N Burke, David Burke (0-2) for C Cooney, A Touhy for Coen, S Linnane for Cooney.

Ref: Fergal Hogan (Tipp).

24 October 2020 Leinster SHC semi-final -

Croke Park

Kilkenny 3-20, Dublin 2-22



Colin Fennelly raises the Bob O'Keeffe Cup
(Willie Dempsey)

How does one sum this unusual game? This was the first time a team almost turned around a sixteen point deficit in championship hurling since the early 1960s. It is difficult to credit how dominant Kilkenny were during a most one sided first half against a dreadful Dublin side. The Cats were able to score at will throughout the first half, three goals coming from Colin Fennelly, Billy Ryan and TJ Reid. The 3-13 to 0-7 interval lead could have been more. The third quarter was little different but Kilkenny's scoring rate reduced. Then came the change. Kilkenny collapsed as their forwards failed utterly to win ball and Dublin attacked in waves. It took two late points by Alan Murphy and a heroic one from Huw Lawlor to pull this one out of the fire.

The game was an exaggerated replica of the NHL performances, Kilkenny punishing weak opposition ruthlessly and then disappearing from games

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for substantial periods. There was much to ponder in an empty Croke Park as Kilkenny's prospects of defeating a physically imposing and tough Galway side looked dim.

Kilkenny; E Murphy, C Delaney (0-1), H Lawlor (0-1), C Wallace, P Walsh, P Deegan, R Reid, C Buckley, C Fogarty, J Donnelly (0-2), TJ Reid (1-9), W Walsh (0-3), B Ryan (1-1), C Fennelly (1-1), E Cody (0-1). Subs: R Hogan for B Ryan, M Keoghan for E Cody, A Murphy (0-1) for J Donnelly, C Browne for C Fogarty, R Leahy for R Reid.

Dublin; A Nolan, P Smyth, E O'Donnell, J Madden, C Burke, D Gray (0-2), C O'Callaghan, S Moran, R McBride, C Boland (0-2), C Crummey (1-1), D Sutcliffe (0-1), D Burke (0-12), D Keogh, L Rushe. Subs: E Dillon (0-4) for D Keogh, R Hayes (1-0) for L Rushe, J Malone for S Moran, M Schutte for C Boland, F Whately for R McBride.

Ref; J Murphy.

MIXED FORTUNES IN NHL

The fixture planners had decided to reshape the best NHL format in hurling history and proceeded to mix the top twelve teams in two groups. The result meant a host of one-sided games and hidings for weaker counties, paying little regard to the paying public and less to teams who were plainly not up to the standard of the top tier. Westmeath and Carlow in particular took terrible hidings and the final placings ended by being decided on scoring average, a false concept given the vastly wider score-lines. In the end Limerick and Clare played a double first round championship and NHL final which Limerick won comprehensively.

The Walsh Cup struggled on but Wexford ended Kilkenny's participation in the semi-final winning by 2-18 to 1-19 in John Locke Park.

Colin Fennelly was nominated Kilkenny Captain for 2020 but neither himself nor TJ Reid appeared for the League, deservedly rested after their Shamrocks exploits.

26 January 2020

Allianz HL Division 1 Group B round 1 - Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 3-21, Dublin 0-18.

Kilkenny got off to a flying start in the Allianz NHL with a relatively easy victory over an out of sorts Dublin side. A Ger Aylward goal in the eleventh minute set them on their way. The dismissal of Richie Leahy before half time had little influence on the game as Kilkenny continued to control most of the exchanges. They led by 2-10 to 0-10 at the interval and held this advantage throughout aided by Dublin's persistence of packing their defence. Billy Ryan's second goal in the 60th minute killed off a poor contest.

Kilkenny; E Murphy, C Wallace, H Lawlor, C Delaney, M Cody, P Deegan (0-2), M Carey (0-1), C Fogarty (0-2), A Murphy (0-8), J Donnelly (0-1), W Walsh (0-2), R Leahy, B Ryan (2-0), G Aylward (1-0), N Brassil (0-2).

Subs: M Keoghan (0-1) for G Aylward, J Maher for A Murphy, T Walsh for M Cody, B Sheehan (0-1) for B Ryan, L Scanlon (0-1) for N Brassil.

Dublin; A Nolan, P Smyth, E O'Donnell, J Madden, C Crummey (0-1), D Gray, C O'Callaghan, F Whately, R McBride (0-1), T Connolly (0-1), D Sutcliffe (0-1), R Hayes (0-2), C Boland, O O'Rourke (0-6), E Dillon (0-2). Subs: S Moran (0-4) for F Whately, J Malone for J Madden, M Schutte for C Boland, L McMullan for T Connolly, J Hetherton for R McBride.

Ref; P O'Dwyer.

2 February 2020

Allianz HL Division 1 Group B round 2 - Netwatch Cullen Park

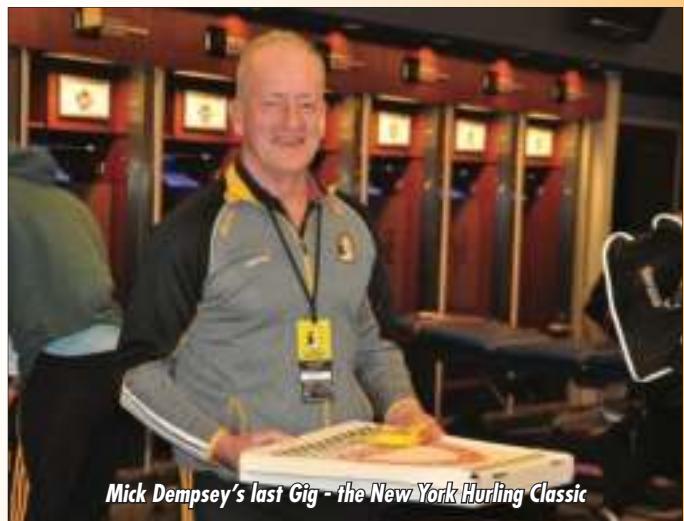
Kilkenny 3-21, Carlow 0-9.

This would be a traumatic gig for Carlow at any time but when defender Michael Malone was sent off in the eighth minute the game was well and truly beyond Carlow's feeble efforts. In a truly pedestrian game, Kilkenny reached half time with a 1-12 to 0-5 lead which could have been substantially more. Kilkenny finished with fourteen men because they had used all their subs by the 60th minute when Niall Brassil pulled up with an injury. It was a totally forgettable encounter for all sides and a tribute to the folly of yet another attempt to undermine the quality of the NHL.

Kilkenny; E Murphy (0-1), C Wallace, H Lawlor, C Delaney, M Cody, P Deegan, M Carey, M Keoghan, A Murphy (0-8), B Ryan, W Walsh (0-2), J Maher (1-2), B Sheehan (0-1), R Hogan (1-3), G Aylward (1-1). Subs: N Brassil (0-2) for M Keoghan, C Fogarty for M Carey, A Nolan (0-1) for G Aylward, T Kenny for M Cody, T O'Dwyer for B Ryan.

Carlow; D Jordan, R Smithers, P Doyle, M Doyle, M Malone, D English, A Corcoran, S Whelan, R Coady, J M Nolan, M Kavanagh (0-6), K McDonald, J Nolan, P Coady, C Nolan (0-1). Subs: D Byrne for A Corcoran, A Amond for S Whelan, T Joyce (0-1) for P Coady, E Byrne (0-1) for J Nolan, C Tracey for C Nolan.

Ref; C McAllister.



Mick Dempsey's last Gig - the New York Hurling Classic



*Richie Hogan shoots to score his side's first goal during the Leinster Final.
Harry Murphy/Sportsfile*



*TJ Reid of Kilkenny scores his side's second goal past Éanna Murphy of Galway during the Leinster Final.
Harry Murphy/Sportsfile*

16 February 2020

**Allianz HL Division 1 Group B round 3 -
Chadwicks Wexford Park**

Wexford 1-16, Kilkenny 1-14.

Wexford extended their unbeaten run against Kilkenny to six games after this excellent NHL game. It was played in deplorable conditions of driving rain and wind. Despite that both teams served up lots of entertainment. Wexford got an early advantage with a Conor McDonald goal enabled them to build a 1-10 to 0-6 interval lead, assisted by the howling wind.

The introduction of Lee Chin bolstered Wexford efforts but Kilkenny had drawn level by the 51st minute. By then Wexford had got their running game going well and late points saw them earn a deserved victory. It was notable that Kilkenny played in waves of good and bad throughout the game, a sign of things to come later in the year.

Wexford; M Fanning, Joe O'Connor, L Ryan, S Donohoe, S Murphy, P Foley (0-1), D Reck (0-1), L Og McGovern, A Rochford, Jack O'Connor (0-3), A Nolan (0-2), K Foley, C Dunbar, C McDonald (1-1), P Morris (0-7). Subs: R O'Connor for C Dunbar, L Chin for L Og McGovern, D O'Keeffe (0-1) for A Nolan, M O'Hanlon for D Reck, M Dwyer for Jack O'Connor.

Kilkenny; D Brennan (0-1), C Browne, H Lawlor, C Wallace, C Delaney, P Deegan (0-1), C Buckley, J Maher (0-1), M Carey, J Donnelly (0-2), A Murphy (0-4), M Keoghan (0-1), B Ryan (1-0), R Hogan (0-3), W Walsh (0-1). Subs: D Mullen for M Carey, B Sheehan for R Hogan, M Cody for J Maher.

Ref; F Horgan.

23 February 2020

**Allianz HL Division 1 Group B round 4 - UPMC
Nowlan Park**

Kilkenny 1-19, Clare 3-13.

It needed a 71st minute free from Alan Murphy to give Kilkenny a share of the spoils in this outstanding Allianz NHL game in UPMC Nowlan Park. Kilkenny dominated the first twenty minutes and led 0-8 to 1-3 when Adrian Mullen's 2020 hurling season ended abruptly with an accidental injury. Again Kilkenny fell away and Clare dominated the second quarter. A Ryan Taylor goal gave them a 2-7 to 0-10 interval lead.

The second half was a terrific contest with points exchanged all the way to the final whistle. A 69th minute Shane O'Donnell goal edged Clare ahead until Murphy came to the rescue. A much improved Kilkenny performance boded well for the rest of the season.

Kilkenny; D Brennan, C Browne, H Lawlor, C Wallace, C Delaney, P Deegan, D Mullen (0-1), C Buckley, A Murphy (0-7), A Mullen (0-2), J Donnelly (0-2), R Leahy (0-1), B Ryan (0-1), R Hogan (0-1), W Walsh (0-2). Subs: G Aylward (1-1) for A Mullen, T Walsh for C Browne, B Sheehan for R Hogan, E Cody (0-1) for B Ryan.

Clare; D Tuohy, L Corry, P O'Connor, J Browne, S O'Halloran, C Cleary, A McCarthy, D McInerney, T Kelly (0-7), D Reidy (0-1), J Conlon (0-1), D McMahon, R Taylor (1-0), S O'Donnell (2-1), C Guilfoyle (0-1). Subs: A Shanahan for J Conlon, D Ryan (0-1) for C Guilfoyle, A Cunningham (0-1) for D Reidy, P Collins for R Taylor, S Morey for D McMahon.

Ref; L Gordon..

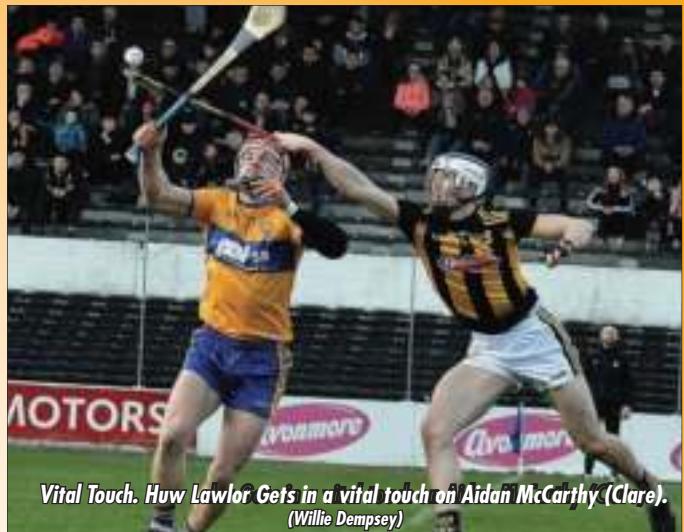
1 March 2020

**Allianz HL Division 1 Group B round 5 - UPMC
Nowlan Park**

Kilkenny 3-22, Laois 1-19

This was a must-win game for Kilkenny if they were to progress in the League and they did so with minimum fuss. Conditions were blustery and wet and Laois seemed overawed from the beginning. Eoin Cody captained Kilkenny on the day and they ran up a 2-15 to 1-8 lead by the interval with seven players contributing to the total. Cody's 44th minute goal ended what had been looking like a promising Laois fightback and the game petered out to its inevitable conclusion. We were not to know then this was the last game until October and the League semi-finals would be cancelled.

Kilkenny; D Brennan (0-1), T Walsh, H Lawlor, C Wallace, C Delaney, P Walsh, D Mullen, R Leahy (0-1), J Maher (0-2), M Keoghan (0-2), E Cody (1-8), A Murphy (1-5), B Ryan (1-1), W Walsh, G Aylward (0-1). Subs: L Scanlon for A Murphy, B Sheehan for W Walsh, M Carey for J Maher, J Bergin (0-1) for M Keoghan, S Walsh for G Aylward.



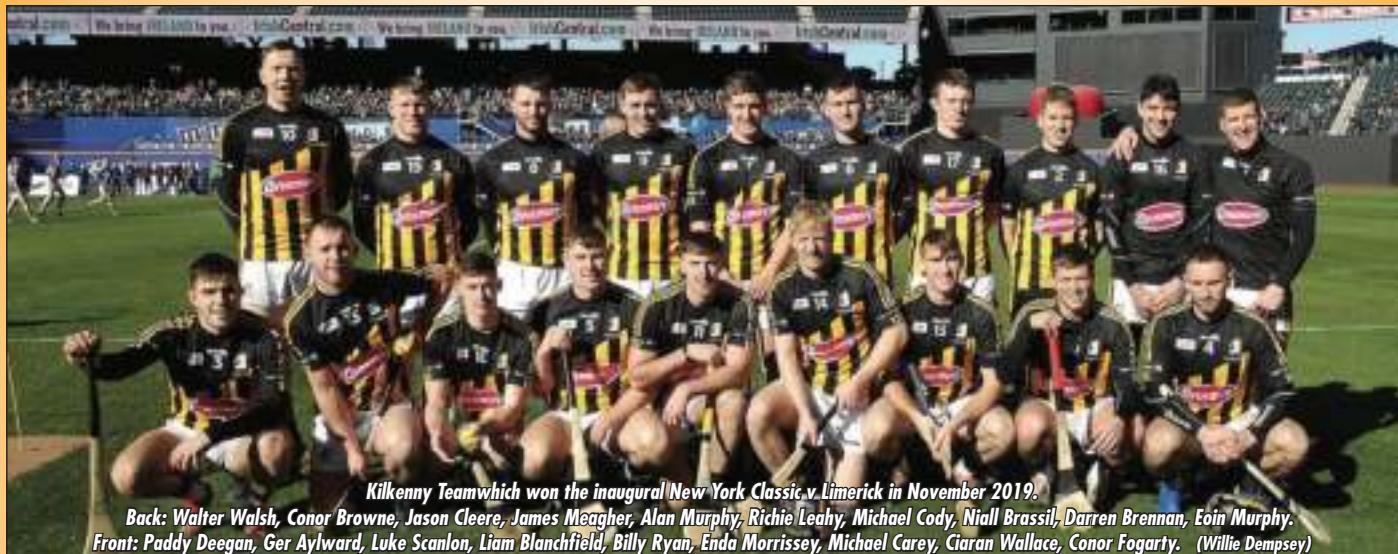
Laois; E Rowland (1-0), L Senior, M Whelan, D Hartnett, R Broderick, P Delaney, C McEvoy, F C Fennell, C Stapleton, A Dunphy (0-1), J Ryan (0-1), P Purcell (0-2), R King (0-9), W Dunphy (0-3), E Gaughan (0-2). Subs: J Kelly for L Senior, J Lennon (0-1) for C Stapleton, C Taylor for J Ryan, J Keyes for C McEvoy, C Phelan for F C Fennell.

Ref; J Keenan.

On St. Patrick's weekend, the GAA suspended all activities due to the CoVid pandemic. After much planning they rearranged fixtures with the aim of completing adult inter county championships by 13 December 2020. All games were to be played behind closed doors. Collective intercounty training began again under strict conditions on 14 September after the vast majority of club matches were completed. The plan worked quite well and the Liam McCarthy and Sam Maguire Cups went ahead. They reverted to the old back door system in hurling and a straight knockout in football.



Martin Keoghan driving out of defence from James Keyes (Laois) watched by Billy Ryan.
(Willie Dempsey)



Kilkenny Team which won the inaugural New York Classic v Limerick in November 2019.

*Back: Walter Walsh, Conor Browne, Jason Cleere, James Meagher, Alan Murphy, Richie Leahy, Michael Cody, Niall Brassil, Darren Brennan, Eoin Murphy.
Front: Paddy Deegan, Ger Aylward, Luke Scanlon, Liam Blanchfield, Billy Ryan, Enda Morrissey, Michael Carey, Ciaran Wallace, Conor Fogarty. (Willie Dempsey)*

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THAT WAS THE YEAR

that Nearly Wasn't.....

By Enda McEvoy (Irish Examiner)

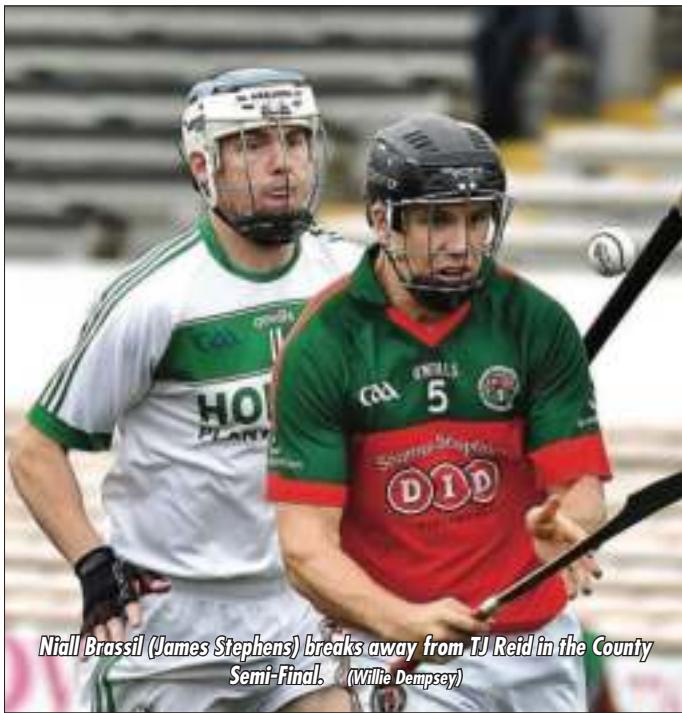
Shorter review of the season than usual. Far shorter, for obvious reasons. Our parents and/or grandparents had the Emergency. We had the pandemic. One trusts readers and their families have made it through 2020 unscathed and that a better, safer world awaits in 2021.

In the midst of such worry and uncertainty and straitened circumstances – and, for many people, downright misery – sport never seemed less important. At the same time, sport is one of the most engaging diversions imaginable and it is not difficult to imagine the pleasure provided by the resumption of sport in its varying codes and phases. Of all the sectors of society affected by Ireland's two lockdowns I hope I may be forgiven for citing the case of elderly men living in the countryside whose limited social outings consisted of Mass at the weekend, a match on a Sunday - whether in the flesh or on TV – and, last but by no means least, the postmortem in the village pub afterwards. Such are the simple pleasures of life for so many and for months they were denied them.

In the event the effort to restore a modicum of normality ran far more smoothly than many feared. The club championships went ahead across the country when they mightn't have and, bar some inexcusable instances where social distancing conventions were flung to the wind during county final celebrations, all turned out well. The provincial and All Ireland championships went ahead when *they* mightn't have and furnished the nation with much to discuss as the days shortened and the evenings grew longer.

If you find it hard to remember what happened on the field prior to the pandemic, fear not. You're not alone. Kilkenny played a few league matches during early springtime. It is of little consequence now how those matches turned out.

Doings of rather greater consequence occurred on the club scene prior to the pandemic, notably an All Ireland hat-trick for Noreside via the medium of Ballyhale Shamrocks, Tullaroan – a victory that crowned Tommy Walsh's illustrious career – and Conahy Shamrocks. Borrisoleigh put it up to the holders in the senior final but Ballyhale, who'd been around these houses plenty of times before, had the nous to get the job done. They usually do. Their supporters could be very grateful indeed for the change of date that saw the All Ireland final switched from March 17th to February.



Niall Brassil (James Stephens) breaks away from TJ Reid in the County Semi-Final. (Willie Dempsey)

Ballyhale continue to make the extraordinary look commonplace, even inevitable. It is among their superpowers. Regardless of one's loyalty, watching late-era TJ Reid and Colin Fennelly in their pomp on national TV provided one of the lasting memories of August and September. Who, incidentally, would you fancy to win a hypothetical contest between Ballyhale and a Kilkenny minus the Ballyhale contingent?

Has Nowlan Park ever hosted a better club fixture than the semi-final clash of the holders and James Stephens on September 12th, when the challengers did everything to the reigning county, provincial and national champions bar dethrone them? Even if O'Loughlins were disappointing when losing to Dicksboro in the other semi, the penultimate stage of the competition featured four teams with a healthy sprinkling of vibrant youth. It is not overdoing it to hold that three of the four have their best years



31 October 2020; The Kilkenny team make their way back onto the pitch for the second half of the Leinster GAA Hurling Senior Championship Semi-Final match between Dublin and Kilkenny at Croke Park in Dublin.
Photo by Daire Brennan/Sportsfile





Tom Kenny (Dicksboro) and Brian Cody (Shamrocks) in the County Final.

ahead of them, that all four are likely to be in the shakeup annually for some time to come and that Ballyhale aren't going anywhere soon. On the flipside of the coin, a cause for concern surrounds the prospect of a bolter emerging from the pack to put it up to Ballyhale and the other three. How soon, or rather how long, before a team not from the city or Ballyhale are crowned Kilkenny champions?

Slightly off Broadway, nothing that happened locally in 2020 was as noteworthy as Lisdowney's triumph in the intermediate championship. At least with Covid-19 we'd been hearing for years about the possibility of a pandemic of some sort. Lisdowney, on the other hand, nobody saw coming. What an achievement for them.

The abandonment of the under-20 championship was a setback for the county, not only in and of itself but also in terms of the big picture and its medium-term ramifications. A successful under-20 team – Kilkenny haven't been All Ireland champions in the grade since 2008, evidence that something has gone badly wrong somewhere along the line – will be a prerequisite for Noreside's next successful senior team. There will

not be one without the other, in fact; think of the manner in which the all-conquering minor combination of 1988 begot the under-21 champions of 1990 who in turn played a significant part in bringing about the MacCarthy Cup double of 1992-93. Now the process has been delayed by at least a year.

This article was filed the night after the Leinster final. Whereas you'll know what's happened in the meantime, I do not possess a crystal ball. All that can be said is that having nearly blown it against Dublin in the semi-final Brian Cody's charges stepped up in a big way a fortnight later at Croke Park, producing infinitely more patient and more measured hurling to see off Galway. Apt that in a year where we learned to appreciate some of the simple things in life again, Kilkenny should end up visibly being grateful to be Leinster champions once more. Of the myriad provincial titles they've collected in the Cody era this was by some distance the most satisfying.

Roll on 2021.



KILKENNY - ALL IRELAND U21 CHAMPIONS 1990

*Back: John Conlon, Tom Murphy, Brian McGovern, Jimmy Lawlor, Paul Treacy, Patsy Brophy, Donal Carroll, Adrian Ronan.
Front: Johnny Holohan, Jamesie Brennan (Capt), Charlie Carter, Jimmy Conroy, Tommy Shefflin, DJ Carey, Pat O'Neill.*

SHAMROCKS BLOOM BEST AGAIN!

All Ireland SH Club Report by Michael O'Leary

Photos: Willie Dempsey



Ballyhale Shamrocks - All Ireland SH Club Champions 2020

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

The senior club All-Ireland football and hurling finals may have been moved from their traditional St. Patricks Day date to two months earlier - Sunday 19th January - but the end result was the same as Ballyhale Shamrocks and Corofin defended their respective titles.

The Galway club made history by becoming the first hurling or football Club to win three senior All-Irelands in succession when they achieved that feat by defeating Kilcoo of Down after extra-time.

Following last years' comprehensive All-Ireland triumph with victory over St. Thomas's of Galway, the Shamrocks contingent were back to business fairly quickly as the league stages of the championship in Kilkenny commenced within three weeks of their All-Ireland victory.

Not surprisingly, Ballyhale Shamrocks lost their opening clash to Clara as they tried to refocus and re-adjust after their exertions.

Subsequent defeats to James Stephens and Mullinavat left the All-Ireland Champions in a relegation battle, but they dispelled any such notions with a smooth and landslide victory over St. Patricks Ballyragget. Unfortunately tragedy was around the corner.

The tragic death in a road accident of squad member Eugene Aylward cast a massive shadow over the wider GAA community, and it was the second time that tragedy struck the parish community in eighteen months following the passing of fellow squad player Eoin Doyle, also in a road accident in April 2018.

Their quarter-final clash against Clara was played just days after Eugene Aylward's funeral, and in extremely emotionally difficult circumstances, was always going to be a tough ask.

Clara led for the majority of this contest, but TJ Reid inspired the Shamrocks revival as they won 1-19 to 0-17 and set-up a semi-final clash against O'Loughlin Gaels.

A brilliant individual goal from Eoin Cody sent them on their way to a 2-20 to 1-14.

A similar scoreline transpired in the final as well as Shamrocks won 2-21 to 1-15, with Eoin Cody on target once again as he finished off a sweeping team movement involving Colin Fennelly and TJ Reid to ensure victory and win the County Championship for the seventeenth time.

Cody was on fire seven days later as he completed a first-half hat-trick to defeat the Westmeath Champions Clonkill 3-19 to 2-14 in Cusack Park,

Mullingar.

The Clonkill men squandered numerous scoring chances as they more than matched their opponents, but Ballyhale Shamrocks blistering start always had them in control on the scoreboard as the outstanding Darren Mullen gave an exhibition at corner-back.

The Leinster semi-final saw Ballyhale Shamrocks cruise into a Leinster final against St. Mullins, as TJ Reid got the perfect birthday present and produced an individual tally of 2-14 to give them a 5-19 to 1-16 victory over a very inept St. Martins outfit.

St. Mullins were causing waves having defeated 2017 and 2018 All-Ireland Club Champions Cuala and Laois outfit Rathdowney-Errill to reach the provincial decider by a solitary point on both occasions, and they weren't going to fear the might of Ballyhale Shamrocks.

The Shamrocks contingent were minus the services of Richie Reid who was on overseas duty in Lebanon, but they managed to compensate for his loss when a Colin Fennelly goal early in the second half provided the platform for victory.

Fennelly's goal came just moments after the Saints had a goal chance at the

opposite end as they won out 1-21 to 0-15 to set-up an All-Ireland semi-final meeting with Slaughtneil of Derry on the first weekend in January in Newry.

The All-Ireland semi-final clash with their Northern opponents was an epic battle in which they were only insured of victory with a Colin Fennelly goal deep into stoppage time.

The Ulster Champions were 10/1 outsiders, but they kept themselves in contention throughout, and the evidence of disappointment at the end of a pulsating battle proves the hopes and ambitions which they had of causing an upset.

Slaughtneil made an excellent start, and they built up a 1-2 to 0-1 lead with a brilliantly taken goal from Jerome McGuigan following a superbly struck sideline cut by Se McGuigan.

A quality high scoring first-half saw an amazing twenty three scores registered throughout the opening half.



Colin Fennelly Battles on despite losing helmet.

Ballyhale Shamrocks replied after Slaughtneil's great start, and a Colin Fennelly goal had given them a 1-11 to 1-10 lead at the interval.

The teams were still level after 40 minutes, before the Shamrocks men managed to gain some sort of supremacy to build up a five point lead entering the closing ten minutes.

With injury-time beckoning, Ballyhale Shamrocks were still in control as they led by 1-23 to 1-19.

However, Slaughtneil refused a brilliant individual goal from Brendan Rogers narrowed the deficit to just the minimum to leave the Shamrocks men on tenterhooks.

Shamrocks though showed their mettle and why they are club kingpins, as Colin Fennelly's second goal killed off the stubborn resistance of the Slaughtneil challenge as they ran out 2-24 to 2-19 winners to set up an All-Ireland showdown with Borris-Ileigh.

The Tipp and Munster champions route to Croke Park was challenging both on and off the field, as their off the field difficulties were emotionally draining and demanding, marred as they were by tragedy.

The close knit North Tipp village had so suffered so many tragedies over the previous two years, which included the tragic passing of Amanda Stapleton sister of twice All-Ireland senior medal winner Paddy Stapleton and Shane Stapleton twice All-Ireland Senior Club medal winner with Cuala, and it was just incredible how they just managed to battle bravely in the most difficult of circumstances when hurling was obviously not to the forefront of their minds.

They managed to find solace following the tragic events within the community as they landed a first Tipperary senior county title since 1986 with victory over Kiladangan, and then they added the Munster Championship to their collection with a solitary point victory over Ballygunner.

Those victories were extremely emotional as the families and loved ones of the bereaved within the community were obviously remembered among the triumphs which provided a measure of happiness after the most turbulent and troubled of times.

An All-Ireland semi-final clash against last years' All-Ireland finalists St. Thomas's of Galway was one to look forward to in the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick, and inspired by an exceptional tour de force display from Brendan Maher 0-10 (6f 2'65s), they qualified for an All-Ireland Final contest against Shamrocks.

There was an interesting subplot to the All-Ireland final in that Ballyhale Shamrocks were captained once again this year by Michael Fennelly who is also the Offaly senior manager, while one of his assistants with the Midlanders Johnny Kelly was in charge of the Borris-Ileigh outfit.

Johnny, a Galway and Portumna native was a winning selector and manager in his club's All-Ireland Triumph's between 2006 and 2009, and had done a magnificent job in master-minding the success of the North Tipp club in a whirlwind if obviously trying and testing year.

The final itself saw Ballyhale Shamrocks have the bit between their teeth as they were always that step ahead without having to find another gear. In a closely matched opening quarter, the teams were level at 0-5 each, before the Shamrocks charge started to gather pace as they effortlessly started to surge clear.

They outscored Borris-Ileigh 0-5 to 0-1 during the second quarter as they led 0-10 to 0-6 at the interval with TJ Reid playing a lead role once again with 0-6, while Patrick Mullen who had returned from a lengthy absence was on fire during the opening-half with 0-3 from play.

The Kilkenny men maintained that advantage throughout the second as they were never seriously threatened without having to excel.

Heading towards the closing five minutes, Ballyhale Shamrocks were cruising along to victory as they led 0-16 to 0-10, but credit to Borris-Ileigh who kept plugging away.

They pointed four times in quick succession as suddenly Henry Shefflin's troops were rather anxiously looking over their shoulders.

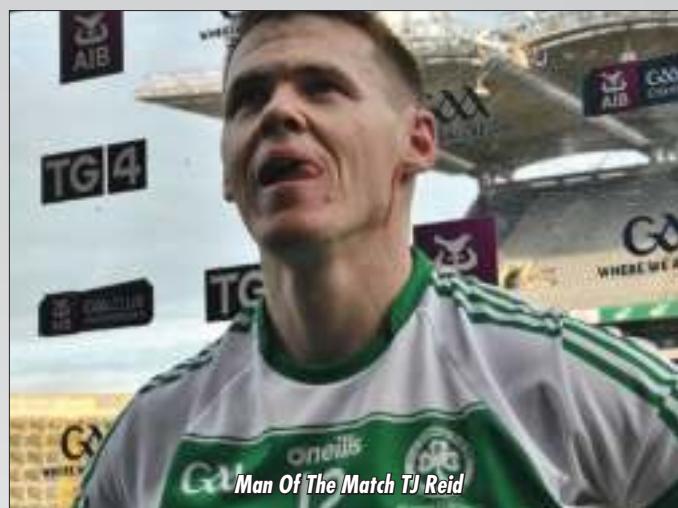
However, they managed to steady the ship with TJ Reid pointing, from play and then converting a free having been fouled himself to extend the lead to 0-18 to 0-14.

Borris-Ileigh as they had shown all year showed a never say attitude, and they kept going to the bitter end, with the brilliance of Jerry Kelly 0-7 (6f) and the inspirational leadership of Brendan Maher leading the way. Kevin Maher pointed to narrow the deficit to three points, and they attempted to conjure up one final opportunity to try and snatch a levelling goal.

However, Brendan Maher's effort was well blocked by the Ballyhale Shamrocks defence who held out as they retained the Tommy Moore Cup for the first time in their history, and winning the competition for the eighth time in total.

It was a fitting end to an emotionally driven two years as they honoured Eugene Aylward and Eoin Doyle in the best way possible.

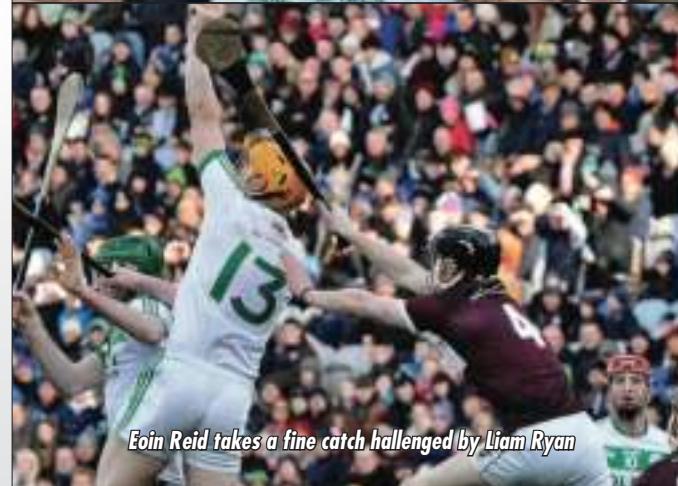
For TJ Reid, his brother Eoin, Michael Fennelly and Mark Aylward(introduced as a sub), as well as winning their fifth club All-Ireland, they created history by becoming the first hurlers to win Club



Man Of The Match TJ Reid



Captain Mick Fennelly holds aloft the club Tommy Moore trophy



Eoin Reid takes a fine catch challenged by Liam Ryan



Looking for help Eoin Cody looks around for help watched by Seamus Burke

senior All-Ireland finals on the field of play in three different decades (2007, 2010-2015-2019, and 2020).

Former Armagh All-Ireland senior medal winner great Oisin McConville who won 6 All-Ireland senior club championships with Crossmaglen, also achieved a similar feat of winning Club All-Irelands in three different decades (1997, 1999, 2000, 2007, 2011, 2012).

Just days after their All-Ireland triumph, Henry Shefflin stepped down as manager after two hugely successful years that culminated in two All-Ireland titles.

ALL-IRELAND CLUB FINAL:

Ballyhale Shamrocks: TJ Reid 0-8 (0-5f), Patrick Mullen 0-3, Evan Shefflin, Eoin Reid, Adrian Mullen 0-2 each, Colin Fennelly 0-1.

Borris-Ileigh: Jerry Kelly 0-7 (0-1 sideline), Brendan Maher 0-6 (0-4f), Tommy Ryan, Kevin Maher 0-1 each.

Ballyhale Shamrocks: Dean Mason, Darragh Corcoran, Joey Holden, Darren Mullen, Evan Shefflin, Michael Fennelly (C), Brian Butler, Ronan Corcoran, Patrick Mullen, Adrian Mullen, Brian Cody, TJ Reid, Eoin Reid, Colin Fennelly, Eoin Cody. Subs: Joseph Cuddihy for Corcoran (46), Mark Aylward for Eoin Reid (53), Conor Walsh for Patrick Mullen (61).

Borris-Ileigh: James McCormack, Séamus Burke, Paddy Stapleton, Liam Ryan, Dan McCormack, Seán McCormack, Brendan Maher, Ray McCormack, Tommy Ryan, Kevin Maher, Conor Kenny, Jerry Kelly, James Devaney, Kieran Maher, Niall Kenny, Subs: Jack Hogan for Kieran Maher (46), Ciarán Cowan for Tommy Ryan (52), Matthew Stapleton for Niall Kenny (53).

Referee: Colm Lyons (Cork)



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WALSH CLAN INSPIRE FAMOUS TULLAROAN TRIUMPH

All Ireland IH Club Report by Michael O'Leary

Photos: Willie Dempsey



Tullaroan - All Ireland Club IH Champions 2020

Back: Conor Buggy (wearing hat), Dylan Simpson, Paul Buggy, Tommy Walsh, Mark Walsh, Diarmuid Doheny, Richie Maher, John Maher, Joe Norton, Liam Teehan, Jack Keoghan, Stephen Maher, Ger Luby, Tommy Walsh, Ken Coogan, Shane Cuddihy, Gavin Joyce, Adam Tallis, Joey Walsh, Sean Buggy

Front: Joe Coughlan, Sean Cuddihy, Jack Cleere, Martin Walsh, Stephen Dowling, Shane Walsh (half standing), Martin Keoghan, Peter Walsh, John Walton, Bill Gaffney, Jim Moore, Tom Fitzgerald, Padraig Walsh, Bill Cuddihy, Tommy Walton, Richard Cash, Tomas Dunne.

The sadness of the loss of Christmas passing would have been to the forefront of people's mind's in January, but the week ending 19th January would have seen any sort of Blue Christmas evaporate in Tullaroan parish, as they celebrated All-Ireland triumph in the most dramatic circumstances.

In one of the great All-Ireland Club Finals, it was a superb contest that produced an eight goal thriller as the lead changed hands on several occasions throughout.

Fr. O'Neill's built up a 1-4 to 0-1 lead after 20 minutes as Cork County senior player Declan Dalton was leading the way having scored 1-2.

Goals from Martin Keoghan and Peter Walsh in first half stoppage time left Tullaroan 2-05 to 1-06 clear to set up an intriguing second half. What a second half it turned out to be!

Fr. O'Neill's scored four goals during the second half, yet amazingly ended up losing as Tullaroan added 1-14 to their total tally in a memorable classic.

The Cork men ran riot during the third quarter as they blasted three goals to leave a shell-shocked Tullaroan reeling by 4-8 to 2-9.

The North Kilkenny men's strength of character was required in abundance in an attempt to retrieve the situation, and boy did they stand up and be counted during that closing quarter.

They reeled off 1-7 without reply as they took complete control to go five points in front, having overturned a similar deficit prior to that.

However, the drama was far from finished yet at 3-16 to 4-8.

Jason Hankard struck a fifth goal for Fr O'Neill's to narrow the gap, and they had drawn level as this gripping contest had entered injury-time.

Extra-time appeared a certainty, but there was to be one final act.

John Walton found captain fantastic Shane Walsh in space and he duly obliged by striking the winning point. The match winning hero immediately became the 'Toast of Tullaroan'.

Afterwards, Shane gave a most rousing, lengthy and inspirational speeches as they buried the heartaches of fifteen months previously.

What happened previously was a far cry from their All-Ireland triumph as they lost the Intermediate county final to their near neighbours Graigue-Ballyallan in the most unimaginable way possible.

When a case of déjà vu transpired in last year's County league final as Johnjo Farrell snatched a winning goal for Thomastown in the eighth minute of injury-time, it was perhaps beginning to increasingly look likely they never make the breakthrough.

Having strolled to an easy 3-17 to 1-5 victory over their Northern neighbours Fenians in the Championship quarter-final, Tullaroan set-up a semi-final clash against Young Irelands.

A closely fought thrilling contest saw Tullaroan mainly have the initiative, and a goal from Peter Walsh put them on their way to the final against Thomastown.

A brace of first-half goals from Peter Walsh put them 2-8 to 0-10 clear at the interval.

However, Thomastown with the wind advantage were slowly clawing their way

back into it, and when they narrowed the gap to just a solitary point inside the final quarter 2-13 to 0-18, Tullaroan understandably must of felt the worst.

It was from that moment onwards where their mettle was tested most severely that they stood up when the need was at its greatest.

A Tommy Walsh goal brought much needed relief as they steadied the ship to regain control, and with his namesake cousin (Tommy Walsh - current Kilkenny senior) dominating proceedings from full-back, the hurt and heartbreak was firmly condemned as they celebrated a 3-18 to 0-21 victory.

Amidst all the celebrations and euphoria, Tullaroan had to try and refocus as they got their Leinster Championship campaign underway against the Laois Champions Rosenallis.

Two first-half goals from Tommy Walsh Snr sent them on their way to a 3-18 to 1-12 win to set up a Leinster semi-final clash against Naas.



A proud Micky Walsh celebrates with his four sons: Tommy, Padraig, Martin and Shane.

Two goals from Martin Keoghan sent them on their way to a Leinster final showdown against Seir Kieran of Offaly as they ran out 3-17 to 1-13 victors against a gallant battling Naas outfit.

Shane Walsh gave a 5-star captain's performance as he scored 2-13 (0-11 frees) in inspiring them to a 2-25 to 2-13 victory as attentions turned to an attempt at winning the All-Ireland.

Shane's brother Padraig spoke after the Leinster Final of looking forward to training in the run-up to Christmas and over the holiday season and it was all systems go as they were eagerly anticipating their All-Ireland semi-final clash against Naomh Eanna in Parnell Park.

A further two goals from Tommy Walsh, and one from Martin Keoghan confirmed their overall far and away superior dominance as they strolled to a 3-20 to 0-14 win to set up a Croker showdown with Fr. O'Neills.

The All-Ireland Final saw Tullaroan hit the highest plane possible as they buried past heartaches forever.

It was only fitting that Captain Fantastic Shane Walsh struck over the winning point on Tullaroan's greatest day as he led superbly, even when Tullaroan were struggling.

His wonderful speech was legendary, as he ensured everyone who had an influence on his career was mentioned.

The Walsh clan were most central to Tullaroan's greatest day with the four brothers Shane, Tommy, Padraig and Martin all featuring prominently, while their Dad Michael is Chairman.

The brothers cousins Tommy, Peter and Mark involved added to the Walsh contingent supplying half the starting fifteen wearing the Sash.

It was also a special day in particular for the Keoghan family, with brothers Martin and Jack playing a leading role, while their Dad Liam was part of the backroom team as selector under the stewardship of manager Jimmy Coogan.

Liam had now won All-Ireland's as a player and a selector having been wing-back on the Kilkenny team that won the Senior All-Ireland in 1993. It was the presence of families that made the occasion extra special for a most close knit community, as Saturday 18th January 2020 was a day that will forever be remembered as the greatest in Tullaroan history.

They not only buried the Christmas Blues, but also and most importantly banished previous disappointments, miseries and heartbreaks to deservedly celebrate one of their greatest ever triumphs.

TULLAROAN TEAM ALL-IRELAND FINAL: Paul Buggy, Diarmuid Doheny, Tommy Walsh (Village), Stephen Maher, Jack Keoghan, Padraig Walsh (0-01), Martin Walsh, Tomas Dunne, Mark Walsh, Bill Gaffney (0-01), Martin Keoghan (2-01), John Walton (0-02), Shane Walsh (0-10, 0-04f, 0-01 65), Tommy Walsh (Mountgale) (0-02), Peter Walsh (1-02).

Subs: Ken Coogan for Dunne (40), Adam Tallis for Mark Walsh (44).

FR O'NEILL'S: Colin Sloane; Podge Butler, Ger Millerick, Mike Millerick; Thomas Millerick (0-01), Dan Harrington, John Barry; Joe Millerick, Kevin O'Sullivan (0-02); Rob Cullinane (0-01), Paudie McMahon (0-02), Eoin Conway (1-01); Liam O'Driscoll, Declan Dalton (2-04, 0-02f, 0-01 65), Cillian Broderick (1-00).

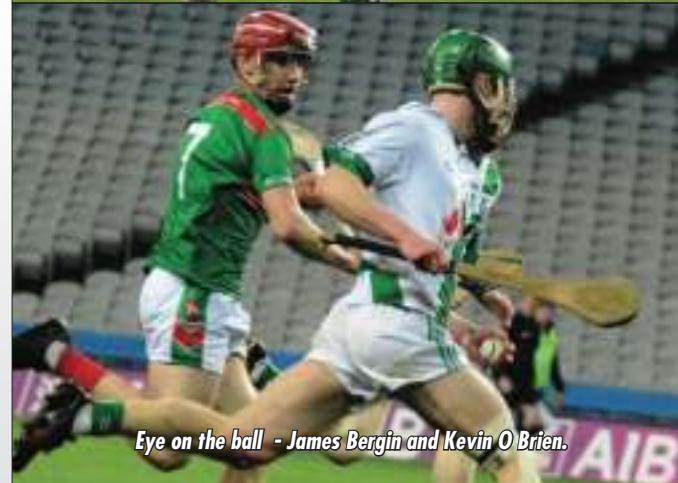
Subs: Jason Hankard (1-00) for Conway (50), Sean O'Connor (0-01) for Barry (54), Eoin Motherway for Broderick (57).



Diarmuid Doheny holds off Deccie Dalton



Stephen Maher clearing, tackled by Liam O'Driscoll



Eye on the ball - James Bergin and Kevin O'Brien.



Padraig Walsh - Man of the Match.



Shane Walsh and Joe Norton lift the Trophy.



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CONAHY CRUISE TO ALL-IRELAND GLORY

All Ireland JH Club Report by Michael O'Leary

Photos: Willie Dempsey



Conahy Shamrocks - All Ireland Club JH Champions 2020

Back: Donal Cass, Frank Gunner, Justin Brophy, Brian Healy, Tom Rice, James Bergin, Karl Downey, Eoin Carroll, Kieran Delaney, Geoffrey O'Shea, Andy O'Keeffe, John Mullan, Padraig Gunner, Davy Healy, Cian Harding, Ciaran Rice, Alan Healy, Kieran Mooney.
Front: Tom Nolan, Tom Phelan, Darren Cuddihy, Darragh Dooley, Eoin Cahill, Simon Callinan, Michael Bergin, Donal Brennan, Eddie Delaney, Liam Cass, Sean Brennan, Bill Murphy, Mark Gunner, Padraic Delaney.

There was huge disappointment after their county final defeat by O'Loughlin Gaels. There were strong expectations after Conahy Shamrocks had recorded comprehensive victories over Kilmacow, Mooncoin, and Sliieverue to reach the decider.

However, O'Loughlin's prevailed 1-17 to 1-15 in a thriller, but because the city outfit are a senior club, they weren't allowed to compete in the Leinster Championship, and Conahy Shamrocks became Kilkenny's representatives instead.

Without the services of James Bergin due to a hamstring injury, the Leinster championship began with two easy victories. Firstly, they accounted for their Dublin counterparts Fingallians, before easily brushing aside Longford senior champions Clonguish in the semi-final on home territory in Jenkinstown.

Against Fingallians, Kieran Mooney took on the mantle as chief free-taker scoring 1-7 of his team's total from placed balls with the goal coming from the penalty spot.

Tom Phelan played a prominent role as well accounting for 1-3 as Conahy strolled to a 2-17 to 1-9 victory.

Against Clonguish, they were always in control, and by half-time, they had a 0-11 to 0-3 lead intact, and afterwards, they maintained their dominance, adding 1-11 while just conceding four points in return as they strolled to a 1-22 to 0-7 success.

Eoin Cahill scored the game's only goal for the winners in the 58th minute as Kieran Mooney (0-9, 0-7 frees) and Tom Phelan (0-5 from play) led the way in an authoritative performance.

The Leinster final was against the Wexford Junior Champions Ballygarret Realt Na Mara in Enniscorthy as they were attempting to become the first team to win the Provincial Junior Championship having lost their county final.

The Ballygarret men played into a very strong wind during the opening half, and they matched Conahy for the opening twenty minutes. Leading by just a point 0-5 to 0-4, Conahy unleashed an onslaught in no uncertain terms.

An amazing four goal blitz in a short period smashed and shell-shocked Ballygarret Realt Na Mara's hopes, as Conahy Shamrocks shot into a 4-9 to 0-4 interval lead.

Team captain James Bergin returned from injury for the final showdown and he celebrated his birthday with a decisive contribution.

Bergin grabbed two goals in quick succession as John Mullan and Tom Phelan also bagged a goal each to put Conahy Shamrocks in the most commanding of positions as they held a 4-9 to 0-5 lead at the interval.

They remained in control throughout the third quarter and by the forty minute mark, they still had a clear lead of 4-11 to 0-9.

However, Ballygarret Realt Na Mara kept plugging away despite their difficulties and they were rewarded with a brilliantly taken flicked goal from Eoin Corcoran 4-11 to 1-9.

Conahy still had a 10 point lead heading towards the closing stages, but Ballygarret Realt Na Mara applied strong pressure and their persistence paid dividends with late goals in quick succession from a Jack Hobbs goal from free from 45 metres, before Shane Quinn added a third goal immediately afterwards to leave just four points between the teams at 4-13 to 3-12.

The complexion of the contest had completely changed and now Conahy were hanging on nervously by a thread as the final whistle couldn't come quickly enough.

The Ballygarret men continued to pile on the pressure as play went on deep into injury-time, but eventually Richie Fitzsimons called a halt to proceedings much to the delight but greater relief of Conahy Shamrocks. That set-up an All-Ireland semi-final clash on the first weekend in January - Saturday January 4th - against Eoghan Rua from Coleraine (Derry) which was played in Inniskeen Co. Monaghan very close to the Northern Ireland border adjacent to Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh.

Ballyhale Shamrocks and Tullaroan along with the Conahy men were also in semi-final action the first weekend in January.

It was a most difficult time to hurl as it was still during the holiday festive season, while also trying to refocus and re-adjust with all the festivities and activities that were happening and also having to deal with the sadness of the loss of Christmas coming to an end which was going to be a factor over the subsequent coming weeks.

The Coleraine men just lost out narrowly to Glenmore in the 2016 Junior All-Ireland final, so the Conahy contingent were well aware of the likely challenge.

However, Conahy Shamrocks had no difficulties in booking their ticket to Croker as they cruised to a 3-18 to 1-12 victory.

Conahy got the ball rolling with a blistering start as a Kieran Mooney goal within seconds of the start sent them on their way.

A second goal from James Bergin in the 16th minute put them firmly in control, before the same player added another goal - Conahy's 3rd - as the goals were the decisive by half-time. 3-6 to 0-8.

Paul Buggy's charges maintained that seven point lead during the third quarter as Sean Leo McGoldrick from frees kept Eoghan Rua ticking over on the scoreboard.

However, the Derry men's cause suffered greatly with the sendings-off of both Niall Holly and Ciaran Lagan.

Not surprisingly, Conahy took control during the final quarter to run out resounding winners with James Bergin giving a tour de force as he accounted for 2-10 of his sides total.

Meanwhile, Russell Rovers made their way into the decider as they brushed aside Micheál Breathnachs of Galway 1-26 to 1-15 after extra-time in Kilmallock in which the Cork men had to rely on a fifth minute injury-time free from Brian Hartnett to force extra-time.

The Cork champions had a 0-15 to 0-9 lead at the end of the three-quarter stage.

Micheál Breathnach fought back and levelled in injury-time at the end of the match, before Russell Rovers took complete control in extra-time.

The All-Ireland Final played on Saturday January 28th saw Russell Rovers rightly installed as favourites following very impressive performances on their way to the final, but the Conahy men put paid to that notion as they controlled the game from the outset.

By the mid-way point of the first-half, they had built up an 0-8 to 0-2 lead with James Bergin (3), Kieran Mooney (2), Donal Brennan, Eoin Cahill and Bill Murphy all finding the range.

Russell Rovers fought back and four unanswered points from Josh Beausang (3) and Kieran Walsh brought the margin back to 0-8 to 0-6. However Conahy weathered the storm, and three pointed frees from Bergin restored momentum as they held an 0-11 to 0-7 lead at the interval.

The Conahy men came out with all gun blazing following the re-start and three early points set the tone with Kieran Mooney pointing twice and James Bergin pointing from a free. 0-14 to 0-7.

Conahy Shamrocks maintained their superior control and dominance afterwards as that seven point advantage remained intact for the duration of the game.

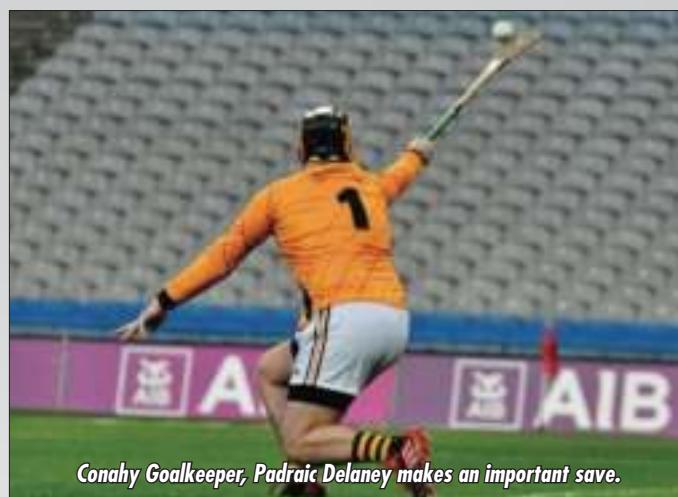
Bergin kept tagging on the frees as Edmond Delaney and Donal Brennan kept the scoreboard ticking over.

It was a most efficient and consistent display from Conahy and they made history by becoming the first team to win both the provincial and All-Ireland Junior Club Championships having lost their county final.

Conahy Shamrocks Team All-Ireland Final: Padraic Delaney, Simon Callinan; Davy Healy, Liam Cass, Darren Cuddihy; Brian Healy, Eoin Carroll; Donal Brennan (0-2), Edmond Delaney (0-1); Tom Phelan (0-1), John Mullan, Eoin Cahill (0-1), James Bergin (0-12, 0-8 frees), Kieran Mooney (0-4), Bill Murphy (0-1).

Subs: Alan Healy, Thomas Rice, Tom Nolan (all used). Karl Downey, Sean Brennan, Michael Bergin, Dara Dooley, Padraig Gunner, Frank Gunner, Cian Harding, Justin Brophy, Donal Cass, Kieran Delaney, Andy O'Keeffe, Ciaran Rice.

Team Mentors: Paul Buggy (Team Manager), Kevin Healy, Brian Rossiter, Dermot Healy.



Conahy Goalkeeper, Padraic Delaney makes an important save.



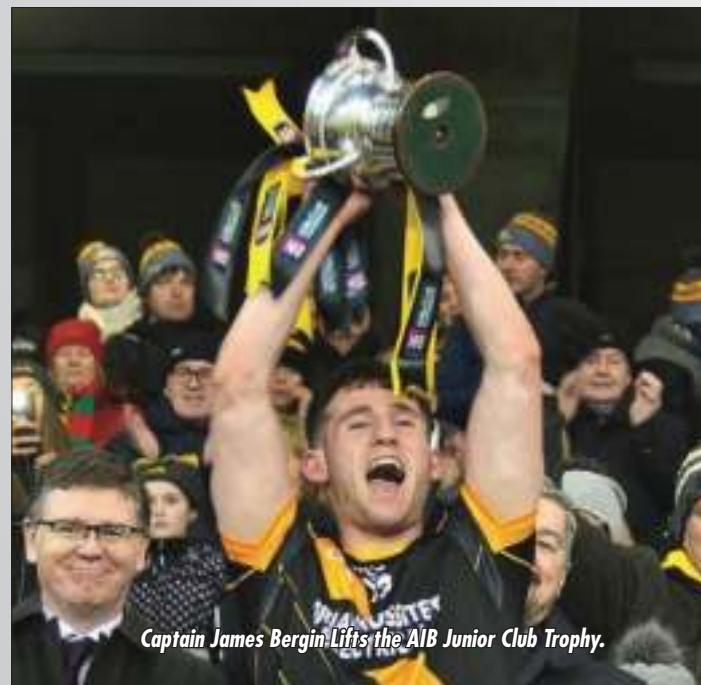
Liam Cass gets in his clearance from Brian Hartnett.



Eye on the ball - James Bergin and Kevin O'Brien.



An important hook from Tom Phelan on Luke Duggan Murray.

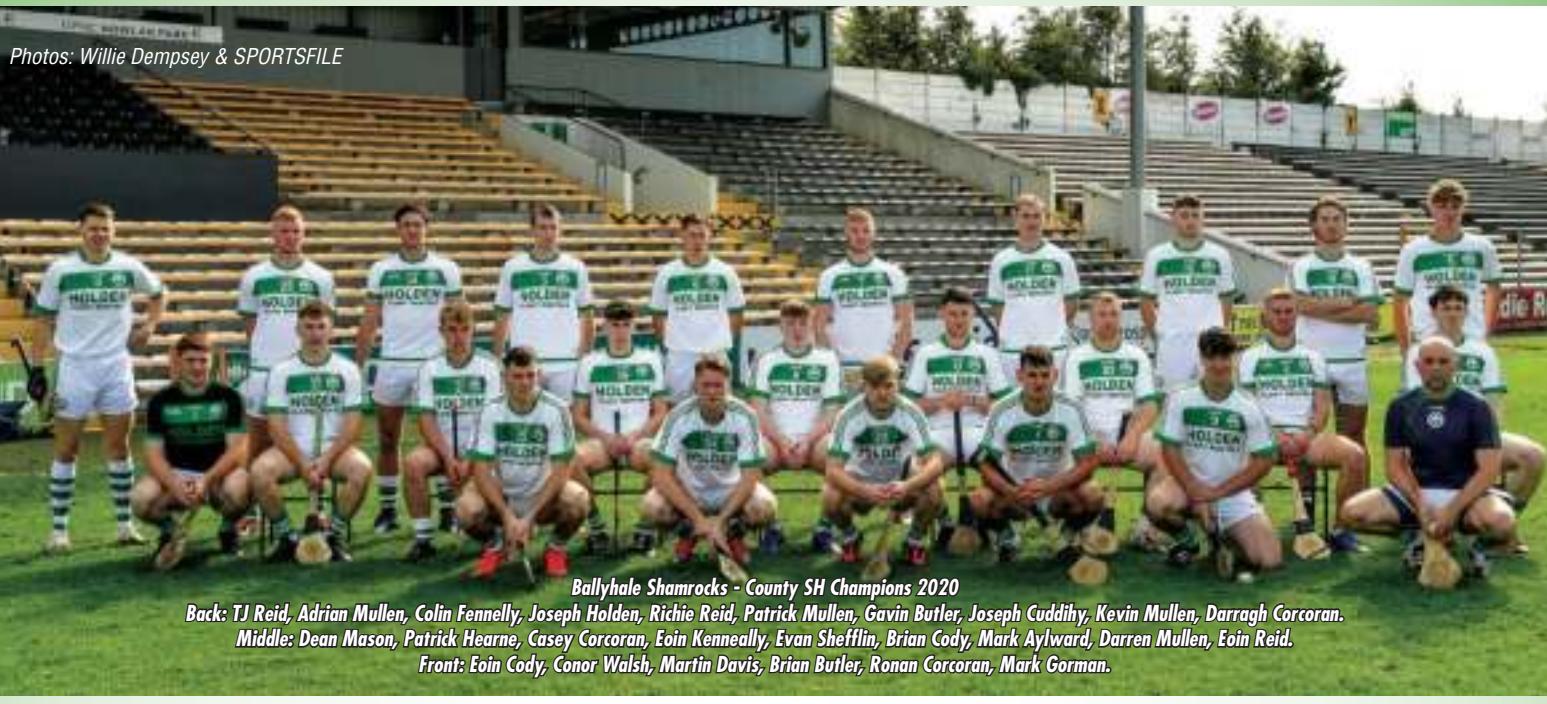


Captain James Bergin Lifts the AIB Junior Club Trophy.

No stopping a SHAMROCKS TREBLE

County SH Championship Report by Tommy Lanigan

Photos: Willie Dempsey & SPORTSFILE



Ballyhale Shamrocks - County SH Champions 2020

Back: TJ Reid, Adrian Mullen, Colin Fennelly, Joseph Holden, Richie Reid, Patrick Mullen, Gavin Butler, Joseph Cuddihy, Kevin Mullen, Darragh Corcoran.

Middle: Dean Mason, Patrick Hearne, Casey Corcoran, Eoin Kennelly, Evan Shefflin, Brian Cody, Mark Aylward, Darren Mullen, Eoin Reid.

Front: Eoin Cody, Conor Walsh, Martin Davis, Brian Butler, Ronan Corcoran, Mark Gorman.

'The more things change the more they stay the same' to translate nineteenth century French philosopher JB Karr.

His ghost was unlikely to be in attendance in UPMC Nowlan Pak or any other club ground this year but his truism neatly fits the progress of the Kilkenny senior hurling championship in this extraordinary year.

First and foremost we must congratulate the Management Committee of Kilkenny County Board for completing the adult championships and leagues in the most straitened of circumstances. The clubs bought into the complex operation and thankfully we got to see matches and outcomes.

During the last pandemic, the Great Flu of 1918, there was no club activity in Kilkenny because of 'civil unrest' and the county senior team played one game in May, being well beaten by Dublin. Death was so common in that dismal year that it was merely part of life and not worthy of mention as a cause of games not being played. We have moved a long way.

The great Ballyhale Shamrocks hurling machine moves on through thick and thin as they laid claim to their fifth senior title in another decade of excellence and their eighteenth in total. This one was the most comprehensive as nobody bar the Village laid a stick on them in their progress through the championship stages.

The championship itself consists of fourteen knockout games of which seven were close encounters. Few saw very many due to an outright ban on spectators in the early phases, mitigated to a maximum of 200 as the restrictions eased. This correspondent was very fortunate to see ten, thanks to the County Board decision to locate most games in Nowlan Park and Livestream them.

After an inordinate break of four months from squad training due to the pandemic lockdown, it was heartening to see teams generally perform very well and we had a substantial number of lively matches during the truncated league section. Players were fit and all were at home as the travel restrictions prevented an exodus to foreign

fields. Indeed many clubs welcomed back emigrants who had returned to the relative safety of mother's home cooking and washing. This migration contributed to very lively championships at all junior grades too.

The final proved to be one of the most disappointing in memory as Shamrocks trounced a dispirited Dicksboro side by a record margin of twenty one points, 5-19 to 1-10. From the throw-in it was clear that Shamrocks came to do battle, whereas Dicksboro looked more like victims facing the inevitable sword. Why they should have appeared like that continues to be a mystery as they had reached the final with

a combination of power and pace which suggested they had the capacity to front up to the Shamrocks. In the event the Boro did the opposite and Shamrocks tore them asunder. A succession of early points followed by a snap Brian Cody goal had them out of sight by the twelfth minute and the mid period water break failed to slow the Southerners momentum. TJ Reid and Colin Fennelly provided the heft and class up front as they stretched a tame defence at will. But it was the younger players, Corcorans, Codys, Shefflin and Mullans who performed faultlessly while the wily Eoin Reid rolled back the years with deadly finishing.

The Boro failed to anticipate the simple and frequently repeated Shamrocks strategy of moving their half forwards about and opening the field in front of Colin Fennelly. Evan Cody was left to try taming Fennelly, a job he did quite well but the leaks sprung everywhere else. While the final wasn't his most productive game, Colin Fennelly was player of the championship and that says something, given the brilliance of TJ Reid in all games.

And yet, Ballyhale might not have reached the final. Match of the year was their semi-final joust with a very young and light James Stephens side. Any game that ends 3-22 to 1-27 suggests a thriller, but there was oh, so much more involved! The Village were the first and only team to relish the challenge of taking on Shamrocks and fought with confidence, skill and verve for every ball.



Ballyhale Captain, Richie Reid, lifts the Tom Walsh Trophy

The point taking was exceptional on both sides, the contests were fierce and unrelenting. Many neutrals have described the game as one of the very finest club matches played in the 'Park. With a minute of normal time to go the Village had dug out a well merited one point lead. Then they conceded a dubious free in front of goal that was converted to level the game. The Shamrocks saw an opening, won the next two puckouts and finished one point ahead. The execution was swift and brutal and sent a grim message to all pretenders.

James Stephens could look back on a host of missed opportunities due to youthful exuberance or poor judgement but the young side performed heroically in defeat. For the first time in over a decade they had to cope without the formidable presences of Jackie Tyrrell and Eoin Larkin leading them and they showed that their future will be bright if they learn from the experience.

Dicksboro had been the other form team of the championship. They had been most impressive in the league, running up big score-lines in every game. They had improved their attacking game as the competition progressed and defeated O'Loughlins in a dogged but entertaining League final. Extra time had failed to separate the sides and the Boro won 3-0 on penalties where their hero was goalkeeper Darragh Holohan. The city rivals met three weeks later in the county semi-final and this time the Boro made no mistake as they played fluently and strongly to defeat the 'Loughs by 2-16 to 0-14. There is little between those sides but as the game progressed Dicksboro improved and played with great confidence as the O'Loughlins threat faded alarmingly in the final quarter.

The quarter finals were generally disappointing and one-sided with the exception of the Village v. Mullinavat game. The Vat men left it late to mount a serious charge and that left James Stephens scrambling but never too discomfited as they ran out five point winners. Shamrocks destroyed a very poor Clara team that had needed re-building during the League and were a pale shadow of their form in past years.

Dicksboro showed signs of intent as they hit 3-27 against a stuttering Bennettsbridge side who offered limited resistance. The Bridge uncharacteristically conceded ground everywhere and their habit of giving away soft frees was ruthlessly punished by Shane Stapleton.

It was expected the other quarter-final between O'Loughlins and Erins Own would be a cracking contest but the city team struck early and hard and 'Comer could not make headway against a stern O'Loughlins defence.

The St. Canices CU first round provided the closest contests. Tullaroan had performed well in the league but lost by a point to Erins Own. Mullinavat went to extra time to dispose of Danesfort. Bennettsbridge had a real scare as injury ravaged Graigue-Ballycallan ran them very close. Rower-Inistioge drew the short straw and suffered a merciless hammering from Shamrocks who had sleep-walked their way through the league.

There are essentially three competitions in the senior division, League/Shield, championship and relegation. Nobody wants to be stuck in the latter. For many years there has been a large gap between the top five or six clubs and the remaining half dozen. In this unique year, injuries were



Nowhere to go...Mark Nolan is surrounded by Shamrocks backs.



Darragh Holohan made many great saves throughout the season.

to play a major part in the relegation battle. The games were coming almost weekly which left little time for recovery. Added to this there were huge number of soft tissue injuries as a result of a limited match preparation, a phenomenon noted across all sports that resumed in the late Summer of 2020.

That every game had to be finished on the day added a nice frisson to proceedings. It also pointed to great potential for improving the quality of fixture-making and if the practice is continued it should give more opportunity to expand some other competitions.

The Rower found themselves facing Shamrocks without their five best players, Graig were missing seven for their last league game and Danesfort injuries arrived in time for their relegation games. Sometimes the gods seem to mock our best efforts.



Dicksboro - County SH Finalists 2020

Back: Eoin Gough, Paul O'Flynn, Tom Kenny, Chris Kavanagh, Oisin Gough, Evan Cody, Davy Ryan, Shane Stapleton, Evan Carroll, Aidan Nolan, Martin Gaffney.
Middle: Eoghan Moylan, Edward Moylan, Ollie Walsh, Mark Nolan, Conor Fitzpatrick, Conor Doheny, Robbie Fitzpatrick, Andy Gaffney, Aaron Duggan.
Front: Robbie Murphy, Darragh Houlihan, Kevin Nolan, Aaron Murphy, Alan Phelan, Michael Fagan, Bill Sheehan, Joe Sheehan, Eoin Fennelly, Liam Moore, Cillian Buckley.

ST CANICE'S CREDIT UNION SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2020

GROUP A		PL	W	L	D	PTs
BENNETTSBRIDGE LAKI		3	2	1	0	4
BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS LAKI		3	1	1	1	3
JAMES STEPHENS LAC		3	2	0	1	5
DALESFORT LAKI		3	0	3	0	0
OLUGHIN GAELIC LAKI		3	2	0	1	5
TULLAROAN LAKI		3	0	2	1	1

Note - Groups play each other at 1) v 2) - three rounds.

GROUP B		PL	W	L	D	PTs
GRAIGUE BALLYCALLAN LAKI		3	0	3	0	0
KNOVS & ENNISTODE LAKI		3	0	2	1	1
ERINS OWN LAKI		3	1	1	1	3
MULLINAVAT LAKI		3	1	0	2	4
CLARA LAKI		3	2	1	0	4
DECKBARRY LAKI		3	3	0	0	6

Note - Group fixtures same as 1) v 2) - three rounds.

WEEK 1 - Week Ending August 1		KNOCKOUT LEAGUE FINALS PLACINGS		WEEK 1 - Week Ending August 1	
BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS	2-18	LEAGUE FINAL		GRAIGUE BALLYCALLAN	0-16
TULLAROAN	1-21	Group A winner:	O'Loughlin Gaels	CLARA	1-21
		Group B Winner:	1-20	Group B Winner:	
		Dicksboro (AET + Penalties)		1-20	
		Group A Runner up:		Group B Runner up:	
		James Stephens		Clara	
		0-12		1-22	
		Group A Third:		Group B Sixth:	
		Bennettsbridge		Graigue Ballycallan	
		0-20		1-15	
		Group A Fifth:		Group B Fourth:	
		Tullaroan		Erin's Own	
		1-20		2-18	
		Group A Sixth:		Group B Third:	
		Danesfort		Mullinavat (AET)	
		1-25		5-27	
		* FINALS RECORDS CANNOT PLAY HURDLING FINALS			
		* FINALS RECORDS HURDLING FINALS LEAGUE AND			
		SHIELD FINALS IN OFF NATIONALLY QUARTER FINALS			
		QUARTER FINALS			
		James Stephens		Mullinavat	
		1-21		1-16	
		O'Loughlin Gaels		Erin's Own	
		2-14		0-10	
		Dicksboro		Bennettsbridge	
		3-27		2-14	
		Clara		Shamrocks Ballyhale	
		0-11		4-18	
		SEMI-FINALS			
		Dicksboro		O'Loughlin Gaels	
		2-16		0-14	
		Shamrocks Ballyhale		James Stephens	
		3-22		1-27	
		FINAL			
		Ballyhale Shamrocks		Dicksboro	
		5-19		1-10	
Kilkenny People					
RELEGATION SEMI-FINALS					
Tullaroan		1-19		Danesfort	
Rower Inistioge (AET)		2-24		Graigue Ballycallan	
				4-13	
Graigue Ballycallan		1-15		Danesfort	
				1-13	
Kilkenny People					

Graig narrowly survived to give their young team another chance in senior ranks. They had welcomed back several regulars in advance of the relegation final, whereas Richie Hogan's injury woes, among others, proved disastrous for Danesfort. It was a cruel finish as they had performed creditably in the league. We have seen worse Danesfort teams survive comfortably in senior ranks.

The Rower and Graig's stories were similar, both sides shorn of their top players and being lucky to survive in the big league. Both must improve next year if they are to avoid dropping to Intermediate ranks. Both also need to develop a harder edge to their respective games.

Tullaroan will have been disappointed with their championship performance but overall, the 2019 All Ireland Intermediate champions should be hardy senior performers for years to come. They have leadership, skill and enthusiasm. Clara have a major rebuilding job to do, but they have several promising young players who can help the club make good progress.

Mullinavat and Erins Own have very similar characteristics, physically strong with lots of good hurlers and a high dependency on one scoring forward. Worse, they have an alarming lack of self-belief at crucial times in championship games that has stunted their progress. One feels they should be contesting semi-finals but they invariably fall short. In both camps there is much food for thought.

Bennettsbridge continue to mix good with bad, the bad being a tendency to commit lazy fouls. However that is a sign of other issues and they must keep their focus. They have lots of fine hurlers but the results are several levels below their combined talents.

Apart from the Shamrocks the big hitters now seem congregated in the city. There is little to divide the teams, though O'Loughlins have a better chance to build with an Intermediate side that played well this year. Dicksboro's loss in the Junior final was a definite setback for them. As for the Village, their innate confidence facing Shamrocks reflects well on their youngsters self-belief and their future prospects.

Did we see lots of future county seniors? No. We have seen lots of potential county players coming up through the ranks in many clubs. They don't appear overnight despite the perception they can appear like mushrooms. It is a much slower process and it is gratifying to see there are several young players graduating to senior ranks this year with their clubs who have the talent.

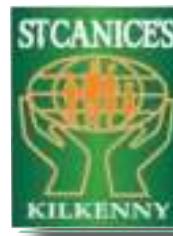
A different question is, do they have the determination?



TJ Reid and Tom Kenny contesting for the ball.



TJ Reid and Tom Kenny contesting for the ball.



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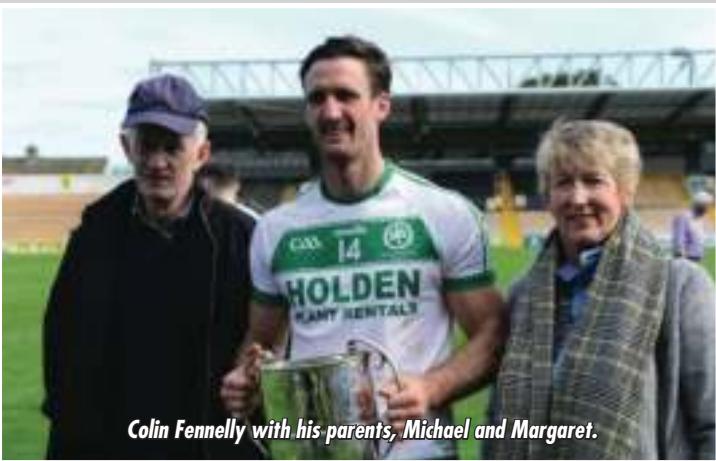
Ballyhale Shamrocks Captain Richie is presented with the St. Canices (Kilkenny) Credit Union Senior Hurling Championship cup by Vincent Henrick, President, St. Canice's (Kilkenny) Credit Union and Jimmy Walsh, Chairman, Kilkenny County Board, after the Final in Nowlan Park.
(Photo: Willie Dempsey)

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Club Secretary, Siobhán Kennedy before the game.



Colin Fennelly with his parents, Michael and Margaret.



The Reids - TJ, Richie and Eoin, with baby Sibéal.



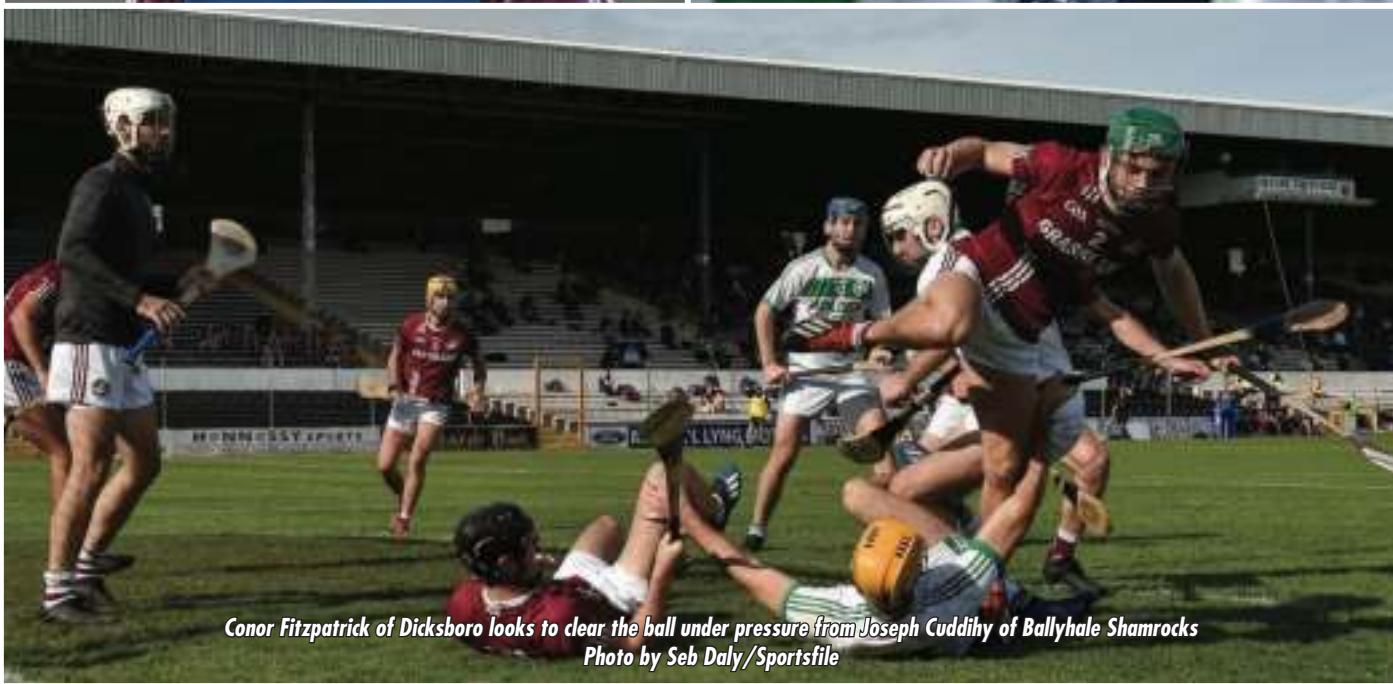
Referee Raymond Byrne with his splendidly attired Officials.



Boro Manager, Mark Dowling, ponders his options.



Shamrocks Manager, James O'Connor, lays it on the line.



*Conor Fitzpatrick of Dicksboro looks to clear the ball under pressure from Joseph Cuddihy of Ballyhale Shamrocks
Photo by Seb Daly/Sportsfile*

MICHAEL LYNG MOTORS HYUNDAI



HYUNDAI



HYUNDAI



Joint Lisdowney Captains, Vincent Fitzpatrick and Patrick O'Carroll are presented with the Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling Championship cup by Michael and Neill Lyng, sponsor, Michael Lyng Motors, and Seamus Breathnach, Chairman, Kilkenny County Board, after the Final in Nowlan Park.

(Photo: Willie Demsey)

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in unique conclusion to unique year

Photos: Willie Dempsey



It appears that the word “unique” can neatly sum up this year’s Michael Lyng Motors Intermediate Hurling Championship; unique in its altered circumstances due to Covid-19, unique in its progression, and unique in its conclusion. When Lisdowney’s Vinny Fitzpatrick and Pat O’Carroll raised the Hanrahan Cup after a thrilling county final battle with Thomastown, it brought an end to a memorable year in more ways than one. The 2020 champions maximised their tireless work ethic to garner a first intermediate title, while the beaten finalists were left in a daze after a second successive county final defeat – with the margins wafer thin in every respect.

Could this have been predicted? One could argue that the only predictable thing that 2020 would be is unpredictable. How various teams coped with the various changes to the club hurling season clearly had an impact, to a variety of degrees.

Thomastown initially looked like the team that had the capability to go one step further, and their performance in the League final victory over Dunnamaggin suggested that, as they won out by 2-18 to 2-11. But, as the championship match ups eventually proved, there were any number of teams who would be on their coat tails.

St. Martin’s caused what many considered to be an upset when they defeated Carrickshock in their first round clash in Páirc Sheamuis Siópháin. With Carrickshock leading by 0-9 to 0-7 at the first half water break, the second quarter was all St. Martin’s as they outscored their opponents by 0-8 to 0-2 to ensure a four point lead at the half time break (0-15 to 0-11). They managed to increase that lead to eight early in the second half with Shane Kinsella particularly prominent from frees. But Carrickshock came roaring back, and with a John Power goal along with three consecutive points, they closed the gap considerably. The final minutes were tight and tense but the Northerners were able to hold on for a deserved 0-21 to 1-16 win.

St. Lachtain’s and John Lockes also faced off in the opening round, with the Freshford men advancing by the narrowest of margins after a tough battle in Tom Ryall Park. The Callan men belied their poor league form to produce an excellent performance. St. Lachtain’s did, however, enjoy the better start, and a goal from Noel McGree helped

to open up a 1-6 to 0-3 lead early on. But John Lockes fought back well as the half progressed, they managed to reduce the gap to two points by the interval (1-10 to 0-11). They got that progress going during the third quarter and were soon rewarded when Robert Kerwick finished to the net after a fine passing move. They soon took the lead and extended it to three points (1-16 to 1-13). St. Lachtain’s showed excellent composure at this stage, with James Maher to the fore, they eventually levelled the scores with time almost up. With the final puck of the game, Darragh Maher proved to be St. Lachtain’s saviour as he split the posts to grab a dramatic win, and leave John Lockes disappointing after coming so close (1-20 to 1-19).

The new boys to the intermediate ranks, O’Loughlin Gaels solidified their status for 2021 with an excellent win over the Fenians in another first round clash in Freshford. Fenians started well and led by 1-1 to 0-0 early on, but that was as good as it got for the Johnstown men. O’Loughlin’s took over the game in the second quarter, and goals from Sammy Johnston and Owen Wall ensured that they led by 3-11 to 1-6

at the half-time break. The second half saw O’Loughlin’s casually add to their tally and try as the Fenians might, they could not reduce the gap to any great degree. The city side were ultimately very comfortable in the end, winning in the end by 3-19 to 1-12.

The highlight of the opening round games, however, came in Canon Kearns Park when Young Irelands and St. Patrick’s needed a penalty shootout, a first in Kilkenny club championship hurling. The game itself was nip and tuck all through, with Paul Holden (Young Irelands) and Kevin Kelly (St. Patrick’s) playing starring roles, scoring 0-16 and 0-14 respectively for their sides. The sides finished on 1-23 apiece after extra time, having both had opportunities to snatch victory before the finish. In the shoot out that followed, Young Irelands goalkeeper Peter Hutchinson proved the hero, stopping three penalties to secure a 3-2 win for the Gowran men and jubilant scenes for the team and supporters.

The quarter-final between O’Loughlin Gaels and Thomastown ultimately proved to be very one sided as the league champions put the city side to the sword in emphatic style. But it certainly didn’t



appear to be such an outcome on the basis of the first half, as O'Loughlin's were deservedly ahead by 0-10 to 0-7 at half-time. But Thomastown were a team possessed in the second half, and a hat trick of goals from Jonjo Farrell and excellent point scoring from play and frees from Robbie Donnelly amongst others, they scored 3-16 during the half to show their class. O'Loughlin's had no answer, and Thomastown advanced on a 3-23 to 0-14 scoreline.

St. Lachtain's and Dunnamaggin faced off in their quarter-final clash in Bennettsbridge. Dunnamaggin were in confident mood after an excellent league campaign that saw them make the league final, but St. Lachtain's produced an excellent performance to win out by 4-17 to 2-16. The Freshford men led by 1-6 to 0-3 early on, thanks mainly to a Shane Donnelly goal and three points from free taker Liam Hickey. Dunnamaggin settled after the first half water break to reduce the gap, but another Freshford goal, this time from James Maher, kept St. Lachtain's in front. It could have been more, had Dunnamaggin goalkeeper Seaghan O'Neill saved a penalty. As it was, Freshford led by 2-6 to 0-7 at the halfway mark. The second half saw Dunnamaggin thunder back into the game with two goals from Ronan Coffey and Darren Fitzpatrick, but St. Lachtain's still managed to hold the Southerners at bay. That was until ten minutes to go, when Dunnamaggin edged into a one point lead (2-14 to 2-13). But St. Lachtain's made some good use of an error in the Dunnamaggin defence when sub Patrick Killeen was on hand to score his side's third goal. As Dunnamaggin tried frantically to get back in the game, they were unable to do so, as a point from the excellent James Maher and a breakaway goal from Liam Hickey at the finish secured a Freshford victory.

It took extra-time to separate Glenmore and St. Martin's in their quarter-final in Bennettsbridge, with the Southerners winning out by 3-20 to 0-22. Glenmore held the advantage early on, with goals from the ever dangerous Ger Aylward and Darragh Hartley saw them by 2-8 to 0-10 at the half way mark. But the Northerners came thundering back in fine style, and had levelled the scores by the fifth minute of the second half. The teams swapped scores throughout the remainder of the half with Shane Kinsella, John Mulhall and Joe Maher to the fore for St. Martin's, while Eoin and Alan Murphy, along with Ger Aylward were very influential for Glenmore. It was Shane Kinsella who sent the game to extra time with a last second free. But it was Glenmore who clearly had the better of things in extra-time, and when Ger Aylward scored his second goal of the game, there was no denying Glenmore a merited win.

After a dramatic first round victory, Young Irelands were unable to repeat the feat in their quarter-final with Lisdowney, with the latter winning out on a 1-15 to 0-15 score line. It saw Lisdowney get to the semi-final stage after falling at the quarter-final hurdle in six of the previous seven years. The only goal of the game came when Vinny Fitzpatrick finished a sweeping Lisdowney move to the net for the opening score. Young Irelands settled and reduced the deficit to a point by the opening half water break. Some switches in the Lisdowney defence then began to have an effect as they came back once again, to lead by 1-8 to 0-7 at half way. However, this lead was gone by the fifth minute of the second half, as four consecutive points from scorer in chief Paul Holden levelled the scores. But Lisdowney showed the mettle that would ultimately bring them further with a four point salvo of their own, with Aidan Tallis, Kevin Sweeney, Niall Brennan and Cathal Jordan hitting the target. Young Irelands tried valiantly to fight their way back, with time and a tough



Liam Dunphy makes the last vital save from Diarmuid Galway



John Joe Farrell gets between Ben Tallis and Eoin Walsh.

Lisdowney defence was against them, as Lisdowney held on for the win.

The relegation battle, meanwhile, saw Carrickshock meet St. Patrick's and John Lockes take on the Fenians in the respective semi-finals. Carrickshock proved to have the greater heart for the battle as they etched out a 0-17 to 0-12 victory over a Ballyragget side who seemed to be still suffering the effects of their dramatic first round loss. In the other semi-final, John Lockes proved once again that they can have the potential to have a positive season in the intermediate grade with a 1-12 to 0-10 over the Fenians.

The relegation final with St. Patrick's and Fenians was hard to predict, as relegation finals often are. St. Patrick's looked like the better side for the vast majority of the game and looked like they were going to hold on as they led by four points in injury time. But the Fenians proved their knack of survival at the death as Mark Webster and Conor Tobin coolly finished to the net in quick succession to snatch a dramatic 4-13 to 1-20.



Thomastown - County IH Finalists 2020

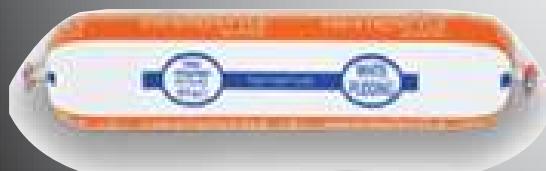
Back: Jack Holden, Stephen Donnelly, Darragh Galway, John Donnelly, Jack Cullen, James Burke (Capt), Johnjo Farrell, Brian O'Hanrahan, Dylan Caulfield, Paul Barron, Diarmuid Galway, Shane Maher, Cian O'Mara, Danny Monks.

Middle: Ned Kirwan, Thomas O'Hanrahan, Eddie Donnelly, Adrian Burke, Micheál Walsh (Mascot), Des Walsh, Craig Butler, Daithí Barron, Peter McDonald.

Front: Peter Connellan, Robbie Donnelly, Richard O'Hara, Barry Whelan, Davey Prendergast, Colin Corrway, Dylan Waugh, Brian Staunton, Johnny Barron, Brian Murphy, Davey Griffin, Brian Lanigan.



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CONAHY MAKE AMENDS FOR LAST YEAR'S DEFEAT

Junior Championship Report by Michael O'Leary

Photos: Willie Dempsey



CONAHY SHAMROCKS - COUNTY JH CHAMPIONS 2020

Front Row: Jack Murphy, Sean O'Dornan, Eoin Carroll, John Paul Gamble, Ciaran Rice, Frank Gunner, Niall Coogan, Sean Brennan.

Middle Row Seated: Edmond Delaney, Kieran Mooney, Simon Callinan, Padraig Delaney, Bill Murphy, Karl Downey, Donal Brennan, Tom Phelan.

Middle Row Standing: Justin Brophy, Mark Gunner, Brian Healy, Alan Healy, Darragh Dooley, Harry O'Mahony, Geoffrey O'Shea, Robbie Dooley, Eoin Cahill, Padraig Gunner, Donal Cass, Liam Cass, Davy Healy, Martin Fitzpatrick, Gary Kavanagh.

Back Row: Michael Bergin, Philip Cass, Kieran Delaney, James Bergin, John Mullan, Darren Cuddihy, John Wallace, Tom Rice.

Despite winning the Leinster and All-Ireland Junior Championships last season, Conahy Shamrocks competed in the Kilkenny Junior Championship this year having lost out in last years' final to O'Loughlin Gaels. The latter were unable to compete in the provincial Junior Championship because they are a senior club. The mission for the Conahy men was clearly to make amends for last years' county final defeat & get back competing in the Intermediate Grade.

That mission was achieved when they overcame Dicksboro after extra-time in a pulsating county final.

The Conahy men built up a 2-6 to 0-10 lead at the interval with goals from Kieran Mooney and James Bergin. The Boro men kept plugging away throughout and points from a David Ryan free, Sean Boyd and Paul O'Flynn drew them level at 0-13 to 2-7 entering the closing quarter. However, both teams were very wasteful with their shooting squandering numerous chances. as the teams remained level at the end of normal time, 0-16 to 2-10.

The decisive difference in extra-time came, when Bergin as team captain led the way. He scored a superb individual goal, as they ran out 4-point winners after a hard fought battle.

LEAGUE SECTION A GROUP A

The GAA competitions re-commenced after a 4 month break on Monday July 20th, and the first game in the Junior League was in Section B

when Erins Own, Castlecomer played Rower-Inistioge.

The pick of the ties in Section A Group A Round 1 was Tullogher-Rosbercon's clash against Emeralds in Nowlan Park the following Friday evening (July 24th).

The match was in the melting pot approaching injury-time with the

Tullogher men leading 1-19 to 0-19, with the Urlingford men squandering a goal chance to draw the match level.

Instead, it was a late hat-trick goal blitz that saw Tullogher-Rosbercon ease to a very flattering 4-19 to 0-19 victory with Walter Walsh and Richie Dollard amongst the goalscorers. However, the Emeralds men would come back to haunt them in the Championship. Elsewhere in round 1, Blacks & Whites strolled to a 3-20 to 1-6 win over Cloneen while Windgap overcame Slieverue 2-16 to 1-15. Round 2 saw matches played over the August Bank Holiday weekend with Tullogher-Rosbercon having a hard fought 0-19 to 1-13 win over their Southern neighbours Mooncoin. Windgap made it two wins from two with a 2-15 to 1-13 win over Blacks & Whites while Emeralds edged out Slieverue by a point, 2-13 to 0-18.

The games were coming thick and fast with the third round of matches taking place the following weekend.

Mooncoin defeated Slieverue 3-24 to 1-21, Tullogher-Rosbercon eased to a big win over Cloneen, while Blacks & Whites prevailed narrowly against Emeralds on 2-12 to 1-13



Winning Captain, James Bergin lifts the Bob Aylward Cup



DICKSBORO - COUNTY JH FINALISTS 2020

Back: Kevin Nolan, Stephen Farrell, John Harrick, Robert Crotty, Edward Moylan, Paul O'Flynn, Tom Carroll, Daire Maher, Johnny Minogue, David Conway, Davy Ryan.

Middle: Colm O'Hara, Padraig Moylan, Eoghan Moylan, Philly Hogan, Alan Phelan, Liam Stynes, Enda O'Donoghue, Cillian Timmons.

Front: Aaron Murphy, Joe Sheehan, Cormac Kennedy, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Sean Boyd, Liam Brennan-Smith, Tommy Farrell, Eoin Fennelly.

scoreline.

In the final round of group games, Tullogher-Rosbercon had a narrow 1-16 to 1-13 win over Windgap that saw them qualify for a league final showdown with fellow title contenders Conahy Shamrocks.

Meanwhile, one of the games of the competition saw Blacks & Whites emerge victorious by the narrowest of margins as they overcame Mooncoin 1-22 to 2-18 in a titanic thriller, while Slieverue eased to a 1-24 to 1-13 victory over Cloneen.

SECTION A GROUP B

Conahy Shamrocks overcame Graignamanagh 1-17 to 1-11 in their opening Group League match, Galmoy defeated Barrow Rangers 0-18 to 0-12, while Piltown cruised to a double scores 0-18 to 0-9 over their neighbours Kilmacow.

In Round 2, Graignamanagh prevailed 0-18 to 0-14 against Galmoy, Conahy Shamrocks had a narrow 1-17 to 1-14 win over Piltown, while Barrow Rangers eased to a 2-19 to 1-13 win over Kilmacow.

In the final round of group games, Conahy Shamrocks secured their path into a league final showdown with Tullogher-Rosbercon as they prevailed 2-21 to 2-16 against Barrow Rangers following a thrilling contest, Graignamanagh condemned Kilmacow to further misery winning 3-17 to 2-12, while Piltown defeated Galmoy 2-19 to 2-12.

SECTION B GROUP A

In Section B which is confined to the clubs second team saw James Stephens top Group A to set-up a league final showdown with eventual county finalists Dicksboro.

The Village began their campaign with a 19-point 2-28 to 1-12 drubbing of Rower-Inistioge, before closer tests followed when they prevailed 1-14 to 2-9 against Clara, while their path to the league final was secured when they prevailed 6-10 to 4-13 in a ten goal thriller against Erins Own.

The Erins Own men had won their previous two matches in the group when they overcame Rower-Inistioge & Clara.

As mentioned, the game against Rower-Inistioge on July 20th was the first Club match in Kilkenny played since the Pandemic began in March, and the Castlecomer men won 2-14 to 0-13, while they had a closer match against Clara as they came out on top 3-15 to 0-21.

The remaining game in Group A saw Clara defeat Rower-Inistioge 3-17 to 0-18.

SECTION B GROUP B

Section B in Group B saw Dicksboro, Ballyhale Shamrocks and St. Patricks Ballyragget make up a three team group.

The Boro made an early statement of their credentials as they proved too strong for Ballyhale Shamrocks and St. Patricks Ballyragget. They accounted for Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-30 to 0-14, while the winning margin against the Ballyragget men was one point greater - 20 points - as they cruised to a 3-28 to 0-17 victory.

Meanwhile, Ballyhale Shamrocks won 1-22 to 1-20 against St. Patricks Ballyragget.

LATE TULLOGER RALLY LANDS LEAGUE HONOURS LEAGUE FINALS ROUND-UP

The Junior League Section A final between Tullogher-Rosbercon and Conahy Shamrocks was a grinding battle played in difficult windswept conditions, which spoiled the spectacle.

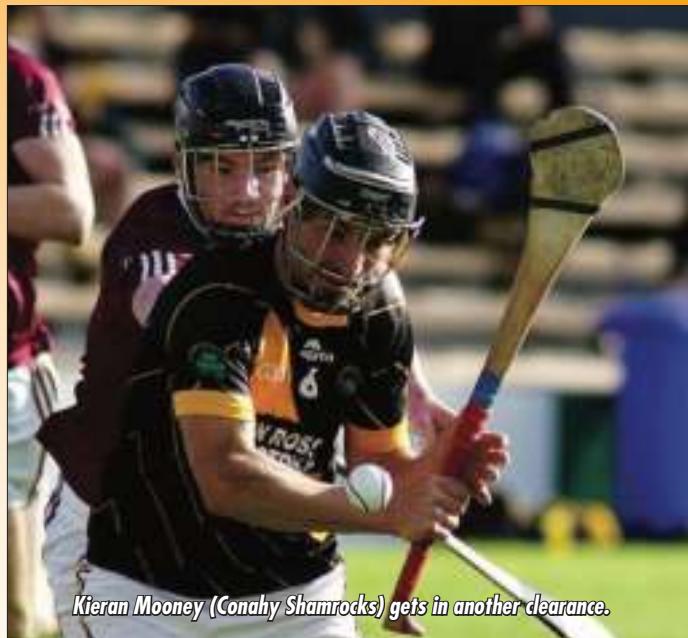
The game was originally scheduled for Ballyhale, but was switched to Gowran because of an unplayable surface in Shamrocks ground. An early goal from Walter Walsh gave the Tulloher men a 1-1 to 0-1 lead, but the Conahy men clawed their way back with James Bergin displaying unerring accuracy from frees as they led 0-7 to 1-3 at the interval.

Tullogher-Rosbercon had wind advantage throughout the second-half, but their work-rate was slack for majority of the half, as they were waiting for things to happen rather than graft to try and use the wind to their advantage, while they also suffered the loss of the departure of Walter Walsh due to a knock sustained which needless to say was a major blow to their future prospects.

Liam Barron and Donal Brennan exchanged points from play early in the 2nd half, before O'Donoghue and Bergin added frees followed by a lengthy lull period of 16 minutes without a score.

The scoring drought ended in the 51st minute, when James Bergin pointed a brace in quick succession - including one from play - to gain a two point lead - 0-11 to 1-6, but Tullogher-Rosbercon replied emphatically with 1-2 in two minutes as the experience of Pat Hartley was starting to have a positive impact.

The highly effective Cian O'Donoghue and Liam Barron with quickfire points restored parity, before in the 55th minute, Pat Hartley's long distance free found Conor Hennessy in space as he rifled home an unstoppable shot that gave Padraig Delaney no chance, 2-8 to 0-11. Conahy Shamrocks almost restored parity in the 60th minute, as Tom Phelan with a piledriving effort let fly with a rasping shot that flew inches wide, before Cian O'Donoghue had the final say as he pointed a free from halfway to run out slightly flattering four point winners.



Kieran Mooney (Conahy Shamrocks) gets in another clearance.



Captains, James Bergin and Eoin Fennelly with referee Owen Beehan before the throw-in.

Piltown defeated their Southern neighbours Windgap 1-21 to 2-11 in the Shield Final, while in the Section B decider Dicksboro came out on top 3-12 to 2-13 against James Stephens in a thriller.

CHAMPIONSHIP BORO WIN SECTION B

The Junior Championship began in Section B which as already mentioned is for the clubs second team.

Seven teams made up Section B with the first game played on the 19th August, and that was the first quarter-final clash between Erins Own and St. Patricks Ballyragget, with Erins Owns winning 4-14 to 1-14.

The remaining quarter-finals saw Dicksboro and Clara progress with James Stephens already having received a bye into the semi-finals.

The Boro won by 20 points against Rower-Inistioge, 5-26 to 1-12, while Clara comfortably accounted for Ballyhale Shamrocks, 3-18 to 1-10.

Both James Stephens and Dicksboro won their respective semi-finals in contrasting style to set up a repeat showing of the league final.

The goals were the decisive difference as the Village overcame Clara 3-13 to 0-20, while Dicksboro eased to a 2-24 to 2-12 victory over Erins Own Castlecomer.

The final was played in Johns Park on a glorious sunny, Summer-like afternoon on Sunday 13th September. It was a more one sided showdown than the corresponding clash in the league final as Dicksboro cruised to a 3-20 to 2-9 success and qualify for a championship semi-final.

Davy Ryan was top scorer with 1-8, while Liam Brennan Smyth scored 2-2, as their very impressive championship outings set them up nicely for a semi-final showdown with Piltown.

PRELIMINARY ROUND KELLY INSPIRES RANGERS TO VICTORY

Section A of the Junior championship commenced in late August with the clash of Barrow Rangers and Kilmacow in Thomastown.

Barrow Rangers were in control for the majority of the contest, as they defeated the South Kilkenny men 1-18 to 0-16 with Jack Kelly giving an exhibition as he scored 0-9 -0-5 from play - while also pointing from a brilliantly executed sideline cut.

SECOND ROUND

TULLOGER'S LATE GOAL BLITZ STROLL TOWARDS QUARTERS

The clash of Tullogher-Rosbercon and Barrow Rangers was the



LISDOWNEY - COUNTY JH "A" CHAMPIONS 2020

Back: Ciaran Mackey, Jack Dunphy, Niall Kenny, Conor Tallis, Eddie Kenny, Darragh Mackey, Peter O'Sullivan, Marty McEvoy, Aaron Fogarty, Cathal Jordan, Jack McGee, Stephen Delaney, Aidan Tallis, Eoin Kenny, Michael Kenny, Paddy Bowden, Ben Tallis, Eoin Delahunt, Joe Bergin, Niall Mackey,
Front: Jack O'Sullivan, Eoin Delaney, Dean Brophy, Luke Holohan, Luke Campion, Dylan Jordan, John Brennan, Brian Kavanagh, Luke Moore, Laurence Campion, James Phelan.

standout fixture of the second round of the championship, with the Tullogher men among the favourites for honours having been relegated from the Intermediate Grade last year and possessing a wealth of talent. Barrow Rangers would have been very hopeful of a good Championship having just lost out by a point to eventual champions O'Loughlin Gaels in last years' semi-final.

However, in a bitterly disappointing contest that failed to live up to the heights of expectations, Tullogher-Rosbercon produced a late goal blitz from Conor Hennessy(2) and a second from Cian O'Donoghue secured a comprehensive if somewhat flattering 15-point margin of victory on a 4-14 to 0-11 scoreline. The clash of close neighbours Blacks & Whites and Graignamanagh was also a major disappointment, with the Skeough men taking control from a very early stage.

Ryan Murphy accounted 0-14 (0-11 f., 0-1 pen.) of his sides total as they built up a 0-9 to 0-1 lead after just thirteen minutes.

Graignamanagh added three consecutive points to narrow the gap to five points, 0-9 to 0-4, but Blacks & Whites re-established control and a Jamie Byrne goal where he rifled an unstoppable shot gave them an eleven point lead at the interval, 1-13 to 0-5.

Afterwards, the Skeough men remained in control as they cruised to a 1-19 to 0-10 victory.

Meanwhile, Conahy Shamrocks as expected cruised to victory against Cloneen, but they did get off to the worst possible start as The Clogh side led 1-2 to no score after eight minutes.

The Conahy men were without the injured James Bergin, and they were caught completely by surprise with Cloneen's blistering start.

However, they got their act together quickly and goals in quick succession from Tom Phelan and Alan Healy gave them an outright lead.

The subsequent Junior champions started to assert themselves and they led 2-7 to 1-5 at the interval.

However, just like the very start of the match, Cloneen began the second-half in whirlwind fashion when Thomas Brennan rifled home a superb goal following a long range delivery to narrow the gap to just two points. 2-7 to 2-5. Conahy Shamrocks responded and took control for the remainder of the game as they outscored Cloneen 2-10 to 0-5 to run out convincing 4-17 to 2-10 & set up a quarter final clash with Mooncoin.

Tom Phelan and Edmond Delaney added further goals as they ran out resounding winners in the end, with Delaney in particular stepping up to the plate in the absence of James Bergin as he scored 1-9 (0-6 f.). Elsewhere, in the second round, Piltown defeated their Southern neighbours Slieverue

4-16 to 1-17, Emeralds overcame Windgap 1-20 to 0-16, while Mooncoin eased to a 1-24 to 0-17 victory over Galmoy.

QUARTER-FINALS EMERALDS STUN TULLOGER

The quarter-finals saw Tullogher-Rosbercon re-acquaint with Emeralds from their first round clash in the League, while Piltown played Blacks & Whites. Conahy Shamrocks had a last eight contest with Mooncoin. All three matches took place on a glorious warm sunny Sunday 13th September and it was the Urlingford men who produced one of the results of the Championship as they shocked one of the competition favorites in Gowran. Having run them close in the opening round of the league before succumbing to a late Tullogher goal blitz, Emeralds would have felt more than hopeful of at least giving them a good rattle.

Despite playing with a light wind advantage during the opening-half, it was Tullogher-Rosbercon who set the tempo and playing within themselves, they led 0-10 to 0-6 at the interval.

However, after half-time they took the game by the scruff of the neck as their high energetic work-rate laid the platform for victory.

Defensively they gained supremacy, as inspired by the highly immaculate Pa Doheny and Brian Troy, they managed to stifle the threat of the highly regarded Tullogher-Rosbercon attack who were now struggling to make an impact.

The two corner-forwards Gerry Troy and Liam Grant posed a constant threat anytime they gained possession, but the main catalyst and inspiration for victory was Conor Martin. Conor Martin was the one Emeralds player carrying the fight while they were struggling during the opening-half, and he led the revival and fightback to provide the leadership as others followed suite.

Martin created space to blast home a low rasping effort in the 35th minute as they took an outright lead for the very first time, 1-8 to 0-10, before the Emeralds men added a second goal in the 43rd minute to take command.

Conor Martin stepped up to a free about 45 yards from goal.

He appeared to have under hit his effort, but critically the sliothar took a touch off one of the Tullogher-Rosbercon defenders right on the goal-line and the goal gave Emeralds a 2-10 to 0-11 lead.

Tullogher-Rosbercon were suddenly in trouble, as the Urlingford men were displaying the greater appetite for battle.

However, the Tullogher men fought back and goals from two 17-year-olds Simon Kennedy and Coleman O'Sullivan left just a point

separating the sides entering the final ten minutes with Emeralds leading 2-13 to 2-12. It was all to play for.

Both sides added three points apiece, as Emeralds managed to stay ahead during that closing period and qualify for a semi-final showdown with Conahy Shamrocks.

The Conahy men had a close call against Mooncoin which was played in Thomastown. They held a slender advantage at the interval as they led 0-9 to 1-5.

However, the Suirsiders with wind advantage came out all guns blazing for the second-half. A second Mooncoin goal scored by Martin O'Neill built up a four point lead around the three quarter mark and when goalkeeper Eoin Purcell brilliantly saved a well struck penalty from Edmond Delaney, it appeared it wasn't going to be The Suirsiders day.

Alas it wasn't to be, as the Conahy men kept plugging away and they got their just rewards. They displayed great fighting spirit having to overturn a four point gap during the final ten minutes.

James Bergin added two points in quick succession before brilliantly striking home the all-important goal, 1-15 to 2-11.

Bergin was on fire, and he added another point to double the advantage, before Kevin Crowley pointed from play to leave the minimum between the teams.

However, Conahy Shamrocks held out by the slenderest of margins. They had goalkeeper Padraig Delaney in particular by producing two wonder saves early in the second-half to deny Mooncoin certain goals.

Meanwhile, Piltown had to survive a late Blacks & Whites to emerge victorious 1-17 to 2-11.

A Kevin Brophy goal gave them a 1-7 to 0-6 lead at the interval and by the end of the third quarter they accelerated to build up a 9-point lead and appearing to be well on their way to victory.

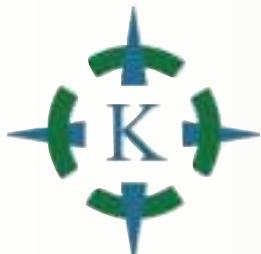
However, they had to survive a late Blacks & Whites rally as goals from a Ryan Murphy penalty and Jamie Byrne left just three points between them, but they held out to anticipate a semi-final clash against Dicksboro.

BORO AND CONAHY PROGRESS TO FINAL SHOWDOWN

The glorious late Summer weather particularly in September was a real blessing and the junior semi-Finals played on Saturday September 19th were held on a beautiful warm afternoon in Nowlan Park.

The curtain raiser was Dicksboro against Piltown, as the Boro men eased to a 2-22 to 2-9 victory having taking control from a very early stage.

The City men led 0-11 to 0-4 at the interval. Despite Piltown narrowing the gap to five



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Conahy Shamrocks Captain, James Bergin is presented with the J.J. Kavanagh & Sons Junior Hurling Championship cup by Jack Kavanagh, sponsor, J.J. Kavanagh & Sons and Seamus Breathnach, Chairman, Kilkenny County Board, after the Final in Nowlan Park. (Photo:Willie Dempsey)

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points thanks to a Martin Power goal early in the second-half, the winners replied quickly with a Sean Boyd goal in the 37th minute to re-establish their dominance, 1-13 to 1-5. From there on, they were in total control and an Aran Murphy goal in the 48th minute ensured victory and confirmed their overall superior dominance.

Cian Kinsella grabbed a late consolation goal for Piltown but it was too little too late as Dicksboro ran out easy winners.

The second semi-final between Emeralds and Conahy Shamrocks was a much tighter affair, with the Conahy men turning it around after the Urlingford men dictated proceedings early on.

Conahy Shamrocks failed to register a solitary score during the opening quarter of an hour, as Emeralds built up a 0-4 to 0-0 lead with Conor Martin on target with 0-3 (0-1 f).

The Conahy men opened their account with a pointed free from James Bergin free midway through the first-half, before Tom Phelan went off on a scintillating solo run to blast home a wonder goal as they drew level with Emeralds, 1-1 to 0-4.

Emeralds replied almost immediately with a well taken goal from Sean Burke, before further points from Conor Martin - sandwiched in between a Bergin free - restored their 4 point lead, 1-6 to 1-2.

Conahy Shamrocks finished the half strongly as Bergin led the way, adding further frees to narrow the deficit to just the minimum at the interval, 1-8 to 1-7.

They continued that momentum into the start of the second-half as five consecutive points from Tom Phelan, Eoin Cahill, James Bergin (2) and a long range effort from Donal Brennan saw them take control, 1-12 to 1-8.

However, similar to the Tulloher-Rosbercon match, Emeralds kept plugging away as points from Conor Martin (2 f) and Gearoid Troy narrowed the gap to the minimum, 1-12 to 1-11.

Conahy Shamrocks though refused to wilt despite Emeralds best attempts, as they managed to stay ahead throughout that closing quarter adding further points from Tom Phelan, James Bergin (f) and a long range effort from Donal Brennan.

Emeralds fought valiantly with all their might and they kept battling away right to the very end. They were unlucky to be denied a late equalizing goal after Eddie Ryan's effort was brilliantly saved by the Conahy netminder Padraig Delaney.

However, they can reflect on a very positive year where the scalp over Tulloher-Rosbercon was a real highlight and they will be hopeful of building on that progression going into 2021.

BERGINS EXTRA-TIME HEROICS SEALS JUNIOR GLORY

After the exploits of winning Provincial and



All-Ireland honours over the past 12 months, there was unquestionably pressure on Conahy Shamrocks to win the Junior final particularly after losing last years' decider to O'Loughlin Gaels.

Dicksboro gained their place in the final entirely on merit and their comprehensive semi-final victory over Piltown made them formidable opponents.

The Conahy men led 2-6 to 0-10 at the interval as goals from Kieran Mooney and James Bergin gave them a narrow lead.

In a second-half both teams squandered numerous opportunities as the teams couldn't be separated at full-time on a 2-10 to 0-16 scoreline.

Extra-Time
Conahy Shamrocks' experience in extra-time

was a significant difference with James Bergin leading the way as captain.

Despite been somewhat wayward with his shooting, Bergin kept plugging away and never let his head drop.

He came up trumps in extra-time, when he broke free of the Dicksboro defence to find himself clear in space before striking home the all-important goal.

It was the most crucial score of all which proved decisive in the final outcome.

There was relief for the Conahy men as they withstood to the pressure when it mattered most.

They now look forward to hurling in the Intermediate

Grade in 2021 while Dicksboro will take a lot of heart from their performance in this years

and will feel very much among the contenders for Junior honours next year. It promises to be a very competitive Championship with St. Patrick's Ballyragget among the favourites having been surprisingly relegated from Intermediate.

Conahy Shamrocks: Padraig Delaney, Simon Callinan, Davy Healy, Liam Cass, Eoin Carroll, Brian Healy, Philly Cass, Donal Brennan, Eoin Cahill, John Mullan, Tom Phelan (0-2), Edmond Delaney (0-1). James Bergin (2-7, 0-5 f), Kieran Mooney (1-2), John Wallace. Subs: (Used) – Alan Healy (0-1), Darragh Dooley (0-1), Thomas Rice, Donal Cass.

Panel members; Karl Downey, John Paul Gamble, Bill Murphy, Darren Cuddihy, Michael Bergin, Geoffrey O'Shea, Frank Gunner, Ciaran Rice, Kieran Delaney, Harry O'Mahony, Sean Brennan, Paddy Mullan, Niall Coogan, Martin Fitzpatrick, Sean O'Dornan, Garry Kavanagh, Justin Brophy, Padraig Gunner, Andy O'Keeffe, Jack Murphy, Mark Gunner.

Team Mentors; Paul Buggy (Manager), Brian Rossiter (Maor Foirne), Kevin Healy, Paul Byrne and Diarmuid Healy (selectors).

Dicksboro: Philly Hogan, Cillian Timmons, Liam Stynes, Tommy Farrell, Alan Phelan, Padraig Moylan (0-3, 0-1 f), Eoghan Moylan, Joe Sheehan (0-1), Kevin Nolan, David Ryan (0-10, 0-6 f), Eoin Fennelly (capt.), Aaran Treacy Murphy (0-1), Sean Boyd (0-3), Edward Moylan, Liam Brennan Smith. Subs (Used); Paul O'Flynn (0-1), Stephen Farrell, Enda O'Donoghue.

Panel members; Robert Crotty, John Manogue, Colm O'Hara, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Tom Carroll, John Hanrick, Cormac Kennedy, David Conway, Daire Maher.

Team Mentors; Cillian Starr (Manager), Collins Connolly (Maor Foirne), Brian Fitzpatrick, Philly Hogan, John Fagan (selectors), Referee: Owen Beehan (Fenians).

JUNIOR COUNTY BOARD ROUND UP 2020 (John Stapleton PRO)

When the Kilkenny Junior Board sat down to meet at the end of January to make the draws for the competitions that come under their umbrella little did we think six weeks later that the country would grind to a halt because of Covid-19 and with it all GAA competitive competitions.

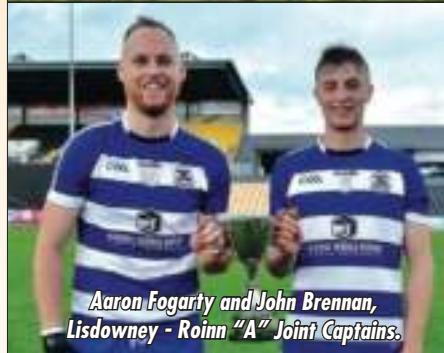
As days became weeks and then months, the outlook looked bleak for the possibility of any club games been played in 2020. But hope springs eternal and on the 23rd July the Junior A, B, C, D and inaugural Junior E competitions were finally able to start. This has been a very tough year for everyone and particular business and especially the Competition sponsors JJ Kavanagh & Sons, Iverk Produce, Countrystyle Foods and Permanent TSB. The Junior Board are extremely grateful to all their sponsors for staying so loyal to our competitions through this very difficult period.

The Junior All County league and all other ancillary cup competitions were cancelled this year to allow championship competitions go ahead. It was also wonderful that at least 200 people could attend the games at the time, where the latter end of the year has been so different. It was a frantic six weeks of hurling played in glorious weather that added to wonderful hurling. Nearly ninety games were played in total during that period culminating in Super Weekend 22nd and 23rd August. To say all the games were entertaining is not an understatement. The standard of hurling was open, fast, high scoring and above all very sporting. Yes there were a few yellow cards handed out but there were certainly not one bad stroke in all the games. Its as if the lockdown and then the release onto the fields has given everyone and new perspective on life and heightened the respect for your opponent. All of the five county final games were very high scoring.

The JJ Kavanagh & Sons Junior 'A' and 'B' finals at UPMC Nowlan Park were high class affairs. Lismore in the 'A' game finally won



ST MARTIN'S - COUNTY JH "E" CHAMPIONS 2020
Back: Joe Reid, Ronan Shore, Eoin Murphy, Liam Brennan, Ciarán FitzPatrick, Donal Coughlan, James Carrigan, Jack Murphy, John Joe Kelly, Shane O'Neill, Tom Morrissey, Mark Coady, Pawic Buggy,
Front: Paul Maher, Matthew Shorthall, Thomas Lalor, Jack Farrell, Tommy Butler, Conor Mulhall, James Dowling, Josh Dempsey, Dara Quinlan, Aidan Egan, Tommy Quirke



**Aaron Fogarty and John Brennan,
Lismore - Roinn "A" Joint Captains.**

out after a very entertaining game against Graigue/Ballycallan and now step up to Junior outright.

In the JJ Kavanagh & sons 'B' final Mullinavat had to battle all the way to shake off the tough and skilful Bennettsbridge team in a high scoring game.

The Junior 'C' Iverk Produce County final was played at Tom Ryall Park which was in excellent condition. Danesfort were back in the final after suffering defeat in last years decider and took on Emeralds of Urlingford. Again this was a fast entertaining game with loads of young players competing. In the end Danesfort took the honours and step up to Junior 'B' for 2021.

Probably the result of the weekend was the win by Cloneen in the Country Style Junior 'D' final. They took on Blacks and whites at Ballyraggett which as always was professionally presented. Cloneen are a small club sitting in North Kilkenny near the Laois border. It's a club that has a small pick and they deserve full credit in continuing to be so competitive. Cloneen don't win too much and in fact it is 32 years since they won anything. So the excellent win over Blacks and Whites is something to be celebrated by all hurling supporters across the county.

Pairc Lachtain is always a place teams love to play and staged the Junior 'E' final between Saint Martins and Dicksboro. It was the minnows against the giants but that didn't phase the young Saint Martins team under the guidance of the charismatic John Mulhall. This was the inaugural final of the Junior 'E' championship and after an honest, direct hurling game played by lads who just love playing hurling without the pressure of the more senior sections of their clubs, the Muckalee lads lifted the cup for the first time.

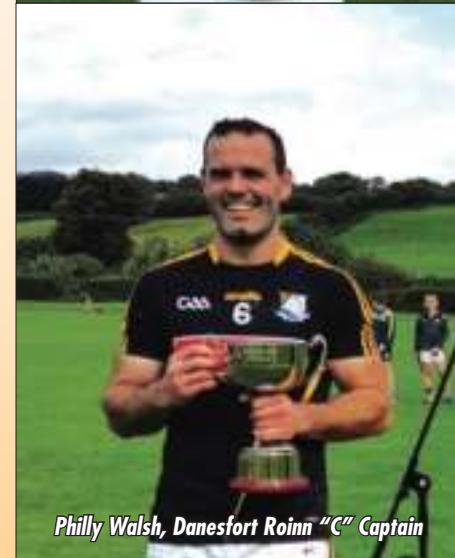
It may have been whirlwind for the Junior Board, but were delighted that everything ran so smoothly and successfully. As yet no decision has been made with regards to the restart of the Permanent TSB Under 19 and JJ Kavanagh Under 21 Championships, but aren't we all thankful that.



John Kelly, Cloneen Roinn "D" Captain



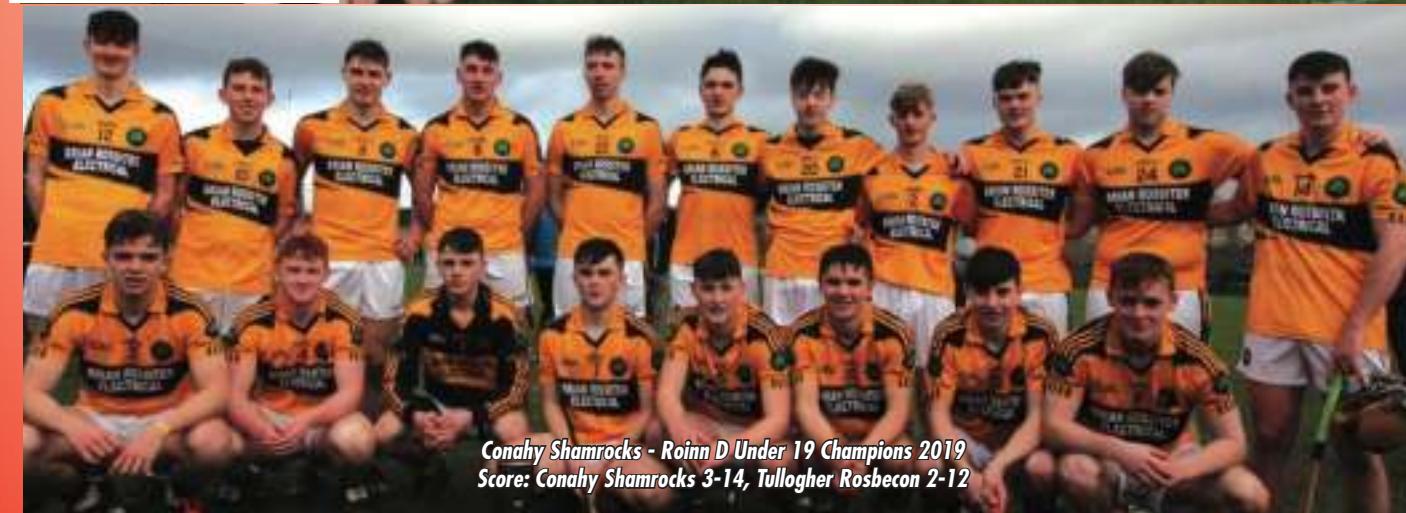
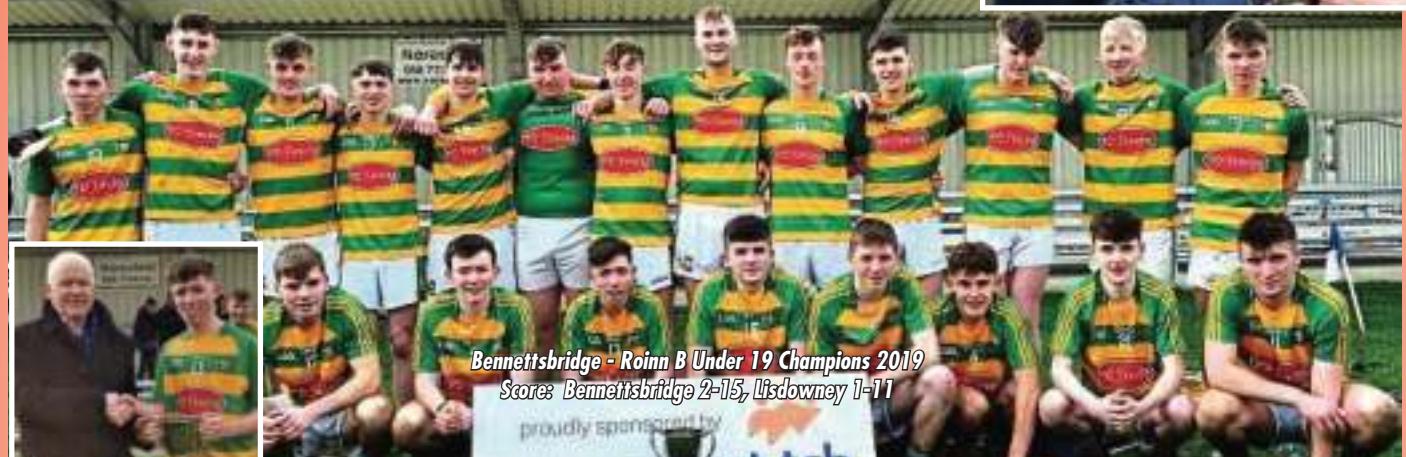
Tommy Quirke, St Martin's Roinn "E" Captain



Philly Walsh, Danesfort Roinn "C" Captain

UNDER 19 WINNERS 2019

Photos: Willie Dempsey



DICKSBORO do the Double

U17 Bord na nÓg Report by Pado O'Flynn

Photos: Willie Dempsey



Dicksboro - Roinn A U17 Champions 2020

MINOR A

The first round of this year's Kilkenny Honda Centre Minor A Championship saw Mooncoin get the better of O'Loughlin Gaels 1-15 to 0-14. However the men from the south would come a cropper in the quarter final. There were relatively easy victories for Dicksboro and Young Irelands while Thomastown will admit luck was on their side for their win over Tullogher-Rosbercon.

In the first semi-final Young Irelands and Galmoy/Windgap collided. They shared ten goals in a cracking game. What entertainment! John Locke Park Callan was no place for the faint hearted when these two sides left no stone unturned in a bid to face Dicksboro in the county final. In the end, it was the Gowran lads who finished strongly to eventually break the back in the Galmoy/Windgap challenge after a thrilling encounter.

Within 30 seconds of the start, Daniel Manning had hit the net for Young Irelands to provide a real tonic start, after a low ball delivered in by Jimmy Lennon. Blade O'Gorman won a free at the other end which Billy Drennan pointed before Killian Carey struck for another Gowran goal. From the puckout, David Sherman sent a long delivery goalwards, Billy Drennan flicked the sliotar over a defender before doubling on it, handball style, to leave it 2-0 to 1-1 after just three minutes of play. Drennan added a long distance point before Young Irelands struck again. This time, it was Ben Phelan who turned provider after a good solo, when he set up Daniel Manning for his second goal of the evening. The Galmoy/Windgap defence were unhinged at this stage after a nervy start but a few shrewd switches by their mentors served to settle them a little. One such switch led to full back, Callum Lonergan, ending a good move with a nice point from 30 metres. In the seventh minute, Sean Barron provided an intelligent delivery which was gathered by Blade O'Gorman, who rounded his man and hit goal number five of the evening to leave it all square 2-3 to 3-0 after only seven minutes of action.

Killian Carey and Billy Drennan exchanged points in advance of another big score for the candy stripes. After a very clever flick along the ground by Conor Fitzpatrick, Ben Phelan picked the sliotar on the run and gave James Purcell no chance in the Galmoy/Windgap goal. In the 14th minute Karl McCoy got on the end of a long Drennan delivery to level the game at the first waterbreak, 3-4 to 4-1, as we had a chance to draw our breaths after a whirlwind opening quarter.

Conor Fitzpatrick struck twice within a minute, his touch was excellent, to send Young Irelands ahead. Billy Drennan levelled affairs with two neat frees before he put his side ahead with an over the shoulder point. Blade O'Gorman and Ben Phelan then exchanged minors before another Drennan free left two in it. Padraig Naddy had a very impressive game all through at midfield and his 31st minute point left Galmoy/Windgap leading at half time by the minimum, 3-9 to 4-5. Adam O'Shea and Sean Barron had worked well for the combined outfit while Killian Enright had been employed in a deeper role for the second quarter. As a result of this move, Jamie Middleton had effected a number of good clearances for Young Irelands.

A point immediately on the restart from Billy Drennan extended the lead but not for long. Two quick fouls by a Galmoy defender, saw Conor Fitzpatrick level the game once more from placed balls. For the next 20 minutes Young Irelands went on to hit 1-6 without reply and this was the stage of the game where they laid down their marker. They are a very balanced

team with good hurlers on every line and on this occasion, those self same hurlers, left their impression all over this victory courtesy of their second half showing. Their fifth goal was finished by Killian Carey in the 50th minute after a powerful solo right up the middle by Padraig Naddy. They also had points from four different players before that goal which left the score 5-11 to 3-10 with ten minutes remaining. Galmoy/Windgap moved Billy Drennan to full forward in a bid to conjure up another big score and he duly obliged when, after winning the ball well on the end line, he let fly a stinging right handed shot which nestled in the far corner of the net to give his side a glimmer of hope with just two scores now dividing the teams. Sean Purcell put in a storming final quarter in a bid to save his side but one more goal from Killian Carey after a good solo and pass by Tommy Phelan, sealed the deal for Young Irelands.

Meanwhile Dicksboro and Thomastown met in the Kilkenny Honda Centre A semi-final in Danesfort. The city side started well and put it to the Thomastown men in the quarter. This had a real championship feel to it with no inch sparred. Goals from Rory O'Connor and Mikey Raggett gave the Boro men a good lead playing with a strong wind. Half time Dicksboro 2-09 Thomastown 0-04.

In the second half, a well taken goal from Harry Shine gave the city side a convincing 3-17 to 0-07. This was a good challenge for the Boro lads as Thomastown had a real physical edge to their play. Impressive for the Boro were Timmy Clifford, Niall Rowe, Charlie Nolan and James Carroll. Thomastown's Naoise Dempsey and Zach Bay Hammond worked hard throughout the 60 minutes.

Dicksboro do the Double

Dicksboro 0-19 Young Irelands 1-5

Harry Shine was the star on show, as he hit an incredible 0-14 - to inspire Dicksboro to two in a row Minor Roinn A hurling titles.

Last year's under-15 Roinn A captain gave a five-star performance as he led the way in a magnificent team display against Young Irelands (Gowran) at a sun-drenched but blustery MW Hire Centre, Dunmore.

Under the stewardship of former Kilkenny senior goalkeeping great Michael Walsh, Dicksboro had a strong energetic presence all over the field. Defensively they were completely dominant, conceding 1-2 from play, with Young Irelands goal by Killian Carey deep into stoppage time proving to be of scant consolation.

Goalkeeper Brian Minogue was assured, while team captain Niall Rowe and last year's county minor Timmy Clifford controlled the central defensive positions.

Two other players who deserve a special mention are Johnnie Keane and Cillian Hackett. Keane gave a superbly tigerish display all through and was dominant at corner-back, while Cillian Hackett, listed as corner-forward on paper but operating as an extra defender, thrived as the roving runner.

His running game caused Young Irelands an endless amount of problems.

Having the wind advantage for the second half, Young Irelands would have felt more than hopeful of narrowing the deficit, but they struggled

to make any inroads against a strongly stubborn and well-built defence.

The continuously constant stop-start passages of play which resulted in about 10 minutes of injury-time didn't help the Young Irelands cause. Once Harry Shine extended the advantage to nine points (0-12 to 0-3) early in the second half the Gowran lads were always facing an uphill struggle.

Killian Carey (free) and Padraig Naddy, with a superb effort from play, pointed in quick succession, but that was as good as it got. Dicksboro dominated to the finish, outscoring their opponents 0-7 to 1-0.

Harry Shine added five further points, including three from play, to keep the scoreboard ticking over. Mikey Raggett and Sean Maher also found the target to confirm their side's superior dominance.

Young Irelands tried and battled manfully in difficult circumstances, but despite the best efforts of goalkeeper Barry Dunne, full-back Cathal Darcy, the half-back line of Bobby Brennan, Paddy Langton and Jamie Middleton along with Padraig Naddy, it ended in major disappointment as they had racked up highly impressive scoring totals on their way to the county final.

However, Dicksboro proved a major step-up from the opposition teams they faced prior to the county final. Once the dust settles after Sunday's loss they will look back at the massive progress made within the club.

Reaching a Roinn A final having just come up after winning the Roinn B championship last year is an achievement not to be dismissed. with 13 of Sunday's team having started last year's Roinn B final victory, they have the potential to achieve further glory. Sunday's defeat can be part of a learning experience from which they can recover.

SCORERS: Dicksboro - Harry Shine (0-14, 0-4 frees, 0-1 65); Eoghan O'Neill, Charlie Nolan, Nick Doheny, Mikey Raggett, Sean Maher (0-1 each).

Young Irelands - Killian Carey (1-2, 0-2 frees), Conor Fitzpatrick (0-2, 0-1 free), Padraig Naddy (0-1).

Dicksboro - Brian Minogue, Luca Loli, Niall Rowe (captain), Johnnie Keane; Stevie Dermody, Timmy Clifford, Rory O'Connor, James Carroll, Charlie Nolan, Eoghan O'Neill, Harry Shine, Sean Maher, Mikey Raggett, Nick Doheny, Cillian Hackett. Subs: Charlie Delahunt, Zac McHardy.

Young Irelands - Barry Dunne, Sean Fitzpatrick, Cathal Darcy, David Drennan, Bobby Brennan, Paddy Langton, Jamie Middleton, Jimmy Lennon (captain) Padraig Naddy, Killian Carey, Tommy Phelan, Ben Phelan, Mikie Knox, Conor Fitzpatrick, Daniel Manning. Subs: Rory Farrell, Aaron Hosey, Brogan McAviney.

Referee - John Walsh (Rower-Inistioge)

MINOR B

At the very start of the campaign all eyes turned towards Dunnamaggin to see if they could deliver on their promise and right from the get go they were the form side. Kilmacow had a fine preliminary round victory over Conahy Shamrocks and followed up with an even better first round victory over Erins Own where James Walsh sited at full forward had a big impact on the game. Dunnamaggin, Emeralds's & Fenians were the



Dicksboro Captain Niall Rowe with Minor Roinn A trophy, Cathal O'Neill Honda Citreon Centre Sponsor, John Byrne



other round 1 victors. Come quarter-final time Kilmacow, Dunnamaggin, Bennettsbridge and Glenmore came out on top with the Bridge having a very strong performer in Ivan Kelly.

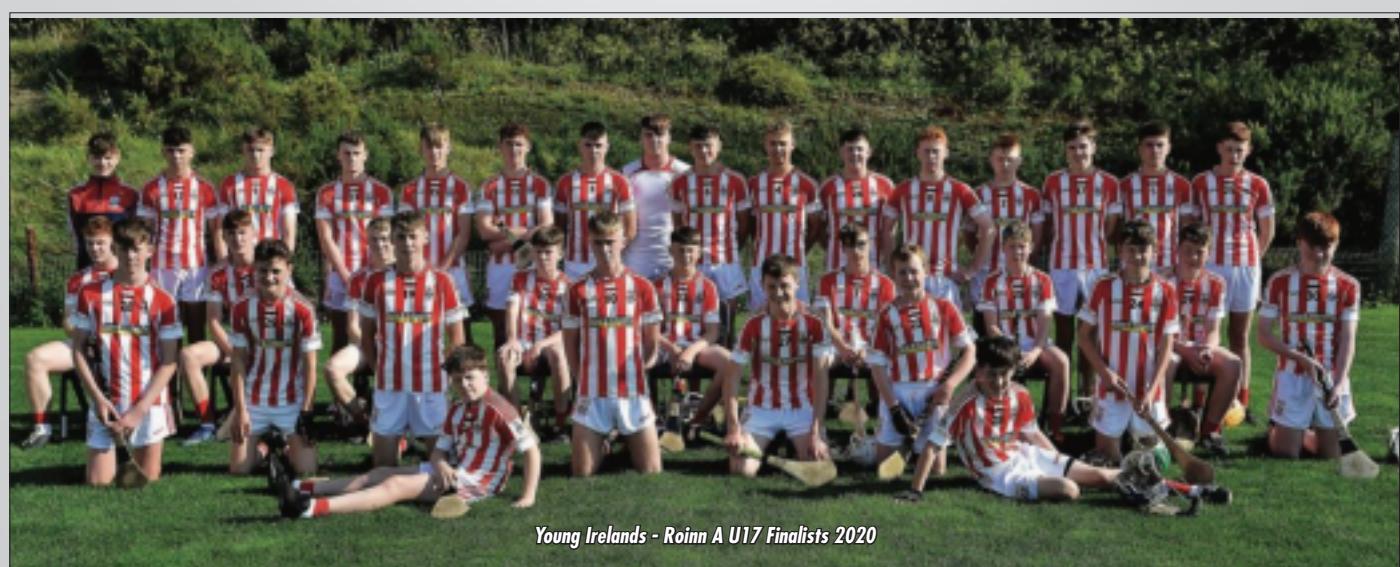
In the all south semi-final Glenmore just couldn't get the goals as they lost out to Dunnamaggin 3-17 to 0-17 whilst up in Thomastown Bennettsbridge ended Kilmacow's interest in the competition.

Walsh the Difference

Dunnamaggin 2-13 Bennettsbridge 2-10

Dunnamaggin landed the Kilkenny Honda Centre Minor B County Final at a sun drenched MW Hire Dunmore where an unanswered 1-5 in the 2nd quarter proved to be the difference between the sides as Bennettsbridge gave as good as they got over the 60 odd minutes play but will ultimately admit over the balance of play that their southern counterparts were the better side but the Bridge men did have chances in injury time to force extra time.

In the opening eight minutes it was all Dunnamaggin with Denis Walsh slotting over two frees before Tom Duggan found Joe Fitzpatrick with a monster of a puck out and the centre forward duly pointed. They repeated the trick a mere 90 seconds later.



Young Irelands - Roinn A U17 Finalists 2020



Dunnamaggin - Roinn B U17 Champions 2020



Bennettsbridge - Roinn B U17 Finalists 2020

Bennettsbridge finally got on the scoreboard through Oisin Meegan. In a twinkling of an eye they were level when Cillian Kelly flicked home from a goal mouth scramble following a Bill Hughes free. Hughes soon grabbed a superb solo point from out on the sideline.

This seemed to provoke a reaction from Dunnamaggin with Walsh executing a spectacular cross field ball to Ruairdhí Holden and the half forward hit a rocket of a shot home.

Walsh quickly floated over a free with Holden helping himself to a point from sixty metres before Walsh showed a little bit of special skill to hop the sliothar on the run prior to splitting the posts. He added a free before Cathal Buckley finished off the half's scoring to leave Dunnamaggin ahead by 1-9 to 1-2.

When Walsh converted a pointed free from the first play of the new half one did wonder would the 'Bridge respond. They did!

Hughes and John Doyle (3) landed points in quick succession before Fitzpatrick briefly lifted the siege with a point but it was responded to instantly with Doyle finding Meegan in space and the centre forward sent the white flag waving.

Just at the 3rd water break Walsh found Fitzpatrick who was en route to goal when he was fouled. Walsh rifled the ball to the top left hand corner.

It took Bennettsbridge a few minutes to get going in the new quarter but a sweeping move which involved no less than seven players saw sub. John Campion re-ignite their hopes with a sizzling shot to the net.

Walsh & Doyle exchanged frees before Meegan landed two points in a row as they upped the ante on the eventual champions. Mickey Thomas made sure the difference was out to three when he pointed in the 64th minute but still the game flowed on. In the last plays of the game Bennettsbridge engineered half chances but it simply was not meant to be as Dunnamaggin won their first title since 2017.

Scorers: Dunnamaggin: Denis Walsh (1-7, 1-6 frees), Ruairdhí Holden (1-1), Joe Fitzpatrick (0-3), Mikey Thomas and Cathal Buckley (0-1 each)

Bennettsbridge: John Doyle (0-4 frees) John Campion & Cillian Kelly (1-0 each) Oisin Meegan (0-4) Bill Hughes (0-2, 0-1 free).

Dunnamaggin: Tom Buckley, Eoin Sheil, Jimmy O'Neill, Cathal Walsh, Colin Fitzpatrick, Shaun O'Keeffe, Aaron Moore, Denis Walsh, Mikey Thomas, Tom Lodge, Joe Fitzpatrick, Ruairdhí Holden, Cathal Buckley, Craig Drennan, Aidan O'Neill

Bennettsbridge: Jack Fortistall, Conor Molloy, Joe Hughes, Gearoid Kent, James Hughes, Myles McGovern, Kyle Ryan, Ivan Kelly, Bill Hughes, Oisin Meegan, John Doyle, Tim Kelly, Dylan Kenny, Elmhin Cassin, Cillian Kelly.

Ref: Gay Rafter (Threecastles)

MINOR C

This was no ordinary Roinn C Championship as the standard was very high for the third tier of minor hurling in Kilkenny. In the very first round game there was an exhibition of scoring as Carrickshock and Cloneen/Railyard shot the lights out as 'Shock gained a 2-22 to 4-10 victory. Another highlighted first round game saw Barrow Rangers defeat St. Lachtains 2-16 to 1-16. The quarter-finals saw victories for Mullinavat, Lisdowney, Tullaroan and Carrickshock. The performance of Ciaran Phelan was a highlight in John Lockes loss to the eventual champions. In the semi-finals Tullaroan shot 26 points as they dispatched St Patrick's. The other semi-final was a much closer affair as Mullinavat eventually gave second best to an excellent Lisdowney outfit 4-14 to 1-18.

Dunne does the damage

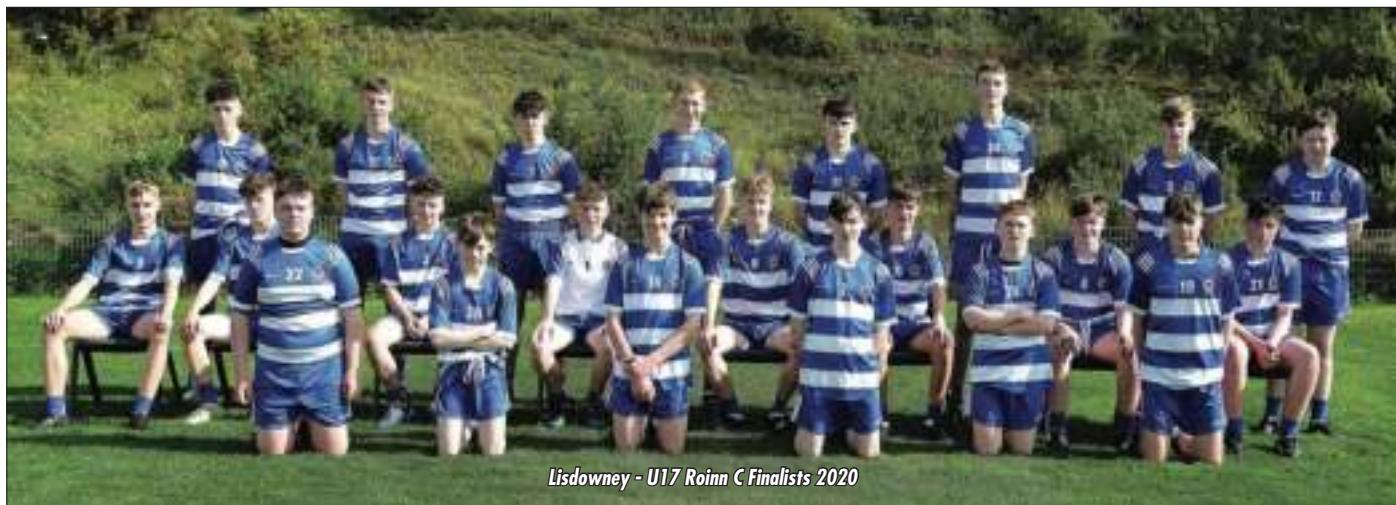
Tullaroan 2-18 1-14 Lisdowney

Tullaroan landed the Kilkenny Honda Centre Minor C hurling title where a 1-10 haul from Gearoid Dunne proved to be decisive as his impact was significant over the 60 minutes although Lisdowney will rue missed chances in the opening quarter where they failed to make use of the elements.

The game was only seconds old when Richard McEvoy won the breaking



Tullaroan - U17 Roinn C Champions 2020



Lisdowney - U17 Roinn C Finalists 2020

ball from the throw in and sent the white flag waving with Eibhin McEvoy following up with a pointed free. It took until the 6th minute when Dunne grabbed a pointed free himself with James Walton pointing before Dunne put the sash in front with a converted 65. Richard McEvoy got two long range frees before Dunne levelled matters with a free of his own.

The second quarter was where Tullaroan did the real damage by out-scoring their opponents 2-3 to 0-4.

Willie Cahill got a fine individual point with Liam Walsh responding in kind. Directly from the puck out Dunne broke onto the loose ball before shrugging off a number of challenges to blast his shot home. The centre forward quickly added a free soon after but the tyros from Lisdowney fought back with points from Richard and Eibhin McEvoy and Charlie Brennan before Dunne sniped one back.

Right on the stroke of half-time a move involving Eamon Holland and James Walton ended with Cillian Brennan rifling his shot to the bottom right hand to corner to have Tullaroan ahead 2-7 to 0-8 with the use of the wind to come.

Burns got Lisdowney off to a great start pointing from 50 metres but the response from the eventual winners was emphatic with Dunne and Charlie Cleere sending the white flag waving. Killian Dunne pointed before Dunne (2) and Billy Coogan pilfered points whilst Eibhin McEvoy grabbed one of his own.

The water break came at a good time for Lisdowney and they regrouped and really battled in the final quarter with Alan Dunphy and Tadgh Blanchfield cutting the difference

back to 6 but points soon followed from Dunne, Eamon Holland & James Cash.

Richard McEvoy converted a free but Dunne largely lorded the last elements of the game scoring a monster of a point from well inside his own 65 from play which drew gasps of approval from both sides. Eibhin McEvoy did get a goal in the dying embers of the game but it was case of too little too late.

Considering it was a Roinn C County Final the standard was very high with a number of players probably on the radar for county selection in the future.

Lisdowney: James McEvoy, Tadgh Phelan, Jamie Thornton, Oisin O'Connor, Harry Kennedy, Richard McEvoy, Alan Dunphy, Killian Dunne, Brandon Brophy, Andrew McEvoy, Willie Cahill, Charlie Brennan, Darragh Burns, Eibhan McEvoy, Daire O'Sullivan. Subs: James Comerford, Séamus Murphy

Tullaroan: Niall Holland, Josh Tallis, Tom Dillon, Padraig O'Mahony, Paul Mulligan, Eamon Holland, James Cash, Bill Walton, Bill Coogan, Charlie Cleere, Gearoid Dunne, Liam Walsh, James Walton, Cillian Brennan, Aaron Russell.

Ref: Owen Beehan (*Fenians*)



Tullaroan Joint Captains, Bill Walton & Eamon Óg Holland with John Byrne, Bord na nÓg.

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TO JAMES STEPHENS the spoils

Bord na nÓg U15 Report by Pado O'Flynn

Photos: Willie Dempsey



James Stephens - Roinn A U15 Champions 2020

Eight teams went to post in the Duggan Steel Roinn A County Championship. The quarter finals saw good wins for Graigue-Ballycallan and James Stephens while O'Loughlin Gaels ability to get goals saw them get the better of Young Irelands. Dicksboro were made to work by a young Erins Own side to gain their victory.

The boys in blue from Graigue-Ballycallan ran out convincing winners in their tie against city rivals Dicksboro.

The final score of 5-14 to 0-14 did little justice to the much closer encounter on the field of play but goals win matches and GBC were lucky enough to put five goals past the unfortunate Boro keeper and this was ultimately to be the deciding factor in this game.

Aaron McEvoy, in form at the moment, got GBC off the mark with a point from play after three minutes and GBC were leading the Boro 1-5 to 0-3 at the first water break.

Graigue-Ballycallan keeper Sean McGrath kept a clean sheet on the night despite his full back Sean Roberts conceding a penalty when he took down his opposite number in the square late in the first half. McGrath deflected a fine penalty effort over the bar for a lesser score for Dicksboro. Apart from that transgression, Sean Roberts was outstanding in defence ably assisted by Aidan Comerford and Billy O'Neill. The latter was faultless in his long range free taking and O'Neill converted all three of his 65's.

For the losers, Max Doyle, Mickey Stynes and Nathan Pollard stood out. In the other semi-final James Stephens had four points to spare over near neighbours O'Loughlin Gaels.

and Minogue split the posts with two points apiece.

O'Neill and McEvoy popped over a pointed free each before Bill McDermott got the Villages first goal of the morning when he bundled the ball home. McEvoy instantly responded with a superb point that saw the sides level 1-7 each at the water break.

Manogue hit a purple patch after this knocking over hat trick points before Casey took on the baton pointing and hitting the crucial second goal.

Lesser sides would have folded but in an instant it was game on as Corcoran rifled the sliothar to the roof of the net before Billy O'Neill landed an inspirational point. They tried in vain to get the equalising goal but Oisin Bateman, Liam Holohan and Bill Whelan returned the ball with interest.

It was tough on the Kilmanagh outfit to lose out but the can be proud of their body of work over the last two years and one wouldn't back against them turning the tables at minor level.

To James Stephens go the spoils and it was an over all team effort that gained the victory.

James Stephens: Daniel Power, Noah Minogue, Liam Holohan, Bill Whelan, Sean Deely, Oisin Bateman, Ed Lahoof, Sean Bergin, Stephen Power Kellet, Jacob Breslin, Billy Young, Stephen Minogue, Andy Murphy, Joe Greene & Simon Casey.

Sub: Bill McDermott

Graigue Ballycallan: Sean McGrath, Ben Young, Sean Roberts, Aidan Comerford, Dean O'Brien, Billy O'Neill, Patrick Purcell, Jeff Neary, Ryan Cody, Martin Brennan, Páidí Egan, Jamie Casey, Jake O'Brien, Aaron McEvoy & Ryan Corcoran.

Ref: Sean McMahon (Erins Own).

U-15 ROIÑN A COUNTY FINAL

Battle of the champs goes to the Village

James Stephens 2-11 Graigue Ballycallan 2-8

The 2018 and 2019 U-13 County champions clashed in this Duggan Steel U-15 Roinn A county final played in MW Hire Dunmore. This was not for faint hearts as the level of skill and determination on display was immense and it was a pity so many of their family members would not get to see the action in person. James Stephens just about came out on top to see Daniel Power lift the cup at the end of 60 odd minutes play.

The first half belonged to the Kilmanagh outfit but they shot a number of wides in the opening half which was to prove vital. Aaron McEvoy and Andy Murphy shared opening four points equally before McEvoy ensured that Graigue-Ballycallan led at the first water break thanks to a difficult pointed free.

James Stephens hit the front for the first time after Stephen Minogue and Sean Casey grabbed a point apiece. Then a great effort from Ryan Corcoran saw the corner forward feed the onrushing Jake O'Brien who lashed the sliothar to the net. Manogue and Corcoran saw out the half with a minor each leaving Graigue-Ballycallan ahead by 1-4 to 0-5.

The start of the second half saw the men in light blue come under intense pressure with some excellent rear guard action from Sean Roberts, Billy O'Neill and Aidan Comerford keeping the Kilmanagh side in it as Casey

Roinn B

Roinn B was the usual full house of contenders with any number of them having genuine hopes of landing the trophy. There were first round wins for Dunnagin, Danesfort, Graignamanagh and Galmoy/Windgap.

At the quarter final stages Bennetsbridge, Piltown & Dunnagin gained victories but it was the quarter-final between Rower Inistioge & Galmoy/Windgap which whetted the appetite with Conor Doyle getting the visitors off to a great start with an early goal but the Rower struck back with a succession of points Eoghan Lyng was particularly impressive at full forward and should be a name that we will hear more about in the future. When impressive centre back and team captain Joseph Mulholland drove up-field to hit the net for the Rower in the 30th minute he gave them a 1-9 to 1-5 lead. In the 34th minute Niall Drennan went for goal from a 20 metre free at the other end and his well struck shot hit the net. Cian Murphy brought off a tremendous double save from Niall Drennan and John Dermody respectively to keep his side in the game as Eoghan Lyng added a free to leave his side ahead 1-10 to 2-5 at half time.

Over the course of the third quarter, the hosts dominated to strike six points without reply. The most impressive of these came off the stick of Jack Roche from 30 metres out on the right hand sideline. In the 46th minute, Conor Doyle was fouled en route to goal and

Niall Drennan stepped up to strike his second goal from a placed ball and give Galmoy/Windgap a lifeline as it was 1-16 to 3-5 at the second waterbreak. Adam Clifford was introduced for The Rower at this juncture and he soon made an impression. Eoin O'Shea on the Galmoy/Windgap goal brought off a cracking save from Ewan Gilsenan, but Clifford was on hand to slam home the rebound and stretch the lead to eight points. Jack O'Shea had put in a big effort for the visitors and when cramp set in, he was moved to the full forward line, a move which paid immediate dividends when he slammed home a fourth goal. Despite having moved to centre back for the final quarter, Eoghan Lyng put the icing on the cake for the home side when he struck home a penalty in the closing moments. Galmoy/Windgap had one last chance but Cian Murphy blocked out Niall Drennan's goalbound shot.

ROINN B FINAL

Bennettsbridge 3-14 Dunnamaggin 1-10.

A glorious sunny Sunday morning in Callan was the setting for the battle of the titans of the Duggan Steel Roinn B Hurling County Final. With two evenly matched on form teams and perfect conditions for hurling, this game was set to be an exhibition of underage hurling. From the throw in the high pace at which this game would flow was set. Dunnamaggin drew first blood, with Ross O'Neill slotting over two points from play within the first two minutes. Then it was the turn of The Bridge to open their account with three unanswered points. By the 13th minute of the first half it was Dunnamaggin's turn to hit a purple patch with a superb hard fought goal from play from Killian Tallon seeing the sides once again level. With points from Cathal Walsh (65), Cathal Buckley & Ciaran Hickey the half time score line read 1-8 to 0-10 in favour of Dunnamaggin. With a long ball in from a free from Tim Kelly finding its way into the back of the net Bennettsbridge found themselves in the lead again in the first minute of the second half. Another 7 minutes of high intensity play from both teams ensued before honours were again even with a superb free from the middle of the field slotted sweetly between the posts by Cathal Walsh to bring the score line to 1-10 a piece. In a hard fought battle on an unseasonably hot September Sunday morning both teams were glad of a second half water break with Bennettsbridge going into the break with a two point advantage. With the pain of defeat from last Sunday fresh in their minds the Bennettsbridge boys came out in force for the last quarter set on revenge. With goals from Charlie Fitzgerald and another late goal from a goal mouth melee in the 5th last minute there was no way back for the Dunnamaggin boys. Bennettsbridge ran out deserved winners in what everyone can agree was a truly entertaining game of hurling.

Bennettsbridge: Diarmuid Greene, Oran Lavery, Paddy Walsh, Paul Melon, Adam Cullen, Tim Kelly, Jack Campion, Joe Hughes, Eoin O'Connor, Jamie Hughes, Charlie Fitzgerald, Luke McBride, Noah Brennan, Alex O'Farrell, Jude O'Dwyer, Rory O'Connor, Eoin Walpole, Johnny Cash, Jack Dooley, Adam Barron, Paddy Cash.
Dunnamaggin: Sean Rossiter, Pierce Costello, Eoin Shiel, David Moore, Mark McEneaney, Cathal Walsh, William Browne, Cathal Buckley, Sean Lawton, Noah Gilmore, Ross O'Neill, Ciaran Hickey, Noah Cahill, Killian Tallon, Tim Doherty, Shay Delaney, Gavin McMahon, Jamie Tallon, Brian Hickey, Conor Lawton, Thomas Deegan, Ian McDonald, John Hayes, Sam O'Shea, Stephen Walsh, Scott McDonald, Jake Butler, Liam Davis, Cathal Rossiter



James Bateman representing Duggan Steel, Village capt Daniel Power and John Byrne, Bord na nÓg.



Bennettsbridge Captain Diarmuid Greene with John Byrne , Cathaoirleach..

Roinn C

This year's fare was well above standard and was really displayed where Fenians showed great guts and determination to get over the line against Mooncoin 0-13 to 0-12. Up the road in Tullaroan there was an epic unfolding as they fell to near neighbours St Lachtains 1-8 to 0-9. There were also wins for Glenmore and James Stephens B.

Glenmore got the goals against St. Lachtains which was enough to get the victory 3-9 to 1-8. Fenians put on a dazzling display as they get through to the final after defeating James Stephens B. This years fare was well above standard and was really displayed where Fenians showed great guts and determination to get over the line against Mooncoin 0-13 to 0-12. Up the road in Tullaroan there was an epic unfolding as they fell to near neighbours St Lachtains 1-8 to 0-9. There were also wins for Glenmore and James Stephens B.

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Bennettsbridge - U15 Roinn B Champions 2020



Dunnamaggin - U15 Roinn B Finalists 2020

Roinn C Final Glenmore 2-10 1-11 Fenians

This Duggan Steel U-15 Roinn C County Final played at MW Hire Dunmore was a fierce contest with a lot of skill on show the ultimately was of a higher level than the C status it was played under.

One could not but feel sympathy for Fenians as they contested an underage final for the first time in a number of years with 16 player but will admit over the 60 minutes their southern conquerors deserved the win.

The key moment of the game arrived in the 47th minute when after Pauric Cody broke through on goal and his shot was excellently saved by a superb Craig Bowe. David Walsh was quickest to react and he sent the ball to the roof of the net to put the difference out to four (2-9 to 1-8). Glenmore had started the stronger with a burst of four points from Walsh. Pauric Cody added two soon after, one from a placed ball whilst Patrick O'Connor got his first point out on the far sideline.

It took until the 11th minute for Fenians to get

their first score of the afternoon with Darragh McCormack pointing after a cross field pass from Donagh Maher. McCormack closed out the quarter with a monster point from just inside his own half.

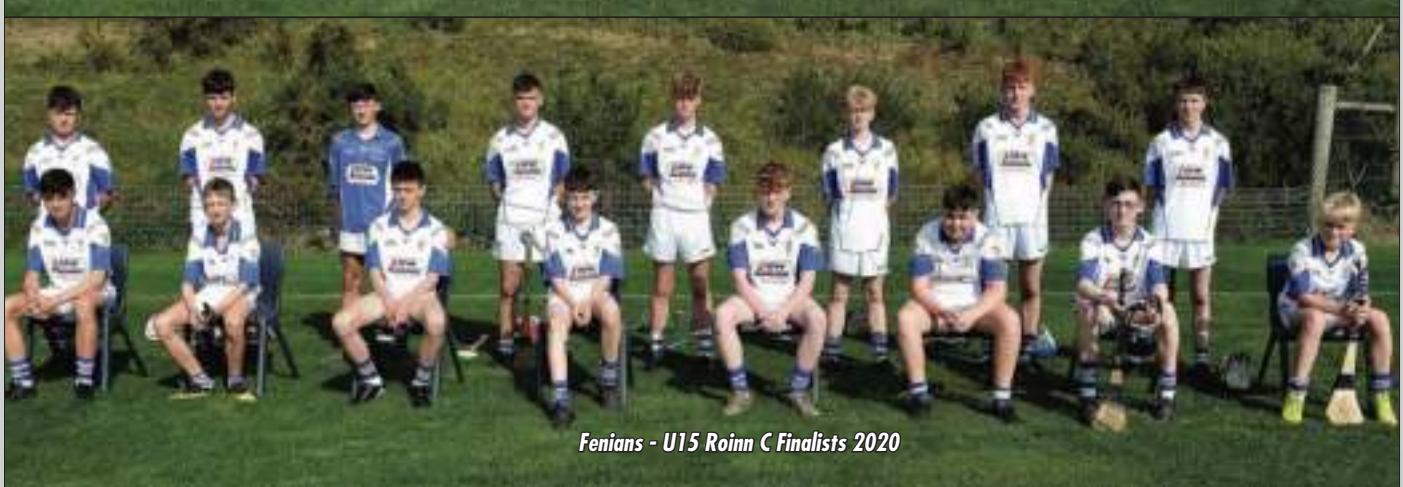
Again Glenmore made the better start after the water break and they managed to get the first scores for each new quarter with points from James Connolly and O'Connor before McCormack and Cody swapped points. In the run up to half time Rory Garrett fired over a free but again McCormack showed his class to point but Glenmore had the advantage 0-7 to 0-5. The southerners started the half with menace as O'Connor got his third point of the afternoon before bringing Bowe into action with a superb save to no avail as Oisin Mullally flicked the rebound home. A searing solo run saw Connolly add a point as Glenmore threatened to run riot. A bit of luck came Fenians way when after a goal mouth scramble Jack Walsh flicked the ball to the back of the net. It was down to the minimum by the water break as Garrett showed accuracy with two pointed frees and McCormack landed one from distance.

Bowe must have reckoned he ran over a sack of black cats on the way to the match as again another excellent save Walsh got the green flag waving but Garret responded with a fine point from play. Again Cody nudged the difference out to four only for McCormack to instantly respond with a point and still the Fenians battled on. In the 66th minute McCormack with a 20 metre free went for goal but the shot flew over the bar and it ensured the trophy was heading south.

Glenmore: Paul Brophy, Rowan Halligan, Shane Telford, Jack Dollard, Declan Murphy, Darragh Vereker, Shane Duhig, Pauric Cody, Cathal Sheehan, Patrick O Connor, James Reid, James Connolly, Jason Cody, David Walsh, Luke Aylward. Sub: Oisin Mullally
Fenians: Craig Bowe (Joint Capt), Matty McEvoy, Darragh O'Grady, Colin O'Brien (Joint Capt), Sam Murphy, Darragh McCormack, Evan Ryan, Eoghan Sumner, Jerry Henderson, Donagh Maher, Rory Garrett, Niall Mackey, Cillian Purcell, Patrick Cullen, Jack Walsh



Glenmore - U15 Roinn C Champions 2020

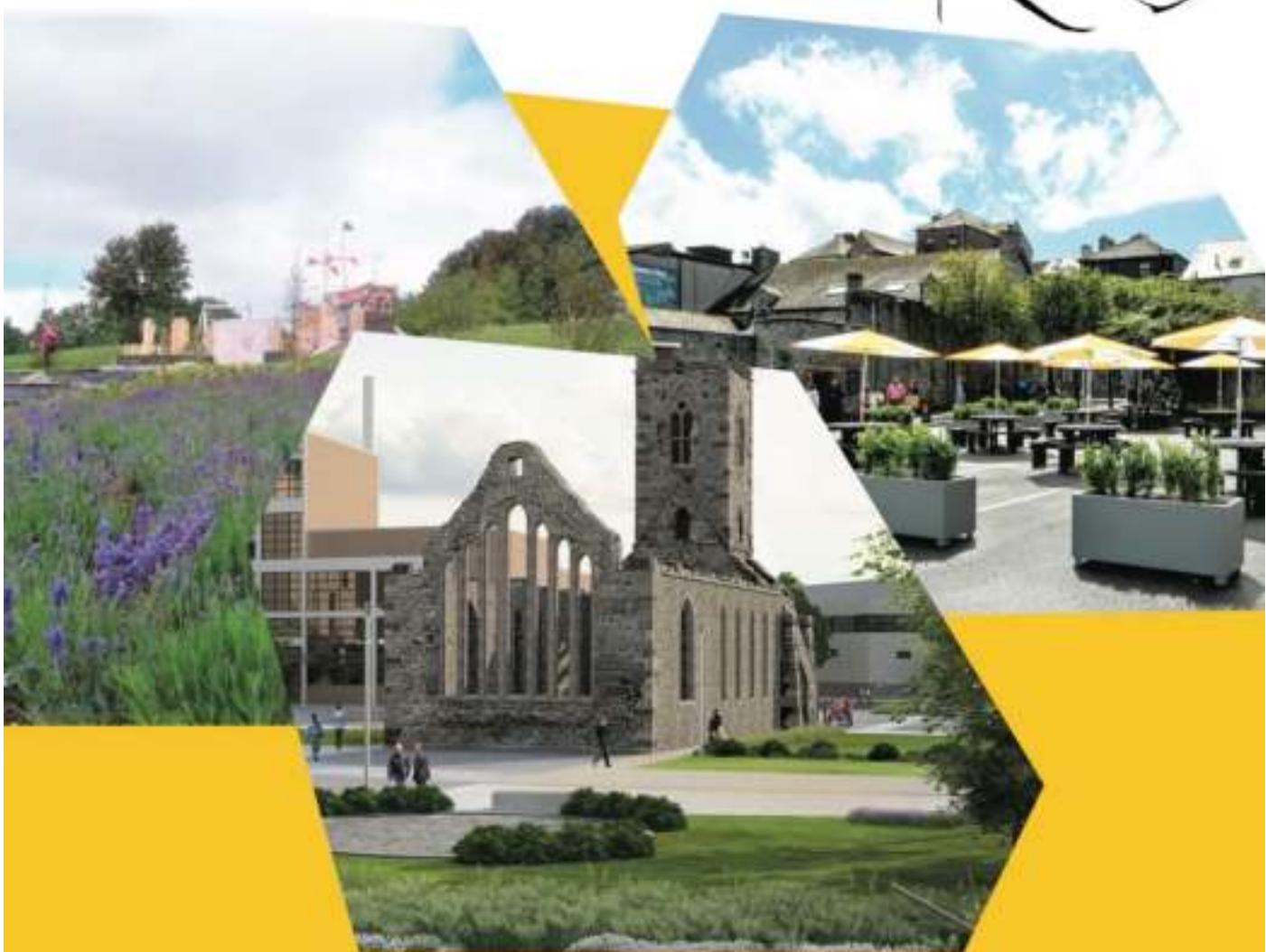


Fenians - U15 Roinn C Finalists 2020



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THE VILLAGE go Back to Back

U13 Bord na nÓg Report by Pado O'Flynn

Photos: Willie Dempsey



James Stephens - Roinn A U13 Champions 2020

Roinn A

In a novel concept the Duggan Steel Roinn A was divided into two divisions for the championship. In the pre-Covid world it was to give all sides eleven games before facing into a knock out game. Four teams made the semi-finals in Roinn A.

The first semi-final was played in ideal conditions in Palmerstown. O'Loughlin Gaels had full use of the wind as they gave as good as they got to get to half time all level with James Stephens at 0-7 each. The game changer arrived in the 42nd minute when Ed McDermott hammered the ball to the roof of the net to put the Village 1-10 to 0-10 ahead. They bossed the last quarter with Daniel Power adding the gloss to the scoreboard with a fine goal to finish 2-15 to 0-11. In the other semi-final Dicksboro had an epic encounter with Erins Own who lost out by the odd goal in nine 5-10 to 4-8.

James Stephens 1-19, Dicksboro 2-9

It was the clash of old city rivals James Stephens and Dicksboro in this Duggan Steel U-13 Roinn A Hurling Championship Final at MW Hire Dunmore in what turned out to be an enthralling encounter which saw James Stephens land the U-13 title for the second year in a row after extra time where they held Dicksboro scoreless in that extra time period.

James Bergin got the Village men off to a flying start landing a long range free. Better was soon to happen as an angled Conor McEvoy ball found Bill McDermott and the centre forward blasted the shot to the roof of the net. Louis Raggett responded with a fine point of his own and further points from Anthony Clifford from a breaking ball and one from Donnacha Hennessy cut into the lead.

Hennessy converted a placed ball before a long range free from the midfielder sailed into the back of the net to put the 'Boro in front. At the start of the new quarter he added another one before Conor McEvoy grabbed one of his own.

Ryan Burke levelled matters after James Bergin found him in space.

The men from Palmerstown lorded the last stages of the half with points coming from Bill O'Shea, Thomas Treacy and Oisin Henderson to put them 1-7 to 1-4 up at the short whistle.

Straight from the restart Anthony Clifford put the sliothar between the posts but James Stephens hit back with points from McEvoy and Burke as the see saw nature of this bout became evident with Hennessy again popping over a free from distance.

The men clad in on red and green took over with Darragh Power, McEvoy and Zak Scanlon levelling matters. They actually kicked into over drive at this stage with further points from McEvoy, Power and McDermott helping them into a three point lead as the game edged towards injury time. However, the reigning champions weren't going to lose their grip on the trophy that easily as and attacked in waves against a Village defence where Bergin, Andrew Brennan and James Kelly played very well. Donnacha Hennessy had a chance in injury time from a 20 metre free. The midfield tyro duly dispatched the ball through a forest of bodies

to send the game to extra-time.

A strong breeze was behind the eventual winners for extra time and they took full advantage of it. Power, McEvoy and Burke all landed points from the first three attacks with Scanlon and McEvoy also raising white flags to get the Village 1-17 to 2-9 clear at the turnaround.

Again Dicksboro came at James Stephens in waves but ultimately couldn't find the target as the only scores came from the Green and Red corner in the guise of two McEvoy frees.

Both sides can be hugely proud of their performance over the eighty minutes and it bodes well for the future for both sides to have played each in two finals last year where one was a replay so a title a piece probably reflects the talents at their disposal. One cannot wait to see some of these stars with the big goals to aim at!

James Stephens: Padraig Joyce, Tuan Hyland, James Kelly, Andrew Brennan, Dara Behan, James Bergin, Larry Phelan, Conor McEvoy, Conor Heffernan, Diarmuid Behan, Bill McDermott, James O'Brien, Zak Scanlon, Darragh Power, Ryan Burke. Subs: Ray O'Carroll.

Dicksboro: Ciaran Power, Josh Dowling, Luke Kerwick, Ben Henderson, Dan Carroll, Bill O'Shea, Fergus O'Connor, Donnacha Hennessy, Thomas Treacy, Louis Raggett, Oisin Henderson, Zach Dunne, Eoin Moore, Anthony Clifford, Samuel O'Shea. Subs: James Kenny, Luke Brown.

Ref: Peter Bourke (Emeralds)

Roinn A 1

8 teams took part in the Roinn A 1 competition in what turned out to be a level and open competition. Mooncoin had a point to spare over Thomastown in their quarter-final win 1-9 to 2-5. There were also wins for Dunnaggin, Danesfort and Young Irelands. The Gowran outfit had a mighty game against Mooncoin in the semi-final holding on to win 2-11 to 2-7. The other game saw a great defensive effort from Dunnaggin garner a 1-13 to 1-7 over Danesfort.

Goals win matches!

Young Irelands 2 - 5, Dunnaggin 0 - 7

The U13 A1 Duggan Steel Final between Young Irelands and Dunnaggin was played in a sunny, but chilly Clara where the old adage goals win matches rang true as Young Irelands came from behind to defeat Dunnaggin.

These teams had met already earlier in August, and Young Irelands narrowly edged the Dunna' side on that occasion.

However, Dunnaggin re-jigged their team for the final, in particular some pivotal changes to their centre back and full forward line.

The first quarter was a dogged affair, with few scores but much tackling and tussling! Jamie Tallon opened the scoring for Dunnaggin with a free, followed within two minutes with a point from Tim Doherty. Young

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Irelands couldn't find the target and at the first water break were still scoreless.

The second quarter saw Tim Doherty add another point to his tally, before Young Irelands put themselves on the scoreboard with a point from Thomas Langton. The Gowran boys were tainted with wides, scoring eleven wides on the first half. But, near half time, Thomas Langton dropped a ball into the full forward line and Billy O'Keeffe lifted the sliotar and struck it into the net - goal! A fourth point was added to the Dunnamaggin total before the half time whistle to leave it all square Young Irelands 1-1 Dunnamaggin 0 - 4.

The second half was a low-scoring affair again, a lot of wides and missed opportunities for both sides. Thomas Langton pointed two frees for Gowran while Ciarán Hickey scored a point for Dunnamaggin in the third quarter. Dunnamaggin had a few close chances on the Gowran goal but the Young Ireland backs were not for passing and strong in defence.

In the final quarter, the Young Irelands' luck turned and a goal by Ben Drennan nudged the Gowran side ahead. Dunnamaggin dug deep and two points from frees for Tim Doherty narrowed the margin to two points with five minutes to go. Thomas Langton pointed a free for Gowran and in the dying minutes Billy O'Keeffe added a fifth point to give Young Irelands a four point lead at full time although one would fancy that these sides would run up a much higher scoring affair once they would have the use of the bigger goal posts at U-15 level.

Young Irelands: Charlie Phelan, Connor Lynch, Ruairí Phelan, Matthew Murray, Conor Brennan, Jake Kelly, Kealan Barcoe, Sam Brennan, Kieran Timmins, Ben Drennan, Thomas Langton, Michael Holland, Alex Kenny, Billy O'Keeffe, Aidan Keating.

Dunnamaggin: Daniel Hayes Darwish, Liam Davis, Pierce Costelloe, Jake Butler, Conor Lawton, David Moore, Thomas Deegan, Brian Hickey, Tim Doherty, Cathal Rossiter, Jamie Tallon, Scott McDonald, Stephen Walsh, Ciaran Hickey, Noah Cahill.

Ref; John McCormack (James Stephens).

Roynn B

At the time of going press the Roynn B Championship had yet to be completed so we cover the some of the quarter final action underneath.

CLARA "POWER" HOME

Clara 2-12, Graigue-Ballycallan 1-12

Anyone who was fortunate enough to be in Kilmanagh witnessed a stirring victory by Clara over hosts Graigue-Ballycallan in the U13 Roynn B quarter-final. This was a game where two evenly matched teams went at it hammer and tongs but it was Clara who refused to lose.

Defences were well on top early on and GBC led 0-4 to 0-2 at the first water break while aided by a fresh diagonal breeze. They had doubled that lead by half time to 0-8 to 0-4 with their two midfielders Cormac Neary and Tony Butler shooting all but one of their points. Michael Tynan added the other. Indeed Neary and Butler continued to be their only source of scores for the whole second half also which speaks volumes for how the Clara defence performed.

David Barcoe at centre forward for Clara had run into a real corker of a



John Byrne , James Bergin (Captain) and Mary Ryall.

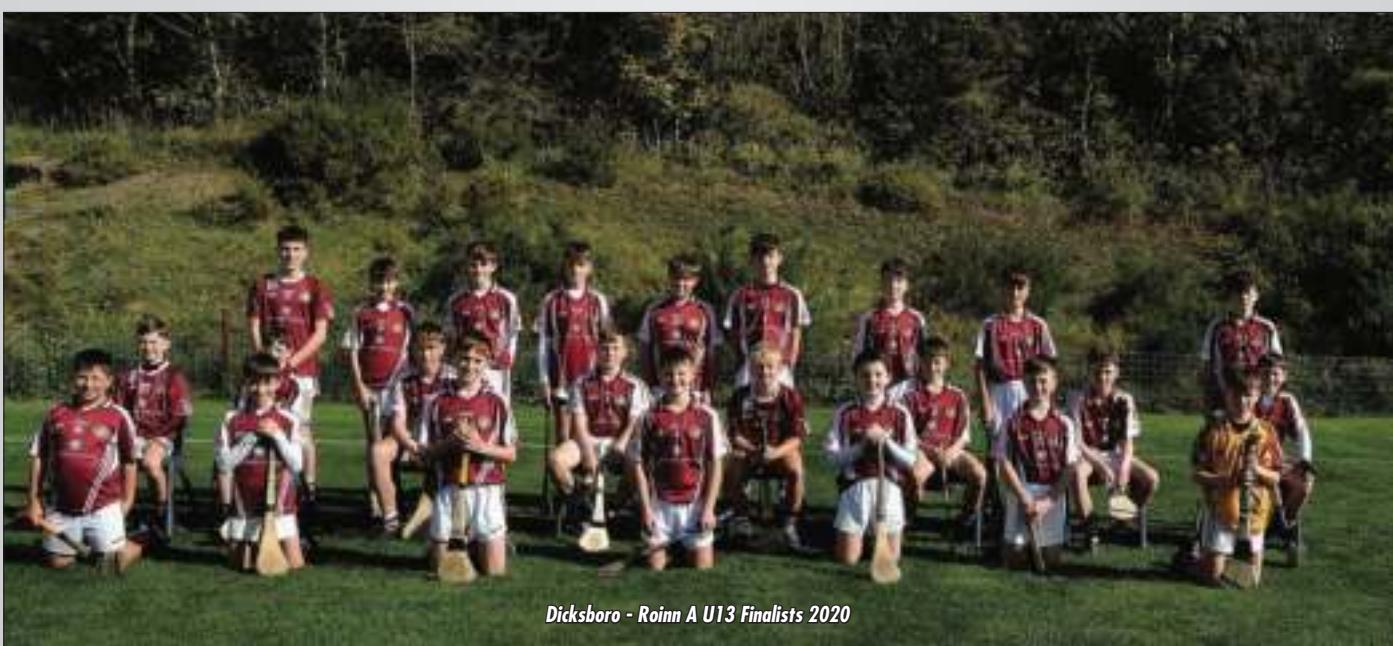
centre back in Eoghan Cahill and had found it difficult in the first half. But he upped his game considerably in the second half and contributed three fine points. At the second half water break Clara had closed the gap to just two points - 8 pts to 10 for GBC. By now they were hurling with real conviction but two more pointed frees by the deadly accurate Neary as against a Barcoe point for Clara had GBC a clear goal ahead with 10 minutes left.

At this stage Clara midfielders Luke Lawlor and Joe Power had thundered into the game and when the latter latched onto a breaking ball and struck a sizzling ground shot past Shane Hogan this game was tied. Clara appeared to have all the momentum now and when Niall McCarthy gave them the lead almost immediately it looked like victory was imminent.

But this game wasn't finished with its twists yet! A GBC goal by Tony Butler put them back ahead by two points with just five minutes to play. It seemed a particularly bitter pill for Clara to swallow as it appeared that wing back Conor Galvin, who had a fine game throughout, was blatantly shouldered in the back in the build-up to the goal. Many teams would have accepted defeat at this point but the Clara boys upped their game again and responded with a Joe Power pointed free to leave the bare minimum between the teams. When Joe was fouled again on the sideline 50 yards from goal everybody held their breath as he stepped up to take the free. He was hitting it into a contrary breeze but his sweetly struck and meticulously judged ball arrived at crossbar height like a bullet. A nervous GBC defender rose to meet the ball but only succeeded in deflecting it into his own net past the unfortunate Shane Hogan. There was only time for Eoin Corr to claim his third point of the day to seal a hard earned win for Clara.

It was a cruel way for Graigue-Ballycallan to lose but they contributed mightily to a hugely enjoyable spectacle. They had great performances from goalie Shane Hogan, Oran Hoyne and Eoghan Cahill in defence. Midfielders Cormac Neary and Tony Butler did everything for the cause but they struggled to get scores up front where they ran into a defiant Clara defence.

For Clara Sean Cooke in goal was rarely troubled due to a fantastic display by his backs. Hugh Kenny and Philip Carrigan were particularly good but all six backs were outstanding. Midfielders Luke Lawlor and



Dicksboro - Roynn A U13 Finalists 2020



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Tullogher Rosbercon - Roinn B U13 League Winners 2020



Young Irelands - Roinn A1 U13 Champions 2020

Joe Power had some battle with their GBC counterparts and never took a step back. Up front Bill Kealy, David Barcoe, Niall McCarthy and Eoin Corr were best but John Bergin and Sean Byrne never stopped trying. The fact that no subs were used in such a tight game really shows how well everybody played. Clara roll on to a semi-final.

CLARA; Sean Cooke, Daniel Murphy, James Cody, Daniel Ryan, Conor Galvin, Hugh Kenny, Philip Carrigan, Luke Lawlor, Joe Power 2-5, (1-4f), Bill Kealy, David Barcoe 0-3, Sean Byrne, John Bergin, Eoin Corr 0-3, Niall McCarthy 0-1.

GRAIGUE-BALLYCALLAN; Shane Hogan, David Walton, Oran Hoyne, Frank McCluskey, Robbie Lynch, Eoghan Cahill, Shane Cody, Cormac Neary 0-9, (0-7f, 1x45), Tony Butler 1-2, Keelin Lynch, Michael Tynan 0-1, Ben McEvoy, Aidan Ging, Martin Brennan, Robbie Tector. Sub. used Reggie Carthy.

St Patricks: 3-6, Carrickshock : 5-13

The Roinn B Quarter final was played at St. Patrick's GAA Grounds. Excellent conditions and a bright sunny morning gave way to an exceptional display of hurling from both sides.

A strong Carrickshock side saw them take the lead by two points after ten minutes. By the first water break Carrickshock had attained their first goal of the match and leading into half time they had clocked a further two goals and five points to St. Patrick's scoring a point just before the break.

St Patrick's came out strong in the second half scoring three points followed by two super goals in the first three minutes. However Carrickshock showed they did not give up that easily by equally chalking up a third goal and a point. Excitement mounted as St. Patrick's secured their final goal of the match bringing them to a five point gap.

Unfortunately, it was not to be, as the whistle blew for the final water break of the game a tough Carrickshock side lead by 3-11 to 3-4.

The final minutes of the game saw Carrickshock seal their victory with a final score of 5-13 to 3-6.

Meanwhile in Muckalee St Martins defeated Ballyhale Shamrocks 0-11 to 0-5 where a save from Darragh Fahy proved to be the turning point in the game.

Tullogher Rosbercon got the better of Lisdowney by 2-9 to 2-2 as they followed on from their league final. In the 13 a side final Bennettsbridge were unlucky to lose out to a very good Blacks & Whites side that gained a hard fought 1-6 to 0-5 win.

Roinn C

There was one quarter final which Mullinavat defeated Tullaroan 2-15 to 3-3. In the semi-final St Lachtain's had the scoring touch to beat the southerners 4-13 to 4-7. In the other semi-final Conahy Shamrocks defeated Emeralds 2-15 to 1-9

St. Lachtains 3-9, Conahy Shamrocks 2-9

On a lovely Saturday afternoon with the Ballyragget pitch in excellent condition both teams served up a cracking final. Both teams started well and Lachtains tried hard to pierce the Conahy defence in the first quarter but it was Conahy who scored first with a lovely point and shortly afterwards netted for the first goal of the game. Both sides traded points in the quarter but it was Conahy who outscored St. Lachtains and led at the water break by 7 points with some well taken scores.

In the second quarter St. Lachtains pushed hard to reduce the gap and with some well taken points from play and frees and a vital goal just before the half ended had the deficit reduced to one point.

The third quarter was an exciting all action affair with both teams trading point for point with the quarter ending all square.

The final quarter saw some very good hurling from both teams where the game was at a knife edge. Then came the defining point in the game. Cian Donnelly drove through from midfield and layed the ball off to Bobby Darcy who blasted to the net. And within minutes came through again



Blacks & Whites - U13 Thirteen a-side Winners 2020



St Lachtain's - Roinn C U13 Champions 2020

laying the ball off to Nathan Walsh who rounded the keeper for the third goal for Lachtains. Now there was six points between the sides. Conahy fought back hard in the remaining minutes and from a good sideline into the full forward line Conahy scored a very good goal to leave only three points between the sides. The remaining minutes were hectic but no more scores came with St. Lachtains holding on for victory.

Best for Conahy were C. Carroll, B. Phelan, R. Rhatigan, P. Kennedy, T. Mulhall, D. Mooney, R. Sherman, B. Rowe.

Best for St. Lachtains were M. Murphy, M. Campion, B. Darcy, C. Donnelly, T. Bolger, M. Hickey, M. Bergin. J. Denieffe, C. McGree, J. Dalton

St. Lachtains: Michael Murphy, Liam Kenny Landers, Jack Dalton, Sam Looby, Michael Hickey, Michael Bergin, Cian O'Connor, Tadhg Bolger, Cian Donnelly, Charlie Kavanagh, Marty Campion, Jamie Denieffe, Colin McGree, Bobby Darcy, David Ryan. Sub. Nathan Walsh

Conahy Shamrocks; B. Phelan, R. Dunne, C. Comerford, M. Lawlor, J. Sherman, C. Carroll, R. Rhatigan, J. Rhatigan, J. Kennedy, D. Horgan, P. Kennedy, T. Mulhall, A. Morrissey, D. Mooney, R. Sherman. Sub. B. Rowe.



Smiling in the rain, Blacks & Whites Joint Captains with Joe Pyke, Bord na nÓg

BILLY DWYER RIP

One of our great full forwards

William O'Dwyer, or Billy Dwyer as he was endearingly known by some was born in Kennyswell in 1934, and had his first taste of education in Foulkstown NS. Having got the basic instruction in the three Rs – reading, writing and “ritmatic” - he furthered his education in the De La Salle Primary school in the heart of the Village. Of course, hurling was king and the young O'Dwyer continued his hurling radicalisation in that famed nursery. He played with the Village club at under age level, right up to and including minor level. He was a sub on the Kilkenny minor team of 1952, a decision that didn't meet with universal approval in the O'Dwyer household. A parting of the ways led to the young Dwyer enlisting in the forces of a re-vamped Foulkstown team. Sin scéal eile!

Billy “hurled away” with his beloved Foulkstown and was selected on the Kilkenny Junior team in 1956, which won the Provincial title. His hurling reputation changed dramatically after that final, as it did for Ollie Walsh, and Denis Heaslip. All three were drafted onto the senior panel which went on to win a magnificent All Ireland against Waterford in the following year. But it deprived all three of collecting a junior All Ireland celtic cross. Hurling defined Billy Dwyer's life, practically to the day he died at his home in Whitehall on September 27th last.

In 1958, after the All Ireland, Tommy Moore, after whom the All Ireland club Trophy is named enticed Billy to join the Faughs Club in Dublin. Moore, known, as the Godfather of the Faughs GAA Club, had very strong associations with Kilkenny, in that he was a grand-uncle of the great Village goalkeeper, Mick, and also of Briain Ryan of the Fenians club in Johnstown.

The Faughs Club was known among the GAA brethren in Dublin as the Culchies Club, and Billy Dwyer was very much at home in their midst. For the record, Billy won 2 All Irelands (57/63), 1 Nat. League (61/62), 2 Oireachtas (57/59), 1 Railway Cup (62) but played in five. He scored a record 6-1 in the 62 Railway Cup Final. As a culchie he won 2 Dublin Sen Championship medals with the Faughs in 70 and 72, plus 5 League

medals in 61/3/4/6/71.

In 1957, Dublin and Kevin Heffernan nearly stopped Kilkenny's progress and it took a replay to qualify for the Leinster Final.

Facing the all-conquering Wexford in the final, underdogs Kilkenny won by an unbelievable 19 points in front of a record 52,272 It was Billy Dwyer's first confrontation against the legendary Nick O'Donnell. On one occasion, when asked about Billy Dwyer, O'Donnell said “I had great respect for Billy Dwyer, because he always did something different every

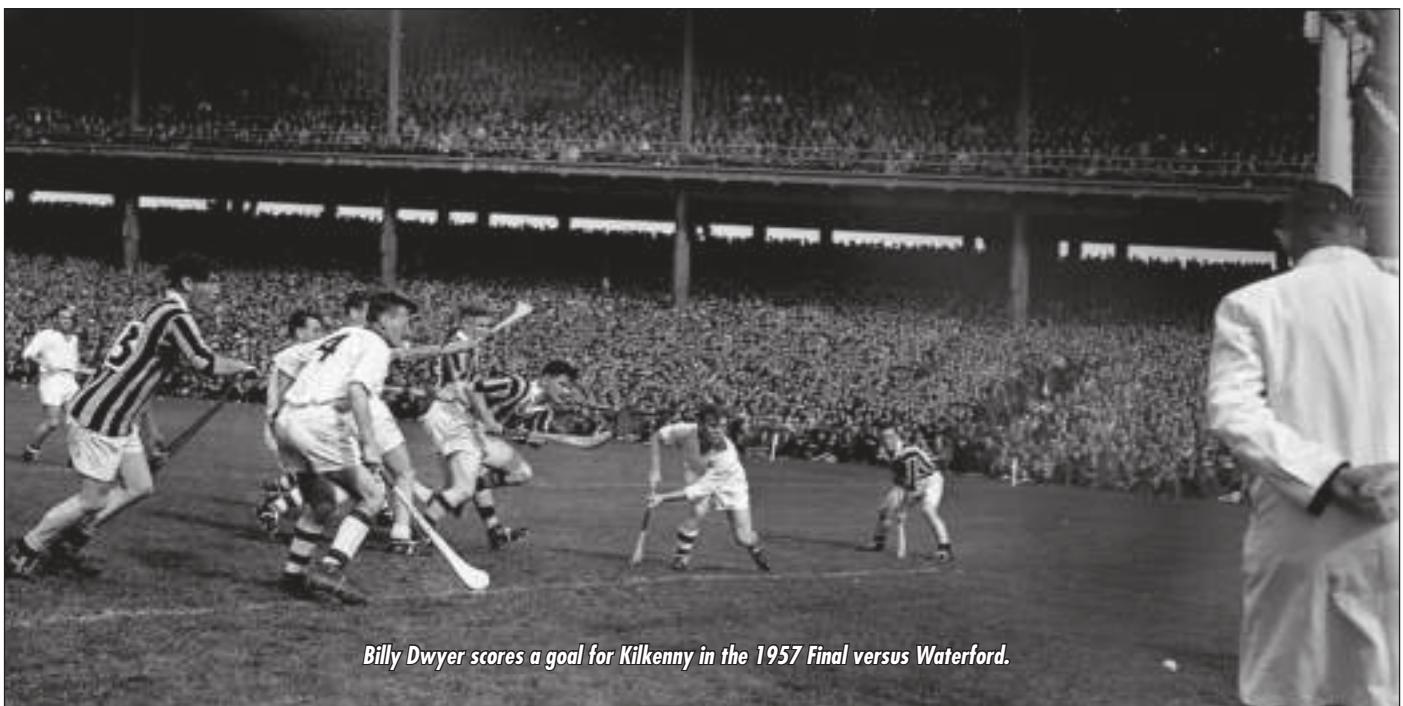
time we met. I had to watch him more carefully than any other player I ever met”. He was the only full forward the Wexford man encountered great difficulty playing against. He never held the Foulkstown man scoreless. They didn't come any tougher than Bobby Rackard, Nick O'Donnell, and Mick O'Hanlon, but the bould O'Dwyer, at 5-8 and built like a small tank, was never intimidated, never bested nor beaten. Ollie Walsh was unbeatable that day.

The All Ireland Final against Waterford went down to the wire. Billy had a field day against Austin Flynn scoring two goals. Kilkenny won a heart stopper by a single Mickey Kelly point, their first senior All Ireland since 1947.

The '58 All Ireland semi final brought Billy O'Dwyer and Hell's Kitchen



Austin Flynn (Waterford) keeps a tight hold of Billy Dwyer in the 1959 Final.



Billy Dwyer scores a goal for Kilkenny in the 1957 Final versus Waterford.

onto a collision course. The Leinster Champions were beaten but The Kitchen went home battered and bruised somewhat. During a very torrid hour in the game, the story tellers have it that the Tipp fullback Mick Maher asked his corner back Kieran Carey to switch, to which Carey was reputed to say, "Stay where you are me boy, I'm close enough to him where I am" Add in a few expletives and you can get the gist of the conversation.

The 1959 Final was the first drawn Final since 1931. John D Hickey said it was the greatest game he had ever seen. Ollie Walsh was a colossus, Tommy O'Connell scored 3 goals, Billy Dwyer was outstanding and after all of those superlatives Kilkenny couldn't win. Waterford won the replay by eight points.

Wexford were very much Kilkenny's Nemesis during the 50's and early 60's but that changed in 1963.

Wexford were floored in the Leinster semi final by a very good Dublin team. Dublin fell to a better Kilkenny team in the Provincial Final, and then we had a repeat of the '59 Final against Waterford. The history books will say that Kilkenny won their 15th All Ireland, and Billy Dwyer collected his second medal.

Tommy "Blonde" Walsh once described Billy Dwyer as one of life's characters. Tommy, whose career was shortened due to a serious injury, had great respect for Billy.

"He had a very astute hurling brain, and a lightning fast pull. He was our man riding shotgun with the likes of myself, Denis Heaslip, Dick Rocket, Johnny McGovern and Tommy O'Connell. If anyone pulled a wrong one on any of us, restitution was imminent and sore", he said.

To validate that opinion, I remember Tommy O'Connell (RIP last year) telling me that they were playing Tipp, and Mickie Byrne (The Rattler) said to Heaslip "You'll get no score today Heaslip. I can guarantee you that". Dwyer came over to the Rattler and warned him "that if he laid a hand on Heaslip that his Mother would find his head in the back row of the stand". The language used wouldn't be heard in a Bishop's Palace drinking afternoon tea and eating scones; of that you can be assured. Incidentally Denis scored 2-3 on the Rattler on that occasion.

You have to understand the era I speak about. The game was so very different. It was not unusual to see backs in particular pulling a foot high and a few seconds early. Self preservation was the first pre-requisite. Billy Dwyer was a very strong man, with an imposing lower body strength. As the Callan farmer would say, he was well set in the ground. Seldom if ever was he taken off his feet, with legs like the butts of oak trees.

There is the story of Billy crashing a car into another in Dublin on the

Saturday night before an All Ireland. Gardai were called. Both drivers blamed each other. Both were brought into the Station and held for most of the night. Billy got four-star attention with a meal and tea. One Guard brought him in a pint of porter. The other poor óinseach got one cup of tea. Years later, that other driver, was in Joe Dwyer's house and saw a picture of Billy on the wall. He re-told the story and embellished it with plenty of uncomplimentary references. He finally asked why the guy was hanging up in Joe's house. Joe told him the connection, and the poor man was more than suitably embarrassed. Incidentally the man was John Mulhern, horse breeder and owner, married to Eimear Haughey, daughter of Charlie.

Billy Dwyer was a one-off. The "Blonde" said he was a character of life. People loved him and more didn't. He loved music and playing his box. His Mother loved it when he played it. Some would say that he was a lad that only a Mother could love. His wife Ann threatened to redder a poker in the fire and drive it through the bellows, she detested it so much, or so I was told. Whenever he was down around Cork he called his great friend Christy Ring who was a terrific singer, and loved singing to Billy's accompaniment. They were opposite spirits. Ring was a Pioneer, Billy was a different kind of Pioneer. He loved life, hurling, and the craic, but his carefree nature didn't suit many palates.

One wonders how his idiosyncratic nature would survive in the present Kilkenny hurling setup. Mind you I sense that the legendary Brian Cody, who had a soft spot for lads who could bang in goals like Billy Dwyer, might just show some tolerance for the duration of a back to back All Ireland win, and then put him on the bus.

He married Ann O'Regan in 1964, and they had two daughters –Ann Marie and Siobhan -- and two sons. Philip and James.

We offer our sympathies to his wife and his four children. We sympathise too with his remaining brother Joe, and his three remaining sisters. Joe's wife, Patti was always at his beck and call whenever he came down from Dublin. It was the lure of the apple tarts I think.

Heaven or wherever he is destined for is in for a hell of a culture shock. He will meet many of his former colleagues, and plenty of his foes. I hope there is a decent referee up there.

Billy Dwyer died at his home in the company of his family on Sunday 27th September after a protracted illness. He was buried in the family plot after Requiem Mass in Foulkstown Church celebrated by Fr. Willie Purcell.

Go ndéana Dia trochaire ar a anam dilis.

GRAIGUE BALLYCALLAN 50TH CELEBRATIONS AND BOOK LAUNCH -

22/11/2019



Vice-Chairperson Adrian Ronan, Guest of Honour Micheál O' Muircheartaigh, Editor Milo Hennessy, Chairperson Dave O'Neill and local wood-turner Gabriel Wall.

In 1969 did the founders of our great club ever think that their hopes and dreams of a united club would culminate in a night of celebration drawing a large crowd to Langton's Set Theatre for the 50th anniversary of the Graigue Ballycallan GAA Club

Attendees arrived well before the advertised start time, eager to meet the guest of honour, famed GAA commentator Micheál O' Muircheartaigh accompanied by his "bean chéile" Helena.

The event hosts for the night Orla and Sarah Dunphy welcomed guests, gave a brief history of the club, introduced guest speakers and outlined the nights proceedings.

After a brief chat with Micheál, Orla and Sarah welcomed Vice-Chairperson Adrian Ronan, Editor Milo Hennessy and Chairperson Dave O'Neill to join him on stage. Milo thanked the book committee for their dedication and hard work over the previous six months.

Micheál regaled the audience of the role clubs like GBC play in promoting Gaelic games. He praised the club for all of its achievements, he also mentioned our players past and present who have proudly worn the black and amber of Kilkenny. Micheál spoke with great affection of his friendship and admiration for the late Tom Ryall.

To mark the auspicious occasion Micheál was presented with an original piece of woodwork by clubman and local wood-turner Gabriel Wall. The brief given to Gabriel was to design and craft a piece which captures the essence of the famed commentator. He did so beautifully by crafting a microphone from locally sourced wood. The inscription read "To Micheál, from Graigue-Ballycallan GAA on our Golden Jubilee". A presentation of flowers was made to Micheál's wife Helena by Secretary Philomena Brennan.

After a brief interval the second half commenced with a video presentation compiled by clubman Brendan Hayes which captured the history and spirit of our club

Orla and Sarah invited Adrian Ronan to host a panel discussion with players past and present representing all decades since our foundation. Joe Millea (RIP), John Caldbeck, John Hoyne, Eddie Brennan, James Ryall and Billy Ryan all provided great entertainment with their light hearted stories of events on and off the field.

Club Chairperson Dave O'Neill then outlined the clubs ambitious development plans.

This was followed by the second video presentation which highlighted the achievements of 2018, one of the greatest years in our history. Our professional hosts Orla and Sarah then drew proceedings to a close

The celebrations continued into the early hours of the morning.

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DENIS HEASLIP

By PM O'Sullivan

Way ahead of his time....

Denis Heaslip is sitting in a room with a view, a quintessential Knocktopher view.

The double doors of his quarters look out flush at the Abbey, once the home of Hercules Langrishe MP. Over left sits the Carmelite Friary. Nearby is a factory, Highway Safety, a site that once housed the village's national school. "I have been looking at those things all my life," he says, Amish plain.

Knocktopher is a village in South Kilkenny mostly known for two factors: hurling and Heaslip's shop. Now closed, this establishment was famous not just throughout Ireland but in many far corners. The shop, where almost any article could be found, stood for certain values. Because one of those values was the importance attached to modesty and reticence, I will say no more, except that the Heaslip family, with finest reason, is revered. Over the decades, there were countless quiet acts of thoughtfulness and kindness.

Last May, Denis Heaslip turned 87, during the lockdown. Last September, he enjoyed watching Ballyhale Shamrocks seal three Senior titles in a row against Dicksboro. Before that final, he remarked: "It's so hard to win any cup in Kilkenny. So to have two Club All Irelands together, before making it back to another final in Nowlan Park,

is wonderful altogether. And we still have a young team, overall." This man was a Kilkenny hurler, one of the brilliant figures, a lightning wing forward. There is a note of restrained awe when locals recollect his gift. My father PJ, born in 1945 and bred half a mile outside Knocktopher, saw Denis Heaslip in his prime. "Just something else entirely," the father notes. "Way ahead of his time. Something in the style of DJ Carey, you could say, but probably even faster across the ground, if you could believe that. "He was so skilful, like Jimmy Doyle of Tipp. He could run full belt and strike left or right without breaking stride. Most lads could

only try to stop Denis by hocking or tripping him. But he never reacted. God knows what he could have achieved if Denis had been able to hurl with [Eddie] Keher and [Kieran] Purcell and [Pat] Delaney in the 1970s..."

Club wise, Heaslip played with Knocktopher, mostly a middling Junior team, between the early 1950s and the late 1960s. County wise, he won two Senior All Irelands, 1957 and 1963, with Waterford the opposition on both occasions.

This hurler counted as an embodiment of Kilkenny elegance and craft. To mark his popularity and status, this man was made captain for 1958's All Ireland semi final against Tipperary, when Mick Kenny could not play.

"The county had a good Junior team in 1956," he explains. "Had enough for the All Ireland with it. A few lads got promoted to the Senior team, and I was lucky enough to be one of them. Everything kicked on from there."

The mid 1950s became a crucible for Kilkenny hurling. A 'one parish' rule got introduced for the 1954 season. This directive meant club teams could contain only locals and people newly resident in the parish. The days of Carrickshock and Éire Óg



The shop, where almost any article could be found, stood for certain values.



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4 October 1959; The Kilkenny team. All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship Final Replay, Waterford v Kilkenny, Croke Park, Dublin.

Picture credit; Connolly Collection / SPORTSFILE

scooping up young talent from lesser outfits were done.

"You'd have to mark that time as a genuine turning point," Heaslip emphasizes. "First, you were giving the opportunity, with the one parish rule, for clubs to get better organized. They now knew they could hold on to their best players. So they could plan, and there was an incentive to build for the future. Before that, it was more or less just season to season."

He continues: "But in Kilkenny you have to win. Nothing is sealed in Kilkenny until you win an All Ireland, until you attach an All Ireland to whatever new rule. 1957 was massive, because half our team were from Junior clubs, like myself. Supporters associated winning the 1957 All Ireland, which was the first one since 1947, with that new rule, and afterwards there was no question of changing it."

This development, burnished by triumph, unfolded. By the early 1970s, nearly all of Kilkenny's parishes featured just one club. Ballyhale and Knocktopher, remembering the earlier club Knockmoylan, amalgamated as Shamrocks in January 1972. Fr Anthony Heaslip, an older brother, proved a crucial facilitator of this initiative. There was, especially in the Knocktopher end of the parish, quite a bit of opposition to the merger.

"I think a lot of good people came together," Heaslip recalls. "Francie Holohan, a neighbour in the village, was for it. People could see what a strong team there could be in the parish if we pulled together. And they were right."

He takes the long view on the Shamrocks' project: "I grew up watching serious hurlers around Knocktopher and it made me think of trying to be a hurler. Bill Walsh, from outside the village, was brilliant with Kilkenny during the 1940s. Bill hurled with Carrickshock, and they were our Senior team to follow, at that time."

This connection was natural. 11 Ballyhale Parish natives started on the Carrickshock selection that took the club's first Senior title in 1931. But Knocktopher was originally a football stronghold. The last man to captain Kilkenny's footballers to a Leinster Senior title, back in 1911, was Dick Holohan, father of Francie Holohan and grandfather of Frank Holohan, captain of Kilkenny for 1986's NHL title.

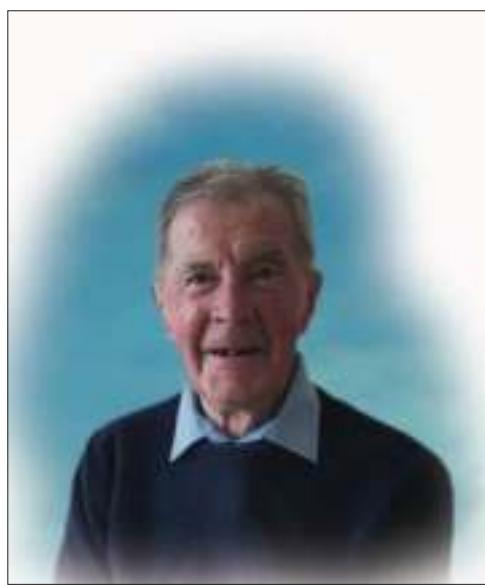
Denis Heaslip smiles: "Yes, football was strong, before hurling came along. My own father, John Heaslip, played football for Kickhams in Dublin rather than hurling while he was working there as a young man. He grew up in Knocktopher in the early part of the last century. So football must have been the big game."

"I think the Kilkenny hurlers winning three in a row in 1913 kind of made hurling in the county. Football sort of took a back seat after that, and Knocktopher football was probably affected to some extent."

Then that long level view again: "It must be terrible difficult when a club or a parish has just one prominent hurler over a long number of years. Puts an awful lot of pressure on that person and on anyone coming up. The good thing about our parish, all three parts of it, is that we have great hurlers long gone and we have great hurlers today."

"I was down this year, in September, looking at the young girls and young boys going into the Friary for their Holy Communion. They had to have two separate masses because of this virus. I'm sure there will be good hurlers and good camogie players among them."

Then a look out through those double doors before Denis Heaslip's summation: "But I'm... I suppose you could say I'm hopeful about the Shamrocks' chances. The big delight around here in hurling will keep going on forever, so far as I can make out."



OLIVER GOUGH

On both sides of the Border

By PM O'Sullivan

Oliver Gough is not well at all.

This unrecognized number comes up on my phone. Liz Foster-Murphy, his partner, is kind enough to ring, following up.

The day before, I finally got the correct mobile. His voice was not strong on the line: "I'm in hospital, I'm afraid, and too tired to meet. Maybe give me a ring next week..."

Now the situation is explained. "Oliver's not good," Foster-Murphy confides. "There've been three bouts with cancer. But he does want to speak to you. He's waiting a long time for someone from the press to contact him.

"Though his voice is only fair, due to the throat cancer last year."

Hurling remains a wonder in so many ways. Normally the last thing anyone would want, gravely ill, is conversation with a stranger — a stranger with questions. But hurling remains hurling, an elimination of distance.

There is a story here, one I want to tell. There is a story here, one in abeyance this long time. There are gaps to fill but the core point is straightforward: three Senior All Irelands with two different counties, Wexford and Kilkenny.

Liz Foster-Murphy is discreet but gently emphatic. There might not be long... So a friend drives me to Naas General Hospital, through countryside plush and green and gorgeous, the necessary torment of life. Liz arrives down to the main entrance and takes me to the Oncology Ward.

Oliver Gough is sitting on the side of his bed, behind a curtain, immediately warm and helpful. He takes me back to a club match in 1955. That Sunday evening proved the hinge in his hurling career.

July 14, 1955 had seen Wexford and Kilkenny draw in a marvellous Leinster Final. The replay got fixed for a fortnight later. The break weekend had Ferns St Aidan's, with a promising 19 year old midfielder, taking on St Martin's. The young man astonished everyone with a masterclass.

Nicholas Furlong's *The Greatest Hurling Decade: Wexford and the Epic*



Photo - David Maher/SPORTSFILE

Teams of the '50s (1993) catches the moment: "In a club game for his Ferns parish club, St Aidan's, a little-known hurler, Oliver Gough, had in one game established such authority and mastery that he was selected for Wexford to play against the land of his fathers, Kilkenny."

Gough brightens at the memory: "The St Martin's midfield, Jim Morrissey and Ned Wheeler, was the Wexford midfield. I was on Wheeler, and they obviously felt it was a marker. So I was picked for the replay. Harry O'Connor of Enniscorthy, a great friend, dropped out and I dropped in." Gough lined out at right half forward, marked by Johnny McGovern, one of the decade's finest defenders. "The Kilkenny team in general didn't know a whole lot about Oliver at the time," McGovern reflects. "But I did, because his brother, Claude, had won a Minor All Ireland with me in 1950. "Oliver had great hands and he was fierce fast, full of energy. He used to be bouncing around the place. I often thought he'd have done well to take up athletics."



*Wexford - All Ireland SH Champions 1955
Oliver Gough extreme right in front row.*



Gough bats away the compliment with smiling mildness: "I was a bit lost on Johnny, that first day. I was definitely a bit lost. But I made a difference, at the same time. I got the goal and the point, at a crucial stage."

Wexford took the replay by three points. They proceeded to beat Limerick and vanquished Galway in the All Ireland Final. Decider day, Oliver Gough went on for the injured Ned Wheeler. Just gone 20 years of age, he had a Celtic Cross.

"An awful lot of it is being in the right place at the right time," Gough summarizes. "How many really good lads, players I hurled against, never got an All Ireland? Joe Salmon of Galway never got one. Jobber McGrath of Westmeath never got one. Salmon was a beautiful stylist."

Did the All Ireland's source in a purple and gold jersey lessen its impact? Gough is candid about this dynamic: "The first day I hurled Senior with Wexford, for that replay, Dad was home for the weekend from the Army. And he was there in the hall when I was going out in the morning to meet up with the team. He stopped me, and he gave me a hug, and he said: 'Today's a great day for me.'

"I said: 'Why?' He said: 'I can't lose.' He made it as simple as that."

That hug covered Oliver Gough's origins and childhood. A child of the Irish Revolution, he was born in Graiguenamanagh on August 25, 1935. The town lies on Kilkenny's side of the Barrow, right against Carlow. Wexford, a little south, holds close as a rumour.

His father, Michael Gough, hailed from Ballyouskill, part of Ballyragget Parish in North Kilkenny. He had been a member of the Old IRA. That extraordinary release of social energy during the 1920s involved progression to Commandant in the Free State Army. "I'm not sure if he was actually Michael Collins' aide de camp," the son recalls. "But they were very close. He felt heartbroken after Collins was assassinated."

His mother, before marriage, was Rose O'Reilly. Likewise a native of North Kilkenny, she was born in Freshford but moved at an early age to Gorey in County Wexford. She became a primary schoolteacher and was teaching in Ullard, part of Graiguenamanagh Parish, in 1955. The family comprised an older sister, Cora, and an older brother, Claude.

"My brother, at one point, was going for the priesthood," Gough recollects. "He was in St Peter's [College, Wexford] and I followed him there as a boarder. To be a Diocesan priest, your family had to be living in the Diocese. So my mother decided on a move to Wexford, after we had moved from Graiguenamanagh to Goresbridge, when I was about ten." This move to Craanford, County Wexford changed a young hurler's career. Oliver Gough, as a Gorey Emmets player, hurled and kicked football Minor for Wexford in 1952 and 1953. Adult hurling meant Ferns St

Aidan's. That fateful club evening in the summer of 1955 lay in the offing, when Oliver Gough would become part of Wexford's hurling revolution. The years spooled as a young man's years do. He continued with Ferns before transferring, in the late 1950s, to Rathnure. Wexford won 1956's Senior Final against Cork, with Gough an used sub, in one of hurling's finest contests. He travelled to America in 1957 and hurled brilliantly against Cork, scoring six points from play.

Memoirs of the time are generous about this man's gifts. Billy Rackard's *No Hurling at the Dairy Door* (1996) remarks: "A natural midfielder, Oliver Gough was worthy of a place on any team in the country. Due to the strength in every position of that Wexford team, a permanent place was not found for him. It was a tragedy to see a player of his talent seated on the subs bench."

Kilkenny regained ascendancy in Leinster and ran up three titles in a row, 1957 to 1959. By the time Wexford won 1960's Leinster Final, Oliver Gough had gone from the county. "I had moved to Dublin for work," he clarifies. "And I started hurling with Móindeg, the Kilkenny-orientated club up there."

This choice put him in another orbit. Early 1961 saw him hurl for 'Kilkenny Exiles' in a trial match. 1962 saw him on the Kilkenny panel, subbed on, against victorious Wexford, in the Leinster Final. Work had brought him to Thomastown, a neighbouring town to Graiguenamanagh, right back to home ground.

"Fr [Tommy] Maher was a great coach, and a lovely man," Gough relates. "He made me feel welcome. I found his approach very helpful. It was all about the ball, and doing things quickly."

Was the change awkward? Gough is level and phlegmatic: "Hurling is the same game, wherever it's played. A jersey is a jersey."

The new curve found sap. 1963 saw Kilkenny defeat Waterford in the Senior Final. Oliver Gough was a second half substitute at centre forward for — whom else? — Johnny McGovern. Gough remains the last man to win a Senior All Ireland with two counties.

"Fr Maher came to me before the All Ireland Final," he remembers. "He said to me: 'If it was up to me, I'd pick you first above nearly anyone. But there are two of the selectors not the same. I think the Wexford thing is counting a bit with them.' There it was..."

McGovern says of that season: "I was delighted to win an All Ireland for Kilkenny with Oliver. I always found him a most likeable fella. When he was hurling with Thomastown, with Bennettsbridge being so close, we used to run into each other a lot. Oliver used call in for a chat, when he was on the road."

"He is one nice man. I'm really sorry to hear Oliver hasn't been well."

Proving his ball skills, Gough won 1964's Poc Fada. But he slipped away from hurling in same fashion as he had entered its rigours, a Houdini, a man able to unpick knots with this strange ease. A last swerve was afoot. "We went to America in 1964, as All Ireland winners," Gough outlines. "Nicky Purcell was with us, as County Board Chairman. When we landed back, Nicky said to me: 'I'll be writing to you.' I said: 'Nicky, maybe not. I'm going playing golf.'

"He said: 'Ah, give it another year or two.' I said: 'No, I'm finished with hurling now.' That was it." Even so, there was a brief interlude during the mid 1960s when Oliver Gough and Claude Gough hurled together for Kildare.

The other code became centre of his sporting life: "My father loved golfing. He was a member of the club in Borris. I used go with him, from about the age of 12. I picked up golf quite handy, as a young fella, once I knocked the hurling swing out of it."

Gough elaborates: "I got into the golf in a big way. I was a scratch golfer first in 1970, and I was still scratch in 1985." Nominating a highlight, he does not hesitate: "Getting into the last 16 of the British Amateur Open, in 1970. Michael Bonallack beat me, and he won the title for the fifth time. He beat me on the 17th."

Gough continues: "I had Bonallack on the rack, and I let him off. I had him well strung out... And suddenly I began to think: 'Jeez, if I win this thing...' And the minute that went into my head...

"I bogeyed a few howlers. That's golf."

Nurses bustle round, bringing scrambled egg and toast. This time is the most difficult spell of Oliver Gough's life. But he is philosophical and leaves me with a freedom: "I wish you all the very best with the piece, even if I'm not around to see it."

Outside, the evening is afternoon bright. Frank drives us back home. Plush countryside again, that rich vein of land through Kildare and Carlow, a tillage Eden. We are not far from Kilkenny and we are near Barracore, left side of the motorway.

I am thinking of a story Oliver Gough told me about the late summer of 1947. During the mid 1940s, Mrs Gough had moved from Ullard to that new teaching post in Goresbridge. Claude Gough was hurling with Paulstown, the local club, when he won his Minor All Ireland.

"The move was important," her younger son emphasizes. "I attribute a lot of whatever success I had in hurling to the hours I gave in the ball alley in Goresbridge. I used an alleycracker, beating it off the wall, over and over again. Eventually I could hit it or kill it with the hurl, as I wanted."

"I gave hours in there, several years. Controlling a sliotar, after you got used to an alleycracker on the hurl, seemed simple."

Goresbridge held other quiet riches. The Hennessys farmed nearby at Barracore, tending one of the county's best farms, beside the River Barrow. Pat 'The Diamond' Hayden, Kilkenny's full back at the time, worked there. The Diamond was famously amiable and pleasant with everyone, young and old alike. "I thought the world of him," Gough states. "He was a pure gentleman."

This farm was, in every sense, hurling country. "The Hennessys were tremendous supporters," Johnny McGovern stresses. "They went to every Kilkenny match, Minor and Junior and Senior. Didn't matter... They were there."

Expectation floated through that summer like pollen. Kilkenny had been beaten by Cork in 1946's Senior Final, a victory that meant, for those rivals, a fifth title in the decade. Cork were accelerating into the future.

"The Hennessys used to have a huge threshing," Gough recalls. "It went on for three weeks. We used to go out and hurl in the field every night,

until dark."

Down the years, Kilkenny has been full of eyes where youngsters gather to hurl. There are calm severe judgements. Oliver Gough's talent rang like a bell through those still evenings. His life was about to change in the imperceptible way of childhood.

"On the last Friday of the threshing, I was in Hennessy's having my tea," Gough smiles. "I used eat half my meals there and half in Holohan's, down the road. I was like a begging donkey..."

"Bill Hennessy, the boss, called me over. That Sunday, Cork were playing Kilkenny in the All Ireland Final. Bill handed me a ten shilling note, the real red ten shilling note. He said: 'Now, put that in your hand, and bring it up home. Tell your Dad that I said he's to bring you to Croke Park on Sunday, that I want you to be there.'

"That was it. And Dad did take me. I sat on his knee in the Hogan Stand."

72 years later, we are in the land of the ill. Yet Oliver Gough puts me sitting in Croke Park. There is hesitant September sunshine, a strong breeze. His team combat it during the first half and emerge after halftime, beautifully placed, two points ahead.

Cork return with intent. Now these teams are hurling mortal hard and young Gough is in Croke Park for the first time, clenched and hot and falling in love.

Cork push ahead. A goal against the run of play. His team rally but the others have another goal, a point up, a minute to go.

I can see it all. Here is Kilkenny hurling's harsh Eden, one point championship victories, watermarked lives. Here is the grove where Kilkenny hurling named itself.

A boy is clenched. Terry Leahy, the lost genius, initiates an attack. Bill Cahill gets fouled in an awkward spot, out left by the Cusack Stand.

A boy scans across the pitch as Leahy, no worry, slots the free. I can see the Brylcreemed head dip in satisfaction.

Time is up. A boy is propping his face as the other lads attack from the puckout. But Paddy Grace clears, a possession lost as Tom Mulcahy, Cork's goalkeeper, gathers beside one post.

Out there, Terry Leahy knows what is going to happen. This goalkeeper, like all good goalkeepers, will clear to opposite side, opening the field, looking for fresh space. Mulcahy pivots and strikes.

But good is bad, another's Eden.

Leahy swoops to where the delivery falls. They say he was gunfighter cool and gunfighter reckless, that he called back to his marker Alan Lotty, the best hurler on that great Cork team: "Goodbye, Alan, this is it."

The ball rips between the posts at the Railway End. Phil Purcell, refereeing, blows time with Mulcahy's puckout in the sky.

Kilkenny are there, that single point.

Oliver Gough embraces his father, face sweaty and hot. He thinks of The Diamond, brought out centre back marking Christy Ring, after Peter Prendergast got injured. He thinks of the Hennessys' haggard, mice running around the threshing men's feet. No one minds them.

He will be a hurler, somehow. He has decided. And he will meet Terry Leahy, 27 years later, in New York.

"Terry was a gentle person," this man says. "Not gruff at all, like some of the older hurlers could be. He'd had to go to America for work, and loved meeting Kilkenny hurlers out there."

Then Oliver Gough's still piercing grey blue eyes, somehow amused, valiant in a Midlands hospital: "But don't let anyone tell you any different about 1947, whatever age they are. I was there for it."

"Leahy half slipped, hitting that last ball over."

Oliver Gough passed away on April 22, 2020. An earlier version of this article appeared in the Irish Examiner of June 29, 2019.



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JOE MILLEA

By Barrie Henriques

A very decent man....

On the penultimate day of the opening month of 2020 the parish of Graig Ballycallan was overwhelmed with emotion when the bush telegraph announced that one of its most acclaimed, revered, honourable, decent sons, Joe Millea had succumbed to a sudden heart attack in St. James Hospital, Dublin. His wife Helen of 47 years, his daughters, Tracy, Sinead, sons Niall and Sean and extended family were numbed with remorse and a deep pain at his passing.

Joe Millea was many things to a vast number of friends and business contacts. I suppose his plant hire abilities earned him huge respect and admiration for the many people who trusted him to do the perfect job- and he never let them down. Over the years he established a reputation with people for his decency, honesty and ability; a respect that stood the time-worn test. In his dealings with people, Joe Millea never considered a contract done until he was sure that it was done to the best of his abilities; and he had set such high personal standards that no stone was left unturned in that regard-no pun intended. Playing pitches in Mullinahone, Ballingarry, Kilmoganny, Johns College (Kilkenny), and his beloved Kilmanagh, will continue to stand as a legacy to Joe Millea's superb abilities, ingenuity, and dedication to his craft. It did not surprise that such was his intense application to his job that he was never a day out of work even during the shattering depressions of the 80s, and early noughties. So many people had such a great respect and high regard for Joe Millea, that they had total confidence in the man.

But I suspect that Joe Millea would wish to be remembered more for the home life he provided for Helen and his four kids. Even though he would have had tremendous memories from his own time in hurling, his involvement with camogie and the great careers of his brilliant daughters, Sinead and Tracy would have afforded him even a greater sense of personal pride. They too made a remarkable contribution to the Millea display cabinet in Fox Cover. His son Sean was a very prolific hurler too, winning Leinster minor Championships, and All Ireland Colleges gongs with Callan CBS. Both Sean and Niall represented their club from underage to senior level, winning many titles down the years.

Joe Millea, was the son of John and Alice Millea, born on 21st of August 1941 in Cappahayden, Callan. His siblings were his brother John, Pat and sister Mary. His early schooling took him to Ballyline National School. He was lucky to find lucrative employment in Mahon and Mc Phillips, who were one of the marquee engineering establishments in the Country. He took his courage in his hands, starting his own Plant Hire Company in the late 70s.

Joe played underage hurling and football with Graigue up to the late 50s. We are talking about a time when 60,000 young people

from our Island were forced to emigrate every year for a very long time. Joe Millea and his neighbour and friend Jack Hally (Ballywater, Callan) were no exceptions. Life was no bed of Sweet William in those days. Emigration was a partial solution to a terrible problem. Married men were on "the Maud" seven nights a week on the way to collect the Queen's shilling. In that sense Joe Millea was somewhat fortunate in that he was a single lad with little responsibility except his own survival.

Joe and Jack got work immediately in the construction trade. They mixed the concrete, put up the shuttering and laid the pipes. For Joe the magnate of home, family, the lads and Kilkenny hurling eventually were an overpowering influence. Returning in 1961, he got employment with a Waterford Plant Hire Company, William Jolly.



He returned to the Graigue team. His displays led to his being selected to the Kilkenny Intermediate teams of 1964, and '69 winning a Leinster medal in 1969. He was selected on the Senior panel in '69, and his first outing, a semi-final against Dublin was not exactly eye-catching. However he scored a brilliant goal before half time against a very good Offaly team winning a Provincial medal in the process.

London were beaten in the All Ireland semi-final quite easily. All Ireland Final time against Cork electrified the County, and no more so than in Graigue. They were going to have a lad that would be marching proudly behind the Artane Boys Band carrying their hopes and aspirations.

At half time Cork led by a goal. Charlie Mc Carthy increased the lead within seconds of the restart, but a tremendous Millea goal in the 36th minute put a stop to the Cork superiority. And the rest is History, Kilkenny collecting their 17th All Ireland, with the legendary Eddie Keher collecting the cup, and Joe Millea bringing home his much-prized Celtic Cross. Joe's success was enhanced with an Oireachtas win over Cork-he scored 1-2. He travelled to New York to play the two-legged World Cup Final against the locals. He scored Kilkenny's only goal in the first



Denis Murphy, Cork Captain, tackling Joe Millea in the 1969 All Ireland Final.

game which Kilkenny lost, and he bagged two in the second game which they drew. In 1970 he scored three goals against Cork in the Wembey Tournament Final. That game incidentally was Televised live by Telefis Eireann. In '71, he played with the winning Leinster team that defeated Munster in the Railway Cup Final, lining out at corner forward, a line that was completed by Tony Doran and Mick Birmingham, Dublin's first All Star. The amalgamated Graigue Ballycallan reached the County Junior Final in 1970. That game was never played with Windgap.

I spoke at length with the two daughters that Joe worshipped. I remember him saying to me after a camogie All Ireland in Croke Park, "The lads are great but Shin (Sinead) and Tracy are "special". So I said to myself a few weeks ago, who better to talk to about Joe Millea than the same Shin and Tracy.

There were tears and laughter aplenty as the memories came flooding back.

"Daddy didn't have much involvement in camogie really until Sinead and myself started playing with an evolving St. Brigid's", said Sinead. "I remember we played an under 12 County Final in the pitch behind the CBS in Kilkenny, and he was on the sideline. Tracy got three goals that day, and as a reward she was hoisted back to play as a defender", she laughed. "Eventually as we progressed, he became more enthusiastic. He made a training pitch behind the house where we had matches-boys (Sean and Niall) against the girls (the two of us). He never got too excited at any time".

Joe was a selector with Noel Skehan when St. Brigid's won their first senior County Final in 1991. He was never too far away when

Pat Treacy (Radio Kilkenny) led them to the senior titles in 1995 and again in 2002. There were great people involved with camogie in St. Brigid's Club. Names like Billy Malone, Phil Cashin, Liam Delaney, Nick Teehan all did Trojan work for the game and the club. Joe Millea was front and centre with those tremendous men, most of whom have gone to their Eternal Reward.

Back to his "specials", they would speak of his great generosity, his sense of values, his encouragement.

"He was a great Dad" said Tracy. "Mam and the rest of us never lacked for anything. We were first and last in his every thought. He was a very decent man, as he often said that maneness (meaness) was a disease".

"He always honoured his word", said Sinead, "and his mantra was that he treated everybody with courtesy, and manners like he would like to be treated".

Was he an over indulging father I asked?

"You are asking did he blow smoke up you know where, and I can tell you that the complete opposite was the case. Of course he was proud of all his children, but the best praise you would get was a short appraisal like "you did good", said Tracy

And if you weren't good?

"He would not bury you", said Sinead. "The worst he would say would be, you could have been better".

Joe Millea left a great legacy behind, a legacy which has and is continued by

his son Niall. It is now generally accepted by those in the know that Joe Millea's skills, and abilities with heavy duty plant are the hallmark of work being continued by his son Niall.

Helen will miss her VBF. They reared a beautiful family. They made a road for every one of them that was much easier than the road they had travelled. They were an admirable Christian family who believed in their God and the Christian values they inherited. "We had a lovely life together", Helen told me. "It is a shocking pity that it ended so abruptly. We travelled the five Continents, especially after the kids were done for, and we had a great time with memories that will linger with me for ever. Of course I will always miss him, but I believe that he is not too far away, and that he will look after us all".

Joe will be missed by a wide circle of family and friends. In particular his wife Helen, his sons Niall and Sean, brothers John, Pat and sister Mary, his seven grandchildren, who brought so much love and enjoyment to Joe in the Autumn of his life. Aaron and Ben (Mc Evoy), their Dad, Brian, Heidi, Ruby and Robyn (Millea), Lauren and Emmy (Millea), his daughters-in-law, Sarah, and Moira, his fishing, and shooting friends, and many more whose lives he touched in so many decent, and memorable ways will all miss him.

Joe lay in Peace in his home for three nights before his Requiem in Killaloe Church on Monday February 3rd. His Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Liam Taylor and Fr. Benignus Buckley.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dilis.

MULLINAVAT put Kilkenny Football on Leinster map

Football Report by Michael O'Leary

Photos: Willie Dempsey



Mullinavat - 2019 Leinster Intermediate Football Finalists

Back : Brian Phelan, Liam Fennelly, Padraig Dempsey, Michael Walsh, Robin Davis, Damien Aylward, Tom Aylward, Mark McNamara, Ger Malone, Conor Frisby, Mark Mansfield, Michael Malone, Ian Mansfield, Stephen Law, John Walsh, Oisin Knox.

Front: Darren Kenneally, Sean Fitzpatrick, Ryan Bland, Gavin Maher, Jamie Fennelly, Conor Duggan, Ian Duggan, Mikey Jones, Shane Kelly, Adam Mansfield, Joe Fennelly, Simon Aylward, Killian Dunphy.

By the time that last year's Kilkenny GAA Yearbook was going into publication, Mullinavat were stirring up the Football world by storm as they reached the Leinster Intermediate Football Final following merited victories over both the Dublin Intermediate Champions Ballyboughal and Rosenallis of Laois.

Mullinavat's 1st game was against their Dublin counterparts who had just won their 1st County Intermediate title, and who were 1/20 to record victory.

However, Mullinavat shocked the life out of Ballyboughal as they recorded a most famous victory in Thomastown in their 1st game of the Leinster Championship

Lightning quick of the Greyhound traps, the South Kilkenny men astonishingly built up a 3-4 to 0-0 after just 17 minutes.

Inspired by the majestically immaculate Michael Malone who scored 0-5 from play, Mullinavat were completely dominant and rampant with goals from Brian Phelan(2) and Jamie Fennelly emphasizing their amazingly one sided dominance.

Mullinavat maintained that 14 point advantage at the interval - 3-7 to 0-3 - and should even have been much further ahead as they squandered three other goal chances.

Overall though, they were in complete command as Ballyboughal were well off the pace unable to lay a glove on their opponents during the opening half.

However, Ballyboughal were a completely different animal from the restart, and they made a blistering start to the second-half, as 1-2 without reply all of a sudden narrowed the gap to 8 points. 3-7 to 1-5.

Mullinavat though steadied themselves, and points from Michael Malone, Conor Duggan and Tom Aylward stretched the advantage out to 10 points, and they remained well in control entering the losing minutes as they led by 9 points. 3-11 to 1-8.

Suddenly, Ballyboughal exploded to find a new lease of life, and an instant 1-3 without reply left Mullinavat having to sweat it out, but thankfully they held out for a most famous and deserved victory to win 3-11 to 2-11 and set up a Leinster Semi-Final clash with Rosenallis of Laois.

MULLINAVAT SCORERS V BALLYBOUGHAL: Brian Phelan 2-0, Michael Malone 0-5, Jamie Fennelly 1-0, Adam Mansfield and Ian Duggan (0-1 free) 0-2 each, Conor Duggan and Tom Aylward 0-1 each

The Rosenallis game in November last year was originally scheduled for Thomastown, but due to an unplayable surface, the match was switched to the MW Hire Centre in Dunmore hence the setting for another memorable Mullinavat triumph.

The Laois contingent suffered a major blow early on, when they were reduced to 14 men after their Full-Forward Ronan Murray was sent-off for an off the ball occurrence.

Buoyed on by the extra man, a John Walsh goal from a penalty put them in the driving seat as they led 1-4 to 0-3 at half-time.

A superb piledriving goal early in the 2nd half from Jamie Fennelly put them in a very commanding position, as they stretched the advantage to 8 points - 2-6 to 0-4 - and well on their way to a Leinster Final.

Rosenallis refused to yield, and a James Jackson goal from a penalty gave Mullinavat some anxious moments who had to play the dying minutes with 14 men after Michael Malone was dismissed, but significantly the Mullinavat defence held firm over closing 10 minutes as they kept the Laois men scoreless to run out 2-10 to 1-7 winners among wild celebrations, as they had a Leinster Final showdown to look forward to against Mattock Rangers of Louth.

MULLINAVAT SCORERS V ROSENALLIS: Ian Duggan (0-2 frees) and Michael Malone 0-3 each John Walsh(penalty) and Jamie Fennelly 1-0 each, Tom Aylward 0-2, Adam Mansfield and Mark Mansfield 0-1 each

The Leinster Final was played on 7th December in the Gaelic Grounds in Drogheda, and it was a very enjoyable contest with both teams giving it everything in pursuit of victory.

It was a total contrast to the negative and dour affair that transpired in the Senior decider between Ballyboden St. Endas and Carlow Champions Eire Og in Portlaoise 24 hours later.

In fact during the opening-half of the Intermediate Final, there were more scores than the total amount allocated in the Senior equivalent - Ballyboden St. Endas won 0-8 to 0-6 - as the South Kilkenny men led 0-8 to 0-7 at the interval having built-up a 0-7 to 0-2 lead by the 20th minute.

Mullinavat's lead should have been greater, as they squandered two goal chances in quick succession which would most certainly have put the Louth men out of sight.

Mattock Rangers arose from their slumber having survived those let-offs, and they outscored Mullinavat 0-5 to 0-1 for the last 10 minutes of the opening-half as the Reid brothers David and Team Captain Adrian started to turn the screw having been anonymous during Mullinavat's first 20 minute blitz.

Mullinavat pointed within seconds of the restart, before the games most significant moment came moments later.

A re-bound goal from Brian Corcoran put the Louth men into an outright lead that they never relinquished - 1-7 to 0-9 - as David Reid was now leading the way upfront.

Mattock Rangers were now in control, as they slowly but surely started to surge clear of Mullinavat, and entering the last 10 minutes they had extended that lead to 5 points. 1-12 to 0-10.

That 5-point gap at the 50th minute mark appeared to have virtually sealed the deal for Mattock Rangers, but to their credit, Mullinavat fought bravely and manfully to the bitter end.

Centre-Back Ger Malone pointed to narrow the gap, before he had a goal chance blocked by the Mattock Rangers defence shortly afterwards.

It was a major chance, and instead Mattock Rangers closed out the game with two injury-time points to run out a rather flattering 6 point winners, and the final margin was certainly harsh on the terrific effort that Mullinavat produced who went down with all guns blazing.

MULLINAVAT SCORERS V MATTOCK RANGERS - Ian Duggan 0-4(0-3 frees), Jamie Fennelly 0-2, Ger Malone, John Walsh, Adam Mansfield, Michael Malone, Oisin Knox 0-1 each

MULLINAVAT SQUAD: Cillian Dunphy, Mikey Jones, Joe Fennelly, Shane Kelly, Mark Mansfield, Ger Malone, John Walsh, Michael Malone, Tom Aylward, Conor Duggan, Ian Duggan, Adam Mansfield, Brian Phelan, Jamie Fennelly, Oisin Knox, Darren Kenneally, Liam Fennelly, Simon Aylward, Damian Aylward, Padraig Dempsey

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS INCOMPLETE

At time of writing (Late October), the Senior, Intermediate & Junior Championships were delayed & subsequently incomplete because of the Pandemic, but there were matches played in the earlier rounds throughout the three Grades.

The Senior Championship commenced the first weekend in March, just before the Pandemic began, with three first round matches played.

Kilmoganny overcame Danesfort 2-10 to 1-7, Railyard prevailed in an 8 goal thriller 3-13 to 5-5 against Conahy Shamrocks, while it was also a close margin as Mooncoin overcame Muckalee 0-12 to 0-9.

The extended break due to the pandemic & also the Club Hurling Championships meant that the Football Championships didn't restart until late September, when the last of the first round matches was played.

Clara overcame O'Loughlin Gaels 1-11 to 0-10 to condemn the City men to a Relegation Final showdown with Danesfort.

Danesfort survived their Senior status in the Relegation decider as they won 1-9 to 2-4.

Meanwhile, in the Quarter-Finals, Four-in-a-row chasing Mullinavat easily brushed aside Railyard 1-12 to 0-2, Clara strolled to a 3-11 to 0-8 victory against Tullogher-Rosbercon to set-up a Semi-Final clash against Mullinavat.

The remaining two Senior Quarter-Finals still to be played are Dicksboro against Mooncoin & James Stephens against Kilmoganny.

In the Intermediate Championship, three of the four first round matches were played back in early March.

Rower-Inistioge brushed aside last years Junior Champions Young Irelands of Gowran 3-9 to 0-10, and they had a scheduled Semi-Final clash with Glenmore to look forward to - which still has to be played - until the Pandemic Intervened.

The Men from the Glen made the trip to the opposite end of the County in North Kilkenny worthwhile as they overcame Lisdowney 3-8 to 1-5, while Piltown safely negotiated their path into the Semi-Final as they accounted for Erins Own of Castlecomer 3-8 to 0-5.

Piltown were due to play the winners of Thomastown and Blacks & Whites who still had to play their Quarter-Final contest.

The Junior Championship was slower to get going with just two matches played, both in early October & both at the Quarter-Final stage.

Tullaroan overcame Muckalee 2-9 to 1-10, and they were scheduled to play the winners of Kilmacow & Graigue-Ballycallan, while in the other Quarter-Final played, last years losing finalists Barrow Rangers coasted to a 2-10 to 0-4 win away to Railyard in Moneenroe, and the winners were scheduled to play the winners of the Carrickshock and Windgap Quarter-Final clash.

The big question at time of writing is when will the Senior, Intermediate & Junior Championships resume, with a bigger question & doubt arising as to whether the Championships will be completed.

PILTOWN MINORS PREVAIL IN THRILLER

Last years(2019) Minor Roinn A Final, saw Piltown defeat Dicksboro 2-12 to 2-8 in late January in what was a thrilling, open and positive game, as both teams took the direct approach in pursuit of victory.

The Boro were attempting to complete the Hurling/Football double having regained the County Hurling title against Mooncoin, after losing to the Suirsiders in the most dramatic circumstances as they conceded three late goals to hand their opponents success.



John Walsh in Drogheda v Mattock Rangers.

In the Football Final, Dicksboro started prominently and an Aron Murphy goal in the 5th minute gave them an early initiative as they led 1-2 to 0-1 after 7 minutes.

Piltown were awarded a lifeline in the 10th minute in which they took full advantage of, as the imperious Daryl Maye Dunleavy converted a penalty to narrow the gap to the minimum before Braedon Wheeler pointed moments later to level proceedings. 1-2 each.

The Boro replied once again, and a well taken goal from Sean Maher sent them on their way to a half-time lead of 2-6 to 1-6.

Most unusually, despite leading at the interval, the Boro made a triple half-time substitution introducing Colm O'Hara, Luca Loli and Mikey Raggett, and their was a change of tactical approach as they became more defensive by operating a sweeper, and within seconds of the restart, they were pegged back level.



Ger Malone had an outstanding game in Drogheda.



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A long range free from Daryl Maye Dunleavy went all the way to the net and from that moment on, the tide began to turn. 2-6 each.

Piltown outscored their opponents 0-6 to 0-2 afterwards, as they displayed the greater hunger with Dunleavy and O'Callaghan pulling the strings around the middle third area, while Full-Forward Sean O'Neill was the go to man for Piltown, and he constantly posed a menacing threat especially during the 2nd half.

Dicksboro dominated possession for the closing 10 minutes, but they were repelled by a stubborn and determined Piltown defence led by the exceptional Aidan Walsh at Full-Back who denied Mikey Raggett a certain goal with a brilliant block in the 41st minute.

They had another goal chance in the 58th minute when a darting run from James Carroll found Aran Murphy unmarked in front of goal, but he couldn't pull the trigger, and Piltown survived as they claimed a deserved victory in a terrific advertisement for football in Kilkenny.

TEAMS:

PILTON - Pauric Wall, Neil Moriarty, Aidan Walsh, Conor Power, Rian Anthony, Tom Reid, Conor McGowan, Daryl Maye Dunleavy(1-1 goal penalty), Conor Hogan, Francis Moore(0-1), Billy O'Callaghan(1-4 1-3 frees), Braedon Wheeler(0-1), Gavin Flynn, Sean O'Neill(0-4 1-3 frees), Evan O'Shea

Subs: Eoin Morgan, Brendan Grace(0-1),

DICKSBORO - Nick Doheny, Eoghan O'Neill, Tom Carroll, Eamonn O'Reilly, Charlie Delahunt, Niall Rowe, Andrew Brennan Smyth, James Carroll, Rory O'Connor (0-1), Eoin Dalton, Padraig Moylan, Oisin Timmons(0-2 0-1 free), Aran Murphy(1-1), Sean Maher(1-3), Vinny Clifford,

Subs: Colm O'Hara, Luca Loli, Mikey Raggett(0-1)

Referee: Paul Cahill,

SAINTS STROLL TO MINOR GLORY

St. Martins strolled to their 1st Minor title since 2005 as they defeated Carrickshock 4-9 to 1-6 to win last years (2019) Roinn B Final.

The Saints made a rocking start thanks to a goal from full-forward Joe Reid, before the South Kilkenny youngsters replied with an 8th minute goal from Shane Fennelly as they led 1-3 to 1-0 by the end of the opening quarter.

However, St. Martins replied and Joe Reid added a 2nd goal before Cathal Keegan with the victors 3rd goal regained the initiative as they led 3-3 to 1-6 following a magnificent half-hours football.

The third quarter was practically a stalemate, with no scores accruing until Captain Jack Farrell pointed in the 44th minute, before the clinching 4th goal arrived four minutes later when Cathal Keegan added his 2nd to effectively end Carrickshock's challenge. 4-4 to 1-6.

Five unanswered points were added by the winners in the last 10 minutes as they strolled to a 12 point victory.

St Martins: Ross Dowling, Ciaran Nolan, Matthew Shortall, Tadgh Gill, Bill Dowling, Shane Fahy, Cillian Bryan, Tristian Roache, Cathal Keegan, Russell Kealy, Thomas Lawler, Jack Farrell, Josh Dempsey, Joe Reid, Conor Dooley **Subs:** Jamie Morrissey, Niall Shore, Conor Egan, Luke Burke, Oisin Kelly, Paddy Brennan



Mark Mansfield wins possession in Drogheda.

Carrickshock: Patrick Hickey, James O'Shea, Sean Moore, Stephen Neville, Padraig Lennon, Oisin Carroll, Luke Hudson, Jack McGuirk, Oisin Doyle, Shane Fennelly, Kyle Dineen, Edward Dwyer, Eoghan O'Neill, Tommy Doyle, Josh Dineen. **Subs:** Darragh Dwyer, Joseph Aylward, Michael O'Shea.

BORO UNDER-15'S COMPLETE DOUBLE

The Dicksboro Under-15s completed the 2019 Hurling/Football double in February, as their Football Team defeated O'Loughlin Gaels 2-10 to 2-6 in a thriller played in Jenkinstown.

The Boro led 1-5 to 1-2 at the interval as Kevin Waldron and David Mulrooney exchanged early goals, and the Palmerstown outfit maintained that lead throughout the 2nd half.

A well worked team goal finished by the excellent Mikey Raggett -who was Dicksboro's top scorer with 1-4 - asserted their dominance, but to O'Loughlins credit, they refused to yield.

Kevin Waldron with his 2nd goal narrowed the gap to two points, but Dicksboro replied once more, and late points from Cillian Hackett and substitute Billy Fitzpatrick sealed victory and the double was secured.

Dicksboro: Matt Kelleher, Sean Cullen, Mick Carroll (capt), Tom McPhilips, Conor Kavanagh, Fionn McGarry, Peter Conroy, Sean Keanan (0-02), Sean Knox, Cillian Hackett (0-02), Mikey Raggett (1-04), David Mulrooney(1-00), Harry Shine, Declan O Farrell (0-01), Sam Tynan, **Subs:** Michael Clarke, Billy Fitzpatrick (0-01), Charlie Miller, Denis Dalton, Jamie McGrath, Joey Dalton, Luke Bourke, Tom O'Neill, Kevin Moore, Johnny Keane

O'Loughlin Gael's: Orestas Balsys, Tadhg O'Meara, Harry O'Grady, Fionn Lawlor, CJ Poyntz, Ruaidhri Galwey (0-1), Mark Holohan, Finn Hogan, Greg Kelly (0-1), Jack Aylmer (0-1), Jack Sinnott, Harry Maher, Eoghan Bennett, Kevin Waldron (2-2), Alex Sheridan (0-1). **Subs:** Ruarc Sweeney, Owen McKenna, Josh Hynes, Harry Roberts, Adam Maher, Luke Quigley, Brandon Wall



Tullogher Rosbercon - Allianz Cumann na mBunscol TOP Oil Roinn B County Champions 2019



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Hope to see you all back playing in 2020!

Oh, how he passed it on... LESTER RYAN RIP

By Enda McEvoy, Irish Examiner

Back in 2010 when Kilkenny were going for the five in a row and looking for lads to make up the numbers in training, it was only natural that they should turn to Lester Ryan, an All Ireland under-21 winner two years earlier, to give a hand. It was likewise only natural that Martin Fogarty should give him a call soliciting his services.

What was not natural was Lester's response. "I've been waiting 20 years for this call. I wasn't happy with the way it finished then. If I go back I want to be on the frees!!!"

It took a moment or two, but only a moment or two, for the penny to drop with Martin Fogarty. He'd rung the wrong Lester Ryan. Uncle, not nephew.

To say Lester Ryan senior was a former Kilkenny hurler at the time, and right up to his tragic passing on June 6th this year, is to tell merely some of the truth. He was far more than that. Far more interesting, far more important, far more influential.

Let's go back to the 1991 Kilkenny Yearbook. If you don't have it in your collection it can be viewed on Kilkennygaa.ie (click on Resources et voila!). Lester wrote an article for it. He was on the threshold of an exciting phase of his life, having just taken up a position as one of these new-fangled field officers with the Leinster Council.

He talked about growing up in Clara in a hurling-mad household. With four brothers, none of the lads had to be motivated to play ("we had to be motivated to do everything else except play"). He also talked about the difference between his childhood and the present. "What was once spontaneous has now been systematized. Children no longer flock to the field. They are only to be found there if there is organised training or a game. The sheer joy of being merely involved (psychologists call this intrinsic motivation) has been overtaken by extrinsic factors such as competitions, medals and rewards of one form or another.

"It is said that the effective coach will not alone know what to do but will also know why he is doing it and how those under his care will benefit. He will have to be a skills trainer, fitness instructor, psychologist, dietician and medic combined into one. My wish is to pass on some of the rich legacy which I was fortunate enough to inherit."

Lester passed it on alright. Oh how he passed it on.

He had so many titles and job descriptions. Field officer, hurling development administrator for Laois and Carlow, provincial support officer.

He had so many organisational duties: the provincial cross-county hurling leagues, from adult level down (immensely successful, not least because they pitted clubs against outfits from other counties they'd never otherwise meet). The DJ Carey School of Hurling, which was very much Lester's baby. *Po Fada*, the finals of which he and Christine attended in the Cooley Mountains annually. Coaching the coaches and developing a template that was followed nationally and became the summer institution that is the Cúl Camps.

BREAKING NEW GROUND

His wasn't a 9-5 job. It was a 7am till midnight job seven days a week. Lester never refused a call from anyone looking for advice or help with fixtures, games, presentations, whatever. As one of the first full-timers to be employed by the GAA in games development he was a pathfinder. He helped widen horizons and strike new ground - and lo, it was good. What's more, people saw that it was good. These days there are over 300 such coaches around the country.

"He was very unassuming," says Colm Clear, who laboured long and hard in the provincial vineyard with Lester. "Always in the background arranging things as opposed to being front and centre. He was a gentleman to everyone and a mentor to so many of us. He'd never offer advice but plenty of people sought it. One of his greatest strengths was that he'd always think of how a particular skill would play out in the real world. How practical and useful would it be on the pitch or in training with the club on a Saturday morning?"

leagues ahead of the other provincial bodies when it came to imagination, innovation and enterprise. "We weren't doing what we did for the sake of being market leaders," that enlightened former Leinster Council CEO, Camross's Michael Delaney, points out. "But in a lot of areas others followed where we led, and Lester played a big part in driving things forward and going where nobody had gone before. Anyone who loved hurling was a friend of his."

As a club hurler Lester was an integral part of what still stands as Clara's greatest day, the 1986 county final underdog triumph against Ballyhale Shamrocks. They were an admirable team; no superstars but plenty of really good stalwarts the local circuit, hardy and competent experienced. Their most skilful performer distance was Lester, who if anything was, whether despite his talent or because of it, possibly too self-analytical and hard on himself. Obviously he was able to take care of himself on the field. He wouldn't have been a Ryan if he wasn't.

As an intercounty hurler he wasn't merely unlucky, he was ridiculously unfortunate to fall into the cracks between Kilkenny's All Ireland champions of 1982-83 and their successors of 1992-93. He did win a National League medal in 1986 and Leinster medals in 1986-87 but a Celtic cross was to elude him. As if to demonstrate his versatility he wore the number 13 jersey in that 1986 league final before partnering Ger Fennelly at midfield in the All Ireland decider a year later. He also won a Railway Cup medal with Leinster in 1988.

In all he made 16 championship appearances, five of them off the bench. Along the way he scored a creditable 4-11, all of it from play. For the record someone else managed 4-11 for Kilkenny in his own career: a certain B Cody. On being thus informed by Leo McGough, the eminent Carlow hurling man and GAA statistician who'd unearthed this glorious piece of information, Lester responded with a characteristically droll, "God, don't tell anyone that!"

Leo knew Lester on a personal basis from the DJ Carey School of Hurling. "It was a terrific concept and he ran it with such efficiency, energy and enthusiasm. It gave young players and their mentors a wonderful grounding during a week that involved coaching and fun without a huge emphasis on the competitive element, though there was a bit of that too."

THE TIES THAT BIND

In latter years Lester would call three times a week or so to his brother Johnny, now also sadly gone to his eternal reward, and family in Maddoxtown. Johnny's offspring - Liam, Tom and Lester junior - would be hurling in the yard, rapt in one or other of the two house games. One was a non-contact wall ball variant, the other a home-brewed entity called Three in the Window. Despite being in his 50s their uncle would always join in. Wall ball emphasised his skill, which occasionally surprised his nephews, who'd never seen him hurl in his prime; Three in the Window emphasised his ability to mix it and showed an entirely different side of him.

(An ancestor of this game was played by Lester senior and his brothers a generation ago. There's a small hole in one of the walls of Ryans' barn. The lads spent hour upon hour standing back and trying to drive a sliotar into the hole. Any hurler who ever had brothers - or even sisters - doubtless has a similar tale to tell.)

Although he was a hurling man and a GAA man he didn't define himself solely in those terms and he was much more besides. Away from sport - somehow he did find the time - he had an interesting and variegated existence. He was a fine musician on the mandolin and banjo. He was an enthusiastic

The general consensus in GAA circles at the time had it that the Leinster Council was





Kilkenny All Ireland SH Finalists 1987

*Back: Joe Hennessy, Christy Heffernan, Richie Power, Lester Ryan, Sean Fennelly, John Henderson, Liam Fennelly.
Front: Harry Ryan, Ger Henderson, Paddy Prendergast, Kevin Fennelly, Kieran Brennan, Liam Walsh, Ger Fennelly, Pat Walsh.*

photographer, taking up the hobby late in his life and staging an exhibition in MacDonagh Junction. He, Conor and Joseph trained as life guards. He played golf and the Ryan Classic – like the Masters at Augusta, except featuring the Ryan cousins from Kilkenny and Enniscorthy and Lucan and Tullamore and wherever else – was a date in the diary every year. He was a collector of jerseys and programmes, a dutiful maintainer of scrapbooks and his big dream was a GAA museum (holograms, the whole works) in Kilkenny. He was quietly religious too, Mass and the rosary being daily staples.

In the midst of life, death can intrude with an unforeseen and unspeakable unfairness. On that awful Saturday morning Lester had been cycling around the golf course in Gowran with Conor at 6.30am. He'd launched his new pet photography business in the Ryan family WhatsApp group, to myriad smart comments from his cousins. By 3.30pm he was no longer with us, leaving Joseph, Niamh, Eimer and

Conor without a dad and Christine without a husband. They had been a couple for 43 years.

The tributes? Too many to mention, but thousands watched the requiem Mass on line and hundreds of Mass cards were received, the majority with letters inside lauding what Lester had done for hurling communities from as far apart as New York, Donegal and England. And shinty clubs in Scotland. And camogie clubs. And and...

Down the decades umpteen Kilkenny hurlers have adorned the game, never more so than in the past 20 years. It is hard, however, to think of a Kilkenny hurler who did as much good for the game he loved as Lester Ryan did. What a legacy he leaves.



The O'Neill Family at the Dedication of the Mick O'Neill Room In Nowlan Park.

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LE LIAM DE LÁSA

Nítheadar éinne, conas mar a thitfidh scéal an ghalair COVID-19 amach sna míonna atá amach romhainn. Ní chuimhin liomsa go pearsanta am chomh cinniúin, imeaglach riamh i mo shaol agus ní chuirfinn an milleán ar aon duine agaibh as dearmad a dhéanamh gur éalaigh 'Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020' go ciúin uainn dá bharr. Amhailimeachtaí agus gnáthchúramáí an tsaoil ar fud an domhain mhóranois, bhíimeachtaí na tréimhse Gaelaí curtha ar athlófad is a dhíriomar ar n-aigne ar chúrsáil slándála na tíre. Fós féin tá dea-scéala le tuairisciú ón mbláin 2020 agus is é sin go bhfuil clubanna CLG Chill Chainnigh ag tabhairt féna n-aistear teangan den chéad uair.

Is minic ráite againn é ach do bhí dlúth cheangal idir ár dteanga agus ár gcluichí náisiúnta riamh. B'in go deimhin, an fhís a bhí go soiléir ag lar-Uachtaráin an Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, Seosamh Mac Donncha. Chaith sé a shaol ar fad ag treisí an cheangail agus bhaín sé leas stuama as an ardán a bhí aige mar Uachtaráin chun stádas na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn sa chumann. D'fhág sé folús mór inár goróithe áfach nuair a d'imirigh sé ar shláí na firinne i 2016 agus beartaíodh go leanfaí ar aghaidh lena chuid oibre in ómós do Sheosamh. Seoladh Fondúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha ag deireadh na bliana 2016 mar sin, scéim atá imithe ó neart go neart ar fud na tíre ó shin.

Is scéim tacáiochta de chuid Ghlor na nGael agus de chuid an Chumainn Lúthchleas Gael i Fondúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha le haghaidh clubanna CLG ar mian leo an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn. Tá formhór na gclubanna ag cur na Gaeilge chun cinn bealach amháin nó bealach eile. Is é cuspóir na fondúireachta seo ná na hiarrachtaí sin a fhorbairt ar bhonn tomhaise agus pleannálte. Cuirfidh Glór na nGael cabhair ar fáil don Oifigeach Gaeilge i bhfoirm chomhairle, tacáiochta agus idéanna le tógaint ar an obair mhaith atá á déanamh sa chlub cheana féin. Is féidir deontas a lorg ón Fhondúireacht chun cabhrú leis na pleannanna sin a chur i gcrích.

Bronnfar bonn snasta, Bonn Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha ar na clubanna atá cláraithe as méid áirithe gníomhaiochtaí ar son na teangan a chur i gcrích sa chlub. Is comhartha aitheantaí atá sa bhonn ar an dea-obair atá déanta sna gclubanna tar éis tréimhse ama. De réir mar a chuireann club gníomhaiochtaí ón liosta molta i gcrích, bronnnfar bonn cré-umha, bonn airgid nó bonn óir de réir mar is cuí. Bronnfar bonn cré-umha as 25% den liosta a chur i gcrích, bonn airgid as 50% agus bonn óir as 80% de na gníomhaiochtaí a chomhlíonadh. Ar an ábhar seo tá spreagadh agus spriocanna cinnte ag clubanna chun bheith ag éascú ról don teanga i measc a gcuid ball. Agus, dár ndóigh, beidh ardádas agus ardghradam ag dul d'aon chlub a bhaineann an bonn óir amach dó féin.

Tá grúpa tacáiochta curtha ar bun ag rannpháirtithe na scéime a thugann treoir agus comhairle do na hOifigigh Gaeilge le spriocanna na scéime a bhaint amach. Táimid ag súil go dtiocfaidh fás agus forbairt ar stádas, úsáid agus foghlaim na Gaeilge agus go spreagfaidh sé baill na gcumann chun gnímh.

An Bóthar go Páirc an Chrócaigh

Bronnfar Gradaim Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha ag ócáid bhrontta i bpáirc an Chrócaigh ag deireadh mhí na Nollag agus táimid ag súil go mór le hócáid stairiúil do chlubanna an chontae. Is maith go deimhin, an t-aitheantaí a fhraigheann na hofigigh ar son a gcumann agus le cúnamh Dé tabharfaidh sé misneach dóibh treabhadh leo lena gcuind oibre agus meitheal áitiúil a thabhairt ina dteananta ar an turas stairiúil seo sa todhcháil. Más spéis leat-sa do chlub féin a chlárú i mbláin níl le déanamh ach ríomhphost a chur chugam ag: liam@glornangael.ie



Language Journey Begins for Kilkenny GAA Clubs

Nobody knows exactly what lies in store in the weeks and months ahead as COVID-19 continues to cause much uncertainty. Many of our readers will struggle to recall such unprecedented times and one could certainly be forgiven for overlooking 'Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020' as this new pandemic arrived at our shores. The Irish events organised to celebrate our language and culture were amongst the first casualties as our minds focused on the health and safety of our citizens. We did have some positive news to lift the spirits however, as our GAA clubs embarked on a historic Irish language journey this year.

It is often said that our unique language and our national games share so much in common. Former GAA President, Joe McDonagh certainly shared that vision and spent his life strengthening the status of the language in the GAA on a national level. Joe left a void in all our hearts when he passed away in 2016. It was quickly decided that this work would be continued in his memory and thus the Joe McDonagh Foundation was launched to promote the Irish language in GAA clubs all over the country. A scheme that has gone from strength to strength ever since.

Local Clubs

The Joe McDonagh Foundation is a support service provided by Glór na nGael and the Gaelic Athletic Association to GAA clubs wishing to further the Irish Language in their community. Most clubs have been promoting the Irish language in some form or another. The Foundation is here to help develop that promotion in a more measured and planned fashion. Glór na nGael will offer help to the Oifigeach Gaeilge to give them direction, support and ideas to build on the good work that has already been done within the club. Grants are available from the Foundation to help realise your plans and medals will be awarded to clubs for various levels of achievement in promotion of the language.

The Joe McDonagh medal will be presented to registered clubs for implementing a certain number of actions with regards the promotion of the language within the club. The medal is a noted sign of achievement and recognition for continued work on behalf of the language. As a club completes the recommended activities listed, bronze, silver and gold medals will be awarded as appropriate. The bronze medal will be awarded on completion of 25% of the list of recommended activities, the silver for 50% and the gold on completion of 80%. The medal serves as both motivation and recognition, providing a clear attainable goal for clubs wishing to facilitate a role for the language within their membership. And of course, any club earning a gold medal will well deserve and enjoy the prestige and esteem that comes their way.

Road to Croker

The awards will be presented to successful clubs at a ceremony in Croke Park in December and we are hoping that this will be a historic night for the participating Kilkenny clubs. It is of course great recognition for the Irish Language Officer for the work they carry out on behalf of their local club and hopefully it will inspire more members to join them on the language journey in years to come. If you would like to register your club for the scheme you can do so by emailing me on: liam@glornangael.ie



THE TIMES THAT ARE IN IT....





HANDBALL YEAR

Thrown Into Turmoil

Handball Report by Martin Lawlor PRO

Like all other sports, Handball has been severely impacted by the Covid -19 virus which has resulted in turmoil throughout 2020.

As a sport that is played through all twelve months of the year, this

year's calendar was severely impacted from the first lockdown in mid-March. This prevented the completion of the 4 Wall season and, over the next few months, a number of regular events were cancelled. When the Softball finally got up and running in late August/early September the championships were in reduced grades, with Singles only matches permitted.

As we approach the end of 2020 there are still a number of outstanding matches to be played, all this depending on the status of lockdown across the nation. Another significant factor was that Handball is predominantly an indoor sport where the risk of contracting the virus was significantly higher than outdoor sports, almost twenty times higher according to the experts.

Early 2020

The year commenced very well for the county as local players were very much to the fore in some early season tournaments. In the Intermediate grade in Kingscourt, up and coming dual star Billy Drennan (Galmoy) raised some eyebrows when he got his season off to a great start by defeating fellow Kilkenny man, Shane Dunne (Clogh) in the final. In the Mallow tournament, sisters Katie and Amy Brennan from Clogh were victorious in the Girls U13 and U15 grades, with Una Duggan (Galmoy) runner up in the U13 final.

At the very popular She's Ace weekend in Mayo, Noelle Dowling got her year off to a great start as she successfully defended her U17 title, and in the U15 grade, Amy Brennan (Clogh) was the winner.

In the 2nd level Colleges championships played in Kingscourt, Noelle and Billy won the Girls Senior Singles and Boys Intermediate Singles titles for their respective schools, Presentation Secondary and Kilkenny CBS. There was victory in Boys Senior Doubles for Castlecomer CBS duo, Kyle Dunne and Billy O'Neill and in Junior Singles, Kyle Jordan from Grennan College, Thomastown was a convincing winner. On the same weekend in Belfast, Aoife Holden DCU was victorious in the 3rd Level Ladies Senior Singles championship. In the USHA Collegiate championships Shane Dunne had a tiebreaker 11-6 victory over Diarmuid Mulkerrins to claim the Open Singles crown.

Early in January the Leinster championships commenced with the Singles competitions taking precedence in the early stages. The completion of the provincial championships led to Kilkenny players advancing to All Ireland series in a number of grades.

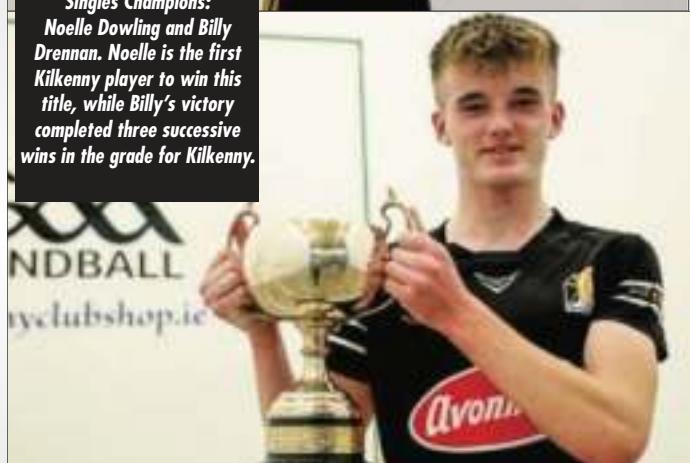
Following the completion of the provincial championships the Leinster champions came up against the Connaught winners. In the Ladies and Mens Minor Singles semi-finals at Kilfane there were wins for Noelle Dowling (Mothel) and Billy Drennan (Galmoy) as they overcame Galway and Mayo opposition, respectively. There was also victory for Shane Dunne (Clogh) in his Intermediate Singles match with Mayo.

In the Junior Singles contest in Galway Brian Mahon needed three sets to see off the local challenge, and in his home court Anthony Martin (Kells) was a comfortable winner against Mayo opposition in the O35B championship.

In the Juvenile championships, Kilkenny had a very successful Leinster campaign and travelled to Ulster to play the All Ireland



All Ireland Minor Softball
Singles Champions:
**Noelle Dowling and Billy
Drennan.** Noelle is the first
Kilkenny player to win this
title, while Billy's victory
completed three successive
wins in the grade for Kilkenny.



Clogh and Kilfane juveniles who represented Kilkenny in the Gael Linn

semi-finals. Following the completion of those matches, Kilkenny had qualified for nine All Ireland finals, five in girls and four in boys grades.

For the record, that weekend in March must go down as one of the most successful ever in the county as Kilkenny won a phenomenal fourteen All Ireland semi-finals out of sixteen contested.

March - September

Following that weekend the Handball season came to an abrupt halt. There was the immediate cancellation of all activity in the sport and all planned events on the calendar were either deferred or cancelled. In the case of the postponed 4 Wall finals, they were rescheduled for later in the year, due to be played in the last two weekends of November. The Doubles championships were put on hold, indefinitely, with no decision made on whether they would be completed, or not in 2020.

Some of the events that failed to survive the pandemic were the Hardball championships, the very popular Feile Na Gael competitions, and team events in adult and juvenile grades. Throw in the cancellation of the One Wall Nationals and tournaments around the country and it was a very bleak time for the handball community.

Return to Play

The return to play roadmap for Handball across the country was a very slow process in the months of July and August. Due to the sport being predominantly played indoors the risks involved were considerably higher than their outdoor counterpart GAA sports. It is believed the risks were nineteen times higher indoor, thus leading to a very slow back to play process.

However in late August the Softball season was up and running, albeit with a reduced number of championships. At adult level there was All Ireland competition in Ladies and Mens Minor and Open Singles grades only, while the juvenile championships were only played in Singles format.

In the Ladies and Mens Minor championships, there was success for Kilkenny as Noelle Dowling (Mothel) and Billy Drennan (Galmoy) were in top form throughout the championships.

The Leinster Ladies Minor final was an all Kilkenny affair as Noelle defeated Roisin O'Keefe (Kilfane) to progress, and then received a walkover from Galway in the semi-final. However, in the All Ireland decider in Crinkle, Offaly, the Mothel player produced a brilliant display to defeat Clare rival, Chloe Phillipot in two games, 21-11, 21-12. This was a great victory for Noelle as she has worked hard over the last number of years to reach this very high standard, and can look forward to further success in the near future. She also became the first player from Kilkenny to win this prestigious title.

To complete a great day for the county at the midlands venue, Billy Drennan was in tremendous form when winning the Mens Minor Singles crown. The dual star had an impressive win in the Leinster decider against Mark Doyle (Wexford) and followed this up with a comfortable victory against Nathan Kelly (Galway). However the Galmoy player reserved his best form for the All Ireland final against



Players who competed in the County championships and the Cumann na Bunscol



Kilfane group who completed a Safeguarding course earlier in the year.

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CIARÁN WALLACE





Michael Murphy – Erin's Own

The year our clubs took centre stage

By Liam de Lasa

he insists that the fundamentals have never been more important to how teams prepare for life in the Kilkenny senior championship.

Murphy was only halfway through his teenage years when the aforementioned article was written. He might, however, have had more cause to be concerned than most to learn of hurling's future. An era of game plans, tactics, and sweepers lay ahead, but his own performances in the Kilkenny senior championship have served as a constant reminder that a ball winner is still a valued commodity in the modern game. 'Club hurling in Kilkenny is tough, and if you can't win your own ball, you won't last. It's as simple as that regardless of tactics'

A pivotal forward on both Tony Forristal and Arrabawn Co-op All-Ireland winning teams at under 14 and 16 levels, respectively. The natural progression saw him play two years at county minor level with Kilkenny, albeit without capturing the Irish Press Cup at either attempt. Making his senior debut for the club at just 17, he quickly learned about senior hurling's harsh reality. 'My introduction to Senior hurling in Kilkenny was a rude awakening, to be honest, I was only 17 at the time, and I just remember the sheer physicality and pace of it'. However, the learning curve would be short-lived as they lost their senior status on a stormy day in Freshford against arch-rivals St Martins in 2006.

Relegation can be the making of teams at times. Helped by winning the Minor 'A' County title in 2008, they bounced back to senior later that year with much cause for optimism given line of talent coming through. 'That team was a great help to the club when we went senior again, and we were lucky to get a good bunch underneath them in later years to drive things on.'

FULL CIRCLE

Erin's Own were on the cusp of an unprecedented upset to land themselves in a senior county final in 2018 when a last-minute Shamrocks'





Shane Staunton (Clara) attempts to hook Michael Murphy in this year's Championship. Photo Willie Dempsey

goal shattered such a mouth-watering prospect for the club. He is quick to recognise the significance, ‘We gave them a break for a second, and they pipped us. I have the DVD at home, alright, but I could never take it out to look at it’. It was of little consolation leaving Nowlan Park that day, but the close encounter with All-Ireland club championships Ballyhale Shamrocks would be the last real test the champions faced on their path to St Patrick’s day glory.

Murphy was instrumental throughout the campaign as Liam Dowling’s men recovered from a slow league start and the looming threat of a relegation final to qualify for the county semi-final. A heart-breaking day in the blue and white for Murphy and his comrades, but his senior career had come full circle. From the dreaded senior drop in 2006 to the cusp of hurling’s biggest upset in 2018, one could only be pleased with the graph.

He credits the Erin’s Own resurgence to the instrumental work at underage level in the club over the past decade. ‘In my early years, we would have hung on, I suppose, but an injection of young players is always helpful, and that’s why we’ve been so competitive in the last few years in particular.’ The club has also benefited greatly from the local hurling nursery in Castlecomer Community School, and he counts himself very lucky to have learned his trade during his time there. ‘Winning a Leinster Senior A title in 2007 for the school was an amazing achievement when you look where we came from. For our younger hurlers, the school continues to be the stepping stone, and that’s all down to the trojan work that goes on there. We’ve been blessed in that sense for so long. Without that, a lot of clubs around would suffer big time.’

SUMMER HURLING

2020 was a difficult year on all fronts, but Murphy is clear on a silver lining in the midst of a pandemic. The club player certainly rose to prominence during the summer, and perhaps it became the year that would reform the infamous crowded calendar to give us championship club action in the heart of Summer sunshine.

Summer hurling would only have been a dream for club players pre-COVID times. Like most club hurlers around the country, he enjoyed the buzz of championship in the warmer climate. ‘It was great to be hurling during the summer months, especially the consistency of it. It would be great if the club championship could start and finish in the one season without interruption’. Apart from the time of year, being the centre of our attention does come with its own advantages. The club game exploded onto our screens giving exposure never seen before.

He smiles at the notion that the Erin’s Own’ colours found themselves splashed across the Irish Independent Newspaper’s front sports’ page in August. Crazy stuff, but he also acknowledges the profound impact it has on how the game is promoted in small parishes that would otherwise never receive national coverage. ‘We would have kids down watching training every night of the week, and that kind of exposure gives it a huge

boost; we’ve had some of our own games broadcast live on RTÉ over the past two years, and it’s obviously a huge incentive for youngsters to wear the Comer jersey’ Is olc an ghaoth nach séideann maith do dhuine éigin....

Despite a novel championship in the sun, his disappointment with how their season ended is very clear from his tone. ‘It wasn’t a very good year for us, and hopefully, it will refocus the minds for 2021’ Typical of the Comer spirit, he is already looking to the future and planning for 2021. ‘I’m not sure how other teams feel about playing Comer, but it’s our job to make us very difficult to beat; after that, you just never know.’ I assure him there aren’t too many teams lining up to play Erin’s Own in the senior championship. He’ll take that.....for now.



Michael Murphy gets in his shot against Robbie Fitzpatrick of Dicksboro.

Photo Willie Dempsey

PAT DWYER'S *inter-county career with Kilkenny.*

By Jim Fogarty.

Carrickshock's Pat Dwyer won his first All-Ireland medal, when Kilkenny defeated Tipperary in the Junior final of 1988, played in Portlaoise on a July evening. Kilkenny won by 1-12 to 0-10. Pat played at centre back. Only 4 of the 17 players used in the final were winning their first All-Ireland. They were Paudie Holden, Sean Caulfield, Pat Dwyer and Tomas McCluskey.

Pat was brought into Kilkenny's senior set up in 1989. Kilkenny reached the Leinster final on July 9th, 1989, where they were defeated by Offaly on a scoreline of 3-15 to 4-9. Pat was full back and the Irish Press report stated that the Offaly full forward, Vincent Teehan, lost his battle against Pat.

Pat won his first National hurling league medal in 1990. In the home final on 22nd April, Kilkenny beat Wexford by 3-12 to 1-10. Pat played at centre back. Pat's marker, Ray Coleman, got little from Dwyer and failed to score. On 6th May 1990, in New York, Kilkenny defeated the home side by 0-18 to 0-9 to clinch the League title proper. Pat was powerful at centre back during the opening half and his point from an 80 yards free was one of the best scores of the hour.

After the Leinster loss of 1989, Pat played in 4 other Leinster finals, 1991, 92, 93 and 1995, winning in 3 in 1991, 1992 and 1993. He played in his first senior All-Ireland final in 1991, losing to Tipperary by 1-16 to 0-15. In that final, Pat held the Tipp centre forward, Declan Ryan, to a point. From 1992 on, he featured at full back on the Kilkenny team.

In the 1992 All-Ireland final, Kilkenny defeated Cork by 3-10 to 1-12. The Kilkenny People report of the match opted for Pat as man-of-the-match. "He was sure under the dropping ball, fast to flick away loose ground balls and he attacked the sliothar with authority. He put in one mighty free that would measure up to the acclaimed striking of Ger Cunningham and Brian Corcoran".

Kevin Hennessy kicked a point for Cork before half time, when he got inside Dwyer for the one and only time. Apart from the Cork goal, Michael Walsh had only one save of major consequence to make. This was testament to the achievements of Pat Dwyer and his 2 colleagues in the full back line. Cork's attempts at goal were hurled back with ease and confidence by the Kilkenny full back line, led by Pat Dwyer. Pat attacked the ball well and beat his opponents, Kevin Hennessy and John Fitzgibbon in turn. Pat was awarded an All-Star in 1992.

Kilkenny again reached the All-Ireland final in 1993. They defeated Galway by 2-17 to 1-15. In the final, Pat marked the giant Joe Rabbitte. He held Rabbitte scoreless in the first half. In the second half, Rabbitte moved out the field and scored 4 magnificent points. Vincent Hogan in the Irish Independent, gave both Dwyer and Rabbitte a rating of 8 out of 10. Dwyer was doubtful prior to the final as he had a serious groin injury.



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11 July 1993; George O'Connor, Wexford, in action against Pat O'Dwyer, Kilkenny. Kilkenny v Wexford, Leinster Senior Hurling Final, Croke Park, Dublin.
Picture credit; David Maher / SPORTSFILE

His lack of match sharpness and fitness was a concern to him. He got physio in Manchester from the Man. Utd. physio, Jim McGregor, prior to the game. To achieve what he did on limited training was hard to credit. He showed wonderful composure when robbing Joe Rabbitte of a goal chance in the 38th minute. Joe Cooney for Galway went full forward late on, but made no headway on Pat. This final featured outstanding performances from 2 players who were not considered fit enough to play, Pat Dwyer and Pat Malone of Galway.

Pat won his second National hurling league medal, on the 7th May, 1995, when Kilkenny defeated Clare in Thurles, by 2-12 to 0-9. This was Kilkenny's 9th League victory. Pat had been suffering from shin splints before the final. This didn't deter him, as Clare's total of 9 points spoke volumes for the Kilkenny backs, particularly Dwyer. His direct opponent, Eamonn Taaffe, had run Waterford ragged in the semi final, scoring 7 points. Taaffe had his learning process taken a stage further by Pat, who never gave him an inch. In the tunnel afterwards, Kilkenny's imperious full back talked of room for major improvement. Dwyer didn't need to reach the standard of his semi final display against Offaly.

Pat retired from inter-county hurling in 1996. He remained active in hurling and managed his beloved club, Carrickshock until February 2009. He then became treasurer of the club.

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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David Beirne



“ We are delighted to welcome UPMC to Nowlan Park and look forward to working with them in the years ahead. Our partnership is an excellent fit for Kilkenny GAA. Health and wellness are an integral part of UPMC’s mission, as they are of key importance to Kilkenny GAA. ”

Jimmy Walsh



Some of the attendance at the UPMC Launch



David Beirne receives his inter-firm medal 12 years later from Paddy Butler - Won With Glanbia



Eoin Murphy and Katie Power with schoolchildren from St Johns at the UPMC Launch

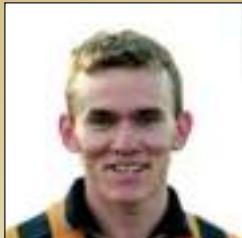
TEAM OF THE DECADES 1960-2019



Eoin Murphy



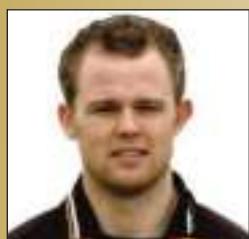
Michael Kavanagh



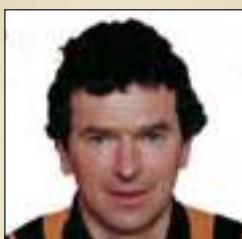
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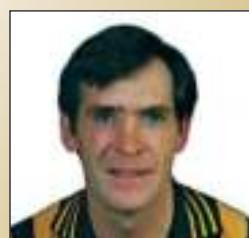
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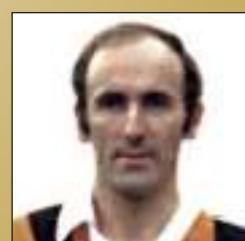
Frank Cummins



TJ Reid



Henry Shefflin



Eddie Keher



Eddie Brennan



DJ Carey



Richie Hogan

John Knox

- a one-off in local sports journalism

Brian Keyes, KILKENNY PEOPLE

Anyone involved in sport, training teams and selection knows there are two truths: you are only as good as your last game, and no-one is irreplaceable. There is a third universal truth, and that is the exception to the rule.

John Knox is a one-off in local sports journalism. Respected, with a lifetime of knowledge. He saw the stars of the four in a row when they first held a hurl in anger. From under-age and schools right up to All-Ireland final day and the spotlight of Croke Park.

The kick John must have got when he would look back on an early minor report on DJ Carey, and remark on his skills at 15 years of age, only to witness for the next 20 years what a legend like Carey did for this county and hurling nationally.

Or to see King Henry make history with his All-Ireland medal haul, and note that one of his first games in black and amber would be with the big ball. And how Shefflin became the powerhouse of the modern game, the on field general with a sublime touch and a killer instinct.

John witnessed all this from the pressbox - and yet so much more. He loved the club scene. At all grades. He had never mastered bilocation, and so was reliant on clubs to send in their reports. He had great pride in the fact that the Kilkenny People had a man at all senior league and championship games, while knockout games were always given a neutral eye. He accommodated every enthusiastic PRO, nurtured them and encouraged their efforts. He saw it as a two-way street - the players and club got the profile, while the newspaper got extensive coverage.

John worked for the Kilkenny People for over 40 years. He saw all sides of local journalism, and basically how newspapers were put together. He would have seen the People be the only means of communication to clubs and players and to explain that - a club secretary may have got a letter about their own specifics, but in terms of what was going on elsewhere, the People would have had it.

Before websites, twitter, email and facebook, before local radio, the Kilkenny People would have printed county panels and team fixtures. The first time people would have seen them in total was probably that Wednesday morning.

That changed in recent decades, but John had the ability to merge traditional strengths with modern developments. He still believed in face to face interviews, and checking in with phone calls.

I suppose like a player, a sports journalist always has a style. And if there was a sports journalist team, I'd say John Knox would have been a midfielder. Linking the play between the sports public and Kilkenny County Board; being able to play a defensive game while also more than capable of taking on the opposition. Never dropped a ball, and delighted in a long range score. Would not have been fond of a solo run, but if there was a gap...

Hurling fans would often remark to me of a Tuesday either "What's Knox" saying this week?" or "What does the man in the People think?"

He took particular interests in two areas - physical preparation and the recovery of injured players. He broke the story that Pat Dwyer was off to Old Trafford before the 1993 All-Ireland final to get fixed. And he marvelled at the physical preparation of the Kilkenny team under Michael Dempsey, and how they always reached the right pitch on the day.

But overall, it was about the skill. No matter what way you toss it up, you would have to go out and hurl. And John saw some of the all-time greats. I'm sure I'm not speaking out of class, but he had huge regard for Billy Fitzpatrick. And during Billy's era, and Kilkenny's successes in the Seventies, and Eighties, the relationship between press and the players would have been far more open. Between the odd team trip and All-Stars tour, local journalists were on the fringes. And John in that scenario made friends for life.

He retired from the Kilkenny People just as Covid-19 was taking root. He probably never envisaged his final 'championship' would have played out this way but like any player, you never really know how it will all come to an end. But to an end it came, and John Knox has left the Kilkenny People a proud newspaper, and better newspaper thanks to his efforts.

And of course this publication, the Kilkenny GAA Yearbook, which John has written for, promoted and supported ever since it began. This Christmas read reflects on a year past, and more often than not a good year. In 2020, there was not that much to shout about for a lot of the year. Looking back on an outstanding career in journalism, and a lifetime of



Claire Phelan chats with John Knox during the Open Night with the Kilkenny camogie squad PICTURE: PAT MOORE



13 January 2019: Local journalist John Knox is part of the press gang asking the questions following a win for Wexford in Enniscorthy. Photo by Matt Browne/Sportsfile.



John Knox interviews Noel Hickey in the dressing room after the Senior Hurling All-Ireland Final in Croke Park. (Photo: Eoin Hennessy)

promoting Black and Amber, supporting our clubs and encouraging the very best out of our players, is certainly one that should be marked.

I write this not as Kilkenny People editor, but as a Kilkenny hurling fan. I'm grateful for the opportunity to say thank you for all your writings and how you backed our hurlers, thank you for all those times you looked after our clubs - especially the junior ones. Thank you from your local media colleagues, as reports were traded and the work got done. Thank you for the nod and the chat on the sideline, your attention to detail and insight on our games. You entertained and informed, your writing brought games to life, celebrated our wins, and explained our defeats in a way that helped us to rise again.

*In Kilkenny, to call someone by their surname, more often than not, is a mark of respect.

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Eoin Walsh
(Lisdowney)



Cian Kenny
(James Stephens)



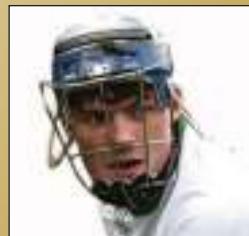
Richie Hogan
(Danesfort)



John Donnelly
(Thomastown)



TJ Reid
(Ballyhale Shamrocks)



Eoin O'Shea
(O'Loughlin Gaels)



James Bergin
(Conahy Shamrocks)



Colin Fennelly
(Ballyhale Shamrocks)



Eoin Cody
(Ballyhale Shamrocks)



All Quiet on the Schools Front.....

Cumann na mBunscoileanna Report by Dermot Dunphy

In a very quiet year for Kilkenny Schools Board, only a handful of matches were played on Wednesday 11th March, the scheduled first round of the new Hurling Leagues. Thursday 12th March saw the schools closed and action ended as quickly as it began! In September, it was agreed that no schools' games would proceed for the new school year so unfortunately, the Football competitions went the same way as the hurling.

However, in the closed season, there is one new development for Cumann na mBunscoileanna for 2020 – a new website specifically for Kilkenny Primary Schools Games. The brainchild of Galmoy delegate and principal, Tom Percy, the website is in its infancy at the moment but when fully complete, will give you access to all games being run by Cumann na mBunscol, Cill Chainnigh. We also hope to have an archive of results building through the years and a historical section detailing the winners since the setting up of Kilkenny Schools' Board in 1939. Added to this we plan to have access to the two histories of Schools' GAA in Kilkenny, 'Caoga Blian Óg' which chronicles the first fifty years of our organisation and 'Ó Fhás go hAois' which covers the next twenty five years from 1989 to 2014. Another section we hope to develop is a gallery area where photographs of schools' gammons can be viewed. The site will also continue to link in with the Kilkenny GAA so that all results and fixtures will still be available there.

Hopefully through the years, the website will become a great source of information and enjoyment for people throughout Kilkenny. Thanks to Tom for getting the sliotar thrown in. If you have any information for the site, contact us at admin@cnambunscollk.com or any of the officers who are listed on the site. The site's address is www.cnambunscollk.com

JIM STEPS DOWN FROM NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Just before the first shut down happened, Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta held their AGM in the Anner Hotel Thurles. The meeting saw Cumann na mBunscol Cill Chainnigh secretary and long-time delegate to the national body, Jim Fennelly honoured for ten years' service on the National Executive. For four years, Jim was Development Officer, the next five years saw him represent Cumann na mBunscol on Central Council and last year, Jim served as Assistant Secretary on the executive. Rules dictate that any person can only spend ten years on National Executive so Jim had to step down this year. The National Executive honoured Jim at the AGM and Jim is pictured being presented with a memento of his service by Cathaoirleach, Liam Magee.

Interestingly, in Jim's last year on Central Council, he was joined there by our own Ned Quinn. Both Ned and Jim have served Kilkenny Schools' Board with distinction so it was a great honour for us to have those two proud Kilkennymen together on the National Body at one time!



ANOTHER TREBLE FOR LORETO!

2nd Level Report by Michael O'Leary



Loreto Kilkenny pulled off another spectacular treble in 2020, winning the All Ireland Colleges Senior A, Junior A, and Sevens Titles. In each case their unlucky victims were Presentation College Loughea. It was their third Senior title in four years, their 10th Junior in thirteen.

"To win one final with a dramatic late strike is wonderful. To win two in such a joyous fashion borders on the extraordinary. And it is in such rare territory that the Loreto Secondary School resides this week following a sensational double strike in the camogie senior and junior All-Ireland post primary schools A Showdowns. Three weeks ago the seniors stole the show via a late goal. It was more of the same when the dynamic juniors returned to wind battered Banagher for their shoot-out on Saturday, except on this occasion it was a late, late goal that did the business.

Actually, Saturday's success rounded off a treble of senior and junior A crowns, plus the 7-a-side A championship for the Loreto"

John Knox Kilkenny People March 7th 2020



Loreto Kilkenny All-Ireland Colleges' Junior Roinn A Camogie Champions 2020 Loreto Kilkenny 4-9 Presentation Athenry 2-12

Back Row: Niamh Holohan (Lisdowney), Caoimhe Carroll (Dicksboro), Meabh O'Neill (Young Irelands), Grace Keoghan (Tullaroan), Anna Bergin (James Stephens), Rachel Egan (Dicksboro), Roisin Hanlon (St Martin's), Hannah Larkin (James Stephens), Caoimhe Keher-Murtagh (Rower Inistioge), Rachel Leahy (James Stephens), Rachel Brennan (Tullaroan), Emma Mulhall (Conahy Shamrocks), Margaret Mary O'Shea (Dicksboro), Lauren East (Graigue-Ballycallan), Ellie Peters (Dicksboro), Katie Byrne (Dicksboro), Marie O'Keeffe (Young Irelands), Anna Scott (Lisdowney), Emma Corr (Clara).

Front Row: Ellie Lanigan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Anna Doheny (Tullaroan), Amy Lawless (Conahy Shamrocks), Rachel Dowling (Dicksboro), Tara McGrath (Dicksboro), Claire Doheny (Graigue-Ballycallan), Chloe Delaney (Lisdowney), Ali Kennedy (Windgap), Ava Shefflin (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Kate McCluskey (Graigue-Ballycallan), Rose Kelly (Dicksboro), Emma Manogue {Captain} (James Stephens), Emma Farrell (Young Irelands), Moya O'Brien (Graigue-Ballycallan), Ciara Dunne (Tullaroan), Asha McHardy (Dicksboro), Ava Dooley (Lisdowney). Missing from photograph: Orlaith Kirwan (Thomastown).

QUARTER-FINAL DISAPPOINTMENT FOR KIERANS

For the 1st time since 2009, a Kilkenny School failed to reach an All-Ireland Senior Colleges Roinn A Hurling Final, as St. Kieran's participation ended in the All-Ireland Quarter-Final with defeat to the Munster Champions St. Flannans of Ennis after having also lost their Leinster Final to 1st time Champions Colaiste Eoin (Dublin) of Stillorgan in Netwatch Cullen Park in Carlow.

The Dublin school knocked out fellow city school Kilkenny CBS in the Leinster Semi-Final, which left the three-in-a-row chasing All-Ireland Champions as Kilkenny's sole remaining representatives in the Roinn A Colleges competition.

However, following their defeat in the All-Ireland Quarter-Final, it was the 1st time since 2001 that there was no Kilkenny Team left at the All-Ireland Semi-Final stage.

Perhaps justice was done in the sense that the Ennis school won the Harty Cup in contrast to St. Kierans who lost the Leinster Final, but they weren't received with any greater award as both schools were still at the Quarter-Final stage rather than the traditional passage of the provincial Champions qualifying directly to an All-Ireland Semi-Final.

St. Peters College comprehensive 4-13 to 1-8 victory over Dublin South Schools in the Leinster League Final suggests they were going to be stern opponents for St. Kierans, but the Kilkenny school successfully negotiated that test to defeat the Wexford contingent 0-15 to 0-10 in the 1st round of the Leinster Championship.

Meanwhile, Kilkenny CBS also got their provincial Championship campaign off to a winning start also Wexford opposition against as they brushed aside Good Counsel of New Ross 1-19 to 0-13.

St. Peters bounced back from the Kierans defeat to cruise to a 2-18 to 0-8 win over Dublin North Schools, while St. Kierans themselves managed to retrieve a 10-point half-time deficit to snatch a draw against the eventual Leinster Champions Colaiste Eoin (Dublin).

The CBS crucified Borris Vocational school 3-27 to 0-5 as they set-up a Semi-Final showdown with Colaiste Eoin, while St. Kierans and Good Counsel contested the other last 4 clash.

The St.Kierans and Good Counsel clash was played in the Netwatch Training Centre in Fenagh in early February on the weekend of Storm Ciara, and in very strong blustery, wet and windy conditions, Kieran's prevailed, 1-15 to 0-13.

Meanwhile, Colaiste Eoin inflicted defeat on Kilkenny CBS for a 2nd consecutive year as they won 1-16 to 0-17 to set up by a provincial final showdown with the defending Provincial and All-Ireland Champions.

Both sides finished with 14 men, as the Dublin School buoyed on by a strong wind advantage led 0-12 to 0-3 at the interval despite having had a player dismissed during the opening-half.

The CBS fought back, and having both a strong wind and numerical advantage, they pushed the Stillorgan school to the pin of their collar, but their hopes were dashed as they had a player dismissed, and Colaiste Eoin held out for a slender victory to set up a Leinster Final showdown against St. Kierans.

That Leinster Final was played on Sunday morning 23rd February in Netwatch Cullen Park in Carlow at the most unusual time of 11.30am, as the match was put back almost 24 hours due to a Colaiste Eoin student having to sit an unrescheduled exam.

The Dublin school were very busy as they were chasing silverware on both fronts, with the Football Team also going in pursuit of winning provincial honours.

The Stillorgan school were attempting to make amends for last years hurling Final defeat as they went in search of a maiden Leinster title victory, and they duly achieved that feat by overcoming the Kilkenny school in another 1-16 to 0-17 victory.

Their hopes of a Leinster double ended when the footballers lost out 2-11 to 2-9 to St. Josephs Secondary School of Rochfortbridge from Westmeath in the Roinn A Semi-Final.

St. Kierans had a chance for redemption when they came up against St. Flannans in the All-Ireland Senior Quarter-Final which was played in Mallow.

The Clare school ended a 15-year gap when they defeated the Christian Brothers College of Cork 1-15 to 1-12 to win the Harty Cup Final for the first time since 2005, and having won that Final in contrast to Kierans losing their provincial decider, they would have gone into that quarter-final clash as marginal favorites, and as a result fancied their chances of dethroning the Kilkenny school out of the All-Ireland competition.

Also, back in 2005 St. Flannans went all the way to All-Ireland glory as they defeated Kierans in the Croke Cup decider, so it was a good omen for the Clare school.

In a tough uncompromising quarter-final clash played in blustery conditions in which hurling was not of the highest quality.

Playing with a very strong wind advantage, St. Kierans held a 5-point lead at the interval 0-8 to 0-3, while they also possessed numerical supremacy as the Ennis school had a player dismissed during the 2nd Quarter.

However, it was St. Flannan's turn to enjoy the advantage of the wind at their backs, and they were starting to make full use of the elements as they fought back to draw level by the end of the 3rd Quarter. 0-8 each.

The defending All-Ireland Champions steadied the ship, and they finally got off the mark for the 2nd half when substitute Eoin Guilfoyle pointed to regain the lead in the 48th minute - 0-9 to 0-8 -, and they still held that slender advantage entering the closing 5 minutes. 0-11 to 0-10.

However, it was Flannan's though that showed the greater resilience during those closing 5 minutes, as they scored four unanswered points including three from play from the outstanding Oisin O'Donnell as they clawed their way back to emerge victorious 0-14 to 0-11.

As mentioned earlier, it was the first time since 2001 that a Kilkenny school didn't fail to reach an All-Ireland Semi-Final, while St. Flannans were scheduled to play St. Raphaels College of Loughrea.

Like everywhere else though across the planet, Sport was put to a standstill because of COVID-19, and at time of writing similar to practically every other sporting event that was due to take place, a huge shadow cast a doubt as to when those events would be re-scheduled or in some cases take place at all.

ST. KIERANS SENIOR SQUAD LEINSTER FINAL: Diarmuid Galway (Thomastown), Killian Rudkins (Barrow Rangers), Padraig Moylan (Dicksboro), David Fogarty (O'Loughlin Gaels), Peter McDonald (Thomastown), Stephen Keoghan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Jamie Harkin (Bennettsbridge), Conor Kelly (O'Loughlin Gaels), Harry Walsh (Dunamaggin), Cian Kenny (James Stephens), Jack Doyle (Windgap), Darragh Maher (St. Lachtains, Freshford), Oisin Egan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Peter Donohue (Danesfort), Denis Walsh (Dunamaggin), Dara Mason (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Oisin Carroll (Carrickshock), Andy Hickey (Dunamaggin), Tomas Leahy (Danesfort), Liam Barron (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Shaun O'Keefe (Dunamaggin), Ciaran Mullen (Danesfort), Jack Sheridan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Conor Brett (Dunamaggin), Tom Carroll (Dicksboro), Ciaran Rice (Conahy Shamrocks)

Management Team: Tom Hogan, Philip Walsh, Michael Walsh



St Kieran's SH Panel 2020

JUNIORS SUFFER DISAPPOINTMENT FOLLOWING REMATCH

After last years edition of the 'Yearbook' went to print, St. Kierans played their All-Ireland Colleges Junior decider against Presentation Athenry at the end of November in Banagher, but despite emerging victorious, the two schools had to battle again as St. Kierans produced more than the extra substitutes allowed during the original contest.

In the first game played, St. Kierans won a memorable match by the minimum 1-19 to 1-18 after extra-time as a Killian Carey goal gave them a 1-10 to 1-6 lead at the interval.

However, the Athenry school fought back to draw level by full-time. 1-14 each.

Extra-time was required, and despite playing with the wind advantage, the Kilkenny school were behind by the minimum 1-17 to 1-16 at half-time of extra-time.

St. Kierans rolled up their sleeves during the 2nd period of extra-time, and fought back to grind out a solitary point victory.

However, once the celebrations had died, Croke Park intervened that Kierans had used too many substitutions, and a re-fixture was ordered just 5 days before Christmas.

The Athenry school won the re-fixture - which was also played in Banagher - 1-17 to 0-17 having led 0-8 to 0-7 at the interval, and in the process, they were most likely to be the very last winners of the All-Ireland Junior Colleges Championship as the competition was almost certain to be discontinued, and also meant they had possession of the Niall McInerney Cup which was named after a former All-Ireland Senior Medal winner back in 1990.

ST. KIERANS 2019 ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR FINAL SQUAD:

Alan Dunphy (Lisdowney), Paddy Langton (Young Irelands, Gowran), Adam O'Connor (James Stephens), Sean Moore (Carrickshock), Dara Mason (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Joe Fitzpatrick (Dunamaggin), Bill Hughes (Bennettsbridge), Killian Doyle (Emeralds), Conor Cody (Clara), Padraig Lennon (Carrickshock), Naoise Dempsey (Thomastown), Padraig Naddy (Young Irelands, Gowran), Harry Shine (Dicksboro), Killian Carey (Young Irelands, Gowran), Nick Doheny (Dicksboro), Peter Holohan (St. Patricks, Ballyragget), Tommy Phelan (Young Irelands, Gowran), Alex Sheridan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Jimmy Lennon (Young Irelands, Gowran), Ben Whitty (Danesfort), Jimmy O'Neill (Dunamaggin), James Carroll (Dicksboro), Jack Butler (Graigue-Ballycallan), Richard McEvoy (Lisdowney)



Good Counsel and St Kieran's Captains before the Leinster JH Final



St Kieran's - Leinster JH Champions



Good Counsel, New Ross, - Leinster JH Finalists



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Col Eamonn Ris and Captains who defeated Knockbeg College 2-12 to 1-6 in South Leinster Jun Hurling C1 Final.



Duiske College /Rob Scoil Osrai Team and Captains who defeated New Ross CBS in South Leinster Sen Hurling C1 on a score of 3-12 to 3-4



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The Lost Boys of 1942

by Enda McEvoy (Irish Examiner)

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6.	S. Ó Coétáinn	GAAU AVEN
7.	S. Ó Dromaí	E.R
8.	D. Lambeapt	SRV
9.	C. Ó Maoldán	SRV
10.	L. Mac Domhnaíod	SR V
11.	D. Ureatnáe	FONT
12.	S. Ó Meácair	E.R
X 13.	C. Ó nEacair	SRV
14.	M. Ó Faotáin	SRV
15.	C. Ó Corraílbas	SRV
16.	H. Ó Dubláin	SR V
17.	A. Ó Daonáil	SRV
18.	T. Ó hUllais	E.R
19.	O. R. Ó hÉil	E.R
20.	J. Copeland	SRV

The story of the greatest Kilkenny minor hurling team you've never heard of begins in a curious place. The Charles J Haughey archive, no less.

As well as being an eminent political scientist, author and TV talking head, Dr Gary Murphy of DCU is a hurling fanatic and (these past few years) a long-suffering Cork fan. In the course of researching his authorised biography of the former Taoiseach, Gary came across the 1943 All Ireland final programme. The match saw an easy win for Cork over Antrim, who – a tale in itself – had upset Kilkenny in the semi-final at Corrigan Park in Belfast.

On the underbill to Cork/Antrim was, as usual, the minor game. What was far from usual was the fact that in this instance the fixture was not the All Ireland final but rather the Leinster final from the previous year, an affair that had been postponed due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak. Knowing at least one person in Kilkenny who'd be interested in his discovery, Gary emailed the relevant page from the programme to yours truly. So here we are.

The reason the match programme happened to be in the Haughey archive, in case you were wondering, is not convoluted. The curtain raiser pitted Kilkenny against Dublin. Wearing the number 13 jersey for Dublin was a chap called C Ó hEochaídh who grew up to be Charlie Haughey. Wearing the number two jersey was a chap called S Ó Catháin. We'll get back to the latter in due course.

(For the record, the 1942 Leinster senior hurling final had taken place at Nowlan Park on June 28th of that year, Dublin easily defeating the hosts in what was Paddy Phelan's last appearance in the black and amber. He lined out in goal. Among the spectators was a young Johnny McGovern, who was carried in from Bennettsbridge on the bar of his father's bike.)

At Croke Park 15 months later the teenagers of Kilkenny were comfortable winners over their Dublin coevals, 3-10 to 0-4. Due to the exigencies of the age, among them the scarcity of paper, the match was not covered in detail. The Irish Times gave the final score and nothing more. The Irish Independent gave the scoreline and scorers (for Kilkenny, Ryan 2-0, Monahan 1-0, Grogan 0-3, Reidy 0-2, Clohessy, Kennedy, Heffernan, Murphy and P Walsh 0-1 each; for Dublin, Lambert 0-2, Walsh and McConkey 0-1 each). Sadly no copy of the following week's Kilkenny People, the edition of September 11th, exists.

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

Due to Foot and Mouth there was no All Ireland minor series between 1942 and '44. Kilkenny hadn't won a title in the grade since 1936 and would not win one again till 1950; chances are that under normal circumstances the boys of '42 would have snapped that barren run. In his history of the GAA in the county Tom Ryall stated that "this team was good enough to win an All Ireland". The proposition is

inaudible. Just look at the subsequent careers of a number of the players.

Dan Kennedy captained Kilkenny to MacCarthy Cup glory in 1947, when they defeated Cork via Terry Leahy's late point in one of the all-time great finals. Jimmy Heffernan and Liam Reidy were colleagues of his that day. Tom Ryan was a dual All Ireland winner with Wexford in 1955-'56. Dave Walsh lined out for Dublin in the 1948 All Ireland final against Waterford and, on moving to Waterford, won Railway Cup medals with Munster in 1951 and '52. Good going, huh?

Let's talk some more about the teenagers of 1942. Having been forgotten by history through no fault of their own, they deserve to be remembered.

Liam Reidy (1924-2007): In later life an insurance broker in the city and a keen golfer. "My father was always sorry there was no All Ireland in 1943," Joe Reidy reports. "A fantastic team, he often said, and they'd surely have won an All Ireland."

Was Sean Ó Ceallaigh on that Dublin minor team, Joe enquires obliquely? No. "Oh. I ask because my father was friendly with him afterwards. My father hurled a match in Dublin under an assumed name for Eoghan Ruadh and got to know Sean Óg. He also hurled up in Antrim one time with Nick O'Donnell, up in the glens. They went up from Eire Óg. Rubber was very scarce here and Nick wrapped five or six bicycle tyres around his waist and under his coat on the way back. He looked like the Michelin Man. They were stopped at the border on the way back and of course the tyres were found."

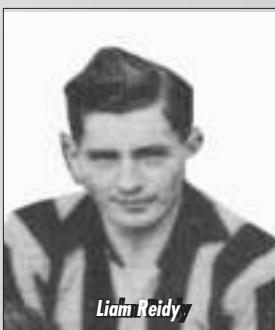
Talking of Eoghan Ruadh, who are now known as St Oliver Plunkett Eoghan Ruadh, Joe Reidy – an All Ireland colleges winner in 1971 on a St Kieran's outfit that included Brian Cody and Billy Fitzpatrick – hurled with the club himself during his university days in the capital, also as a ringer, and picked up a Dublin under-21 medal in 1975 in shadowy circumstances. The statute of limitations having long since expired, Joe doesn't mind the Yearbook revealing this world exclusive.



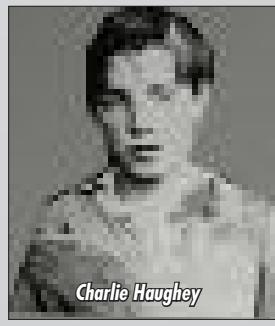
Tom Ryan



Sean Monahan



Liam Reidy



Charlie Haughey

Tom Ryan (1924-1998): After a spell as a garda in Dublin, where he ran into Charlie Haughey once or twice, moved to work in Enniscorthy and threw in his lot with Wexford. He proved to be the last part of the jigsaw there. Ryan, hanging around on the edge of the square, took much of Nickey Rackard's punishment for him and, as older readers will not need to be told, gave it back in spades. One upshot was that Rackard was free to roam out the field and do damage from deep instead of being belaboured by enemy full-backs. Cue MacCarthy Cup glory for Wexford in 1955 and '56 following years of near misses and heartbreak. The 1942 minor medal is still in Ryans' of Enniscorthy.

Sean Monahan (1924-2002) from the Castlecomer Road and later Dean Street. Son of James Monahan, mayor of Kilkenny on a number of occasions, and a classmate in Kilkenny CBS of – and here's a tangential link with Haughey - future Fianna Fail TD and minister Jim Gibbons. As a first year there Sean played in goal on the senior team. The 1942 minor Leinster final marked his first visit to Croke Park. He'd been all set to go to the 1939 All Ireland final but as a reluctant member of the Local Defence Forces he was, in view of the weekend that was in it, obliged to cycle to Tramore for "manoeuvres". It is unclear if there was thunder and lightning in Waterford the same afternoon.

BECAME AN APPLE PICKER

Sean's hurling career didn't last long thereafter, reports his son Denis from Sydney. "The Monahans were fruit merchants and, with no fruit getting into the country due to the Emergency, he was put to work picking apples." But he did play handball out of Talbot's Inch and in 1951 won an All Ireland junior hardball doubles medal with Joe Doherty. He opened a newsagents out of the family home in the early 1970s.

Phil Walsh (1924-1984) of Michael Street and Newpark, a psychiatric nurse in St Canice's Hospital. Phil played hurling and football with St John's and later St Canice's. His wife Peggy, still hale and hearty on the Golf Links Road, was one of the founding members of the St John's camogie club. Phil also hurled with the



hospital team and the Kilkenny County Council team. His brother Jimmy was goalkeeper for the county in the 1945 All Ireland final and features in that wonderful photo with a cigarette-smoking Lory Meagher, a copy of which hangs in Phil's son Philip's sitting room in Clonakilty.

Dave Walsh (1924) - 1982). Didn't go on to win an All Ireland senior medal but did go on to have the most interesting and varied career of any of the boys of 1942. Educated in Callan CBS, he studied Ag Science in UCD where he won two Fitzgibbon Cup medals. Family lore has it that he won a Dublin championship while

in the capital. Family lore also has it that he might well have been in the running to feature for Kilkenny in the 1947 All Ireland final were it not for two small problems. One was logistical; being in Dublin, out of sight albeit not quite out of mind, didn't help. The other was the presence in the black and amber number three jersey of the Diamond Hayden.

But Dublin were happy to avail of Walsh's services and when life as a grown-up took him to Waterford he won a county title there with Tourin in 1950 en route to his Railway Cup gáisci – even more of an achievement in light of the fact that Cork and Tipperary were in the process of capturing six successive All Ireland titles between them and Waterford's star was very much on the wane after 1948.

All was not lost for the Walsh family in All Ireland medal terms, as Dave's brothers Tom and Jim constituted two thirds of the full-back line when Kilkenny ended a ten-year famine in 1957. He was rated the classiest of the trio but never got to taste September champagne; so it goes. Two generations later the Walshes' grand-nephew Brian Hogan would be one of the pillars on which Brian Cody built the four in a row.

Oh yes, S Ó Catháin. Decades after 1943 and now a keen golfer, Sean Monahan was chatting to Seamus Keane, the John Street pharmacist, in Kilkenny Golf Club one day. Somehow the subject of that long-ago Leinster final came up. Seamus Keane knew all about it, for the simple and excellent reason he'd been the S Ó Catháin who'd lined out at right-corner back for Dublin.

Brought up on the North Circular Road, Seamus was the son of a Kilkenny woman, a Donegan from the Butts. He used to come here on his summer holidays as a boy before returning in 1969 to live and work full-time. And yes, he and Sean Monahan had marked one another in Croke Park all those years before. Really.

The forgotten boys of 1942. No longer, one hopes, quite so forgotten.



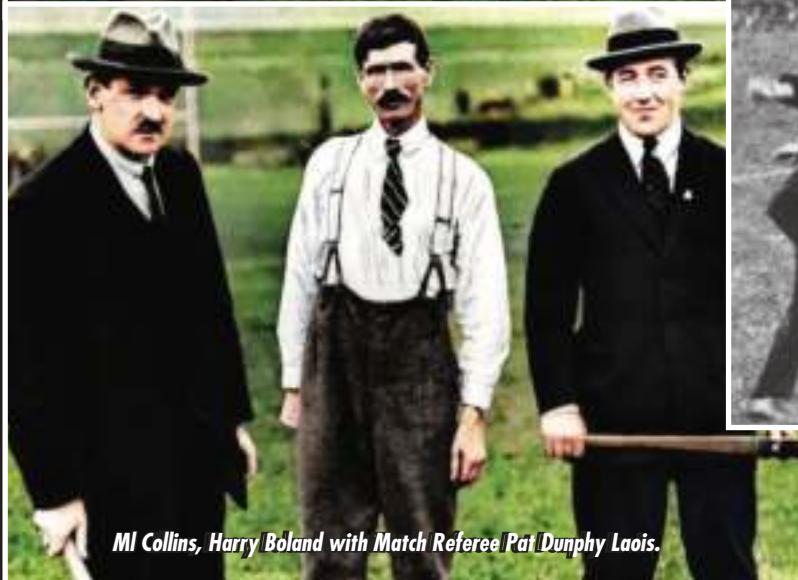
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COLOURING THE PAST



*Michael Collins throws in the ball at the start of the 1921 Leinster Hurling Final.
From left: Michael Collins, First pairing - Joe Coyne (originally Dicksboro - lived/buried Dublin),
Paddy Donoghue, Mattie Power on right of second pairing. Ref John Dunphy.*



MI Collins, Harry Boland with Match Referee Pat Dunphy Laois.



Collins and Boland play around before the game.



*Original Irish Independent Print:
Michael Collins addresses the Kilkenny team before the Leinster Final against Dublin, Sept 1921.
From left:- Paddy Donoghue (Dicksboro), Mattie Power (Dicksboro), Dick Grace (Tullaroan), Michael Joyce
(Callan), Martin Egan (Threecastles), Bill Kenny (Lisdowney), Jack Holohan (from Johnstown, played with
Tullaroan), Michael Collins and Harry Boland.*

Limerick-born architect Rob Cross has devoted the last few years to colourising old Irish historical figures, scenes and in this case, games.

Here we have shots from the 1921 Leinster Final, played in September of that year and featuring Michael Collins, Harry Boland with Kilkenny and Dublin players.

Dublin won the match by 4-4 to 1-5. Harry Boland was Dublin Co Board Chairman and Sinn Fein TD for Roscommon. Both men were great friends but finished on opposite sides in the Civil War which claimed both their lives within a year. Collins was 32, and Boland 35, at the time of their deaths in August 1922.

MEMORY LANE 1



MEMORY LANE 2



KILKENNY PRIMARY SCHOOLS TEAM WHO DEFEATED LIMERICK AT KILKENNY IN 1953 TD-FIFTIES
Back: B. Grace, M Blanchfield, Shem Tynan, Pa Dillon. Sean Buckley, J. Doyle (capt), Sean Leahy, W. Bowe, T. Molloy.
Front: S. Dunne, J. Blanchfield, Tommy O'Connell, J. Ryan, M. Walsh, Paddy Maher, Lou McCarthy, Bosco Buckley.



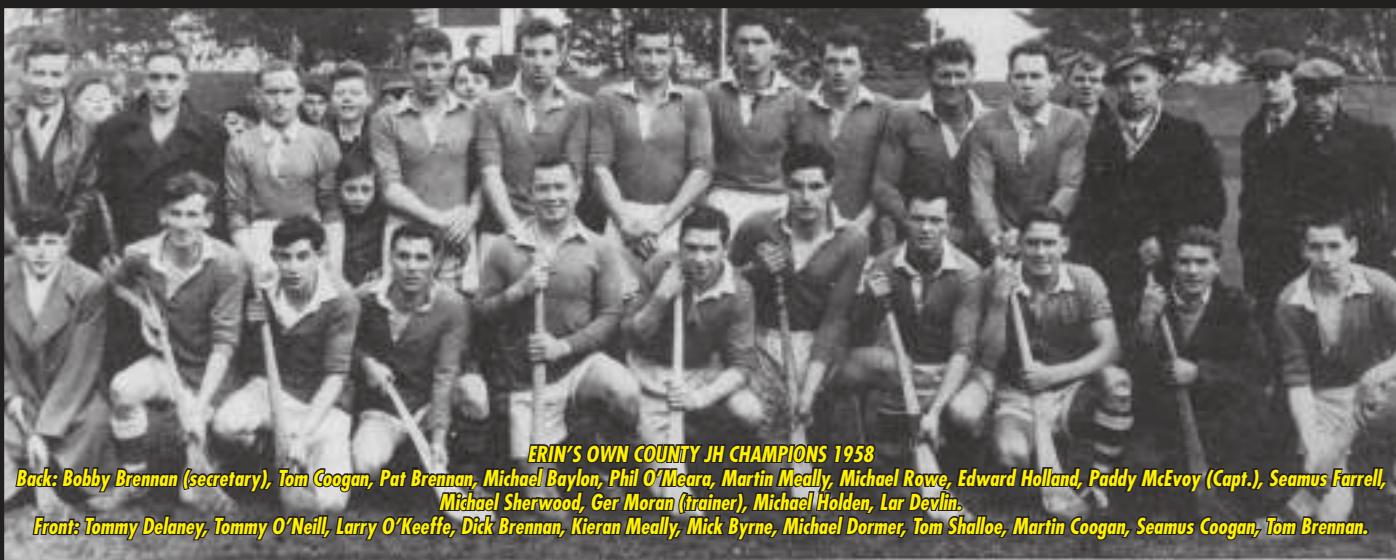
CARRICKSHOCK - 1940 COUNTY SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS



THOMASTOWN - 1967 COUNTY SH FINALISTS

Back: Ned Dack, Paddy O'Reilly, Jim Blanchfield, Michael O'Neill, Michael Murphy, Paddy Dempsey, Ted Hoyne, Tommy Madigan, Paddy Kelly, Paddy Cullen, Larry O'Neill, Johnny Murphy, Ollie Walsh, Tommy Hayes Sr.
Front: Jim Minogue, Cha Whelan, Vincent Kirby, Seamus Kearney, Sean Challoner, Johnny Delaney, Brendan O'Sullivan, Dick Walsh, Jimmy Gibbons, Johnny Kelly, Andy Gibbons.

MEMORY LANE 3



ERIN'S OWN COUNTY JH CHAMPIONS 1958

Back: Bobby Brennan (secretary), Tom Coogan, Pat Brennan, Michael Baylon, Phil O'Meara, Martin Meally, Michael Rowe, Edward Holland, Paddy McEvoy (Capt.), Seamus Farrell, Michael Sherwood, Ger Moran (trainer), Michael Holden, Lar Devlin.
Front: Tommy Delaney, Tommy O'Neill, Larry O'Keeffe, Dick Brennan, Kieran Meally, Mick Byrne, Michael Dormer, Tom Shalloe, Martin Coogan, Seamus Coogan, Tom Brennan.



EIRE ÓG - 1932 COUNTY MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONS

Standing : Billy Guilfoyle, Dan Dunne, Billy Holohan, Gerry Dunne, Sean Byrne, Matt Gargan, Paddy Grace, Dinny Sullivan, Milo McCabe, Johnny Power, Johnny Dunphy, Mi. Meaney, Dick Phelan, Dick White, John Dentefie, Liam Cody and Michael Loughman.
Seated: J. McGuinness, Paul Fennelly, M. Barry, M. Doyle, Father Wm. Brennan, Ed. Shortall, Gerry O'Sullivan, Tommy Marnell and Paddy Kelly.



GLENMORE - 1989 COUNTY SH FINALISTS

Back: Christy Heffernan, Neddie Aylward, Pat Barron, Michael Phelan, Des Heffernan, Ray Heffernan, Des Ennett.
Front: Liam Walsh, John Flynn, Johnny Murphy, Willie O Connor, Eddie O Connor, John Heffernan, Seamus Boyle, Michael Deady.
Mascot: Patrick Murphy.

MEMORY LANE 4



JOHN LOCKES - 1982 COUNTY JH FINALISTS

*Back: Pat Power, Mick Meagher, Tom Ryan, John O'Dwyer, Ollie Fennelly, T.J. Ryan, P.J. Townsend, Michael Power.
Front: Mick Walsh, Paddy Scriven, Barrie Heariques, Jimmy Donovan, Jimmy Condon, Tommy Freeman, Mick Wall.*



EMERALDS - 1984 COUNTY JUNIOR HURLING FINALISTS

*Back: Jim Gibbons, Martin Power, Pat Phelan, Jimmy Tone, John Cahill, Liam Cody, Henry O'Grady, Michael Burke, Paddy Ryan, Tony Hughes, John Hughes,
Paddy Fox, Pat Tobin, Eddie Hoiohan, Liam Moriarty.
Front: Tom Phelan, Frank Cleere, John Moriarty, John Tobin, Michael Grace (Capt), Michael Rafter, David Burke, Jimmy Queally, John Tobin.*



MOONCOIN - 1932 COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS

*Back : E. O'Hanlon, M. Murphy, W. Dunphy, J. Fewer, T. Carroll, L. Duggan, J. Walsh, J. Hawe.
Middle : W. Walsh, T. Kenny, J. Dunne, E. Dunphy, D. Duggan, M. Keane, L. Cantwell.
Front: J. Duggan, W. Dunphy, E. Doyle, R. Dunphy.*



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GREAT YEAR FOR CONAHY

but Thomastown still on top



Camogie Report by Aoife Lanigan PRO



SENIOR

Last years Champions, Dicksboro were beaten by St Martin's, Wexford in the Leinster Semi Final by 6 points.

No Senior League due to the Covid 19 Virus

No Senior All County League due to the Covid 19 Virus

County Semi-final – Thomastown faced Young Irelands. Thomastown advanced to County final with a comprehensive win 7-21 to 2-7

In the other semi final, last years Intermediate Champions, Clara faced St Lactain's/Lisdowney. St Lactain's/Lisdowney secured a final spot after a close encounter, 2-10 to 1-11

The county final saw Thomastown against St Lactain's/Lisdowney. It was a close encounter in the first half with nothing separating them, until Roisin O'Keeffe hand passed a goal, to leave the interval score 1-6 to 0-7

Heading towards the 49th minute, Thomastown were leading by a point, the game took a twist when Eimear Farrell shot towards the St Lactain's/Lisdowney goal from 21 metres. The ball was doubled on by Therese Donnelly who was sited on the edge of the square – she sent a screamer to the back of the net. This was a defining moment of the game as up to this stage there was never more than a point or two between the sides.

With the wind in their sails, Thomastown kicked on and regain the title they last won in 2018 on a 2-13 to 0-12 scoreline. Victory sets up a bye straight into the Leinster Final against either St Jude's (Dublin) or Oulart the Ballagh (Wexford) on February 7th, 2010

INTERMEDIATE

No Intermediate League due to the Covid 19 virus

No Intermediate All County League due to the Covid 19 virus

County Semi Finals – St Anne's/Emeralds v Mullinavat. St Anne's/Emeralds won 3-16 to 1-6

Conahy v Barrow Rangers. Conahy were victorious 0-10 to 1-4

County Final saw Conahy against St Anne's/Emeralds. Conahy led 1-7 to 0-2 at half time. Following the break, both teams tagged on two points each. But following the second water break, St Anne's/Emeralds tore into the game with renewed vigour and tacked on a goal and two points to narrow the gap 1-9 to 1-6. But with a minute left on the clock, Conahy got their second goal to seal their title success with a 2-10 to 1-7 scoreline. Conahy will be back in action in the Leinster Quarter Final against Myshall on January 10th 2021

JUNIOR

No Junior League due to the Covid 19 virus

No Junior All County League due to the Covid 19 virus

The Junior A County Final – James Stephens and Mooncoin in the Final. 12 months after defeat to St Claire's, James Stephens were back in the final but this time they made sure they would leave with the silverware. After a close encounter in the first half, it was 0-9 to 1-6 at the interval

The village side had opened a five point lead by the 55th minute, but Mooncoin got a real boost when Geena Henebry's delivery from the left deceived a number







of the Village defenders and went all the way to the net (1-13 to 1-11). Mooncoin narrowed the gap to one, with a Deirdre Walsh free but Anna Doheny struck the winning point to leave the score 1-14 to 1-12

U21

The U21 Championships not finished due to new Health & Safety restrictions at time of going to print

MINOR

Minor A County Final - Young Irelands v Dicksboro, not played due to new Health & Safety restrictions at time of going to print

No Minor A League due to the Covid 19 virus

Minor B County Final - Conahy v Tullaroan/St Anne's played in the final. Conahy winning 1-6 to 0-6 in atrocious weather conditions

No Minor B League due to the Covid 19 virus

Minor C County Final - James Stephens v Mooncoin, not played due to new Health & Safety restrictions at time of going to print

No Minor C League due to the Covid 19 virus

Minor D County Final between St Lactain's and Tulloher, not played due to new Health & Safety restrictions at time of going to print

No Minor D League due to the Covid 19 virus

U16

U16 A County Final between Conahy and St Brigid's. Conahy winning 5-16 to 1-11

No U16 A League due to the Covid 19 virus

U16 B County Final - Clara and St Lactain's were vying for the title not finished due to new Health & Safety restrictions at time of going to print

U16 B Shield - not finished due to new Health & Safety restrictions at time of going to print

No U16 B League due to the Covid 19 virus

No U16 C League due to the Covid 19 virus

U16 C County Final had Lisdowney against St Martin's vying for the title. Lisdowney won 2-10 to 2-7

U16 D County Final between Mooncoin and Rower Inistioge. Mooncoin winning 3-13 to 1-2

U16 D Shield - not finished due to new Health & Safety restrictions at time of going to print

U14

U14 A Shield Final had John Lockes and Thomastown vying for the title. John Lockes were victorious 5-5 to 2-7

U14 A County Final - Tullaroan/St Anne's played James



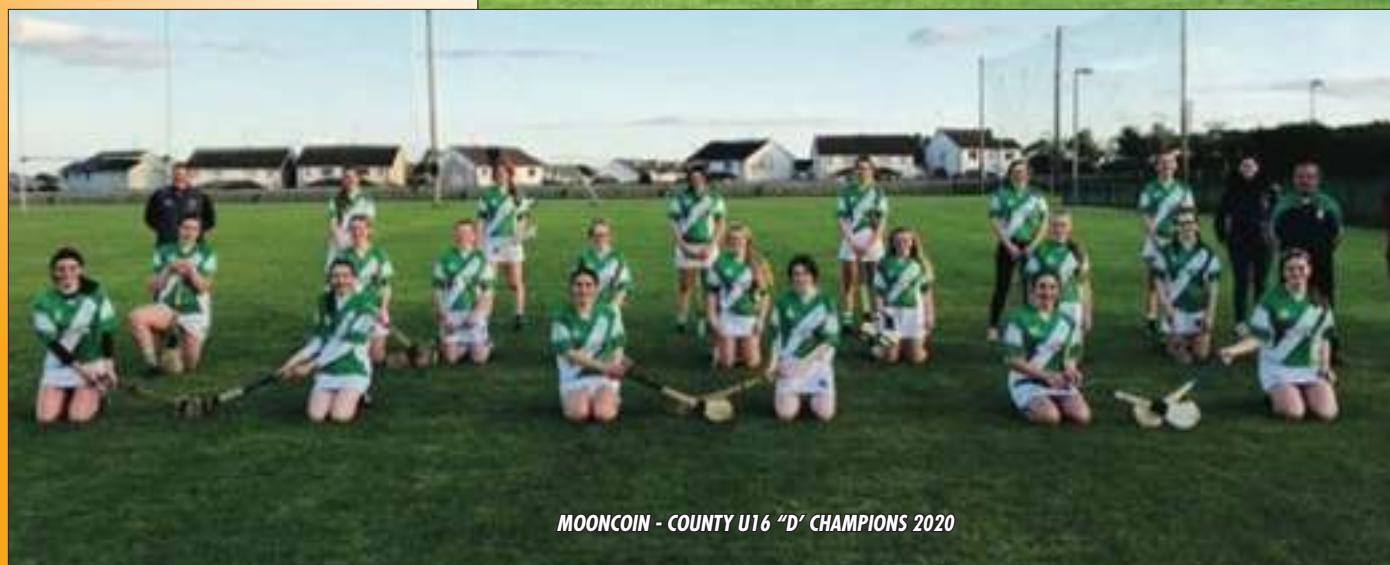
CONAHY - COUNTY U16 "A" CHAMPIONS 2020



ST BRIGID'S - COUNTY U16 "A" FINALISTS 2020



LISDOWNEY - COUNTY U16 "C" CHAMPIONS 2020



MOONCOIN - COUNTY U16 "D" CHAMPIONS 2020

Stephens with Tullaroan/St Anne's winning 2-14 to 0-3

U14 B Shield Final had Mullinavat and O'Loughlin Gaels. Mullinavat won 6-11 to 0-4

U14 B County Final featured Windgap and Mooncoin, with Windgap being victorious 3-8 to 1-5

U14 C Shield Final had Kilmacow/Slieverue and Conahy vying for the title. Kilmacow/Slieverue winning 8-2 to 2-7

U14 C County Final, Blacks & Whites and Carrickshock contested the final. Blacks & Whites winning out after a close encounter 2-5 to 2-4

U14 D County Final had Clara and Naomh Brid/Erins Own battle it out for the title. Clara won 5-15 to 4-2

U12

Not finished due to new Health & Safety restrictions at time of going to print



INTER COUNTY CAMOGIE

SENIOR

The first league match, Kilkenny were due to play Waterford, but it was cancelled due to bad weather. Second match, Kilkenny played Clare in Nowlan Park, part of a double header with the hurlers. They were beaten by Clare 0-10 to 1-9. Offaly were their next opponents in Dr Tierney Park, Graiguenamanagh. Kilkenny won 1-10 to 0-8. Up next, they played Cork in Pairc Uí Rinn and they were comprehensively beaten by Cork 0-9 to 2-17

The Waterford match was rescheduled to be played after the Cork match but the Covid 19 lockdown came into effect and all matches were cancelled. The league was not finished

Leinster Championship did not go ahead due to the Covid 19 virus

All-Ireland Series

In the first match of the All Ireland Championship, Kilkenny played Waterford in Walsh Park. After a close encounter in first half, it was 0-6 a piece at the interval. From the start of the second half, Kilkenny took complete control of the match, outscoring the Deise, 0-9 to 0-2, winning 0-15 to 0-8. In the next match, they faced Westmeath in John Lockes Park, Callan and they had an emphatic win 6-23 to 1-7. In their last group game, Kilkenny played Limerick in UPMC Nowlan Park and led at half time 0-8 to 0-5. They upped the ante for the second half to pull away and win decisively 2-16 to 0-8. This put them directly into the All-Ireland Semi Finals on the 28th November. At the time of going to print, it is not known who they will meet. Wishing them the best of luck in the Semi Final and hopefully in the final on 12th December

Aoife Norris, Davina Tobin, Colette Dormer, Grace Walsh, Meighan Farrell, Claire Phelan, Michelle Teehan, Anna Farrell, Anne Dalton, Laura Murphy, Lydia Fitzpatrick, Aoife Doyle, Miriam Walsh, Denise Gaule, Katie Nolan

Subs – Emma Kavanagh, Mary O’Connell, Edel Coonan, Steffi Fitzgerald, Niamh Deely, Ciara O’Shea, Danielle Morrissey, Aoife Prendergast, Laura Norris, Aobha O’Gorman, Noreen O’Keeffe, Lucinda Gahan (Captain), Miriam Bambrick, Laura Hegarty, Michaela Kenneally, Ciara Phelan, Sophie O’Dwyer, Aisling Nolan, Catherine Foley, Katie Power, Kellyanne Doyle, Edwina Keane

INTERMEDIATE

They began their League campaign against Cork at home in John Lockes Park, Callan and suffered a two point defeat, 0-12 to 1-11. Their second game, they were due to play Westmeath, but it was cancelled on numerous occasions due to bad weather. Played Meath away in third games and suffered a point defeat 1-5 to 0-9

Fourth match, Kilkenny were to play Kildare but the Covid 19 lockdown came into effect and all matches were cancelled. Intermediate League wasn’t finished either due to the Covid 19 Virus

Leinster Championship didn’t go ahead due to the Covid 19 virus

All Ireland Series

Due to new Level 5 Covid 19 restrictions coming into effect before they were to start their campaign, the Camogie Association decided to restructure the Championship as only counties with one Senior team were allowed to participate, so the Intermediates lost out

MINOR A

First game of All Ireland series, Kilkenny were due to play Galway, but it was cancelled due to bad weather

In the next game, Kilkenny played Antrim during Storm Jorge, trailing at half time 0-1 to 0-3, but in the second half and wind assisted, Kilkenny held them scoreless and ran out winners 2-14 to 0-3

They played Clare in their next match and won 2-14 to 0-11

The Galway match was rescheduled to be played after the Clare match but the Covid 19 lockdown came into effect and all matches were cancelled

In June when restrictions were being lifted and decisions were made to have a Camogie Championship, it was decided to cancel the Minor All Ireland Championship altogether and just have Interprovincial Championship instead. This was a massive disappointment to overcome as the Minors had put in very hard work training since November 2019 and having already played two matches to be the only grade not to finish a Championship which had already started at the time. Despite objections being raised by participating counties, it fell on deaf ears

Leinster Campaign

In the first round of Leinster, Kilkenny faced Dublin and they had an emphatic win on a scoreline 6-13 to 0-11

Asha McHardy opened the scoring for the Kittens with a pointed free in the 3rd minute. She followed this, with a point from play a minute later. Mikaela Ryan added a point after a poor clearance from the Dublin defence.

Niamh Comerford opened Dublin’s account in the 6th minute with a pointed free. Aisling O’Neill added another point for Dublin a minute later.

Kilkenny increased their lead when Asha McHardy slotted over another free for them in the 8th minute with Mikaela Ryan striking for a goal a minute later, after McHardy



hand passed the sliotar to her

Caitlin Coffey tagged on a point in the 14th minute and Niamh Comerford then converted a 30m free for Dublin

Tara Ronan and Asha McHardy added further points for the stripey girls in the 23rd and 24th minutes before Niamh Comerford narrowed the gap to four points with a point from a 21m free for the Dubs

In the 26th minute, the flood gates opened, Therese Donnelly won a ball from a ruck and soloed through the Dubs defence, she hand passed to McHardy, who then offloaded to Mikaela Ryan, with McHardy continuing her run and picked up the sliotar and blasted it to the back of the net, giving the Dublin goalie no chance

From the puckout, Miriam Brennan cleared the sliotar from defence to Mairead Corcoran who played it upfield and Asha McHardy fielded the ball beautifully and then passed to Roisin O'Keeffe who took on the Dubs defence and hand passed it to the back of the net

Then in the 28th minute, Mikaela Ryan found McHardy in space to allow her to again find Roisin O'Keeffe on the edge of the square who duly rifled the sliotar to the back of the net

Niamh Comerford added two pointed frees for the Dubs as half time approached to leave the interval score Kilkenny 4-6 Dublin 0-7

On the resumption of play, Aisling Gannon added a point for Dublin. Aisling Prendergast then shot towards the goal but the Dubs keeper cleared it out to one of her defenders but Asha McHardy blocked her clearance and Roisin O'Keeffe picked up the breaking ball and passed it back out to McHardy who buried it into the bottom corner of the net

Katie McDonald pointed for Dublin in the 41st minute before Ciara O'Keeffe then tagged on two points for Kilkenny

Niamh Comerford and Sarah Barcoe traded points in the 47th & 51st minutes before Asha McHardy then added another pointed free to her tally

Katie McDonald scored Dublin's last point in the 57th minute with Kilkenny taking complete control for the remainder of the match scoring 1-3 without reply

Substitutes Marlise Flynn and Sarah O'Donnell (2) adding the points while Asha McHardy closed out the scoring with a great goal, leaving her with a personal tally of 3-5

Due to new Level 5 Covid 19 restrictions coming into effect again, the Minor Leinster Championship was postponed. At time of going to print, there was no update if the Championship would be finished this year

U16

The U16 were divided into an A & B teams for Leinster

U16A for All Ireland Campaign

U16A

They hadn't started their Leinster campaign, when the Covid 19 lockdown happened in March, so didn't get to play any matches

U16B

First game of the Leinster campaign, they played Laois and they were defeated 3-7 to 5-9

Covid 19 lockdown happened after this match and everything was cancelled

U16A All Ireland Championship

Due to the lockdown with Covid 19 the U16A's did not get to play their Leinster campaign but they started their All Ireland Series meaning business

Amy Clifford opened Kilkenny's account after 34 seconds from a 30m free with Sophie McIntyre equalising for Dublin in the 2nd minute from play

Clifford added another two points in the 3rd & 4th minute from frees before Sarah Daly split the posts with a free for Dublin in the 6th minute

The match ebbed and flowed for the next 13 minutes with no scores added until Ellen Gunner popped up and slotted over the bar for Kilkenny just as the water break approached, leaving the score Kilkenny 0-4 Dublin 0-2

In the 21st minute, Annabella Timothy ran at the Kilkenny defence, she was about to pull the trigger but a wonderful hook from Nathania Jackson, diverted the sliotar out for a 45 with Sinead Daly converting the resulting placed ball

Ellen Gunner added a further point for Kilkenny after being played in by Amy Clifford and heading towards the interval, Emma Shortall latched onto a loose ball and struck it over the bar to leave the score Kilkenny 0-6 Dublin 0-3 at the break

Straight from the throw in for the start of the second half, Kilkenny were awarded a free and Amy Clifford duly converted between the posts

Sinead Daly pointed a 30m free in the 37th minute for the Dubs before Amy Clifford and Daly traded pointed frees

Katie Byrne and Emma Mulhall then added to Kilkenny's tally in the 43rd and 44th minute with a point each from play



(Minor All Ireland) Kilkenny's Asha McHardy v Clare
Billy Culleton photography



Kilkenny Minor Captain Ciara O'Keeffe v Antrim
Mark Desmond Photography



(Minor Leinster) Kilkenny's Therese Donnelly and Dublin's Laura Sharkey
Billy Culleton photography



(Minor All Ireland) Kilkenny's Vice Captain Tiffanie Fitzgerald v Antrim
Mark Desmond Photography

Ava Lambe then converted a free for the visitors as the action headed for the second waterbreak

Kilkenny substitute Lauren Ronan hit the ground running when she entered the fray, finding Ellen Gunner with a lovely pass and Gunner slotted over the bar

The homeside then hit a purple patch, hitting 1-4 without reply over the next 7 minutes

Amy Clifford converted two placed balls in the 53rd and 54th minutes while midfielder Katie Byrne added a neat point in the 55th minute after soloing through the Dubs defence

Shortly after Amy Clifford played the sliotar towards the Dublin goal, Ellen Gunner collected the sliotar but she was unceremoniously brought down and a Penalty was awarded where Amy Clifford decided to take a point from the Penalty

Clifford then rattled the back of the net in the 57th minute after Claire Doheny played a neat ball into her

Dublin were awarded a free in the 59th minute, Ava Lambe played a quick one two with Annabella Timothy, before Lambe slotted over the bar

Claire Doheny added another point for Kilkenny, before Ava Lambe and Amy Clifford (KK) slotted over a point a piece from placed balls to leave the full time score 1-17 to 0-8 in favour of the home side

Due to new Level 5 Covid 19 restrictions coming into effect again, the U16A All Ireland Championship was postponed. At time of going to print, there was no update if the Championship would be finished this year

U15

No Blitzes due to Covid 19 virus

U14

No Blitzes due to Covid 19 virus



(U16 All Ireland) Kilkenny's Lauren Ronan and Dublin's Sadie Codd
Billy Colleton photography



(U16 All Ireland) Kilkenny's Katie Byrne and Dublin's Ruth Fitzsimons
Billy Colleton photography



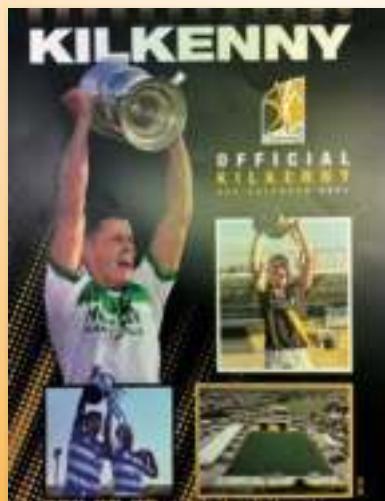
Back: Patsy Kenny, Kate McCluskey, Tara Ronan, Kate Furlong, Danielle Quigley, Asha McHardy, Lauren Comerford, Emily Kavanagh, Ciara O'Keeffe (Captain), Amy Lehane, Sinead Farrell, Mikaela Ryan, Tiffanie Fitzgerald (Vice Captain), Jessie Newman, Anna Doheny
Middle: Sarah O'Donnell, Miriam Brennan, Sarah Barcoe, Marlise Flynn, Aisling Prendergast, Roisin O'Keeffe, Carlise Comerford, Katie Ryan, Olivia Mahony
Front: Keara Ryan, Leah Brett, Bri O'Donoghue, Mairead Corcoran, Niamh Phelan, Anna Purcell, Therese Donnelly

THE OFFICIAL KILKENNY GAA CALENDAR IS NOW ON SALE

The Official Kilkenny GAA Calendar is now on sale throughout the county in all usual outlets. It costs €9.95 and would make a wonderful gift or Christmas present for someone you know.

Also a reminder that now the 2020 GAA Championship has commenced, now is the perfect time to join or indeed rejoin our Kilkenny supporters club. The supporters club provide a valuable income stream for our teams throughout the year and your support is needed this year more than any other.

You can join online by contacting any committee member. Membership costs €20.



Committee Contact Details 2020 Kilkenny Supporters Club Dublin Branch

Download 2020 Application Form for Dublin Branch Supporters Club HERE

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CAMOGIE CLUB NEWS



BARROW RANGERS

MNA Programme - 2020 saw the launch of the M.N.A (motivate/nurture/aspire) programme aimed at increasing female sustained involvement in camogie as coaches and mentors at grassroots level. 14 female coaches enjoyed weekly sessions learning how to perform and coach the basic skills of the game aswell as engaging in parent and daughter practice days.



Barrow Rangers - parents who took part in the M.N.A programme

It was a fun learning environment which supported and nurtured those willing to begin their coaching journey within our club.

Intermediates - Our Intermediates had good wins over Danesfort, The Rower Inistioge and O'Loughlin Gaels in the group stages. We had to face O'Loughlin Gaels again in the championship quarter final. This was a tough game throughout and we overcame a late comeback by O'Loughlin Gaels to win on a score line of 5-09 to 4-11. We drew Conahy Shamrocks in the semi final. However, Conahy proved too strong for us on the day and won on a score line of 0-10 to 1:04 after a hard fought affair.

U21's - Our u21's were joined with Blacks and Whites this year. They played O'Loughlin Gaels in the Marble City Travel u21 B championship quarter final. This game was played in incredibly difficult conditions and both teams gave it everything. O'Loughlin Gaels came out on the right side of this battle on a score line of 3-05 to 1-06.

Minors - Our minors were joined with Blacks and Whites this year. They suffered defeats to Ballyhale Shamrocks and St Martin's in the group stages of the Minor B/C championship. They faced Mooncoin in the Minor C championship semi final. This was a tight game that went down to the wire but unfortunately for our girls they lost on a score line of 2-12 to 1-11. Under 16's - Our u16's played Piltown and Lisdowney in the group stages but were unlucky on both occasions. The u16 season was cut short due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Under 14's - Our u14's played Kilmacow/Slieverue, Ballyhale and Lisdowney in the group stages. They had a great win over Kilmacow/Slieverue but were unlucky in their matches against Ballyhale and Lisdowney. The u14's were due to play in the u14 Shield Final however, this final has been postponed due to current COVID-19 restrictions.

Under 12's - Our u12's took part in the u12 Go-Games Mini League. They played Conahy, Clara and St Brigid's in the group stages. They had a good win against Clara but suffered defeats to Conahy and St Brigid's. The u12's were due to face Clara in the Shield Final however, this final has been postponed due to current COVID-19 restrictions.

Under 10's - Our u10's trained every Wednesday evening and played numerous matches throughout the summer. Opposition included: Blacks & Whites, Glenmore, Young Ireland's, St Martin's, Clara, Bennettsbridge, Freshford, Erin's Own and John Lockes.



BENNETTSBRIDGE

The club is expanding every year for the past 5 years and we now have over 100 girls playing camogie. The club is very lucky to have so many hard-working people at Coaching and Committee level and a big thank you to everyone involved.

2020, albeit was a short year, was quite successful and eventful.

Our Junior team, Bennettsbridge/Callan, got to the Junior B Final and narrowly lost out after extra time to Graiguenamanagh.

Our U14 team won the Shield Final, beating Barrow Rangers in a very exciting match.

The U12'S got to the group Final v Young Irelands which has yet to be played.

The U10's to u6's played various practice matches and were very competitive in all of them.

2020 saw the first U16 team in the history of camogie in Bennettsbridge and hopefully a minor team will be introduced in 2021.

Best of luck to everyone involved for 2021



Bennettsbridge U6



Bennettsbridge U8



Bennettsbridge U10



Bennettsbridge U12



Bennettsbridge U14



Bennettsbridge U16



CARRICKSHOCK



Carrickshock U8 2020



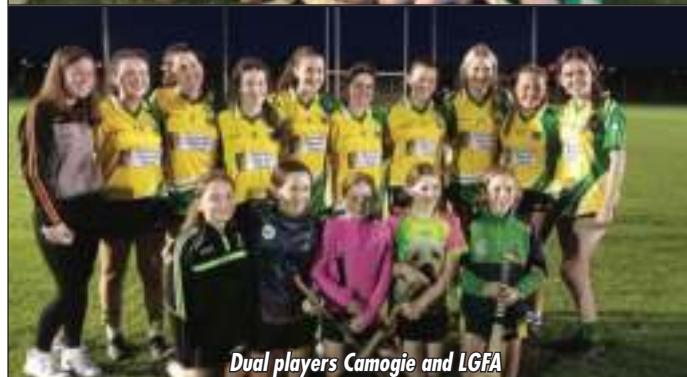
Blacks & Whites U8



Carrickshock U10 2020



Blacks & Whites U10



Dual players Camogie and LGFA



Blacks & Whites U12



Covid Quiz night



Blacks & Whites U16



Carrickshock Junior Team 2020



CLARA

Clara camogie club had another busy and exciting season this year. Despite the emergence of Covid-19 which resulted in a shorter campaign at all levels, both players and management remained determined and put in huge effort for their respective competitions. Our adult team had a memorable first year at Senior level and were narrowly defeated in the County semi final by St Lactain's/Lisdowney after impressive wins against experienced teams like Windgap and Piltown. Having just won the intermediate county final last year, they put in a fantastic effort and certainly made their mark at senior level.

A huge congratulations also to our U14 players and management who won the Roinn D county final this year after a fantastic win against Erin's Own. A brilliant performance was shown by all of the players on the day. Congrats also goes to our U12's who won the shield final in their mini league. Our minor team missed out on a place in the Roinn A semi-final this year after a tough match against St. Brigid's but we have no doubt that they will be back again next year. We are delighted that our U16 girls have made it to the Roinn B county final after a very impressive semi final win against James Stephens and we look forward to supporting all the girls and management in the county final.

Our U21 championship is yet to be played but the girls continue to train hard in preparation for this. Our juvenile players, mentors and parents also had a busy season at underage training which once again was full of fun and excitement for our young up and coming stars. A huge thank you to all those involved who went above and beyond to make sure everyone stayed safe throughout the season.



Conahy U16, Intermediate and Minor Camogie Captains

County Shield Final. With everything going on this year we also managed to continue u6,8 and 10's training every Saturday morning providing great entertainment for the underage groups also. The club also were very fortunate to have Mulhall Brothers as their main sponsors, sporting our new jerseys in all 3 County Final victories and were delighted to have Declan Buggy sponsor training tops a BIG Thank you to both. Conahy Camogie Club would like to extend our Thanks to all coaches and mentors for their time and effort with all age groups and to all parents or anyone who helped out in any way this year.



DICKSBORO

2020 will always be remembered as the year of the Corona Virus, with the restrictions put in place effectively putting a halt to all club activities at the height of the Summer and again at the close of the year. The importance of our games, to promote the health and activity of our children to provide an outlet to express ourselves, to distract and to entertain was brought into focus throughout the year. Dicksboro Camogie Club is proud of the fact that despite the difficulties we have still provided a year packed with activity and games with a few important milestones achieved for our club.

Our year started with a joint celebration night in Langton's Hotel on 10th January with Dicksboro GAA Club. This was a great night to celebrate the successes of the previous year and to look forward to the coming year. The year on the field of play started with our entry to the Leinster League with an away game to na Fianna and a home game against Lucan Sarsfields. Unfortunately, this competition like so many others was unable to be completed due to the lock-down.

Once this was lifted our season started with a bang with a very busy schedule of competitive games for the older ages and regular training, friendly matches and blitzes for the younger girls.

This was a particularly busy period for our club, as we had for the first time entered a second adult team at Junior grade and also a second U21 Team (the only club in the County to do so).

Our Senior Team were beaten at quarter final stage in a very close contest by eventual champions Thomastown, which was also the fate of our Junior Team.

Our U21 A Team have progressed through the first round of this competition, which remains to be completed and our U21 B Team lost out in a very close battle against Ballyhale.

The 'Boro Minor girls await the Roinn A County Final vs Young Irelands after a great season to date. Our U16 and U14 teams did the club proud with championship losses to the championship winners in each grade. Our U 16 team ran Conahy particularly close, at the semi-final stage.

The U12, U10, U8 & U6 have had a very busy time since July and the growing numbers we have at all underage numbers is a testament to the dedication of our mentors, who have gone above and beyond in making sure that all our girls develop their skills and also develop a love of the game. We are very grateful for the dedication, enthusiasm and hard work of all our mentors, players and parents throughout the year and look



Clara U14D Champions



Training in Clara.



CONAHY SHAMROCKS

Conahy Shamrocks Camogie Club enjoyed its most successful year in its 11-year history winning u16A, Minor B and Intermediate Championships. The u16's met St.Brigid's in Tullaroan for a great display of camogie and beat them 5.16 to 1.11. Our Minor girls pulled off a great performance playing St.Annes/Tullaroan in MW Hire Dunmore in horrendous conditions beating them 1.6 to 6pts. After a tough battle in the Intermediate County Semi-Final against Barrow Rangers our Intermediate girls pulled out all the stops to beat a fancied St.Annes/Emeralds team in the Intermediate County Final in Palmerstown 2.10 to 1.07. Conahy Camogie have also qualified for u12 County Final and our u14 lost their

forward to next year.

Finally we would wish the best of luck to the County Senior Camogie Team in their upcoming Championship, and particularly to all our 'Boro panel members, including Captain & Vice-Captain Lucinda Gahan & Aoife Prendergast.



Dicksboro U6



Dicksboro U8



Dicksboro U12

of this panel will compete at u16 again next year.

Our Minor girls topped their group in the league stages of the competition by winning all three of their games against Danesfort, Windgap and Mooncoin. They lost out to Tullaroan/St Anne's in a very strongly contested quarter final battle. A good achievement for a panel of only 19 girls most of who also play with our intermediate team.

The U21 competition is still to commence we wish them well.

Our Intermediate team reached a championship quarter final this year defeating Danesfort in the first round. They then lost to Mullinavat in the quarter final, a good mix of experience and youth of the panel shows a promising future for this team and the club.

2020 has been a strange year for all but thank God for the GAA, thank you so much to all our club volunteers, our committee, our trainers & this year especially our Covid Supervisor's without you all none of the above could have gone ahead without incident.



GRAIGNAMANAGH

Our Junior girls claimed the Junior B title on a scoreline of 3-11 to 3-9 for John Lockes/Bennettsbridge. Well done to the girls.

In February, prior to the arrival of Covid, we were pleased to be able to host the Kilkenny v Offaly Senior Camogie National League game at our pitch.

As a young club we continue to work hard to develop camogie in Graiguenamanagh. We are very grateful to all coaches who give so much of their time to help all girls improve their skills. We were glad that all our players got an opportunity to play and compete this season, despite it being shorter than usual.



Graiguenamanagh U8 team



Graiguenamanagh U12 team



Graiguenamanagh U10 team



GLENMORE

Glenmore Camogie Club fielded teams in the following grades for the 2020 season, U6 U8 U10 U12 U14 U16 Minor U21 & Intermediate. Our U6s have developed very well and played some terrific challenge games, a very determined bunch

Our U8s & U10s played some blitz and challenge games, showing each day how much they have improved and are looking forward to 2021. Our U12s also had some blitz games and are currently competing in the U12 mini league, with 3 wins out of 3, & topping their group they are through to the final, which has been postponed for the moment. Our U14's competed at the highest level this year, acquitted themselves very well and improving immensely along the way.

The U16's started their campaign against Windgap and were beaten by 1pt & beaten by Clara in their 2nd outing. This left u16s playing Carrickshock in the preliminary round of the championship, where Carrickshock won convincingly, which brought the u16s to the shield side of the competition where once again they were drawn against Carrickshock in the qtr final, this was a fantastic performance by both clubs, where the game had to go to extra time to separate them, unfortunately for our girls the win went to Carrickshock on the day, much



JAMES STEPHENS

A very challenging year off the field for all clubs resulting in a very condensed season saw matches coming thick and fast during August and September. The highlight of the year for James Stephens Camogie Club was the winning of the Junior Championship against a spirited Mooncoin team in Palmerstown in Mid-September. The hurt of losing the 2019 final was evidenced in the teams commitment and training throughout the summer and resulted in the team remaining unbeaten all year in league and Championship and deservedly take their place in the intermediate championship for the 2021 season. The team is very young and consisted of a small panel of players which did everything asked of them by the management team led by John Scott who will look to keep them together over the coming years.

The Minor team are waiting to play the Roinn C final against Mooncoin after being drawn in a difficult group for the Roinn B league which will hopefully have the chance to be played.

The U16 team were beaten by St Brigid's in the Roinn A quarter final and battled bravely all year throughout the year.

The U14 team contested the Roinn A final and lost out to a very strong and deserving winners in Tullaroan/St Anne's. The team played great all year throughout the league and it was great to see the team develop over the last few years to contest the Roinn A final

The underage camogie numbers in the club continues to grow and teams from U8 to U12 were able to participate in some blitz's and challenge matches to keep up the girls development and it is great to see a number of sessions on Monday's on the Kells Rd for 'Camogie Night'



James Stephens Chloe Power Junior Winning Captain



U6 John Lockes Camogie



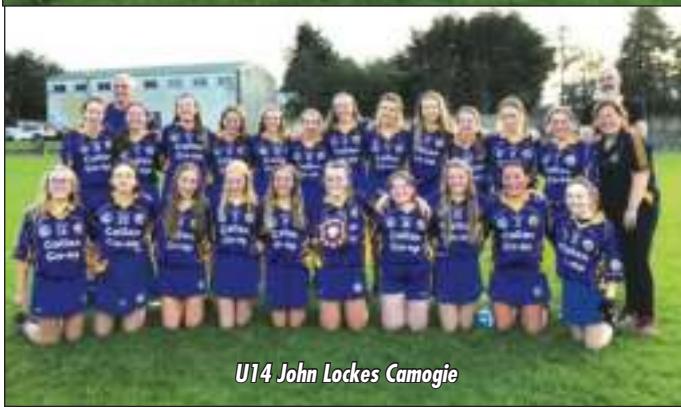
U8 John Lockes Camogie



U10 John Lockes Camogie



John Lockes U12



U14 John Lockes Camogie



JOHN LOCKES

2020 proved a very successful and historic year for John Lockes Camogie club. For the first time ever, we had players representing John Lockes at adult level as we amalgated with Bennettsbridge for the year. The season ended with a narrow defeat in the Junior B County final. At underage, we saw great numbers turning up for training at all levels and lots of new members. Congratulations to our U14 who were Roinn A shield winners and U16 who reached their shield final (not yet played). We also had a stand alone Minor team this year who made great progress. U12 reached their Group final and other age groups enjoyed challenge games and blitzes.

Great credit and thanks is due to all the coaches and mentors who give up their time to make this all happen.



KILMACOW

St Claire's – Intermediates 2020

After winning the Junior League & Championship competitions in 2019, St Claire's (our adult team) entered 2020 at Intermediate grade with great enthusiasm. With the reduced playing format the squad embraced the higher division very well. They were unfortunate to lose out to the Rower by a single point in a very close exciting game that went all the way to extra, extra time. Later in the season the team went on to beat Danesfort in the Shield Final. Well done to all involved, included management, backroom team and committees.

Kilmacow/Slieverue – U16s 2020

With such a condensed year, this group still managed to play 13 matches between challenges and competition. There were some particularly exciting hard fought championship matches played against The Rower and Mooncoin, but they came up just short on both. Some of the girls go on to Minor level next year and some will still be U16. We wish them all the very best and look forward to a good 2021 season. Well done to all involved, including management, backroom team and committees.

Kilmacow/Slieverue – U14s

With a strong panel of 25+ players, the u14 management team had high hopes for a successful 2020 season. The team topped their group in the league but were narrowly defeated by the closest of margins in the knockout stages. The team then went on to win the shield final. Congratulations to all involved, it was a great year for the u14 panel and management team. To top off a great year, 4 ladies from the panel were picked for the u14 Kilkenny development panel. We look forward with excitement to future success for this wonderful bunch of players.

Kilmacow U6s – U12s

The club is delighted to see so many players compete at all underage levels during the 2020 season. It's great to see such big numbers in the field training each week, the future looks bright for the club, long may it continue. The club wishes to give special thanks to all the mentors and volunteers who gave up many hours of their time during this very unusual season.

Special mention to Elayne McDonnell who was the lead coach for the u6s academy, is a mentor for the M.N.A. programme and ran the 'Come Hurl with Me' this year to great success.



Kilmacow U8



Kilmacow U6



Kilmacow/Slieverue U16 team



LISDOWNEY

Our Senior team, amalgamated with St. Lachtain's, had the most successful year since joining up. They reached the county final in September. The team was managed by Aaron Fogarty, Niall Kenny and Marie O'Connor.

Our U16 team won their County Final with the following panel: Aoibhe Kenny, Aine Holohan, Ciara Foley, Amelia Campion, Miriam Phelan, Abbie O'Sullivan, Ciara McDonald, Laura Walsh, Ava Dooley (Captain), Ashleigh Doyle, Ciara Comerford, Anna Scott, Lucy Dunne, Miriam Phelan, Lisa Kennedy, Chloe Delaney, Katie Brennan, Laury Foley, Roisin Burns, Aine Kavanagh, Ciara Delaney, Kaitlyn Cummins, Niamh Holohan, Hannah Coyle Twomey.



Kilmacow U12



Kilmacow U10



Lisdowney U8 U10 U12



Lisdowney U12



While 2020 has thrown some curveballs, it has also seen Mooncoin Camogie Club prosper and achieve a tremendous amount in what can only be described as an unconventional year for camogie. The Club has seen a championship final in every age group from U14 through to adult level!

While all blitz's were cancelled, our U8's and U10's continued to train hard and play local challenge matches where possible. As it currently stands, the U11's have yet to meet Sliieverue for their final. In August, the U12's won their final against James Stephens in their mini-league and have progressed to the shield final in their official competition, which is yet to be played. The U14 girls showed great character during their county final but were beaten by a strong Piltown side. Our U16 girls secured our first county final win in the Club with a strong performance over the Rower Inistioge while our minors are yet to play James Stephens in their county final battle. At adult level, our Junior ladies took to the field on county final day, in one of the biggest games many of the girls will have ever played. After showing great skill, determination and drive they were unfortunately beaten by the smallest of margins.

While 2020 has been a difficult year in every aspect, Mooncoin Camogie Club can reflect on numerous achievements which we are extremely proud of. Well done to each of the teams and their management and thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout the year.



Mooncoin Juniors



2020. Covid19. A word we have become very familiar with over the last year. One cannot mention the year 2020 without referencing Covid19. The year when the world came to standstill and loved ones were lost to this dreadful virus. This standstill had a huge impact on the sporting world around us and no less than in our own Camogie Club in Ballyragget. We had big plans for the year ahead.

Our first priority was to raise funds for our Club member, Karen, who was injured in a car accident in New Zealand at the start of the year. We had arranged a Monster Raffle, Community Walk and Coffee Morning to achieve this. With the support from our local community and with the

help of our neighbouring communities we raised an incredible amount to assist Karen in her recovery through the raffle alone, but we had to make the difficult decision to cancel the walk and coffee morning as National Lockdowns were introduced.

Fast forward to 30 June and we were all delighted to commence our Adult and Underage training for the season. We all had to become accustomed to a new normal and everyone was delighted to be back after such as long absence.

2020 brought its challenges to the Adult team like every other club this year. In saying that, it was a delight to witness Naomh Bríd successfully take part and fielding a team in the Adult Ladies Junior League and Junior B Championship for a second year running. With rising player numbers and admirable high spirits Naomh Bríd Ladies look with positivity toward the 2021 Camogie Year.

This year saw our U14's merge with neighbours Castlecomer. The Naomh Bríd/Erin's Own team had great success this season and reached the Roinn D County Final. Everyone put in a great performance on the day.

Our U12's took part in the U12 League and saw them play games against Lisdowney, Muckalee and Castlecomer.

All of our underage teams got to experience the participation in a Go Games Blitz throughout the short season.

Thanks to all the coaches, players and children who gave their time and made this year's Camogie season possible. Roll on 2021!



Naomh Brid Junior team



O'Loughlin Gaels u12 teams

As the 2020 season draws to a close, O' Loughlin Gaels Camogie Club can look back on this unprecedented year with a sense of accomplishment and optimism. Our club continued to thrive, though faced with challenges like no other season. Participation in camogie is at a record high in St. John's Park, and this reflects the continued growth of the juvenile section, as well as the increasing numbers of mentors. Great credit is due to these managers and mentors, who kept spirits high during restricted training, with their enthusiasm and dedication.

Our teams were competitive at all levels, and as the end of season is on hold, our U12 girls eagerly await their group final, hoping they will get a chance to compete in their well deserved final against Dicksboro.

O' Loughlin Gaels U21 team has also qualified for the semi-final of Roinn B. This competition provided an opportunity for younger girls to make the transition to adult level and those participating have benefitted from the extension to the compacted season. We hope they too will be afforded the opportunity to continue their progress in the championship. Sincere thanks to all members for their attendance at training, coaches for their time and energy, and to parents and Covid-supervisors, who all did a great job in helping comply with the new guidelines. Thanks also to the committee for the smooth running of the club. Gaeil Úi Lochlainn Abú.



PILTON

2020 was indeed a strange year but we made the most of the restrictions and the shortened season and our club was a hive of activity over the summer months. Thank you to our players, coaches, volunteers, parents, supporters and sponsors for your continued support! U16 Roinn A Camogie Final



Bill Costello Hurling School of Excellence



Bill Costello Hurling School of Excellence



Bill Costello Hurling School of Excellence



Piltown Junior Team



Piltown Minor Team



Piltown Senior Team



SLEIVERUE



Slieverue U6 U8



Slieverue U10 U12



St Claire's Intermediate team



ST BRIGID'S

It was not to be our day on Sunday the 27th of September when St. Brigid's battled with Conahy in the U16 Roinn A camogie final in Tullaroan. From the offset it was a tough, physical game. Both sides were as determined as each other and in the end the difference was goals "goals win matches". However it is important to mention the entire journey for this team. Most people come to a final to spectate the last match of the season, the culmination of all the other games, it is an achievement in itself to get there. This journey began way back in February, indoors where from the onset large numbers were attending training. Then Covid-19 put a stop to all our sessions, it seemed like we'd never get to meet up as a group again. Yet, despite all the regulations and restrictions, when

we were able to finally go ahead and play- the enthusiasm from the group was a joy! This group of girls love a bit of banter and show great comraderie with each other but when it comes to a match they take it seriously. They had many ups and some downs along the way (like all good journeys). It is said in sport that you will lose more than you win. So being able to lose is a learning experience. Our girls lost with dignity on Sunday and we couldn't be more proud of their display on the day. One could also spend time deliberating on all the ways we could have won the final. Instead though, we will look for the rainbow and remember all the good moments along the entire journey. The great scores, blocks, hooks, rucks and all the girls who have come on in leaps and bounds since February. We will keep in the back of our minds that rainbow and know that our day will definitely come again. "Tiocfaidh ár lá".



St Brigid's U6



St Brigid's U8



St Brigid's U10



St Brigid's U12



St Brigid's U14



ST LACHTAIN'S

2020 was a good year for St Lachtains Camogie Club, despite all the restrictions put in place due to Covid-19. Our younger teams got back to training late in the year with plenty of blitz's, our U6, U8 and U10's really put in the hard work and enjoyed their time on the pitch. Great to see potential stars at an early age. Our U12 team like past years were the one's to watch, perfecting their skills in their age group, and for some taking the big step up to U14. The U12's got themselves in to a county final (result pending due to Covid-19). Our U14 team came in to 2020 as Roinn C county champions from 2019, so a big push was needed to continue that success in Roinn B. Training started early in the year with indoor fitness sessions, but came to an abrupt end with a nationwide lockdown. Nevertheless, they hit the ground running once restrictions were lifted and managed to get themselves in to a semi-final. Now the U16's really wanted to prove what they could do. Again with certain restrictions still in place and matches being played to beat another lockdown, those girls showed skill, determination and team spirit to get themselves to a Roinn B county final (result pending due to Covid-19). Our Minor team with only 16 players could not afford any injuries as the season progressed. To their credit they pulled together, played together and won together, and this got them to a county final (result pending due to Covid-19). Our U21 team got together late in the year. Again, interrupted by Covid-19, their season is currently on hold. With great performances on the training pitch it won't be long before they are participating again in their season. Finally, our Senior team made up of players from St Lachtains and Lisdowney camogie clubs, put in some great performances in their campaign. With multiple All-Star and All Ireland winners among the team, it was always going to be exciting. They got themselves to the Senior Championship final. A big thank you to all players, trainers, parents, committee members, officers of the club, sponsors and county board for all their time, effort and support throughout the year.



THOMASTOWN

U6's and U8's- Both teams had a great year they attended and hosted a number of Blitzes. Already the future looks bright for these girls.

U10's- Our U10's also had a very enjoyable year and were very competitive in all of their matches and any Blitzes that they were involved in.

U12's- The U12's were unfortunately victims to the Covid Restrictions they were due to play in the group final against Danesfort but the game has been postponed.

U14's- The girls had a competitive year but unfortunately were beaten in Championship by a strong Mooncoin opposition.

U16's- After a great year of competitiveness the girls are due to play in the Shield final against Windgap pending Covid measures.

U18's- The minors were unfortunate to come up against a powerful Young Irelands team in the A county semi final. They gave it everything but were beaten by the better team on the day.

JUNIORS- The Junior team had another great year by getting to the County Semi final and were heartbroken to lose out to a strong Mooncoin outfit in the closest of clashes in Hugginstown. All of the

Junior Girls showed their heart by togging out the next day with the Seniors in the county final.

SENIORS- With new management and travel restrictions in place everyone was around this year to try and win back the County Crown. After getting knocked out by Dicksboro so early last year they used the hurt to fuel them. They beat Dicksboro and then Young Irelands to reach the County Final to face a hungry St Lactain's Lisdowney in Palmerstown. After a tough battle the girls won back their crown and will compete in the Leinster Club Championship next year.



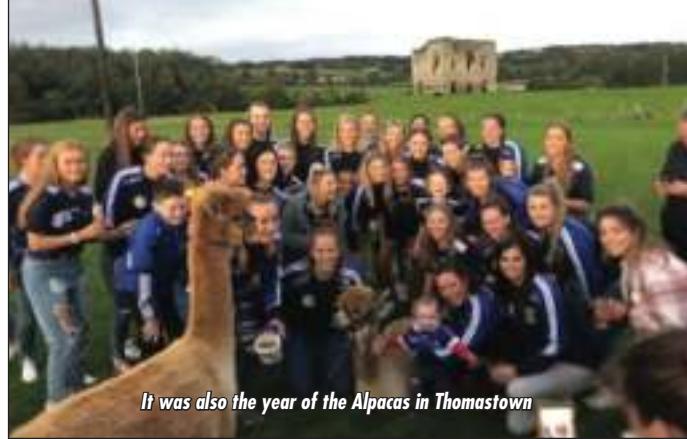
Thomastown U8



Thomastown U10



Thomastown U16



It was also the year of the Alpacas in Thomastown



TULLOGER

While it was a very tough year for our club, when the camogie season re-started it provided some needed normality to our players and their families. The reduced spectators and new rules did not stop our girls from giving it their all and from experiencing all the emotional highs and lows, that are a given as a part of any season. While the competitions may not finish for some teams, the mental health benefits of having trained and participated in 2020 has made us all appreciate the small things in life.



Tullogher U6 team



Tullogher U8 team



Tullogher U10 team



Tullogher U12 team



Tullogher U14 team



Tullogher U16 team



Tulloher Minor Team



Tulloher U21 team



Tulloher Junior team

in this season Games, such as Go-Games, League games and championship games.

The under 14's had a great win over Mooncoin in the Roinn B County Final. The team was Jenny Saunders, Aisling O'Shea, Megan Kenneally, Caoimhe Power, Emily Freaney, Tamara Phelan, Niamh Enright, Alaina O'Shea, Laura Doyle, Lauren Enright, Cathy Power, Ava O'Brien, Chloe Drennan, Eleanor Hayes, Ava-Lily O'Neill, Ria McCormack, Ciara O'Shea, Ona Kennedy, Kate O'Brien, Alannah Holden and Moya Egan. Trainers: Michael Saunders, Valarie Doyle, Marianne Hayes and Dermot O'Shea. and afterwards the team was treated to celebrations in the community hall.

We would like to thank all the trainers for their commitment and dedication:

The Under 6's were Trained by Joanne Kelliher, Anthony Meehan, Susan Doyle, and Noelle King.

The Under 8's were Trained by Emer O'Shea, Rob Quigley and Laura Foley.

The Under 10's were Trained by Ann Crowley, Catherine O'Neill and Caoimhe O'Shea.

The Under 12's were Trained by Tom Egan and Julie O'Brien.

The Under 14's were Trained by Michael Saunders, Dermot O'Shea, Valarie Doyle and Marianne Hayes.

The Under 16's & Minors were Trained by Michael O'Shea, Claire Kennedy and Ciara McCormack. And Padraig Holden.

The Under 21's were trained by Darragh O'Shea and Joanne Cody.

The Senior Team had a new Trainer this year they were guided by Niall McCormack, Bob Doherty and Mark Sheridan.

We were well Represented on the County Teams: with Catherine Foley, Denise Gaule, Michaela Keneally, Caoimhe O'Shea, Nathania Jackson, Ali Kennedy and Jenny Saunders.

rules did not stop our girls from giving it their all and from experiencing all the emotional highs and lows, that are given as a part of any season. While the competitions may not finish for some teams, the mental health benefits of having trained and participated in 2020 has made us all appreciate the small things in life.



YOUNG IRELANDS

Well 2020 what a year! Whilst activity stopped and started on numerous occasions all of our teams had plenty of training and games. We would like to thank our management teams who adhered to all the new public guidelines to keep our players safe. To our players and parents many thanks for your cooperation throughout what has been a truly memorable year.

A very special thanks to our members who took on the role of Covid Supervisor. A new role but an important one that kept our club and its members safe and playing the sport we love.

We would like to wish the best of luck to our U12 and Minor teams who have both reached their respective finals. Hopefully these can be played when activity resumes.

Finally we would like to thank all of you who gave generously to our Gofundme page. As all our fundraisers were unable to go ahead this year we set up this page to help keep the club afloat. Also thanks to both Byrne Agri Senior team sponsorship and Murcon for their sponsorship of our Minor team. Go raibh mile maith agaibh



Young Irelands U12



WINDGAP



Windgap U21's 2020

In December of 2019 The Club celebrated 25 years, we had a great gathering to mark this wonderful occasion and invited the committee that began the journey of this wonderful club. They were Francis Mackey, Mary Mackey, Bobby Jackman, Kathy Burke, Marie Landy, Pat Moore, Mary Flemming and Joan Murphy (RIP). During the lock down The Camogie Club and The GAA Club combined forces and decided to raise awareness for the frontline staff in our 3 local nursing homes. We set up a Go Fund Me page and we set a target of €1,500 of a 400km walk, run or cycle. We smashed that target and raised €5,680 in total. We covered a distance of 1,053km, it was a great achievement. Thanks to Niamh Bambrik and William Phelan, the two captains of the Senior and Junior teams.

We have 150 members in our Club and we entered all categories

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Huge Support for Ladies Gaelic Football



Ladies Football Report by Elena Griffin PRO



LADIES FOOTBALL FORUM IN THE HOBAN HOTEL KILKENNY LAST FEBRUARY

There is huge support for Ladies Gaelic Football in Kilkenny and the proof was in the mass of people who showed up in the Hoban Hotel in early February of this year to discuss development of the sport in the county. Over 60 people attended which is a massive show of support. National Development Officer, Clare Dowdall, had this to say, 'The number of people who attended is phenomenal...up to now we've never had this amount attend a Club Forum and when you consider the amount of clubs in Kilkenny to other more traditional football counties then it emphasises even more how significant this attendance figure is.' The club forum is part of a new LGFA National Strategic Plan initiative which sees Kilkenny being chosen as a county of focus for 2020. Kilkenny have a positive and proactive county board who are passionate about spreading the big ball gospel in the small ball county. Then Chairman of the county board, Séan Ó hArgáin, explained 'This is an exciting opportunity, for us as a board, to work and learn from the top and to further drive on Ladies Football in Kilkenny.'

All thoughts and ideas aired at the gathering have been compiled into a practical 3 year whole county development plan. Croke Park will continue to support Kilkenny with training and workshops in any area of need highlighted by the plan. As 2020 has been as it is this support will of course be reinvigorated for the 2021 season. Kilkenny Ladies Football has seen a significant rise in participation figures with numbers doubling in recent years and this support from Croke Park will surely drive the sport on even more in the coming years. According to the then Leinster GDO, Suzi Doyle, 'It's an exciting time to be involved in ladies' sport in the country and in Ladies Football in Kilkenny.' There are currently ten fully established clubs in Kilkenny, namely, Dunnmaggin, Thomastown, Muckalee, Railyard, Erins Own, John Lockes, Kilkenny City, Clara, Tullogher-Rosbercon and Piltown. There are also three clubs, namely Dicksboro, 3 Counties and Tullaroan, who at present cater only for Gaelic4Mothers&Others. Dunnmaggin, Piltown, Erins Own and Thomastown also cater for this non-competitive, fun group.

INTER-COUNTY NEWS



Minor Captain Aoife Bergin with Vice Captain Chloe Patterson.



Kilkenny U14 Panel

The Minor squad played Louth in their first National League Fixture in February. The weather conditions were tough and unfortunately so were the opposition. The girls battled hard but it wasn't to be their day. The rest of the matches were cancelled due to covid. Well done to the panel of girls who had a very enjoyable pre season preparations together that included ice skating and training in the snow! The team was mentored by manager Ciara Coone and selectors Paul Whelan, Brendan Healy, Eugene Dowling and Niamh Sheehy.

Kilkenny U14 panel who in February took part in the new look Leinster Ladies Gaelic Football Championship in Kildare. The girls had an enjoyable and successful outing with some great competitive games against Louth, Offaly, Longford, Kildare and Carlow. Well done to all involved and their mentors Conor Gorey, John Gorey,

Regina Moran and Martin Patterson.

Kilkenny U16s who played one match this season away to Longford in the National League. The girls were placed in the B division this year and it was always going to be a challenging game against a Longford side focussed on getting back up to A division. The girls played hard and were highly commended by a number of officials after the game on their amazing attitude, composure under pressure and positive demeanour. Final score was Kilkenny 1:3 Longford 5:11. Well done to the players and to their mentors Éléna Byrne and Eoin Hennessy.

The Presentation Secondary School panel claimed the Leinster Junior C title after defeating a strong Mount Sackville side on the 3rd March. It was a closely contested final which saw the Dublin side leading by 3 points at half time. The U17 Kilkenny

girls, many of whom represent their county, fought hard in the second half and clinched victory by one solitary point. Final score 1:13 to 4:3. Well done to the panel and their mentors Ms. Skelton and Mr. Murphy.

Huge thank you to St. Canice's Credit Union and Intosport on their continued support of ladies Gaelic in Kilkenny in 2020. St. Canice's have been so generous to the sport for many years and we can't stress enough how important their relationship is to the success of Ladies Football in Kilkenny. We may in some respects be viewed as the underdog sport for women in Kilkenny but due to support such as that from the Credit Union and Intosport we continue to overachieve in many ways.



COUNTY CLUB NEWS



JUNIOR

On the 16th September Kilkenny City overcame Thomastown in the St. Canice's Credit Union Adult Junior Championship Final. The match between these two strong squads did not disappoint. It was a spectacular display of everything great about ladies Gaelic football...fabulous fielding of the ball, epic individual battles between players and fast paced clever movements. Thomastown began the match firing on all cylinders and after ten minutes were in the lead 1:2 to 0:1. The City side soon composed themselves and replied with their own goal and a point to level things. City then took the lead with another point and Thomastown would never be in front again during the match despite robust efforts. The first half saw possession quiet evenly distributed, however Kilkenny City's precision in front of goals meant they were ahead by 4 points at half time. In the second half

Thomastown set up the lions share of offensive moves and kept the majority of the possession. However this didn't translate on the scoreboard and with a player sin binned for the last ten minutes of the match it was not to be their night. The City side took their chances well when presented to them and ran out deserved winners. Final score Kilkenny City 2:12 Thomastown 2:07. Kilkenny City went on to represent Kilkenny in the Leinster Junior Quarter Final. They faced Clan Na Gael of Louth on September 26th in Dundalk. The squad put in a valiant effort and it was a fantastic match to watch, streamed live on Facebook for all to enjoy. Only for a few unlucky misses it might have been a different ending to this encounter for Kilkenny City but it wasn't to be and they came up short by just 2 points.

John Lockes overcame Railyard in the Adult Shield final on September 23rd

under lights in Muckalee. The match had everything a great adult football final should have...lots of skills, thrills and spills! The first half saw both teams play well and work tirelessly to hold possession. At half time the Callan side had the lead 1:6 to 4 points. A good third quarter by Callan saw their lead increase. Battles between players were fought hard and although going into the third quarter many thought Callan were in control...Railyard were not finished yet. They attacked with might and brought the lead down to 3 points. However Callan had built up their lead well and their swift movement and passages of play were a delight to behold and in the end they out manoeuvred the Railyard and claimed victory. Well done to all adult squads and team mentors who took part in this year's adult competitions. The clubs were Thomastown, Kilkenny City, Railyard, Muckalee, Erin's Own, John Lockes and Dunnamaggin.

MINOR

The 2020 Minor Ladies Football competition saw teams compete from 9 of our ten clubs. On Sunday 20th September, Dunnamaggin defeated Railyard in the St. Canice's Credit Union Roinn B Championship Final. It was a thrilling encounter and the intensity level was high. The Dunnamaggin squad had much of the possession for the game but this wasn't translating on the scoreboard. Railyard took their chances when presented to them and with only a minute to go were a point ahead. Just before the final whistle



Kilkenny City Adult team after winning the St. Canice's Credit Union County Championship Final



Dunnamaggin before contesting and winning the Minor B Final



Dunnamaggin after winning the U16 Roinn B Championship Final



Piltown Mothers & Others Squad 2020



Dunnamaggin Mothers & Others Squad 2020

the Dunnamaggin side set up a great attack and were rewarded with a point leaving the sides level at full time. With waning daylight the teams had to play the 20 minutes extra time under lights. Both teams continued to play with a superb fighting spirit but it was the Dunnamaggin side that would clinch the victory by three points. Big congratulations to all the players and management teams on a great 2020 season despite everything. The Roinn A final between Muckalee and Kilkenny City has yet to be played.

U16

The 2020 season saw teams from Tullogher Rosbercon, John Lockes, Dunnamaggin, Thomastown, Erin's Own, Muckalee and Kilkenny City represented in the St. Canice's Credit Union Championship. On September 18th Dunnamaggin beat John Lockes in the U16 Roinn B championship final. It was a fantastic game of football and both teams displayed grit, determination and skills that are a testament to the work put in by their mentors this season. Although it felt in the first half that Dunnamaggin had good control of the game, the third quarter saw Callan on fire and they took some terrific scores to bring the lead down to just one point. Despite a couple of sin bins Dunnamaggin managed to compose themselves again and dominated much of the play in the last quarter and ran out deserved champions. Congratulations to all the players and mentors on a super season and thank you to St Canices Credit Union for gifting the players with a lovely water bottle each after the match. The Roinn A final between Kilkenny City and Muckalee is yet to be played.

U14

Teams from all ten clubs in the county took part in this year's St. Canice's Credit Union U14 Championship. Kilkenny City fielded two squads. The three U14 Championship finals were all played off and decided in three thrilling encounters on September 13th. First up was the A final which saw a determined, skilled Dunnamaggin side overcome a strong Kilkenny City by a 2 point margin. Despite missing many chances and a strong third quarter attack by City, Dunnamaggin managed to keep their cool, defend well and keep adding to the score board. Final score Dunnamaggin 2:7 kilkenny City 2:5. The B final saw a passionate, strong Piltown squad overcome Kilkenny City's second squad by a good margin. Despite Piltown being ahead for the whole match the City side never gave up and the girls can be proud of themselves. Final score Piltown 4:3 Kilkenny City 0:0 The C final saw Muckalee take on and defeat Tullogher-Rosbercon. The final score line of 6:5 to 1:4 doesn't reflect the closeness of the

match at certain points. The third quarter saw Tulloher-Rosbercon with most of the possession and they managed to come within 2 points of Muckalee. However in the final quarter Muckalee capitalised on all their chances and were convincing winners in the end. Well done to all the teams who took part in these finals. The skills and work rate on show were a credit to their mentors and clubs.

U12

All the U12 Finals were played off early in September and all were thoroughly enjoyable, fast paced games! The development of the girls' skills and play since the start of the season was very evident. Huge credit to their mentors in this regard. All ten clubs fielded teams at U12 level this season with Dunnamaggin and Kilkenny City fielding 2 teams each. Thanks to the County Board and Fixtures Committee for all the work gone into making sure this age group and all others had a well run season. Thanks also to St.Canice's Credit Union for their

invaluable contribution this season to supporting Ladies Football in Kilkenny.

CHAMPIONS ROLL CALL

Roinn A Kilkenny City
Roinn B John Lockes
Roinn C Dunnamaggin
Roinn D Thomastown
Roinn E Railyard
Roinn F Erins Own

U10-Nursery

Due to the unfortunate circumstances of 2020 our younger groups didn't have the opportunity to play in any organised blitzes, bar one U10 get together in early March. The younger teams however did manage to get in some fun game time with go game type matches organised between the clubs themselves. They also of course enjoyed countless fun training sessions with their club mates over the summer which was hugely welcomed after not seeing each other in school or on the pitch in so long.

GAEILIC4MOTHERS&OTHERS

Normally we have several clubs in Kilkenny that cater for this non-competitive fun group, namely Tullaroan, Piltown, Dunnamaggin, Thomastown, Dicksboro, Erins Own and 3 Counties. However due to the global pandemic many clubs decided to take a break for this year and will no doubt be back bigger and better than ever in 2021. Both Piltown and Dunnamaggin continued to cater for their Mothers&Others squads this season and they met up on a couple of occasions for a friendly match or two. The Gaelic4Mothers&Others is an innovative way to introduce women to playing ladies gaelic football in a fun, non-competitive, social environment. It provides an opportunity for women to exercise in a fun way while meeting other women in the area. The initiative has proved very popular here in Kilkenny and if you'd like further information just check out our website kilkenneyladiesgaelic.ie or our Twitter, Facebook or Instagram pages.

REFEREES

This season saw the introduction of three new young female referees to Ladies Gaelic Football in Kilkenny. The running of our county fixtures is hugely dependant, not only the County Board Executive and Fixtures Committee, but it also relies heavily on the role of our referees in getting matches played in a professional manner. Thanks to all our referees who undertook extra training this season to ensure a safe playing environment for all our members.



Referee John McCormack before the U16 Roinn B Championship Final



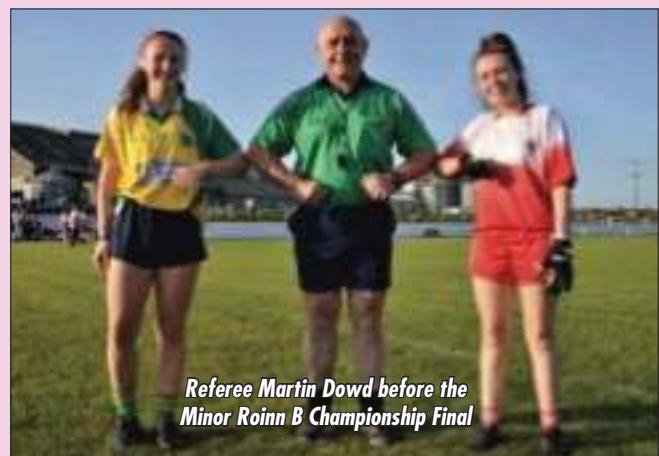
Referee Colleen Booth before an U12 game



Referee Nicole Dowling refereed many games in 2020



Referee Caoimhe McGuinness before an U12 game



Referee Martin Dowd before the Minor Roinn B Championship Final

WINNING CAPTAINS

2020



Kilkenny City captain Hannah Scott
raises the cup after the Junior
County Championship Final.



Kilkenny City U12 captain
Jill Dalton after the Roinn A
Championship Final



Dunnamaggin U12 captain Jessica
McNamara after the Roinn C Final



John Lockes' captain Jessica Scriven
after the Adult Shield Championship
Final.



John lockes' U12 co-captains after the Roinn B Final



Muckalee U14 captain Joanne
Comerford after the Roinn C
Championship Final



Piltown U14 captain Kate O' Hora
after the Roinn B Championship
Final



Thomastown U12 captain Kate
Ryan after the Roinn D Final



Dunnamaggin U16 captain Orla
Buckley raises the cup after the
Roinn B Championship Final



Dunnamaggin U14 captain Ria
McCormack after the Roinn A
Championship Final



Railyard U12 co-captains Aisling Maher and Kerri Maguire after
the Roinn E Final



Dunnamaggin Minor captain Shauna
Coady raises the cup after the
Roinn B Championship Final



Erin's Own U12 Captain Sarah
Rowe after the F Final.

AROUND THE CLUBS



CLARA LGFC

The u10s and u8s managed to pack a lot in to the much shorter season. One of the highlights was the series of Super Saturdays of mini games; football, camogie, rounders and ice pops with their clubmates. Gorgeous weather at the end of September allowed this bunch of girls to have a glorious last morning of action against Erin's Own to finish off a hugely enjoyable season with their coaches Caitriona, Anne, Liam, Mary Louise, Emma and Brian.

Our u12s had a very young squad this year but again in the short season, their development as players and as a team was great to witness. Clara came up against Railyard in their league final. These two young teams put on a great performance, there was creative combination play, strong defending and some lovely scores. Railyard came out on the winning side on this occasion but we're looking forward to seeing a lot more of these girls over the next few seasons, well done girls and coaches John and Paidi

Our u14s had a dedicated and enthusiastic squad and coaching team this year. Along the way, they played Piltown, Kilkenny City and Erins Own. They were drawn against Kilkenny City in the semi-final of Roinn B, they had suffered a heavy defeat against this team only a few weeks before. The girls were terrific, they played their hearts out in a fabulous game of football. They were so disappointed to lose by 1 point but their performance was superb and their work with their coaches, Brian, Anne and Cath was so evident on the pitch.

A special thank you goes to Kate Galvin this year, who designed the gloves that our players now proudly wear!



Clara U12 Squad

DUNNAMAGGIN LGFC



With over 200 members our club now boasts the title of Kilkenny's largest Ladies Football Club, an achievement indeed considering the club is only 6 years old! History was made this season with the club, for the first time, fielding 2 teams at U12 level. The fast and furious 2020 season has seen our flourishing club come away with four county titles. This a testament to the hard work and commitment put in by our players and mentors alike.

First win were the U12s in the C League Final who overcame Kilkenny City in a thrilling match. Our formidable U14 squad also overcame Kilkenny City in the Roynn A Championship Final. Our U16s became county champs, in an enthralling game of football, beating John Lockes in the U16 B championship final. Our final title came from our Minor squad who defeated Railyard in the Roynn B Championship Final, an intense encounter that needed extra time to separate the sides.

The club also fielded a strong Adult team in 2020, a non-competitive fun Mothers & Others squad, U10, U8 and Nursery groups. Check out our Facebook, Instagram or Twitter page for more information. Well done to all our squads and management teams making the club and parish very proud this season.



Dunnamaggin U12's 2020

ERIN'S OWN LGFC



The girls and ladies of Castlecomer made a delighted return to the Erins Own training grounds in June when the green light was given by the LGFA HQ. From u6 girls through to Junior ladies they returned in large numbers anxious to shake off the shackles of lockdown. The club was delighted to continue with the tradition of ladies' football that has become an inherent part of the club scene in Erin Own since 2011.

With us all getting to grips with the guidance documents provided, Parents & Players got on board with the new Covid guidelines straight away. A new competition structure was presented to us by Kilkenny Ladies Football. U12, U14, U16, Minor and Junior ladies fielded teams in their respective competitions, while the u6's, U8's and U10's hosted and attended games in their age groups throughout the season. While there were challenges at times fielding teams in some age groups the overall attendances at training was very encouraging for the future of football in Castlecomer. Anyone interested in enquiring about joining for the 2021 season can contact the club at: erinsown.kilkenny@lgfa.ie



Erin's Own U12's

JOHN LOCKES LGFC



The real success of the John Lockes Ladies Football Club since our foundation some 8 years ago with only an Adult Team is the amount of girls who are currently playing and training week in and week out. From U-6

all the way up to Adult Level, the club is fielding teams and has a willing group of coaches and parents to lend a hand. 2020 saw the adult team's consistency rewarded when they won the shield final for the first time, our U-12s won the Roynn B county title and our U-16s contested the Roynn B county title also. Our U-10 team took part in a few challenge matches against Dunnamaggin and Castlecomer. The club would also like to take this opportunity to remember clubman Davy Kelly who passed away earlier this year. Davy was a great supporter of the girls and always had pitches ready whenever it was asked of him.

We are looking forward to next year to hopefully field a minor team for the first time and continue to build on our success.



John Lockes U12's 2020

KILKENNY CITY LGFC



Kilkenny City crowned Junior Ladies Football Champions

Following a keenly contested Ladies Junior Football Final, Kilkenny City prevailed against Thomastown under lights in Muckalee, on a final score of Kilkenny City 2-12 to Thomastown's 2-07. City then make the journey to play their Leinster 1/4 final in Dundalk against Clan na Gael. A combination of injuries and bad luck saw the City team go down by 2 points to the local team on a sunny Saturday in September.

At an underage level, Kilkenny City fielded teams at U10, U12, U14, U16 and Minor. At both U12 and U14, number dictated that we could enter 2 teams at each age level. All 4 teams reached the final of their respective age / grade, which was a remarkable achievement and ensured all our girls got the maximum game time. Our U16's drew their final against Muckalee with the replay scheduled for later in the year. Our Minor team await their fate in the Minor Final, also against Muckalee at time of going to print.

We welcome new players at all ages, with training on Sunday morning, for the younger groups, in James Park, Kilkenny. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates and resumption dates for 2021.



KK City Hannah Scott receiving Trophy

MUCKALEE LGFC



Muckalee LGFC was reformed in 2008 with girls from the parishes of Ballyfoyle, Coon and Muckalee. At present we have over 100 girls and mentors registered with the LGFA. We have girls playing from u8, u10, u12, u14, 16, minor and junior levels.

In the short Gaelic football season 2020, our u12's met Johns Lockes in the final of Roinn C but Johns Lockes proved too strong for our girls.

Our u14's came up against Tullogher/Rosbercon in the Roinn C County final and came out victors after a good challenging game.

Our u16's met Kilkenny city in the final and after a nail biting game drew level when the whistle was blown. We are still awaiting a replay date.

Our minors have also made the minor final against Kilkenny City and again we await a date to play.

Our adult player met Kilkenny City in the junior semi-final which ended in a draw when the final whistle was blown. Unfortunately after extra time, they were narrowly beaten. This was the first adult team we have had since 2017.

Our u10's played challenge matches throughout the short season and thoroughly enjoyed the matches.

We thank all our coaches, mentors and backroom team for the time they give up to encourage all these girls. We are lucky in Muckalee to have such a team in place.

We are extremely proud of all the girls in Muckalee LGFC and their collective achievements to date. We look forward to the 2021 season.



Muckalee U14's 2020

PILTON LGFC



What a Year! The two main highlights for Piltown LGFC were; one, being able to get back into a playing field to kick football and two, the Under-14s winning the Roinn B Championship without conceding a score in the final to maintain a juvenile title a year since the Club formation in 2010.

In a short period, there was an abundance of action. A lot of players returned having left the game previously. Almost 80 players donned the famous amber and black. The Under-12s reached the Roinn A Final where they were beaten by Kilkenny City despite outscoring the opposition by 0-3 to 0-1 for the last 30 minutes. The Under-14's had their famous win against the City team in Thomastown in September. The Under-16's and Minors both reached Roinn B Semi-Finals. The Gaelic4Mothers & Others regrouped and grew in number, playing games against Dunnamaggin and having great craic every Thursday.

Niamh Gallagher designed the popular Piltown Ladies Football gloves. Lia O'Brien managed to represent the club at county level when she lined out in the early year Under-14 blitz.

To celebrate 10 years and due to lockdown the club launched an electronic history written by PRO, Seamus Norris. It is available at <http://snorris.ie/first-decade-piltown-ladies-gaelic-football-2/>



Piltown U14 winning squad

RAILYARD LGFC



A first for Railyard Ladies Football Club

Whilst 2020 has been a difficult year for all clubs it also was a year of excitement for Railyard Ladies Football Club. In 2015 Railyard Ladies Football Club reformed after a lengthy absence. We returned to the football scene with one team - an U12 team. Following a lot of hard work and dedication from club members and players alike over the following years for the first time in our clubs history this year we catered for teams in every age group from U6 right up to Adult.

In 2020 our U12s had a great win in their league final over Clara. Our U14 and U16 teams reached the semi-final stage of their competitions and our Minor and Adult teams reached their finals, Roinn B Championship at Minor and Shield Final at Adult.

2020 also saw us register to become a member club of the 20x20.ie campaign and we were delighted to receive our club charter and flag showing our commitment to champion and provide equal opportunities in sport to the women and girls in our local area.

We are extremely proud of all our teams and look forward to an exciting 2021.



Railyard Adult Squad who competed in the Shield Final



THOMASTOWN LGFC

Our club members were delighted to get back training this season and a word of commendation must go out to all the mentors in the club who made it possible for the girls to do so in a safe environment.

U12s started back later than usual because of the new way we're having to live now. The girls have been great and came to training and put in the work. They came out playing their games with enthusiasm and being part of a team. When they had to dig in that is exactly what they did. All their work paid off and we got through to a final against Tullogher. It was a tough, evenly matched game but we held them off to become the winners in these strange times.



Thomastown U12 winning squad



TULLOGER ROSBERCON LGFC

In Tullogher-Rosbercon, we look back with great satisfaction and pride on a unique, hectic and successful season in girls football. Our young club, which only reformed a few years ago, fielded teams in more grades than ever this season: U10, U12, U14 and U16. We also had training for U6 to U8 again this year and a large number of new girls signed up enthusiastically for football, which is terrific to see! Our u10s played in the blitz in Clara shortly before lockdown and we were drawn out to play in the reknowned Croke Park blitz, which didn't go ahead for obvious reasons, but we are looking ahead hopefully to next year! Our u12s were delighted to get 5 group games, acquitted themselves tremendously, before being pipped by a point in our pulsating league final. Our u14s were superb, getting to our club's first ever championship final! On an exciting occasion for us all, we were second best to an excellent Muckalee team. Our u16s improved commendably throughout the season, having a most impressive win in the Co quarter-final before bowing out to eventual winners Dunnamaggan in the semi, despite a very encouraging performance. We look forward immensely to next season!



Tullogher-Rosbercon U14 Championship Final Squad



Piltown Draw Committee - Holding the Draw, while keeping their Distance.



NOWLAN PARK

The following section consists of the club reports from around the county with the addition, this year, of aerial photos of all the club and county grounds throughout Kilkenny. They testify to the extraordinary endeavours of our various Cumanns down the years, and could be replicated throughout the 32 counties, They may serve to silence some of those people who delight in asking : "Where does the Money go?"
The pictures are © Andy Ryan, Callan, and me be obtained directly from him. (See ad on page 52.)





BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS

The U13 panel, looked after by Tom Coogan (Manager/Trainer), Declan Mullen, Dermot Ryan and Tom Walsh, beat Graiguenamanagh in the first round (6-10 to 2-4) but lost their quarter final with St Martin's, 0-11 to 0-5. U13HC B Charlie Lennon, Seán O'Mahony, Tommy Walsh, Brion Ryan, Cian Walsh, Jake Mullen 0-5 (f), Daniel Kolodiej, Michael Barron, James Ryan, Luke Cummins, Killian Ryan, Cathal Coogan, Séan Rooney, Rian Shefflin captain, Aidan Grummell.

Subs: Eric Murphy, Max Corbett, Logan Fitzgerald, Donnchadh Grant, Conor Holohan, Rory McMahon, Jamie Murphy, Séan Óg O'Farrell, Con O'Neill, Henry Shefflin.

The U15 panel, looked after by Michael Carroll (Trainer), Dave Gallagher, Dermot Ryan and John Shefflin (Manager), beat Dicksboro B in the first round (2-12 to 1-14) but lost their quarter final with James Stephens B, 3-16 to 3-12.

U15HC C Rian Shefflin, Tommy Walsh, Michael Lyons, Brian Wilson, Aaron Doyle captain, Thomas Murphy, Séan Shefflin, John Fitzpatrick 0-3, Killian Ryan, Jake Mullen 1-1, Tom Cleere 2-8 (0-6f, 1-0 pen), Michael Kenneally, Michael Barron, Jack Holden, Cathal Coogan.

Subs: Charlie Lennon for Cathal Coogan (56m), David Kolodiej for Aaron Doyle (58m), Jack Deacon, Aidan Grummell, Rory McMahon, Séan Óg O'Farrell, Séan O'Mahony, Cian Walsh.

The Minor panel, looked after by John Dermody (Manager/Trainer), Niall Mason and Paul Shefflin, lost their first round tie to St Patrick's, 8-11 to 1-13.

MHC C Jake Mullen, Michael Kenneally, Tomás Barron, Michael Lyons, Thomas Murphy, Larry Cody, Michael Cullen, John Fitzpatrick, Dara Mason captain 1-2 (0-2f), Jack Cody, Tom Cleere, Jack Holden, Séan Shefflin, Killian Corcoran 0-11 (7f), Rian Shefflin.

Subs: Killian Ryan for Michael Kenneally (41m), Brian Wilson for Séan Shefflin (46m), Niall Shortall (ill).

The Junior panel, looked after by David Hoyne, Brendan Mason, Séan Reid (Manager) and David Walsh, lost their quarter final with Clara, 3-19 to 1-9.

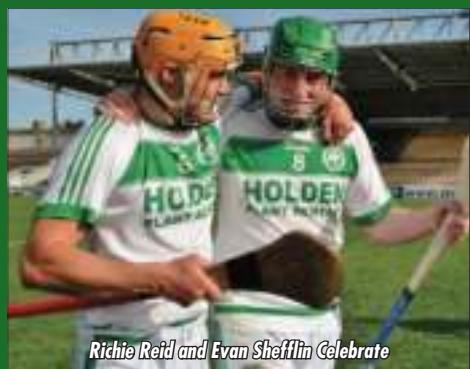
JHC Eoin Knox, Conor Doyle, Patrick Hearne, Christopher Coady, Casey Corcoran 0-1, Conor Walsh, Edmond Fitzpatrick, Liam Barron 0-1, Gavin Butler, Martin Davis 0-3, Mark Aylward 0-1, Stephen Barron 0-1, Éamonn Fitzpatrick, Mark Gorman captain 1-2 (0-1f), Jason Devereux.

Subs: John Shortall for Éamonn Fitzpatrick (44m), Enda Kenneally for Conor Doyle (inj, 48m), Patrick Doyle for Martin Davis (inj, 48m), Enda Fitzpatrick for Liam Barron (48m), Cian Cullen for Edmond Fitzpatrick (56m), Andrew Devereux, Séan Reade, Finnian Shefflin, Brian Butler (tied), James Deasy (inj), Eoin Kenneally (tied), Kevin Mullen (tied).

The Junior C panel was looked after by Michael Paul Drennan (Manager), Dave Gallagher, John Kennedy, Patrick O'Sullivan and Eoin Reid. First round winners over Mooncoin (2-22 to 0-9), quarter final winners over Graiguenamanagh (2-15 to 0-17), they lost their semi final with Emeralds, 2-16 to 0-14.

JHC C Donnchadh Fitzpatrick, Conor Doyle, Bob Aylward 0-1, Enda Kenneally, Cian Cullen, Enda Fitzpatrick captain, Christopher Coady, Liam Barron 0-2, Edmond Fitzpatrick, Éamonn Fitzpatrick, David Hoyne 0-2, Stephen Barron 0-5 (1f), Finnian Shefflin 0-1, James Deasy 0-2, Jason Devereux 0-1.

Subs: Brandon Ryan for Conor Doyle (inj, 39m), Andrew Devereux for James Deasy (inj, 43m), Dylan Doran for Finnian Shefflin (50m), Séan Reade, John Shortall (ill).



Richie Reid and Evan Shefflin Celebrate

BARROW RANGERS



After the highs of last season when our Junior team won the League and were within a point of reaching a County Final it was back to basics for Barrow Rangers this season. An above average amount of injuries to players, meant that the team never had a settled look to it. That said, numbers were good at training and the Club fielded three Junior teams. Unfortunately our Underage teams had a barren year but on the positive side our Friday evening training sessions, for Junior infants to Under 11's saw large numbers in the field. Off the pitch the Club have big plans and are in the process of purchasing seven acres adjacent to their present pitch. The Club held a hugely successful All County Draw for a car at the end of 2019. Barrow Rangers would like to thank everyone who purchased a ticket for this, also to all the people who have pledged and contributed financial donations. It is hoped to start the walking track around the present pitch and the roadway into the new pitch before the end of the year.



Catherine Condon (nee Dwyer) originally from Castlecomer along with her husband, Tipperary native, Garda Liam Condon, arrived in Goresbridge in 1971. In '74 Liam became involved in what was then, Goresbridge/Paulstown Juvenile hurling club, and shortly afterwards Catherine followed and served as secretary for many years. A formidable lady, Catherine was part of the set up when the Under 16's won the first ever County title for the Parish in 1977. Catherine sadly passed away in May of this year.



With the passing of Jim Hennessy in November 2019 Barrow Rangers lost one of its most committed supporters. No matter what age group was playing, if Jim knew the match was on he'd be there. A stylish halfback in his playing days, Jim was on the Kilkenny Junior team of '58. Under the old three Parish rule he played on the Clara team that won the prestigious St. Canice's Perpetual Challenge Cup seven a side tournament. Jim loved the game so much that he played well into his forties. When he finally hung up his hurl he still stayed involved with the Club acting as selector on several occasions. It gave Jim immense pleasure to see his grandson Cathal Kenny play in two All Ireland Minor Finals for Kilkenny in '08 and '09. The team being victorious in '08.



Barrow Rangers U11's



BENNETTSBRIDGE

Intercounty Hurling: Bennettsbridge were represented on the Kilkenny Senior Team by Liam Blanchfield, Enda Morrissey and Jason Cleere while James McGarry was a selector. At Under 19 level we were represented by David Blanchfield, Ciaran Brennan and Conor Murphy with Dick O'Neill and Maurice Walsh as part of the backroom team.

Adult Hurling: Our Seniors began with a loss to O'Loughlin Gaels but followed this up with two good wins over Danesfort and Tullaroan. We defeated GraigueBallycallan in the first round of the Championship but lost out to Dicksboro in the Quarter Finals.

After winning the Junior C Championship last year, we reached the Final of the Junior B competition this year with wins over Tulloge Rosbercon, Barrow Rangers and Dicksboro. However we lost out to Mullinavat in the Final. For the first time in our history we had a third adult team. Unfortunately we lost out to Dicksboro in the Junior E Quarter Final.

Juvenile Hurling: We had a good year at juvenile level with our Minors, Under 15s and Under 13s all reaching County Finals. Our Minors were in the B Championship and topped their group qualifying for the Championship Quarter Final. We beat Emeralds and Kilmacow to qualify for the Final but lost out to Dunnmaggin in the Final. Our Under 15s were also in the B Championship and topped their group with good wins over Graiguenamanagh, Rower Inistioge and qualified for the final against Dunnmaggin. The lads produced another great performance and won on a scoreline of 3-15 to 1-10. Our Under 13s played in the C 13 a side Championship. They won one league match and lost another but had good wins over Rower Inistioge, Piltown and Fenians in the Championship, unfortunately losing out to Blacks and Whites by 4 points in terrible weather conditions in the Final.

Club Development: Work began on our new clubhouse during 2020. This consists of two new dressing rooms, a meeting room, physio rooms, new toilets and a shop. This will be a great addition to all club members going forward.

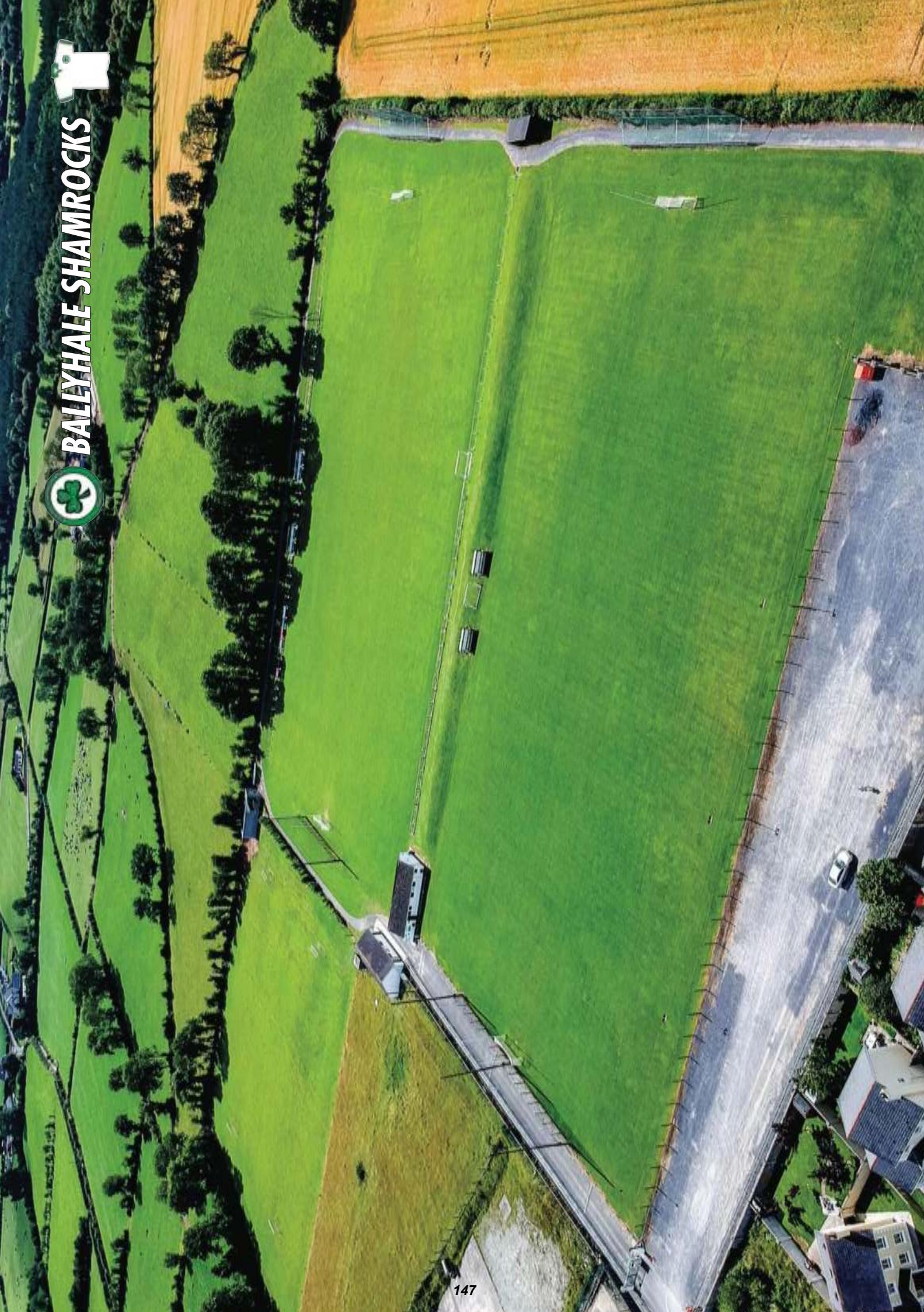
Sympathy: Bennettsbridge GAA would like to express our deepest sympathies to the families of the members who passed away during the year. We remember Henry Drea and Jimmy Griffiths. Our sympathies also to members who lost loved ones during the year. May they rest in peace.



Bennettsbridge Club Development Launch.



BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS



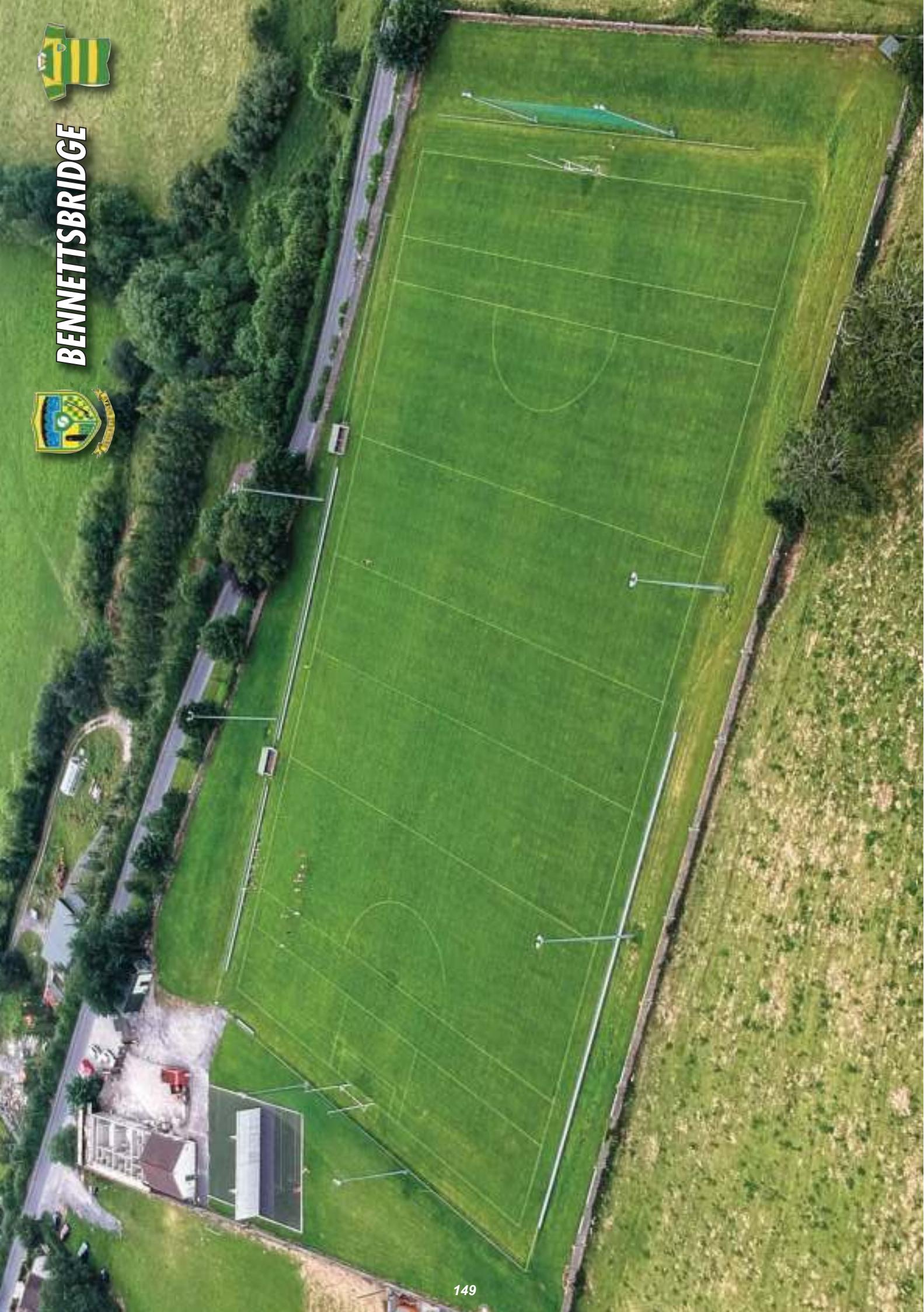


BARROW RANGERS





BENNETTSBRIDGE



BLACKS & WHITES



2020 was a successful year on the playing front with the club contesting three county finals. The first team was our Junior D team, who played Cloneen in Freshford on a wet and windy day in Freshford. Unfortunately we lost on a scoreline of 1.13 to 2.11. It must be said that it was a gallant effort from a young team on the day and the future looks promising. The U15s played Cloneen/Railyard in the final of the 13 aside championship in Gowran. This was an epic affair with Blacks & Whites leading 3.06 to 4pts with 10 minutes remaining, with an unyielding Cloneen out scoring us to force extra time. Our lads displayed great skill, courage and determination to win out on a score line 3.09 to 3.08. Lastly, the U13s participated in the 13 aside championship, where they contested the final against the famed Bennettsbridge team on a wintery Sunday. Bennettsbridge held a 5pts to no score lead at half time. However, Blacks & Whites held their composure and won out on a scoreline of 1.06 to 5pts.

The minor hurlers had to join with Slieverue, they won two games in the league and were not permitted to play in the championship. At present, the U19 and U21 are still waiting for their championship to start. The intermediate footballers are currently waiting to play Thomastown in the quarter finals, which are also held up due to the Covid 19 restrictions. The junior hurlers had a solid campaign winning 3 games, Emeralds, Cloneen and Moincoin finally losing out to Windgap. We beat Graignamanagh, our near neighbours in the first round, before Piltown beat us by a goal in the quarter final.

Finally thank you to all the mentors for looking after the above teams, also sincere condolences to club members who suffered bereavements during the year.



U15 Captain Jack Kelly gets the trophy from Bord na nÓg Chairman, John Byrne

CARRICKSHOCK



Looking back on the strange 2020 season from this vantage point, it seems we were blessed to get through the club season at all. It's hardly a surprise that the Intermediates' season was as topsy-turvy as the goings on around us. Two promising wins in the early rounds of the league, against St. Patrick's and O'Loughlin's, raised expectations probably to an unrealistic level. Defeat by the narrowest of margins in the final round top-of-the-table clash against Thomastown brought them crashing back down to earth, and into a Championship clash with St. Martin's. St. Martin's left their poor league form well behind them to put on a fantastic display to win out 0.21 to 1.16. On to a rematch against St. Patrick's in a Relegation Semi-Final. The giddy excitement evident on the season opener turned into fear of how much St. Patrick's would have learnt since then. It was a much closer affair this time but the Shocks held on in the end by 4 points. The report card reads 3 wins, 2 losses, and leaves Richie Power and his team with another crack at Intermediate. Richie seems to have blended youth and experience very nicely in this year's cocktail. Looking forward to the 2021 blend already! A much condensed Junior A campaign saw Carrickshock lose their opener to Lismore, then a revival against Young Ireland's. The snap season was brought to a halt against O'Loughlin's.

For our Juvenile teams, no silverware to report. Well, not yet. As we write, Under-13B Championship is paused at semi-final stage. These boys deserve great credit for getting their season right back on track after a slow start to the campaign. Minors had a mixed year, 2 wins 2 losses, their highlight a nip and tuck victory over neighbours Shamrocks on a glorious summer's evening in Hugginstown, before losing out in a Quarter-Final to Lismore. Under-15s knew they'd drawn the short straw with an opening tie against eventual champions Glenmore, but battled gamely and showed a never-say-die attitude throughout their campaign. Under-11s reached the Shield semi-final of a fiercely competitive floodlit league, only losing out to O'Loughlin's after extra-time. Blizzes and Go-Games were curtailed for the younger age groups, but games against neighbouring clubs for U9s and U7s as always raised the excitement levels kept the boys smiling.

With the Inter-County scene still to come Carrickshock have a few budding stars to follow. Jake O'Dwyer and Eoghan O'Neill with Kilkenny Under-20s and Padraig Lennon with the Minors. Best of luck boys, keep the Carrickshock flag flying!

Carrickshock extends its condolences to all families associated with the club who suffered bereavements this year, especially the families of Rev Christy Dwyer, Joe Dwyer, Tess Farrell, Tim Heaslip, Mary Malzard, Michael Murphy, James Murphy, PJ Rohan, (Trustee and Life President).



Live -Streaming - Carrickshock v St Martin's

CARRIGEEN



Carrigeen GAA Club would like to offer its sympathy to the following people: Former hurler and club President Ned Power and former committee member Kathleen Power, both of whom sadly passed away during the course of 2019. Their tireless efforts will never be forgotten by the club.

Frank Law and his now wife Sharon tied the knot this year. The Law family have strong traditions with the club. Three of the Law's hurl with the club at present, Frank, Kevin and Gary.

Pictured are the seven Kelly brothers who hurled with the Carrigeen GAA Club, along with their father, Sonny Kelly (who won a Senior Championship with Mooncoin in the late 1940s) and brother Dick Kelly, a former treasurer of the club. Standing (from left): Ned, Matty, John, Noel, Bill, Dick, and Buddy. Pedro, the eighth brother is absent from the picture. - another long standing member. In what was going to be a short Championship, Noel Butler and his team of selectors had limited time to prepare their squad. With a showing of inconsistent form in the build up to the "Thriller" against Slieverue, the game was hanging in the balance. But the team proved to be a well oiled engine on the day, blitzing through Slieverue like a knife through butter, holding a 13 point lead at half time. Slieverue mounted a monumental comeback in the second half and brought the game into extra time in the dying moments. Carrigeen looked dead and buried, but to the credit of all involved, a resilience was still present. Ten unanswered points were scored by Carrigeen in extra time to book a place in the Semi Final against Cloneen. Cloneen were too strong in the second half on the day for us and proved worthy winners.



The Seven Kellys

CLONEEN



The club started 2020 as a normal year but with the covid we thought there would be no hurling. Thankfully as the year went on hurling was played. Winning the Junior D championship was the high light of our year bridging a gap of 32 years. A special thanks goes to all our Junior hurlers and management for achieving this.

On the juvenile side we were glad to have hurling for them. Our u7 to u11 played in challenge games. Our u13s, 15s and 17s competed in league and championship with our u15s reaching the county final and unfortunately narrowly loosing out after extra time in a great final.

The club would like to thank all the mentors over our juvenile and adult teams



Clogh men, John and Pat Buggy supporting Kilkenny in Wexford Park



John Kelly, Captain Cloneen, Roinn D Winners



BLACKS & WHITES

Tom Walsh Park





CARRICKSHOCK





CARRIGEEN
Páirc Asper





CLONEEN





CLARA

Clara Seniors played three league/championship games in 2020. A bad loss to Erin's Own was sandwiched between two good wins over Graigue Ballycallan and Rower Inistioge. This left the club in second place in the group and qualified them for a Shield final meeting with James Stephens. Clara won this comprehensively and hopes were high for the championship quarter final. However they ran into the juggernaut that Ballyhale Shamrocks have become and the year ended disappointingly. Big thanks to outgoing management Barry Power, Seamus Knox and Gerry Byrne.

The Juniors played some fine hurling and were desperately unlucky to lose to James Stephens in the sectional semi final. Thanks to Seamus Knox, Jack O Keeffe, John Phelan and David Mulrooney for overseeing this group. The Junior Ds lost out to Kilmacow in the championship under the tutelage of Pat Bolger, James Dowling and Conor (Curly) Phelan. The Senior footballers have reached a semi final against champions Mullinavat, after good wins over O Loughlins and Tullogher masterminded by David Mulrooney and Pat Mulrooney. Clara minors were very young but were unfortunate to lose to Ballyraggett by a single point in the championship. Thanks to John Murphy, Rory O Keeffe and Paul Cody for looking after this group. The U15s were looked after by Johnny Shortall and Bill Cody and were beaten by eventual champions James Stephens in the championship. The U13s have reached a county semi final. Stephen Lawlor, John Carrigan, John Brennan and Tom English have high hopes for them there.

U11 fortunes were supervised by Dara Cooke, John Leahy and Michael Meaney. U9s were led by Peter Coogan, Micheál Nolan, Martin Carrigan and Denis O Callaghan.

The U7s served under Tom English, Jimmy Langton and Martina Firbank while the U5s had Catherine Kennedy, Aine Maher, Laoighseach Shortt, Siobhan Carrigan and Helena O'Rourke showing them the ropes.

Well done to all the Clara players who made county panels in 2020. These included Shane Staunton and Martin O'Connell as U20s, Conor Cody at minor, Harry Boyle, Rory Glynn, Ned Langton, Cian Kelly, Ben Crow and Séan Carrigan at U15 and Conor Hoyne at U14.



Newly acquired sponsor Eddie Langton presents Chairman Mick Prendergast with the new club jerseys flanked by vice captain Liam Ryan and captain Conor O Shea.



CONAHY SHAMROCKS

Conahy Shamrocks made history in 2020 by winning both the All-Ireland and County Junior Hurling Championships in what could be deemed reverse order.

The Parish of Conahy emptied once again on Sat, January 18th 2020 as players and supporters headed to Croke Park. Conahy Shamrocks dictated matters from the throw-in and were the dominant side for most of the game. Whenever Russell Rovers threatened, Conahy responded impressively. Conahy won all the individuals battles on a great afternoon for the club, running out comfortable 0-22 to 0-15 winners. In winning the title, the 2020 team emulated the feat of the 2008 team that defeated Moyle Rovers (Tipperary).

Conahy captain James Bergin led his team impressively all year and proudly ascended the steps of the Hogan Stand to receive the cup from GAA President John Horan. In winning the 2020 All-Ireland Junior Hurling title, Conahy became the first club to win the title for a second time.

In the county final against Dicksboro in UPMC Nowlan Park on Saturday, October 3rd Conahy's work ethic and never say die attitude saw them capture the title on a score of 3-14 to 0-19 after extra time. COVID-19 restrictions meant that only one hundred club supporters could attend the game, with many more eagerly watching proceedings via the streaming service at home.

In other on-field activity, the U19 hurlers captured the 'D' County title defeated Tullogher Rosbercon 3-14 to 2-12, while the senior footballers exited the championship in the first round losing 3-13 to 5-5 to Railyard.

Meanwhile, the underage programme was curtailed due to COVID-19. The Under-17 hurlers secured a league win over Dicksboro, but lost out to St. Martin's and Erin's, while Kilmacow were narrow winners in the first round of the Roinn B championship. The Under-15 hurlers were competitive throughout their league and championship games and won the League Shield Final overcoming Sliieverue 4-11 to 3-3. The Under-13 hurlers enjoyed a great year, reaching the County Final, but lost narrowly to St. Lachtain's on a score of 3-9 to 2-9. In the underage tournaments promoted by Conahy Shamrocks Bórd na NÓG, the Kevin Bergin tournament Shield Final was won by Erin's Own who defeating Conahy Shamrocks, while the main final went to St. Lachtain's, who got the better of Lisdowney. The final of the Jim Comerford tournament between St. Lachtain's & Tullaroan was a thrilling game, eventually won by St. Lachtain's.

During the first COVID-19 lockdown, Conahy Shamrocks members were to the fore supporting older residents in the Parish with the delivery of food, fuel and medicines. During that same period the club ran a very successful fund-raiser for Pieta House with participants running or walking various distances over a selected weekend.



Pietà Day in Conahy
(Ned, Louise & Anne Mulhall)



DANESFORT

Danesfort GAA and Camogie Club were pleased to have participated in hurling, Camogie and football campaigns during 2020. Unfortunately, being relegated in Senior hurling after a defeat to Graigue Ballycallan leaves us with much to do in 2021. Winning the County Championship for Junior C against the Emeralds gives strength and competitiveness to our second team, while remaining Senior in Football was received with great joy, though some might say we stayed Senior in the wrong code!

In Camogie, our adult team is Intermediate, remaining at that level for the year ahead in spite of a defeat in the shield final to St. Claire's. Other years would have seen us relegated to Junior, thankfully relegation wasn't on the agenda this year in Camogie.

For all teams at Juvenile level in Camogie we were competitive, reaching semifinals in Minor B versus Conaghy, U16B versus St Lachtains and U14B versus Mooncoin.

Juvenile teams in Hurling were disappointing, our Minor B's lost to Fenians in the first round. U15B lost to Piltown in a quarterfinal and U13A1 lost to Dunamaggin in a semifinal. We competed in a 13 a side U13B league and ran an U11 tournament under lights, an annual favourite for many clubs.

Covid 19 lockdown cut the season short for our U19B and U21A hurlers, our U21B Camogs and our U12 Camogie Mini-League. There is a slim chance that these teams may compete in Jan 2021 to finish out the season.

We look forward to better campaigns in 2021, notably a return to Senior Hurling and a strengthening of our Intermediate Camogie Team. Both endeavours will act as beacons for the rest of the club. Ar aghaidh linn le chéile.



Danesfort Footballers at Relegation Game v O'Loughlin Gaels

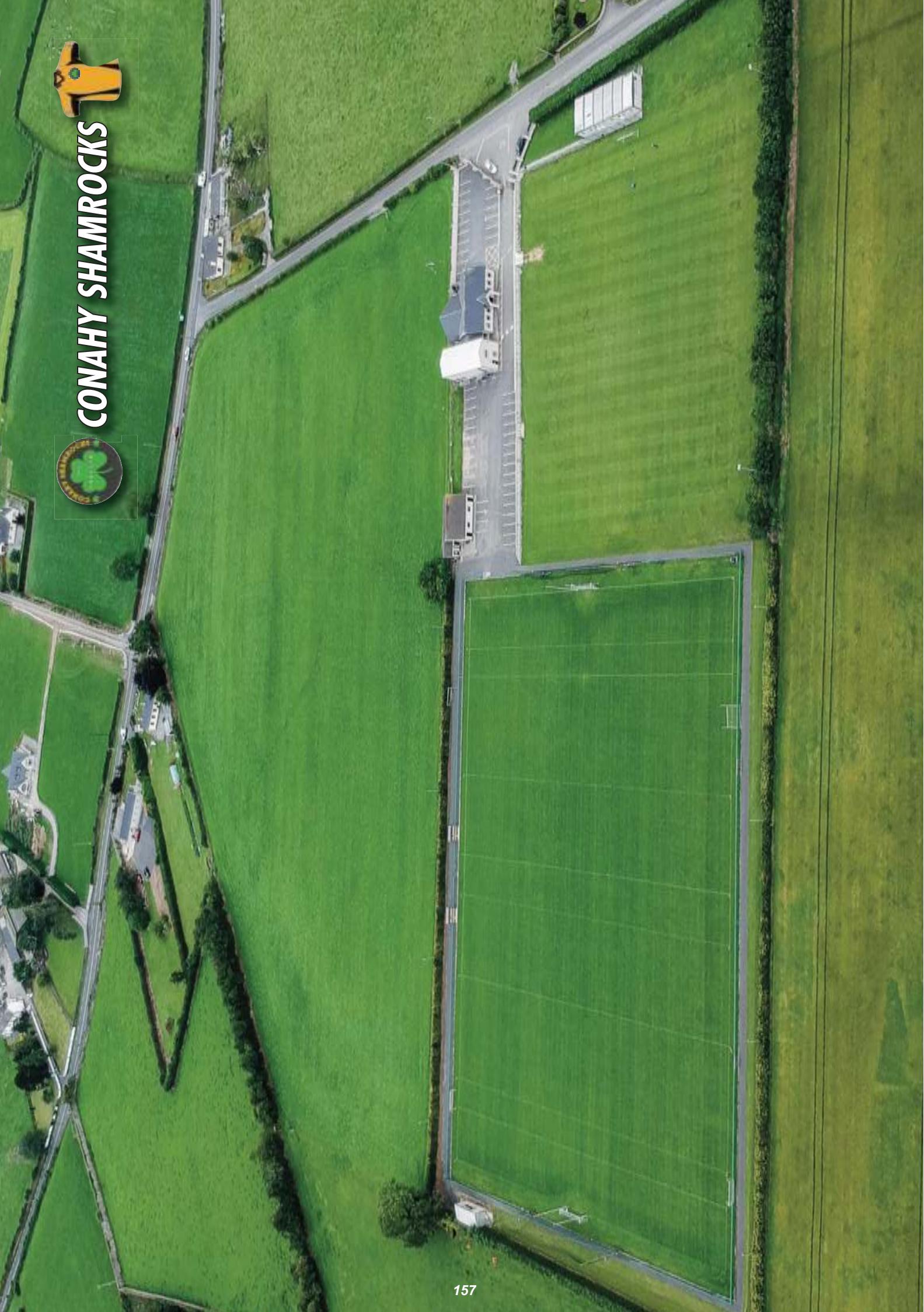


CLARA



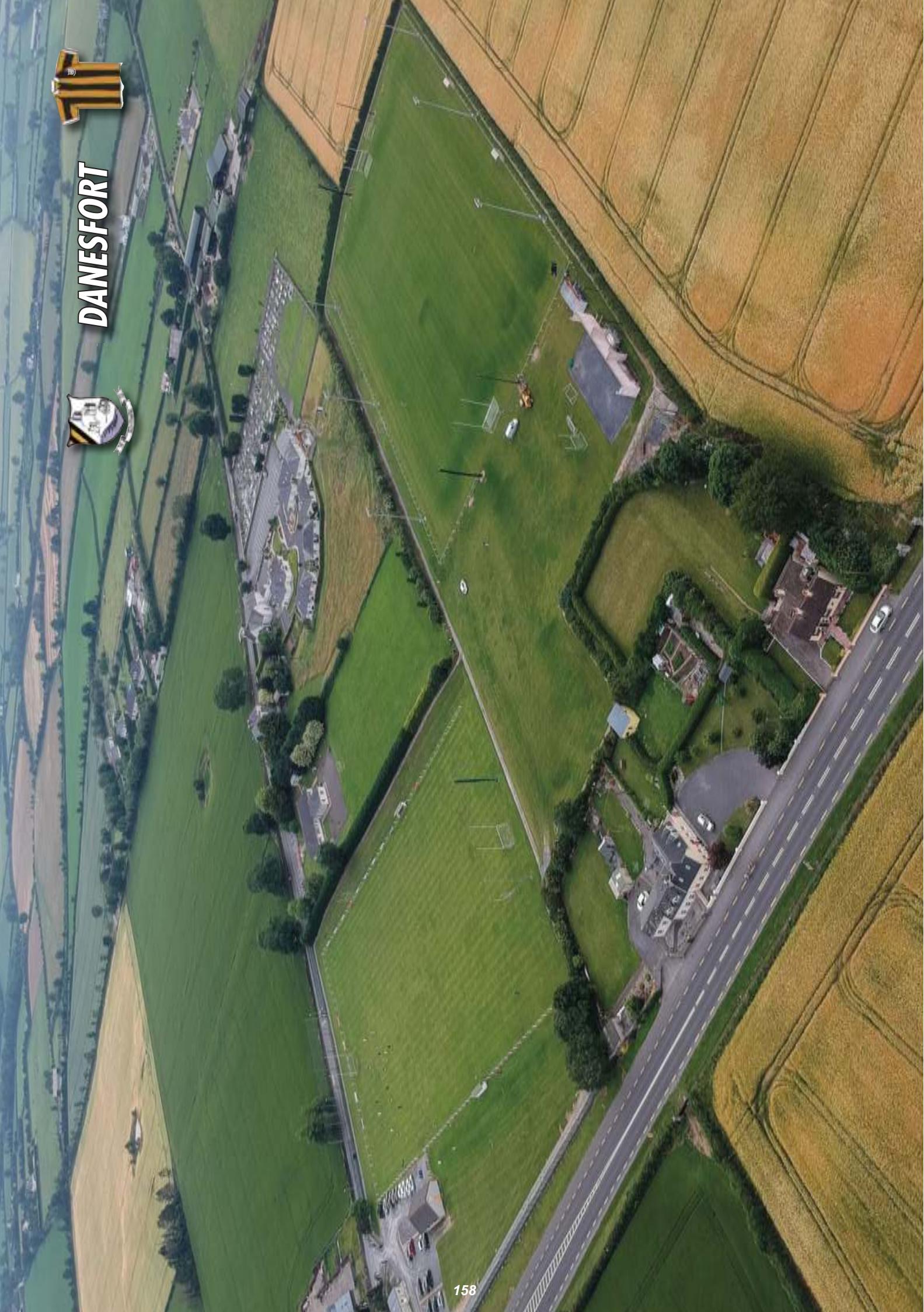


CONAHY SHAMROCKS





DANESFORT





DICKSBORO

New Ball Wall & Club Lotto Online: A new ball wall has been developed in Palmerstown for our next generation of Boro hurlers and with more development plans coming in the future we would ask each supporter to play the club lotto online if possible in this current time. We would like to thank all members and supporters for their continued support to the club.

Development Draw: Dicksboro Hurling club is entering an exciting new phase of development. In 2020 we are upgrading the ball wall and adding a mini astro pitch which is a fantastic addition to our facilities. In 2021 we hope to complete pitch drainage works and install new floodlighting. Following

on from there we want to expand our facilities in preparation for a significant population increase in the parish over the next 5-10 years. Taking inspiration from all those who have come before us, we will continue to work hard with fundraising to achieve all these development goals. We are very grateful to everyone who has supported the Club Lotto since it relaunched and we would ask you all to keep an eye out for the upcoming major fundraiser for the club this year, the "Dicksboro Development Draw: It takes a community effort to fulfil these dreams and it would not be possible without your continued support"

U6 The Boro U6's were presented with end of season medals & goodie bags by our victorious minor hurlers last Friday night. Thanks to all our coaches, parents & players for all their work. Lots of happy faces in the sunshine in Palmerstown as our current stars met the future ones

U11: The U11s won the Danesfort Floodlight Tournament after a cracking match with John Lockes of Callan. A very close match throughout which was played a very high standard. Well done to all involved and many thanks for Danesfort for organising.

Kitty Phelan: It was with great sadness we learn of the passing of Catherine (Kitty) Phelan this year. Kitty has had a long term association with all aspects of club life with Dicksboro GAA and more recently was instrumental with the running of the clubs weekly lotto.

Summer Camp 2020: The Dicksboro Summer Camp recommenced in bright sunshine on Tuesday August 18th after a rather wet start on Monday. The gathering of boys and girls enjoyed a mix of games and fun – with time for relaxation and food – all under the expert guidance of Niamh and Orla and their large group of assistants, not forgetting the help of the carpark assistants both morning and afternoon.

Club Matches Streamed: Thanks a million to Club Chairman Eddie Holohan & Boro man Ciaran Neary of Community Radio Kilkenny for their camera man & commentating skills on all Boro Senior and Junior games this year. We really appreciate all the work that went into getting the game streamed online. Boro supporters tuned in around the globe. Thanks lads

Junior E: Dicksboro Junior E Team made it to the Junior E final and special thanks to Boro corner forward Nigel Kenny of Hair by Nigel for sponsoring new jerseys for the lads!



New Mini Astro Pitch



DUNNAMAGGIN

Although it may have been a short and very strange year it was a hugely successful one for Dunnamaggan GAA both on and off the field. Our intermediate team went through their league unbeaten with victories over Lismore, Fenians and St. Martins to put them straight into the League final Vs Thomastown with Thomastown proving too strong on the day. A championship quarter final vs St. Lachlainns beckoned but they had too much for us on the day. The Junior A side went very well and they served up one of the games of the year in the quarter final Vs Mooncoin where they won out in extra time. They advanced to the Semi Final but met eventual winners Lismore who were victorious.

The Juvenile section of the club had a fantastic year with the U13, U15 & U17's all reaching their respective finals. The Minor team (Roynn B) overcame a first round defeat to Glenmore to win all their remaining league matches. They then overcame Graignamanagh (1st Rd), Graigue Ballycallan (1/4 final) and Glenmore in the Semi Final to set up a final against Bennettsbridge. A very strong wind on the day made a testing game for both teams but after a titanic battle Jimmy O'Neill lifted the trophy on behalf of his Dunnamaggan teammates. Our U15's (Roynn B) had good wins over Danesfort and Barrow Rangers but suffered a loss to Bennettsbridge in the League stages. Good wins over John Lockes (1st Rd), St. Patricks (1/4 Final) and Piltown in the Semi Final setup a rematch against Bennettsbridge in the Final. The lads played superbly and led the game going into the final quarter but Bennettsbridge finished strong and sealed the win. Our U13's, having reached the Co final last year were playing in Roynn A1 this year. They suffered league defeats to Danesfort and Gowran but overcame Thomastown. They performed very well against Piltown in their first-round game to progress to a semi against Danesfort. They were really focused on overturning the earlier league defeat and dispatched Danesfort in a trilling game to set up a County Final against Gowran. In a very nervous and tense game where both sides missed chances, it was not until the last quarter that Gowran pushed ahead to claim the trophy.

Off the field our programme of development continued. Our training field and dressing rooms in Kilmoganny are now totally completed which allowed for the redevelopment of our juvenile pitch. It has now had state of the art LED floodlights installed and has been retrained and levelled to a very high standard. This redevelopment could not have taken place without the support of our members of all our fundraising activities especially our Lotto syndicate draw which was again well supported this year. Thank you.

Ray Cody Senior was our oldest club member and a dedicated supporter of the club. We all have fond memories of Ray, none more so than that magical night when he walked the All-Ireland Junior trophy back to the village flanked by his grandsons and the rest of the team.



Our juvenile pitch in Dunnamaggan was redeveloped this year. It has now had state of the art LED floodlights installed and had been drained and leveled to a very high standard.



EMERALDS

The Junior team had one win and two losses in the League and were drawn against Windgap in the 1st round of the Championship. After a convincing performance they came out winners in what was a very tough physical game. The quarter final draw pitted them against hot favourites Tullamore Roscommon. Although going in as underdogs, they were well prepared under coach Maurice Nelligan and team management Liam Coady, Paul Kavanagh, Austin Cleere. Storming from the throw in, Emeralds gave an inspiring all round team performance and in what was a thrilling game, came out winners. Again the dice was cast and the semi finals saw them take on last years All Ireland Champions, Conahy Shamrocks. In the opening half Emeralds were in the attack, led by Connor Martin. Emeralds backs held strong against a talented set of Conahy forwards, but eventually let up when Conahy slipped through to goal. Emeralds midfielder, young Sean Burke answered immediately with a cracker shot past the Conahy goalkeeper. Emeralds slipped back a little after half time and Conahy dominated this quarter, but their never say die attitude was evident throughout and the management introduced subs Johnny Doyle, Jamie Ryan which added strength in the final 20 minutes.

Although showing great determination right to the end, they unfortunately were unlucky in missing goal chances. They have grown as a team unit and will no doubt be stronger in 2021.

Our Junior C team showed massive improvement by reaching what was a hotly contested County Final against Danesfort. Again they gave a great team performance right to the final whistle but unfortunately were just 2 points behind. Selectors-Shane Pollard, Jimmy Tobin, Ramie Moriarty.

On a County level, we had Derek Lyng as Kilkenny U20s Manager, Eoin Moriarty u15 Development Squad selector. Sean Burke selected on the U19 Development Squad, Kilian Doyle at Minor (also St. Kieran's Junior Player of the Year and Junior Leinster medalist), Darragh Quigley, Kieran Cleere, Alex Burke U16s, Michael Ahern, Oisin Deegan, Jimmy Cleere U15s.

At club level at underage we reached the Minor and U13 semi final and the U15 quarter final.

"Drive in Bingo" for over 10 weeks was hit of the year!. Aidan Taggy Fogarty was a finalist in "Dancing with the Stars". A new wall will be erected this winter and the club have applied for planning permission to upgrade the walking track with new lighting and railings.



Centre forward Conor Martin who excelled in freetaking all year.



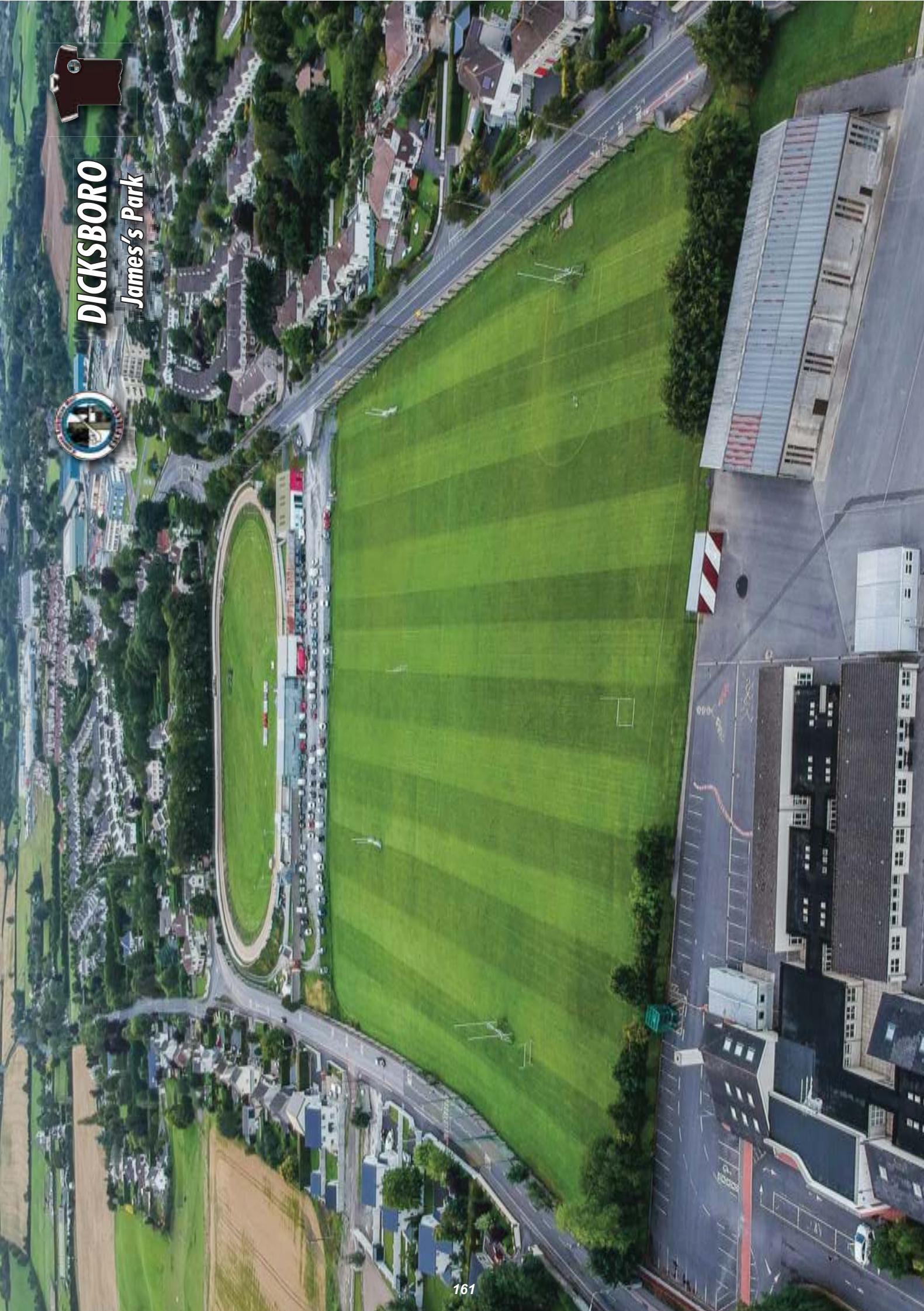
DICKSBORO
Palmerstown





DICKSBORO

James's Park





DUNMORE



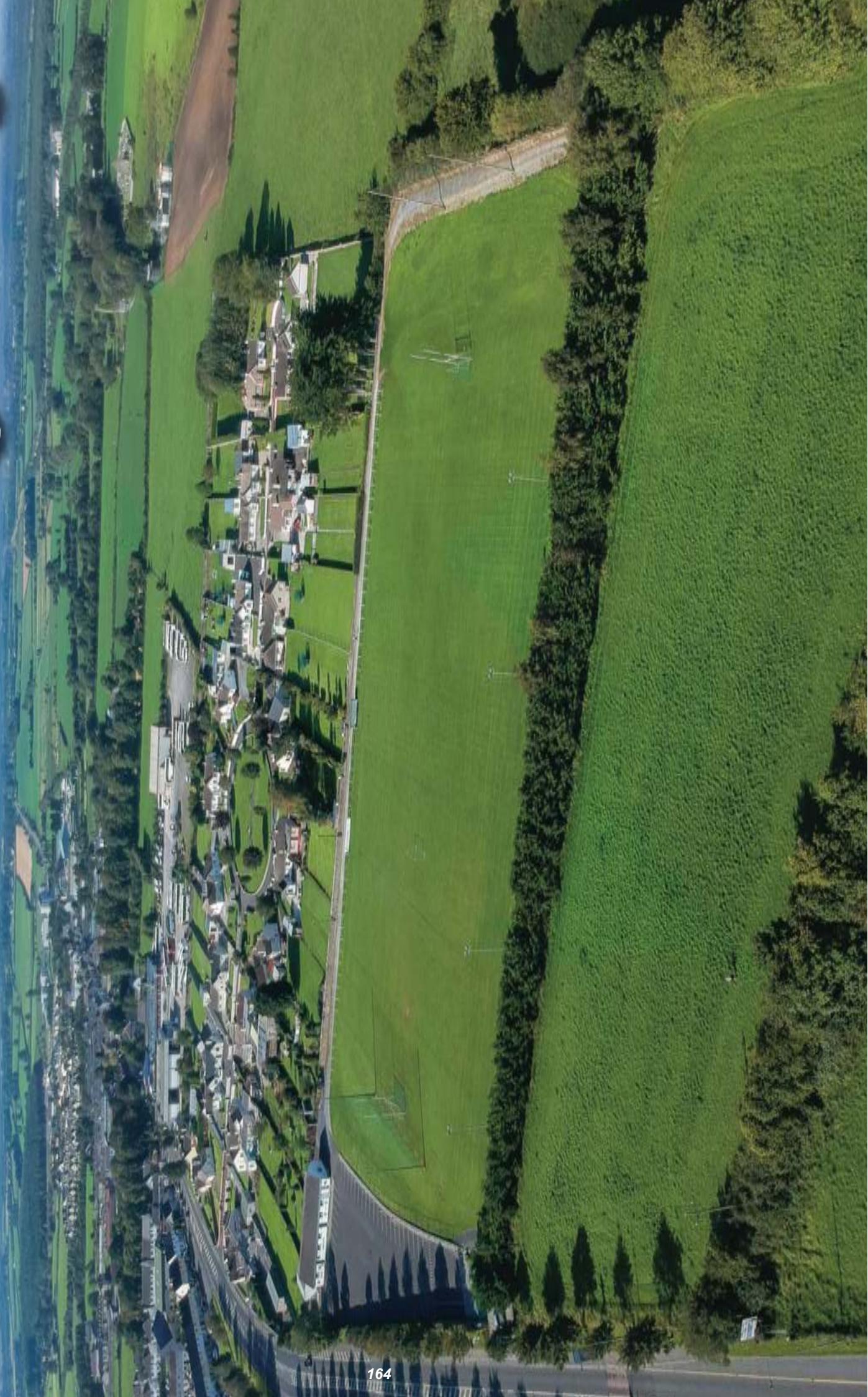


DUNNAMAGGIN





EMERALDS





ERIN'S OWN

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass but learning to dance in the rain. 2020 is for sure the rarest of years that none of us have had the misfortune to go through in modern times. On the 27th March all our lives were turned upside down. Our grounds closed, our movement restricted and close contact stopped. Throughout this time, club efforts turned to the community and our Covid support team rallied by helping the elderly and cocooned across the parish with food and medicine deliveries, with the lotto, to help setup the link for mass online and also the odd chat or phone call just to perk up the spirits. Our grounds too needed care and great support was provided by our maintenance committee to have both of our grounds in pristine condition – but still no sport. Fundraising cancellations across the board and our Kilkenny Outdoor Festival fell victim as did our Lotto and Golf Classic. Balancing the books was no longer a priority. Skype and Zoom became the strange cocktail that provided enjoyment across the country with teammates, families and friends partaking in regular quizzes and competitions to pass the time and keep the social contact going. The weeks passed by and no ball was pucked in our grounds but a chink of light appeared when on June 8th walkways were opened but pitches remained closed. On June 24th non-contact training re-commenced with challenge matches a few days later. Sometimes sport can provide a cure that no doctor can prescribe. We were prepared and ready with all the new protocols in place supported by our team of Covid officers. What followed over the next couple of months was a blessing, and everyone, on and off the pitch, played their part by registering for each training or match to ensure contact tracing was secure. It became the new norm for us and everyone was just happy to be playing again. Supporter access to matches was limited, which was truly disappointing but in reality, understanding. Technology became a friend of many and local matches were beamed to homes each weekend.

The purpose of the on pitch battle fell away by comparison to the battle off. Thanks you to the frontline staff for what they have had to endure these past few months. Big thanks to all our club officers, members and sponsors who helped out in any small way during this difficult time. Deepest condolences to members, family, and friends who have suffered loss. Heartiest congratulations to all who have celebrated success both on and off the pitch in sport, life, love or education. Working together in a strong community with a shared goal and a common purpose can make the impossible possible. Roll on 2021.



A Sign of the Times



FENIANS

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Fenians first senior hurling championship win on the 4th of October 1970. It is hoped the club will get the chance to honour these legendary Fenian men when things return to normal.

With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Fenians GAA Club strived to play their part with the establishment of the Fenians Community Support group, where volunteers in the club made numerous phone-calls and deliveries to ensure that all in our community were looked after and kept safe during the nationwide lockdown. The club would like to thank all those who played their part.

The club would also like to thank our members, supporters, club officers, club coaches, club selectors, and support staff at all levels for their excellent ongoing work this year. Thanks also to our main sponsors Ray McCarthy Electrical and MW Hire Services for their continued support.

Fundraising: The "Fenians Get Active" fundraiser on the May Bank Holiday weekend, raised funds for Carlow/Kilkenny Homecare Team. Special thanks to organisers Séan Brennan and Willie Brennan and all who got active and donated.

Another highlight was the arrival of Fenians Drive-in Bingo. Every Friday the club welcomes over 130 cars to the field raising much needed funds for the club. This fundraiser could not happen without the trojan work of Jennifer and Marguerite Dermody and helpers. A big thank you also to Billy Fitzpatrick and helpers for the continued success of the Fenians Golf Classic.

Intermediates: At intermediate level we welcomed a new manager Jimmy Brennan and new trainer Owen Casey. Great effort was put in by all, both on and off the field but, while results unfortunately did not go our way, the commitment made by all could not be faulted. Our intermediate status was maintained with a terrific performance full of fighting Fenian spirit.

Juniors: Fenians Junior C's hMartin's excellent prospects for the future in their ranks, fought hard, beating Danesfort in the 1st round before losing out to Glenmore in the quarter-finals.

Our U-15s, despite having only three players on the age, overcame Mooncoin in the quarter-final and had a big win over James Stephens in the semi-final, before losing gallantly by two points to Glenmore in the final. A good campaign was had by our U-13s where they reached the semi-final stage, losing out to Bennettsbridge.

Another addition to the calendar for 2020 was a return to Sunday morning "Young Starters" coaching sessions which proved to be a big hit with Primary School children and their Parents. Big thanks to Geraldine/ John/JJ/Tony/Ann-Marie and Paul. Several games were also organised during the season and each team competed very well.

A special thanks to Paul Phelan, Fintan Garrett, Oliver Sharkey and all the coaches and mentors who helped out throughout the year.



Fenians Get Active Fundraiser



GALMOY

As with all other clubs, 2020 was a year like no other for Galmoy GAA Club. The year began with great hope as our Junior Hurlers began to train in mid January. Our biggest annual fundraiser, our Parish Auction, was fixed for Sunday February 9th and, with a huge continuous effort right through the month of January, the auction, now in its 21st year, was another great success. Storm Brendan left his mark on our facilities on January 13th

, but our hard working committee carried out the necessary repairs with the minimum of fuss. March 12th brought a halt to our Club Activities, but the ability of human beings to adapt to circumstance is amazing. This was demonstrated by the movement to online communication by our players to train individually yet compete and communicate with their colleagues on a daily basis. In April, our Club took on a new challenge when everyone did their bit for the "Do it for Dan" campaign as Galmoy GAA Club "Went to Ibiza" with a tremendous fundraising drive spearheaded by Club goalkeeper Joe D'Arcy raising over €5,500. Eventually, June 25th arrived and our players resumed training under the guidance of P J Delaney & Cathal Delahunt. With nobody going on holidays , attendance at training was excellent for the remainder of the summer. After a few challenge games, the season began in earnest with an impressive win in our first competitive game on July 24th. Each game brought its own off field excitement as clubs now had to allot tickets to supporters who wished to attend. And so the games rolled on in quick succession until, before we knew it, we were playing our Championship first round on September 6th , when , after a creditable performance, we were eventually overcome by a determined Mooncoin side.

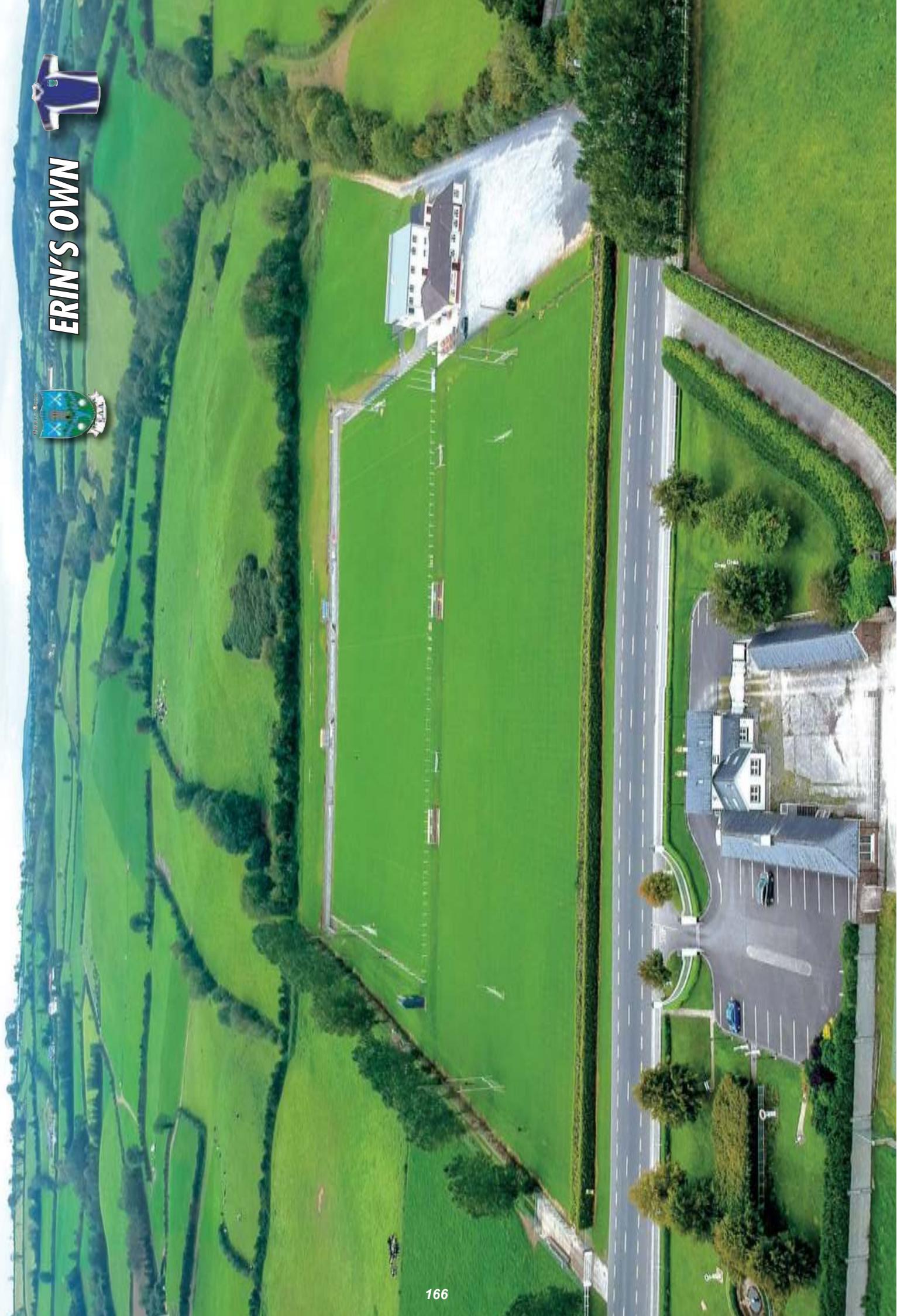
Our underage players also saw plenty of action throughout July , August and early September. The performances of our Galmoy/Windgap Minor team gave great satisfaction to our followers as they progressed to the Roinn A County semi final for the second year in succession. Our amalgamated teams continue to provide much needed game time for our teenage players. Leinster and All Ireland Handball titles were also proudly returned to our small club in North Kilkenny. As Autumn progressed, attention turned to the Hurler's Co-Op Draw and supporters once again dug deep in support of the club as we make plans for 2021 with the hope of seeing our players safely partaking in our traditional games once more.



Hardworking club members taking a well earned teabreak from timber felling for our Club Auction in January.
Left to Right: David Fogarty, Pat Glendon, Frank Grace, Joe Phelan, Brendan Sherman, Conor Drennan & David Sherman.



ERIN'S OWN



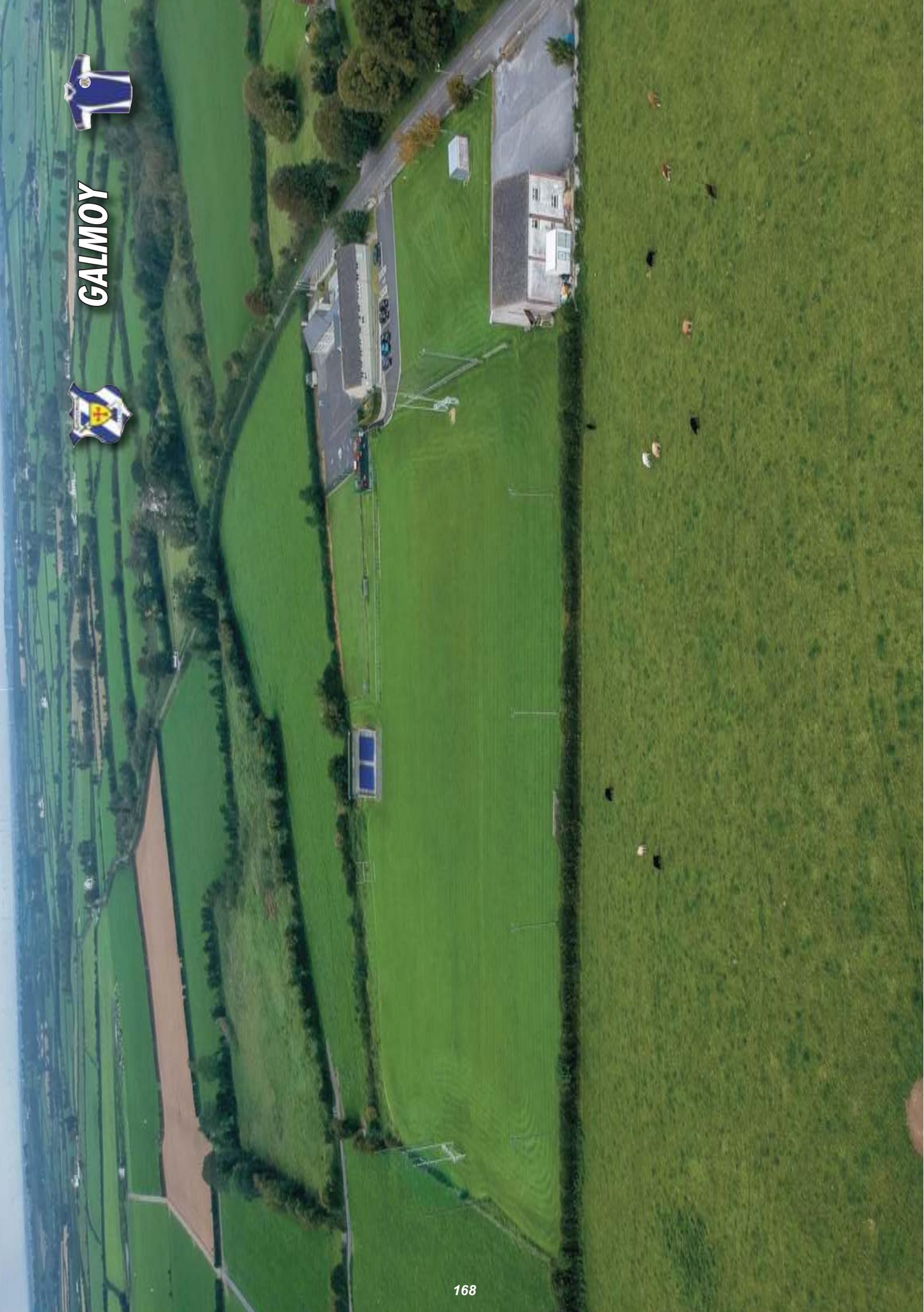


FENIANS





GALMOY



GLENMORE



The highlight of our year was the club winning the under 15 C Championship in a thrilling final against the Fenians. In a perfect pitch in Dunmore we ran out winners on a scoreline of 2-10 to 1-11. Earlier in the competition they had beaten Carrickshock, Ballyhale & mooncoin in the league & Emeralds & Freshford in the Championship. Congratulations to the players & the management team led by Paul Coghlan.

Our Intermediates had a good league campaign in the new format, drawing with Thomastown & following this up with solid wins over Ballyraggett & O'Loughlins. We finished 2nd in the group, leading us to a championship quarter final and a shield final versus Lisdowney which turned out to be a disappointing loss. On to the championship, with an exciting win over St Martins after extra time. The team showed some good promise especially in the extra time period. We faced Lisdowney again in the County Semi Final. The team gave everything on the day but came up just short on the day with a one point defeat. Some new young playerd were blooded & we look forward to next season's campaign with optimism.

There was no Junior B league this year – the team went straight into the championship & beat St Martins in the first round. We lost to our neighbours Tulloher by the bare minimum in the next round and it was season over. We hope to have the players & commitment to field a 3rd team next year, the first time in many years.

Our minors had some great battles in the B grade, beating Dunnamaggin, Piltown & Kilmacow in the League, qualifying for the Quarter Final. They beat the Fenians & went on to play eventual Championship winners Dunnamaggin in the semi final. Glenmore had a strong second half showing but had let themselves too much to do after being outhurled in the first half by the opposition.

Our under 13's competed in the A grade this year, beating John Lockes & losing to Mooncoin & Piltown in the League. We lost to a strong Danesfort outfit in the Championship.

Despite an initial bleak outlook due to Covid, our teams from under six to under twelve got in lots of training and challenge matches & all the juvenile players made the most of the season.

Overall, across all the grades, there were certainly more X's in the Win Column than the Lost Column for the club. Thanks to all Coaches & Mentors for their efforts & the players who tried their hearts out.

On the development side, we completed a fantastic 400 seater Stand in our complex. We also put some finishing touches to our four dressing rooms which look great in the clubs colours – we thank all involved in this work and all fundraising during the year. Finally our thoughts & prayers are with all past players & mentors who passed away in 2020.



Glenmore Captain Padraig Cody with under 15 Roinn C trophy also John Byrne.

GRAIGNAMANAGH



At a well attended AGM of the Club back in January, the seeds were sown for what was hoped to be a very successful year for the Club. Little then did we know what lay ahead for us then and continues to do so to this day. Training commenced in February for all age groups under our newly updated floodlighting system which has proved a great asset to the Club and all sessions were well attended from U7 level right up to our

Adult Teams. Huge progress was also made as we opened our new Club Gym in the Clubrooms which got great usage and all the signs were good that 2020 would be a successful year for the club. Challenge Matches had started in early March and it was all systems go. Then came Lockdown which affected the whole country but in rural Ireland it seemed to hit harder as the GAA which is the core of our society was snatched from us and locks were put on the gates to Dr. Tierney Park which was very tough for everyone. It was an especially sad time for Graignamanagh GAA Club as we made far too many trips to the graveyard and Guards of Honour to say our last farewell to so many great supporters of the Club (see bereavements section for tribute to one of our founding members in 1953 and 1st Secretary John Bolger). Unfortunately that trend continued and 2020 will be remembered here for the sad tragedies it bestowed on our beautiful town and community.

July came and everyone was buzzing as the return to train and to play became a reality. Our Junior Team showed initial promise despite an early League defeat to eventual Champions Conahy Shamrocks with 2 well earned wins against Galway and Kilmacow which set us up for a Championship game against Blacks & Whites. A disappointing defeat to our fellow parishioners ended the year but there was enough signs that better days lie ahead for these youngsters. Our Junior C Team bowed out against Shamrocks Ballyhale at the 1/4 Final Stage. Thankfully also at Under Age level we have a great bunch of youngsters and coaches who strive to better the Club and will do in the near future. On the playing front we had some great wins throughout the summer but unfortunately we came up against very strong opposition in the Championship. It is great to see the appetite for many of our under age teams to continue to train under current guidelines.

Like other Clubs, 2020 has proved a very challenging year on a financial front with most of our fundraising like our local Lotto significantly impacted. We recently ran 2 successful Drive In Bingo's and thank greatly all who supported us in the Kilkenny GAA Hurlers Co-Op Draw where we sold over 500 tickets and funds will help up us to further develop our playing facilities. We thank as always Doran's SuperValu who has been our Club Sponsor for many years. As 2020 draws to a close we as a Club reflect on what has been a challenging year on many fronts but we look forward to 2021 with optimism where plans are already in place to bring success back to the town and the community.



Socially Distanced Graignamanagh U9s

GRAIGUE BALLYCALLAN



Senior Hurling:

After a disappointing start to the Senior hurling calendar GBC found themselves in a relegation final against Danesfort. This was never going to be an easy task but the GBC men would hurl some of their best hurling of the year to see off Danesfort and secure Senior hurling status for 2021

Junior A Hurling : Our Junior A's were delighted to reach the Championship final. With good wins over James Stephens, Tullaroan and O'Loughlin Geals, they would meet a very strong Lisdowney team in the final. Injuries coming into and during the final didn't help GBC but on the day Lisdowney were too strong.

Under-age Hurling:

Under 17 Hurling: GBC Under 17s faced into our first League/Championship game against the Emeralds. Second day out they faced the Fenians. The quarter final was not so kind, being paired with eventual Championship winners Dunnamaggin.

Under 15 Hurling: GBC Under 15s reached the Roinn A Hurling League and Championship Finals but were met on both occasions by a strong James Stephens team. A very good Championship saw them have wins over Erins Own, O'Loughlin Geals, Tulloher Rosbercon and Dicksboro.

Under 13 Hurling: Our Under 13 team had a good year reaching the B League Final but were beaten on the day by Tulloher Rosbercon. In the Championship they suffered heart break in the Quarter final losing in the last puck of the game against Clara.

Under 7s, 9s & 11s: GBCs Under 7s, 9s and 11s enjoyed as much time as they could this year training and playing matches. We hope to get our young stars back into Tom Ryall Park as soon as possible in 2021 to catch up on lost time.

Covid Officers: Special thanks to all our Covid Officers for all their efforts in ensuring safe environment for all in Tom Ryall Park during 2020.

Club Development:

Developments to the clubhouse have continued during 2020 and to date the following has been completed:

- New roof on the clubhouse
- Six ball-stopping nets erected
- New grass mower purchased



Simon Cleere enjoys live-streaming of one of our games.



GLENMORE

Páirc na Rathá



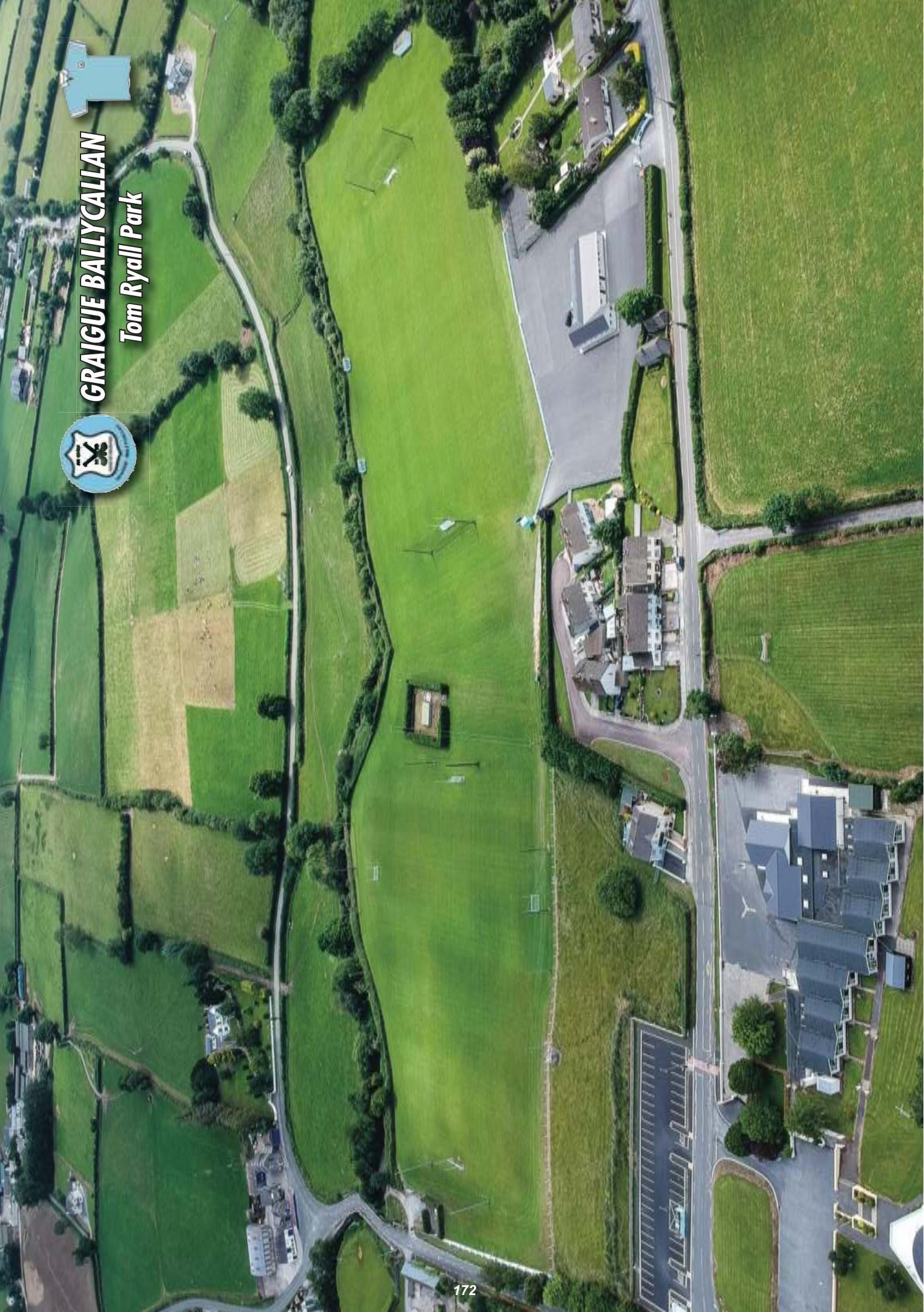


GRAIGUENAMANAGH
Dr Tierney Park





GRAIGUE BALLYCALLAN
Tom Ryall Park





JAMES STEPHENS

Martin Phelan (Juvenile chairman), Tobias White, Richie Cody (Juvenile secretary), Dermot Grogan, and Seamus 'Sheasky' Maguire.

Here are a few snapshots we like to call 'passing on the skills.' Six of our club coaches along with children and family members.

In a year that saw less activity than any other time in the last half century in our club, one of the constants has been our juvenile coaching. When permitted under CoVid rules our juvenile coaching and games programme has continued.

We held a tremendous club Summer Camp in August organised by Shane Campion and Matthew Ruth. Much credit for the success of our camp is due to the many parents/guardians and coaches who ensured everybody had a wonderful week in late July after the lockdown.

It was one of many events that the very busy juvenile section organised for our young players this year. Credit must go to them for their decision to divide the u13 panel for the past two years. Many more players are getting very good game opportunities in addition to winning back to back u13 championships.

In a year when most activity has been shut down, we thank your Lotto and Hurlers Co-Op committees who have continued to help provide a revenue stream for our club. In early Summer the biggest ever Club Lotto win was won by the Costello family, Wallslough.

Unfortunately our clubrooms have been closed for a long time and we were unable to facilitate local groups who, down the years, have generated huge funds for local charities and good causes.



Passing on the Skills



JOHN LOCKES

As the New Year dawned and committee members and coaches made plans for the year ahead, the optimism in the club was palpable, validated somewhat at the start of January when the club was chosen to host the Senior

hurlers from Wexford and Kilkenny for the Walsh Cup Semi Final. A huge crowd descended upon John Locke Park, and as usual the pitch was in pristine condition for what proved an exciting pre-season duel between the two sides.

The Lockes Intermediate Hurlers, under the stewardship of John O'Neill, were back in action early having chosen to take part in the Leinster GAA Chadwicks 2020 Club Hurling League. Encounters with St. Martins and Glynn Barntown of Wexford, and Mullivant proved a great opportunity to get game time for players and try out a few new things. Happy with the team performances the Management team were quietly confident and looking forward to the challenges that lay ahead. As we headed towards March our underage teams were also getting back into the swing of things, but unfortunately that was to be short lived, with COVID-19 literally bringing the entire world to a standstill soon after. March was also a particularly difficult time

for everyone in John Lockes with the passing of our true and trusted friend Davy Kelly. Davy touched the lives of every man, women and child who ever walked through the gates of John Locke Park, and his legacy will endure for many years to come.

After months of lockdown, our Intermediate hurlers did not see action again until August. Unfortunately, after a disappointing league campaign, and an unfortunate first round championship defeat to St. Lachlain's, the Lockes men found themselves facing a relegation semi-final against Fenians in early September. Showing their true passion and determination, the Lockes men came out fighting, and led from start to finish, confirming their place at the Intermediate grade for another year.

It was the end of June before our Juvenile hurlers were able to pick up where they left off in March, but it was great to be back on the field, and despite the interruption it ended up being a very enjoyable and successful season for all players from U-7 up to Minor level. Silverware may have eluded them, but in competitive games our U-11, U-13, U-15 and Minors did their club proud, and proved that the future is bright for John Lockes.



John Lockes U-9 Hurlers 2020



KILMACOW

"2020 will be remembered in Kilmacow GAA as being the year that the club finally realised its ambition of providing a second playing field to cater for the growing numbers of GAA players within the club. The Development Fund Syndicate initiated in 2019 and supported by our fantastic community paved the way for the completion of the project, and the pitch will now be ready for use towards the latter end of the 2021 season. This is a huge step forward for the club."

2020 will also be remembered for the spirit of cooperation and resilience our members showed in coping with the challenges faced by the Covid-19 pandemic. All our teams from adult to nursery sections dealt with all the challenges posed by the virus with positivity and a willingness to endure. Great credit in 2020, more so than any year, is due to the club coaches for dealing with the additional challenges and obstacles that the pandemic brought to the field. 2021 will bring its own challenges, but they will be faced down and overcome, and we look forward to a new year which brings, as always, new opportunities on the playing field for all our teams."



Pitch Before

Pitch After



JAMES STEPHENS

Páirc Sheamuis Stiofáin





JAMES STEPHENS

Larchfield



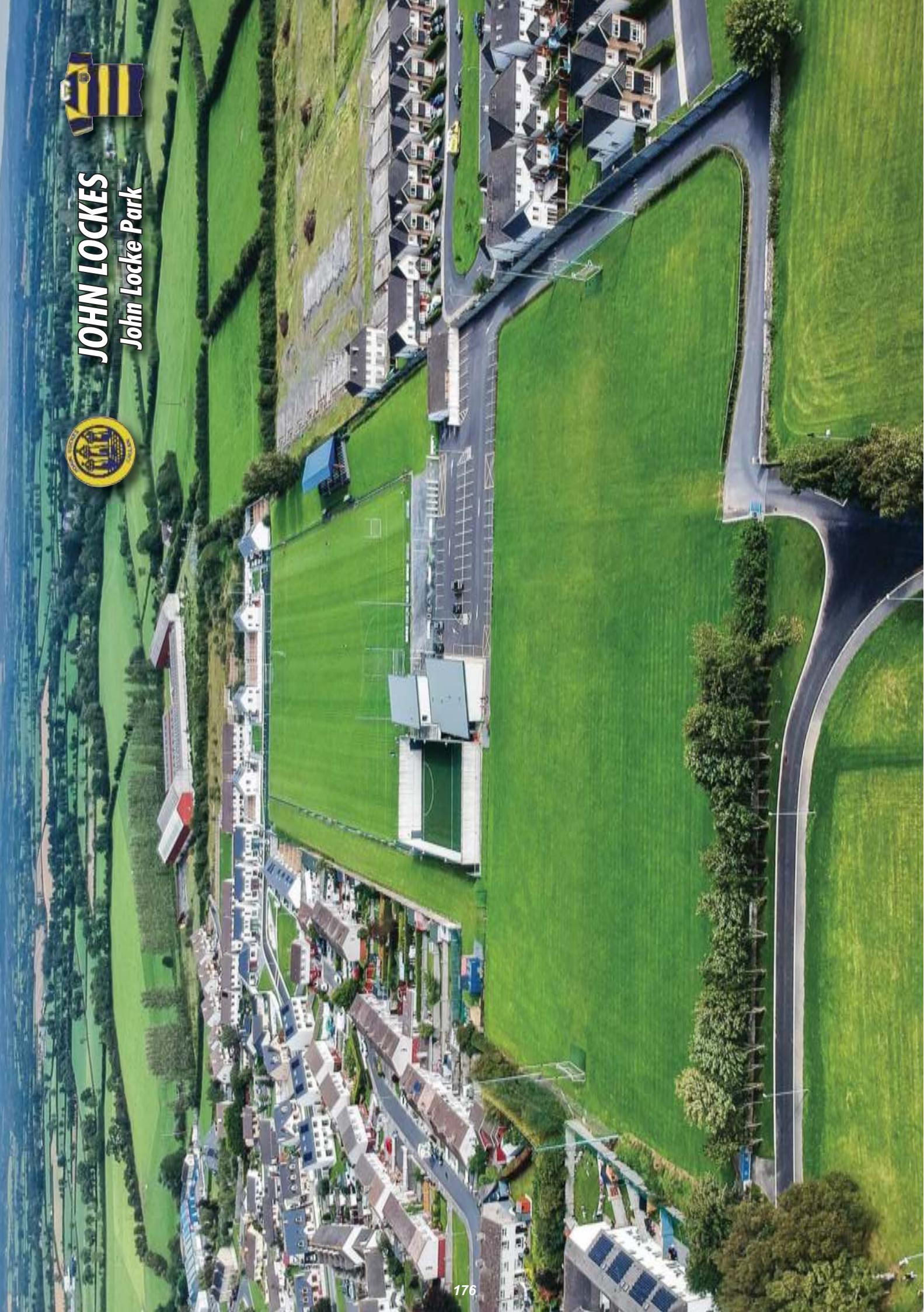
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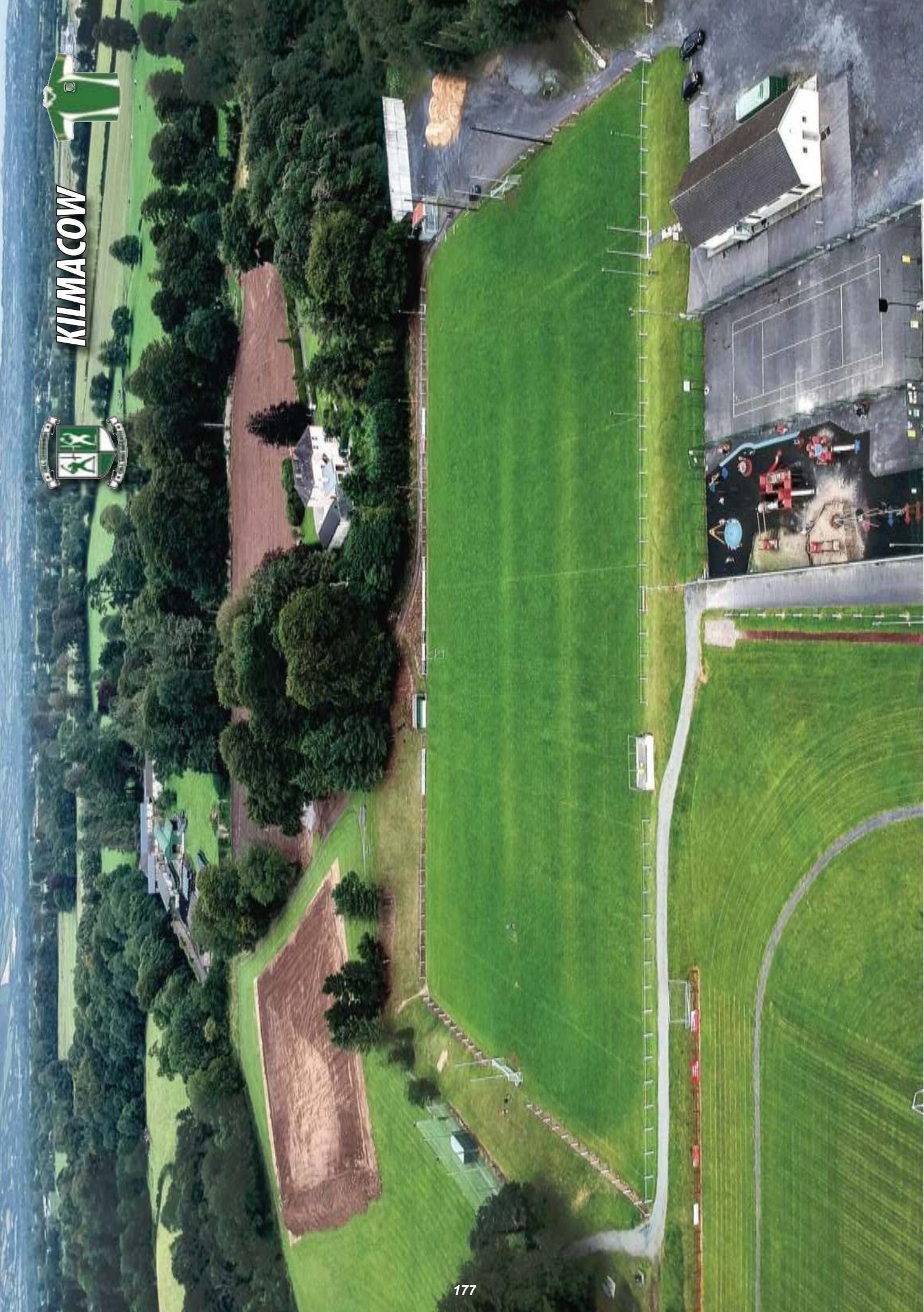
JOHN LOCKES

John Locke Park





KILMACOW





KILMOGANNY



LISDOWNEY



The return of GAA action post-lockdown 2020, was always going to have a positive impact on communities right around the country. However, none could have predicted the success and coinciding joy that awaited Lisdowney GAA club.

The adult players had a successful start to 2020, topping their group in the Intermediate football league. Unfortunately, they fell short in the first round of the championship against Glenmore, and the Football season was ended before lockdown had even started.

The return to action saw Lisdowney come quick out of the traps. The Junior A team showed their class right from the off, beating Carrickshock in the first round.

The Junior E side were also showing great promise throughout pre-season and won convincingly against Danesfort in the first round of the championship. The margin of victory put them straight through to the semi-final, where a poor first half proved their undoing as they lost out to Dicksboro by 2 points.

After an unbeaten run of challenge games for our Intermediates, the mood was dampened when Lisdowney fell well short against Dunnamaggin in the first round of the Intermediate Hurling League. The lads recovered, going on to beat St. Lachtains and Young Irelands to reach the shield final, in which they overpowered an understrength Glenmore side.

In the meantime, the Junior As swept aside further challenges of Thomastown, Dunnamaggin and finally Graigue Ballycallan to lift the Junior A cup, bridging an 11-year gap since their promotion to the grade.

Lisdowney's Intermediates again beat Young Irelands and Glenmore in the 1/4 final and 1/2 final respectively before advancing to UPMC Nowlan Park for the final on the Sat 26th of September versus Thomastown. In arguably the most exciting county final ever, Lisdowney came out on top after a last-minute equaliser, a 5-point extra-time comeback and finally sudden death penalties. Overwhelming joy ensued as Lisdowney finally returned to the senior ranks.

In a shortened underage season, Lisdowney managed also to reach the Minor C final. They came up short on the day to some very talented Tullaroan hurlers, however the Lisdowney lads put in a savage year and showed plenty of promise as they progress on to the adult ranks.

Our U15s had a tough time in the group against the Village and Dicksboro B sides before losing out to Mooncoin in the first round of the championship, whilst the U13s went down to a strong Tullogher Rosbercon side at the quarter final stage. The U19s are still in the group stages of their competition whilst the U21s will be hoping to push on from last years Roynn B success with a push for the A title at the end of the year.



Jubilation! Jos Bergin Chairperson and Teresa Mc Ginn Physio, Lisdowney



It is safe to say that 2020 did not turn out the way anyone expected. If someone had said this time last year that our club would be selling branded facemasks in 2020 you would have been laughed at! Early in the year, plans were being made, training was progressing nicely for our four adult teams, camogie and numerous juvenile teams (the club has nearly 500 adult and 180 Juvenile members). Then, in a relatively short period of a few weeks in the middle of March, everything came to a standstill. Not only had all training stopped across the board, but eventually our club gym, shop, AstroTurf, and popular walkway had to close for over two months, which of course affected the wider Mooncoin parish community. But all these actions were required to fight the dreaded virus.

However, in face of this adversary, the Mooncoin GAA community came to the fore. Many club members volunteered to deliver shopping and supplies to those who weren't comfortable leaving home. The Juvenile section made fun online workbooks and skills exercises for their young members. Then on 8th/9th May, in the middle of lockdown, families from every corner of the parish took part in the #Run4Pieta Challenge. Each family 'bubble' ran in their own area at set time slots. An amazing €7,490 was raised. A few weeks later, participants from the club took part in the 'My Life GAA Healthy Club Steps Challenge' and managed to finish in an incredible 5th place of all the clubs in Leinster, with an average daily step count of 366,149 steps.

At the beginning of July, a major infrastructural change took place at the club grounds. A new, separate entrance and exit was opened facing onto Main Street, opposite Howley's. In the coming year, it is hoped to finish the new club ground entrance with landscaping and the erection of a statue commemorating Mooncoin hurling icon 'Drug' Walsh.

One unanticipated benefit of the compressed club season that kicked off in July was the quick turnaround of games. The players got to meet their friends after a long lockdown with games coming thick and fast. Unfortunately there was no success for our adult teams although the margins were very tight; the players can hold their heads up high. We are grateful for our club 'techies' who were able to stream the games on Facebook for the club supporters unable to attend due to restrictions. A new experience for all. Roll on 2021!



Members of the club Social Committee - Margaret Phelan presented a cheque for 7490 to Olive Ruane from Pieta House



It was an early start for our senior and junior football leagues and neither made it to the closing stages.

Muckalee was the venue for the quarter finals of the Championships. Mooncoin were victorious in the senior and Tullaroan in the junior. Muckalee were competitive in both games.

Martin FitzPatrick passed away this year, having played for many years he was on the junior football winning teams in 1947 and 1953.

Sponsorship

Special thanks to our team sponsor Jim Bolger and to all those that helped the club in any way this year

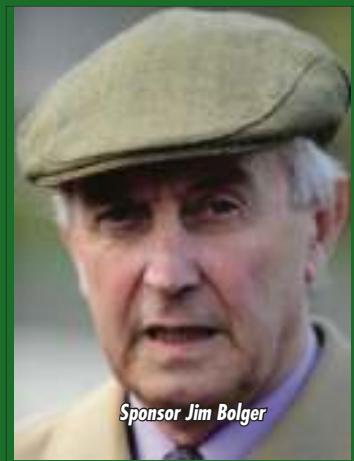
Bereavements

The Club would like to extend sympathies to all club members who suffered bereavements during the year.

MUCKALEE GFC



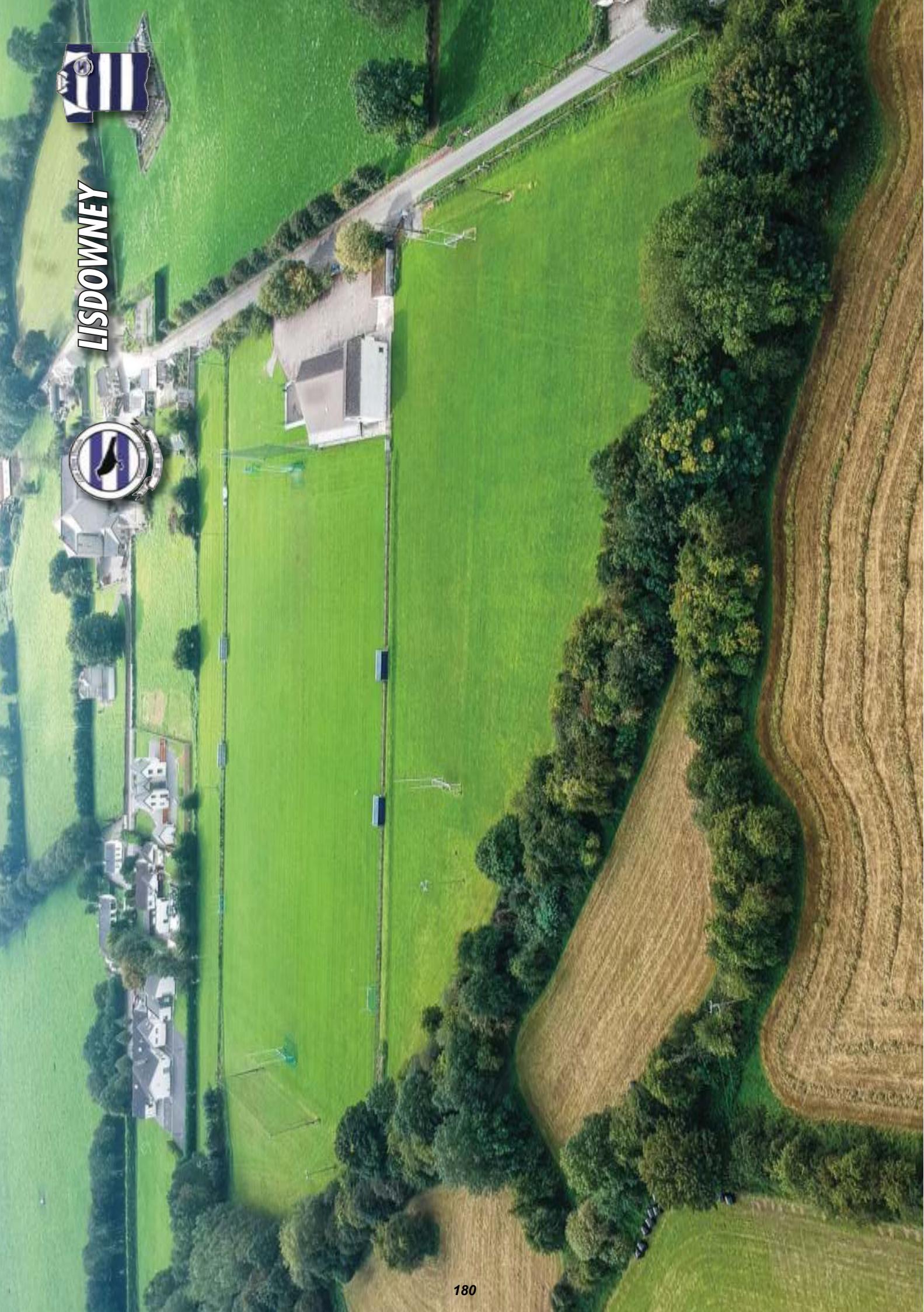
Martin Fitzpatrick RIP 2020



Sponsor Jim Bolger



LISDOWNEY



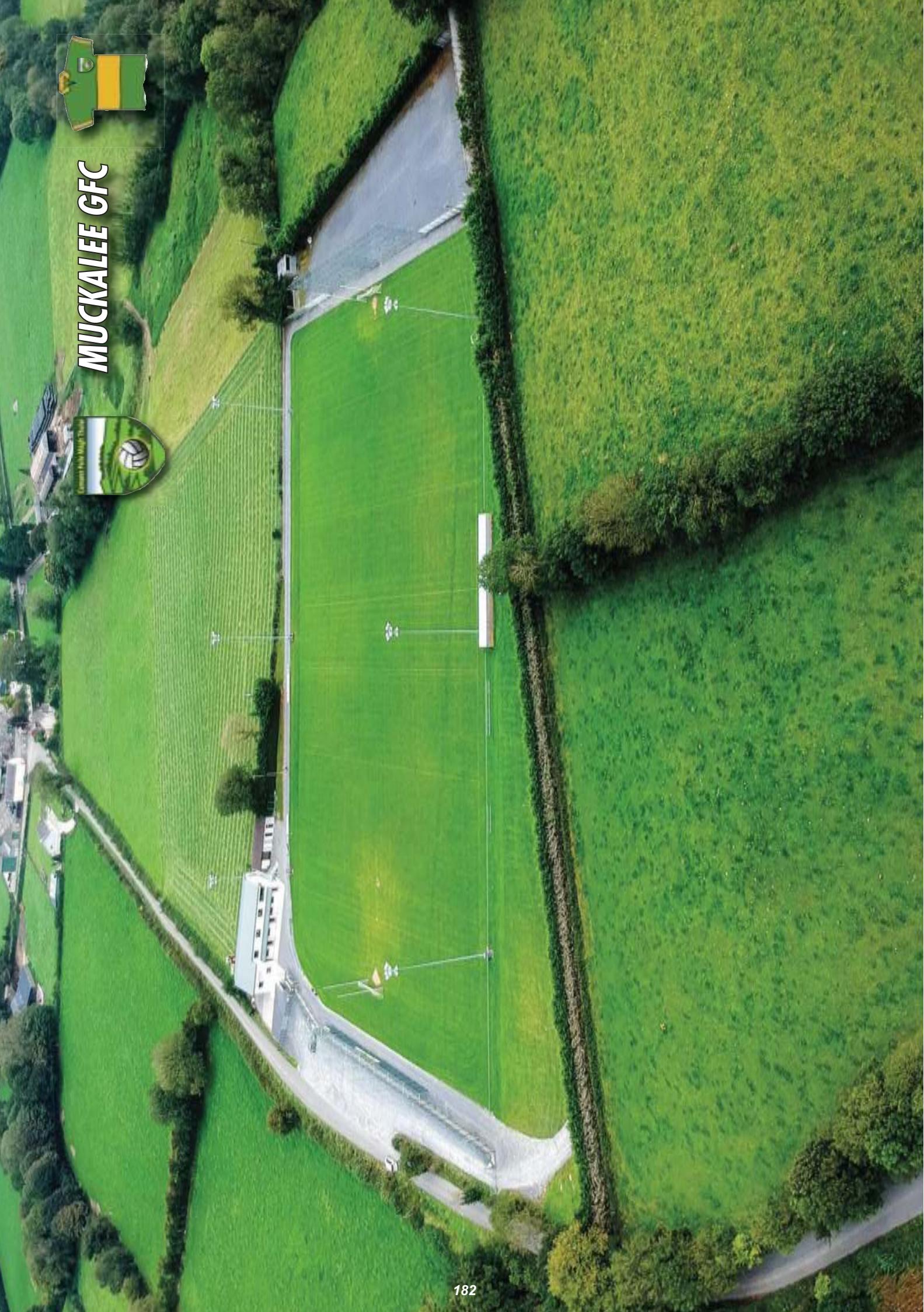


MOONCOIN





MUCKALEE GFC



MULLINAVAT



A year like no other, but still a huge year for the club. Following many years of protracted negotiations, the ownership of our second pitch, is about to pass into the hands of our club. The club intend to develop this second pitch, installing a walkway and floodlights, to benefit the entire parish community. The second field itself has been cared for, and managed, by the club, since the days of legendary Kilkenny hurling boss Fr Tommy Maher, in the early 1980's, but ownership allows us to plan properly for future generations.

It's been a year of stress for chairmen and secretaries, with tickets required for club games, live streaming, food deliveries during lockdown and hosting drive in bingos.

We live streamed both adult and under age games, to ensure our support base could stay in touch with the club.

On the playing front, pride of place went to our Junior B team, who won a record fourth title in this grade, to add to previous successes in 1986, 1992 and 2006.

Our Senior hurlers lost to James Stephens in the championship quarter final, but we battle again at Senior next year, for the seventh successive season, one of just three South Kilkenny senior teams in this category.

We have qualified for the SFC semi final as this is being written, having easily disposed of Railyard in the quarter final.

At underage, our Minor and Under 13 hurling teams both got to the semifinal stages of their Championships.

Our Under 15's were competitive, but beaten in the first knockout game. They also entered the John Locke's tournament, and recorded a few wins, before games were cancelled due to the pandemic.

At U11, U9, U7 and nursery groups, we played a lot of challenge games against neighbouring clubs, and showed improvements at all levels.

We are working on the production of a comprehensive history of the GAA club, which is hoped to be ready for Autumn 2021.

The club has put the membership and Mullinavat Community Lottery online via clubforce, so now those outside the area can just go online and still stay in touch and support the club from at home or abroad.

On 15/02/2020 we staged a special evening, for our four club Presidents, Richie Carroll, Jim Conway, Ned Haberlin and Liam Kennelly.

A Waterford Crystal clock was presented to each to mark their services to the club over the decades.

We now look towards the upcoming year with great optimism. Foundations continue to be laid for the future, and despite the strange times we live in, we look forward with hope to 2021 and beyond.



Pilot Conway calls the numbers at our Drive-in Bingo

O'LOUGHLIN GAELS



O'Loughlin Gaels GAA, located on the Hebron Rd in Kilkenny City, serves John's Parish comprising of Dunmore, Johnswell and Kilkenny City. Formed in 1969 the club boasts four Senior County Titles, 2 Leinster Club Championships and numerous titles through all grades. Currently there are four adult hurling teams - Senior, Intermediate , Junior A and Junior E. The club also boasts a vibrant and successful Handball section with two Handball alleys included in the club's extensive pavilion at St. John's Park.

As with all clubs this year the club went through a period of downtime as a result of covid related restrictions. During this period the Executive and Development Committee took the opportunity to refurbish and upgrade club facilities to include dressing room

extension, lounge refurbishment and improvements to the Players Gym. The club house, through a host of club volunteers, saw a complete maintenance and cleanup program that involved painting and the installation of extra safety measures. All this was possible through funds raised in 2018 by the Players & members Lipsync in conjunction with the Camogie Club and hosted in our Hall. We look forward to reopening these new facilities for the benefit of all existing and new members in the New Year. The executive look to build on this momentum and make further improvements in the coming years.

On the field of play O'Loughlin Gaels Senior team reached the semi-final stage of this year's championship and were beaten on penalties in the league final by the same opposition some weeks before. With the intermediate team holding its status going into 2021, the club has much to build on and can go forward with confidence. Juvenile teams saw a steady repeat of healthy numbers with all competing towards the latter end of their respective competitions. We are very proud to have numerous players involved with Kilkenny teams and we are especially proud to have Paddy Deegan and Huw Lawlor on the Kilkenny Senior panel in 2020.

We thank all our members, players and coaches for their continued commitment to O'Loughlin Gaels GAA. This year we introduced our online club lotto to allow for restricted movements of people and promoters under our new normal. We encourage all members and supporters of O'Loughlin Gaels GAA to log on and Play so our club can continue to improve facilities for its young players. Log on to www.oloughlingaels.com/lotto.

Mol an Óige agus riocfaidh siad!



O'Loughlin Gaels Clubhouse



2020 will be a year that no one in the Parish will forget in a hurry, unfortunately not in relation to achievements on the GAA pitch .

COVID 19 restrictions ensured that the gates of our GAA grounds remained firmly shut from mid March to mid June leaving players, coaches and supporters without their beloved physical excercise, team comradery and general sporting enjoyment.

On May 9th , led by the hurling and camogie panels and joined by the community we hosted a 24hr run /walk for Pieta "Darkness into Light ". This got fantastic support from everyone with the end result of €9284 raised for a worthy cause.

When the restrictions did allow our fantastic facilities were fully utilised every evening with training sessions and games from under 5 all the way up to adult level . The buzz and enthusiasm from the young on old was a joy to behold.

Come the competitive end of things our Junior team bowed out at the semi final stage of the championship after being victorious in the shield final of a revamped league.

This is a developing team with youth on their side which bodes well for the future.

Our second team went down after an epic game to Emeralds .

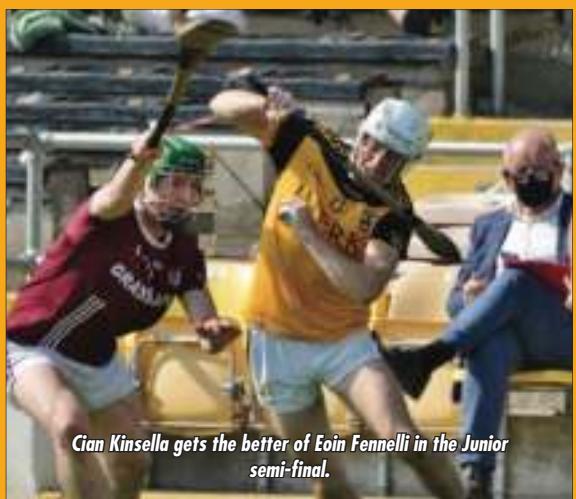
As always fantastic effort was put in by the players and coaches alike in our Juvenile section.

Our u17s were pipped by Dickboro . Strong Dunnamaggin teams accounted for the u13s in Rinn A and 15s exiting the championship in games we had chances to win.

Our u11s got to shield final in their competition.

Whilst our u9s u7s and u5s enjoyed some fun and vigorous training sessions and played neighbouring clubs .

A huge thank you for the time and effort put in by all involved with our various teams



Cian Kinsella gets the better of Eoin Fennelly in the Junior semi-final.



MULLINAVAT



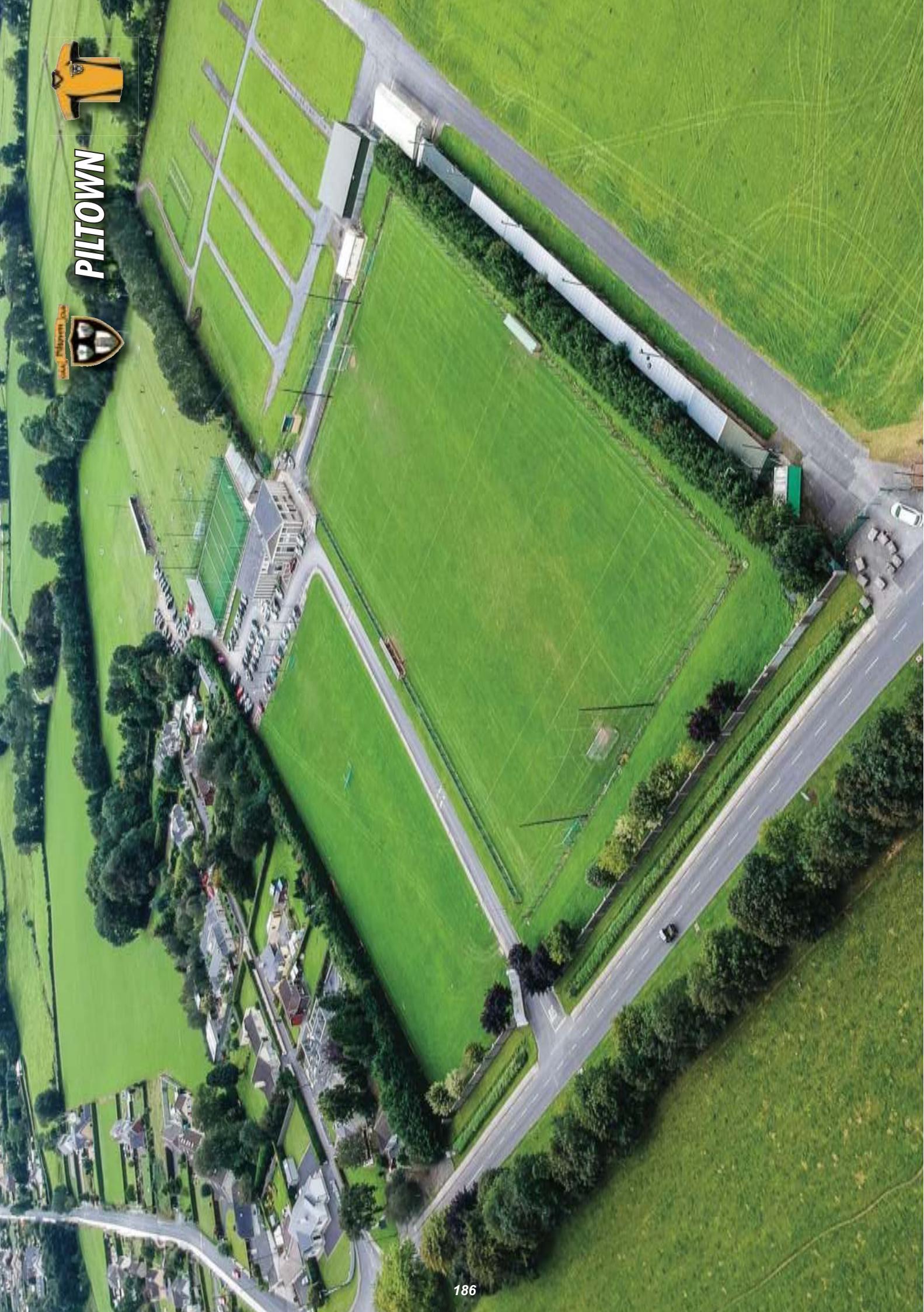


O'LOUGHLIN GAELS
St John's Park





PILTOWN





RAILYARD GFC

By our own standards 2020 was somewhat of a disappointing season for Railyard GFC. After a strong showing in 2019 hopes were high that our Senior team could regain the Senior Football Championship for the first time since 2016. Training started well under the guidance of Corney Brennan and before the Covid-19 lockdown we had got over the first round of the Championship with a hard fought win over Conahy which was played on March 7th, our next competitive game was over 6 month later when we fell to Mullinavat in the quarter final. The lockdown also put paid to our Carlow League campaign when the League was suspended after 1 round.

It was the same story for our Juniors as the Kilkenny Junior League was suspended in March after 1 round of league fixtures before they were knocked out of the championship in October.

Coronavirus also put paid to any underage football in 2020. Our U15s and U17s who were supposed to take part in the Laois and Carlow League respectfully but could not, due to cross border restrictions, while the Kilkenny U13 league was suspended and never recommenced after the lockdown.

Our U11s participation in the Laois GoGames Legaue also fell asunder while the U9s got one outing. The U11s did take part in the Kelly Cup Final where they were beaten by the hosts Spink GFC.



Ralyard U11's 2020



ROWER INISTIOGE

2020 was an extremely challenging year for all clubs with doubts over whether any games would be played. The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in truncated fixture schedules for all teams.

Our Seniors lost out to Dicksboro in the first round of the league before drawing with Mullinavat and we rounded off the league with a loss to Clara. Without five of our regular players due to injury, we were comprehensively beaten by Ballyhale in the 1st round of the championship. We faced Graigue-Ballycallan in the relegation semi-final and showed great resolve to bring the game to extra time before running out winners on a score-line of 2-24 to 4-13 with both goals coming from David Lyng.

The Juniors had a tough league campaign losing out to Erin's Own, James Stephens and Clara before going down to eventual County finalists Dicksboro in the quarter-final of the championship on a score-line of 1-12 to 5-26. The Junior E championship got off to a great start with a superb win over O'Loughlin Gaels in Inistioge, 2-17 to 3-7. Unfortunately, they lost out to the eventual champions St. Martins on a score-line of 1-14 to 1-18.

We suffered a very narrow 1 point defeat to James Stephens in the first round of the Minor A League. Our second game against near neighbours Tullogher was abandoned after an injury to a player. The minors lost out heavily to beaten County finalists Young Irelands on a score-line of 0-7 to 3-18.

The U15's had a successful campaign starting with a draw against Graignamangh before they beat a strong Thomastown team to top their group. They put on a scintillating performance against Galmoy-Windgap in the quarter-final of the Roinn B Championship winning out on a score-line of 3-20 to 4-5. They came up against an excellent Bennettsbridge outfit in the semi-final who would go on to win the County Final after beating us 1-13 to 0-23.

Our U13's lost out in a tight league game against Tullogher before a resounding win against Kilmacow and a 2 point win over Graignamangh. We faced Carrickshock in the 1st round of the Roinn B Championship and despite battling to the end, our young team lost out 0-10 to 4-7.

Due to the fantastic numbers, we were also able to field a team in the U13 13 Aside League Championship. We drew with Young Irelands before losing our last league game to Blacks & Whites. We lost out to Bennettsbridge in the Championship on a score-line of 0-4 to 2-13.

Thank you to all management teams and parents for their co-operation during a difficult year.
Sincerest condolences to all those who lost loved ones during the year.



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.



SЛИEVERUE

What a year! I wonder how many thousands of steps were taken in the parish over the past 12 months?

We started 2020 in Slieverue with the launch of our Club Lotto and got a great response until everything was put on hold for a few months. It's taken a bit of work to get close to where we were at the start of the year and it will take hard work, a little ingenuity and maybe technology to get to where we want to be while keeping everyone safe.

On the field it was an unusual year with the normal flow of the season being interrupted. The Junior hurlers had an average year when compared to the high standards they set over the past few seasons. There was good team spirit and some young talent that will add to the team as they grow and develop. The future looks well and sure there's always next year. Our adult camogie players, playing under the banner of St Claires, acquitted themselves well in their first season at Intermediate grade. We didn't have enough numbers to field a Minor Team on our own this year so we combined with Blacks & Whites. A big thank you to the parents, players and mentors for making this experiment work. We played in Roinn B and the lads rose to the challenge, losing only one game in the league. They ended the season winning a 6-team tournament, defeating Mooncoin in the final.

The u13 and u15 hurlers put in some good performances in the shortened league programme but not having enough players up to the age probably took its toll in the end. There's plenty of numbers and potential at the u11, u9 and u7 age groups as a result of good work put in by a lot of people over the past few years. It was great to see the enthusiasm when the gates opened back up in the summer.

There has also been a huge amount of work done to rejuvenate the camogie side of the club. We combine with neighbours Kilmacow at u16 and u14 levels, but if things continue as they are at underage then we should be fielding teams on our own. There was plenty of excitement as we fielded an u12 team for the first time in a number of years. A big thank you to the sponsors for the new jerseys for the camogie teams.

Jackpot 1,000
LAUNCH NIGHT

JANUARY 14TH in The Rhu Glenn Hotel
Launch @ 7.30pm
First Draw will take place @ 8pm

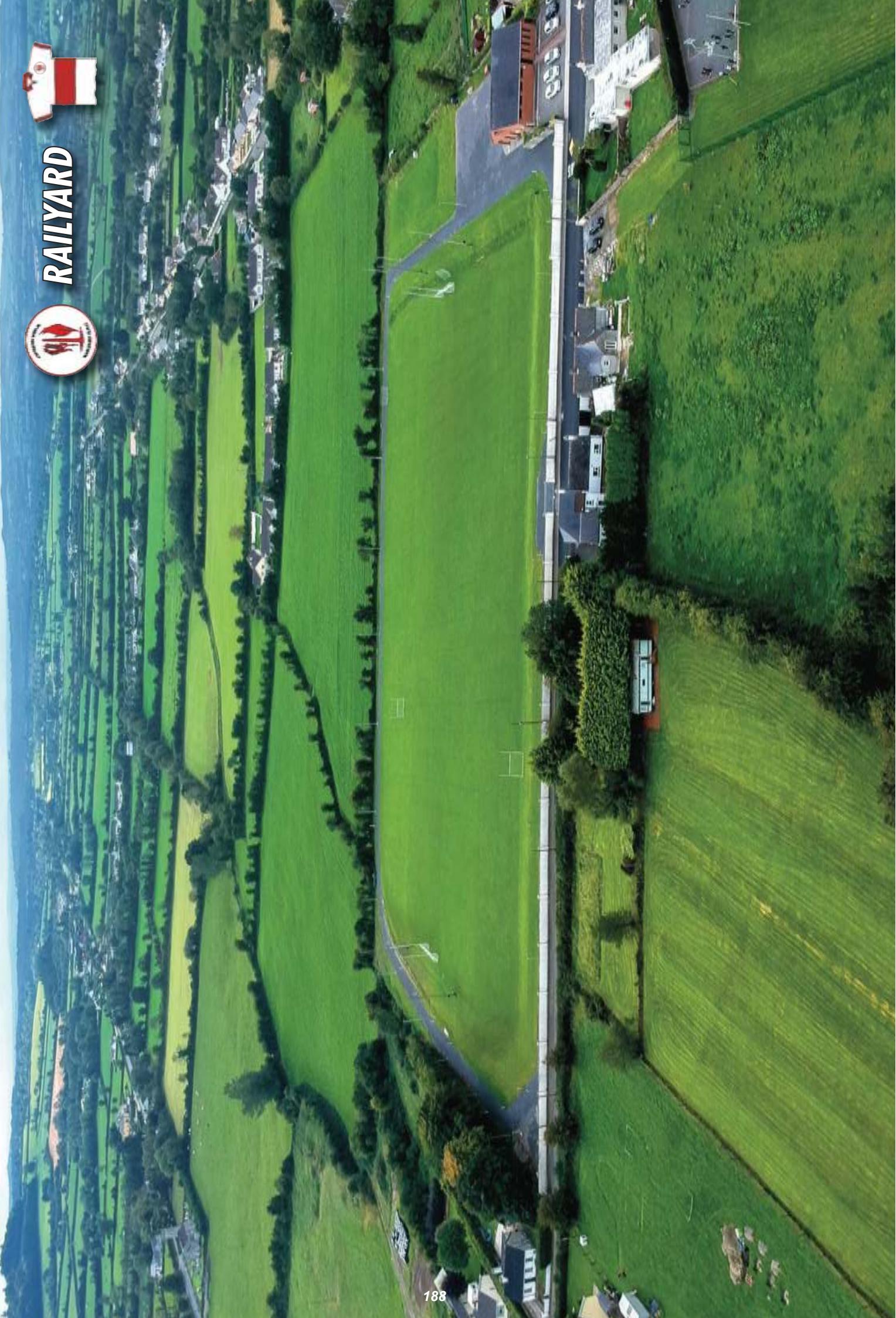
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND
Simon Cleere enjoys live-streaming of one of our games.

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€1,000



RAILYARD





ROWER INISTI/OGE

Rower CAA Pitch





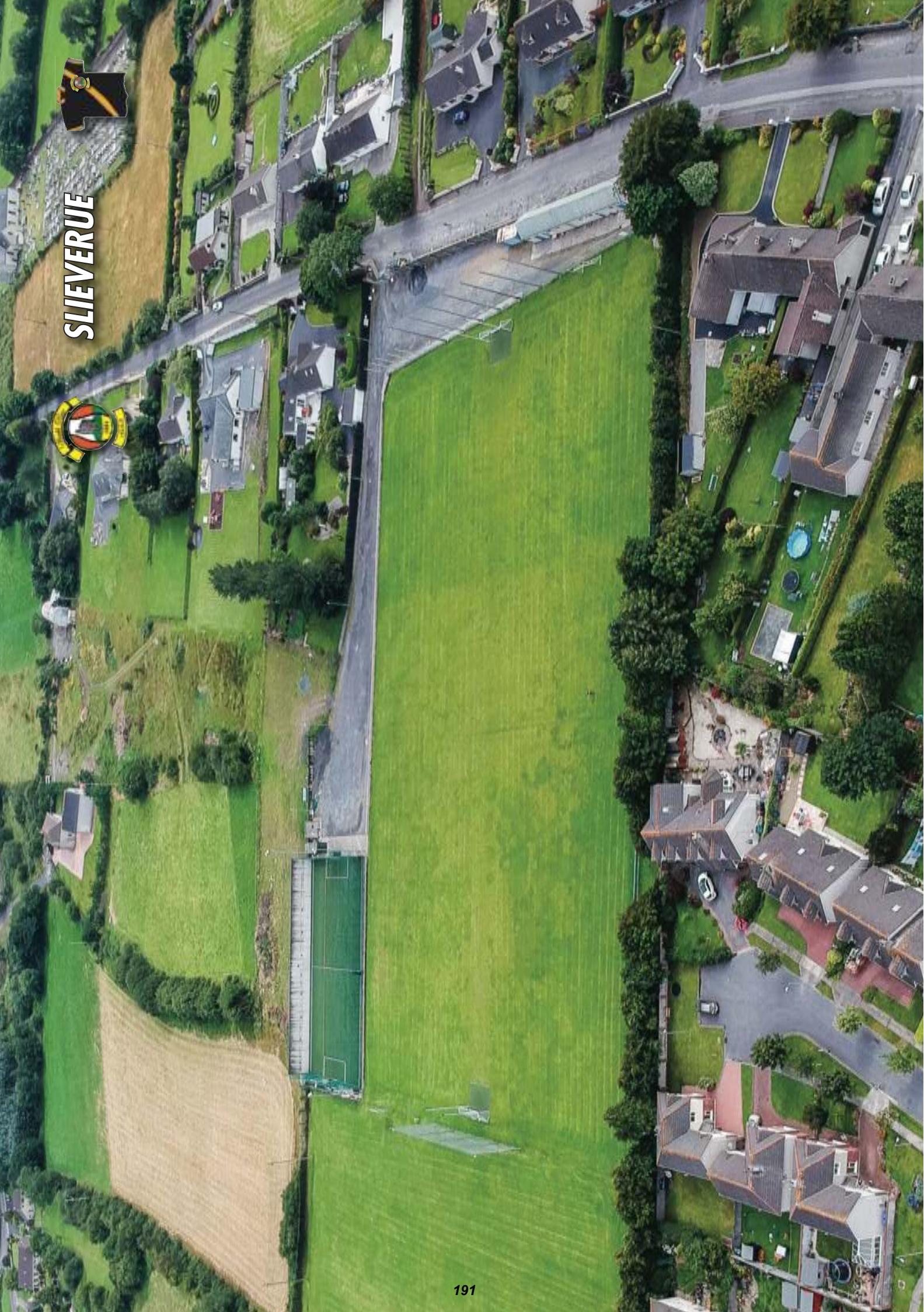
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SLIEVERUE





ST LACHTAIN'S

U11: Throughout many blitzes and games our u11 campaign concluded with our U11 team heading to Conahy to play in the Jim Comerford memorial tournament. A good run in this tournament saw our team get to the final where they met neighbours Tullaroan in the final. In a game of good hurling our young team came out victorious to claim the trophy. Many thanks to all the players and management for their work throughout the year.

U13: Our U13 team led by the management team of Patrick Donnelly, Martin Campion, Noel Dalton and Liam McGree had a very successful year which was rounded off with a thrilling win in Ballyragget on Saturday September 19th. (See U13 Report)

U15: Here we were pitted against neighbours Fenians and Emeralds. Unfortunately, we lost both games on very narrow margins. We would like to thank our players and management for all the work this year.

U17: Our shortened U17 campaign began with our team taking on John Lockes and Tullaroan. Unfortunately on both occasion we met the stronger team leaving us with two defeats in the group stages. Onto the knockout stages our team went but again luck was against us where Barrow Rangers defeated us in a close game by 2.16 to 1.16. Special thanks to Patrick Kileen, Philip Campion, John Landers and David Martin for their work with this team.

Junior B

A condensed season saw our Junior B team go straight into championship against Conahy Shamrocks which saw us team pull through in the end of a very close game by 3.11 to 1.14. The quarter final was a close tough game in which Mullinavat won out on the day with a 0.13 to 0.11. Sadly for our team the season ended after just two games.

Intermediate

In a season which saw just three league games for our Intermediate team we faced Fenians, St Martins & Lisdowney in the group stage. Two wins and one loss brought the challenge of John Lockes in the first round and a late point gave our team a 1 point win to move onto the next round. Dunnamaggin were the quarter final opponents where we had a 4.17 to 2.16 win to move onto the semi final. Similar to the previous year, Thomaslawn were the semi final opponents in Nowlan Park and the luck of our team ran out at this stage, losing a close game by two points in the end 2.19 to 2.17.



St Lachtain's Jim Comerford U11 Tournament winners 2020



ST MARTIN'S

In what has been a strange year due to Covid 19 the main highlight of the year for St Martins GAA club on the field was the Junior E team winning the inaugural competition at this level in Kilkenny. Under the shrewd management of John Mulhall, Donal Brennan and Sean O'Neill the team won a very entertaining final against Dicksboro with a mixture of youth and experience that blended together over the course of the campaign.

Our Intermediate hurlers, after a shaky start in the league stages, stormed into the first round of the championship with an impressive win over Carrickshock. In the quarter final the team put in a great effort against Glenmore and were very unlucky

not to win in sixty minutes before eventually losing out in extra time.

Our underage teams have continued to develop and improve during a shortened season and hopefully we will be able to get back to some sort of normal training and games in 2021.

One of the main highlights in the club during the year was the running of Ronnie's Relay fundraiser for cancer charities. Led by members of our Bord na nÓg committee and supported by a host of well known personalities, this event involved a virtual relay of cycling, running or walking to all GAA grounds in Kilkenny in a 24 hour period at the end of June. This event showed all that is good in our community which resulted in a massive 52K Eur being raised for three charity causes. Thanks to all who helped, participated and made donations for this worthy cause.

Another highlight of the year was the successful Drive in Bingo evenings to help raise much needed funds for the club. This provided a brilliant outlet for people to go to an enjoyable event while still observing covid social distancing rules.

Our summer camp again took place in August and was again a great success and enjoyed by all who participated. Thanks to all who organised and helped run the camp



Ronnie's Relay – Ronnie Clancy & family handing over proceeds from Ronnie's Relay to Jim Bolger (Hurling for Cancer) and to Dr Wilson from Carlow Kilkenny Homecare Team. St Martins Bord na nÓg raised over 52k for cancer charities from this virtual relay event in 2020.



ST PATRICK'S

The arrival of the pandemic meant that the sound of leather on ash was not heard for many weeks across pitches throughout Ireland. The priority of the national emergency meant that sport took a back seat and the contribution of essential workers took centre stage in protecting our communities.

As in every parish, Ballyragget had its share of people providing health and social care, maintaining public services, transport, education, child care, bringing food and supplies to our vulnerable population. To these people and their families, we owe a great debt of gratitude.

Throughout these trying times in 2020, the club grounds and facilities were maintained and enhanced by a dedicated group of volunteers. The quality of this selfless work was evident as Spring turned to long Summer evenings and facilities re-opened. Players and supporters alike greeted the opening of the roadside pitch, following redevelopment in 2019, with delight and anticipation of matches to come. The quality of the sod was a true testament to the development work and the skill, care and dedication of the ground staff. The treasured vision of so many club members for this field was truly realised.

The air of renewal was also reflected in improvements to the pedestrian entrance and the walking track. The efforts to re-open the club during the summer would not have happened without the efforts of members and volunteers to clean and maintain facilities and the dedication of our COVID officers to ensure regulations were adhered to and everyone kept safe. Whilst results on the field did not go our way in 2020, the fielding of three adult teams was a first for the club and increased access to our game for club players.

The year saw the passing of a number of club stalwarts, whose contribution to the club over past years was considerable. September saw the sad passing of Club President, Michael McCraith. In a year which saw the opening of the roadside pitch, Michael was a link back to the development of our main pitch in 1957. Over many years, Michael was an Officer, team official and so much more to so many people at St. Patrick's and beyond. It was with sadness that members heard of the passing of Canon Grant P.E. in March. Canon Grant had served as club Vice President for many years and maintained an interest in club fortunes throughout his long years of service in Ballyragget. As the country battled the pandemic in April, the parish felt the untimely loss of Jim Kenny, a former player and team official of the club. Current player Eoin Bergin and Sonny Brophy, a former great from a by-gone era, departed to their eternal rewards in 2020 also. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha uasail.



Bill Staunton (St Patrick's) battles for the sliotar with Padraig Purcell (John Lockes) during the League clash clash in August.

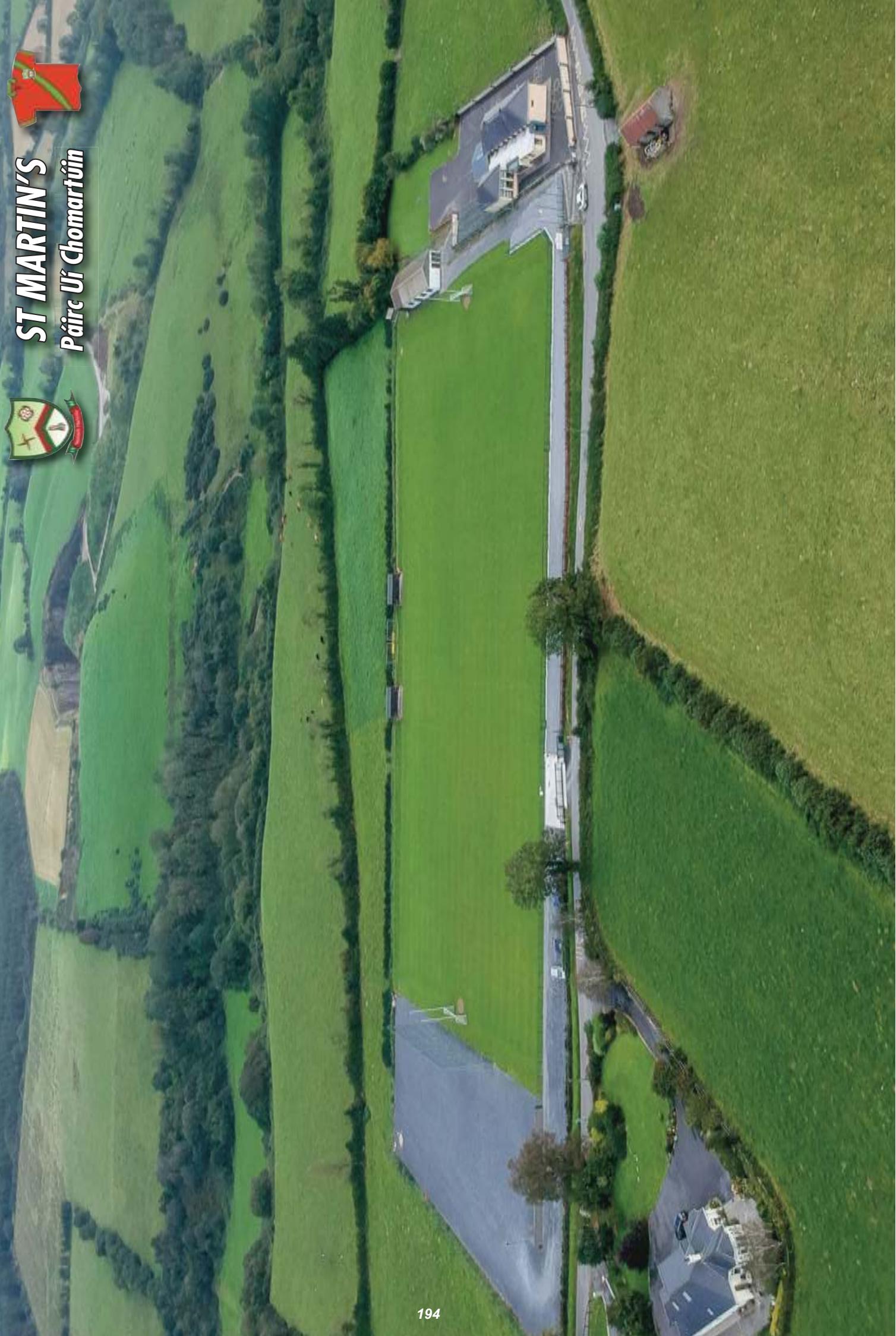


ST LACHTAIN'S





ST MARTIN'S
Páirc Uí Chomartúin





ST PATRICK'S



THOMASTOWN



Under age groups.

2020 was an extremely strange year for everyone. Even though Covid - 19 affected everyone, we still managed to keep our Juvenile section active. From U7 to U11 the mentors worked tirelessly all year to keep the training going. We are extremely grateful to parents/mentors and the kids themselves.

Again, the U13 to U17 groups continued throughout the year waiting for the games to arrive, unfortunately there was no silver ware but a huge effort was put in by everyone involved. The U13s lost out by a single point to Mooncoin at Qtr final stage, the U15s enjoyed a mixed league and lost out to Galmoy/Windgap in first rd of championship stage.

The minors competed in A and were very competitive , the lads won there qtr final away to Tulloher by 3-14 to 2-11. Unfortunately, we came up against eventual champions Dicksboro in semi-final. Well done to everyone involved

Adult teams

Junior A - This group was very young this year and put in some good performances but lost out to an excellent Lisdowney in the semi final, Alot of positives from this group.

The Intermediates got through the league unbeaten and retained the league title with a good win over Dunamaggin. In the championship the lads beat O'Loughins & St Lachtaín's in semi to reach the county final. Unfortunately, after extra time we lost out to Lisdowney on a penalty shootout. The disappointment felt was terrible but having seen the commitment and effort put in by this group I have no doubt their day will come.

Inter county: Best of Luck to Naoise Dempsey & Zach Bay Hammond with the Minors , Stephen Donnelly & Ned Kirwan with the U20s and of course John Donnelly with the Kilkenny Senior team

Camoige -

Congratulations to the senior camoige team on their senior title & best of luck in their upcoming leinster final scheduled for February.



U7 Crew 2020



THREECASTLES

Like any other club or sporting organisation, 2020 is a year that will remain in our memories for years to come. The year brought some highs and some lows, both within the club and within our community.

Like all clubs in the GAA, matches and sporting events were slim to none in the first half of the year, as lockdown certainly brought a halt to our plans.

Thankfully, over the summer, as our lives started to return to normal, we were able to return to playing matches. To see our team return to our normal activities, albeit a "new normal", was truly a joy to see!

Also within the community, to no surprise, many of our neighbours volunteered to assist our more vulnerable members of the community when lockdown was in place. Threecastles GAA would like to publicly thank these people for their selfless actions in making sure that those around them were not left short of anything.

However before the madness began, back in January, Threecastles was able to celebrate a major fund-raising event, Plough Thru the City, which took place in December 2019.

This year we ran the event with the fantastic charity Down Syndrome Kilkenny. After the day was done and when we counted the funds that people kindly donated on the day, 4000 euro was raised for this wonderful charity. To say we were delighted was probably an understatement! Threecastles GAA would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped on the day, sponsored prizes for the day and most importantly who took part. Hopefully we will see the success of this event repeated soon.

Finally, Threecastles GAA would like to say to everyone in Threecastles and Co. Kilkenny Happy Christmas and a New Year. Stay safe everyone.



€4000 raised for Down Syndrome, Kilkenny.



TULLAROAN

January 2020 will live long in the memory of all Tullaroan supporters. Our great win the All Ireland Club Final is recorded elsewhere in this book.

As the hurling came back after a long lay-off at the end of July, Tullaroan had senior league dates with Ballyhale Shamrocks, James Stephens and Bennettsbridge. We drew with the Shamrocks and were beaten by James Stephens and Bennettsbridge. The team hurled well in all three games but the quality of the opposition and the high standard of senior hurling was clear to everybody involved.

After the league, we were paired with Erins Own, Castlecomer in the 1st round of the championship. After a good game, 'Comer won by a point on a scoreline of 1-20 to 2-18 and that left us facing Danesfort in a relegation play-off. On a windy Saturday in Freshford we beat Danesfort on a scoreline of 1-19 to 1-12 to preserve our senior status for 2021.

The junior team had an equally long wait for action and were drawn against Young Irelands in the first round. The team prepared well but as it happened Young Irelands gave us a walkover in that game. The next round was against our near neighbours from Graigue Ballycallan. A good Graigue team won that game with a strong first half display laying the foundations for victory. The final score was 3-11 to 2-17.

Success came to Tullaroan in 2020 via the Minor C championship. We defeated a strong John Lockes team in the first round, followed by a victory over Ballyragget in the semi-final. The final saw us play Lisdowney in Dunmore and after a good game Tullaroan emerged victorious on a scoreline of 2-18 to 1-14. Congratulations to all involved.

Thanks to all in Bord na Óg who catered for teams from U7 up to U17 and the small army of volunteers that look after those teams. The foundations for success in years to come are being laid today.

The club would like to remember all those that passed away during the year: - Club President Jim Young died in London in September. Dan Hogan, former club player and secretary passed away in January 2020. His wife Mina, passed away in April 2020. Sheila Molloy passed away in May, wife of the late Paddy Molloy. The Molloy's ran the county board lotto for many years and Sheila took up the mantle after Paddy passed away in 2008. Tullaroan club benefitted greatly from the county board lotto and the great voluntary work of the Molloy family.

We also remember Julia Hennessy, Mary Clohosey, Kieran Delaney, Marie Dillon and Phil Cass.

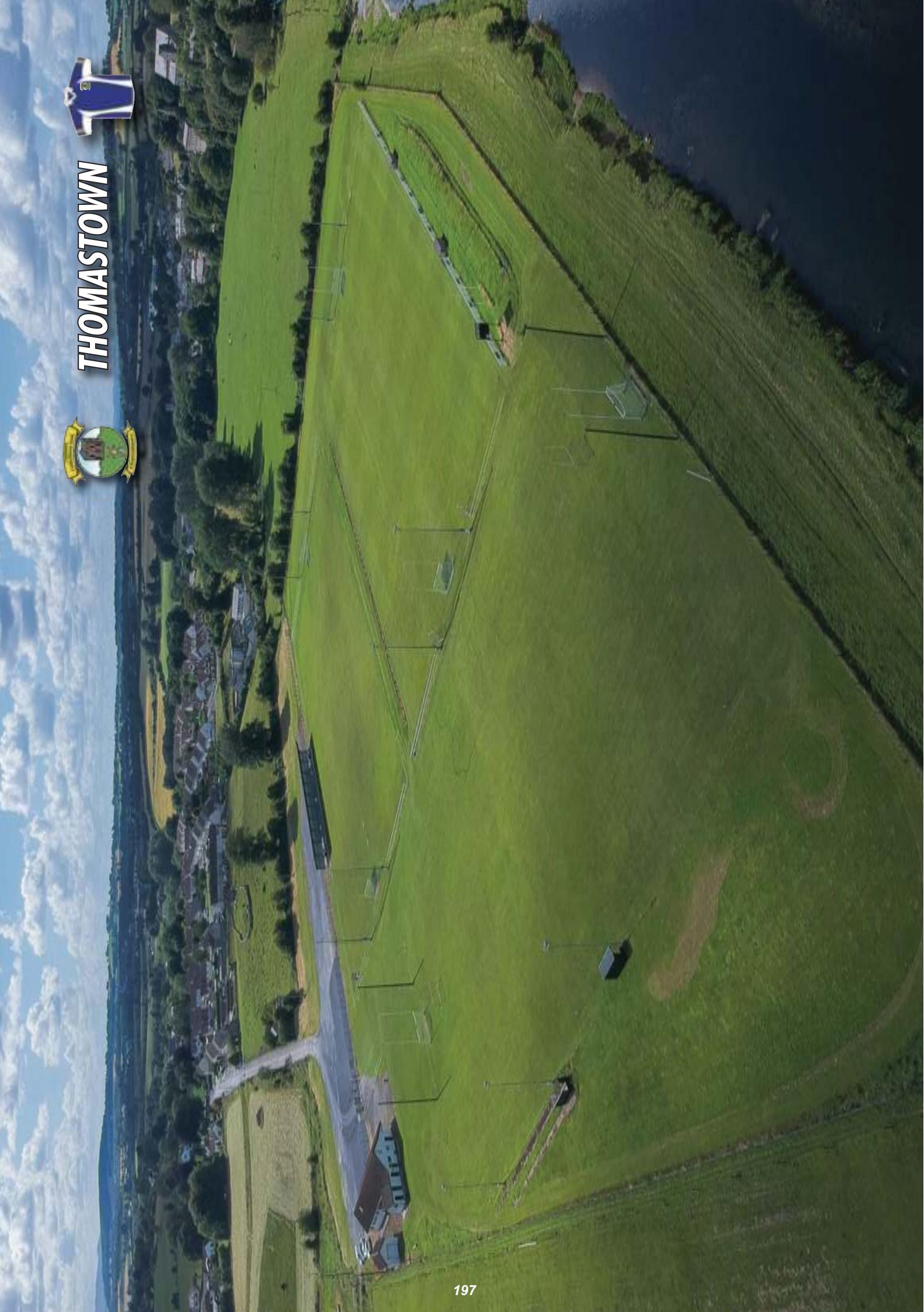
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamhacha.



Serious men from Tullaroan.



THOMASTOWN





THREECASTLES



Three Castles
Golf Club



TULLAROAN



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TULLOGER ROSBERCON

U11: Throughout many blitzes and games our u11 campaign concluded with our U11 team heading to Conahy to play in the Jim Comerford memorial tournament. A good run in this tournament saw our team get to the final where they met neighbours Tullaroan in the final. In a game of good hurling our young team came out victorious to claim the trophy. Many thanks to all the players and management for their work throughout the year.

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Intermediate

In a season which saw just three league games for our Intermediate team we faced Fenians, St Martins & Lismidowney in the group stage. Two wins and one loss brought the challenge of John Lockes in the first round and a late point gave our team a 1 point win to move onto the next round. Dunnamaggin were the quarter final opponents where we had a 4.17 to 2.16 win to move onto the semi final. Similar to the previous year, Thomastown were the semi final opponents in Nowlan Park and the luck of our team ran out at this stage, losing a close game by two points in the end 2.19 to 2.17.



WINDGAP

In the shortened GAA year that was 2020, Windgap GAA had a busy and successful year on a number of levels which include:

- Completion of pitch realignment at start of GAA season in late June with new goalposts.
- Great attendance and early season performances by our Junior team which led to wins over Sliieverue and Blacks & Whites and saw us qualify for the League shield final. One-off headaches for club officers trying to allocate tickets for club games but those unable to attend were able to watch Windgap junior games live on facebook thanks to the work of Noel Smith. Injuries did play a part in our season ending with a championship defeat to Emeralds but certainly a progress year on many levels for the Junior side. The Junior B panel was larger than for many recent years and did manage to retain Junior C status after a narrow win over Mooncoin in the relegation final following earlier defeats to Fenians and Galmoy.

• Strong performances by our teams in underage grades all of which are amalgamated with our friends in Galmoy. Our U17 team competed in Roinn A and after a solid league campaign, had a great win over Mooncoin in the quarterfinal of the championship before falling to Young Irelands in a high scoring semifinal. Our U15 team struggled in a tough league group but had a great win over Thomastown before falling to defeat against Rower-Inistioge. Finally, our U13 team was much depleted in numbers on the age but produced a storming second half comeback to defeat Kilmacow in the first round of the championship before losing to Clara in the next round.

• From U11 downwards, great turnouts at training and many challenge matches helped to fill the summer months and saw much improvement in our new generation of hurlers.

• Great performances by many club players in handball championships although activity was very curtailed in 2020.

• Great representation of club members on Kilkenny GAA committees such as Jimmy Walsh (County Chairman), Michael O'Shea (Handball County Chairman) and Tom Egan (Hearings Committee Chairman).



Desperate men from Windgap.



YOUNG IRELANDS

It started with a flurry of activity. Our new home since 2017, Castle Ellis readied itself for another frenzied season. New chairman Denis in situ, the immediate aim was to complete the final two dressing rooms by March, just in time for the onslaught of youth and enthusiasm. Finance planned the year full of fundraisers, lined up volunteers, marked the diary. Country Music Festival launched on Thyleses day - would we be lucky with the weather this year we wondered....

Juvenile coaches and mentors were assigned, adult team managers set out their stall. Club membership, registration, regrading debate, stocktake - hurds, balls, cones & poles, jerseys, whatsapp, clubzapp, opinion, dissent, agreement, action.... Some craic in China someone quipped along the way, bats they say.

Full fixtures lists began to funnel through from the powers that be as the first trickle of milk bottle legs started to arrive in February. By early March the google field calendar began to assume its bible role. It would be the master tool for the next 9 months. Snooze you lose.

Juvenile Committee decreed that the underage coaching battalion would be back in action on the first Monday in April; Squeeze in Cheltenham first....

Deep breath here we go Wait... what's this ! BANG, BANG, abort abort !!

Best laid plans of mice and men.....and bats (they say)!

What followed will be talked about forever and a day, once we can come together to talk that is.

New vocabulary – Covid officer, healthcheck, livestream, close contact, asymptomatic, zoom, sanitise, social distance, the new normaldid ye hear today's numbers?

Hats off to all, those 3 months were gold, sanity restored, the smiles on the young faces.... U13A Champions; U15 Roinn A Quarter Final; Minor Roinn A final; heart stopping, history making penalty shootout to qualify to Intermediate Quarter Final.... virtual supporters urging teams all the way! Not a bad year's work.

Resilience got the job done in the end, went quite well really, exclusivity of the club to October an unexpected bonus – surely it's the way forward.

Quietness once more as the foggy dew descends, How the mighty have been brought to heel, Mankind, Trump, The GAA.....

2020 - when the lamb jumped up and bit the butcher!



A bemused lamb looks out from the stand onto empty playing pitches in Gowran during lockdown.



TULLOGER ROSBERCON



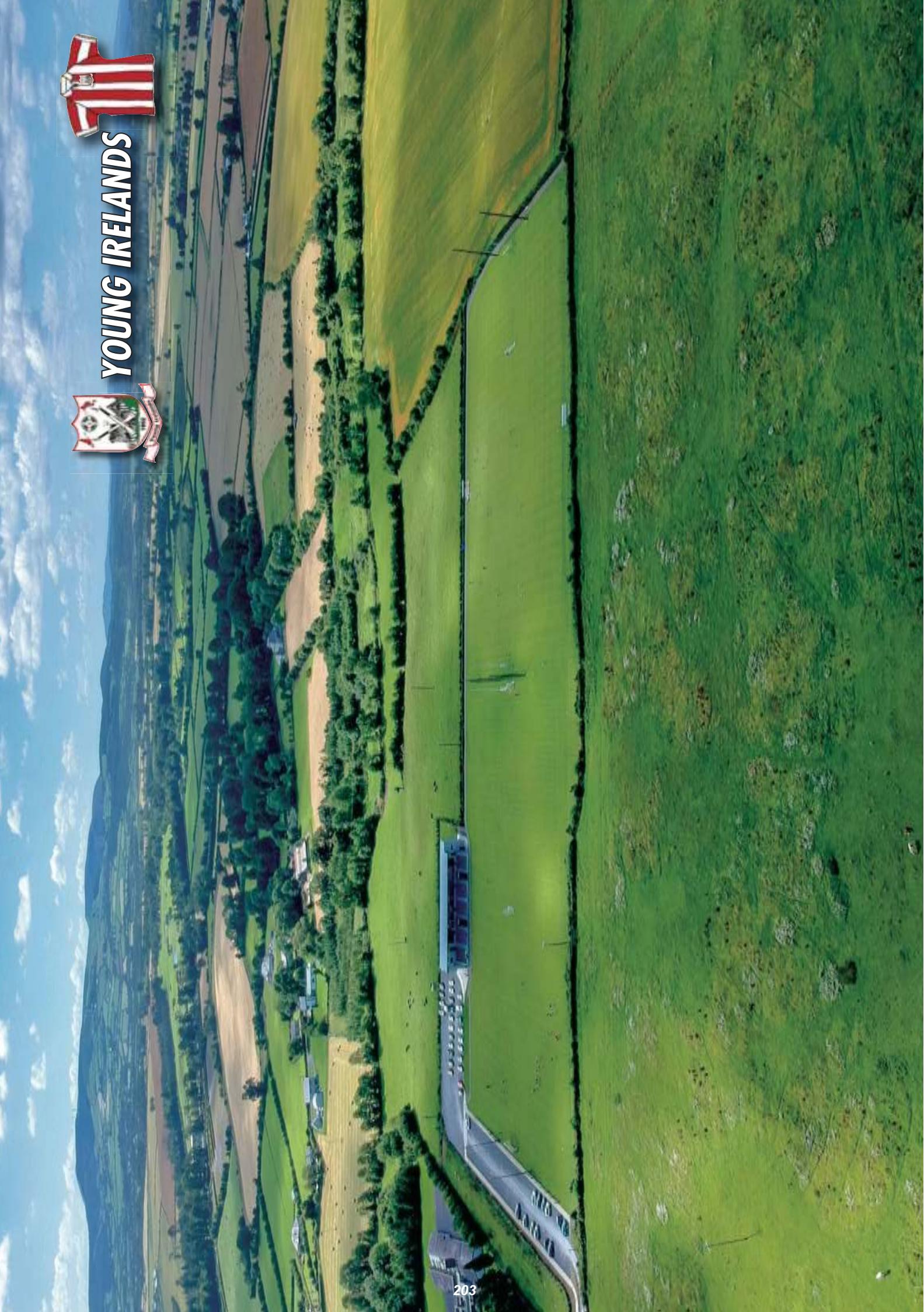


WINDGAP





YOUNG IRELANDS



ar shli na Firinne



DAN HOGAN 1934-2020

Dan Hogan passed away on January 22nd 2020 in the quiet caring comfort of the home he had spent all his life in in Monavadrew, Tullaroan surrounded by his loving family.

Dan had a lifelong association with the GAA. His grandfather Henry J Meagher having attended the first meeting of the GAA in Hayes hotel Thurles in 1884. His uncles William, Frank, Henry and Lory Meagher all wore the Tullaroan and Kilkenny jerseys with pride and Dan loved hearing and regaling tales of their success and achievements.

He was delighted with Tullaroan's success in the months before his passing. His health had declined in later years and he was unable to travel to the games but he loved to listen to commentary on KCLR and Kilkenny community radio. He was able to listen to his beloved Tullaroan win the intermediate club all Ireland the week before he died and got to hold the trophy. Dan played on the 1958 senior team winning the county final. He spent many years volunteering weekly with Kilkenny lotto. He served as club secretary for a number of years. He was vice president of the Tullaroan club at the time of his death.

A large guard of honour was formed at his removal by members and players of the club of which he would have been very proud. It was fitting as his coffin was lowered that "My native Tullaroan" sung by Paddy Fitzpatrick and Paddy Cleere filled the graveyard.

His wife of 52 years Mina passed away on April 1st 2020 just 10 short weeks after him. They are both sadly missed by their family, friends and all who knew them.



DICK DOHERTY

Dick Doherty – Richard Doherty (Dick) of Ballyrobin, Ferrybank and formerly of Davidstown, Glenmore died on 21st March

2020, aged 84 years. Dick played centre back for Glenmore senior hurling teams of the 1960's. He played in the Kilkenny Senior Hurling County Finals of 1960 and 1964. Unfortunately they were beaten on both occasions by the great Bennettsbridge team. Dick followed hurling all his life and enjoyed the great success of Glenmore in their winning the 1991 All-Ireland club final with Dick's nephews, the Heffernans of Kearney Bay playing a big part. Dick worked for 40 years plus with Dovea A.I. and was well known by the farming community of South Kilkenny.

time. After retiring from the playing field Henry immersed himself in the running of the club. He served as Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer , County Bord Rep and selector at different times over the years, indeed he was a selector in 1971, Bennettsbridge's last triumph in the senior grade in Kilkenny. In recent years he served as club President, a position he was very proud and honoured to hold. Henry was heavily involved in the purchase of the present playing grounds and subsequently himself along with other members, gave a lot of time preparing the field to a high playing standard. He was also heavily involved in the clubs fundraising activities over the years and his opinion on club matters was always highly valued. In recent years Henry remained a loyal supporter of the Bridge and was delighted to see the club return to the senior ranks in Kilkenny. The last two matches he attended were in Croke Park to see Bennettsbridge win the Junior All Ireland in 2014 and the Intermediate All Ireland the following year. We offer our deepest sympathy to Henry's wife Josie, his children Sarah, Tim, Mary, Geoff, Siobhan and John, his sisters, brother in law, grandchildren and extended family and friends.

Ar Dheis De go raibh a anam .



HENRY DREA

Henry Drea of Blackwell , Bennettsbridge died on July 2nd of this year. The news of Henry's passing was greeted with great sadness in the Bennettsbridge community and indeed the wider Gaa and farming communities in Kilkenny. Henry was a link to the golden era of Bennettsbridge Hurling of the 1950s and 60s. As a player he won 4 Senior Championship medals in 1953, 1955, 1956 and 1959. He also won many tournaments all over the country with the great Bennettsbridge side of the



JIM CANTWELL

James Stephens Club members were saddened to hear of the death, in his 100th year, of longstanding loyal club member, Jim Cantwell, Larchfield. Jim spent almost all his working life in Smithwick's Brewery. A passionate hurling man, who also enjoyed the horses, Jim was a nephew of the Kilkenny legend, Terry Leahy of the 1939 Kilkenny All-Ireland winning team – the thunder and lightning final.

Jim was uncle of the club's 2004/5 Kilkenny, Leinster and All-Ireland club championship

winning goalkeeper, Francis Cantwell. Jim rarely missed viewing a Village or Kilkenny game and attended the 2015 All Ireland final aged 95.

Jim was predeceased, some years ago, by his wife, Susan. Our sympathies are extended to Jim's daughters, Mary, and Majella, son Richard and to the extended Cantwell family, including sister-in-law, Terry.

Ar dheis láimh Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



JIM CONNOLLY

Jim Connolly passed away suddenly on Jan 2nd 2020, remarkably just a day after burying his mother. He was the proprietor of Connolly's bar, Dunbell, which was the venue for many's the Clara celebration. Jim won a Minor A title with Clara/Bennettsbridge in 1974, a side captained by Harry Ryan. His family are steeped in the GAA and brothers Domo and Paschal also represented the club with distinction. Jim's sudden death came as a huge shock to the community in Clara and to his wife Teresa and his family.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.



JOHN DOYLE

Graignamanagh GAA Club lost earlier in the Year one of our founding members (in 1953) and First Club Secretary. John (or Lockes as he was known to all) and his family have been steeped in the GAA in the local area with his father Tom winning a Senior County Football medal in 1909 and his nephews Peter, Tommy and Johnny Prendergast all very prominent. As well as being Secretary Lockes also served as Club Chairman for 3 years. He was also very instrumental in the purchase of our playing facilities now known as Dr Tierney Park, and was the Club's very Special Guest at

the official opening a few years back. His huge passion for the Club never wavered and would always ask how "did the lads get on today" and up until recent years was a regular at all the club games. John Bolger's contribution to our Club will never be forgotten and Graignamanagh GAA Club are very proud and lucky to have had him as a Club Official and life long member.

May He Rest in Peace.



JOHN DOYLE

John Doyle: Almost twelve months ago the club was deeply saddened on the passing of the late Johnny Doyle. Johnny was a force of nature. He was many things to so many people, hurler, slipper, greyhound trainer, farmer, character, local historian and storyteller. Hurling was his lifeblood, the dashing Emeralds and the famed Black and Amber. From the days of his boyhood hurling below in Murrays field along with his Clomantagh comrades he lived and breathed the beautiful game. As a leading player at the time he helped found his beloved Emeralds on the fateful Good Friday in 1972.

He played on the first Emeralds team and they went on to win the Northern Final in the clubs inaugural year and went on to wear the jersey with distinction for many years. Johnny wore the Black and Amber also for the Kilkenny U21s in 1970 and 1971 and won an Intermediate All Ireland Medal with them in 1972. He loved Kilkenny hurling, the legend and the lore and was never happier than setting out for Croke Park, of a summer's Sunday, with his friends and relations to watch the Black and Amber bring home the Liam McCarthy to the Nore. Johnny never missed an All Ireland Final whatever Counties contested on the day. But it was the Emeralds team that he would follow till his dying day. All through the years he would follow the Emeralds with his 6 children in tow, through the good and the bad days. Even at the end through illness, he would hold out to get a run down of one more Emeralds game.

Johnny was extremely dedicated to his children and grandchildren and was very proud of his family's dedication to the club both as players and as club officials.

The club would like to extend its deepest sympathies to his wife Geraldine, son Paddy, daughter Mary Burke, daughter Sheila Walsh, son Brian, daughter Annie, son Johnny, sons in law Peter Burke and Tom Walsh, brother Michael, sister Breda, extended family and a wide circle of friends

Ar Dheis de go raibh sé.



KITTY PHELAN

Kitty Phelan (née Wall), Newtown, Bonnettstown, who passed away on July 1st 2020 after a short illness, was born and raised in 15 Thomas's Square, Kilkenny, as one of a family of 10 children. She was predeceased by her sister Ita in 2015, her mother Margaret on March 5th this year and her father Thomas in 1997.

In March 1971 she married Joe Phelan and was the mother of three sons, James, Declan and Paddy.

For many years Kitty worked in the CBS Secondary School, James's Street. On many occasions the CBS hurling jerseys could be seen hanging out to dry in Kitty's garden – showing her love for all things CBS and especially hurling and sports.

Kitty was a lifelong member of Dicksboro Club, where she was a member of the social committee for many years, helping to organise and cater for events of all kinds.

She, with her husband Joe, travelled far and wide throughout the country to matches involving Dicksboro, CBS and Kilkenny teams of all ages with the National Féile finals weekend a highlight.

As part of the Dicksboro lotto committee for 21 years, Kitty helped out at the weekly lotto draw until shortly before her untimely death.

Kitty, as a loving wife, mother, grandmother and sister will be remembered with much love and fondness by her husband Joe; sons James, Declan, Paddy; daughters-in-law Audrey and Sinéad; grandchildren Kaitlin, Killian, Sophie and Padraig; great-granddaughter Lillie; sisters Breda, Patty, Ann and Martina; brothers Tommy, Hughie, Eddie and Jim.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dilís.



MICHAEL McCRAITH

The parish of Ballyragget was deeply saddened on the 1st of September last when news came through of the passing of one of their most popular sons, Michael McCraith. President of St Patricks GAA, Mickey's association with the club extends back to the clubs' founding days in the early 1950s where he was instrumental in developing the current club grounds on the Kilkenny Road. He would go on to serve as committee member throughout the decades that followed including a spell as Chairman in the 1980's.

Mickey spent his early working life in Careys on the square, then known as The North Kilkenny Poultry Society. He then emigrated to England in 1956 where he worked on the buildings in London. The legendary stories that returned from the Crown in Cricklewood and the Kilburn High Road would entice many more to follow his path before long. He returned to Ballyragget in 1966 and worked on the buildings in Kilkenny before joining Avonmore in 1970. He became a popular member of staff in the Ballyragget plant where he spent the remainder of his working life.

Adversity was something Michael bravely faced suffering very ill health on two occasions. Typical of his character he never complained and instead focused his thoughts on the excellent care that he received in St Luke's and St James's hospitals in Dublin. A fond ritual of his was to return every year to thank the staff on the weekend of the football All-Ireland. Mickey would never forget! His grounded nature was a common theme of course. Whether it was stewarding in Nowlan Park or manning the gate in Ballyragget, Mickey's presence was always assured. His deep involvement at the coalface of the association made him very well known in the four corners of the county and beyond.

He was very proud to be honoured as President of his beloved St. Patricks GAA club in 2010. A fitting honour for a man of such profound legacy. Visiting the dressing room before big games with a sprinkle of Holy water always gave a lift to players before entering the field. For the last few years of his life Micky was cared for by the kind staff of the O'Gorman Home in Ballyragget and never steered to far from the action pocking every ball from afar.

When the last of the Blasket Islanders abandoned the Island in 1953, they closed the door on a unique chapter of Irish heritage and culture. The characters that once inhabited the wild Island off the coast of

Kerry would never be seen again. Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann – Our kind will never be seen again was a phrase used to capture the emotion as the last Naomhóig left for Dún Chaoin. All who were privileged to know Mickey will agree for sure that we will never see his kind again. May Heaven be his bed.

Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann.
Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.



MICHAEL MORRISSEY

It was with great sadness for the people of Kilkenny St. Freshford and surrounding areas when the news broke of Mickey Morrissey's passing on Friday 11th September last. He was a lovable character and always up for a bit of crack and had a word for everyone. A regular mass goer and would always take up the collection and would never pass anyone until he made sure they deposited their contribution in the collection bag. While he was unwell for some time he bore his serious illness with great dignity.

An accomplished sports person at whatever sport he played. He played squash at the highest level and represented the local squash club in the Leinster Leagues. He gave great service to the local soccer club and had a very low handicap when it came to golf where he was a member of the Abbyleix golf club and played off a handicap of 11. He also enjoyed the odd flutter on the horses. It will be on the hurling fields where he will be best remembered. His hurling talents

were quickly recognised and in the 1973 schools Roinn B U14 county final when Freshford beat Gowran, a report in "A history of Kilkenny Primary Schools Board 1939 to 1989" stated Mickey Morrissey had a magnificent match at full back. He added an U16 Roinn A county title 2 years later when St. Lachtains beat Callan and in 1977 the minor Roinn A title was added to his collection when Mooncoin was defeated, he also collected the 1977 U21 title when a strong Ballyhale Shamrocks side were beaten. This final wasn't played until 1979. He added an Intermediate title in centenary year 1984 when St. Lachtains beat Graignamanagh for the club to go back up senior. In 1993 St. Lachtains were again back in junior ranks, Mickey was elected captain and was now operating at full-forward and was causing problems for a lot of full backs.

In the northern final he bagged 5 goals before going on to beat Kilmacow in the county final. He was also a good footballer winning county titles at U16 minor and junior. Mickey won a minor All-Ireland in 1977 when Kilkenny beat Cork in the replay as a panel member. In 1980 he was at corner

back when Tipperary beat Kilkenny in the All-Ireland U21 final by one point.

Mickey was a very popular colleague wherever he worked. Nth. Kilkenny Horse Meat Exports was his first employment (later known as Honeyclover Ltd,) other employments included McKeon Stone, Killaree, Erin Stone, Bonnetstown and Damian Lennon's Total Highway Maintenance THM. He owned an apartment in Sunny Beach Bulgaria and loved to spend as much time as possible there in the summer which he regarded as his second home. Other family members also enjoyed his hospitality there. He was well respected and loved on the apartment complex and he always had a word for everyone. He formed many friendships there, the comments that were written on a group post on news of his passing is testament to this and will be sadly missed on the complex. Every Sunday he took the bus to Bourgas a 70km round trip to attend mass, this was especially important to him and would also join the choir there. The sympathy of the community is extended to his brother Joe, sisters Patsy, Mamie, Ann, extended family and a large circle of friends. At the graveside one of his favourite songs was sung "Michael Row the Boat Ashore". A few verses of the Rose of Mooncoin were also thrown in for good measure. He was laid to rest beside his father and mother. May the sod of St Lachtain's cemetery lay lightly upon his breast.



PADDY JOE ROHAN

2020 won't be a year forgotten for many reasons, the sad loss felt by the Rohan family and the club of Carrickshock with the passing of Life President Paddy Joe on the 21st February 2020, will be forever remembered. Paddy Joe was a stalwart of the Carrickshock Gaa club from his playing days in the 1960's right up to the time of his passing.

On the field of play he was a mainstay of the Carrickshock defence, anchoring the fullback line throughout the years. Winning a Junior Championship in 1979 against Graigue Ballycallan and contesting an Intermediate Final against Clara in 1982 to mention some. Remembered on the field of play as a tough, honest, no nonsense operator, he carried these and many additional positive traits into his various roles within the club.

Up until the late 1970's there was 2 clubs in the parish, one in Stoneyford and one in Hugginstown. While still playing he took up the role of Carrickshock Chairman in 1979, set about amalgamating both and purchasing land to develop Carrickshocks own Gaa grounds, where the current pitch

resides in Hugginstown today. Paddy Joe was Chairman for over 4 decades in all, at different periods of the club's history. During one of his many stints as Chairman, he again looked at what direction the club needed to go and identified the need for a community hall. With the help of valued members of the club, they set about building the current community hall on the grounds of the Gaa club. All these facilities are in use today not just for the GAA club but also for the local community.

Paddy Joe was involved in every aspect of the club, player, official and supporter. He has been there through the great success's, be that an U16 C league and championship double in 1992, first minor A championship title in 2001 or All-Ireland intermediate glory 2017, each brought its own enjoyment and satisfaction. There have been losses along the way as is the nature of sport, but these were seen as character building and made the wins all the sweeter.

A close friend and club colleague for many years Sean Raggett, spoke at the first club meeting after Paddy Joes passing, with the fitting words from George Bernard Shaw "Some men see things as they are and ask why, others dream things that never were and ask why not?"

Paddy Joe was one of the "others"
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



TOMMY HICKEY

Tommy was involved with the Emeralds Camogie Club for a number of years, most notably as a member of the management team that won Junior in 2003 and Intermediate in 2005. Tommy was always a keen supporter of Emeralds Camogie and was the medic during his time with the club, fondly known as the 'Medicine Man.'

Tommy rarely missed a training session, only at times when his commitment to the fire brigade took precedence. Tommy was always friendly, helpful and kind to the players. He forever had a smile, a word for everyone and was always up for the craic, telling his many jokes. In recent years he donated a tournament cup to the club.

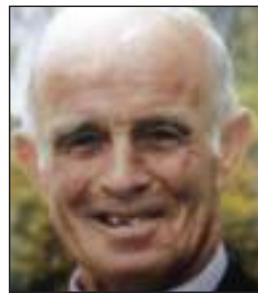
Tommy will fondly be remembered by all of the players who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Tommy was also involved in the local GAA club. He looked after the First Aid and the Defibrillator in the club rooms for many years. Tommy also qualified as a referee and enjoyed this for three years.

Tommy's commitment and good spirits will not be forgotten.

The club would like to extend its sympathies to his son Neil and his daughter Lorell, his partner Christine, his sister's Christina and Benny, his brothers in law and his nieces and nephews.

At dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



PADDY TOBIN

Paddy Tobin was a valued member of the Emeralds GAA Club. Paddy firstly played with Clomantagh Gaa club and after amalgamation in 1972,with Emeralds GAA club. During the 1980s, Paddy took up the mantle as selector of the Junior team. He went on to be very involved in helping out with many teams for this decade and into the 1990s. Paddy was known as a man who was always there to help and to give a young lad a lift to and from matches. Many players of this era have all spoken of Paddy with fond memories and appreciation of the time that he bestowed upon them. Paddy was proud of his two sons PJ and Declan who played for the Emeralds.

The club would like to extend its sympathies to his sons P.J. and Declan, his daughters in law, grandchildren, brothers Peadar and Joe, sisters Maura, Chrissie, Frances and Maggie. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh sé.



EOIN BERGIN

Eoin Bergin 26th of March 1994 to the 19th of October 2020.

On the afternoon of Monday the 19th of October the devastating news came of the passing of Eoin "Bergie" Bergin of Earlgarden, Ballyouskill. Eoin was the beloved son of Martin and Noreen and brother of Liam and Aisling, brother-in-law, grandson, uncle, nephew, cousin, and friend of so very many.

Eoin attended primary and secondary school in Castlecomer and college in Limerick where he excelled all the way through his education.

Eoin played hurling from a young age with Naomh Padraig and came up through the underage ranks and was part of many great teams. He was part of the Castlecomer Community School team that reached the Colleges Leinster Final in 2011 against St Kieran's and had narrowly missed out on league silverware a few short weeks before. In 2012, Eoin was called up to the minor county side and made his debut performance in Portlaoise against Dublin.

Eoin was part of the successful Naomh Padraig side of recent years through Under 21, Junior, Intermediate and on to senior grade. Eoin managed to help us cross the finish line on more than one occasion, sharing in the highs and lows of it all. Eoin made telling contributions, in particular, in the club's Leinster and All-Ireland Intermediate campaign in 2017-2018.

Eoin was known to all for having immense pace and, upon getting hold of the ball, was a great man to see the goal ahead. He was classed as a hard man to mark by many who had the job both competitively and in training, as when he got the ball in hand or on stick he was going for goal, whether that was around you, over you or through you. Indeed in the book "Bally Boys Abu" his player profile description states "gives most defenders nightmares". He may have been difficult on the field of play but never was when off it.

Eoin was a quiet, kind intelligent gentleman and to those who knew him he was king of the one-liners. He excelled in his career as he did in his education and was surely destined for many more great things.

Eoin is a loss that will always be keenly felt by the club and all who had the pleasure to know him. He will be forever seen by us all standing on the full forward line of the horizon waiting to guide us home safely once more.

Good night and God bless, Bergie.
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



RESULTS 2020



SENIOR HURLING		U19, U21 & SCHOOLS HURLING		
COUNTY SH C'SHIP FINAL	Ballyhale Shamrocks 5-19 Dicksboro 1-10	Due to Covid 19 Outbreak, No competitions were completed this year.		
SH LEAGUE FINAL	Dicksboro 1-20 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-20 (aet + pens)			
SH SHIELD FINAL	Clara 1-22 James Stephens 0-12	FOOTBALL		
SH RELEGATION FINAL	Graigue Ballycallan 1-15 Danesfort 1-13	Due to Covid 19 Outbreak, No Football competitions were completed this year.		
INTERMEDIATE HURLING				
COUNTY IH C'SHIP FINAL	Lisdowney 1-23 (aet + pens) Thomastown 1-23	CAMOGIE		
IH LEAGUE FINAL	Thomastown 2-18 Dunnamaggin 2-11	COUNTY SC FINAL	Thomastown 2-13 St Lachtain's/Lisdowney 0-12	
IH SHIELD FINAL	Lisdowney 2-21 Glenmore 0-13	COUNTY IC FINAL	Conahy Shamrocks 2-10 St Anne's/Emeralds 1-7	
IH RELEGATION FINAL	Fenians 4-13 St Patrick's 1-20	COUNTY JC FINAL	James Stephens 1-14 Mooncoin 1-12	
JUNIOR HURLING		COUNTY JC "B" FINAL	Blacks & Whites/Graignamanagh 3-11 (AET) John Lockes/Bennettsbridge 3-9	
COUNTY JH C'SHIP FINAL	Conahy Shamrocks 3-14 Dicksboro 0-19	U21 CAMOGIE FINALS	Not played due to health & safety restrictions at time of going to print.	
JH C'SHIP SECTION B FINAL	Dicksboro 3-20 James Stephens 2-9	MINOR "A" FINAL	Dicksboro v Young Irelands* Not yet played due to health & safety restrictions	
COUNTY JUNIOR LEAGUE FINAL 1	Tullogher Rosbercon 2-9 Conahy Shamrocks 0-11	MINOR "B" FINAL	Conahy 1-6 Tullaroan/St Anne's 0-6	
COUNTY JUNIOR LEAGUE FINAL 1	Piltown 1-21 Windgap 2-9	MINOR "C" FINAL	Mooncoin v James Stephens* Not yet played due to health & safety restrictions	
JH 'A' FINAL	Lisdowney 2-12 Graigue Ballycallan 2-5	MINOR "D" FINAL	St Lachtain's/v Tullogher* Not yet played due to health & safety restrictions	
JH 'A' RELEGATION FINAL	Young Irelands 3-14 James Stephens 2-15	U16 "A" FINAL	Conahy 5-16 St Brigid's 1-11	
JH 'B' FINAL	Mullinavat 4-12 Bennettsbridge 0-19	U16 "B" FINAL	Clara v St Lachtain's* Not yet played due to health & safety restrictions	
JH 'B' RELEGATION FINAL	St Martin's 3-13 John Lockes 2-8	U16 "B" SHIELD FINAL	Not played due to health & safety restrictions at time of going to print.	
JH 'C' C'SHIP FINAL	Danesfort 1-17 Emeralds 0-18	U16 "C" FINAL	Lisdowney 2-10 St Martin's 2-7	
JH 'C' RELEGATION FINAL	Windgap 1-12 Mooncoin 2-7	U16 "D" FINAL	Mooncoin 3-11 Rower Inistioge 1-2	
JH 'D' C'SHIP FINAL	Cloneen 2-11 Blacks & Whites 1-13	U14 "A" FINAL	Tullaroan/St Anne's 2-14 James Stephens 0-3	
JH 'E' C'SHIP FINAL	St Martin's 4-7 Dicksboro 1-13	U14 "A" SHIELD FINAL	John Lockes 5-5 Thomastown 2-7	
MINOR HURLING		U14 "B" FINAL	Windgap 3-8 Mooncoin 1-5	
ROIINN A FINAL	Dicksboro 0-19 Young Irelands 1-5	U14 "B" SHIELD FINAL	Mullinavat 6-11 O'Loughlin Gaels 1-4	
ROIINN B FINAL	Dunnamaggin 2-13 Bennettsbridge 2-10	U14 "C" FINAL	Blacks & Whites 2-5 Carrickshock 2-4	
ROIINN C FINAL	Tullaroan 2-18 Lisdowney 1-14	U14 "C" SHIELD FINAL	Kilmacow/Slieverue 8-2 Conahy 2-7	
U15 HURLING		U14 "D" FINAL	Clara 5-15 Naomh Brid/Erins Own 4-2	
ROIINN A FINAL	James Stephens 2-11 Graigue Ballycallan 2-8	U12 CAMOGIE FINALS	Not played due to health & safety restrictions at time of going to print.	
ROIINN B FINAL	Bennettsbridge 3-15 Dunnamaggin 1-10	OUTSTANDING 2019 CAMOGIE RESULTS		
ROIINN C FINAL	Glenmore 2-10 Fenians 1-11	2019 JUNIOR B FINAL	Tullogher 2-8 Piltown 1-10	
U13 HURLING		2019 U21 A FINAL	Piltown 2-11 Thomastown 2-5	
ROIINN A FINAL	James Stephens 1-19 Dicksboro 2-9	2019 U21 B FINAL	James Stephens 1-11 Clara 0-7	
ROIINN A1 FINAL	Young Irelands 2-5 Dunnamaggin 0-7	2019 MINOR 'B' FINAL	Clara 1-9 Emeralds 0-4	
ROIINN B FINAL	Not Completed	2019 MINOR 'C' FINAL	Glenmore 4-13 St Anne's 1-4	
ROIINN C FINAL	St Lachtain's 3-9 Conahy Shamrocks 2-9	2019 U16 A LEAGUE FINAL	Clara 3-15 St Brigid's 2-2	
13 A - SIDE FINAL	Blacks & Whites 1-6 Bennettsbridge 0-5	2019 U16 C LEAGUE FINAL	Windgap 4-4 Young Irelands 2-6	