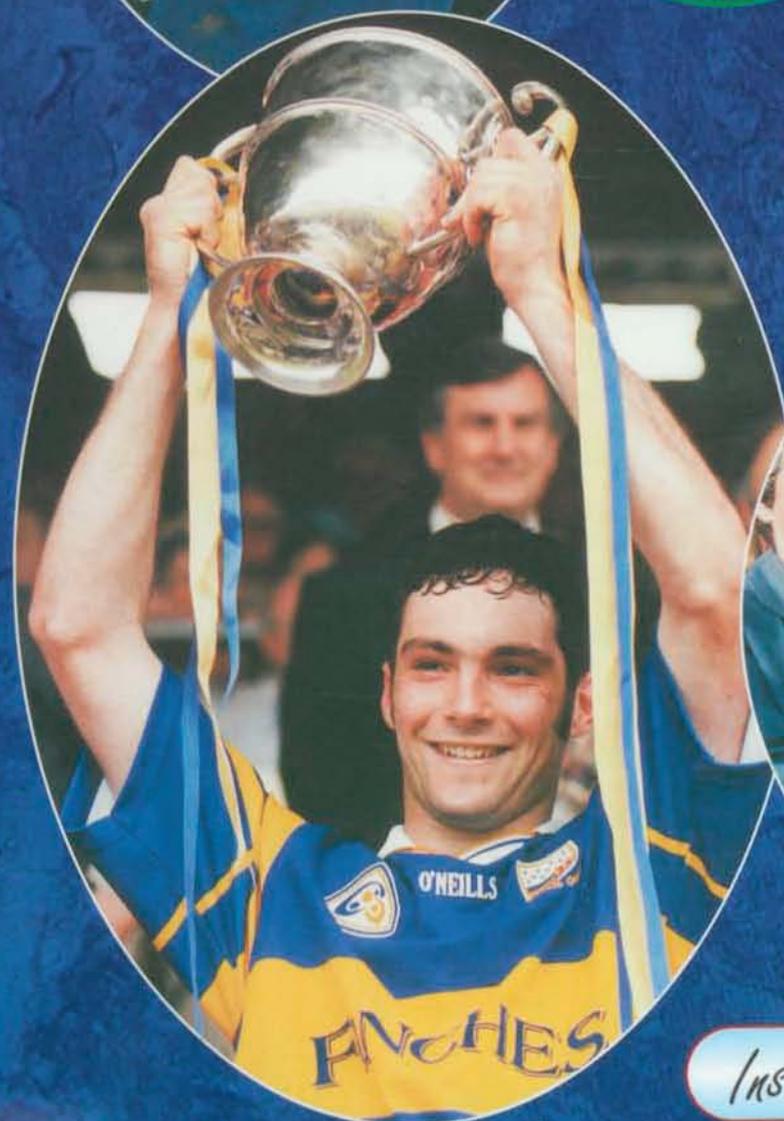


TIPPERARY G.A.A.

Yearbook 1998

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Inside: **CRYSTAL QUIZ**

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TIOBRAID ÁRANN

All-Ireland Intermediate Canogie Champions 1997

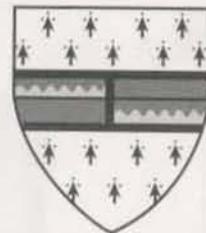


FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Una O'Dwyer, Helen Campion, Aine Hogan, Ciara Gaynor, Noelle Kennedy, Emily Hayden, Theresa Brophy, Deirdre Hughes (Capt.), Sinead Nealon. BACK ROW (l.-r.): Sheila Delaney (Selector), Biddy Phillips (Coach), Kaiffe Moloney, Meadhbh Stokes, Sinead Collins, Helen Kiely, Suzanne Kelly, Nora Dwan, Claire Madden, Jovita Delaney, Helena Frawley, Niamh Bonnar, Liam Hogan (Selector).



TIPPERARY

G.A.A. YEARBOOK



1998

CONTENTS

<i>The Sparrow among the Finches</i>	3	<i>Tipperary Supporters' Club</i>	95
<i>Moments to Cherish</i>	5	<i>A Memoir of the 1947 Minor Win</i>	96
<i>A Year of Prominence</i>	7	<i>North Tipperary Board 1997</i>	99
<i>John Leahy Interview</i>	17	<i>All-Ireland Hurling Sevens</i>	103
<i>Agonising U-21 Defeat</i>	23	<i>Tony Reddin wins Award</i>	105
<i>Tipperary Minor Hurlers</i>	27	<i>As Sick as a Parrot</i>	106
<i>After the Final Whistle</i>	30	<i>Roving Reporter's Season</i>	108
<i>Tipperary Intermediate Hurlers</i>	32	<i>Tipperary Students do Well</i>	109
<i>Noel Sheehy – one of Tipp's best</i>	33	<i>Recent Publications</i>	111
<i>Tipperary Football Board 1997</i>	37	<i>Cappawhite Ladies Football Club</i>	113
<i>New Team Manager for Senior Footballers</i>	45	<i>Mid Tipperary Review</i>	115
<i>John Owens retires</i>	47	<i>Sarsfields Honour Former Stars</i>	127
<i>Friends of Tipperary Football</i>	50	<i>Remembering Johnny and Mutt</i>	129
<i>The 'Back Door' and all that lark!</i>	51	<i>County Bord na nÓg Round-Up</i>	131
<i>Most Rev. Thomas Morris D.D.</i>	54	<i>Peadar Cummins Tournament</i>	134
<i>Suir View Rangers</i>	57	<i>Youth Affairs</i>	135
<i>Tipperary GAA County Convention</i>	59	<i>West Tipp Bord na nÓg Review</i>	136
<i>My First Hurley</i>	61	<i>South Tipp Bord na nÓg Review</i>	139
<i>1996 County Champions</i>	62	<i>North Tipp Bord na nÓg Review</i>	141
<i>Mol an Óige</i>	64	<i>Mid Tipp Bord na nÓg Review</i>	147
<i>The 1997 Senior Hurling Championship</i>	65	<i>Scór Review</i>	152
<i>Clonoulty-Rossmore's Memorable '97</i>	69	<i>Mid Tipp Scór</i>	155
<i>Fethard Viewpoint</i>	73	<i>Tipperary Handball '97</i>	158
<i>Tribute to an Historic Win</i>	73	<i>County Camogie Report</i>	167
<i>West Board Review</i>	75	<i>Intermediate Camogie All-Ireland</i>	170
<i>Emly Make History</i>	79	<i>Camogie Scoreboard</i>	172
<i>Successful Season for Aherlow</i>	81	<i>County Camogie Clubs Success</i>	174
<i>Historic Year for Arravale Rovers</i>	83	<i>Post Primary Camogie</i>	177
<i>South Tipperary Review</i>	85	<i>Tipperary Post Primary Games</i>	178
<i>Ballybacon/Grange GAA Club</i>	88	<i>Tipperary Primary Schools</i>	183
<i>Fr. Sheehy's pull off the treble</i>	89	<i>North Tipperary Primary Schools</i>	190
<i>Success for South Tipperary</i>	91	<i>Scoreboard 1997</i>	191
<i>Ballingarry GAA Club</i>	92	<i>Tipperary's 1997 All-Stars</i>	194
<i>Swan – County Minor 'B' Football Winners</i>	93	<i>Friends we Lost in 1997</i>	195
<i>Proposals for a Better System</i>	94		

COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

SUCCESSFUL CAPTAINS OF 1997 – Willie Morrissey (Fethard), Noel Keane (Clonoulty/Rossmore), Donncha Fahey (Tipperary Minor Hurlers), Deirdre Hughes (Tipperary Intermediate Camogie)

Liam Ó Donnchú, Tipperary Yearbook Secretary, Ballymoreen, Littleton, Thurles, Co. Tipperary



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The Sparrow among the Finches

TANTALISING! That is the only word for the past season in these parts. Tantalus would himself, I believe, sympathise with Tipperary Gaels who ended the season without a single trophy, despite some wonderful performances in League and Championship.

We know from *A History of Hurling* by Seamus King that our national game may have had its remote origins in the native country of Tantalus, Ancient Greece. A carved panel in the National Museum of Greece depicts two men with sticks and a ball, for all the world like two hurlers awaiting the referee's throw-in. For all we know, we may all be descended from the wily, athletic Greeks!

Tantalus, the son of the god Zeus, 'leaked' the secrets of the gods to humans – leaks have as long a history as hurling! His punishment was to be sent to Hades, where he was put standing in a lake for all eternity. The water comes up to his chin. The underworld, as we know, or used to know, is a pretty hot place, Winter and Summer, and poor Tantalus is always gasping for a drink. But every time he bends down to drink, the level of the lake lowers just that little bit beyond his reach. So near and yet so far! There are no bottle-men down there to throw him a life line.

So Tantalus would understand the sheer frustration of a County which came within a puck of the ball of winning a Senior Munster and All-Ireland title, an Under 21 Munster and a place in the Minor Final. It was tantalising in the true meaning of the word.

The Seniors brushed the Limerick challenge aside in early June. With the Minors, they took on Clare in Páirc Uí Chaoimh in July. The curtain raiser ended in a welter of excitement as Shelly the Younger came in as a sub and halted Clare's gallop with as sweet a goal as you could wish to see. Clare, who looked home and dry, were left queuing for the backdoor.



*Most Rev. Dermot Clifford, DD,
Archbishop of Cashel & Emly*

The Clare Seniors were back after a year's rest and they were back with a vengeance. But, even though they were described by everyone as a very settled side, Tipp succeeded in unsettling them in the final minute. John Leahy, who has the uncanny knack of popping up unexpectedly inside the backs at crucial moments, found himself within ten yards and a puck of the ball, from tying the game up with less than a minute to go. He did not connect properly and the front door banged closed on Tipp.

A tremendous display against Wexford in the semi-final restored our confidence and this time John Leahy did not miss. Shelly Senior came into his own and the Tipp supporters had a day out to remember. To have beaten last year's All-Ireland champions gave a particular sense of satisfaction. The Minors, playing against Galway, suffered the identical fate they had themselves inflicted on Clare. *"Whom the gods destroy, they*

first make mad", the Greeks used to say. In this case, it was when Clare lifted the Irish Press Cup that the Tipp boys were mad – mad with themselves for letting the game slip in the closing minutes!

The Senior final was unique – two Munster teams contesting the final for the first time. The new arrangement was proving most intriguing. Would it be a repeat of the Munster final or would a strengthened Tipp forward line reverse the previous verdict? I am beginning to sound like Michael O'Muircheartaigh now.

In the first half it looked a distinct possibility. But Clare turned on the power in the second half and seemed to be coasting for an easy victory when Tipp staged a dramatic come-back and lifted the game to new heights with fine goals from Liam Cahill and Eugene O'Neill. Who can ever forget the last pulsating minutes when the two teams exchanged the lead! The grand-stand finish recalled the 1956 final and Christy Ring's famous shot for a winning goal and his ninth All-Ireland medal. Art Foley saved brilliantly on that occasion and Wexford took the McCarthy Cup.

In the final minute of the mighty contest of '97, it was the awesome sight of John Leahy in full flight, bearing down on the Clare goal, nobody to beat but the goalkeeper – Tipp just one point down. We held our breath for the killer blow. The puck, like Ring's, lacked the full force, perhaps the fear of being hooked prevented both men from delivering the full body blow. Like Art Foley, David Fitzgerald made a wonderful match-winning save. Beaten by only a single point, Tipp people were naturally disappointed but still felt proud of the performance of their team while acknowledging the over-all superiority of Clare in 1997.

Great credit was given to Len Gaynor, to his fellow selectors and to the dedicated panel who had given us so many thrills and so much enjoyment all through the season. Mickey Byrne was

credited with a joke for the occasion: *One sparrow is worth fifteen finches*. The reality was that Ger 'the Sparrow' O'Loughlin had been pretty well caged in all day and only scored a single point. It was Jamesy O'Connor and Ollie Baker who inflicted the main damage.

The Tipp women succeeded splendidly where the men failed so narrowly. They beat Clare by seven points in the All-Ireland Intermediate Final. Noelle Kennedy of Toomevara scored a record 1-18! The under-18 side took a Munster title, beating Cork in extra time in a thrilling encounter.

Tipperary handballers kept the flag flying as Pat Gleeson of Nenagh won the Masters B while Ballyporeen won the Under 21 doubles and Ballina took the Team of Six medals.

Fethard returned after a short lay-off to recapture the Senior County Championship, while Arravale Rovers took the Minor honours for the West. Aherlow, the beaten finalists in the Senior grade, will be a team to be reckoned with in the not-so-distant future.

Tipperary footballers gave Kerry the closest call they got on their way to their first All-Ireland since 1986. Tipp were ahead with ten minutes to go in Austin Stack Park in Tralee. It brought back memories of 1975 in Clonmel when Tipperary came within an ace of nipping the team of all talents in the bud. Our footballers are not far short of 'making the cut' as they say in golfing parlance.

The Siúl Mór was an imaginative initiative and large crowds welcomed the walkers to the main historic sites in the County. I was privileged to walk side by side with Mr John Ryan, the Hollyford 105 year old and I had a bit of a job to keep up with him! What a marvellous

example of commitment. To say, "Go maire tú an céad" would be a prayer long since answered. May he live well into his third century, being born as he was in 1892.

The symposium on football in Hayes' Hotel was well attended and proved most instructive. Full marks to Michael Frawley and the Football Board for this very worthwhile initiative.

The Artane Boys Band played in the Premier Hall and their very entertaining programme included both traditional and modern, classical and popular. It was a new experience to see the Band sitting down to the job. They were preceded on stage by a Scór group from the County who showed wonderful talent and great promise. The GAA family keeps up its commitment to our language, our music and our culture.

The County Championship semi-final produced one of the most extraordinary derailings since the Great Train Robbery. Boherlahan-Dualla, last year's champions, were the bewildered victims of Declan Ryan's legerdemain from spectacular frees and passes. Declan, the Ronnie Biggs of the plot, closed a wonderful season with a County medal when Clonoulty defeated a gallant Mullinahone side in an exciting game. John Leahy once again almost brought it off – the post denied him a last minute goal. I expect the men of Knocknagow will be seen again and before long. Toomevara Minors were too strong for a skillful Golden team. The young greyhounds are showing their breeding already!

The question of the 'Back Door' continues to be debated. As one who was brought up on the missionary's refrain, "One soul, one chance, one eternity", I would not favour second chances after the provincial finals. But the new system gave GAA followers two exception-

ally fine games of hurling, Kilkenny v Galway and Tipp v Wexford. That cannot but be good for the game. Perhaps an open draw with home and away games? Or, alternatively, a second chance for teams defeated in the first round in their own province. I think that the provincial finals should be the definite knock-out stage. However, the experiment deserves one further year's study before a final judgement should be passed.

So the 1998 Annual places on record another very interesting and eventful year. "Comment is free but facts are sacred", said C.P. Snow. All the facts and the comments are here in abundance while the photographs provide a fine record in their own right. Our writers, like our players, managers and selectors are people steeped in sport. They are knowledgeable, fair-minded and generous.

This reminds me of the comments of a New York Times sports writer on the Polo Grounds All-Ireland Final of 1947. "There was something heart-warming about the way the game finished. Irishmen who had spent sixty minutes knocking the bejapers out of each other, rushed over, not to throw a final punch, but to shake hands and congratulate each other in a magnificent gesture of sportsmanship".

Slán beó leis an Doctúir Tomás Ó Muiris, is minic a thug sé an comhairle chéanna dúin, "bímíd ag tnú leis an mbua, gan amhras, ach is mó is fiú an imirt ná an bua."

Gúim beannactaí na Nollag ar na leigheoirí agus ar a gcurám. And as for the New Year, may the finches be chirping and the sparrows be silenced in 1998!

**Most Rev. Dermot Clifford, DD,
Archbishop of Cashel & Emly**



*The fightback begins...
Tipperary forward Liam Cahill kicks Tipperary's first goal past Clare goalkeeper David Fitzgerald during the second half of the All-Ireland senior hurling final at Croke Park in September. Included in photograph are (l to r) – Anthony Daly (C); Brian Lohan (Clare); Aidan Ryan (Tipperary); Frank Lohan (Clare); Liam Cahill (Tipperary) and David Fitzgerald (Clare).*

Moments to cherish



Paul O'Neill

The production of the G.A.A. Yearbook signals the end of another year of Gaelic activity in the county. It's an occasion for looking back over the past twelve months, savouring our successes, regretting our defeats and speculating about the might-have-beens. From the perspective of the end of 1997 it appears a most frustrating year.

We did have our moments of joy. Defeating Wexford in the All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final was a win to cherish. Grabbing victory from the jaws of defeat in the Munster minor hurling final in Cork was a moment of ecstasy. Watching Mullinahone qualify for their first senior hurling final was observing history in the making. Seeing John Leahy play hurling of such extravagant brilliance made one feel good to be alive. Noelle Kennedy's 1-18 in the All-Ireland intermediate camogie final was another moment to savour.

But somehow the losses and defeats

made a bigger impact on one's being. The missed goals in the Munster and All-Ireland finals were tantalising. If they did the opposite in the Munster final, our minors snatched defeat from the jaws of victory in the All-Ireland semi-final. And the Under-21 hurlers left certain victory behind them in Thurles. It was all so frustrating, not only defeat, but defeat by the smallest of margins.

On the positive side there was a tremendous amount of voluntary work in the county on behalf of the Association during the year. This work was done at all levels, keeping clubs alive by raising finance, training teams, coaching juveniles. It was done by attending meetings and keeping the organisation ticking over. It was done on the many committees which are necessary to keep divisional and county activity going. The G.A.A. is a huge organisation and from my perspective as chairman, I am only too well aware

of the enormous number of people required and the immense amount of work needed to keep it going.

The Yearbook is essential for keeping a record of all this activity. It faithfully preserves for posterity the success and losses of the year, not only at the intercounty level but through all the levels of playing activity throughout the county. It gives recognition to those who through their involvement in the G.A.A. deserve to be recognised. Not only is it a written and statistical record, it is also a brilliant visual compendium of the year's experience. The committee responsible for its production is experienced and diligent. It has an outstanding track record in its field and I have no doubt but that Yearbook 98 will live up to that traditional high standard. I recommend it highly to all followers of Tipperary.

Pól Ó Néill
Cathaoirleach
Bord an Chontae.

Tipperary G.A.A. Yearbook 1998

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A Year of Prominence - but no Prizes

SENIOR HURLING REVIEW

By: JOHN O'GRADY
("Culbairé")

IT WAS A year of wide scope for apt labelling: "Year One" of the new championship order; "The Year of the Back Door"; "The Year of Luckless Leahy"; "The Year of the Two Defeats". Yes, '97 was a curio - the system got nearly as much attention as the actual hurling. It ended with what every championship since the very first sought to produce, an unbeaten, indisputable champion county.



Conal Bonnar bursts past the tackles of Jamesie O'Connor and Ger O'Loughlin during the All-Ireland senior hurling final at Croke Park.

There is not much argument about the Banner being the best. Tipp. had to be content - or discontented - with an honourable second. Without Tipp's late two goal burst the All-Ireland final would have been a plain, straight-forward business, lacking drama. John Leahy could have readily drawn it. He went to win it on that late opportunity. David Fitzgerald turned the shot away towards the Cusack side - the oft-shown sequence will forever thrill the Clare and depress the Tipp. viewer.

That it was a close cousin to a parallel episode in the Munster Final only intensified the contrasting emotions. Ger Loughnane, pugnaciously, provocatively, patriotically, had led Clare to the title that endorsed their breakthrough of '95. Len Gaynor's first season of his "second coming" had yielded prominence, but no prizes. Three finals were contested under his new regime - the Waterford crystal before Christmas '96, the Munster Final, the All-Ireland - all three went the same unwelcome way. The margins were one point, three points and one point! Fiendish bad luck, without a doubt.

Len Gaynor had led Tipp. in pre-Bab's days. He had gone over the Shannon to manage Clare - his was the side that got trounced in the '93 Munster Final, a game that was to be used to motivate the current Clare brigade. As fellow-selectors he chose Michael Doyle, son of John and with a chequered Tipp. career behind him; and Murt Duggan, former Tipp. minor. As they came in, out went two of the county's best servants. The long county

careers of Nicky English and Pat Fox came to an end, despite the odd rumour of a return call for one, or both, whenever some of the younger crop had a poor day.

NOT CUT GLASS

The Five Counties competition, with its crystal trophy, was a "private sector" enterprise designed to give late-season competition and fill the vacuum created by the lack of League fixtures under the "calendar year" format.

It justified itself quite well. Tipp. recovered from a initial defeat in Cork to qualify for the final against Kilkenny. Indeed, we played Kilkenny twice within a week, first at the Stadium, winning 0-14 to 1-9. Such as Brian Gaynor, Johnny Enright, Stephen Hogan and Tom Madden were involved with the regulars.

The final at Walsh Park saw us defeated "on the nod" in a tight finish, 1-11 to 0-13. Kilkenny brought in John Power and Adrian Ronan, switched Liam Keoghan and D. J. Carey to good effect and Tipp. had a bad third quarter. Charlie Carter's goal was a vital blow - he later hit the winning point to bring relief to Nicky Brennan, who had been under verbal fire from some followers during the first half. The competition had been an "optional extra", so the result meant less than in the more prestigious things to come.

The Church & General League began in March, as per the new theory. Its advocates, whether within the G.A.A. or in the media, hailed it as an obvious success when good crowds attended games favoured by the weather. It was only in mid-Summer, when the

Thurles Milk

Naturally the best!



championships were in progress, that the awkwardness of inserting League knock-out games between championship rounds became apparent.

A POOR START

After four rounds, Tipp. had one win to credit plus a draw, so the prospects were not great as regards qualification. To begin with, we went under to John McIntyre's Offaly at Nenagh. Uncharacteristic slips by Brendan Cummins for their two goals were more than the home team could survive – we lost, 2-14 to 1-15, after being seven points ahead in ten minutes.

John Enright had to depart with a calf injury. Much more severe was the injury which Michael Cleary sustained, falling into a pull as the whistle blew for a free and getting a bad facial knock. Some thought it might even sap his zest for further competitive play at this stage of his career. The team that day included several who would not feature in the championship – Delaney, Gaynor, Friend, Maguire, Enright, Stephen Hogan. We lacked Leahy, Mick Ryan, Raymie Ryan and Conal Bonnar.

The expected victory over Laois in round two got nobody very excited. Bab's team ruffled us with two goals before half-time. Tipp. got into smooth production on the re-start, hitting a "rake" of points in a 1-23 to 2-9 win. Sheedy played in Gaynor's spot on the left, Gleeson at centre, this being accepted as his natural placing at this stage. Andy Moloney came back from lengthy injury as a sub for O'Meara.

The second of the "home" dates was at the Stadium against Galway. We lost 1-16 to 0-17. John Leahy returned. Conor Gleeson did well against Michael Coleman. Liam Sheedy got a run at wing back. Andy Moloney of Cahir partnered Aidan Butler at midfield as experiments continued.

Away to Limerick threatened to worsen the position, but we fought a creditable draw, 1-12 each. In came Raymie Ryan, Brendan Carroll, Kevin Tucker, with Brian Horgan, Dinny Hogan and Philip O'Dwyer used as subs. Tipp. were a surprising seven up at the interval but came under fierce pressure in a tough encounter. Declan Ryan's form at centre forced a switch of Carey and Houlihan. The draw was welcome as a morale boost, but few would have predicted that the difficult run-in of games with Wexford, Clare and Kilkenny would all be won – especially the one at Ennis.

This climactic flourish from the verge of relegation to a high place in the table started at Thurles when we beat All-Ireland holders Wexford, 2-12 to 1-8. The champions, under Rory Kinsella as heir to Liam Griffin, had not



Tipperary forward Brian O'Meara (left) and Michael O'Halloran (Clare) in action during the All-Ireland final at Croke Park.

been going well. Paul Delaney was at left-full, Brian Horgan outside him. The midfield was a Ryan-Carroll pairing, Tucker and Flanagan got forward places. A driving finish carried Tipp. from equality at 1-8 to a seven point victory. Flanagan clinched it with a last-minute goal. Things were looking up.

A WIN AT ENNIS

Going to Ennis held small promise. Clare would be all fired up to deal with opposition which has become presented in recent years, since the '93 Munster final, as looking on the Banner as inferiors not worthy of "respect". All partisan and trumped-up nonsense, but who could stem the tide of propaganda? We were to hear a lot more of it before the year was out. As worthy '95 champions and unlucky '96 losers to Limerick, Clare were bound to be a very difficult obstacle on their own ground. Yet Tipp. came away with a one point victory – 1-10 to 0-12.

John Leahy was introduced for Liam McGrath at the interval. It proved a decisive move as he hurled a storming

half. A goal by Tommy Dunne after a quarter had been the basis of equality at the break, 1-6 to 0-9.

Some severe tackling in the Clare defence led to Frank Lohan being set off for a foul of Tucker. We lost Delaney through a knee injury, Conor Gleeson was the substitute. The defence took a heavy pounding as Clare strove to please their ardent supporters but three grand saves by Brendan Cummins thwarted them.

The win was great for morale – we would, at year's end, have swapped it for just one of the championship defeats! It was also very useful towards getting into the knock-out stage of the League.

The last of the group games took place, unusually, on a Saturday evening. Kilkenny were already safe as regards qualifying. Down a point at the break, Tipp. hurled their strongest spell of the year to go way ahead at 3-19 to 3-11. Aidan Butler, replacing Carroll, was a driving force from midfield. Cleary had a very creative game at full-forward. We were through for further League action later on. Had we but

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Nigel Shaughnessy (Glaway) and Raymie Ryan photographed during the National Hurling League semi-final at Ennis.

known it, the best of the League was already over; the rest would be down-beat, ill-timed and set for a tame exit by a "shadow" selection.

What, at this stage, were the mentors' assessment of people and placings, with the championship looming up? The "foursome" of Cummins, Shelly, Sheedy and Ryan seemed settled. Raymie Ryan, Colm Bonnar and Gleeson seemed to be their idea of the half-backs, though the wing could be questioned as Gleeson's location. Leahy and Butler had the inside track for midfield. Tucker and O'Dwyer were at this time rated ahead of McGrath and Flanagan. Cleary was at "full", in the hope of doing a Nicky-type job of unsettling a defence with crafty movement and laying off. Dunne was at left wing, his later midfield role unthought of yet. Declan on the "40" was an obvious "key". The sequence of wins over Wexford, Clare and Kilkenny sounded a hopeful note as Limerick's visit to the Stadium – they had beaten Waterford already – aroused extreme interest. A crowd of some fifty thousand was the consequence, a marvellous spectacle in itself.

TIPP. AT HOME

Having lost two years in a row at Páirc Uí Chaoimh we were glad to have home advantage this time. Limerick had not capitalised to the maximum on those Munster titles. Tom Ryan's men would be all too keener to have another tilt at the honours – or would the double disappointment have sapped their self-belief?

Tipp. were alert and ready. The big break came when Leahy cut through

the centre of the defence and bore down on goal. His shot was briefly stopped by Quaid. Cleary followed up to finish the move. It gave us a three point interim lead of 1-8 to 0-8. Tipp. had three championship debutantes in Gleeson, Butler and O'Dwyer.

With the visitors held scoreless in the last eleven minutes, Tipp. swept to a ten-point victory, 1-20 to 0-13. It made a mockery of cautious predictions of closeness. Carroll came on for Butler, Conal Bonnar for Raymie Ryan. In retrospect, it did seem that Limerick lacked their dash of previous years, but it was a promising Tipp. performance.

The win did more than book a Munster final place against Clare. It made a second outing automatic, whatever way that final went. This was the dividend of the new system – Kilkenny were to gain it in Leinster as losers to Wexford. Many wondered if assurance of survival would take from the Munster decider. There was little visible, or audible, evidence that it did, with the cross-Shannon rivalry of Tipp. and Clare "hyped" up in the media and a colourful throng beside the Lee. Tipp. chose the following: Cummins, Shelly, Sheehy, Ryan, Raymie Ryan, Colm Bonnar, Gleeson, Leahy, Butler, Tucker, Ryan, Dunne, Cahill, Cleary, O'Dwyer. A late rumour suggested fitness problems for Colm Bonnar, but he lined out.

To begin with, and for about twenty-five minutes, it was a Banner fiesta, loudly applauded by their exultant fans. They "riddled" Tipp. into the Blackrock posts to the tune of eight points up. Our half-backs in particular were drawn this way and that by fluent

movements led by O'Connor and company. Only Declan Ryan seemed assured in play or shooting. We did hit back for three points before the interval to be five down. Flanagan for O'Dwyer and Conal Bonnar for Gleeson were remedial changes for the resumption.

TIPP. RALLY FAILS

In a sparkling, uplifting seven-minute burst, Tipp. clawed back to level! Tucker and Leahy were finding the target, John now on left wing, with Cleary out at midfield. In the fifteenth minute Clare hit back, lethally. Sub. forward David Forde rammed in the only goal after slack defence out on the left. We had our chances. There was a line-ball which penetrated the Clare square for Leahy to strike, Fitzgerald to save twice, the second effort from Flanagan scrambled clear.

Best remembered of all will be the ball which fell to Leahy off a Cahill placing. He swung and met more earth than ball. There was to be no reprieve. Soon Anthony Daly was up there receiving the trophy and rousing the ecstatic Banner folk who thronged the pitch.

It was Clare's first-ever provincial final win over Tipperary. Daly expressed their delight by putting the tag of "whipping boys" on their teams of the past. It was a label that would certainly have been resented if applied by somebody from outside the Banner boundaries – a "slur on Clare" and all that. On home lips it proved acceptable.

Tipp's P.R.O. Liz Howard questioned its wisdom and its implications about Tipp. in an article in the programme of an under-21 game a few weeks later. This drew tit-for-tat replies and escalation of the issue in the Clare papers and elsewhere. Six days after our defeat we beat Dublin the League quarter-final at the Stadium 0-14 to 0-8.

Tipp. weren't out of the championship, of course. The quarter-finals line-up rested on a pick from the hat. Galway or Down? It was hardly a matter of indifference. Luck went our way and Down it was, while Kilkenny were to face Galway.

The distant stadium of Clones was chosen as the venue, not very convenient for anybody. Anything bar a sound win was unthinkable, on all known form. A good enough win was the outcome – 3-24 to 3-8. In the points column, the expected large majority; in goals, a slightly disturbing parity. Down got their three in the last twelve minutes with all tension gone from the game – Aidan Ryan's brilliant break and deadly shot had indicated the outcome. If that was a classy one, Down's Sands matched it with a searing double for their third.

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Reacting to problems in Cork, the mentors picked Liam Sheehy at right-half, Carroll on the other flank, Dunne and Gleeson at midfield, O'Neill at full-forward and O'Meara at left corner. Leahy was restored to a forward berth and scored eight points. Aidan Ryan, replacing Tucker, scored 1-2 so was back in the picture. Realistically, though, it had been a unpressurised occasion, difficult to assess vis-a-vis a semi-final against champions Wexford. Then came a token "shadow" affair against Galway at Ennis in the League – we lost 1-14 to 0-6.

Now the effects of the new format took visible shape. Wexford were meeting a team which normally, would no longer be still involved. Galway would have felt similarly about playing Kilkenny. And the results intensified such reservations – both the "recycled" counties capitalised on their re-entry to the race.

THE CHAMPIONS TOPPLED

Tipp. had not met Wexford in the championship since the final defeat in 1968. The Model County were now reigning champions. Their victory over Limerick in the '96 final had nearly been as significant for them as Clare's had been for the Banner. The immediate resignation of Liam Griffin was certainly a loss and they had a poor League series. Something close to effective re-grouping, though, had carried them to victory in Leinster. On form, they had to be favourites. Even in Tipp. we had no lack of gloomy forecasting, though a constant theme was how close we'd been to Clare, despite the shortcomings.

It proved to be Tipp's finest hour – or seventy minutes – of the year. Wexford were hit early by a Leahy deflection for one goal, later in the first half by O'Meara, finishing for the second. They had unluckily lost captain and right half-back Rod Guiney within a few minutes. Tipp. kept them off balance with instant strong tackling, Conor Bonnar a leader in this.

We'd survived an early alarm when Cummins succeeded in "putting off" full-forward Laffan, alone in possession on the edge of the square. John O'Connor could not cope with John Leahy's pace and mobility. Tipp. led at half-time by 2-7 to 0-7 and had been further in front. Wexford had a second loss in Rory McCarthy for the second half. Martin Storey, switched in on Sheehy, threatened somewhat for a time into the Railway posts. Three times Wexford got to within four points but Tipp. were "on song" despite Leahy's departure with the effects of a facial blow, and killed off the champions with sweet late pointing by such as Cleary and Cahill. Billy Byrne was brought on, but to little avail. It was a victory to thrill Tipp's large



Every picture tells a story – Tipperary selectors (l.-r.): Len Gaynor, Murt Duggan and Michael Doyle express their emotions after Tipperary's exciting one-point victory over Clare at Ennis in the National Hurling League.

following and was greeted as such. It ensured an all-Munster All-Ireland – a second chance against Clare.

BACK DOOR VISA

The "back door" had been availed of to the full in its very first year. The phrase was heard and read, endlessly. Someone even made good fun out of it by writing a song on the theme. The fact that Clare's minors had gained similarly was some check on over-exploitation of the circumstances to cast doubt on Tipp's credentials.

Len Gaynor had made no secret at any stage of his adverse opinion of the second chance and, as an honest and consistent man, reaching the final did not alter his view. The system was there. In another season it could be others who benefited.

"Clare are the only unbeaten team in the country – they ought to be declared champions. Why should Tipp. be champions if they beat Clare – wouldn't it be one win each" Why

wouldn't Clare get a second chance?" Such were the arguments heard, all quite useless. Congress in London had approved of a two-year trial, so let's get on with it.

The prospect was very exciting and just a bit unreal. All through the long years a team had no way of losing twice in the same championship except by getting back in on a successful objection. Clare had done so, at Tipp's expense, in the "Cooney Case" of 1938 over the legality of Carrick's Dublin-based Jimmy Cooney. Now Tipp. were back in, and with no need of any objection. Would a title won under this novel process be regarded as highly as all the regular ones of the past? We were very willing to find out, but we never did!

Our first All-Ireland appearance since '91! It was great to be involved; to be the focus of attention, even if in some media quarters our "image" continued to be target of a peculiar

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animosity, as if Tipp. were guilty of winning too much. Two titles in a quarter-century did not seem excessive! The "hype", at any rate, proceeded with growing intensity as the big day drew closer – all kinds of features and angles were the stuff of journalistic enterprise. Clare were the general favourites as far as forecasting – and betting – went. In Tipp. a fair amount of optimism was generated out of the slenderness of the margin in Cork, though at the same time it was admitted we had not really found form or risen to the task. The great ability of Clare's defence was freely conceded,

at what they saw on this biggest day of the year, through much of the first half. In place of the hesitancy at Cork was a very positive approach indeed – it was Clare who were on the receiving end. Banners were quiet enough on the Canal End as Tipp. hit five points in ten minutes to raise an early one point lead to a substantial six – two by Leahy, one each from Gleeson, Dunne and O'Neill. Declan Ryan was the chief creator. Clare hit back with three, late choice Gilligan getting two off Paul Shelly, but Leahy, beating two men, ended the half with Tipp's tenth. Four up – not bad, not conclusive –

little in the play had indicated such a breakthrough – scoring two goals to take the lead. Leahy's fine cross from left corner was resourcefully kicked to the net by Cahill. After a point had been given away by a loose midfield pass, further drama.

Tommy Dunne stood over a "65". Ger Loughnane made a crossfield excursion before Dunne could strike. The ball came back – off bar or 'keeper? – and O'Neill returned it smartly past Fitzgerald. Pandemonium with a Tipp. accent! A point up! Were we going to snatch it? In the crisis, it was Clare who found the possession that mattered. Ollie Baker wiped out the brief lead. A draw? A third meeting? Jamesy O'Connor had other ideas, as well as the speed and coolness to turn them into one more shot, one of twenty over Cummins' bar. We hoped for reprieve and then came the desired chance.

O'Meara tapped to his right, into the path of John Leahy. He picked, looked and shot, instantly. Tipp. eyes did a "fast forward" to see a net shaking. They saw something less welcome, goalie Fitzgerald getting down low to turn aside to the right a ball that lacked the pace to beat him. Anguished thoughts went back to Cork as Clare shouts saluted their hero. one more opportunity preceded the whistle. Captain Gleeson would have been an apt saviour, but his drive from midfield faded to the right. We prayed for further time. There was none.

A very sporting game had gone to the Burren, proven the best team in the nation. The one real focus of argument was whether a shot by Declan Ryan in the first half had really gone wide. Repeated showings on television were not conclusive. Eamon Cregan did not please Ger by saying it was a point. It's academic now.

PROSPECTS FOR '98

A year of maximum activity and narrow defeats leaves us still with only one title in the current decade. We say goodbye with warm appreciation to a courageous, honest player in Noel Sheehy, our long-time full-back from Silvermines, who has announcement his retirement.

Next year's Munster draws give Tipp. an obvious chance of staying in the hunt after the provincial campaign – we meet Waterford or Kerry in a semi-final. The strong trio of Cork, Limerick and Clare will be battling on the other side of the draw, with the champions quite warm favourites. We could be in for more of the same as in '97. A little more luck, for the team as well as for Leahy, would be very welcome.



Liam Cahill (left) and Willie O'Connor in action during the National Hurling League game at Thurles.

as was their abundant spirit as a team, under the crusading lead of Loughnane.

Simply as a spectacle – and as a cacophony of sound – the All-Ireland was very memorable. Tipp. colours on Hill 16. Clare's at the Canal end. Other areas less uniform in pattern. And good-humoured spirit all round – the game unites as well as divides.

TEAM UNCHANGED

Our selection, despite much speculation about young O'Neill's prospects – Ger Cushe had been Wexford's best defender – proved to be a repeat of the semi-final: Cummins, Shelly, Sheehy, Ryan, Sheedy, Colm Bonnar, Conal Bonnar, Dunne, Gleeson (Captain), McGrath, Declan Ryan, Leahy, Cleary, O'Neill, O'Meara. Clare minors began the day with a victory for the "back door" brigade. Could Tipp. do likewise?

The Tipp. people who had sat and suffered through a torrid opening in the Munster final were altogether happier

and we had justified our presence. A worry was the amount won by Lynch and Baker from Dunne at Gleeson at midfield.

A TWO-GOAL THRUST

Liam McGrath's wing place was given to Aidan Ryan for the second half. Clare came out in most positive mood. Wing-back Doyle set the pattern with a long one. In a brief eight minutes all our lead was gone and those banners were now on constant display. The slump continued into arrears of five points, with Forde a prominent contributor. They used a "third man" gambit by bringing him out from Ryan's corner to pick up things almost as far as midfield.

Tipp. were badly unsettled and under fierce pressure. Cahill was brought on for Cleary. Was it to be a straight forward sweep to victory for Clare and a finish of diminishing tension? Not so. It was Tipp. who kept the drama in the game by suddenly –

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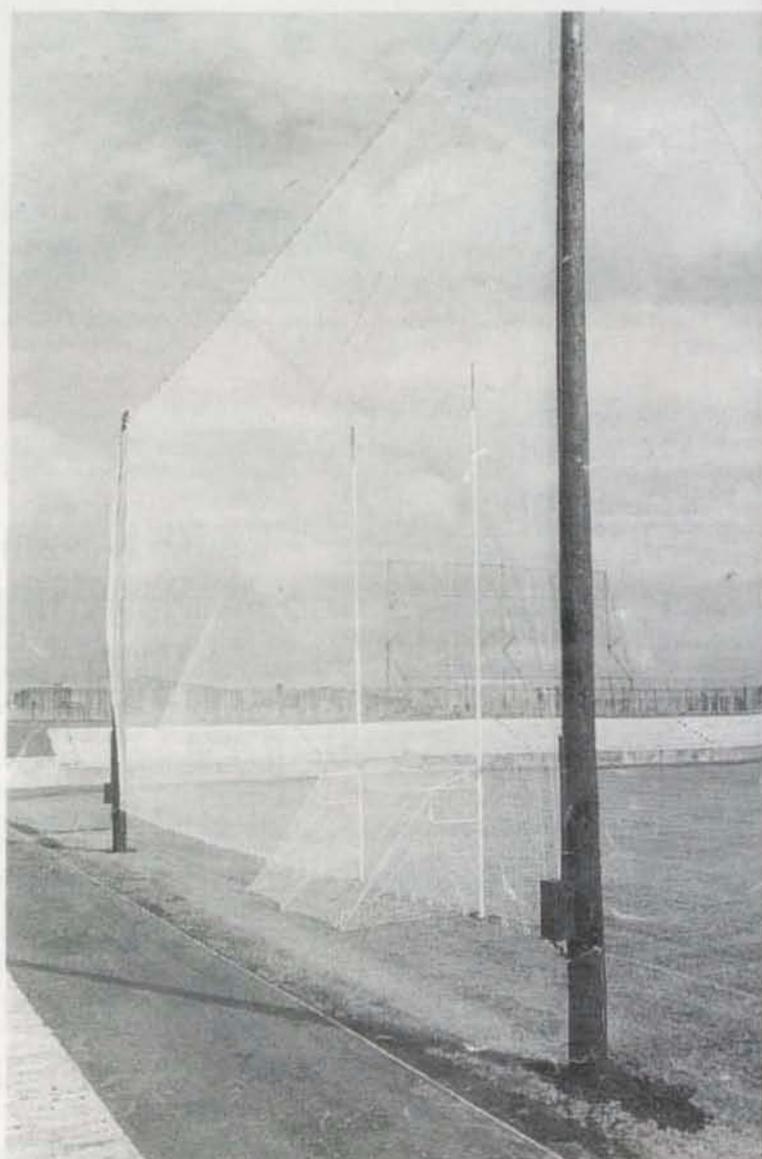
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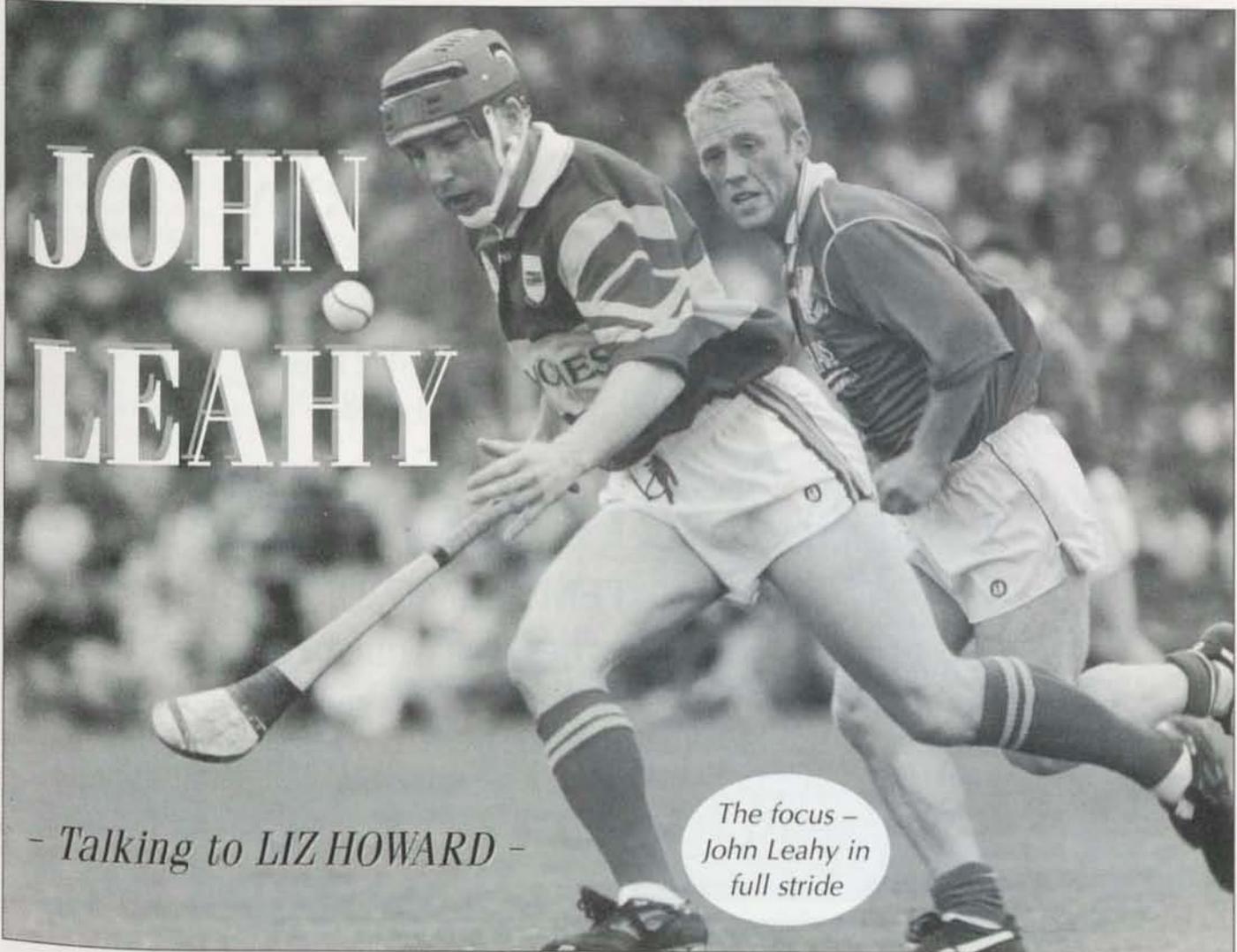
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JOHN LEAHY



- Talking to LIZ HOWARD -

The focus –
John Leahy in
full stride

“For my money, peerless in today’s game. Magical skills, the balance of a beam gymnast, almost as wristy as Christy – and that’s as close as anyone I’ve seen can ever get – and with the fire of Montserrat; fast as steroidic Tokyo Johnson off the mark; strength of a demon, courage of lions. All that is one package – but what pulls it all together, for me, is the focus. The single-mindedness, the absolute determination that, on his day, on the day that Johnny Leahy decides to take charge, he’s unstoppable.”

Diarmuid O’Flynn penned the above piece in *The Examiner* last September. It is the best summary of John Leahy, the hurler that I have read. John Leahy, the hurler, is well known and recognised as having an exceptional talent. What about John Leahy the man?

Sometimes controversial, he has been through his own dark hours, yet a man whom Tipperary people love. Perhaps it is his vulnerability which brings out the protective instinct in Tipperary supporters. Youngsters follow him like the Pied Piper, any person who has such appeal for children must have a lot of good in him. You don’t fool kids. John Leahy has emerged as a man who has faced up to himself and has the confidence to be a caring human being who reaches out to others while still retaining the sense of humour and wit which eased many a tense moment in dressing rooms. He’s honest, modest – he’s just Leahy! I’m a John Leahy fan, not just the hurler but the person. We chatted recently about hurling, Mullinahone, the ‘97 Championship, good times and bad, friends and ambitions. I hope that the following will give readers a better insight to the man from Mullinahone.

Q: Who introduced you to hurling?

A: My father bought me a hurley in the local Co-Op, I suppose I was about five, it was one of those Wavin hurleys, dreadful sticks but at that age, a hurley was a hurley. Then I got a helmet for Christmas. Our neighbour, Timmy O’Connor, took me to matches all over Tipperary from an early age. That sowed the seed of interest. Timmy now lives in Clonmel, but I still keep in touch. Football was the number one game in Mullinahone, I only recall playing three hurling matches at U-12 (B). With the Club at U-16 (A) Mullinahone joined up with Killenaule, we reached the South Tipp. final. That was a great breakthrough, there were six or seven from Mullinahone on the panel.

Q: How did you develop your skills?

A: I’m still developing them after the misses of ‘97 (laughter and mischief in the voice and eyes). Seriously, hours and hours of practice in the local field. I spent a lot of time on my own, hurling was all that mattered, I just loved it. But I’ll tell you, I had a very weak left side, up to the age of fifteen or so. Hours of



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hurling a ball against a wall rectified that. You never finish perfecting the skills of hurling.

Q: Was there a history of sport in your family?

A: My grandfather, Murt Leahy, who died during the year, was said to be a fairly good hurler, he played mostly in England. My uncle, Michael Honey, played football for Mullinahone and later played in England. My father, who is a Kilkenny man, was never a big hurling man, until I started playing.

Q: Who was your hurling role model?

A: Easy to answer that, Nicky. He had it all, unbelievable skill, speed and a great hurling brain. When I was a young lad, I'd dream of wearing the No. 10 jersey for Tipperary, that was Nicky's spot then. You know the way kids dream about playing for Tipp., but I never really believed that I would play.

Q: You were called for a Minor Trial in 1986?

A: Yea, Ricky Sheehan and Murt Duggan took me to a trial, but I didn't get called back. I obviously didn't impress them (a chuckle). Naturally, I was disappointed, but I had no great belief that I would make it. However, things were better in '87. Ricky took me to Boherlahan for the trials. I scored 1-4 in the first twenty minutes and that gave me the confidence to believe in myself. Tipp. reached the Minor All-Ireland, we were beaten by Offaly. Losing that final was a huge disappointment. If I had a chance to turn back the hurling clock that is the medal I would have chosen to win.

Q: Were you the first Mullinahone hurler to play for Tipperary?

A: Contrary to popular belief, a man called Mick Cahill played in the first round of the Minor Munster Championship of 1941. Due to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease, Tipp. were not allowed participate in the following game. Mick became a household name in football.

Q: You were drafted on to the senior panel in March 1988. What was your reaction and recall the next couple of years?

A: The club was notified the day after Kilkenny beat Tipp. in the League. Initially I was overawed. I remember the '87 campaign and thinking that these guys, like Nicky, Bobby, Donie and Pat Fox were way above what I could ever be. They revived Tipp. hurling and here was I now joining them and wondered how I'd fit in. They were brilliant to me. I had been training most evenings so I was fit. Hail, rain or snow I hurled. I was picked for Tipp. to play Antrim in the quarter-final of the League. I had a wicked time trying to score – still have that problem (another chuckle), but I tore into everything and tried to keep positive despite not scoring. Things happened quickly after that, Tipp. were on a roll and hurling was on a high.

I really looked up to Babs, he has a great approach to the game, everyone was well looked after and the organisation was excellent. I remember one night before a game we were in Finnestown House and I was tapping a ball with a favourite hurley which wasn't in great condition, there was a rattle in the bas. Babs took it from me, saying 'can they do no better than that in Mullinahone, Johnny?' The hurley was mended by the following morning, Noel Ryan probably worked on it. That was Babs, attention to detail.

Q: You won an U-21 and a Senior All-Ireland in 1989. Did you appreciate that achievement at the time?

A: Oh yeah, it was brilliant and that year holds very precious memories. Maybe it all happened too fast but



John Leahy – "Man of Style".

(Photo: Examiner)

the hurling years pass very quickly anyway. We had great fun in '89 – Mick Minogue (U-21 manager) and Babs always brought enjoyment and fun to training and both panels had great characters.

Q: You won a second Senior All-Ireland in 1991. There was a subsequent change of managers, first Fr. Tom took over and then Len. What did winning in '91 mean to you and your views on the change of managers?

A: Winning in '91 was sweet, remember Mullinahone borders Kilkenny and the rivalry is keen. Also, we'd respect the style and class of Kilkenny hurling. There are a lot of Kilkenny people who would follow Mullinahone, just like they did in the recent County Final.

Naturally, I was sorry to see Babs leaving but players shouldn't get over involved in that aspect. Players are there to hurl and respond to whoever is in charge. I'd have great respect for all three men, Babs, Fr. Tom and Len. Of course they are different but they all love hurling and Tipperary. All three have been supportive of me and I'll remember that always. It's tough being a manager, there are a lot of skills required, knowledge of the game, being able to get the message across, get on with all different personalities, organisational ability and an understanding of people's capabilities and limitations.

Q: Many would claim that Tipp. should have won much more than two Senior All-Irelands. Would you agree?

A: During my own career, we got beaten in a lot of games, which we probably could have won. There is no point in offering excuses, that's an element of sport which we have to accept. You could say the same about Galway in hurling or Derry in football. Anyway, we didn't win, they weren't meant to be.

Q: There are stories about your alleged remarks to some players. How much truth is in that?

A: Sure, I made the odd remark but nothing like the stories which went around. Mind you, I had some directed at me also. The day I said to 'Hopper' McGrath, 'Good luck, see you next year', as he left the field, I was as surprised as anyone to get a box in the face. I have to admit that I got involved in some unnecessary things on the field, I felt that I had to back up my team mates and that led to involvement which didn't always help. That was part of my mentality at the time, also I wanted to win at all costs. That is all behind me now. In this year's final, I was able to ignore a remark which was way below the belt. Hurling is a very enjoyable aspect of my life but that's what it is, one aspect, my family, my friends, my job are other important priorities. Hurling has been brilliant to me, and I hope it continues to be, initially it was all that mattered but that imbalance wasn't right.

Q: In 1995, you were involved in an unfortunate incident in Manchester, subsequently, you gave up alcohol. Do you miss alcohol?

A: No way, I don't miss it. I probably hid behind alcohol, but now I'm much more in touch with my feelings and able to deal with things in a much more mature way. I find that I don't need alcohol any more and I see the benefits, apart from a higher level of fitness, life is much better. Then I appreciate the support I got, people like Dr. Clifford, Finches Management, the County Board, Fr. Tom, Nicky, Joe Hayes and countless more. I know what I have done and don't need reminders – I know what John Leahy is now. During the Summer the amount of people who wrote to me was unbelievable, from a seven year old to adults. Ever letter and card means so much to me, I kept them all. They were full of goodwill and support, no criticism. That gave me a lift and more value on myself. I'd like to thank the Tipperary supporters for all their loyalty. Life is good now and I know that I can deal with the down days.

Q: What advice would you pass on to young people?

A: Go easy on the jar and cigarettes, you don't need them. In relation to sport, winning is not that important, play the game and enjoy it, be gracious in success and defeat and value your family and friends.

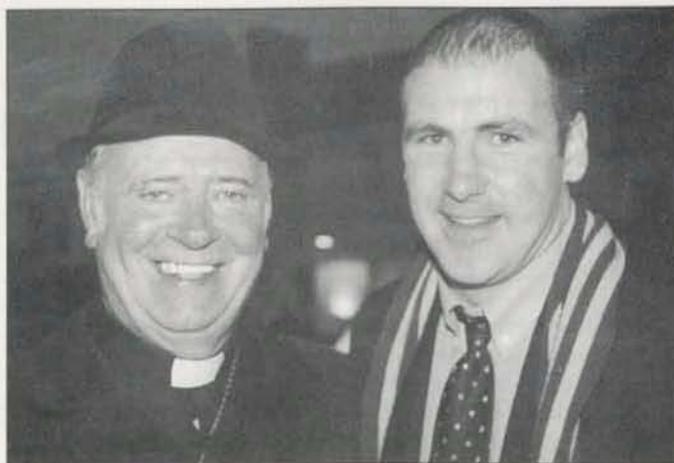
Q: 1997 was a year of achievement and disappointment. You referred to your three misses, in the Munster Final, All-Ireland Final and the County Final. What are your thoughts now?

A: The highlights of the year for me were Mullinahone reaching the County Final and the All-Ireland semi-final against Wexford. Wexford people contributed to making it a special day for hurling, they were gracious and both teams met after the game. That's what should happen. Hill 16 was something else, the colour and support for Tipp. was at a level I never previously witnessed.

The disappointments. Losing the County Final was the most disappointing day of my career. I felt that we were capable of winning. Losing the All-Ireland was also a huge disappointment. It was a repeat of the Munster Final, but after the Munster Final we were still in the championship. In the All-Ireland I never considered going for a point, never even thought about it. Davy read my intention well, I should have hit it straight, I'll never forget it, but won't linger on it either. I finished on a good note when Mullinahone beat Ballingarry in the South Tipp. Final, it's good to win the local Derby.

Q: What does Mullinahone mean to you?

A: I love that Mullinahone jersey and always strive to do my best when I wear it. I have seen our club develop from



Ecclesiastical support – John Leahy and Dr. Clifford.

Junior to Senior. In '89 Mullinahone beat Lattin-Cullen in the County Final. There was a huge crowd in Holycross, it was a special occasion, playing against Nicky, my hero, and winning. To see hurling coming into its own in Mullinahone and the excitement it caused is very satisfying.

Q: Did you try too hard on County Final day, taking frees, line ball, trying to do too much and you still carrying a wrist injury – was there undue pressure on you?

A: I don't think so. Up along the years I have tried to do my best, and done all those things, taking frees and line balls. That's the way I know and probably wanted it. Maybe 'tis time to learn that others in the team are able to do it also. I love to play with abandon, sure I make mistakes, but I also have to make decisions and be responsible. I'll always accept that everyone is doing his best on the field, even when mistakes were made. I'd encourage players to think that the next move will be right, look at the positive side, encourage and not criticise.

(Club and county players will tell you that John is always supportive and encouraging.)

Q: The level of physical fitness required for hurling at inter-county level is higher every year. Have the skills suffered?

A: No, I think the game is getting more skilful, yes, the physical aspect is more demanding, way above the normal club level. In the last couple of years, there is a huge emphasis on fitness. To reach the top many personal sacrifices have to be made – diet, training methods, lifestyles – all come under scrutiny. Trainers and managers have to gear players towards peaking at the right time, a professional approach is essential. Watching hurling on T na G, maybe it was the camera work, but there was a fair amount of mishitting and average hurling. There are a lot of young skilful hurlers in Tipperary and I'm sure in other counties too.

Q: Any views on how the Hurling Championship was played in '97 and will be in '98?

A: Hurling really won out. It was good for the game and spectators, armchair ones included, got good value. Maybe some alterations will be made after the '98 Championship but overall I feel that the revised format has a future. The County Senior Championship in Tipperary caters for beaten divisional finalists, that's beneficial in terms of games.

Q: You are involved with underage teams in Mullinahone, you also spoke to a group of young people who are on the margins of society. Why?

A: Firstly, I try to help out in the Club. I enjoy coaching the

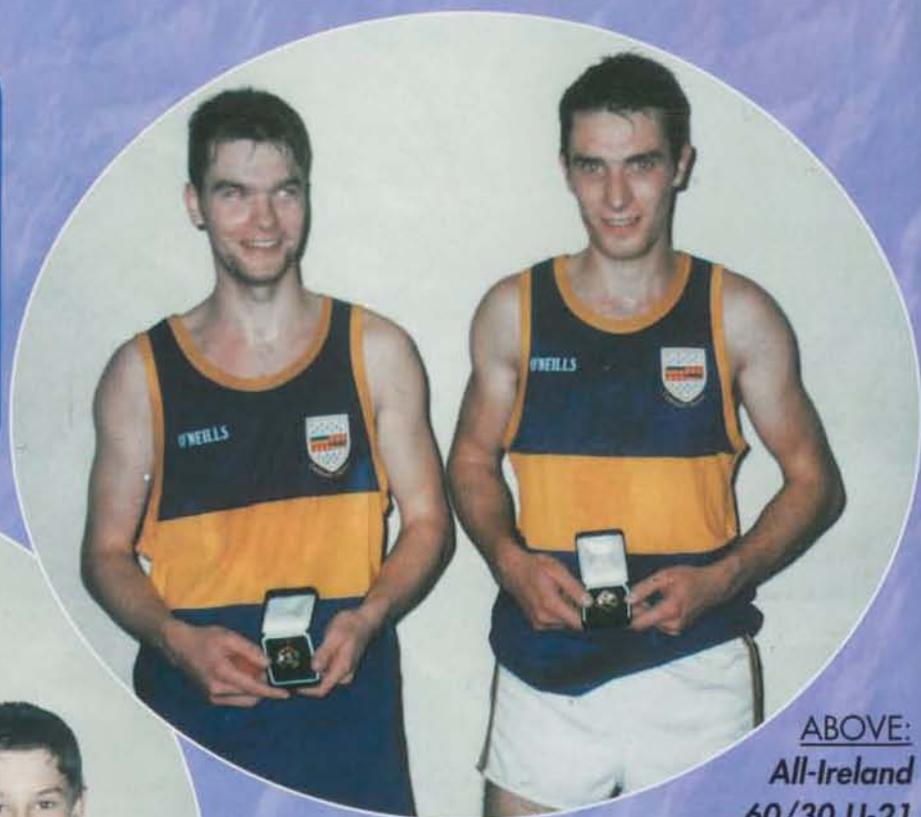
FETHARD

County Senior Football Champions 1997



FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Martin Coen, Willie O'Meara, Michael Fitzgerald, Philly Blake, Willie Morrissey, Jimmy O'Meara, Tommy Sheehan, Tomás Keane, Michael Carroll, Eugene Walshe, Thomas Burke. BACK ROW (l.-r.): Michael Riordan, Michael Ryan, Damien Byrne, Brian Burke, Micheál Spillane, Paul Fitzgerald, Michael Quinlan, Chris Coen, John Paul Looby, Stephen O'Donnell, Tomás McCarthy, Conor O'Donnell, Brendan Brett, Declan Maher. MASCOTS: Tommy Sheehan, Christopher Sheehan, Peter Gough, Edmund Sheehan.

Handball All-Ireland Champions



ABOVE:
All-Ireland
60/30 U-21
Doubles

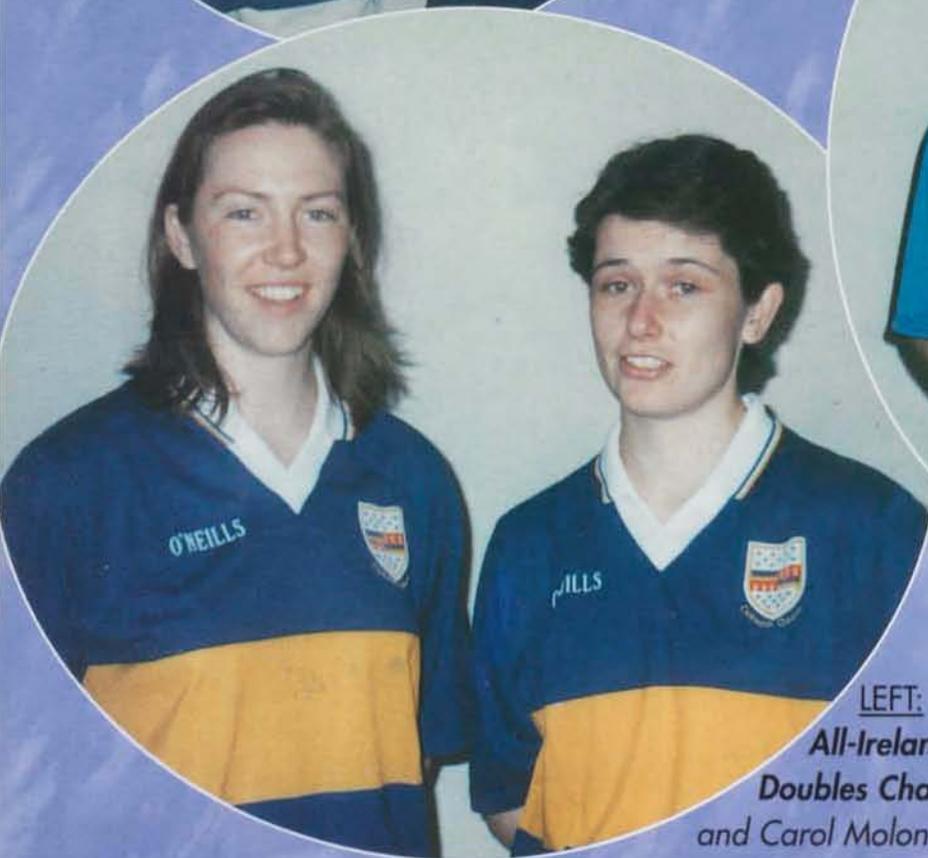
Champions – Aidan and Pat Supple
(Ballyporeen).

LEFT:
All-Ireland
40/20 U-15 Doubles

Champions
– Noel Moroney
and David
Hickey (Ballina).



ABOVE:
All-Ireland
60/30 Emerald Masters 'B' Singles
Champion – Pat Gleeson (Lahorna)



LEFT:
All-Ireland 40/20 Senior Ladies
Doubles Champions – Jackie Keating
and Carol Moloney (Cashel).

ABBHEY C.B.S.

Munster Senior Football 'B' Championship Winners 1997



FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Ivan Flynn, Damien O'Brien, Toddy O'Halloran, Mark Hanley, Peter Leonard, Pat Duggan, Cathal Moloney (Capt.), Liam Quirke, Kevin Nolan, Aidan Riordan, John Morrissey, Leo Leonard. BACK ROW (l.-r.): Richard Swords, Vincent Murphy, Niall Considine, Eddie Grace, Cathal O'Shea, Dan Riail, Niall O'Shea, Ger Stapleton, Conor O'Dwyer, Paul Tobin, Dara Moore, Colin Morrissey, Keith Landers.

SOUTH TIPPERARY

Munster Under-16 Hurling Champions 1997



FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Noel O'Grady (Killenaule), Eddie McGrath (Carrick Davins), Brendan O'Brien (Ballingarry), Brian Dignam (Grangemockler), T. J. Wall (Moyle Rovers), Thomas Fitzgerald (Killenaule), Niall O'Dwyer (Killenaule), Joe Keane (Fethard), Tony Doyle (Killenaule), Cathal Houlihan (Grangemockler), Eoin Kelly (Mullinahone), Donal Shelly (Ballingarry), Liam Grant, mascot (Killenaule), James Cantwell (Cahir), Kenneth O'Donnell, Fethard. BACK ROW (l.-r.): Alan Casey (Carrick Swans), Ger Casey (Fr. Sheehy's), Kevin O'Donnell (Fethard), Kieran Foxe (Mullinahone), Maurice Fehilly (Fr. Sheehy's), Eamon Cahill (Ballingarry), James Moran (Ballyporeen), Kevin Dempsey (St. Mary's), Adrian Walsh (Kilsheelin), Patrick Norton (Ballybacon-Grange), Paul Curran (Mullinahone), Damien Gleeson (Killenaule), Brian Lonergan (Ballybacon-Grange), Pat Fitzgerald (Fr. Sheehy's), Dickie Norton (Ballingarry), Cian Maher (Fethard).

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youngsters and going to their matches. I suppose I realise now that I have a gift and want to pass it on. Kids are great, the day before the Wexford/Tipperary semi-final I was in the field coaching U-12's. We were 'blocking' and I was saying how important it was to block properly to avoid injury. Then I got a fracture in my jaw the following day. They didn't let me off with it - 'What about blocking skills, John!'

Now, you asked me about talking to a group of young people on the margins of society. Well, with the trouble I got into myself I could understand some of the difficulties they experience in life. I hope I made it a little easier for them, I'll help anyone I can, that's not difficult to do. Anyway, it is a two-way thing. It made me appreciate what I have, a family, a home, a good job, friends and hurling. People like Sean English (Mól an Óige) are doing a great job and giving them a bit of support is easy.

Q: You work with Finches, sponsors of Tipperary Hurling Teams.

A: I'm very conscious of Finches spending money on sponsorship of Tipperary hurling. The company has been good to me personally also. Tipperary hurlers have been good to Finches, you couldn't get a better bunch of players. I'm also very anxious to be successful in my work. I hope that '98 will generate the same support as this year in terms of hurling. An All-Ireland is our aim. You know, one of the best things about Tipp. hurling doing well, is the joy in the faces of people when we win. It is a tonic, for them and for us. We're back to the great support from Tipp. people, they're great. I really want them to know that.

Q: You are particularly popular with young people. When I did a straw poll as to which hurler they wanted on the poster, John Leahy was the youngsters choice. Were you pleased?

A: I enjoy the youngsters. I have two nieces Emma, my godchild and Roisín, and two little nephews Conor and Gerard - I'm close to them. They love going to the matches. About the poster, any Tipperary hurler would have been equally popular, but yes, of course it was an honour that the youngsters opted for me. (I can tell you readers that many, many adults also requested the John Leahy poster).

Q: Pick a team which you would like to Captain, a '90's team, excluding Tipperary players.

A: I'd prefer to captain a Tipperary team, that is one of my ambitions, however, I'll give you my team, let me think for a minute.

	Ger Cunningham (Cork)	
Eddie O'Connor (Kilkenny)	Brian Lohan (Clare)	Tom Helebert (Galway)
Pete Finnerty (Galway)	Jim Cashman (Cork)	Brian Whelehan (Offaly)
	Tony Browne (Waterford)	Ciarán Carey (Limerick)
D. J. Carey (Kilkenny)	John Power (Kilkenny)	John Leahy (capt.) (Tipperary)
Jamesie O'Connor (Clare)	Billy Byrne (Wexford)	John Fitzgibbon (Cork)

I could possibly pick another two or three teams but there's a fair share of talent in that side, you didn't give me too much time to think. I'd like to pay tribute to our own Tipp. fellas, the lads I played with over the years, you couldn't meet better.

Q: What is your personal ambition in life?

A: To continue to be happy in life, as I am now and to share that happiness. I hope to get married and have a family, to be content, and keep my focus on all the things that are important - family, friends, my job and hurling. I'd also like to give back to my community what I have got over the recent years.

Mullinahone, in the shadow of Slievenamon, can be proud of the man that is John Leahy, so too can his parents, Rita and John.

I'm glad I have a friend called John Leahy, but please, John three goals in '98!!!

Another thing, Diarmuid O'Flynn deserves an interview, any man who captured you so well, without ever talking to you is a genius!



Present West Tipp. Chairman Seamus King and former West Chairmen Paul O'Neill and Mick Maguire at County Convention.



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Agonising U21 Defeat

by J.J. Kennedy



The Tipperary team which lost to Cork by the narrowest of margins in the Munster under-21 championship final at Semple Stadium. Back row (l to r) – Eugene O'Neill, Andy Moloney, John Carroll, Thomas Costello, Matthew O'Dowd, Ger Flanagan, Philip O'Dwyer, William Hickey. Front row – Michael Bevens, Eamonn Corcoran, Michael Kennedy, Paul Shelly (captain), Justin Cottrell, Brian Horgan, Liam Cahill.

ONE unfortunate statistic probably sets 1997 apart in Tipperary's hurling history. Each of our four representative sides – senior, minor, inter and U21 – went out of the championship by a single point margin. The U21 experience possibly ranks as the most galling, caught by a sucker goal from Cork in the last seconds of the Munster final in Thurles.

It was the very worst way to lose. The team had looked the part of champions in earlier rounds slotting 5-15 past Limerick and going a point better in the semi-final against Waterford. And even if the side had hurled below par in the final it still seemed sufficient as we led by two points with time ebbing out. Enter Timmy McCarthy and a Cork goal that left the home following stunned. The fact that Cork proceeded to win out the all-Ireland only adds to the sense of what might have been.

It's an easy enough campaign to summarise, a campaign that saw Michael Doyle and fellow selectors Gerry O'Brien and Donal McGettigan on their third tour of duty. '95 had brought the crowning glory of an all-Ireland win over Kilkenny but '96 was marked by disappointment in defeat to

Cork. Now, boosted by the input of players from the '96 all-Ireland minor win and a sprinkling of senior panelists, '97 seemed to hold strong prospects. Alas for the treachery of a two point lead!

LIMERICK HAMMERED

But back to the beginning. The routine business of team preparation over, the side headed for Limerick just four days after the senior had scuppered Shannonside dreams in that campaign. Ex-Limerick goalie, Tommy Quaid was in charge of the opposition and Tipp sent a formidable looking side to tackle the job. The chosen fifteen fielded as follows: Justin Cottrell (Toomevara); William Hickey (Boherlahan); Paul Shelly (Killenaule); David Kennedy (Loughmore); Brian Horgan (Kickhams); Ger Flanagan (Boherlahan); Eamon Corcoran (J.K. Brackens); John Carroll (Roscrea) and Mattie Dowd (Thurles Sarsfields); Johnny Enright (Sarsfields); Mark O'Leary (Kilruane-McDonaghs); Liam Cahill (Ballingarry); Philip O'Dwyer (Boherlahan); Eugene O'Neill (Cappawhite); Michael 'Bonny' Kennedy (Clonoulty). Subs used on the night were: Seamus Maher (Borrisoleigh) for Brian Horgan, Ken Dunne (Toomevara) for Mattie Dowd

and Seamus Hickey (Boherlahan) for David Kennedy.

It was over in fifteen minutes. Seldom have Tipp blown Limerick away with such a whirlwind opening. In fact late arrivals missed the most decisive action of the game. A mis-hit Liam Cahill shot escaped the Limerick goalie for the first major breach of the home defence. 'Bonny' Kennedy was fouled for a 'penalty' which Eugene O'Neill buried for the second. Philip O'Dwyer stroked home a third goal and O'Neill had a 4th. With fifteen minutes gone the scoreboard read 4-4 to 0-1 and not even Lazarus could rise from that.

The final tally read 5-15 to 2-12, Limerick's Barry Foley getting two late goals as pressure forced Justin Cottrell into some impressive saves. David Kennedy was stretchered off near the end and played no part in subsequent games. Eugene O'Neill bagged 3-5 in a scintillating performance from full forward. It had been a Tipp tour de force and the omens looked promising for the remainder of the championship.

O'NEILL FLOORS WATERFORD

For the Munster semi-final against Waterford at the Stadium, Tipp made a few changes. David Kennedy was out and his left corner back spot went to

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another one of the '96 all-Ireland minor heroes, Thomas Costello. In attack Mark O'Leary was replaced at number eleven by Cahir's Andy Moloney and there was positional moves that brought Johnny Enright to wing and Philip O'Dwyer to corner.

If Limerick had been blitzed then Waterford fell to a similar fate, O'Neill and Kennedy the architects, between them scoring 5-9. Kennedy had two first half goals and O'Neill stroked over five superb points in that same spell to give Tipp a 2-9 to 0-9 lead at the break. But it was a patch in the third quarter that totally bamboozled Waterford. O'Neill cut loose, hit three goals in as many minutes and it was adios to Waterford. Ken McGrath had a late consolation goal for the Decies but Tipp were through to the Munster final on the score 5-16 to 1-15.

By now all counties had taken stock of Tipp's scoring exploits and when Cork beat Clare in the second semi-final the stage was set for a provincial final at the Stadium on Wednesday July 30th.

TIPP STUNNED

For the final, Tipperary had to field without Johnny Enright, ruled out because of a knee injury. Toomevara's Michael Bevans took his place at top of the left and in a positional switch Ger Flanagan went mid-field with John Carroll reverting to number six where he starred for Tipp's minors the previous year. Cork too had injury problems with Joe Deane unable to play.

Tipp went to the final with the reputation of being something of a dream team but it was quickly apparent that the scoring heroics of the Limerick and Waterford games were not to be repeated here. Cork were tenacious, blocking and baulking industriously and our free-flowing attack for once was struggling.

Still Tipp were only two behind at half time (0-7 to 0-5) after playing poorly against a Cork side that shot ten first half wides as opposed to just two from Tipp. It had been an uninspiring half, competitive but without much hurling fluency in front of an attendance of 9,251.

The game warmed up in the second half and had a rare feature with the referee having to cry off ten minutes after the restart. Clare's Sean McMahon limped off and was replaced by Limerick's Pat O'Connor and the arrival of the new ref coincided with Tipp taking the lead for the first time through a Liam Cahill point. Cork levelled but Liam Cahill, now playing much better than in the first half, restored a Tipp lead midway through the half.

Johnny Enright was now in the game for Michael Bevans and he brought a fine save from the Cork goalie after an incisive Tipp move. Eventually Cahill put Tipp two-up but ominously we couldn't put the game safe as Cork tenaciously held in. The rebels again



Every picture tells a story... A shattered Johnny Enright photographed after a last minute one-point defeat by Cork in the Munster under-21 hurling final at Semple Stadium.

eroded the lead to just one point although Tipp seemed secure when Eugene O'Neill pointed just on the stroke of time. Ironically the Cappa' man might have gone of a goal but the point seemed the wiser option with time virtually up. It wouldn't be the only occasion a Tipp forward had to face a tricky option at the end of a game in '97.

TWO POINT TREACHERY

Two points, is a treacherous lead and Tipp will long wince at the memory of the final passage of play in this game. With the game in added time Timmy McCarthy won possession on the Tipp half back line. He got away from Brian Horgan and soloed all

the way through the Tipp defence to tap past Justin Cottrell for the stunning winner. Why wasn't he fouled?, mused many a puzzled fan afterwards. Or again the tantalising thought that if the lead had been a single point he'd surely have opted for the equaliser. There was no time left for Tipp to salvage an equaliser and the long whistle signalled a most remarkable win by Cork.

Cork's eventual all-Ireland win adds to the Tipp regret. It was one we let slip. Such are the vagaries of hurling as we later discovered at other levels. But while the minors, seniors and juniors also bowed out to one point defeats none had been caught as agonisingly as the U21's.



Tipperary's William Hickey chases a Cork opponent during the Munster under-21 hurling final at Semple Stadium.

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Tipperary Minor Hurlers 1997 - Shattered Dreams

By Noel Dundon (Tipperary Star)



Tipperary forwards Eoin Kelly (left) and Paddy O'Brien put pressure on a Clare defender during Tipperary's Munster Final victory over Clare.

LOOKING back at the Minor championship of 1997, many Tipperary folk will have a feeling that it was one of the ones that got away. While we were readying ourselves for a second All-Ireland minor hurling final appearance in two years, Galway were still playing hurling and suddenly the opportunity was gone. Tipp were beaten, dreams were shattered and questions were asked. 1997 was indeed an interesting year for our minor hurlers.

Dinny Cahill and his co-selectors Paudie Butler and Ger O'Neill once again scoured The Premier County in an effort to assemble a team capable of holding the All-Ireland title in the 'home of hurling' and on occasions during the campaign it looked as though they might just have had it right. Their trials started early and players were looked at

and given every chance to show what they could do. Finally, after much debate and decision making, the squad was ready and the training began.

EARLY GAMES

A number of good challenge games and plenty of training brought the lads to the championship first round in Fermoy against old rivals Waterford. Not a happy hunting ground for Tipp, there was great hope in the Waterford ranks for the side and expectation was high that they could do well.

Tipperary didn't play particularly well but go through. That was the important part. A look at the side showed that Tipp were strong down the middle. Philip Maher, William Maher, Donncha Fahy and Paul Kelly were flanked by fine hurlers all through the side but physical strength was not very evident in the

team. What they lacked in size though they made up for in speed and skill.

Dinny Cahill is a man who has played at the very top for Tipperary and his club Kilruane/MacDonaghs. A hardy hurler in his day, Cahill points to speed of play, directness of approach and toughness in the tackle as being the attributes that make up good hurlers. He drilled his message into the minors time and again and by the time they came to play Limerick in the Gaelic Grounds in the Munster semi-final, the players seemed to have heeded his words.

Tipperary were improving steadily in the Munster championship and although they played better against Limerick than they did against Waterford there was still a long way to go. It took a late goal by substitute Trevor Fletcher to seal victory for the Tipp lads and

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book a place in the Munster Final but more importantly Tipp would have time on their hands to sort things out. The examination break ensured that the Tipp lads would have a long wait, but on this occasion, it was welcome.

THE MUNSTER FINAL

While Tipp did have a number of the All-Ireland winning team in the side it was by and large a new team and there was a hunger in the play. Never was this seen more than in the Munster Final against Clare in Pairc Uí Chaoimh. It was a super opening to Munster Final day as Tipp crept home with a double goal blast from substitute Donal Shelly in the closing stages to rob Clare of the title.

Tipp had played poorly in the first half and trailed by a goal 1-6 to 0-6. They fought bravely back and credit where credit is due they showed what a potent force they were in the Munster Final. Despite the deficit of one goal as the game approached the end, Tipp battled on and Donal Shelly was on hand to save the game with a fine goal. Moments later he netted again to the delight of the large Tipp following while the Clare players stood in disbelief at how they could have let the title slip from their grasp.

An so the blue and gold army marched on. Clare would get in by the back door, something that did not bother them although they made a big issue out of it when the Tipp seniors faced them in the All-Ireland Final.

ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL

On the field the players got on with the job in hand and Tipp again set about preparing for an All-Ireland semi-final

in the minor grade. Galway were to be the opponents and Tipp fans were confident of a second appearance in the final. In fact it looked as though Tipp would meet Clare in the All-Ireland double in the hurling finals. Speculation, prediction and foresight went out the window as the game of hurling took over and the normal became the abnormal.

Tipp played well but could not pull away from Galway. Even at seven points up with nine minutes remaining we looked to be vulnerable but as the game entered the last five we sat easier in Croke Park. Surely now we would hold out. Wait a minute it's not all over yet.

Bang! David O'Donoghue goals four minutes from time for Galway. We could have a fight to hold on here yet. Bang! Ollie Deely goals to leave one point in it. We could be in trouble. Galway are flying. Bang! Niall Lawlor levels for Galway and Stephen Morgan sends them into the lead. Is this a nightmare or what? Bang! Paddy O'Brien misses a difficult free from the left sideline to level the game. The match is over. Galway are in the All-Ireland.

Bemused, bewildered, broken-hearted, Tipperary trudged off Croke Park in shock. Galway had done to them what Tipp did to Clare in the Munster Final. Yes, these things do even out over a season. Whether the ball was picked from the ground for David O'Donoghue's goal seems academic now as we look back on the game. Tipp should have had the place booked in the final and they paid the price for complacency.

As the new year dawns we can look forward to seeing young players coming into the minor grade. There is also a

new management team in place with Paudie Butler at the helm. We look back at some great days under the previous regime which peaked with the All-Ireland victory in '96. Dinny Cahill and Ger O'Neill are departing the scene and as a county we are only too well aware of what they have given Tipperary. They have succeeded in making it fashionable to play minor hurling for The Premier County and they have managed to put Tipp's name up there with the best of them again.

To the players involved this year we salute you and look forward to seeing you wearing the blue and gold jersey again. Defeat is hard to take but being beaten makes victory all the more sweeter when it comes. Stick with the game and don't turn your back on hurling. The county needs you if there are to be greater days ahead. Be proud of what you achieved because as a county – Tipperary is proud of you.

SEMI-FINAL FACTS

Galway 2-9, Tipperary 0-14.

Scorers for Tipperary – P. O'Brien 0-7; D. Fanning 0-2; D. Shelly, S. Butler, G. O'Grady, P. Kelly, D. Fahy 0-1 each.

Tipperary – F. Horgan (Knockavilla); T.J. Maher (Sarsfields); P. Maher (Borris-Ileigh); E. Fitzgerald (Roscrea); C. O'Shea (Aherlow); P. Kelly (Mullinahone); D. Maher (Borris-Ileigh); W. Maher (Ballingarry); G. O'Grady (Sarsfields); P. O'Brien (Toomevara); D. Fahey (St. Marys); D. Shelly (Ballingarry); S. Butler (Drom-Inch); D. Fanning (Killenaule); E. Kelly (Mullinahone).

Substitutes – J. Keane for E. Kelly; T. Fletcher for Shelly.

Referee – T. McIntyre (Antrim).



On the road again – The minor hurling selectors who helped bring All-Ireland glory to Tipperary last year photographed before the start of this year's championship campaign against Waterford at Fermoy (l to r) – Ger O'Neill (Cappawhite), Paudie Butler (Drom-Inch), Denis Cahill (Kilruane MacDonagh's, manager) and Martin Maher (Ballingarry, Liaison Officer).

THE FINAL whistle sounded. Clare had won the 1997 All-Ireland. Jubilation for the Banner. Desolation for Tipperary. I made my way to the Tipperary dressingroom as quickly as possible, it was still empty and silent. Ashen faced players, mentors and County Board officers arrived, staring into space, drained and devastated. Words were not appropriate. Their disappointment was ours also. Heartbreak for them, but no magic wand to ease that initial raw pain, just space and empathy. I had seen it before. It never gets easier. In fact I think that the disappointment was more acute this year. Players just sat on the benches, some drifted into the 'warm-up' room, they needed the privacy, time to call on their inner resources.

A knock on the door. I opened it. Robert Frost, Chairman of the Clare Co. Board and Manager, Ger Loughnane had arrived to say the obligatory hollow words to the players. Congratulations were extended. Clare had pulled off a double, winning both minor and senior titles. It was a great day for Clare hurling and they were entitled to celebrate. There was no need to ask for silence while the Claremen spoke. The sound of silence was all round us. Every player gave his full attention. When the formalities were over the players drifted towards the showers, still very little talk.

Soon there were requests for television interviews. The show must go on! Yes, they would give interviews, but please give us time to pull the wits together. The 'heavies', who man the entrance to the dressingroom area had refused entry to the journalists who wished to talk to the players. Talk about public relations!

A quick word of intervention and that was sorted out. Journalists are not usually credited with sensitivity, but in fairness to the Gaelic writers they exercised

After the Final Whistle

by Liz Howard

discretion and sensitivity in the Tipperary dressingroom. Our own Tipperary journalists are almost part of the extended family and were as dejected as the rest of us.

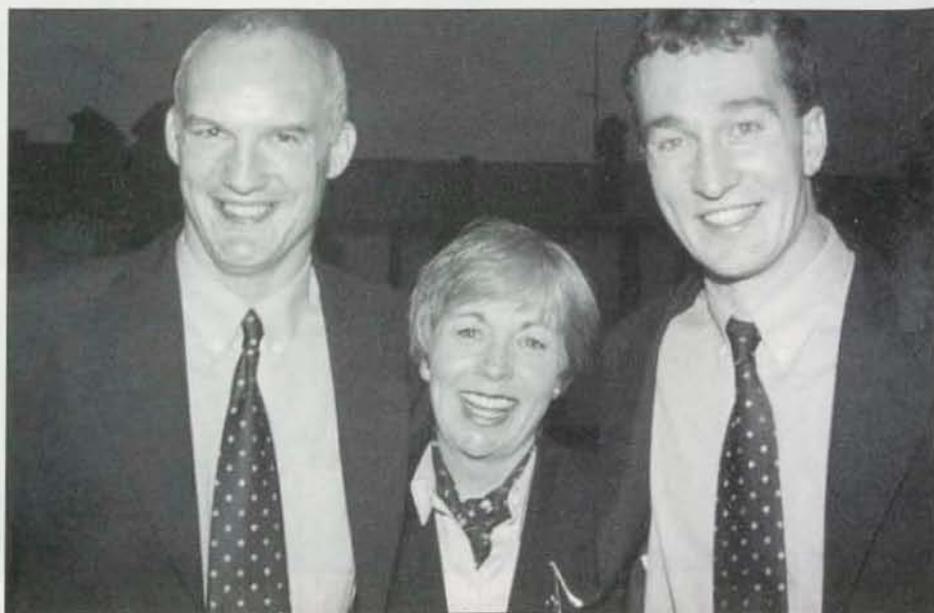
These Tipperary hurlers are a terrific group of men. They have an innate dignity and grace. They responded with honesty and courtesy to all questions, no excuses, no blame, no bitterness. There could have been critical comments about the referee, indeed my friend, Dickie had his 'moments'. Moments which I would definitely question, I think that I would have company in that area! However that's a debate for another day. Press, radio and TV interviews were completed. The

'thaw' had set in, a few words here and there as little groups gathered in areas. Dr. O'Sullivan had a bit of patching up to do, kit bags were packed, Shelley, as usual, was trying to pack too much into one kitbag. The Cusack Club was the first stop, where Guinness hosted a reception for both teams. Clare didn't show up, but Nicky English and Niall Quinn did.

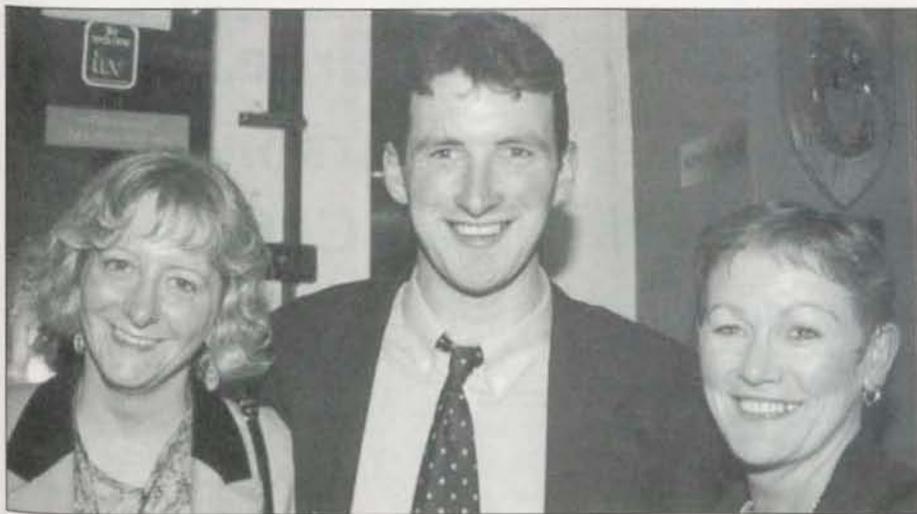
I met Ollie Baker 'Man of the Match' on his way out to the coach, naturally he was thrilled with the win and his display, but modest. Ollie is a grand chap. Tipp supporters greeted the players with warmth, no word of recrimination from anyone. On to Jury's where the ever calm John English had all in readiness for the party to check in. The Tipperary Association hosted the Dinner in Jury's, old friends over the years. Despite defeat the players chatted to supporters and made every effort to be sociable. Naturally they were still down in spirits. More interview requests from Jim Carney, the first presenter on the Sunday Game. When I was resident analyst. Jim is steeped in the GAA and knows more than most about the games. I enjoyed working with him, the chemistry was right. John Leahy, Conor Gleeson, Len Gaynor and Murt Duggan were interviewed, they would 'appear' on the Sunday Game later. While the food was good, I may as well have eaten sawdust, all I could think about was how near and yet so far in Croke Park earlier. Thinking about the small things which turn a game, yet being honest, I felt that Clare just about deserved to win. Their switches were inspired or else damn lucky. Declan's disputed 'point', those who were on the Hill claim that it was a score, but umpires with poor eyesight are almost de rigeur and Dickie didn't want to know! The atmosphere in Jury's was positive, it was as if the people of Tipperary wrapped themselves around



Conor Gleeson, Tipperary Captain, 1997



County Board PRO Liz Howard completes the full back line with Noel Sheehy and Michael Ryan on Monday night in Thurles.



Good to be Home... Marie O'Donnell, Brendan Cummins and Mary B. O'Neill.

the players. You could sense the mutual respect.

MONDAY

On Monday the IFA hosted a reception for the players involved in farming, Michael Berkery, Sec. of the IFA, is godfather to Thomas Dunne. We had a most pleasant interlude, the players again making a most favourable impression. The usual GAA lunch for the four teams involved in the All-Ireland finals has lost some of its spark. The idea is that the players meet in a social environment, difficult when Clare arrived very late. I felt that it was a pity the two teams didn't get the opportunity to mix at the lunch. In fairness to Anthony Daly, he invited Conor Gleeson for a drink later. I've always claimed that hurlers have a special bond and I would like to see that tradition continue. I met many of the Clare minors whom I know from St. Flannan's, John Reddan, who captained Clare has a Tipperary connection. His mother is Brennan from Loughmore.

I think everyone was glad to board

the train for Thurles, the players relaxed, there were a few songs, the 'craic' was good. "We're all going on a Summer holiday" was dedicated to Tommy Barrett, talk about a broad hint. The Bonnars are always game to sing and Declan Ryan closed the eyes and gave a few bars also.

Tipperary supporters once again turned out in force in Thurles and greeted the players warmly. It was good to be home. His Grace Dr. Clifford joined the players on the open top bus and travelled to Liberty Square, where Mai Quinn, Chairperson of the UDC formally welcomed the team. Paul O'Neill, Co. Chairman spoke, paying tribute to the players, team management and to the loyal supporters. Conor Gleeson and Len expressed thanks on behalf of the players. Dr. Clifford gave his usual uplifting address and got a great response. There were funny and moving moments, I saw players with tears in their eyes at the warmth of the supporters welcome. There is a young man in Thurles, another Declan Ryan who is

well known to all the players, he is a regular in Semple Stadium. He knows Dr. Clifford, whom he usually refers to as 'His Grace'. Declan was in the crowd as Dr. Clifford spoke, whatever was being said met with Declan's approval, he got a little carried away and shouted "good on you young Clifford". Dr. Clifford enjoyed the comment immensely saying, "it's a long time since anyone called me "young Clifford".

No one was anxious to go home, so Paul Shelley and John Leahy took over the microphone and said a few words, Still no one moved, so I asked the Bonnars to sing. What I didn't know was that the Moycarkey Band were told to start Amhrán na bFíann. While the Bonnars belted out "Tutti Frutti" – talk about a clash of cultures! The hurlers stayed in Liberty Square for nearly two hours signing autographs, talking to youngsters and having photographs taken. No rushing off to the pub, staying around was their way of saying thanks to the supporters.

Last stop, Derek and Eleanor O'Connell's Park Avenue, where we received the usual warm welcome. There was a certain sadness, as we all knew that some of that group would not be there when training started again. Noel Sheehy had signalled his intention to retire. Noel's leadership and spirit will be a loss, he was an excellent role model for younger players, an impressive man both on and off the field.

Good-byes were said as people set off for home, supporters were still around, Bridget Delaney organising photographs of John Leahy with various groups. On reflection winning wasn't that important, but loyalty and acceptance of defeat with dignity was. That's how it was in 1997, loyalty from supporters, dignity from players. I'm glad to be from Tipperary.



The scene at the 'Day Trip to Tipp' concert at Semple Stadium in August '97.

Le gach dea-ghuí agus Comhgháirdeachas do Coiste Cho. Thiobraid Árann ó Chomhairle na Mumhan CLG

Comhairle na Mumhan C.L.G.

— FIXTURES SCHEDULE 1998 —

IOMAINT SINSIR	Data	Ath-Imirt	Ionad
1st Round Ciarraí v Portlairge	24/5/98	31/5/98	Tra Lí
1st Round Luimneach v Corcaigh	31/5/98	7/6/98	Luimneach
S/Final: Tiobraid Árann v Portlairge/Ciarraí	7/6/98	14/6/98	P. Uí Chaoimh/ Dúrlas
S/Final: Clár v Corcaigh/Luimneach	21/6/98	28/6/98	Dúrlas
Final:	12/7/98	19/7/98	
PÉIL SINSIR:			
Prelim. Game: Tiob. Árann v Luim.	10/5/98	17/5/98	Luimneach
Preliminary Group Final: Portlairge v Tiob. Árann/Luimneach	23/5/98	30/5/98	Cluain Meala/ Luimneach
S/Final: Clár v Prelim. Winners	28/6/98	4/7/98	Luimneach/Inis
S/Final: Ciarraí v Corcaigh	5/7/98	19/7/98	Cill Áirne
Final:	2/8/98	15/8/98	

Tipperary Intermediate Hurlers 1997



The Tipperary Intermediate hurling team that failed to Limerick by the narrowest of margins in the Munster championship at Semple Stadium. Back row (l. to r.) Jim McGrath, Paudie O'Keefe, Michael Ryan, Darren O'Connor, Seán Maher, Aidan O'Dwyer, Gerry Maguire (captain), Brian O'Dwyer. Front row: Thomas Keane, Eamonn Corcoran, Tommy Hogan, Liam Enright, Kieran Maguire, Pdraig Hogan, Seamus McKeogh



Tipperary Intermediate hurling selectors photographed before the Munster championship game against Limerick at Semple Stadium (l. to r.) Gerry McKeogh (Ballina); Brendan Bonnar (Cashel King Cormacs) and Dick Looby (Moyle Rovers).



THE AIR of disappointment that permeated the Tipperary dressing room on the evening of the All-Ireland final was understandable.

Such places are not the most pleasant, particularly when hurling's greatest prize has just been snatched away.

There was, of course, a degree of satisfaction in the contribution made to the final and with youth a dominant factor in the make-up of Len's army, the hopes for a reversal of the result in the coming years are bright.

But for one player, that one point defeat by Clare ensured that the mantle of defeat and disappointment hung more heavily on his shoulders than on the rest.

It was **Noel Sheehy's** final game in a Tipp. jersey, and while his decision to bow out of the inter-county scene would become effective that evening, irrespective of the result, the pity was that it wasn't "on a high" that he was ending his inter-county career.

Noel, of course, is not and never has been one to allow disappointments get the better of him. Were such the case, it is most unlikely that his career in the blue and gold would have stretched from his minor days in '82 to September 14, '97.

Fifteen years of excellent service to a cause he has loved with a passion, years of rejoicing, mingled with years of frustration, but never despair. While everyone in that Tipp. dressing room after the All-Ireland final defeat had his own thoughts to contend with, at the same time there was room to empathise with Noel in his particular thoughts, many of the players owing him a deep debt of gratitude for his encouragement and help along their own hurling path.

DREADED HAMSTRING

And, of course, the odds earlier that day had been stacked heavily against any participation by the

NOEL SHEEHY

— one of
Tipp's best

By: GERRY SLEVIN

Silvermines man in the All-Ireland final. On the previous Tuesday, a dreaded hamstring struck during training. Not many outside the camp knew about it and for the remainder of the week, the wonders of modern medicine, along with Noel's own fierce determination, ensured that when the time came, though heavily bandaged, he would take his place in the centre of Tipp's inner defence line.

Noel's uncle, the late Fr. Harry, lined out with the Tipp. minors in that shock All-Ireland final defeat by Dublin in 1946. Earlier that season he had helped St. Flannan's College, Ennis, to Harty Cup and All-Ireland Colleges titles in a team that had Jimmy Smyth in attack. So, it wasn't "from the ground" that Noel got his skills and his enthusiasm for the game.

Noel is a member of that happy band that has All-

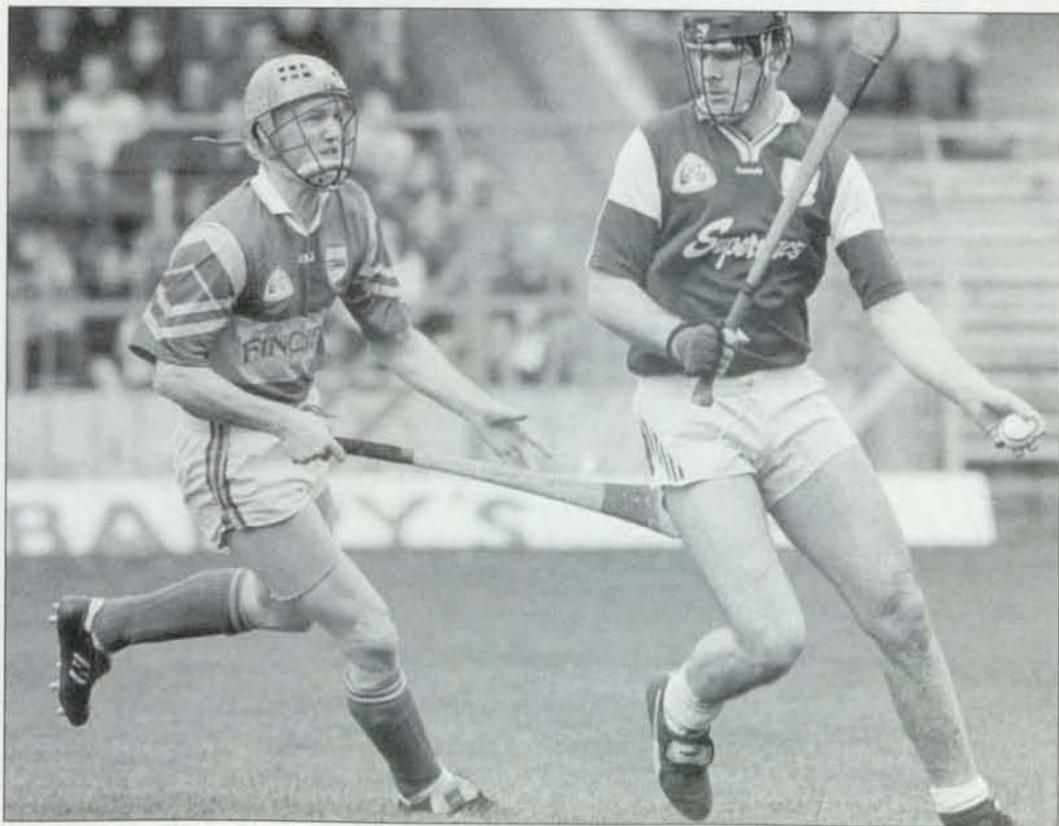
Ireland titles in minor, under-21 and senior grades to his credit and while it was a defender that his latter years brought him prominence, the Silvermines man was in the attack when he won an All-Ireland minor medal in 1982.

John Kennedy led Tipp. to success that year over Galway and Noel was in the half forward line. Colm Bonnar, who filled the centre back berth immediately in front of Noel this year, was corner back on that minor team.

Graduating to the under-21 side in 1984, Noel was at centre forward when Tipp. lost to Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final but a year later he had moved to the left half forward berth when Michael Scully led Tipp. to All-Ireland success over Kilkenny.

INITIAL TASTE

When the N.H.L. season began in '85, Tipp. were in Division II and they got over Roscommon and Antrim hurdles comfortably enough with Noel getting his initial taste of senior fare at right half back. Came the next outing, against Westmeath in Mullingar, and Noel and his



Noel Sheehy (left) keeps a close eye on Joe Rabbittie (Galway) as Joe looks for the goal posts during the National Hurling League game at Thurles.

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colleagues were rudely brought down to earth, returning with a 1-18 to 1-11 defeat to contend with.

The young 'Mines lad was seeing the highs and lows and co-incidentally just a few days before that Westmeath match, the County Board completed its selection personnel by nominating the fifth selector.

His name? One Len Gaynor!

Tipp. failed to emerge from that group and so were consigned to another season in the lower division.

Noel Sheehy's star continued to rise and he was now an integral part of the Tipp. make-up, but his championship debut wasn't what one might describe as illustrious. Inexperience in the vital centre back position would see him replaced by John McIntyre, when Tipp's hopes were dashed by Clare in Ennis. And yet it was in that same position that he would shine as his career developed.

Enter "Babs" on the scene later that season and Noel soon became a vital cog in the wheel that would slowly

but surely grind its way up the ladder, beginning with the regaining of the Munster title in '87 after a lapse of sixteen years, culminating with All-Ireland success two years later, a feat that was consolidated in '91 with yet another dual triumph. He lined out in the first round against Kerry in '87 but was on the bench for the remainder of the campaign, which ended in All-Ireland semi-final defeat by Galway.

On to the NHL and Noel, described by Babs in his book as "a raw young fella when we started, who worked very hard on his game", began to knit in with greater authority.

ZENITH REACHED

Now back in the inner line of defence, Noel wore the No. 3 jersey when Tipp. beat Offaly in the League final and he was there in front of Ken Hogan throughout the provincial championship campaign. For the All-Ireland final against Galway he was at centre back and his season would be rewarded with an All-Star selection. A year later when Antrim were conquered and the All-

Ireland famine was over, Noel wore the No. 4 jersey. With that season came his second All-Star and the Bank of Ireland official had reached the zenith of his hurling career.

Since those heady days, Noel continued to give his all for his native county, there were good days and bad days, but irrespective of the results, Noel was never less than forthright in his approach and in his accomplishments. Consigned to the subs bench for the '96 championship campaign, he might well be viewed as one who now had enough and should bow out gracefully. Not Noel Sheehy. No, disappointed though he was to have been left to view the Munster final against Limerick from the dug-out, and with so many Tipp. fans of one mind as to the need for his introduction in that replay, Noel showed his true mettle by refusing to throw in the towel.

One more year still left in him and under Len Gaynor's guidance he set about recovering lost ground and soon had succeeded in having his '96 replacement, Paul Shelly, moved across to the right

full back berth.

Noel Sheehy was back at full back. The old order had been restored and the '97 season became an extra special one for him.

All of which brings us back to where we began.

A MODEL

Solid more than spectacular probably best sums up Noel Sheehy. He is a model for any aspiring hurler, a model of commitment and dedication. To have reached the top and to have stayed there for so long while a member of an intermediate club, speaks volumes for his attitude to the game.

No, things will not be the same without him. He had a good innings. He served his county well and most importantly of all, he did it without any fuss or egotistical behaviour.

Noel Sheehy deserves his retirement. Tipp. fans of several years have reason to be thankful to him and perhaps in the not too distant future we may again see him in another capacity, continuing to serve a county in which he has always taken such immense pride.



Photograph taken at the official opening of the new stand at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh in March shows (l.-r.): Ger Gavin, former Nenagh Eire Óg GAA Club Chairman; Joe McDonagh, President-elect of the GAA; Paul O'Neill, Chairman Co. G.A.A. Board; Tommy Barrett, Secretary Co. G.A.A. Board and Jimmy Morris, Chairman Nenagh Eire Óg G.A.A. Club.

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TIPPERARY FOOTBALL BOARD 1997

THE CURTAIN has come down on another season of inter-county activity. We take time out and look back on a year of limited success on the playing fields. The amount of hard work, the hours put in, the dedication shown and the commitment given by all sets of selectors deserves far greater reward. Then when you think of the players and what all those lads have sacrificed over the past 12 months in taking time off work for those who have reached employment age, to all those who have been studying for exams, for their commitment to our national games, we sincerely say thank you. The amount of travel now involved for many players surely tests their loyalty to us and we must ensure that for these lads are properly compensated. In this day and age of so many counter attractions for our youth let us not be found wanting in treating those people (who are after all the very flesh and blood of the Association) in a respectable manner. If we do not see to it that our national pastime is an attractive proposition for the young people some other organisation will see to it that theirs is.

On The Playing Fields

SENIOR FOOTBALL

THE SEASON opened for the senior squad with a McGrath Cup game at Bansha against Limerick.

So it was an early start for Paddy Morrissey, our senior manager, and his two selectors, John Treacy and Tommy Harvey. This game was on 12th January. The lads got off to a winning start for 1997, winning this one by 1-14 to 1-8.

Our next game was away to Waterford in the National League on the 2nd of February at Dungarvan. We collected the points here, winning by four points.

The following Sunday took us on a trip North to play Fermanagh at Irvinestown. On this occasion the

scoreline read not in our favour, 2-13 to 0-11.

The next League game was at Newcastlewest on the 16th February, this time beating Limerick by 0-6 to 0-3.

The McGrath Cup game the following Sunday required a visit to Killarney. The squad gave as good as they got from the Kingdom but had to settle for second best with the final score Kerry 2-9, Tipperary 2-6.

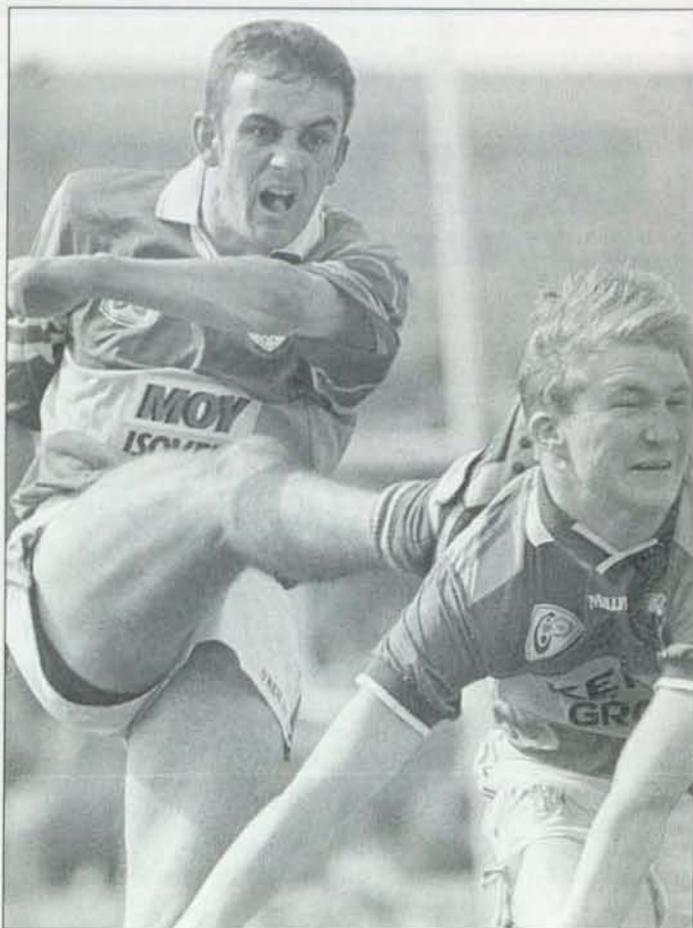
The last game of the League saw us entertain Sligo at Tipp. town with the boys from the

North West scratching a late draw 2-5 to 1-8.

We had by now being unsuccessful in our bid to gain promotion, so all efforts were geared towards a good championship run. The first round of which was v. Limerick at the Gaelic Grounds on 11th May 1997.



The Tipperary team which played Kerry in the Munster Senior Football semi-final at Tralee. Standing (l.-r.): Niall Kelly, Cristoir McGrath, Brian Burke, Sean Maher, Derry Foley, Brian Lacey, Don Lyons, Mark Sheahan. Seated: Bernard Hahessy, Conor O'Dwyer, Sean Collum, Martin Quinlivan, Declan Browne, Liam Cronin (Captain), John Owens.



Too close for comfort . . . a determined Brian Lacey gets in his clearance despite the close attention of a Kerry forward during the Munster senior football championship game at Tralee.

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The Tipperary Minor Football Team which played Clare in the Munster Championship (preliminary league group) at Limerick. Back row (l.-r.): John Coyle, Paul Tobin, Joe Keane, John Paul Looby, Colm White, Colm McMenamin, Vincent Moloney, Aidan O'Sullivan, John Ferncombe, Declan Fanning, Niall Curran, Gerry Stapleton, David Byrne. Front row: Donncha Fahy, Darragh Moore, James Tierney, Colin Hayes, John O'Donnell, Eddie O'Brien, Andy Lacey (captain), Colin Morrissey, Eoin Morrissey, Peter Leonard.

Paddy and his selectors had prepared the team well with many challenge games and the hard slog of training had been gone through with great commitment from the panel under the guidance of the very efficient Donncha O'Donnell.

We got over this first hurdle with some difficulty even though we won on a scoreline of 1-17 to 2-8 in a replay at Clonmel on the 18th May.

We then had a clash with Waterford at Dungarvan on the 1st June to qualify for a date with the Kingdom. Tipp. did not play well against the Decies and on a windy day we found it difficult to get scores and were less than impressive in our win by the margin of five points.

The task of facing Kerry in Tralee seemed by now even more daunting with four weeks remaining and the sting seemed to be going from the squad. To add to our seemingly low moral as the day approached, injuries



The Tipperary junior football panel which played Limerick at Limerick. Back row (l.-r.): Gary Morrisson, Fergal McDonnell, Anthony O'Gorman, Michael Spillane, Anthony Wall, Michael O'Mahony, Paul Norris, Michael McGrath, Shay Ryan, Kyran Maguire, Pdraig Moloney, Mark Cummins. Front row: Jimmy Dunne, Willie Morrissey, Michael Ormond, Ned Ryan, Noel Wall, Seamus Delahunty, Noel Leahy, Graham Lonergan, Noel Heaney.

to key players made the task appear even more difficult.

However, our manager, selectors and trainer, stuck to their task, kept belief in their panel, motivated their players and assured us that no matter what

outside opinion may think they were ready for a real shot at Paudie's men.

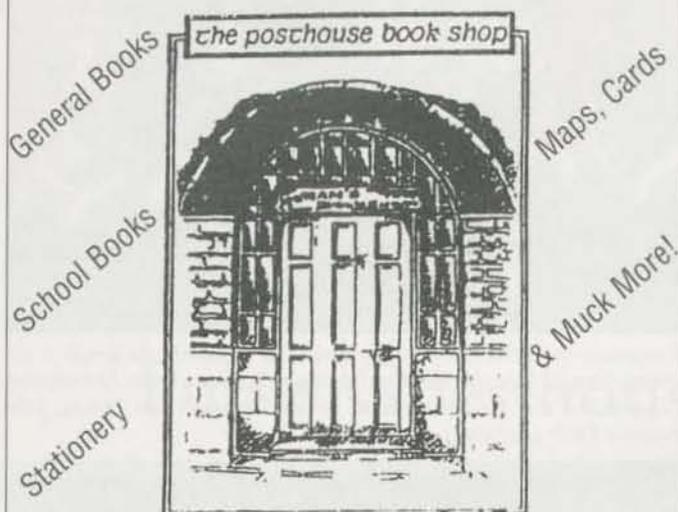
On the day Paddy Morrissey and his mentors proved to us that the team was really fired up and the rest is history.

After a great game of football and a



The Tipperary panel which drew with Cork in an exciting Munster under-21 football championship match at Páirc Uí Rinn (Cork) (Cork). Back row (l.-r.): Pat Walsh, Tom O'Farrell, Gary Mernagh, Terry Kearns, Paul Fitzgerald, David Kennedy, Niall Kelly, Des Lyons, Mark O'Brien, James Williams, Paul Ormond, Paul Cahill, Mark Cummins. Front row: Lionel Leonard, Declan Browne, Damien Byrne, Ben Walsh, Mark O'Shea, John Carroll, Fergal Clifford (captain), Ky Vaughan, Colm Heaney, Brian Maguire, Liam Hennessy, Eamonn Smyth, Mark Wade.

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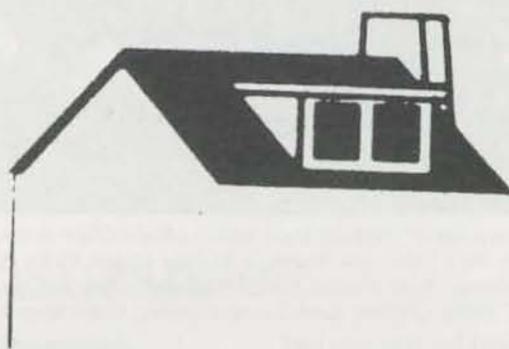
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Tipperary minor football selectors photographed before the Munster championship (preliminary league group) match against Clare at Limerick. Included are (l.-r.): Tommy Twomey, Eamonn Owens, Aidan Shanahan and John Owens. Unavoidably absent through illness was selector Michael Power.



The Tipperary junior football selectors photographed before the start of the Munster junior football championship game against Limerick. Included (l.-r.): Willie Robinson, Billy Butler (County Football Board PRO), Tommy Harvey, John Treacy, Conor O'Dwyer. Unavoidably absent from photograph is Paddy Morrissey (manager).



Tipperary selectors photographed before the start of an exciting Under-21 football championship match against Cork at Páirc Uí Rinn. Included (l.-r.): Don Ryan (manager), John Phelan, Anthony Crosse, Seamus McCarthy, Pete Savage.



The Tipperary senior football management team photographed in Dungarvan before the Munster quarter-final against Waterford. Included are (l.-r.): John Treacy, Tommy Harvey (selectors), Donncha Ó Domhnaill (trainer), Paddy Morrissey (manager).

tremendous effort from our team we were beaten in the end by five points. People then said Kerry were going nowhere. If nowhere means winning back the Sam Maguire after eleven years then I'd like to book a seat on the bus that leads us there.

I would like to congratulate that team on its great effort under difficult circumstances and above all pay a special tribute to the trainer Paddy and his staff for being able to motivate their men to such a degree as to run the All-Ireland champions to such a close margin.

The gap between us and the top is not as great as some would have us believe. We wish the best of luck to our trainer/coach for the coming year, Colm Browne and his selectors. Let's hope these men get the full co-operation of every football enthusiast in the county in their quest to bring honours to the men who wear the blue and gold in the name of Gaelic football.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

AT JUNIOR level we were entitled to play our second best team in the championship. It was decided that a panel of around forty players be chosen that was inclusive of senior and junior.



Tipperary midfielder Jimmy Dunne (left) prepares to head for a goal as he is tackled by Limerick's Donal Fitzgibbon during the Munster junior football championship match at Limerick.



Senior football manager Paddy Morrissey, in thoughtful mood during the Munster championship game against Limerick in Limerick.

Two selectors were then selected along with the three senior men to select the junior team. Willie Robinson and Conor O'Dwyer joined Paddy Morrissey, Tommy Harvey and John Treacy to form the selection committee.

To my mind the idea of having senior and junior players train together and prepare together did not work. It seemed as if to some players they were being brought in to make up numbers and when players who have had senior aspirations felt their lot was to be of junior status they then opted out or did not make much of an effort.

There is a strong case in this county for a junior football panel to be brought together with every effort being made and every support given to the idea that to win a medal at junior level would be a great boost and of significant importance to Tipp. football.

The first round of the championship was played at Limerick v. the home side on 11th May. The lads gave as good as they got for long periods but their inability to put scores on the board cost them dearly.

We were beaten in the end by seven points, 1-12 to 0-8. When one looks at some of the football played in the county, surely we are capable of putting out a second string team good enough to achieve success of an important nature over poor opposition.

MINOR FOOTBALL

The MINOR competition was played on a league basis and our men in charge had prepared their charges well over the winter months.

Eamonn Owens, Tommy Toomey, John Owens, Aidan Shanahan and



Tipperary's Mark Cummins (left) gets the better of Cork's Andy O'Shea during the Munster under-21 championship replay at Clonmel.

Michael Power were the men at the helm here.

The first game brought us up against Clare at Limerick on the 9th April 1997. We did not have a good beginning to the campaign and lost out to the Banner by twelve points.

We travelled to take on Limerick at Newcastlewest eight days later. The U-18s put up a real good show of spirit and determination here to share the spoils on a score of 3-5 to 1-11.

We then had to play Waterford in

our group at Clonmel on the 30th April. The boys showed a great appetite for this game and ran out easy winners by a margin of fifteen points.

The final game was against Limerick, again at Clonmel, but on this occasion our lads did not have the best of good fortune on a wet day, losing out in the end by two points.

The men in charge here had put in long hours of training and travelling at a time of year which is not always that pleasant and with their players who



Officers of the County Football Board photographed at their Annual Convention in Hayes's Hotel. Seated (l.-r.): Tom Cusack (Fr. Sheehy's), treasurer; Michael Frawley (Emly), chairman; Eddie Lonergan (Cahir), secretary. Standing: Sean Mockler (Loughmore-Castleiney), outgoing chairman; Pete Savage (Ardfinnan), vice-chairman; Billy Butler (Ballingarry), PRO; Michael Power (Newcastle), vice-chairman.

were and indeed are such a loyal bunch deserved better but I suppose such is sport. It is still regrettable that all players did not take themselves available.

UNDER-21

SEAMUS MCCARTHY, Don Ryan, Pete Savage, John Phelan and Anthony Crosse were responsible for looking after the fortunes of the panel here.

The biggest problem facing mentors here seems to be that of players away at work or away at Third Level Education. It is very difficult for those players and we expected a great deal of them. I know it is of paramount importance for the county to achieve success at every level possible but we got to be understanding of the players problems.

We were drawn against Cork here and had to travel to Páirc Uí Rinn on 23rd March. This was a very good game of football and a great performance from our players saw us secure a draw. The return in Clonmel was looked forward to with great confidence and our hopes were high of overcoming the Rebels. This was not to be and we had to play second fiddle on the day for most of the game.

The final score was Cork 1-12, Tipp. 1-6. The team was capable of better and one felt we left it after us in Cork.



Photograph taken at the Football Symposium at Hayes's Hotel, Thurles, organised by the County Football Board includes some of the guest speakers together with Co. Board officers. Included are - seated (l.-r.): Pádraig Horan (Offaly), Tony Davis (Cork), Dermot Earley (Roscommon), Sean McGague (Monaghan) and Seamus McCarthy (Tipperary), all guest speakers. Standing: Tom O'Donnell, treasurer County Board; Paul O'Neill, chairman County Board; Michael Frawley, chairman Co. Football Board; Eddie Lonergan, secretary Co. Football Board; Pete Savage, vice-chairman Co. Football Board.

When you give the big guns a second chance you usually pay the penalty. Well done to all concerned. A very respectable display all round.



In conclusion, may I take this opportunity to congratulate all clubs who at this stage have won county honours. To those of you who are still in contention the best of luck in the remaining games of your

championships. I thank all members of the County Football Board for their co-operation and I am grateful to all clubs for their support. I express my gratitude to all the media for their assistance whenever called upon. May 1998 be a year of good fortune to all G.A.A. followers in the county. Maybe it is not always the rest that matters. It is sometimes more important how you play the game.

BILLY BUTLER, P.R.O.



Tipperary players Gary Mernagh (left) and Des Lyons (right) combine to dispossess Cork's Nicholas Murphy (Cork) during the Munster Under-21 football championship match at Páirc Uí Rinn (Cork).



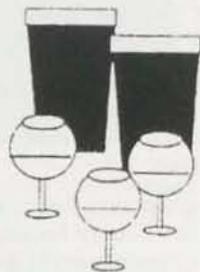
Tipperary's Fergal Clifford does his best to dispossess Cork's Alan O'Regan during the Munster Under-21 football championship replay at Clonmel.

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New Team Manager for Senior Footballers

COLM BROWNE - A PROFILE

by Mick Frawley

IN RECENT and not so recent times people such as Capt. Seán Minogue, the late J.P. McGowan, John McNamara, John Phelan, "Babs" Keating, Pat Moroney, Johnny Mulvihill, Mickey Niblock, Seamus McCarthy and Paddy Morrissey are all people who have been closely involved with preparing Tipperary senior football teams for championship and league.

All of them we are deeply indebted to for their unstinted service in that role which was formerly known as team trainer, but in today's more updated and modern world is always referred to as the team manager.

Due to the sheer extent of the present day demands and as a result of the change in the preparation and treatment of teams, the significance and importance of the team manager has altered to an extent that very few people would have envisaged a short number of years ago. No longer are the prerequisites for the job confined to being a good judge of a player or a good reader of a game. He must also ensure that the physical and mental preparation of the team reaches the highest standards attainable. Likewise, he must be experienced and knowledgeable in all other aspects and facets of the game such as skills, teamwork, etc. In short the team manager must be a person of many talents. With the appointment of Colm Browne as team manager to the Tipperary senior football team, we believe that we have a person of that calibre in charge.

Colm Browne hails from the neighbouring county of Laois. Aged 40 and married with two children he lives with his wife and family in Portlaoise town. By profession he is a garda based in the Garda College in Templemore where he works in the Physical Studies Department of the college, commuting on a daily basis from home to his place of work.

As a player he gave sterling service over many years to his Club, County and Province, playing at minor, under twenty one and senior level for both Club and County.

At Club level he has a playing career which spanned a period of twenty years. In addition to many honours achieved at all grades with the Portlaoise club, he was a member of ten successful county senior championship winning sides. Added to this are four Leinster Senior club titles won in the years 1976, 1983, 1985 and 1987. However, his greatest success at club level came in 1983 when not alone did he play an exceptional part in the club's All-Ireland senior victory of that year but was also the manager of the team.



Colm Browne (centre), new manager of Tipperary senior football team, with his selectors, Colm O'Flaherty and Pat Moroney.

As stated earlier his talents did not go unnoticed and he wore the County jersey at all levels with distinction. His greatest impact was at senior level when over a playing span of fifteen years he had a brilliant playing career. Lady Luck incidentally did not always smile kindly on many of the Laois sides of those years. In 1981 and 1985 they were beaten in the Leinster final by Offaly and Dublin respectively. I am sure that Colm would regard the League final of 1986 against Monaghan in Croke Park as one of his most cherished memories in the blue and white of Laois. That day he played a man's part in every sense of the word. When he captained a brilliant Laois team to a deserved League title. His display of that day allied to many others won for him an All-Star award at left half-back in that year of 1986.

Colm Browne became known, recognised and respected nationally as a result of many sterling displays, given when wearing the green jersey of the Province. On eight different years between 1978 and 1987 he was honoured by the provincial selectors, culminating in Provincial victories for the three successive years 1985 to 1987.

At National level he was selected as a member of the Ireland panel for the Compromise Rules Service of games versus Australia in 1987. It should not be forgotten that Brian Bourke (Fethard) a member of the current Tipperary football team, also one of the county's greatest servants and likewise one of the games most sporting and skilful exponents was a team-mate of Colm's on that Australian panel.

In his role as manager and coach to the Tipperary Senior Football team for the next

two years, he will have as his selectors Pat Moroney of Aherlow and Colm Flaherty of Cahir. Both Pat and Colm will always be remembered for their great contribution to their clubs and county as players and administrators. They have also in their respective schools reached the summit of success in the academic and sporting arenas.

Very recently I asked Colm Browne his views as a result of his experience with the team to date, also in relation to Tipperary football and its future. His reply was immediate and unambiguous. The players have struck me as being ambitious, intelligent and very willing to work hard at improving their game. I feel that there is plenty of ability in Tipperary football. Most teams in the county would consider that Tipperary are a difficult team to play against and hard to beat.

The challenge for all concerned he clearly points out is to take the team beyond the *Hard to Beat* category to a level at which they can compete with and beat the Corks and Kerrys of the football world.

This is the viewpoint that everybody would be in agreement with. But agreement of itself is not nearly enough. The challenge is much greater and very clear cut and all of us without exception have got a part to play no matter how big or small that part might appear to be. At every conceivable opportunity either by word or deed we must at all times be both unselfish and unsparring in our efforts in helping the two Colm's and Pat in all their endeavours in restoring Tipperary to its former place in sun.

Our County deserves it. There can be no holding back.



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John Owens – retires from intercounty football

By Eamonn Wynne
The Nationalist, Clonmel

A footballing journey that has taken him through two provinces, encompassing the various age groups and spanning 15 years, including a spell in the United States, has reached its final destination. Tipperary's John Owens has hung up his inter-county boots, though he will continue to don the sky blue jersey of his club, Moyle Rovers.

His final outing in the blue and gold was against eventual All-Ireland champions Kerry in the Munster senior semi-final in Austin Stack Park, Tralee, on June 29th last.

His debut was 13 years earlier, in the minor football first round tie in Clonmel in the Spring of 1984, when Tipp scored a memorable albeit rare success over Cork.

The familiar, silver-haired figure of Owens was never less than honest, composed and utterly dependable throughout his years with Tipperary.

As the curtain falls on his inter-county career, he can reflect on a Munster minor championship won in Centenary Year, an All-Ireland minor final appearance the same year, a place on Munster's Railway Cup team for three years, and appearances in consecutive Munster senior finals in 1993 and 1994.

Though that's a record that most players from this neck of the woods would be satisfied with, some might argue that the decision to guillotine his inter-county career has been arrived at prematurely.

It might even be claimed that, in his early thirties, he's still in his prime.

The decision was prompted by family reasons. His second child Daniel arrived last May, joining John, his wife Annette and 2½ year old Alec in the Owens household in Clonmel.

With the demands of inter-county football becoming greater in recent years, he didn't think it possible to combine playing with both club and county any longer.

Anyone in a similar position with a young family will readily identify with his frank assertion that the real work begins when you get home!

But his decision hasn't proved an easy one. He still feels capable of holding his place on the county team. He has discussed the approach of new senior coach Colm Browne with his former team-mates and he says it cuts deep when you open the newspapers on



Monday morning, read the reports of National League matches and suddenly realise that you are no longer part of the scene.

But he's pleased enough with the choice he has made, and says that there's no going back at this stage.

John Owens was born on January 6th, 1966 in Belfast. The family moved to Ballinahinch in Co. Down when he had just turned four, and he first kicked football for the Loughlinstown club as a 12-year-old.

He also spent a few years in boarding school in Newry. The Owens family – parents Des and Rosaleen, brothers Fergal and Peter, and sister Kathleen – moved from Down to Drumshambo in Leitrim when John was 16, so it's no surprise that the Northern lilt in his accent remains unmistakable.

John spent two years playing minor football with Leitrim, the second while he was a Leaving Cert. student at Clonmel's High School, after his father had secured a post as manager of the former Northern Bank in Clonmel.

Inevitably, he transferred to a local club, Moyle Rovers snapping up the wing-back. His talent was immediately recognised by Seamus McCarthy and the Bansha man and his selectors had no hesitation in choosing him for the county minor team in 1984.

On a scorching hot day in Killarney, Tipp caused one of the upsets of that year when they beat Kerry in the Munster Final. They made it all the way to the All-Ireland decider, only to be beaten by Dublin.

His team-mates included the likes of Brian Burke, Anthony Crosse and Jerry Ryan, players who were to form the bedrock of future Tipp teams.

John Owens had announced his arrival, proving that the transition from North to South passed smoothly.

He had previously held the opinion that the standard in Tipperary wouldn't be that high, although he now says that he found the opposite to be the case.

He graduated onto the senior team for a McGrath Cup tie in 1985, and made his mark with the U-21's the senior in the following few years.

He spent from 1984 to '87 studying for the priesthood, appearing in two Sigerson Cup semi-finals with Maynooth College.

In 1987 he went to New York for a weekend to play a match. He returned to The Big Apple later that year, working in the construction industry and remained for four years.

He played in four senior New York finals with Connemara Gaels, winning one, losing two and drawing another that was never replayed.

He also lined out with New York in the League Final against Cork in 1989.

On his return to this country he played with Leitrim in the Connacht Championship in 1991. They beat Sligo that year, before bowing out to Roscommon.

His re-appearance in a Tipperary jersey in 1992 coincided with a shift in policy by the Munster Council. The introduction of an Open draw in football in 1991 meant that Tipp avoided the Province's big two, Kerry and Cork, to reach their first Munster senior final in 49 years, in 1993.

Before playing in front of more than 20,000 fans in the final against Cork at Semple Stadium, John married Annette Walsh the previous day.

Looking back, he says that the impending final took a little bit from the wedding. The match itself "passed him by". He had wanted to savour the occasion more than he did.

A Cork team which he says was very strong in the forward division won by 8 points and Tipp lacked self-belief on the big day.

However, John Owens and Tipperary were fortunate enough to earn a second bite at the cherry the following year.

Twelve months on, Tipp's confidence levels had improved. They gave Cork a much closer run in the final played at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, but ended up leaving the Province's footballing show-

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In some respects, it was the same old story for Tipperary football.

He says that Tipp scored 3-9 in the 1994 Final, which would have been sufficient to win many matches, but they were still beaten.

However, the wing-back was consoled to some degree the same year when he had the honour, along with his Tipperary colleagues John Costello, Brian Burke and Seán Brett, of playing on the Munster team that reached the Railway Cup final.

That year, they went under to a strong Ulster team in the final played in Ennis.

There are many incidents that spring to mind as he reflects on the last 15 years. His outstanding memory of the Centenary All-Ireland Final is of clattering into Richie Quirke – a full-back whom he rated very highly – in an accidental collision in the first five minutes.

He nominates Kerry's Seamus Moynihan as the fastest and most effective defender he has ever played alongside.

Winning the county final in Leitrim with Drumshambo in 1991 also gave him immense satisfaction, especially when they were written off before the final against Ballinamore.

His most difficult opponent was Roscommon's Tony McManus, whom he encountered while playing with Leitrim and Drumshambo. He lists Seamus McCarthy, John Phelan, Mick McCarthy and Frank Mulligan (from his Maynooth days) as his biggest influences.

There are bound to be some regrets at the end of such a long and illustrious playing career. But in John Owen's case, you get the impression that they are only minor in nature.

He saw his native Down and his

adopted county Leitrim win provincial championships, while Down won two All-Ireland championships earlier this decade.

He says that he would have loved to have played against the county of his birth when Tipp met Down in the National League on two occasions in recent years, but it was not to be.

Moyle Rover's South and County titles, won in 1995 and '96, are also special. He says that the epic, three-match marathon against Clonmel Commercials in last year's county final was very enjoyable, a view that he believes is shared by the Commercials players.

John Owens played in midfield as Rovers secured their second successive county final success against their rivals, turning in a typically accomplished performance for one side. But he admits that he had his hands full with Commercial's Paul Scully, whose pace and ability surprised him in the final.

He describes playing with Moyle Rovers in the Munster Club Championship as another great experience, even if they were 'hammered' by Laune Rangers in the 1995 final.

John, who is employed in the accounts department of Pinewood Laboratories in Ballymacarbry, Co. Waterford, spent his last year in the Tipp senior team in an unaccustomed centre-forward berth.

He says that the change from defence to attack was like a breath of fresh air for him. It was a welcome change not to be marking anyone, and let somebody else worry about you.

People were 'dumbstruck' that Tipp stayed with Kerry with time running out in this year's Munster semi-final. Kerry then poached a goal that he says could

have been prevented, but this was an outcome that so many other Tipp teams had experienced.

That's why he maintains that concentration and self-belief are so important to a team like Tipp, struggling to make a lasting impression on the footballing landscape.

John Owens holds clear views on the way forward for Tipperary football.

He believes that the breakthrough of a Munster championship victory can be achieved, though winning an All-Ireland 'B' championship (like Tipp did in 1995), or running Cork and Kerry close in the championship will no longer suffice.

He believes that the best route for success is through the National League.

Tipp need to break into a higher division so that they can improve by playing top quality opposition. And Clonmel should be established as the regular home venue.

Club championships should be completed early in the year, so that the county can field strong teams for the League matches. In that way the profile of the game can be raised, which in turn would even help win over some of those supporters who only follow the county's hurling teams, he says.

To support his argument, he points to Leitrim, Offaly and Cavan as counties who had gone on to win Provincial championships by putting a massive effort into the League.

The county already had a good spirit, a reasonable level of fitness and some talented players like Derry Foley, Declan Browne and Criostoir McGrath.

In John Owens' view, all that is needed now is this change of approach to steer the county even further in the right direction.



At football symposium – Front (l. to r.) Pdraig Horan, Don Davis, Dermot Early, Seán McCague, Seamus McCarthy. Back row: Tom O'Donnell, Paul O'Neill, Mick Frawley, Eddie Lonergan, Pete Savage.

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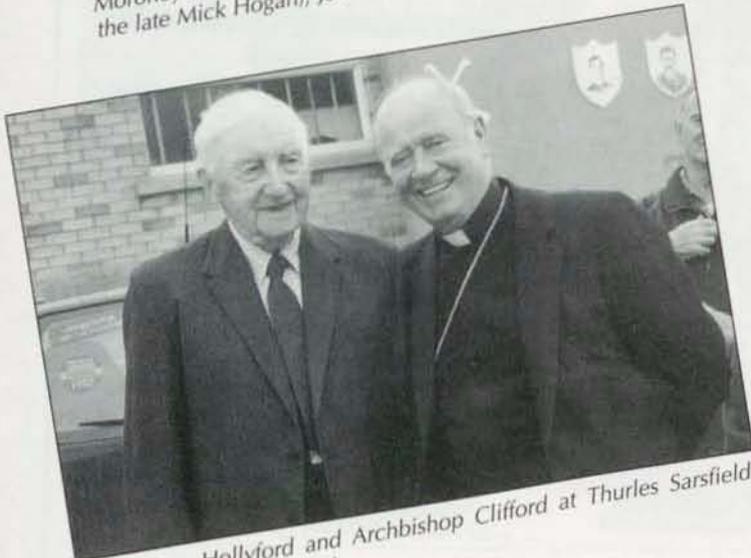
An Siúl Mór in Seán Treacy Park, Tipperary – Included at wreath laying ceremony were (l.-r.): Dick Meagher, Mick Frawley, John O'Donoghue and Hugh Kennedy.



Wreath laying at Grangemockler at Mick Hogan's grave (l.-r.): Pat Moroney (Friends of Tipperary Football), Michael Hogan (nephew of the late Mick Hogan), John Hassett (Friends of Tipperary Football).



Sean Kenny, Mickey Byrne and John Ryan (105 years old) on An Siúl Mór.



John Ryan, Hollyford and Archbishop Clifford at Thurles Sarsfields Clubhouse on An Siúl Mór.



At Grangemockler for An Siúl Mór (l.-r.): Mick Darcy, Babs Keating, Tommy Barrett, Pat Moroney and Sean Crowe.

*Nollaig agus Athbliain faoi
shéan is faoi mhaise duit*

THE meeting of Clare and Tipperary in the 1997 All-Ireland senior hurling final has caused frantic flutterings in the dovecotes of the traditionalists. It's not right that two teams from the same province should contest the All-Ireland. It's not acceptable that a team beaten in the championship should have a second crack at winning it! And, it's definitely not fair to the Munster champions to have to beat in the All-Ireland the same team they put away in the Munster final!

All very true no doubt and a far cry from the traditional knock-out championship. And, we're not going to finish with it this year: it is an experiment and it's going to run for another year. The aim and intention behind it was twofold: it was an attempt to increase the number of hurling games available in the championship and to take into consideration the state of the game in Ulster and Connacht.

In the latter case Galway have traditionally had a direct entree to the All-Ireland semi-final in spite of the best intentions of the Roscommons and the Londons. In Ulster, there are two teams but, with only two exceptions in over a century, neither Antrim or Down is a realistic contender for All-Ireland honours. By allowing in the beaten finalists of Munster and Leinster, Central Council was trying to ensure that the best hurling teams in the country qualified for the All-Ireland semi-finals.

THE BACK DOOR!

One of the worst aspersions cast at the new system is the way it allows teams back into the championship by the back door! The term is intended to be properly derogatory and suggests that no right-minded team with respectable credentials would demean itself by using this mode of entry. The manly man with his chest out will walk up to the front door while the sleeveen with the servile mentality will sneak around to the back entrance. There is a definite implication that he has no right to be there. So, should Tipperary snuffle away to the undergrowth and get lost? No! I hardly think so.

In fact, we're very familiar with the back door in the county. Ever since 1977, when the open draw for the county senior hurling championship was abolished, we have been living with the back door entry into the championship and no one has ever taken a blind bit of notice. Even worse, with divisions we have many variations of this kind of entry. There's the losers group in some divisions, a league-championship system in others and they all facilitate teams which get beaten.

This system has a long ancestry. At

The 'back door' and all that lark!

by Seamus J. King

the North convention in Nenagh on 8th March, 1953, the chairman stated that 'the senior hurling championship (of 1952) was carried out under a new scheme and he and everyone else thought that the 'Lorrha scheme' worked well. He called it the 'Lorrha scheme' because it was moved by Rev. Fr. O'Meara of the Lorrha club and carried at the last convention.' According to this motion the senior championship was played on a knockout system with teams beaten in the first round forming a group for play-off among themselves with the winning team being given a place in the semi-finals of the championship proper. So, are we to blame Lorrha for the whole back door policy? Over forty years later the system still obtains in the North championship.

THE COUNTY FOLLOWS

The County Board put an end to the straight knock-out system of running the county championship in 1960. At convention in that year it was decided that two teams would come forward from each division, with the winners meeting the losers from another division and the losers meeting the winners. The four winners in the quarter-finals were put into an open draw for the semi-finals and resulted in repeats of the Mid and the North finals. Toomevara defeated Kilruane MacDonaghs as they had done in the North final and Thurles Sarsfields beat Holycross/Ballycahill in a repeat of the Mid final. In the county final

Toomevara defeated Sarsfields and stopped them winning six-in-a-row.

There was a change in 1961. The number of teams contesting the county championship was reduced to six, with two quarter-finals. The runners-up in the North and the Mid played the winners of the South and the West, paralleling the system in operation for the All-Ireland championship this year. This system continued to operate until 1966, when it was decided that two teams from each division would contest the county championship, and this remained the case until the introduction of the open draw in 1969. During the period 1961-'65 when there were only two quarter-finals, the runners-up in the North and the Mid were successful on every occasion bar one. That was in 1965 when South winners, Carrick Davins, beat North runners-up, Lorrha, by a point. The winners went on to qualify for the final, drew with Thurles Sarsfields and lost the replay. They were to be winners in 1966 and 1967.

It's interesting to identify who were the back door champions during this period. When Sarsfields won their 10th county final in 11 years in 1965 they did so through the back door: they were beaten by Moycarkey/Borris in the Mid final. Moycarkey did the same thing in 1984 when they became centenary champions. Does anyone think any less of them because they were beaten by Drom/Inch in the Mid final? One of the most celebrated examples is Borrisoleigh in 1986. League winners in the North, they beat the championship runners-up, qualified for the county championship, beat the North champions in the county final and went on to win a club All-Ireland! And there are even more back door champions in the Nineties. Toomevara used this route in 1992 and 1993, Nenagh in 1995 and Boherlahan in 1996!

IN MUNSTER

And, it didn't happen only in Tipperary. There is a very obvious example of the back door in the history of the Munster championship. We all look back with a feeling of hurt and a sense of aggravation at what happened in 1941. That was the year of the foot and mouth and the curtailment of G.A.A. activity in parts of Munster, particularly County Tipperary. As a result, the county was prevented playing the Munster championship and Cork were nominated to play in the All-Ireland series. And, because they were beaten later by Tipperary in the Munster final, it could be said they got into the All-Ireland retrospectively through the back door! To make matters worse, from a Tipp point of view, they not only won the All-Ireland but went on to win four-in-a-row!

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There is another aspect of this whole development that is causing consternation among the traditionalists and that is the idea of two teams from the same province playing the All-Ireland final. Sure, it's not right at all! I suppose it won't be any consolation to them to point out that the county final in Tipperary was fought out on at least 10 occasions since 1970 by teams from the same division.

Without delving too deeply into history, it is worth pointing out that the first All-Ireland in 1887 was played under the open draw system. Initially 12 teams entered and there was a completely open draw. Eventually, only five teams participated, Tipperary, Galway, Wexford, Clare and Kilkenny. As we are aware Tipperary played Galway in the All-Ireland but it could have as easily been Clare had the draws gone differently. So, it has taken all those years in the meantime for us to meet them in the All-Ireland!

BIZARRE AND UNBELIEVABLE

One of the most bizarre and unbelievable episodes in the history of All-Ireland finals occurred in the 1925 football All-Ireland. It's the last occasion, as far as I know, when two teams from the same province contested an All-Ireland final. The two teams were Galway and Mayo. The record books will show you the result of the Connacht final as Galway 1-5, Mayo 1-3. Then if you go to the All-Ireland semi-finals they will show Kerry 1-7 Cavan 2-3, Mayo 2-4 Wexford 1-4. And, if you look for the All-Ireland champions you will read, Galway!!!

How did this come about? The Connacht football championship had fallen terribly behind when Central Council fixed the All-Ireland semi-finals for 30th August and requested the Connacht Council to nominate a team. The other provinces had completed their championships but the first rounds hadn't yet been finalised in the west. Galway and Leitrim had drawn twice and Roscommon had drawn with Sligo so, by August, the first round hadn't been completed.

As Mayo were the provincial champions of 1924, they were nominated to represent Connacht in the All-Ireland semi-final. Drawn against Wexford they defeated them by a goal in Croke Park. In the other semi-final Kerry defeated Cavan by one point at Tralee. Cavan objected to Kerry having illegal players and Kerry counter-objected that Cavan had illegal players. The Central Council disqualified both teams.

So, Mayo were All-Ireland champions? Such was to be the case in 1941 when Cork, the nominated team of

Munster, got a bye into the All-Ireland and defeated Dublin. In 1925 it was different. As Mayo were only a nominated team, the All-Ireland of 1925 depended on who would emerge as Connacht champions. And, so it was to be. (I wonder who changed the rules between then and 1941).

But, to get back to Connacht in 1925. Galway eventually beat Leitrim in their third outing and Sligo beat Roscommon in their replay. Then, Mayo beat Sligo in a memorable semi-final and qualified to meet Galway in the final. The Connacht final and the All-Ireland final now lay between the two teams. The game was played in Parkmore, Tuam, later a race-course and presently a soul-less housing estate, on 18th October. An enthusiastic crowd turned up. A Galway man, Stephen Jordan, was the referee and 'no better man in Connacht could have been selected... and to the best of his ability carried out a duty which to him, being a Galway man, was a great responsibility,' the *Western People* reported. The upshot of the game was that Galway, relying more on weight and strength and rush rather than stylish, systematic play, beat Mayo by 1-5 to 1-3. The cynics would probably say: sure, why wouldn't they win and they having their own referee as well as the venue!

DISPUTED

Back in the council chambers the heat rose appreciably toward the end of November when a letter from M. Barrett, secretary of the Mayo County Board, questioned the validity of the Central Council in awarding the All-Ireland title to Galway on foot of their win over Mayo. The county contended and argued their case strongly, that they had been led to believe that they were All-Ireland champions and that they considered the game against Galway as being merely the Connacht final. Had it been the All-Ireland final it should have been played in Croke Park, as per the rule book.

The argument came to naught. The Central Council confirmed Galway as All-Ireland champions for 1925. But the Council must have had some reservations about its decision. It decided to present a set of gold medals to the winners of an interprovincial football competition between Cavan and Kerry, Galway and Wexford. Kerry refused to take part in this new competition. Galway defeated Wexford and later had a comfortable win over Cavan, thus proving, perhaps, they were the best team of 1925. On top of that they got three sets of medals in all.

What it all proves is not too clear. There is a precedent for two teams from

the same province meeting in an All-Ireland final, although the circumstances are much different. It also shows that there were two totally different interpretations put on the question of nominating teams. Had what prevailed in Connacht in 1925, obtained in Munster in 1941, the Munster final on 26th October would also have been the All-Ireland final and it would further have established the precedent of two teams from the province meeting in an All-Ireland final.

AN OPEN DRAW

Regardless of the outcome of this two year experiment of allowing beaten finalists back into the championship, there does appear to be an opening for a break from the traditional way of running the All-Ireland series. There are good arguments for an open draw, separate and distinct from the provincial championships. Such a draw would preferably have 12 teams, with four preliminary rounds, followed by quarter-finals, semi-finals and final. At the moment the 12 teams would be Clare, Cork, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, Offaly, Dublin, Antrim, Down and Galway. An open 'B' championship could also be run and a system of promotion / relegation worked out between the two. This would give us 11 championship games. Added to that would be the provincial championships with as many more hurling games. I do not believe the provincial championship would suffer: it was still desirable to win the divisional championship in this county, when the open draw was in operation. The system would give us more hurling games, greater exposure of the game and more exciting television.

Whether one is for or against the present experiment, one has to admit that it has increased the interest in hurling to an incredible degree. (I do admit that the sponsorship of Guinness with their imaginative and dramatic advertising campaign has also played its part, as also the increased televising of the games). By the time the 65,000 capacity attendance is added to this year's All-Ireland hurling championship figures, an increase of 25% will have to be achieved. More than 483,000 will have attended the matches as against 395,000 last year. Compared with 1995 the increase is even more dramatic, up 58% on that year. This is encouraging news and didn't happen out of the blue but because a few farsighted people had the courage to look beyond the cosy and the familiar.

This article first appeared in *'The Nationalist'* on Saturday, September 13, 1997.

Most Rev. Thomas Morris, D.D.

(1914-1997)

CO. TIPPERARY AND THE ARCHDIOCESE
OF CASHEL AND EMLY SUFFERED A
MAJOR LOSS WITH THE DEATH OF THEIR
PREMIER SON, ARCHBISHOP MORRIS,
ON 16TH JANUARY, 1997

THE PRINCIPAL biographical facts are well known. Born at Kilkennybeg, Killenaule, on 16th October, 1914, he was ordained priest at Maynooth in June 1939.

Scholastic success came easy to him. An honours degree in English Literature and a Doctorate in Theology were a solid foundation for the academic life that lay ahead of him in St. Patrick's College, Thurles (1942-1959).

But Dr. Morris was not content with acquiring the necessary vocational and academic qualifications. He was ever a student, an educator of himself and of others.

His love of the Irish language and its literature led him annually to the Kerry Gaeltacht and his bookshelves depicted a man who was well versed in ancient and modern publications in Irish.

Local history in its many forms was his favourite pursuit. At a time when the sources were not as readily available as now he studied the ordnance survey maps, he visited the ancient sites

and read whatever was available. Later as Archbishop he developed and made available to research students the material in the archives of the archdiocese.

Under his guidance an atlas of the archdiocese and a population atlas (1841-1971) were published.

The restored Abbey of Holycross is the great visible expression of his sense of faith and history combined. It is evidence too of his quiet but effective leadership, a cute and cautious man would not have taken the risks involved; courage and faith prevailed.

His success in the pastoral sphere, his implementation of the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, his deep interest in all aspects of education are not the concern of the general reader of the yearbook.

On the day of his episcopal ordination, 28 February 1960, in reply to an address of welcome from the G.A.A., he declared:
"Although I cannot boast of any great proficiency



No doubt discussing the finer points of hurling – Archbishop Thomas Morris with Jack Lynch.

in the games themselves, I yield pride of place to no man in my admiration and respect for the G.A.A. and its ideals."

No man was better qualified for his role as patron. His fervent love for all things Irish, his involvement in Muintir na Tíre, his closeness to his predecessor, Archbishop Kinane, his practical interest in people exemplified by his episcopal motto – "Alter Alterius Onera Portate (Bear one another's burdens)" – all combined to prepare him for his many roles. He was in every sense a Knocknagow man, deeply interested in the people of rural Ireland, always encouraging those who work and play "for the credit of the little village."

He was most generous with his time where the G.A.A. was concerned and if his attendance contributed to an occasion he did not decline an invitation. The official opening of grounds and pavilions, the launching of

club histories, the opening of exhibitions always met with a positive response.

Centenary year made many demands on him; it presented challenges to which he rose with zest and a sense of the joy and celebration of that year. T. K. Dwyer's history of the G.A.A. in Moycarkey-Borris was one of the first to be launched that year. Dr. Morris in his foreword says:

"Like many others who would wish to see Tipperary on the march again, I welcome this centenary book. May the telling of this story stimulate – or even goad – the present generation to give the county a lead such as that given in days of yore by Moycarkey, Tubberadora, Borris and The Jockey."

He did the honours on the night of the launch, he revelled in the company of the older heroes, he was one of the last to leave Littleton hall.

His interest extended to the broader aspects of the

association and if any problem arose his "what can I do, what should I be doing?" was an expression of paternal care rather than remote patronage.

Typical of the man was his introductory message to the 1988 Tipperary G.A.A. Yearbook:

"There is a band of faithful people who guard the G.A.A. tradition at different levels from club to county board. Among them are some of the top players of other days but there are also those who are distinguished more by loyalty than by skill in the game. I think of those who provide and maintain grounds and premises, those responsible for training, stewarding, refereeing, finance, programming, publications and fixtures.

"The Association

needs many services in modern times when comparisons with professional sports cannot be avoided.

"Cabhair Dé chuigainn i gcomhnaí agus comhar na gcomharsan."

He certainly would not have favoured the G.A.A. going professional; to do so, he maintained, would be for the Association to change its character.

He saw his role as patron as an acknowledgment of the contribution of Croke of which he was proud. If his position in the community contributed to the advancement of the G.A.A., then he, as an admirer of the Association and its ideals, was happy to be patron.

I measc naomh na nGael go raibh an tArdeaspag Tomás Ó Muiris.

Liam Ó Corbáin



All-Ireland day at Croke Park: Tipperary captain Tony Wall greets Archbishop Morris in 1960. Wexford captain Nick O'Donnell and referee John Dowling are included.



Tipperary players Brendan Carroll (left) and Brian Gaynor (right) make life difficult for Galway's Michael Coleman during the National Hurling League semi-final at Ennis.



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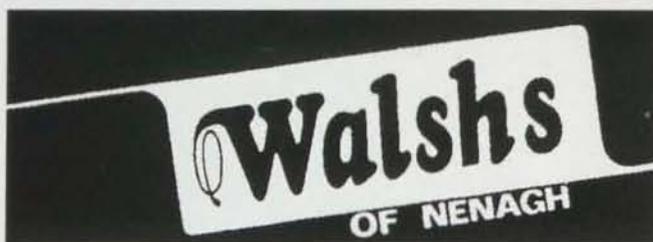
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In May the Suir View Rangers were remembered in a ceremony and memorial in their honour at Ardmayle. The occasion was the centenary of their winning the 1897 county final and Peter Meskell produced a fifty page booklet recording the history of the team, which had a very short existence - 1895-1898.

Suir View was unique in the sense that it never existed as a parish or townland but rather as a catch-all name to cover the western portion of the parish of Boherlahan-Dualla. Included in the area were the townlands of Ardmayle, Ballyroe, Bawnmore, Clonmore, Clune, Clareen, Ballydine, Longfield, Kilbreedy, Gortnaglough, Camus and Slatefield from where the players of the Suir View Rangers originated. Most of them went to school in Ardmayle and later 'The Forge', owned by Morrisseys at Ballyroe, became the gathering place of the team. The training patch was Fogarty's field in Bawnmore.

The team first affiliated in the senior hurling championship in 1895 and came up against Tubberadora, the eventual All-Ireland champions, in the final. The match ended in a draw but, after extra time, Tubberadora were successful by 3-9 to 2-7. Two of the Suir View team, Phil Byrne and Peter Maher, were selected by the winners in the ensuing inter-county championship.

In the following year the sides reached the county final once more. Tubberadora led by seven points to one at half-time and, with five minutes to go, had extended their lead to 4-8 to 2-2. At this stage a dispute arose and Suir View refused to continue, whereupon the referee awarded the game to Tubberadora.

The sides were scheduled to play in the semi-final of the 1897 county championship. While training, Tubberadora's John Maher, broke his leg in an acci-

Suir View Rangers

Seamus J. King

dental clash with Phil Scanlan. The latter was so upset that he would not play in the forthcoming game. Tubberadora decided to withdraw from the encounter and Suir View qualified for the final.

Their opponents were Horse and Jockey and the game did not take place until March 6, 1898. Played at Thurles, the match ended in a draw. Peter Meskell uses the reports in the contemporary *Cashel Sentinel* to set the record straight on what happened subsequently. The replay was fixed for Cashel on March 20. The Horse and Jockey did not turn up. Suir View didn't claim the game and it was refixed for Tipperary on April 10. It was called off because of incessant rain. The match was refixed for Cashel on May 15. When Suir View, who apparently didn't like playing in Cashel, failed to turn up, the game was awarded to Horse and Jockey. Suir View appealed to the Central Council, which ordered a replay at Tipperary on a date to be fixed. When the date for the replay at Tipperary arrived, Horse and Jockey failed to turn up, thus leaving the title to Suir View.

According to Meskell the county board comes badly out of the affair, acting the dog in the manger because Suir View appealed to the Central Council.

They did all in their power to prevent Suir View doing well in the first round of the inter-county championship by fixing them to play Roscrea the week before in the 1898 county championship.

Suir View played Cork on July 21 in Cork. According to Meskell, Canon Fogarty got it wrong when he claimed that Suir View were defeated because "of attempting to represent Tipperary by themselves". This was not the case. Tubberadora refused to release any of their players unless they were given the major say in the overall selection of the team. The Horse and Jockey had their own grievances and refused to have any of their players participate. So, Suir View, with a depleted side, arrived late for the game because the train was overcrowded and couldn't take an incline between the Junction and Emly. The game started late and the players were not in a fit state to put in a reasonable performance. By the end of the hour they were behind by the humiliating score of 4-16 to 0-2.

Jim Heney had his teeth smashed in and never hurled again. Neither did the team. It was scheduled to play against Cork in the Croke Cup competition on December 18 but the referee never turned up and Suir View refused to play. Soon after the team disbanded and did not affiliate again. Some of the players joined Thurles for the 1900 championship but most of them called it a day even though many of them were still young.

Peter Meskell tells a fascinating tale and he concludes his story with profiles of all the players and their subsequent histories. He has done a great service to Suir View Rangers and, as a result of his work, our knowledge of life and the state of hurling in this part of the parish of Boherlahan-Dualla one hundred years ago, is all the greater.



Tipperary hurling great John Doyle (right) pictured with former president of the G.A.A., John Dowling (left) and president-elect, Joe McDonagh, at the National Hurling League match between Tipperary and Offaly in Nenagh.

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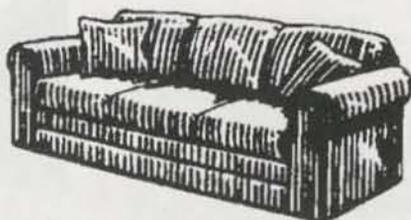
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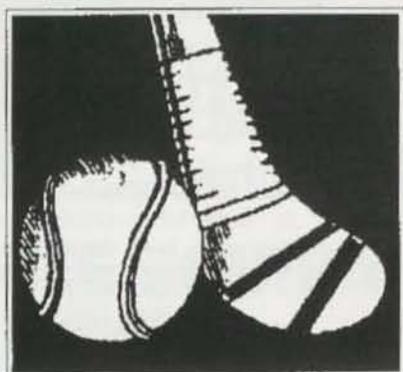


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Tipperary GAA County Convention

at The Anner Hotel, Dúrlas Éile, January 26, 1997



Candidates for the position of County GAA Board chairman photographed outside the Anner Hotel, Thurles, on Convention day. Included are (l to r) – Sean Nugent, Paul O'Neill and Billy Ryan. Paul O'Neill was later elected chairman during the Convention.



At County Board Annual Convention in January were (l to r) – Michael O'Brien, Tim Floyd and Mike Nolan.



Officers elected at the Co. GAA Convention at the Anner Hotel. Seated – Liz Howard (Burgess), PRO; Paul O'Neill (Cappawhite), chairman; Marie Morrissey (Clonoulty-Rossmore), Youth Officer. Standing – John Ryan (Holycross-Ballycahill), Co. Development Officer; Noel Morris (Borrisokane), Central Council Rep.; Tom O'Donnell (Golden-Kilfeacle), Treasurer; Conchubhair O'Riain (Kickhams-Rahealty), Oifigeach na Gaeilge; Tomas Ó Baroid (Thurles Sarsfields), secretary.

At County Board Annual Convention – Noel Morris, Central Council rep.; Donal Shanahan, chairman North Board; Jimmy Keating, chairman South Board; John Ryan, County Development Officer.





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CLONOUULTY-ROSSMORE

County Senior Hurling Champions 1997



FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Dick Martin, John Kennedy, Liam Manton, Alan Kennedy, Declan Ryan, Kevin Ryan, Noel Keane, Michael Heffernan, Michael Kennedy, Kevin Lanigan-Ryan, Fr. Peter Brennan, Seamus Coffey. Mascots: Shane Fryday, Kieran Hammersley. BACK ROW (l.-r.): Kevin Fox (Trainer), T. J. Ryan (Manager), Nollaig Heffernan, Barty Flynn, Phillip Quirke, Roddy Ahearne, Michael Hughes, Aidan Butler, Maurice Quirke, Andrew Fryday, Michael Brennan, Micheál Ryan, Liam Coen, James Ryan (face hidden), Joe Hammersley (Selector), Michael Coen.



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TIOBRAID ÁRANN

— Nenagh Co-Op Tournament Champions 1997



The Tipperary team which regained the Nenagh Co-Op Tournament by defeating Limerick at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh.
BACK ROW (l.-r.): Damien Gleeson (Killenaule), Kevin Cummins (Toomevara), Shane Maher (Burgess), Kevin Dempsey (Mullinahone), Kevin Mulryan (J.K. Brackens), Stephen Mason (Dúrlas Óg), Damien Young (Drom-Inch, captain), Donal Shelly (Ballingarry). FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Eoin Kelly (Mullinahone), Colm Ryan (Moycarkey-Borris), Paul Curran (St. Mary's), Dermot Gleeson (Ballinahinch), Joe Keane (Fethard), Richard Horgan (Knockavilla Kickhams), Eamonn Ryan (Sean Treacy's).

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My First Hurley

Richie Stakelum

*If you wander up the green hill slopes
Midst the pure and balmy air,
You can view the rolling plains below
So lovely bright and fair,
There nature gives its richest garb
To every bush and tree,
And spreads the wild flowers o'er the vale
In lovely fair lleigh*

That is the third verse of a song that is close to the hearts of every player that ever wore the maroon and white of his beloved "Borris". The title of the song is *Lovely Fair lleigh*, written about a village and its hinterland in North Tipperary. It's where I was born and raised – a place apart for any aspiring young hurler.

My first hurley, and indeed many more, was made by one of its favourite sons. Phil (Phippy) Kenny was the hurley maker in Borrisoleigh for as long as I can remember. He was one of the famous Kenny brothers; Paddy, Phip and Seán. Paddy had guile and speed, Seán had power and charisma, but Phippy had sheer class.

My big brother Pat, known locally as 'Stack', brought me down to Chapel Street with a half-crown clutched tightly in my fist. When we arrived at the big green door we could hear the whirr of the band saw as it sent swirls of white ash dust cascading all over Phippy's "Erin Foods" overalls. This was heaven. We shuffled nervously through the piles of shavings and stood mesmerised as his skilful hands guided the new ash plank along the steely blue bars of the great saw. He paused, looking over the rims of his speckled glasses, sucked deeply on his Players No. 6 and smiled. He hit the red button and immediately the great machine shuddered and began to slow down, the dynamo's whistling soon fading away and the swirls of the fine dust settling on the hundreds of cobwebs in the skylight.

Pat was the biggest so he did the talking. "Phippy will you make one for him? He has the money". I saw him scratch his head, squint his eyes and take another pull. My heart sank. "Please God don't let him say he's too busy, like last Saturday. Surely today will be different, sure the seniors aren't playing Toomevara until Sunday week". Without saying a word he fumbles along the bench amidst bits of hoop, insulating tape, 20 No. 6 and a box of matches. Yes, he's reaching for the "pat-tern". He motions me over and uses the pattern, a wafer thin hurley which he places against the hip of my grass-stained short trousers. I can hardly contain my excitement. Stack is too busy messing with the spoke-shave to notice, 'cos he's been here before, many times. He's 10 and has 3 hurleys. Phippy carefully selects a new plank and brings it to the bench. He carefully traces out the pattern onto the yellow seasoned wood. Now he's ready to begin.

As we wait for the saw to warm up he allows us to look at some of the seniors' hurleys that are in for mending. There's Matt of the Cross's, it has 3 hoops and a bit of blood along the handle, he's a tough yoke Matt! Look and Noelie's, 'tis smaller and lighter and has the print of a new ball on the bas. Oh look! there's Dwyer's. It stands alone, a brand new hoop on it and



Richard Stakelum

black tape and his initial, N.O.D. Dwyer is the county man, our hero.

Fifteen minutes later my new hurley is beginning to take shape; it looks nearly ready for the planer. The brown Stanley plane reefs great long curly-wurly flakes as the master craftsman flashes his hands along the thirty inches of mountain ash. Very little is said as this timeless ritual is performed. We marvel at the mountain of sweet-scented sawdust that's piled high in this most magical of places. Phippy, his eye along the length of the camán, a shave here and there, then comes the piece of glass from the bucket which doubles as an ash tray. This is used to smooth the little ridges left by the planer. He puts in on the floor and gently tests the "spring". Nearly there – now into the vice for one last time where he pares the nose with the spoke-shave, this will allow the fast pick up. After he has sanded it he reaches for the stamper. This is the "coup de grace". He stamps both sides of my new hurley with his name.

"Now young Stakelum, tell your father that 'tis the best one I've ever made, there's great stuff in that, I'd say 'twill never break". I thrust a sweaty half-crown into his dusty hand, we thank him profusely and bound out into the sunlight. I could burst I'm so proud. My immediate reaction is to smell the new ash, there's no smell so sweet. I parade up Chapel Street and turn right at Ned Finn's, heading up Main Street, past Noel Dwyer's house and my head is full of dreams.

Richard Stakelum won a Club and Sevens All-Ireland with Borris-Ileigh in 1987. He captained Tipperary to the Munster title in 1987, he won an All-Ireland medal as a substitute in 1989. He played senior hurling with Kilmacud Crokes since 1992.

1996 COUNTY

THESE COMPETITIONS HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETE



Holycross-Ballycahill – County Under-21 'A' Hurling Champions 1996

The Holycross-Ballycahill under-21 panel which won the county under-21 'A' hurling title by defeating Clonoulty-Rossmore at Semple Stadium. Back row (l to r) – Michael Lee, Brendan Ryan, Vincent Coughlan, Declan Bourke, Liam Ryan, Eamonn Burke, Kevin Ryan, Pat Doyle, Adrian O'Keefe, Eoin Hassett, Eamonn Ryan, Brendan Dwyer, John Butler (captain), John Fogarty, John Flanagan. Front row – John Glasheen, Gary Byrne, Alan Joyce, Aidan Hassett, Paul Dwyer, John Ferncombe, Eamonn Cornally, Donal Duggan, Brendan Bannon, Packie Ryan, Tadhg Burke, Noel Ryan.



The Erin's Hope panel which won the county under-21 'B' hurling title in 1996 by defeating Mid champions, Drom-Inch, at Semple Stadium. Back row (l to r) – Liam Torpey, Dermot Murphy, David Coniry, David King (captain), Shane Guest, Pat Tully, Martin Costello, Niall Slevin, Tadhg Slevin, Vincent Hogan, Paul King. Front row – Tim Tully, Ger Morris, Pat Carroll, Adrian Egan, Donie Comerford, Michael O'Brien, Damien Bond, Michael Kennedy, Barry Carroll, Raymond Carroll.



The Knockavilla-Donaskeigh panel which won the county intermediate football title (1996) by defeating Moyne-Templetuohy in the final at Boherlahan

Back row (l to r) – Maurice Ryan (First Aid), Eamonn Browne (club secretary), Aidan McGrath, Sean Ryan, Derek Breen, Tony Farrell, Jimmy Farrell, Paul Morrissey, Clive Morrissey, John McCormack, Aidan Butler, Michael O'Brien, John O'Brien, Barry Ryan, Larry Farrell (selector), Billy Ryan (club chairman). Front row – Tommy Hayes (selector), Declan Hogan, Brian Horgan, Eoin Morrissey, Johnny Butler, Kevin Farrell (captain) with mascot Kenneth Horgan, Pat Ryan, Ger Butler, Vincent Kelly, Richard Horgan. Missing from photo: Richard Hogan (selector).

CHAMPIONS

WHEN LAST YEAR'S YEARBOOK WENT TO PRINT



The Boherlahan-Dualla players and selectors who won the county junior 'A' football title (1996) by defeating Clonoulty-Rossmore in the final at Golden.

Back row (l to r) – Thomas Quirke, Sean Corbett, Michael Ferncombe, Ger Flanagan, Seamus Murphy, Robert Hunt, J.J. McGrath, Martin Burke, Darragh White. Middle row – Dick Corrigan (selector), Brian O'Dwyer, Philip Bargary, T.J. O'Dwyer, John Wardick, T.J. Donnelly, Garrett McLoughlin, Philip O'Dwyer, Paddy Wardick (selector), Brinsley Lowth (selector). Front row – Don O'Dwyer, David Ryan, William Hickey, Philip Ryan, Tommy O'Dwyer, Pío Delaney (captain), Alan Wade, Liam Maher, Conor Gleeson.



County Champions – The Gortnahoe-Glengoole panel which won the county junior football 'B' title 1996 for the first time by defeating Solohead in the final at Kilcommon

Back row (l to r) – William Hogan, George Webster (manager), Trevor Webster, John Stokes (selector), Michael Houlihan, Dominic McMonagle, Jimmy Lanigan, James Brennan, Sean McMonagle, P.J. Gleeson, Michael Doheny, Alan Norton, Michael Cleary, P.J. Walshe, Ned Slattery (selector). Front row – Keith Corbett, Philip Dooley, Ronan Stanley, Micheál Egan, Darren Cody, Tommy Bolton, Vincent Ryan, Kevin Laffan, Pat Walshe, Mark Ryan.



Mol an Óige
*Handing on
the Faith*



Tiobraid Árann Abú

THE COUNTY S.H. CHAMPIONSHIP AT A GLANCE

COUNTY FINAL

SEMPLE STADIUM

NOV. 2, 1997

Clonoulty/Rossmore 0-17; Mullinahone C. J. Kickhams 1-12
Referee: Michael Cahill (Kilruane-MacDonaghs). Attendance: 17,020

COUNTY SEMI-FINALS

SEMPLE STADIUM

OCT. 19, 1997

Mullinahone 1-20, Holycross-Ballycahill 3-11. *Referee:* Michael Cahill (Kilruane-MacDonaghs)
 Clonoulty-Rossmore 4-12, Boherlahan-Dualla 4-11. *Referee:* T. J. Corby (Clonmel)

COUNTY QUARTER-FINALS:

Leahy Park, Cashel, Oct. 12:

Clonoulty-Rossmore 4-9, Ballingarry 1-10
Referee: Willie Clohessy (Drom Inch)

Pairc Shileain, Templemore, Oct. 11:

Holycross-Ballycahill 1-7, Borrisileigh 0-7 (replay)
Referee: Tommy Lonergan (Kilsheelan)

Leahy Park, Cashel, Oct. 5:

Mullinahone 1-20, Kickhams 0-15
Referee: Johnny McDonnell (Roscrea).

MacDonagh Park, Nenagh, Oct. 5:

Boherlahan-Dualla 2-12, Toomevara 0-14
Referee: Willie Barrett (Ardfinnan).

Pairc Shileain, Templemore, Oct. 4:

Holycross-Ballycahill 1-9, Borrisileigh 0-12 (draw)
Referee: Tommy Lonergan (Kilsheelan).

The 1997 Senior Hurling Championship

By Seamus J. King

Clonoulty-Rossmore are the most unlikely 1997 senior hurling champions of county Tipperary. They rebounded from disappointment in their own division to take the highest hurling honour in the county. Along the way they caused one of the great turn-arounds in hurling history and produced one of their finest performances to win the county final.

Prior to their quarter-final game against Ballingarry their chances of winning a county final were rated at seven to one by the bookies. This was an improvement on earlier projections and the improvement had come about as a result of a comprehensive victory over Cappawhite, the beaten West finalists, in a contest to decide on the second team to represent the division in the county championship. Clonoulty-Rossmore had qualified for this play-off by virtue of winning the Crosco Cup, the divisional league competition. Earlier they had gone down to Kickhams in the West semi-final. Losing by four points against a team they had beaten fairly easily in the league, they looked disorganised and badly motivated. The defeat had a salutary effect, however, acting as a spur to greater motivation and commitment in later games.

County success created difficulties in

the running of the divisional championships but the North was well organised and first to stage its final at Cloughjordan on August 3. In atrocious weather conditions, Toomevara easily pushed aside the challenge of Borrisileigh, winning by 1-15 to 0-8 and establishing themselves as form horses to win the county final. Since the winners were already league champions in the division there was no need for a play-off to decide on the second team for the county championship.

The West was ready for its final between Kickhams and Cappawhite at Cashel on August 24 but a tragic, fatal car accident in Knockavilla on the Friday before led to a postponement for four weeks. It was eventually played on September 21. The result was worth waiting for from a Kickham's point of view. Their last victory was in 1960 and over the intervening years they were beaten in six finals. It was, therefore, a moment to savour when the final whistle sounded after a rivetting game and the scoreline read 0-19 to 2-10 in their favour. Cappawhite had pushed Kickhams to the limit but it wasn't enough. They had to turn out the following Sunday at Golden to play the Crosco Cup winners, Clonoulty-Rossmore, but the effort was too much after

the disappointment of the previous week. They were well and truly savaged by a refocused Clonoulty-Rossmore side and suffered the humiliation of a twenty point drubbing on a scoreline of 4-15 to 1-4.

A big win was also the result in the Mid final. Played at Semple Stadium on the same day as the West final, it promised to be the contest of the year. Neighbouring parishes Boherlahan-Dualla and Holycross-Ballycahill were in opposition, the former, the county champions and the latter age old rivals. Incredibly, apart from the opening ten minutes the game was never a contest and the result, a 1-17 to 0-4 scoreline in favour of Holycross-Ballycahill, was one of the biggest shocks in the history of the division. The county champions were never at the races, scored but a point from play and seemed devoid of any appetite for hurling.

The South had fallen very far behind in its championship and its schedule was put further behind by a draw between Ballingarry and Killenaule in a semi-final. This was aggravated by a tragic, fatal car accident on the night of the draw in which the Killenaule captain, Larry Hayes, was killed. The result was that the replay didn't go ahead until October 5, the date fixed for the county

quarter-finals. Mullinahone, who were already through to the final, were nominated as losers, since they hadn't contested the South final the previous year, and drawn against the West winners in the county quarter-final. Ballingarry defeated Killenaule in the replay and qualified to play the second team from the West, Clonoulty-Rossmore. The south final was eventually played on November 16 with the result in favour of Mullinahone by 3-16 to 1-13.

COUNTY QUARTER-FINALS

Three of the quarter-finals were scheduled for the weekend of October 4/5. The first of these was played at Templemore on October 4. The Mid winners, Holycross-Ballycahill, played the North losers, Borrisileigh. It was generally agreed that a draw was a fitting result to this game. Borrisileigh, after making much of the running, came from behind to level through a Martin Hayes point five minutes from the end. Borrisileigh were ahead by 0-7 to 0-6 at the interval. They went further ahead in the third quarter but a goal by Donal Duggan in the twenty-second minute put Holycross-Ballycahill in the driving seat and they seemed poised to win. But Borrisileigh came back for the final point, which left the score 1-9 to 0-12 at the final whistle.

The replay was at the same venue the following Saturday. In a very competitive encounter on a rain-sodden pitch, Holycross-Ballycahill's better balance and greater commitment carried them through. Borrisileigh, with the aid of the wind in the first half, led by 0-7 to 1-3 at the interval, the lone goal coming from Duggan, but they failed to score in the second half despite intense pressure. In contrast Holycross-Ballycahill notched up four points to give them a winning tally of 1-7 to 0-7.

In the meantime, Boherlahan-Dualla had caused a sensation in the second quarter-final of the North-Mid encounter. Played at Nenagh on October 5 a re-juvenated side turned the tables on the North champions, beating them by 2-12 to 0-14. After the trouncing in the Mid final not many supporters expected the result in spite of the club's impressive record against the "Greyhounds" in 1995 and 1996. Toomevara had been installed as everyone's favourites, not only to win but to go ahead and win county honours. But, it was Boherlahan who had the hunger, the commitment and the will to win in an encounter that degenerated into ugliness on several occasions. It was a great team performance, a result to savour and a memory to cherish.

On the same day in Cashel, Mullinahone were establishing their credentials as meaningful contenders for county honours. Led and inspired by John Leahy the team showed it was no one-man band but one with plenty of talent

scattered around the field. They took some delightful scores, with no less than eight of the team getting their names on the scoreboard and were impressive in their fast ground play. The Kickhams performance, in contrast, was disappointing. The team never really got going, missed too many chances and were guilty of no less than fourteen wides.

The last of the quarter-finals was played at Cashel on October 12. Clonoulty-Rossmore gave a boost to their county aspirations by defeating their south opponents, Ballingarry, by 4-9 to 1-10. They got off to a great start with a James Ryan goal after fifteen seconds. They led by 3-3 to 0-4 at the half-way stage and were ten points ahead with fifteen minutes to go. Then there was a spirited Ballingarry resurgence, led by an impressive Liam Cahill, which reduced the deficit to four points but this was killed off when Maurice Quirke got Clonoulty-Rossmore's fourth goal and by the final whistle there was an eight-point margin between the teams.

THE COUNTY SEMI-FINALS

The county semi-finals were played in Semple Stadium on October 19 with the two Mid teams fancied to take the honours. Mullinahone had other ideas and showed great spirit and skill in overcoming the Mid champions, Holycross-Ballycahill, by 1-20 to 3-11 and qualifying for their first ever county senior hurling final. The effects of going out for their third championship game in three weeks showed in the Mid men's play and they never really got to grips with the occasion. This, however, does not detract from Mullinahone's win and from the tremendous fighting qualities they showed in the second half. Having led by 1-7 to 0-6 at the break their advantage was cut to a point following a David Burke goal after eight minutes. Nothing daunted they turned on the style and hit six points on the trot, without a reply. But Holycross-Ballycahill were not lying down either and brought the sides level with goals from John Ferncombe and Tony Lanigan, in the course of two minutes, followed by a point from Ferncombe. The game hung on a fine edge but, in the remaining minutes, it was Mullinahone who had the extra reserves and scored five points to two for the losers to secure an historic three point victory.

The second semi-final has already become the stuff of legend. There are stories of patrons having left the grounds feeling the result a certainty and returning for the sensational ending. There's a story of a publican who rushed home to fill the pints for the winners only later to learn they were for the losers. And, there's the story of the Bansa man who went home certain of Boherlahan's victory and wasn't disabused until he read the *Examiner* on

Monday morning!

All of this was possible because of a sensational and quite unbelievable last gasp comeback by Clonoulty-Rossmore. With three minutes remaining in what had been a very pedestrian game of hurling, Boherlahan led by 4-11 to 1-12. The score might have been 6-11 to 1-12 had Philip O'Dwyer put away two almost certain goal chances. Then the sensational happened. Declan Ryan goaled from a free. He goaled again in the 30th minute after Seamus Coffey shot just wide. And, then, within a minute, Maurice Quirke delivered the *coup de grace* with another goal which sent Boherlahan reeling out of the championship and Clonoulty-Rossmore into paeans of ecstasy.

Anything that went before that final three minutes became irrelevant in the aftermath. One of the talking points was Declan Ryan's free-taking. *A la* Paddy Kenny of old, he threw a first-half penalty shot about ten yards forward before striking it. He didn't succeed in scoring then but he did twice in the second half and had spectators asking the question why he wasn't taking the close-in frees for the county team. The sides were level at the interval 0-8 to 1-5, Aidan Flanagan getting the goal for Boherlahan. Clonoulty-Rossmore went ahead with Declan Ryan's goal in the third minute of the second half but then Boherlahan-Dualla took over and were heading for the county final when the thunderbolt struck in the final few minutes.

THE COUNTY FINAL

The county final on November 2 was unique in a number of ways. Never before had there been a south-west contest at this level. It was Mullinahone's first time to appear and it brought to twelve the number of appearances by south teams in county senior finals. It was thirty years since a south team won the final. Mullinahone were slight favourites on the basis of their displays in the quarter – and semi-finals and Clonoulty-Rossmore's fortuitous win over Boherlahan-Dualla. The interest generated in the contest was reflected in the huge crowd of over 17,000 which attended, the biggest number at a county final since the fifties.

The game was always close and whereas the hurling may have been moderate most of the time, the uncertainty of the outcome kept the interest alive. Like so many games it did not follow the pattern many expected. Declan Ryan, who played such a pivotal rôle in the quarter – and semi-finals, had a relatively quiet hour. The Mullinahone trio of John Leahy, Brian O'Meara and Paul Kelly, on whom so much depended failed to deliver. Leahy worked extremely hard but his finishing, particularly his free-taking, left a lot to be desired. Paul Kelly threatened spasmod-

ically but was never the force he was in previous games. Brian O'Meara, apart from his goal, had a quiet game and ought to have been moved off Aidan Butler much earlier.

In contrast, Clonoulty-Rossmore were a team of heroes. Andrew Fryday was brilliant with his puckouts. Noel Keane never put a foot wrong and lifted his team with a great point. Aidan Butler was outstanding at centre-back. Kevin Lanigan-Ryan troubled John Leahy greatly in the middle of the field. Maurice Quirke got two points to remember. Michael "Shiner" Heffernan deservedly got man-of-the-match for four points from play and making a fifth for Bonny Kennedy. And, what can one say about the latter that would be adequate to describe his contribution? He scored seven points but his contribution ranged all over the field especially in the final ten minutes when the chips were down.

On a murky day in greasy conditions, there was no appreciable wind to interfere with the game. The sides were level on six occasions in the first half but by half-time Clonoulty-Rossmore were in front by ten points to seven, the difference between the sides reflected in the number of wides, three to the West, nine to the South. The West men remained in front until Brian O'Meara's goal brought the sides level and there was all to play for in the final ten min-

utes. Bonny Kennedy gave Clonoulty-Rossmore a two point cushion during this period and with about three minutes to go, Mullinahone got a thirty yard free. Leahy blasted for goal but it was saved. He got a second chance and it came off the post, leaving the advantage to Clonoulty-Rossmore and victory by 0-17 to 1-12.

It was a hugely disappointing result for Mullinahone and their supporters, who came in such great numbers to cheer on their heroes. It was a game they could have won and that realisation will make the defeat more difficult to take. For John Leahy, despite scoring seven points, the memory will be one of missed opportunities. Obviously his display was effected by his hand complaint and there were few instances in the game when he reached with confidence into the clash of hurleys to grab the ball as only he can do so brilliantly. Added to that was the failure of the team's forward line to score with any kind of facility.

But any mention of a below-par Mullinahone performance must be balanced by a superb display from Clonoulty-Rossmore. They were a transformed side and their display was better than their most fervid supporters could have dreamed of. The oldest among them were keen, hungry and committed and played out of their skins. The

youngest among them gave performances that will be remembered in parish folklore. Above all the whole team had a physical edge, allied to a leaven of experience, which made life difficult for Mullinahone and never allowed them to settle into the kind of fluency they so desired. Unlikely county champions after the west semi-final, Clonoulty-Rossmore made themselves deserving champions by seizing the opportunities presented to them. *Carpserunt diem!*

Clonoulty-Rossmore: Andrew Fryday, Michael Ryan, Noel Keane (captain), Peter Brennan, Michael Heffernan, Aidan Butler, John Kennedy, Kevin Ryan, Kevin Lanigan-Ryan, Michael Brennan, Maurice Quirke, Michael Kennedy, James Ryan, Declan Ryan, Michael Heffernan.

Sub: Seamus Coffey for James Ryan.

Mullinahone: Liam O'Connor (captain); Tony Dalton, Seán Brett, Jackie Bolger, Paul Cahill, Noel Leahy, Kyran Vaughan, John Leahy, Eddie Carey, Paul Kelly, Brian O'Meara, Damien Maher, Mossie Tobin, Edward O'Brien, Pat Croke.

Sub: Eoin Kelly for Edward O'Brien.

Referee: Michael Cahill (Kilruane MacDonaghs).

Man of the Match award: Michael Heffernan (S) (Clonoulty-Rossmore).



A welcome home in Clonoulty - young admirers on platform with Kevin Ryan (player), Seamus King, West chairman; Paul O'Neill, Co. Chairman; Noel Keane (captain).



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Clonoulty- Rossmore's Memorable '97

WHEN Clonoulty-Rossmore crashed out of the West S.H.C. at semi-final stage against Knockavilla Kickhams in July, the outlook for 1997 looked bleak indeed.

From a "high" the previous year, winning senior, under-21 and minor divisional championships, as well as the county minor crown, the fortunes of the club seemed to have slipped very low. To compound matters, the club's star player, Declan Ryan, had been dismissed during this game for the first time in his distinguished career.

The required effort had not been put in by many players before the semi-final and the price was paid on the day with a sluggish performance lacking in both method and passion.

In retrospect, however, this match proved a watershed in the team's fortunes. Not alone players, but many others in the club were hurt and dismayed at Declan's dismissal.

A number of senior players made a clarion call for better commitment and unity of purpose in the dressing-room after the game. Kevin Fox had joined the backroom team of T. J. Ryan and Joe Hemmersley shortly before the West semi-final and a much greater

effort was put in by the players in the following weeks.

It was only by virtue of our Croscop Cup success, ironically against

Kickhams that we had a lifeline in the championship. A number of challenge matches were played with encouraging performances against Éire Óg, Nenagh and Sarsfields of Cork.

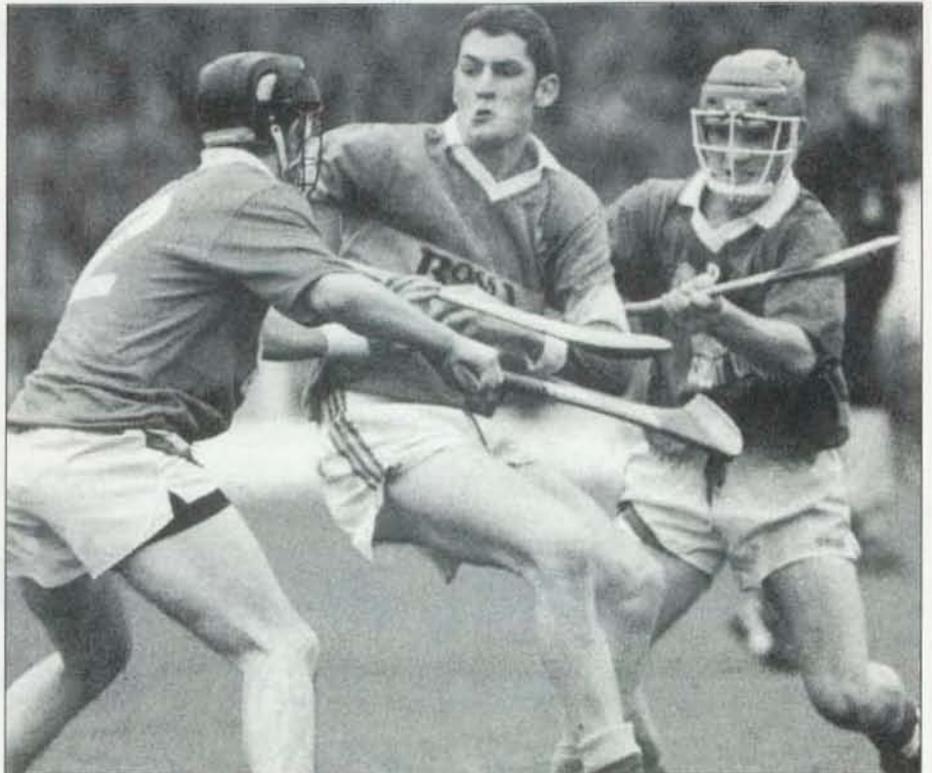
On the Sunday after the West final we had our next game against losers Cappawhite. Unfortunately for Cappa' they were unable to raise their game after the previous weekend's loss and our boys had a runaway win on a scoreline of 4-15 to 1-4, Declan Ryan's 3-3 a highlight of the victory.

This win set up a County quarter-final date with Ballingarry on October 12. A tragic bereavement in Killenale had held up the concluding stages of the South championship and 1996 winners Ballingarry were nominated to play Clonoulty-Rossmore. In a mediocre game our boys were always on top, thanks to a dream start with a James Ryan goal in the first minute. Declan bagged two more before the interval, leaving us a comfortable eight points to the good at the interval.

Despite a second half revival from Ballingarry, we emerged on top thanks to a late Maurice Quirke goal, final score 4-9 to 1-10.

While morale was high in the camp after these two victories, we had an alarming number of injuries just one week before meeting reigning county champions Boherlahan-Dualla.

Dr. Gerry O'Sullivan was enlisted to address this crisis and the county team doctor seemed to work minor miracles to have most players ready for the fray. Unfortunately Fr. Peter and Michael Brennan were ruled out by injury,



Clonoulty-Rossmore defender Michael Heffernan (centre) is tackled by two Mullinahone forwards during the County Senior Hurling Final at Semple Stadium.

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while John Kennedy, Kevin Ryan and Decla Ryan carried injuries into the county semi-final.

The club decided to bring Michael Heffernan home from Holland to bolster the defence. In the circumstances it was more in hope than in confidence that we faced the Mid representatives after their highly impressive display against North champions Toomevara.

This match will go down in history for its sensational finish which saw Clonoulty-Rossmore snatch a quite unbelievable win from the jaws of defeat.

Eight points in arrears with three minutes of normal time remaining, we scored three rapid-fire goals without reply to scrape home by a point on the score 4-12 to 4-11.

Stories of patrons who had departed early thinking Boherlahan had coasted to victory made for much entertainment in the following days. In fairness, there was little to choose between the sides in the first half which ended level, 1-5 to 0-8.

Clonoulty-Rossmore started the second half the better, racing into a four point lead thanks to Maurice Quirke and a blistering shot from a 20 metre free by Declan which rattled the top corner.

Boherlahan then burst into life with goals from Liam Maher, Ger Flanagan and Philip O'Dwyer and a series of points to establish a commanding lead. Two excellent saves by Andrew Fryday from Philip O'Dwyer shots rallied the side and the end of the match was fairytale stuff.

Declan again rattled the net from the '21 before crashing home another from play from an acute angle. In the tumultuous climax Maurice Quirke found the corner of the net to register an astounding win. Scenes of unbridled jubilation from Clonoulty followers were in stark contrast to the disbelief and devastation of the Mid men.

Against all the odds and against most pundits' prognostications, Clonoulty-Rossmore had qualified for the County final. The imaginations of young and old in the parish had been fired by the dramatic manner in which the qualification was achieved and by the unexpected Autumn upturn in fortunes after a dismal Summer.

In the fortnight leading up to the final the parish took on a carnival atmosphere, surpassing that of 1989. Banners and bunting bedecked the villages while every available empty "cut sward" and "pasture sward" bag provided ample green and gold plastic to adorn a myriad of telegraph and ESB poles. The novelty of a West versus South final for the first time in Tipperary's history added to the buzz.

Mullinahone, inspired by County



Clonoulty-Rossmore welcome home (l.-r.): Fr. Peter Brennan, Philip Quirke, "Shiner" Heffernan.

star John Leahy had seen this reputation soar with eye-catching wins over Knockavilla-Kickhams and Holycross-Ballycahill, amassing a highly impressive 2-40 in the process. A palpable sense of excitement and anticipation infused the parish in the countdown to the big day.

The crowd, in excess of 17,000, were not disappointed on final day. While the sympathy of most neutrals lay with the Southerners, the Clonoulty-Rossmore supporters were not outdone in terms of colour and vocal encouragement.

The match itself was a cracker on a greasy surface with passion and skill being shown in abundance by both sides. There was never more than four points between the sides, with Clonoulty-Rossmore three up at half-time.

A Mullinahone goal by Brian O'Meara late in the second half levelled proceedings at 0-15 to 1-12 and the stage was set for a thrilling climax.

Either side could have grabbed the initiative at this stage with excitement at fever-pitch. Michael Kennedy, last year's County Minor, steadied Clonoulty-Rossmore with an invaluable point at this crucial stage. "Bonny" added another for a two point cushion before John Leahy blazed a free against the foot of an upright and the ball was cleared. In the end the width of an upright was the difference between victory and defeat but it was generally accepted that Clonoulty-Rossmore had the edge of the day.

Exultant whoops of delight from the green and gold followers greeted the final whistle and a small army of fans rushed onto the pitch to salute their heroes. Captain fantastic, Noel Keane,

accepted the Dan Breen Cup from Co. Chairman Paul O'Neill and the bonfires were soon being set alight on the hill of Clogher for a memorable homecoming. Throngs of supporters and well-wishers ushered the victors into Clonoulty village on an open lorry preceded by the Moycarkey Pipe Band. The team received a rousing reception and celebrations, better left undescribed, started in earnest!

The final throw of the dice against Patrickswell of Limerick in the Munster Club Championship ended in disappointment but the major aim had been achieved. Who knows if Clonoulty-Rossmore had started more positively against the Limerick champions what might have happened. However, on the day, an eight point deficit shortly before the interval proved a bridge too far and, though rallying gamely in the second half, the Tipp. champions were unable to overhaul the 'Well.

Team and Subs: Andrew Fryday, Micheál Ryan, Noel Keane (capt.), Peter Brennan, Michael Heffernan, Aidan Butler, John Kennedy, Kevin Ryan, Kevin Lanigan-Ryan, Michael Brennan, Maurice Quirke, Michael Kennedy, James Ryan, Declan Ryan, Michael Heffernan, Alan Kennedy, Seamus Coffey, Philip Quirke, Micheál Coen, Rody Ahearne, Michael Hughes, Liam Coen, Liam Manton, Barty Flynn, Nollaig Heffernan, Dan Quirke, Richard Martin.

Scorers in Tipp. championship: Michael Kennedy (2-34), Declan Ryan (8-12), Maurice Quirke (3-6), Aidan Butler (0-8), James Ryan (2-2), Michael Heffernan (1-4), Kevin Lanigan-Ryan (0-4), Kevin Ryan (0-3), Noel Keane (0-2), Peter Brennan (0-1). *Total:* 16-76.

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FETHARD VIEW POINT

"'97 for the Blue People"

Miceal

IF ONE were to take the time to read the previews in the South Tipp Senior Football Final programme or indeed the Co. Senior Football Final programme one would be of the impression that the 'blues' had a physic in their midst. Maybe they have.

In the month of August the blue skies had shed their pay load consistantly all over the valley of Slievenamon - Fethard field was as dry as a bone enabling the future county champions to fine tune for greater things to come.

The scribe also spoke of Walty Moloney, the newly appointed trainer and of the results he was slowly producing.

In the County final newsheet words like 'Montserrat', 'Vesuvius', 'sleeping giant' and 'youthful and explosive' talent were used to describe Fethard's approach to a football summit. A strong and vibrant signal has been beamed to all contenders that the blues were back and that 1997 would be their year.

Ardfinnan were our opposition in the South final on the 24th August in Clonmel Sportfield. Fethard had a wonderful win on the occasion with the youthful Philly Blake taking the Man of the Match award. Willy Morrissey and his men were on their way.

Knockavilla Kickams of New Inn were our next port of call. A good honore game for forty five minutes and then

the Blues opened up to win well. A Mid selection consisting of clubs from Gortnahoe, Holy Cross, Thurles Fennelly's etc. under the guidance of George Webster were no match for Fethard in the Co. Semi final at Golden enabling a runaway win on that occasion.

The date, day and venue were finally set for the Co. final after many meetings and representations to the Board. Cahir the original venue was not available so the picturesque setting of New Inn sportsfield was home to the county final of 1997.

So the scene was set, Aherlow the opposition; New Inn the venue; and Paddy Russell the referee, owing to the original choice of Brian White being unavailable.

We were rightly "into the west" this time.

Prior to the final we received news that one of our former players was very ill over in the United States of America. Shay Ryan had undergone a serious operation but was recovering satisfactorily. The thoughts of all the boys were on our colleague and it was decided that we would "play for Shay". Motivation was high - this was the one we wanted.

The "Boys from the Glen" gave a very good account of themselves and were a little unlucky not to have survived on the day - but unfortunately our motivation was stronger.

Mick Frawley presented the O'Dwyer Cup to Willy Morrissey amid loud applause and cheers.

Somewhere in the programme it said that Fethard was like a sleeping volcano waiting to erupt.

To date, Coolmore Stud sponsored Fethard, have defeated Galbally (Limerick) in the Munster quarter final at the Gaelic grounds in Limerick and Cooraclare (Clare) in the semi-final at Clonmel. The latter game was in a downpour but was surely Fethard's finest hour in the famed St Patrick's blue jersey.

Castlehaven or Laune Rangers will oppose the Tipp champions in the Munster AIB Senior Football Club final on December 14th.

Fethard Tradition

Grass will grow and rivers flow,
Day will follow night.
Tradition in the Friary Town
Is to wear the "Blue and White".

For weeks on end, for summer long
The thoughts of boys are bright
I wish I'll get the chance to wear
the glorious "Blue and White".
(Miceal)

TRIBUTE TO AN HISTORIC WIN

Kickhams Intermediate County Champions 1996

'Twas in the month of January, ninety seven being the year
At the famous GAA ground, two teams did appear
To decide the County Final at Intermediate Grade
Came teams from Mid & West their fine skills to parade

Littleton was the venue but Moyne did seek a change
Kickhams now were given choice and Boherlahan did arrange
The Ref came from Ardfinnan, O'Leary was his name
He let the teams express themselves and added to the game

From early on the signs were there that this might be our day
The players were determined to score without delay
It didn't take them very long before they scored a goal
Which was the start they needed and set them on a roll

This lead was one they never lost, and held out really well
When the opposition played their best in a very fine spell
Nothing could deny our team from gaining victory
By holding out to win this game creating history

This win has lifted spirits, and ended doom & gloom
We look forward now to Summer when we hope this team will bloom

Our supporters were delighted, their joy was plain to see
They have been left without success, for four & thirty three

Kevin Farrell was the Captain of this great football team
And my, how did he play his part to realise this football dream
Rarely have we seen much better from this young gentle giant
By his own tremendous game he surely made the point

They came from Grantstown & Dundrum, Ballinamona,
Donaskeigh
Ballygriffin, Cappamurragh which gave the Butlers three
From Garrane came Jimmy Farrell our star at number 3
Not forgetting Ballintemple & Killenure which gave us Clive Morrissey

Pat Ryan was our Safe Keeper with Ger Crosse at number 4
Vincent Kelly starred at number 5 and had his greatest hour
John McCormack & Paul Morrissey & Declan Hogan too
Displayed their skills, in true fine style
While Tony Farrell on the 40 put the shackles on Guilfoyle

Aidan Butler & Brian Horgan likewise Johnny B.
Did not let down this finest team which goes down in history

Willie Crowe and Gerard Butler complete this great fifteen
Which will be remembered for some time, by those who may have seen

Sprung from the bench Dick Horgan, Foin Morrissey, John O'Brien

Who slotted in quite neatly and helped to conquer Moyne
The Ryan brothers Ollie and Barry along with Derek Breen
Sean Bradshaw, Aidan McGrath, Sean Ryan and Michael O'Brien, were reserves to our 1st fifteen

The men who made the changes were known as the Wise Three
Richard, Tom and Larry along with trainer Gerry
Will be remembered in the future for all the hard work done
Throughout the frosty winter nights that have now long gone

I look now to the future and there within my dream
I see a Kickham Captain bringing home Dan Breen
You might say wishful thinking, I say it isn't so
This fine bunch of players, will, in stature grow and grow.

Eamon de Brán

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WEST BOARD REVIEW

Dáta	Sponsor	Grád	Foireann	Foireann	Reiteoir
21/9	Carew Investments	S.H.C.	Kickhams 0-19	Cappawhite 2-10	J. Ryan
4/5	Gleeson Concrete	Crosco	Clonoulty/R. 2-8	Kickhams 3-3	C. O'Sullivan
8/8	Shreelawn Oil	S.F.C.	Aherlow 2-9	Kickhams 0-10	N. Lonergan
13/6	Ballinilard Transport	O'D. Cup	Aherlow 2-8	Kickhams 0-12	P. Russell
12/10		I.H.C.	Arravale Rovers 1-17	Aherlow 2-7	R. Barry
16/10		I.F.C.	Eire Óg 0-6	Cappawhite 0-3	T. Meehan
5/10	A.I.B.	J.H.C. 'A'	Galtee Rovers 1-12	Clonoulty/R. 0-3	E. Browne
12/10	Cashel Credit Union	JHC 'B'	Cappawhite 3-10	Rockwell Rovers 2-7	W. Morrissey
26/10		J.F.C. 'A'	Arravale Rvs. 1-11	Rosegreen 0-7	J. Moloney
16/11		J.F.C. 'B'	Galtee Rvs. 0-7	Emly 0-5	S. Toomey
9/8		J.F.L. 'B'	Golden/K. 1-9	Emly 1-7	T. Toomey
23/11	O'Dwyer Steel	U-21 H.C. 'A'	Cappawhite 0-14	Kickhams 1-7	J. Ryan
26/10		U-21 H.C. 'B'	Sean Treacy's 2-13	Rockwell Rvs. 1-5	P. Russell
6/4		U-21 F.C. 'A'	Aherlow 1-12	Arravale Rvs. 1-10	T. Meehan
31/3		U-21 F.C. 'B'	Clonoulty/R. 1-11	Lattin/C. 1-4	J. Ryan
4/10		M.H.C. 'A'	Golden/K. 1-11	Clonoulty/R. 2-6	J. Moloney
4/10		M.H.C. 'B'	Galtee Rvs. 5-6	EireÓg 3-8	P. Russell
1/9	Royal Hotel	M.F.C. 'A'	Arravale Rvs. 2-9	Galtee Rvs. 0-8	G. Riordan
3/9		M.F.C. 'B'	Cappawhite 0-10	Emly 0-6	S. Toomey.

This year the Board ran off twenty competitions, one hundred and forty one teams were affiliated and the Board fixed two hundred and sixty games. As of the end of November clubs have also played thirty county games. To-date also two county titles have been won S.H.C. and M.F.C.A. The S.H.C. victory of Clonoulty/Rossmore is chronicled elsewhere in this book.

Another bit of history was created by Aherlow – they played their first S.F.C. county final, while the other half of the parish, Galbally contested the Limerick County S.F.C. final.



Golden/K. – 1997 football 'B' winners – Front row (l. to r.): Kevin McCarthy, Richard Beattie, John Ryan, Aidan O'Sullivan, Michael Stapleton, Shane Stapleton, Toddy Ryan, Don Beattie, Michael Sherlock. Back row: Gerard Fogarty, Declan Keaty, William Bowles, Mark Bargary, Brian Landy, Seamus Currivan, Thomas Fogarty, Kevin Moloney, Michael Carr, Billy Tuohy, James Hally, Jason Collins, Ken O'Connell.

WEST TIPPERARY REVIEW

Officers:

Chairman:	Seamus King.
Vice-Chairman:	Liam Treacy.
Vice-Chairman:	Denis Ryan.
Secretary:	Jerry Ring.
Treasurer:	Eamon Buckley.
P.R.O.:	J. J. Kennedy.
Youth Officer:	D. J. Carr.



Éire Óg – West I.F. champions: Front (l. to r.) Richard Leahy, Brian Ryan, Tim Heffernan, Kevin Fox, Damien O'Brien, Michael Heffernan, Donncha Horan, Ger Griffin, Liam O'Dwyer, Patrick Ryan, Vincent Ryan, Philip Heffernan. Back row: Pdraig Heffernan, Finbar Bradshaw, Michael O'Dwyer, Donal Kelly, Liam Mooney, John Quinn, Anthony Crosse, Oliver Kelly, Michael McGrath, John Kelly, Liam Gleeson, Paul Keane, John Ahearn, Shane Hennessy.



West U-21 F.C. 'B' winners – Clonoulty/Rossmore: Front (l. to r.): Michael Wade, Michael Maher, Kevin Lanigan-Ryan, Michael Kennedy, Con O'Keeffe, Declan Ryan, Alan Kennedy, William Ryan, Barty Flynn, John Heffernan. Back row (l. to r.): James Ryan, Philip Manton, Edmond Maher, Dan Lacey, Michael Coen, Paddy Flynn, Eamon Slattery, Michael Heffernan, Michael Carroll, Pdraig Coen, Brian Lyons, Paddy O'Brien.



Seán Treacy's – West U-21 H.C. 'B' winners – Front (l. to r.): Robert J. Hammersley, Judy Ryan-Mulqueen, Eamon Ryan, Kieran O'Brien, Liam Nolan (captain), Martin O'Dwyer, Thomas Keane, Pdraig Carr, Paul Quigley, Derek O'Toole, Back (l. to r.): Seamus Costelloe, Kevin Ryan, Paul Shanahan, Francis Carr, John Butler, Paddy Quigley, Seán Kennedy, Oliver Carr, Myles Devitt, Gerry Ryan, Pdraig Kennedy, Thomas Shortt.



Arravale Rovers - Intermediate hurling – West champions – Front (l. to r.): Seán T. O'Connor, Paddy Delaney, Willie Crowe, Donal Ryan, Michael O'Donnell, Larry O'Donnell, Phil Cahill, Niall Considine, Pat Duggan, Liam Quirke, Richard Lohan. Back row (l. to r.): Richard O'Connor, Tom Richardson, Kevin O'Donnell, Brendan Lohan, Joe Power, Pat O'Donnell, Kieran Greene, John Ryan, James Hogan, Dominic Ryan, Jimmy Lowry, John Quirke, Eamon O'Dwyer, Kieran Ryan, John O'Donnell, Bill Gleeson, Micéal Gleeson, Mark Cummins, John Dwyer, Colin Cummins.



Junior football championship 'A' winners – Arravale Rovers. Front row (l. to r.): Barry Walsh, Donal Ryan, Ivan Flynn, Patrick Duggan, Mark Gleeson, Pdraig Moore, Paddy Maher, Liam Quirke, Paddy O'Donnell, James Hogan. Back row (l. to r.): Paddy Delaney, Tommy Toomey, Brendan Lohan, Seamus Rochford, Bill Gleeson, Eamon O'Dwyer, Dara Moore, Eamon O'Dwyer, David Walsh, Bernie O'Brien.



Galtee Rovers – J.F.C. 'B' – Front (l. to r.) Aidan McGrath, Pat Bergin, Willie Crowe, Clement Quirke, John Hayes, John Ryan, James Russell, Pa Morrissey, Eamon Hughes, Johnny Halpin. Back row: James Galvin, Liam Gubbins, Willie Moloney, Larry Roche, Ollie O'Brien, John Gubbins, Niall O'Shea, Liam O'Brien, Tony Kennedy, Ger Lonergan.



Galtee Rovers – West M.H.C. 'B' winners and county finalists. Front row (l. to r.): John Paul Nugent, Pa Morrissey, Shane Ferris, Keith Ianders, Colin Hayes, John Paul Lonergan, Andrew Morrissey, Colin Morrissey, Derek Noonan. Back row: Pdraig O'Halloran, Clement Quirke, Michael Ryan, Niall O'Shea, Noel O'Brien, Tom Quinn, Paul McCarthy, Vincent Murphy, John Morrissey.



Galtee Rovers – J.H.C. 'A' West Champions: Front (l. to r.) Eamon Hughes, Michael White, Cathal Moloney, Colin Hayes, Liam Gubbins, Willie Tarrant, Colin Morrissey, Michael Collins, Chris Byron, Larry Quinn. Back row: Dallan Browne, David Browne, Pdraig Moloney, Anthony O'Donoghue, Vincent Murphy, Paul Maher, Willie Moloney, Michael Grace, Seamus Moloney, Ger Lonergan, John Hayes, Pat Bergin, Kevin Roche.



Kickhams – West S.H. champions 1997 panel: Front (l. to r.): Ger Butler, Sean Bradshaw, Pat Ryan, Aidan Butler, John O'Brien, Kevin Farrell, Fergal Horgan, Brian Horgan, Vinny Kelly, Michael O'Brien, Eoin Morrissey, Kevin McGrath, Ger Farrell. Back row: Declan Crosse, Paudie Slattery, Paul Morrissey, Barry Ryan, Anthony Qualter, Jimmy Farrell, Tony Farrell, John McCormack, Ger Crosse, Aidan Slattery, Fergal Heaney, Donal O'Brien, Johnny Butler.



Golden/Kilfeacle – West M.H. 'A' Champions and County Finalists. Front (l-r) Daithi Bargary, Donncha Carr, Paul Fogarty, Mark Bargary, Shane Stapleton, Danny Hallissey, Damien Fogarty, Toddy Ryan, Anthony Ryan, Richard Walsh, Seamus Carr. Back row (l. to r.): Diarmuid Carr (lad), Alan Sherlock (lad), Pat Stapleton (sel.), Robert Kennedy, Aidan O'Sullivan, Kevin McCarthy, Aidan Fogarty (capt.), Michael Carr, Gerard Fogarty, James Tierney, Michael Sherlock, P. J. Collins (sel.), John Ryan (sel.)



Cappawhite – West M.F.C. 'B' winners – Front row (l. to r.) Kevin Cryan, James McCarthy, Richie Barry, Shane McDermott, Michael Ryan (P.), Robert Fitzgerald, Gerard O'Neill. Back row: Damien O'Neill, John Paul Crowe, Niall Rail, John Coyle, John Ryan (P.), Paddy Julian, Pat Fahy, William O'Neill.



Cappawhite – West J. H.C. 'B' champions – John Paul Crowe, Eugene Maguire, Paddy Julian, Brian O'Neill, John English, Mylie Coughlan, Shane McDermott, Martin Butler, Paddy Quirke, John Paul Burke. Back row: James Burke, Stephen Grisewood, P. J. Collins, Tom Julian, Seán O'Carroll, Cathal Creedon, John Ryan (A), Michael O'Neill, Richie Barry, Don O'Neill, Tom Coughlan, Niall Creedon, Richie Barry, John Ryan (P.)



Arravale Rovers (front row) l. to r. – Paul Lowry, Declan Madden, Barry Walsh, Niall Sheehan, Paul Tobin, Brian Glasheen, Patrick Duggan, Ted McGrath, Ivan Flynn, Dara Moore. Back row (l. to r.): Tadhg Duggan, Andrew Lacey, Patrick Heffernan, Brian O'Mahony, Ger Stapleton, Mark O'Brien, John O'Donnell, Richard Swords, Michael McEvoy, Colin Ryan, Mark Hanley, Gary Hogan, Seán Moore, Tommy Toomey.



Abbey C.B.S. Co. Minors 1997 – Front row: John Heffernan (principal), Dara Moore, Tipperary (F), Pat Duggan, Tipperary (F), Ger Stapleton, Tipperary (F), Tom O'Donoghue. Back (l. to r.) Peter Leonard, Tipperary (F), Paul Tobin, Tipperary (F), Dan Riail, Limerick (F) captain; Kevin Nolan, Limerick (F), Cathal O'Shea, Tipperary (H). Two past pupils also played minor with Tipperary in 1997 – Andrew Lacey, Tipperary (H), John O'Donnell, Tipperary (F) (captain).

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encouragement in the promotion of
the Gaelic Games in the Division*

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL DIVISIONAL AND
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

Emly making history

EMPLY U-14 hurlers made history by winning the West Feile na nGael Coca Cola title in May for the first time. This game was played in ideal conditions in Solohead. Having played against the breeze in the first half Emly led 4pts to 1pt at half time. Cappawhite tried very hard for the first 10 minutes of the second half but failed to get through the Emly defence. Emly added three good points and a goal in the final minute to leave the score Emly 1-7, Cappawhite 0-1.

The team lined out as follows: Eoin Buckley, Michael John Ryan, Stephen Creamer, Michael McEniry, Sean Murphy, Michael Burke, Michael Ring, Donal Condon, Nigel Purcell, Pat Buckley, Philip Purcell, Michael O'Donnell, Michael Sheehy (capt.), Joseph Hartigan, Alan Sheehy. Subs: John Purcell, Sonia Lonergan, Michael McGrath, Noel McCarthy, Anthony Ryan.

CHAMPIONSHIP

The U-14 A Championship saw a repeat of the Feile na nGael Coca Cola final.

After Cappawhite defeated us by 7 points in the first round game of the league, not in our wildest dreams did we think we had a chance of getting to the final let alone winning it.

As the league progressed we gained in confidence. After some good wins against Clonoulty, Galtee Rovers, Arraval Rovers, we earned a place in the semi-final against Bansha (Galtee Rovers). It was a tough contest with excellent exchanges between Donal Condon and David Byron, Michael Burke and Andrew Morrissey. We prayed for the referee to blow the final whistle. As he did the score read Emly 2-2, Galtee Rovers 0-6.

Friday 1st August we travelled to Annacarthy as under-dogs, a tag that suited us. The Gods were kind to us on the evening, the ground conditions were excellent, a beautiful summer's

evening and a huge crowd from Emly. It was 18 years since Emly last won this title. Having won the toss and with the sun at our backs Emly were ahead 1-4 to 3pts. Cappawhite tried hard in the second half but failed to score. Again the Emly defence was too strong. Emly's forwards added 2-2 to leave the final score Emly 3-6, Cappawhite 0-3.

There is a great future in hurling for these lads, there were some excellent performances throughout the summer. Little Eoin Buckley in goal has a great record – a clean sheet in two finals; Michael John Ryan at full back; John Purcell, wing back; Pat Buckley and Nigel Purcell at midfield; Joseph Hartigan, right wing forward. Special mention also of Donal Condon at centre back and Michael Burke at centre forward, two very talented young hurlers who were selected on the West Tipperary U14 hurling team. Good luck lads for the future.

Emly Bord na nÓg



*Emly U-14 (H) West Tipperary Champions '97
Emly U-14 (H) West Tipperary Feile Champions '97*

Back row (l to r) – Joseph Hartigan, Donal Condon, Brian Carroll, Michael John Ryan, Michael Sheehy, Eoin Buckley, Philip Purcell, John Purcell, Michael McEniry, Sean Murphy.

Front row (l to r) – Noel McCarthy, Alan Sheehy, Michael O'Donnell, Stephen Creamer (capt.), Michael Ring, Pat Buckley, Alan Leahy, Theo Butler, Nigel Purcell, Michael Burke.

Trainers and selectors – Mary Condon, John Buckley, Michael Concannon, Paul Creamer.

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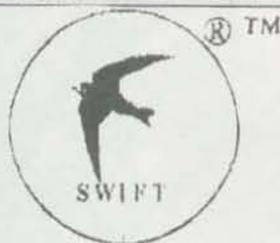
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AHERLOW . . . West Senior Football Champions . . . County Senior Football Finalists . . . Front row (l.-r.): Leo Leonard, John Ivory, Conor O'Shea, Cathal O'Shea, Denis O'Shea, Mark O'Shea, Fergal Clifford, Paul Kiely, Seanie Peters, Jackie Bourke, Luke Leonard, Peter Leonard. Back row (l.-r.): George Kiely, Brendan Carew, Sean Russell, Lionel Leonard, Mark O'Brien, Michael Moroney, Declan Reardon, Derry Peters, Mark Leonard, Timmy Leonard, Billy Reardon, Kieran Moroney, Noel Clifford, Anthony Moroney.

EVEN THOUGH deeply disappointed with the defeat in the County Final we must say that 1997 was perhaps our most successful season ever.

In our second year playing senior football we won the O'Donoghoe Cup and the West Senior Final.

I will now go through our campaign. Our first game in the championship was against neighbours Galtee Rovers. This was a tense game which we narrowly won.

Next came our keen rivals Lattin-Cullen. We have had some great contests with them in recent years and they put us out of the championship last year. We were intent on revenge. Rumour had it that Lattin were training four or five nights a week. We heard that Gerry Maguire was being flown back from America. As it happened the game was a damp squib. We had it won in fifteen minutes.

We were in our senior West Final against Kickhams. They are a hurling club and having won the Intermediate County the previous year were also playing in their first Senior West Final. We had defeated them in the O'Donoghoe Cup and were hopeful.

Successful Season for Aherlow

The game itself was tough and tight but in the end we won by just one point.

We will remember the game, however, because we lost our centre forward Anthony Moroney through injury. This was to prove a severe loss in the county final.

Our first venture outside the division was against Ardfinnan, the great footballers of the South. I myself was on holidays for the game and when my son Paddy gave me the score over the phone, 3-13 to 0-5, I immediately presumed we were thrashed – but the reverse was the case.

Next came Loughmore-Castleiney, a team with a proud record in football. Right enough, it proved a tough game which we were lucky to win in the end by a point.

Then we were into the county final

for the first time. It was something else! Tom Peters kept the training going. Selectors Eamonn Mullins and Shamie Frewen were on the field two or three times a week.

As the great day approached the excitement grew. There was a competition in Lisvernane School to see who would make the best flag. Bunting was put up in Lisvernane Village and at Coach Road. The road was painted and every house flew a flag.

On the final day, all roads led to New Inn. There were Aherlow people there that day who never saw an Aherlow match.

Local clubs like Galbally, Bansha, Lattin and Arravale were there to support the underdogs. Fethard had won nineteen finals, Aherlow none.

The game itself was tense. We got off to a disastrous start, conceding a goal in the first minute. It took us twenty minutes to settle down.

With 15 minutes left to play we were one point ahead. Then the dream was shattered. Fethard broke up the field and in a flash had the ball in our net. From there to end we tried hard but unfortunately victory was not to be ours.



AHERLOW . . . West West Under-21 Football 'A' Champions . . . County Finalists . . . Front row (l.-r.): Mark O'Shea, Michael Carew, Cathal O'Shea, Fergal Clifford, Paul Kiely, Timmy Leonard, Denis Grogan, Barry Leonard, Peter Leonard, James Noonan, Sean Hennessy. Back row (l.-r.): David Hennessy, Billy Reardon, Leo Leonard, Brian Sullivan, Morgan O'Connell, Lionel Leonard, Noel Clifford, Mark O'Brien, Liam O'Brien, Robert Shanahan, Paddy Burke, Phil Kiely, Michael Frewen.



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Historic Year for Arravale Rovers



County Intermediate Hurling Championship Final presentation – a historic day – Arravale Rovers have won the Jacksie Ryan I.H.C. Cup – the first time it was presented (l.-r.): Paul O'Neill, Co. Chairman; J. C. Ryan, son of Jacksie; Eamon O'Dwyer, Arravale Rovers captain; Conor Ryan, nephew of Jacksie.

THE THIRTIETH of the eleventh 1997 at Boherlahan was a historic day in the annals of Tipperary Gaeldom.

The great Gael Jacksie Ryan was being remembered – a cup in his memory was being presented for the first time. Indeed too Eamon O'Dwyer, captain of the victorious Arravale Rovers team was receiving for his club a county adult trophy in hurling – also a first for this historic club.

So, Arravale Rovers hurlers have come of age. After many years of "near-misses", "hard lucks" and "if onlys", the County I.H.C. was annexed amid a welter of excitement on November 30th in Boherlahan.

This is a notable achievement for the club, the players and the mentors, who through their persistence in adversity, have at last brought a historic first adult county championship crown to Tipperary.

The club had won the county u-14 hurling championship in 1987. From Willie Crowe, the father figure of the side to Kieran Ryan, Dara Moore and Patrick Duggan, who are still in minor ranks, from Richard Meagher and Hugh Kennedy former administrators, to Tom Richardson and company of the present day, an audible sigh of relief was heard when Tommy Lonergan sounded the long whistle and the Brackens were defeated in this final, 1-6 to 0-6.

Eamon "Golly" O'Dwyer was an emotional and proud captain and rightly so for few, if any, had done more to make this achievement possible. Phil Cahill, Micheál Gleeson and Mark Cummins had shown

exceptional class while the O'Donnells, Larry, Paddy, Michael and cousin Johnny, proved what commitment and effort can achieve.

The Lohans, Richard and Brendan, have been tremendous all year. Michael Quirke and the ageless Jimmy Lowry, like good wine (which most of them do!) – improved with age. Paddy Delaney has been a great servant to the club, his total commitment and heart has been invaluable to the overall team spirit.

Kieran Greene and Sean T. O'Gorman also contributed manfully at different stages to this successful campaign. Donal Ryan had no choice but to produce a star performance for brother John – the genial and mercurial team coach. John has grown in stature since the year commenced. Well done John.

Joe Power, team manager, with fellow selectors John O'Dwyer and Dominic Ryan deserve the utmost credit for their wise and carefully planned decisions which ultimately proved successful.

Richard O'Connor, club secretary, was beaming all over – while Jimmy O'Connell has gone back to work on the strength of this victory! Substitute James Hogan has been doing great work at juvenile level – indeed too, the other substitutes, Liam Quirke, Bill Gleeson, Niall Considine, Pdraig Moore, Kevin O'Donnell, Mark Gleeson and Colin Cummins all deserve credit for sticking with the panel through good days and bad. Hopefully, all will be available for senior hurling duties next year.

The juvenile committee under the

guidance of chairman Tom O'Donoghue must also be complimented for the support engendered through their efforts throughout the year. Liam O'Dwyer, Paddy O'Connor and others involved in juvenile affairs also deservedly share in this historic success.

Club chairman Tom Richardson has had a historic year. He was patient, competent and courageous. He has decided to step down after three tough years. The club has prospered under his guidance and, hopefully, his legacy to the future will be a rich and fruitful harvest of hurling and football within Arravale Rovers for many years to come.

The team got fine support from many business people around the town. Thanks to all including Tipperary Credit Union, The Royal Hotel, Eamon Power Engineering, Tony Lowry, Frank Spillane, D. J. Treacy, Bank of Ireland and Tipperary Co-Op.

Arravale Rovers (v. J.K. Brackens in the Tipperary Intermediate Hurling Final) – Michael Quirke, Larry O'Donnell, Willie Crowe, Paddy O'Donnell, Richie Lohan, Brendan Lohan, Philip Cahill, Mark Cummins, Donal Ryan, Michael Gleeson, Eamon O'Dwyer (capt.), Michael O'Donnell, Johnny O'Donnell, Paddy Delaney, Jimmy Lowry. *Subs:* Liam Quirke, Kieran Green, Sean O'Connor, Darragh Moore, Pat Duggan, Bill Gleeson, Niall Considine, Pdraig Moore, Kevin O'Donnell, Mark Gleeson, Jamsey Hogan, Colin Cummins, Kieran Ryan.

Selectors: Joe Power (manager), Dominic Ryan, John O'Dwyer, John Ryan (coach/trainer).



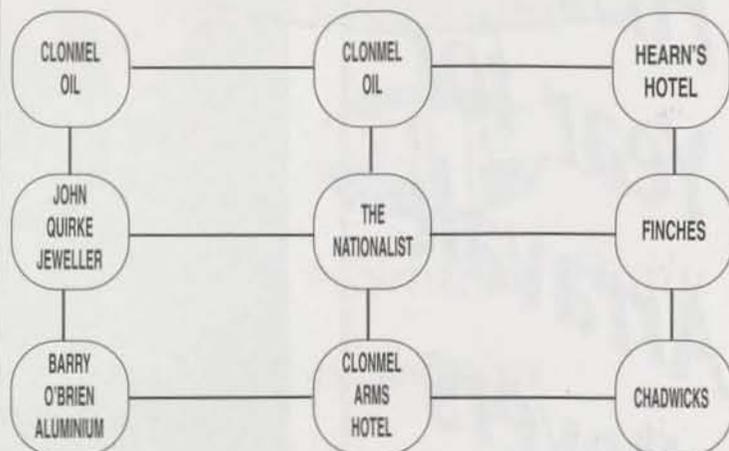
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rith na bliana 1997

Sincere thanks to all our
patrons, sponsors, players,
referees and their officials, club
officers and all who co-operated with
us in another highly successful year.
Nollaig shona is go néirí go gheal libh
sa bhliain atá romhainn.

Q.

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South TIPPERARY REVIEW

By: MICHEÁL Ó MEARA (Runal)

1997 proved another highly successful year for the Board. By the end of November a total of 337 games had been played under the auspices of the Senior Board and these had yielded record gate receipts.

The new style Avonmore Senior Hurling Championship proved an unqualified success – the only disappointment being the late staging of the final due to the Division having to nominate for the county quarter finals.

Mullinahone proved worthy champions but their defeated opponents, Ballingarry, had ample compensation, taking both minor and under-21 titles in the premier grades.

In football, Fethard were popular senior champions. Coincidentally, however, the beaten finalists, Ardfinnan, took minor and under-21 honours.

Fethard (S.F.) and Swans (M.F.B.) have taken our only county titles to date but hopes are high that another can be annexed before the end of the year.

The Division's major contribution to our county teams was a source of pride to all concerned and the achievement of our under-16 hurlers in winning the Munster championship for the very first time further underlined the every rising standards among our players. Long may it continue.

The Board Officers are deeply grateful to our loyal patrons, players, referees and their officials, club and ground officials, sponsors and all who helped to make the past year highly successful.

Míle buíochas díbh uile.

SOUTH BOARD 1997 – Officers –

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William Barrett
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Treasurer Tom Cusack
Co. Board Trustee Mick Egan
Youth Officer Richie Sheehan
Bord na nÓg
Rep Nicholas Moroney
Referees
Co-ordinator John Lonergan



MULLINAHONE – who beat Ballingarry in the South Senior Hurling Final – which was held in Clonmel on Sunday, November 16th. Front row (l.-r.): Jackie Bolger, Paul Cahill, Eddie Carey, Liam O'Connor (capt.), Kyran Vaughan, Eoin Kelly, Paul Kelly. Back row (l.-r.): Brian O'Meara, John Leahy, Noel Leahy, Sean Brett, Dermot Hackett, Pat Croke, Damien Maher, Mossie Tobin.



KILSHEELAN – South Intermediate Hurling Champions
Back row: Liam Stokes, Martin Larkin, Joe Ryan, Sean Nugent, William Larkin, Liam Robinson, Michael Ryan, J. J. Keyes. Front row: Noel Ryan, Don O'Connor, Liam Corcoran, Paddy Nugent, Pat Hickey, Pakie Larkin, John Roche.



CARRICK DAVINS – who beat Clonmel Óg in the South Minor Hurling Final.
Front row: Michael Walsh, Edward McGrath, Philip Murphy (capt.), Michael Hackett, Edward Butler, Alan Cody, Darren Butler. Back row: Stephen Hackett, Ciaran Woods, Derek Tobin, Anthony Dignam, Alan Russell, Michael Arrigan, David Hogan, David Butler.

SOUTH TIPPERARY ROLL OF HONOUR 1997

Winners	Runners-Up	Venue	Referee
AVONMORE SENIOR HURLING (7 teams) Mullinahone 3-16	Ballingarry 1-13	Clonmel	W. Barrett
HEARNE HOTEL INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP (4 teams) Kilsheelan 1-16	Ballybacon/Grange 3-9	Clonmel	T. J. Corby
JOHN QUIRKE JEWELLERS JUNIOR HURLING 'A' CHAMPIONSHIP (11 teams) Moyle Rovers 2-18	Ballyneale 2-7	Kilsheelan	T. Lonergan
JUNIOR HURLING 'B' CHAMPIONSHIP (12 teams) Killenaule 3-13	Moyle Rovers 0-2	Fethard	S. McCormack
TIPPERARY TYRES U-21 'A' HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP (8 teams) Ballingarry Gaels 2-5	Mullinahone 0-4	Monroe	S. Roche
UNDER-21 'B' HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP (7 teams) Fethard 5-19	Carrick Davins 0-5	Kilsheelan	T. Lonergan
CHADWICKS MINOR HURLING 'A' CHAMPIONSHIP (8 teams) Ballingarry 3-11	Mullinahone Gaels 2-13	Clonmel	T. Roche
MINOR HURLING 'B' CHAMPIONSHIP (7 teams) Carrick Davins 3-6	Clonmel Óg 2-5	Clonmel	P. J. Hassett
SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP (8 teams) Fethard 2-5	Ardfinnan 0-9	Clonmel	S. Roche
INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP (7 teams) - (To be completed)			
MARTIN TILES JUNIOR FOOTBALL 'A' CHAMPIONSHIP (12 teams) Final: Clonmel Fethard			
O'BRIEN ALUMINIUM JUNIOR FOOTBALL 'B' CHAMPIONSHIP (8 teams) Final: Clonmel Óg Killenaule			
UNDER-21 FOOTBALL 'A' CHAMPIONSHIP (7 teams) Ardfinnan 0-6	Commercials 0-5	Marlfield	S. Roche
UNDER-21 FOOTBALL 'B' CHAMPIONSHIP (9 teams) Ballyporeen 4-8	Fr. Sheehys 3-7	Goatenbridge	W. Barrett
SUREPRINT MINOR FOOTBALL 'A' CHAMPIONSHIP (7 teams) Ardfinnan 1-14	Fethard 1-6	Clonmel	T. Lonergan
MINOR FOOTBALL 'B' CHAMPIONSHIP (5 teams) Carrick Swans 4-7	Kilsheelan 0-8	Clonmel	D. Cahill
MINOR FOOTBALL 'C' CHAMPIONSHIP (4 teams) Newcastle 1-11	Ballyporeen 0-7	Clogheen	M. McCormack



ARDFINNAN - who beat Clonmel Commercials in the South Under-21 'A' Football Final.

Front row: John English, Shane O'Mahoney, Bobby Carrigan, Nigel Carrigan, Alan O'Gorman, Colin White, Gavin O'Mahoney. Back row: Kevin White, Eric Guthrie, Triathran Browne, Albert Keating, Liam Hennessy, Marcus Ryan, John Kinehan, Brendan Browne.



BALLYPOREEN - winners of the Under-21 'B' Football Final

Front row: Thomas O'Gorman, Noel O'Gorman, Seamus O'Brien, Jimmy Gubbins, Edward O'Callaghan, Michael Farrell, Alan Fogarty. Back row: Willie Cahill, Brendan O'Callaghan, Kevin Kenneally, Michael Hanrahan, Mike Kenneally (capt.), Tom Farrell, Maurice Mullane, Paul O'Gorman.





KILLENAULE – who beat Moyle Rovers in the South Junior 'B' Hurling Final.

Front row: Pat Shelley, Jimmy Gleeson, Johnny McGarry, Tony Doyle, Pat Fennelly, Christy Devitt, Nicholas Bergin. Back row: Dave Hearne, T. J. Maher, Jack Bergin, Dessie Taylor, Brian O'Mahony, Pakie Ryan, Tom Shelley (capt.), Joe O'Dwyer.



ARDFINNAN – who beat Fethard in the Sureprint Minor Football 'A' Championship Final

Front row: Pa Norton, Alan O'Gorman, J. P. Hanrahan, Michael Phelan, Brian Lonergan, Kieran O'Brien, Barry Mullane. Back row: Kieran Quirke, Philly Lonergan, John Walsh, Colin White, Trevor O'Leary, Barry Ryan, Kenneth O'Shea, Diarmuid O'Mahony.



NEWCASTLE – who beat Ballyporeen in the South Minor Football 'C' Final at Clogheen on 1st November 1997.



MOYLE ROVERS – who beat Ballyneale in the South Junior 'A' Hurling Final

Front row: Declan Browne, Seamus Delahunty, Pat Condon, James Williams, Jimmy Dunne (capt.), Pat Brett, Eamonn Power, Noel Wall, Liam Cronin, John McGrath, Michael J. Browne. Back row: Seamus Norris, Donal Foley, Michael McGrath, John Shanahan, Aidan Lawless, Shane Mulkearns, Kevin O'Connor, John Kelly, Paul Boland, Frank Fennessey, Brian Boland, Paul Norris.



MOYLE ROVERS Senior Football Panel – pictured at presentation of 1996 South and County Championship medals at Annual Social with guests Paul O'Neill (County Chairman), Jimmy Keating (South Chairman) and Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh and club officers.

BALLYBACON-GRANGE G.A.A. CLUB

Opening of Club Grounds

At a committee meeting at Ballybacon/Grange G.A.A. club in Goatenbridge on 13th October, 1992, it was decided that it was time that the club had a playing field of its own. The search began for a suitable field and the field would have to be in the vicinity of the hall, which we developed into dressingrooms with shower facilities and toilets.

Agreement was reached with local landowner John Keating and this field was purchased. The onerous task of raising funds began in 1993 and door to door collection within the parishes was organised which raised a substantial amount of money. The field was levelled in June 1993 and the boundary fence posts were erected.

The FAS Employment Scheme began in September of the same year and it was from this day on that the development work began to proceed rapidly and efficiently. The main job of the hurling club committee was to raise

finances to fund the development work. The work was carried out under the watchful eye of Tommy Mason who acts as liaison officer between FAS and the hurling club.

This scheme is still ongoing and we are indeed thankful to all who have participated in this. Mention must be made of the many local farmers who down through the years put their lands at the disposal of Ballybacon-Grange hurling club. Men such as Patsy Condon, Crought; James English, Tullow; Philly Nugent, Poulatoe; Mickey Murphy, Gormanstown; Richard Walsh, Ballynerd; Bob O'Shea, Lisheenpower; Paddy Hackett; Paddy Flynn, Knockroe; William O'Shea, Lisheenpower; Tommy Coughlan, Lodge; Will and Patie Doolin, Craugh; Tommy Burke, Kildonogue; James Moran; Harry O'Shea; Mick Dunne and Tommy Mason.

These are the men who helped keep the game of hurling alive by their gen-

erous offer of playing fields for the club.

The official opening of Ballybacon/Grange hurling field took place on Sunday, March 2, 1997, with a large attendance. Local hero Michael "Babs" Keating did the honours of opening the field. Also present were County Board chairman Paul O'Neill, Munster Council secretary Donie Nealon and South Board chairman Jimmy Keating. The hurlers of Tipp and Waterford provided a most entertaining game for the afternoon. The club wishes to thank all our sponsors, the teams of Tipp and Waterford, Civil Defence, officials, local gardai, FAS workers, the Glenview Lounge and local landowners who provided car parking facilities.

Most of all I would like to thank our committee for their hard work for making this dream possible. Tipp won by a goal on the day.

Shane Mason



Flying hurley - A Carrick Swans defender loses his hurley as he challenges Ballingarry's Liam Cahill (left) during the South Tipperary SHC game at Clonmel.



(From left to right): Jimmy Keating (chairman South Board), Donie Nealon (Munster Council), Michael "Babs" Keating, Thomas O'Leary, chairman Ballybacon G.A.A. club; Fr. Pat Moran, President, Ballybacon G.A.A. club and Paul O'Neill, Tipperary chairman



Fr Sheehy's pull off the treble

THIS was a fantastic year for the club winning a South title at every age. Under 12 footballers led the way on the 11th June at Ardfinnan when they beat Moyle Rovers 3-3 to 0-3 in a great game of football. This was a great achievement and a boost to the morale of the players and the club as they lost the final the previous year to Kilsheelan in a replay at the same venue.

Fr Sheehy's contested every final at Under 12 since 1993 and at long last they have put the jinx to bed. This year's team was probably the best all round team that we produced for a long time, they were very disciplined and backed each other up in all situations throughout the field. The goalie and the six backs were the best we have ever seen at underage, they only conceded 6-10 in nine championship matches. Ger and James were always a handful for any pair at midfield, while our forwards kept running and linking with each other and scored 30-49 in total. Our ace forward and County Schools player John Sheehan had a fantastic year scoring 18-28 but had great assistance from Andrew Sweeney who played a Captain's role throughout the year with 2-10 in the Championship.

Under 14 hurlers brought home the second title of the year to Burncourt and Clogheen on 29th August when they had a big win over Ballyneale 7-8 to 3-4 at Ned Hall Park Clonmel formerly known as 'The By Pass'. This was the second year in succession that Fr Sheehy's have won this title, which is a fantastic achievement as we thought that we had a very weak team at the start of the year.

Well done to the selectors who stuck with them and who put the players through their paces and lots of drills which paid off in the end. This is the second time that the club has won Under 14 titles in a row, the first in 1950/51 when they won the South in Under 14 Rural hurling. This year's win was a great team performance with some excellent displays especially from our three South Tipp players Patrick Kelly, Alan McGrath and Richard McGrath who performed at very high



Three successful captains – Patrick Fitzgerald, Under 16 Hurling; Andrew Sweeney, Under 12 Football; Patrick Kelly Under 14 Hurling.



Fr. Sheehy's Under 12 C Football

Back Row – D. Conran, S. Hayes, B. Platt, S. Mullins, P. Reardon, T. Flynn, A. Hyland, S. Fitzpatrick, P. Walsh, B. O'Brien, T. Quirke. Middle Row – Pat Sheehan (selector), F. Dwan, K. Fitzgerald, D. Flynn, N. Durack, P. Condon, G. Norris, J. Mulcahy, J. O'Connor, P. Moran, J. Dwan, S. Gleeson, James Mulachy (selector). Front Row – J. Foy, J. Cahill, A. Fox, M. Myles, J. Sheehan, John Sweeney (selector), sitting on lap team Mascot Robert Sweeney, Andrew Sweeney (captain), P. Mulcahy, T. O'Brien, E. Walsh, B. Mulcahy, P. Hickey. On the ground – T. Foy, C. Platt, R. Fitzgerald. Missing from photo – F. Moroney and J. Tierney.



Fr. Sheehy's Under 14 C Hurling

Back Row – Kevin Fitzpatrick (selector), A. Sweeney, P. Moran, M. Myles, T. O'Donnell, T. O'Brien, P. Mulcahy, K. Fitzgerald. Middle Row – D. Flynn, S. Fitzgerald, M.G. Kenneally, P. Ryan, D. O'Brien, A. McGrath, E. Halley, J. O'Donnell, K. Casey, A. Meaney, Dave McGrath (selector). Front Row – J. Sheehan, R. McGrath, S. Platt, Eamonn Kelly (selector), Patrick Kelly (captain), A. Moran, J. Fitzpatrick, G. Norris, J. Mulcahy.



Fr. Sheehy's Under 16 C Hurling

Back Row – T. Conway, R. McGrath, J. O'Donnell, John Sweeney (selector), P. Mulcahy, S. Fitzgerald, P. Sheehan. Middle Row – O. Myers, M. Fehilly, G. Casey, M. English, P.M. Fitzgerald, D. O'Sullivan, J. Corbett. Front Row – Tom Fitzgerald (selector), R. Browne, A. McGrath, Patrick Fitzgerald (captain), J.D. Sweeney, M. Norris, P. Kelly, Tom Conway (selector). Missing from photo – D. Platt and Pete Fehilly (selector).

standard throughout the year. This team played seven championship matches scoring 29-33 and conceding 12-18, well done to all the lads for putting in a huge effort during the year and got their just reward. A special word of congratulations for Patrick Kelly who won South titles in poc fada and skills competition in 1997.

Under 16 hurlers completed the treble in fine fashion on 12th September at Marlfield when they beat a very determined St. Patrick's team 5-9 to 2-3. This was a much deserved win as they had lost the final to Ballyneale the previous year.

Fr. Sheehy's played four championship matches scoring 15-48 and conceding 9-10 – Tipperary GAA Year Book

ceding only 4-13 which is a fantastic record by any standards. Well done to all the panel who put in a tremendous effort at training all during the year, most of these lads have competed in several finals over the last number of years and at last they have received their long awaited reward. This team proved to be a very skilful team as nine of the panel have worn the South Under 14/16 jersey over the last two years.

A special word of congratulations to Ger Casey, Maurice Fehilly and Patrick Fitzgerald who were on the South Tipp Under 16 hurling panel who won the Munster championship on 29th June at Tipperary Town when they beat South Limerick 1-9 to 0-9.

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Ugly duckling becomes beautiful swan - Success for South Tipperary

Report compiled by Noel Russell, Sean Hickey and Rickie Sheehan.

FOR a decade the hurling men of South Tipperary have cherished a dream. Since the days of Mick Roche and the Carrick Davins of the second half of the sixties they have held a vision of being recognised as an equal hurling force with the other divisions of the county.

Round about the middle of the last decade an effort to revive hurling fortunes in South Tipperary was begun. Coaching in the skills of the game and self belief in the South by a number of the administrators instilled the initial confidence. The Killarney revival of '87 and the rise of John Leahy gave and added impetus to the game. The winning of four county hurling titles by Mullinahone and Ballingarry at the end of the eighties signalled progress. No longer did Tipp minor teams contain a token South Tipp minor but representation was growing and on merit too. The semi successful minor teams of 1991 and 1993 had strong south representation and some of the 27 in the All-Ireland winning panel of 1996 were from South Tipp clubs. Other divisions were being beaten in the Peadar Cummins (-14) and the Munster interdivisionals (-16). In 1996 South Tipp qualified for the Munster final of the interdivisional. At half time victory looked to be on the cards. At full time due to an amazing and unexplained fade out the South's dream of being the top hurling division in Munster lay shattered.

It was a bitter lesson but 1997 brought new hope, trials commenced in January and went on for about five weeks. The selectors in charge were Sean Hickey (Cahir), Noel Russell (Carrick Swan), Jimsy Kelly (Mullinahone), Eddie Grant (Killenaule) and coach Jamesy Ivors (Ballingarry). A panel was chosen and on April 12th the campaign began against Avondhu in Fermoy. The final score was South Tipp 2-14 to 0-11 for the Cork lads. This was a far closer game than the score suggests. It was only in the final ten minutes that the South pulled away. Donal Shelly banged in two goals. The hurling of both teams

was of a high standard. The quarter final game was against West Waterford and was played at Clonmel a fortnight later. The final score was South Tipp 1-14, West Waterford 1-7. The Decies were a dogged outfit and it took South Tipp a long time to gain ascendancy. It was not one of the lads better displays and it left question marks over some players.

The semi-final was against Mid Tipp and Cashel on May 5th. This game was a classic encounter with both teams giving their all. Supporters went through the whole gambit of emotions from despair to delight and finally relief for all. South got off to a whirlwind start and everything Donal Shelly touched turned to gold (goal). He could do no wrong. We led at half time 2-11 to Mids 0-4. Mid thundered into the game in the second half and looked likely winners as the final whistle neared. South earned a 21 yards free and Donal Shelly blasted for goal. The sliothar was stopped but in dived Eoin Kelly with a fantastic flick to beat goalie and five defenders for a last gasp goal. The game finished level 3-14 to 4-11. Tipperary hurling was the winner that day.

The replay took place at the same venue a fortnight later. This was a more tense affair and evenly balanced all through. The hurling from both sides was again top class. This time the South backline came up trumps with a brilliant display of tight marking. Another highlight was the brilliant

marksmanship of Eoin Kelly and some shrewd switches by Jamesy Ivors and his selectors. Victory went to the South by 2pts and for the second year in a row they had qualified for the Munster under 16 interdivisional hurling final. The duckling was losing its dowdy feathers.

THE FINAL

The final against South Limerick was played at Sean Treacy Park on June 29th (a glorious sunny Sunday evening). The final score was South Tipp 1-9, South Limerick 0-9. It was South's day of destiny wiping away the bitter memories of half a decade.

The final itself was tense as most finals are. South Tipp got a good start when a move involving Adrian Walsh and Donal Shelly was finished to the net by the latter. That goal was to remain between the sides for most of the hour.

At the end of the day Joe Keane held the Munster trophy aloft in South Tipp hands for the first time in their history.

The input of Scoil Ruain, Killenaule which supplied over half the side should not be forgotten. Earlier in the year those lads had been on the school team which brought the Fitzgerald Cup to a school based in the South division again for the very first time.

Everybody can be complimented on this historic win. The glorious ones were Tony Doyle (Killenaule), Eamon Cahill (Ballingarry), Kevin Dempsey (St Mary's), Thomas Fitzgerald (Killenaule), James Moran (Ballylooby), Damien

Gleeson (Killenaule), Paul Curran (Mullinahone), Niall O'Dwyer (Killenaule), Joe Keane (capt.) (Fethard), Eoin Kelly (Mullinahone), Pa Norton (Ballybacon), Cathal Houlihan (Ballyneale), T.G. Wall (Moyle Rovers), Donal Shelly (Ballingarry), Adrian Walsh (Killsheelan), Brian Duignam (Ballyneale), Maurice Fehilly (Fr. Sheedy's), Noel O'Grady (Killenaule), James Cantwell (Cahir), Kieran Foxe (Mullinahone), also B. O'Brien, P. Fitzgerald, D. Norton, A. Casey, G. Casey, C. Maher, V. O'Donnell, E. McGrath, B. Lonergan and K. O'Donnell.



Michael Lonergan presents Munster U16 Hurling Cup to Joe Keane

Ballingarry G.A.A. Club



Ballingarry, who beat Mullinahone in the South Minor Hurling Final which was held in Clonmel on September 28th, 1997. (Photo: Mullally)

CLUB OFFICERS 1997:

President: Bill Fitzgerald (Coalbrook); Chairman: Bill Martin; Vice-chairman: Rev. Padraig Corbett; Secretary: Richard Goldsboro; Treasurer: T. P. Maher; P.R.O.: John Dalton (Ballyphilip).

1977 was by any standard a very busy year for the club. We engaged a contractor to develop our new playing field and despite very bad weather a major amount of work has been done. The field has been levelled and drained. We hope that the remainder of the work on the field will be done early next year, weather permitting. Fundraising for this development will be high on the agenda for the next few years.

CLUB CONSTITUTION:

During the year a sub-committee, comprising of a former club chairman and a club secretary, was set up to draft a club constitution. This, in turn, was unanimously passed at an A.G.M. held in the Parish Hall on the 12th of July, 1997.

On the playing field we made an early exit from both Minor and U-21 football. We recaptured the South

Minor hurling championship in Clonmel on the 28-09-97, when we beat Mullinahone Gaels in one of the most entertaining and skillful games of the year. Final score was Ballingarry 3-11, Mullinahone 2-13.

Team: Jason Ivors, Thomas Norton, Kevin O'Connell, Dickie Norton, Gerry Ivors, Eamon Cahill, Pat Kealy, William Maher (captain), Seán Brennan, Adrian Cleere, Seán Brennan (Foyle). **Subs:** Paul Molloy, John Paul Cashin, Stephen O'Brien, Darren Kelly.

We were beaten by Clonmel Óg in the Junior Football Championship on the 19th of October, 1997, in a very one sided game, it was a big disappointment as we had been so successful in 1996.

We qualified for the South Senior hurling final by beating Killenaule in a replay on the 5th of October. Due to Tipps' extended run the championship and Mullinahones' success in reaching the county final, the South final was held up for almost six weeks. Mullinahone were victors with the final score 3-16 to 1-13.

The team and subs were as follows: Tony Walsh, Michael Ivors, Martin

Lyons, Morgan Ivors, Nigel Cleere, Tom Duggan (captain), Brian Walton, Blondie Ivors, William Maher, Liam Cahill, Johnnie Lawlor, Gerry Ivors, Don Lyons, Seamus Kealy, Donal Shelly, Michael McGrath, Michael Fitzgerald and Adrian Cleere.

At the time of writing, Sunday 23/11/97, we have just played our third South Final v Mullinahone in the U-21 championship, where we had the help of a number of players from St. Patrick's, Drangan. The game was played in dreadful conditions with lashing rain and wind all through the match. However, we were successful in the end with score of Ballingarry Gaels 2-05 to Mullinahone 0-04.

The team and subs were as follows: Michael McGrath, Kevin O'Connell, Michael Ivors, Michael Hayden (St. Pat's), Nigel Cleere, Brian Walton, Marcus Morris (St. Pat's), Nigel Cleere, Brian Walton, Marcus Morris (St. Pats'), William Maher, Seamus Kealy, Liam Cahill, Liam Croke, Gary Ivors (captain), Donal Shelly, Robert Hickey (St. Pat's) and Adrian Cleere.

CLUB SEMINAR

We had an excellent hurling seminar on Friday 14-11-97 in the parish hall. We had a wide range of speakers with Tommy Barrett, Len Gaynor, Donie Shanahan and Brendan Cummins and all spoke well on the various aspects of the game and the administration etc. We had a full house and a good debate on many issues. Michael O'Meara was chairman on the night and he did an excellent job. We hope that we can learn from this and we look forward to 1998 with interest.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our many sponsors and our supporters for their help during 1997.

To all our members who suffered bereavement during the year, we offer our sincere sympathy.

Richard Goldsboro (Runai)



The first All-Ireland (1887) final was played in Birr at Easter 1888 between Tipperary and Galway. To mark the centenary of the event a commemoration took place in Birr in 1988. Left to right: Noel Morris, John Dowling, Br. Denis, Podge Mulhare, Frank Burke.

Swan – county minor football 'B' winners 1997

Our minor footballers won the county B title this year for the second time. They last won it in 1987. This year they were undefeated in all their games which was great credit to all players concerned.

On their way to winning this title, they had some hard games in the South. They defeated Moyle Rovers in the first game and also defeated Ballingarry and Kilsheelan. They drew with Fr. Sheehy's which meant they qualified for the South final, where their opponents were Kilsheelan. This final was played in Clonmel on a Sunday evening. Our lads played well from start to finish and came out easy winners on a scoreline of 4-8 to 0-8. Our next game was the county semi-final against Cappawhite. This game was played in Cashel. It was a hard fought game with both teams playing well and at the end of the game a draw was a fair result on a scoreline of 1-7 each.

The replay took place the following week at the same venue. Our lads upped their game and took their scores more easily than the previous game and played as a team and came out winners on a scoreline of 1-9 to 1-4.

And so we qualified for the county final where our opponents were Burgess, whom we didn't know much about. This game was again played in



Carrick Swans – county M.F.C. 'B' winners 1997

Cashel. With a large attendance of supporters from the club it helped our lads to play better. We got a great start with an early goal from Tom Dunne. This settled us down and from there on we didn't look back and put up a score of 3-7 to Burgess 1-9. When the referee blew the final whistle there was great excitement to all concerned and when the county chairman presented the cup to our captain Jamie Sweetman you could hear the shouts back in Carrick.

The panel of players involved were M. Walsh, Sean Fitzpatrick, Paul Hanlon, Wayne Fitzpatrick, Phil Loughman, John Brophy, Jamie Power, Glen Keane, Alan J. Ryan, Barry Murphy, Alan P.

Ryan, John Smith, Fran Nolan, Paul Meagher, Alan Casey, Tom Dunne, Jason Kerwick, Keith Walsh, Gary Russell, Gareth Hanlon, Dermot Lanigan, David Wall, Clive Grace, Michael Drohan, Ml. Morrissey, Graham Walsh, Jamie Sweetman (captain).

Well done lads and thanks to all, it was a team effort, also thanks to our selectors Tony Keane, Benny Hahessey and manager Seamus Walsh.

As regards our win in 1987 – Benny Hahessey, a selector now, was a member of that winning team and Seamus Walsh was again a selector on that team 10 years ago.

Well done lads.



Congress 1997 – Tipperary delegates – l. to r. – Tommy Barrett, John Doyle, Paul O'Neill, Matty Connolly, Tom O'Donnell, Seamus King.



More Tipperary delegates at Congress – Seamus King, Jimmy Keating, Michael O'Brien, Mick Frawley, Noel Morris

Proposals for a better system

HURLING'S new high profile TV image with its very popular acceptance has created a new awareness and enthusiasm for the game.

Young boys and girls are identifying with the new clean cut stars of the game, wearing their gear, and imitating their performance. They all want to play the game at the highest possible level and at the same time have regular meaningful competitive games at their own standard.

They look at other games, they make comparisons. Then they make choices. While hurling and football are better, more competitive, faster and more exciting, the vast majority of our players are not getting enough games on a regular basis. Other codes are guaranteed almost a weekly game from September until May.

The majority of hurling teams, with ambition, commence twice weekly training in January for a championship that ends for seventy-five percent of teams in July. The total amount of competitive games for the majority of teams is three to four league games and two to three championship games between March and July.

For those who are not successful in July, together with the sense of disappointment at elimination from the competitions, there is also the sense of loss at the prospect of not having another game until March of the following year. Modern day society sees the need for regular athletic type activity to counteract the sedentary lifestyles of the computer age. The GAA is the ideal organisation to fulfil this need but the structure of our competition needs improving to fulfil the demand.

Players in their twenties and early thirties will not continue to support an organisation that gives them only six games from March to July.

Variety is needed in the matches they play. Except for county quarter, semi-finals and finals all competition is confined within divisions. There is an annual boring repetition of the same clubs and players meeting in the divisional leagues and championships.

Standardisation is another aspect of the game which needs to be addressed. The ability of certain clubs to compete in a realistic fashion at senior level needs to be questioned. A system of proper grading for senior, intermediate and junior teams needs to be adopted.

Sponsorship is beginning to appear at club level. If the clubs are to benefit in real terms the competitions will need to be of longer duration.

The players are the principal resource of the association, their playing needs need to be met by way of competition.

The following are detailed proposals which might meet those needs:

- In 1998 a four or five division league be established.
- Each division to consist of eight to ten teams.
- The teams to be initially graded by the Co Board according to standard (current and historical).
- The league to commence in February and be completed by July.
- The league to be single round for the first year.
- Games to be home and away on a bi-annual basis.
- Two points to be awarded for a win; one point to be awarded for a draw.
- Top two teams in each division to meet in final.
- Entry fee £100 per team.
- A perpetual trophy plus set of medals to be awarded to each divisional winner.
- Winning club to be given £1,000 towards a holiday.

- Top three teams in each division to be promoted.
- Bottom three teams in each division to be relegated.
- Gate receipts to be divided equally between Co Board and home club.
- Aim to increase participation in the league by one division per annum.
- After a period of two years the league to be used as a grading system for senior and intermediate teams.

For example – Division I plus top four from Division II to be graded senior, bottom four Division II and Division III to be graded Intermediate.

or

Division I and II to be graded Senior; Division III and IV to be Intermediate.

N.B. The proper grading would be carried out by the County Board executive. After two years with the three up and three down situation all teams would play themselves into their appropriate Division.

As the league progresses each Division except the top and bottom would have six new teams each year.

The new league would be a competition with status and its status would improve with each succeeding year as it would mean an entry into the senior and intermediate championships.

There are a number of trophies throughout the county commemorating great men, some of these trophies are being used for competitions without status. They could be used as divisional perpetual trophies as a fitting tribute to those great men.

The new league if operated properly could be a most attractive proposition for a major sponsor and a good selling point for clubs negotiating sponsorship.

Is the above worth a four year trial?



TIPPERARY SUPPORTERS CLUB



Chairman: John English
Secretary: Conor Davitt

Treasurer: Gerry Ryan

Assistant Treasurer: Brendan Sheridan
Membership & P.R.O.: Gerry Ryan



Six times All-Star winner Nicky English with Supporters Club secretary Conor Davitt after Nicky made the Supporters Club membership draw. The winner of an All-Ireland weekend was Billy Finn from Mitchelstown.



At the Supporters Club Golf Classic held in Ballykisteon (l.-r.): Moss Keane (ex Irish Rugby international), Pat Stakelum (legendary Tipp. centre back) and Tommy Barrett (Co. Board Secretary).



← The winning team at the Supporters Club Golf Classic at the presentation of prizes. Front row: Tommy Grogan, Declan Ryan, John Browne and David Fogarty (of Bar-Ware Enterprises) with Paul O'Neill (centre), County Board Chairman. Back row: John English (Chairman), Gerry Ryan (PRO), Brendan Sheridan (Treasurer Supporters Club), John McKiernan (Finches - sponsors), Conor Davitt (Secretary Supporters Club) and Tom O'Donnell (Co. Board Treasurer).

→ Seamus King (Chairman West Tipperary Board) was among the prizewinners at the Supporters Club Golf Classic, receiving his prize from Ailbe O'Connell (Finches). John English (left) (Chairman Supporters Club) and Paul O'Neill (Chairman Co. Board) also included.



← A group at this year's AGM of the Tipperary Supporters Club. Back row (l.-r.): Francis O'Dwyer, Tom O'Donnell (Treasurer County Board), Ailbe O'Connell, Michael Connolly, Matt Gleeson, Gerry Ryan (P.R.O. Supporters Club), Don O'Mahony, Len Gaynor and Phil Ryan. Front row (l.-r.): Brendan Sheridan (Treasurer Supporters Club), Phil Smith (Finches - team sponsors), Conor Davitt (Secretary Supporters Club), John English (Chairman), Paul O'Neill (Co. Board Chairman), Michael Berkery and Kieran O'Meara.

A Memoir of the 1947 Minor Win

by John O'Grady

FORTY-SEVEN from ninety-seven. Like it or not and I confess to no great liking for it – the deduction comes out as an even fifty, a half-century since the year of 1947. To the young it's ancient history. To those of us with keen, and sentimental memory it was a year with many associations. A desperately hard winter of long-lasting frost and snow tormented a Europe only barely recovering from the Second World War. De Valera led his Fianna Fail government into the penultimate year of sixteen in office since 1932. Britain had a royal wedding.

We youngsters took these matters lightly. For there was hurling to be done by lads of school and minor age. The two biggest things were the Dr. Harty Cup and the minor All-Ireland. St. Flannan's, Ennis and St. Colman's, Fermoy were the leaders at college level and Dublin had won the 1945 and 1946 minor titles, in each case beating Tipperary in the final. The first of these was one of the great shocks of all time as Pat Stakelum's side failed to deliver on its sky-high promise. The second was just as galling, or more so – Dublin pushed in a last minute goal to pip Paddy Kenny's team.

EARLY GAMES

The selection for 1947 still contained Paddy, in his third year as a minor and again captain of the team; John Doyle, Jack Ryan, Mick Ryan, Tommy O'Meara and Derek McNulty had all played in '46. I had been sub-goalie to Billy O'Brien in that luckless campaign. The fifteen to meet Limerick in the first round at Cork was: J. O'Grady, J. Doyle, J.J. McCormack, R. Mockler, C. Keane, J. Ryan, S. Twomey, M. Ryan, J. Farrell, D. Butler, D. McNulty, P. Kenny, T. O'Meara, M. Butler, L. Skelly. The two Butlers, Dermot and Michael in the attack were sons of Tipp's 1937



Tipperary – Minor All-Ireland Champions 1947

Back row (l to r): Rev. Br. J. Giffney, D. Kennedy, J. O'Dwyer, D. McNulty, J.J. McCormack, J. Doyle, J. Farrell, P. Purcell, T. Semple, J.J. Callanan, J. Leahy, County Secretary.
Middle row (l to r): T. O'Meara, J. Ryan, P. Kenny (captain), S. Twomey, D. Butler, M. Butler.
Front row (l to r): B. Mockler, C. Keane, J. O'Grady, S. McDonnell, M. Ryan, T. Butler.

All-Ireland goalie, Tommy of Thurles Sarsfields. "Great things can hardly be expected from this team" – so, rather pessimistically, wrote a 'Star' correspondent after we had beaten Limerick by 6-5 to 3-3. The implication was that it wasn't as good as the two sides that had preceded it and failed to take the national crown. Perhaps the heavy defeat suffered by Tipp's seniors at the hands of Limerick had a part in the gloomy prognosis!

Before continuing the story of the campaign, it might be as well to put personality onto some of the names given. You will know a good deal about the 'cúlbaire', so we take him as read – weekly in fact. John Doyle hardly needs identification, nor does that great forward Paddy Kenny. John Joe McCormack of Knockavilla has long been a welcoming Tipp town publican. Bobby Mockler's Sarsfields career was a distinguished one; he nowadays sees to the preparation of the Stadium. Connie Keane's neat

and tasty style of backplay served Sarsfields very well. Jack Ryan of Roscrea is younger brother of the famous Mick and of Dinny who was on the 1945 team. Sean Twomey came from Tipp town. The midfield, unchanged over the whole series, was a West blend of Mick Ryan of Anacarty – brother of Gerry of Éire Óg's 1943 county champions and John Farrell (Knockavilla) – his son John played in goal for Tipp in the early 80's. The Butler brothers have already been referred to. Sadly, both are no longer with us, Michael dying quite young and Dermot a few years ago in New York. From Roscrea came Derek McNulty and Tommy O'Meara – the latter played for Leinster Colleges as a student in Mt. St. Joseph. Liam Skelly of Holycross played for Tipp against clare in the 1955 defeat. His Clare connection has been maintained by his well-known role in Shannon Airport with Aer Rianta. Sean McDonnell, who replaced Skelly for the All-Ireland

when Liam was injured, set the pattern for brothers Austin and Lauri, who followed him as Tipp minors – they are sons of the late Timmy, long time N.T. at Rahealty. Mick Maher later won fame and medals as Tipp's sturdy full-back on some of our finest teams. Among the reserves was the late Fr. Tom Butler of Templetuohy, who died in Australia.

Waterford signalled their challenge with a victory over Cork in Clonmel. When I say they fielded Phil Grimes, Jim Fives, Mick Flannelly, Seamus Power and Mickey O'Connor, it will be seen that they took some beating. Tipp did it on a wet Thurles Sunday in the provincial final in a small-scoring, dour struggle that could have gone the other way, 2-4 to 1-2. The papers rightly called in 'a defensive victory'. I take no large share of the credit for being beaten only once – I can still see the way John Joe at full-back held the fort with great courage, the crafty covering of Jack Ryan at number six and of course John Doyle had to be a tremendous force when things were hardest. Philip Crowley of Borrisoleigh played centre-forward, with McNulty replacing Skelly at left corner – Crowley and Michael Butler scored the goals within a few minutes of each other before the interval; these were vital blows in a game of few flags. The defence stood up to intense pressure in the last quarter, with Waterford several times close to a breakthrough. Paddy Kenny took the T.W.A. Cup for the second year in a row. A 'fall-out' from the occasion was strong criticism of Thurles' capacity, facilities and stewarding, with Cork's Sean Óg Murphy particularly vocal at Munster Council. It was to lead to expansion of the terraces, installation

of crush-barriers and other improvements at the famous grounds.

The semi-final against Antrim caused few worries. Mick Maher played left-back, with Mockler moving to the wing to the exclusion of Twomey. Tom Butler got a run at full forward; McNulty was restored to centreforward. The score was 5-12 to 1-4. We enjoyed the experience of playing in Croke Park and seeing Dublin – quite a few had never been to the capital before! Peach Melbas at Cafolla's in O'Connell Street – a nice novelty for the country boys!

There had been little doubt that it would again be Dublin in the final. We were mentally ready for the job of taking 'revenge' for '45 and '46. Things took a most surprising turn though – and maybe a fortunate one – in the Galway v Dublin semi-final. We could hardly believe the news from Micheal O'Hehir – Dublin had lost! One of Dublin's cars had broken down on the journey to – I think – Birr. They conceded five goals in the first half and a fight-back by a side buttressed by some late arrivals could not save them so we had to readjust our minds and wonder how good Galway might be.

THE FINAL

The answer, on the first Sunday of September, was – not good enough for a Tipperary who were ready, fore and aft, to make up for the defeats of previous finals. The score tells all: 9-5 to 1-5. Halftime figures had left no doubts: 7-3 to 0-1. We lined out with Sean Twomey back again at left half back and Bobby Mockler in the corner. Liam Skelly was chosen at left corner forward, but injury kept him out and Sean McDonnell took the berth. My personal part wasn't much more than that of an admiring

spectator to the goal rush above at the Canal end. In order of 'strike' came goals by McDonnell, O'Meara, Kenny, McDonnell, Kenny, Dermot Butler. McDonnell again at the start of the second half, and one from Michael Butler to make it a massive nine. Galway were unfortunate to run into such a storm – and maybe sorry that the Dublin car had broken down! Their best-known player, in later years, was to be the late stylist, Joe Salmon. Among their forwards was Jimmy Duggan, who captained Galway against Tipp in the 1958 All-Ireland.

So there it was, our All-Ireland won, Tipp's first since pre-war days. For Paddy Kenny, above all, it was some merited compensation. A real bonus for us, sitting happily on the sideline that day, was to be witnesses of one of the classic senior All-Irelands, Kilkenny v Cork, refereed by Phil Purcell and won in a tremendous finish by the two points of Terry Leahy.

It's a long time ago. Many things have happened to us in the years that lay ahead, for good or ill. I'm sure we are united in regret at the decease of our comrades Dermot and Michael Butler and of Tom from Templetuohy. It would be nice if we survivors could get together and recall old times. I see Paddy and Bobby and Connie and Sean 'round town quite often, run into John Joe now and then at golf outings and John Doyle on many occasions. All seem to be keeping very well. I hope the same applies to all those who shared in that achievement, which still means a great deal to them as a highlight of their youth and a contribution to Tipperary's hurling story.

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North Tipperary Board 1997

Michael O'Brien, Sec.

Grade	Date	Winner	Score	Runner-Up	Score	Venue	Referees
S.H.C.	Aug. 3rd	Toomevara	1-15	Borris-Illeigh	0-08	C. Jordan	J. McDonnell
S.H.L.	May 18th	Toomevara	1-16	Nenagh Éire Óg	2-09	C. Jordan	J. McDonnell
I.H.C.	Oct. 12th	Silvermines	1-12	Knockshegowna	2-03	Nenagh	Ml. Cahill
I.H.L.	May 18th	Silvermines	1-09	Knockshegowna	0-06	C. Jordan	Sean Hogan
J.H.C. 'A'	Oct. 12th	Toomevara	0-16	Lorrha	1-04	Nenagh	M. Ahearne
J.H.L. 'A'	June 20th	Lorrha	2-12	Moneygall	1-08	Roscrea	J. McDonnell
J.H.C. 'B'	Oct. 5th	Silvermines	2-08	Toomevara	1-07	Nenagh	Ger Ryan
J.H.L. 'B'	June 28th	Silvermines	1-15	Borrisokeane	1-14	Nenagh	Tom Killachy
U-21 H 'A'							
U-21 H 'B'	Oct. 26th	Burgess	1-11	Kildangan	0-13	Nenagh	Sean Hogan
Minor H 'A'	Sept. 27th	Toomevara	1-17	Nenagh Éire Óg	2-04	C. Jordan	Vince McKenna
Minor H 'B'	Sept. 11th	Moneygall	3-10	Silvermines	0-10	Nenagh	J. Kissane
I.F.C.	Nov. 8th	Nenagh		Irane Rovers		Moneygall	T. Gleeson
J.F.C. 'A'	Oct. 11th	Portroe	2-07	S. Rovers	0-05	Puckane	M. Griffen
J.F.C. 'B'							
U-21 F 'A'	April 12th	Newport	3-08	Nenagh Éire Óg	0-05	Dolla	M. Griffen
U-21 F 'B'	April 12th	Kilruane MacD	1-10	Ballina	1-08	K. Colman	J. Kissane
Minor F 'A'	April 18th	Kildangan	2-12	Nenagh Éire Óg	2-02	Nenagh	Ger Hayes
Minor F 'B'	April 25th	Burgess	4-10	Ballina	1-03	Portroe	M. Darcy



Moneygall Minor Hurling Team – North & County B Champions 1997

Back row l. to r. – Gearóid Doherty, Donal Guilfoyle, Brian Fanning, Derek Ryan, Tadhg Kennedy, Gerard Whyte, Ronan Hourihane, Philip Larkin. Front row l. to r. – Billy McCormack, John O'Meara, David Gleeson, Donal Doughan, Eoin Troy (capt.), Brendan Jones, Conor Ryan.



Portroe – 1997 North Junior 'A' Football Champions

Back row l. to r. – Niall Shinnors, Michael Delahunty, Barry O'Driscoll, Kenneth Kennedy, Noel O'Halloran, Liam Sheedy, John Sheedy, Dinny Hogan, Chris Madden. Back row l. to r. – Pat Power, Pat Sexton, Martin McKenna, Dinny Quinn, Paddy Connors, John Hogan, Joe Sexton, Paudie Quinn, John Ryan.



Kilruane MacDonaghs – North Tipp U-21 'B' Football Champions 1997

Back row l. to r. – Mark O'Leary, Enda McLoughney, Colin England, Ger Ryan, Kevin O'Brien, Michael Walsh, Ruadhan Casey. Front row – Michael Reddin, Sean Sheppard, Alan Ryan, Brendan Ryan, Willie Brennan, Seamus McLoughney, Patrick Darcy and Decland Darcy.



Burgess U-21 Panel and Mentors – North 'B' Champions

Back row l. to r. – Breda Ryan (Masseur), Timmy Hogan, Fergal McDonnell, Paul Hogan, Brian Hogan, Peter Carroll, Fergal Hanrahan, David Kyne (selector), Donie Nealon (Manager). Second row – Colm McDonnell (selector), Kevin McDonnell, Jason Hayden, Fergal Madden, Colm O'Brien, Padraig McDonnell, John Scroope, Brian McGrath, and Shane Maher. Seated – Kieran Hogan (selector), Brian Duggan, Sean Hogan, John Gleeson, Pierce O'Brien (captain), Kevin Nealon, Keelin Howard, Garrett Howard and John Ryan (chairman).



Toomevara – North Senior League and Championship Winners

Back row l. to r. – Tony Delaney, Kevin Kennedy, Liam Nolan, Pat King, Pat Meagher, Thomas Dunne, Terry Dunne, Ken Dunne. Kneeling – George Frend, Martin Cahalan, Philip Shanahan, Aidan Maxwell, Justin Cottrell, Paddy O'Brien and Rory Brislane.



Toomevara – North & County Junior 'A' Champions

Back row l. to r. – Tommy Shanahan (selector), Brendan Spillane, Kieran Delaney, Jackie Meagher, Francis Kennedy, Morgan Ryan, Liam Flaherty, Paul Delaney, David McGrath, Noel Cummins, James Connolly, Michael O'Meara, Kevin McCormack, Jody Grace, Owen Cuddihy, John Ryan, John Toohey. Kneeling – Bertie Sherlock (selector), Pdraig Hackett, Brian Duff, Ray Hackett, Declan O'Meara, Jimmy Dunne (captain), Michael Murphy, Noel Kenneally, Dermot Brislane, Paul Kenneally, Frank Devaney (selector) and Martin Kiely.



Burgess Minor Football Panel – North 'B' Champions

Back row l. to r. – Liam Hogan, Eoin Buckley, Jason Seymour, Shane Maher, Brian Hogan, Peter Carroll, Paul Seymour, Paul Hogan, John Scroope, Garrett Howard, Michael Crowe, Gerard Hogan. Kneeling – Donal Hogan, Fergal McDonnell, Brian McGrath, Colm O'Brien, Timmy Hogan, Jonathan Meaney, Kevin McDonnell, Brian Duggan, Patrick Ryan, Pdraig McDonnell and Shane Cleary.

**Templederry – North Tipp
Club of the Year 1996**





Silvermines North League and County Championship winners of Junior 'B' Hurling

Back row l to r: Sean Quigley, Sean O'Brien, Mark Bourke, Michael Gleeson, Colm O'Brien, Philip Ryan, Stephen Kennedy, Joe Ryan, Ger Ryan, Mark Kennedy, David Ryan, John Kennedy, Michael Ryan and Eric Ryan. Front row l to r: Fergal Timmons, Tadhg Gleeson, Mark Dunlea, Cian Ryan, Ger Clifford, Martin Ryan (capt.), Emmet Steed, Michael Murphy, Rory Kennedy, Mattie Ryan and Denis Lynch.

Silvermines Intermediate team – North League and Championship winners



Back row l to r: Donnacha Dronney, Joe Harrington, Noel Sheehy, Jimmy Murphy, Liam Keogh, Donal Keogh, Anthony McGrath and Ger Ryan (S). Front row l to r: Finbar Ryan, Brendan Timmons, Ger Gleeson, Eoin Ryan, Niall Sherlock, Declan Corcoran (captain) and Michael Cunneen.



Newport U21 Footballers, North Tipp Champions A 1997

Back row l to r: Sean Ryan, Paddy Ryan, Tom Moylan, Aidan O'Gorman, Brian Coffey, Aidan Creagh, Trevor Delahunty, Sean O'Gorman, Cyril O'Neill. Front row l to r: Tom Clifford, Ger O'Brien, John O'Toole, David Hickey, Kenneth O'Brien, Eoin Bonfield.



The Toomevara team that won the county minor hurling final by defeating Golden-Kilfeacle at Semple Stadium. Team line out – P. McGrath, S. O'Meara, B. McGrath, J. O'Meara, B. Dunne, A. Ryan, O. Brislane, A. Ryan, T. Ryan, K. Hall, P. O'Brien, P. McGrath, K. Cummins, M. Kelly, A. O'Neill: Sub – J. O'Brien for T. Ryan.



Micheál Ryan, Templederry, North Tipperary, Hurler of the Year '96 receives his trophy from North Chairman John Joe McKeogh.

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A.I.B. Kilmacud Crokes All-Ireland Hurling Sevens Silver Jubilee

By Richard Stakelum



Borris-Ileigh – Winners of the Kilmacud Crokes All-Ireland S.H. Sevens Tournament

This years All-Ireland hurling weekend began as it has, for a quarter of a century on the Saturday morning in Stillorgan, Dublin, where some of the country's top club hurling sides competed in their own All-Ireland tournament.

The A.I.B. All-Ireland Sevens, organised by Kilmacud Crokes G.A.A. club has, since its inception in 1973 seen some of the greatest players and teams. Players like Fenton, Doran, O'Dwyer, Ryans, Carey and Cleary are but a small selection of the All-Ireland winners who have graced this tournament.

The Sevens form of the game, emphasises good striking, maintenance of possession and score taking. Sevens games are often high scoring and physically tough encounters with the later stages of the tournament being as keenly contested as any championship final.

This year was special for more than one reason. Yes, it was the silver jubilee of the competition, but also a team from that famed nursery, BorrisIleigh created history. The maroon and white captured their fourth All-Ireland Sevens, thereby going to the top of the roll of honour. They did so in a competition that had possibly its strongest ever "field". There were no fewer than eight previous winners of the All-Ireland club (fifteen a side) contesting this year's Sevens.

Borris were drawn in a tough group, which included Na Piarsaigh (Cork), Rapparees (Wexford) and Ballyboden St. Enda's (Dublin). Their first game against Na Piarsaigh was a thriller, with 'Borris' just edging home by the narrowest of margins. Having won their group they then met Sarsfields of Galway, the 2-in-a-row All-Ireland Club Champions. This was a bruising encounter, in the mould of recent Tipp/Galway matches. Again the youth-

ful Borris brigade won through with great displays from the younger players in particular. The semi-final was against the current A.I.B. Club Champions – St. Mary's, Athenry. Once again the Premier County prevailed. They were now on the threshold of a great achievement.

Before the final well needed rest was taken. "Old fellas" like McGrath and Stakelum, were hosed down with plenty of cold water. The masseurs were in great demand, as aching limbs were nursed back to be ready for one final push for history.

The opposition would be O'Toole's of Dublin, appearing in their second final in succession. It was to be "McGrath's Final". The big man sank the Dubs with three crashing goals before half time, and that was that. The usual Borris celebrations ensued with "style". Delaney sending us exiles home happy with a great rendition of "Lovely Fair Ileigh".

The team won itself many admirers,

not alone for the skill and determination with which they played but more importantly from the sportsmanship and friendliness they showed to all. As an exile I was especially thrilled to see young men like the Rabbittes, the Mahers, Keane and Loughnane do the Village proud with their behaviour on and off the pitch. Older players like Conor Stakelum and John McGrath, who captained the team, were suitably delighted with collecting another major honour.

And so there ended the Silver Jubilee Sevens with a Premier Club on to of the pile. A competition that has become a focal point for conversation, celebration and fond memories of the great heroes and characters of the game.

Final score: BorrisIleigh 5-6, O'Toole's (Dublin) 2-6. *Scorers:* John McGrath (3-0), Conor Stakelum (1-5), John Keane (1-1)



John McGrath, Borris-Ileigh, holds the A.I.B. Club Sevens trophy aloft.



Borris-Ileigh's Seamus Maher in action in the A.I.B. Sevens hurling tournament.

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Tony Reddin wins Knocknagow Award

ONE of the highlights of the Cidona Sports Awards in the Clonmel Arms Hotel on January 24 was the presentation of the Knocknagow Award to Tony Reddin, the former Lorrha and Tipperary goalkeeper. Tony won All-Ireland senior medals in 1949, 50 and 51 and his outstanding performances between the posts during these and later years were sufficient to win him membership of the Team of the Century in 1984. To the strains of the band playing the county anthem, 'Slievenamon', and the cheers of the three hundred people present at the ceremony, Tony strode up to be presented with his award.

Born in Mullagh, Co. Galway in 1920, Tony came to work in Lorrha in February 1947. He had a hurling record before he crossed the Shannon. He won a county juvenile medal with Mullagh in 1933 and a divisional junior medal in the late thirties. He played county junior hurling in 1940 when Galway were beaten by Cork in the All-Ireland. Graduating to senior ranks in 1941 he played on the Connacht Railway Cup team that was trounced by Munster that year. He didn't appear for Galway again until 1946. In that year he played full-forward in the Monaghan Cup game at London against Tipperary. Playing full-forward for Tipperary that day was Tony Brennan.

He made his debut with Lorrha in a tournament game against St. Vincent's of Dublin on Easter Sunday 1947. He played unspectacularly with his new club in the



Tony Reddin

championship. The following year he made his name as a goalkeeper, particularly against Borrisoleigh in the divisional final. As a result he was drafted on to the county panel for the 1948-49 league and was to be a regular on the team until 1956. After that he rotated with Blackie Keane until he played his final game for the county at New York in October 1957.

In an article on Reddin in his Lorrha club history, Seamus King wrote thus about him:

"Why was Reddin so brilliant? Many people remember him as a big man going high for the ball, catching it securely and

bursting out amid a welter of hurleys, to clear well up the field. It will come as a surprise to learn that Tony is not a big man. He stands 5'9" and, at the height of his career in the early fifties, never weighed more than eleven and a half stone! He was a very fit man. He trained for the position as keenly as another might train for centrefield. Running crosscountry, jumping over hedges and ditches and building up his arms made him the strong player he was. He had the eye of a hawk, some might even say of compensatory quality for defects in his oral and aural senses. Neighbours have commented on how sharp that eyesight was and is in spotting someone at a distance. He was no mere ball stopper but a player who completed the act by clearing the ball down the field. He was equally good on the right or the left side and this again came from constant practice. He sharpened his reflexes by belting a ball against a rough stone wall from shot distances and catching the ball in his hand as it rebounded in different directions. Probably his greatest ability was a sensitive touch allied with the tilting of the hurley's face at an angle, which enabled him to kill even the fastest ball dead so that it rolled down the hurley into his hand as if by the genius of a master magician. Finally, Tony used no 'half-door' of a hurley to stop the ball. His was of ordinary size and he had the same stick for most of his hurling career, a heavy, many hooped, ugly-looking affair.



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*Nollaig shona dhíbh uile
Go n-éirí libh san ath-bliain*

As Sick as a Parrot

by Seamus Leahy

AS SICK as a parrot" is a phrase I first heard from a man from Donegal when the Mullaghduff band were setting off from the GAA Centre in Clonmel on the morning after the ending of the Fleadh Ceoil some years ago. They were all very much the worse for the celebrations which had followed their winning the band contest the previous day and they would be in Athlone before they were allowed their first stop. But proudly displayed in the front of the bus was the cup which a neighbouring parish had hoped in vain to wrest from them. As their Fear a Ti, having made a final count, stepped onto the bus, he turned and said, "we'll be as sick as parrots by the time we get home but the other crowd will be just as sick. And we have the cup. That's a big difference."

"Aren't they right eejits," said one of the lads, "coming down the length of the country to beat their neighbours. And now they're as sick as parrots."

I hadn't heard the phrase before but looking at the sickly colour of the intrepid bandsmen I couldn't imagine anything sicker.

I thought of the phrase again on the evening of the Boherlahan-Clonoulty match. Is there anything to make you as sick as a parrot as having a county semi-

final in the bag and some of your supporters already left the field and then to find yourself beaten with the last few pucks of the ball? I don't think there is. Well that's exactly what happened when Declan Ryan turned the game upside down just when we thought it was all wrapped up. We giggled when Andrew Fryday twice rushed out from his goals to prevent Philip O'Dwyer turning the game into a rout. Just as well Philip missed, we told ourselves, no use in rubbing Clonoulty noses in it altogether. We could afford to be generous. The score stood at 4-11 to 1-12 and there were only two minutes left. Even when Declan Ryan sent a 21 yard free to the net we were in a way just as pleased – the county owes Declan a lot and anyway it would maybe sharpen up Boherlahan for the final against Mullinahone. We were less generous in our reactions when, with a minute of injury time played, Declan again goaled but when, a minute later, Maurice Quirke got the goal which put Clonoulty ahead, the only sound from Boherlahan supporters was a suppressed groan. Up in the sky Arthur Donnelly kicked over his stool in disgust and headed for Hennessy's.

On our way out, our tails tucked firmly between our legs, I relieved my temper by shouting at the driver of a Lada who stopped with a jerk within a couple of inches of my rear door, "do you think you're the only one who has to get home?" "Go away!" he retorted, only he didn't put it quite like that. "If I had an oul banger like that, I wouldn't care who I hit either," I shouted.

"If I get out to you, you'll wish you were back in Clonoulty," he threatened and for a moment I thought he was going to get out and have a go at me.

But he should have known that if I was from Clonoulty I wouldn't be going around abusing people at that moment. No doubt his heart too was with Boherlahan and he wanted to get away from the scene as quickly as he could.

On my way back to Clonmel through Boherlahan I thought of other days when our kith and kin came home from games as sick as parrots. There was 1922 when Tipp – a Boherlahan selection too – faced Kilkenny in an All-Ireland final that was being played a year late, as a result of the Civil War. They had already beaten a formidable Limerick team in the replay of the Munster final and an equally formidable Galway team in the All-Ireland semi-final. Short three of their regulars – Paddy Dwyer, Paddy Leahy and Joe Nagle – who were still Civil War fugitives – Tipp were coasting to easy victory with only ten minutes left to play and it looked as if the Cats were well and truly trounced. It was a time when visits to the metropolises were few and far between and many Tipperary supporters were on their way to the nearby hostleries to celebrate the victory when Kilkenny produced the succession of goals that left them ahead by 4-2 to 2-6 when the final whistle blew. That rake of scores would often be discussed and dissected when the hay was being saved on Suir's banks for the benefit of many who had not been born on that sad day.

It was 1956 before Tipp experienced again a similarly traumatic defeat, but it was a defeat of such an order as those of us who witnessed it have never forgotten. We had a backline of whom no less than three would figure in the Team of the Century – Reddan, Byrne, Maher and Doyle; Finn, Stakelum and Wall; and down the field was sprinkled names



Whistling their way to Croke Park... Lorraine Donnelly, Paul Seymour, Dan Hackett and Graham Finch, all from Nenagh, photographed in Dublin on All-Ireland semi-finals day.

like Hough and Devaney, Theo English, Paddy Kenny and Seamus Bannon. Also there, if I rightly remember, was Billy Quinn, whose son would later earn with a bigger ball, wider, if not less deserved, fame than his father. Unbeatable, some would say and so we thought we were at halftime when the score read Tipp 2-10, Wexford 0-1.

I don't know what happened in the Wexford dressing-room but those of us standing under the old Cusack Stand passed the interval in having some, as we thought, harmless and well-deserved fun at the expense of a Wexford group in front of us. They were still on a high since winning their first All-Ireland and their state of shock at an almost scoreless first half now left them speechless. Needless to say, in our youthful foolishness we made up for their silence.

We shouldn't have. Over forty years have passed and I have since seen nothing like the transformation that came over the Wexford team during the interval. The team that emerged from the tunnel bore little resemblance to the one we had watched in the first half. Relentlessly they pounded the Tipp defence and balls sailed over the bar from astonishing distances and angles. It couldn't last for half an hour, we told ourselves, but it did. By the time the magic ceased the score stood Wexford 5-9, Tipp 2-14. In the second half Wexford had scored five goals and eight

points to our four points. We had never seen the likes of the turnaround and neither had anybody else.

By the time the Wexford lads we had been ribbing at half-time turned round to get their own back we were half-way down to O'Connell Street. If the phrase was there at the time we would have described ourselves as being as sick as parrots.

In my memory of games there was maybe one other turnabout that came anywhere like approaching that Tipp-Wexford game for the sheer drama of the transformation. It was on the first day of July in 1973 and, waking to a sunny morning in Corcha Dhuibhne, we stopped for mass in Lispole and got into Limerick in time for the minor match. By about half four we were regretting we hadn't stayed for the afternoon at Traigh an Fhiona where we might be having a few pucks on the beach and pretending to any Cork folk who were about that we hadn't the slightest interest in the match in Limerick. With the lambasting we were getting from the Cork supporters around us in Limerick as their team strolled to victory, a man could be pardoned for wishing himself anywhere else. Then, with only seven minutes to go and Tipp on the ropes, John Flanagan, God rest him, crashed in a goal which left us thinking that at least it would take the dirty look off the scoreboard. But to our delight and amazement there were three more

to follow – one each from Francis Loughnane, Seamus Hogan and Roger Ryan and before we knew where we were the final whistle was sounding and the scoreboard read 5-4 to 1-10.

We often walked the Ennis Road in what could be described as a daze – and always it was an unpleasant daze – but this time we were in a daze for the very best of reasons. It wasn't often in championship hurling that Cork got totally on top of you and let go before you were dead but on this day the unbelievable had happened. Speechless with pleasure, we heard a fellow-countryman who was anything but speechless declare to anyone who would hear, "that's the way to beat them – give them a smell of it and take it away again."

Many a summer Sunday I drove back to Corcha Dhuibhne replete with contentment, but I cannot remember too many days like that. And Corkmen were as sick as parrots.

But hold on there. Wasn't there one similar day that you can remember yourself – a day when your team was home and dry only to leave it behind them in the last few minutes and send you home as sick as a parrot? Of course there was. It's one of the many things that makes hurling the greatest game on the face of the earth – its sheer unpredictability. The duffers of the first half may be the stars of the second. Never go home till you hear the final whistle.



Tipperary supporters from Templemore enjoying themselves in O'Connell Street before heading off to Croke Park for the All-Ireland minor and senior hurling semi-finals. Included are (front l to r) – Denis Carroll, Benny Fogarty, Michael Cahill; (back) David Ryan, Paul O'Brien and David Bohan.

WHEN I first considered applying as a participant in the roving reporter competition with Finches and the *Tipperary Star*, I knew it was an opportunity not to be missed.

It involved a 500 word report of Tipperary against Clare in the newly formatted Church & General National Hurling League game last May.

Lucky enough, both sides provided a rip-roaring encounter full of drama and non-stop action from start to finish with the Premier marginally deserving the two league points on offer, thus I didn't have a huge difficulty in preparing my report.

Once mine was the one selected, my instant response was delirious with joy and excitement unconfined. I was given a chance to analyse all of Tipp's seasonal games and I was going to do my best to avail of the opportunity. Hurling is definitely the game of the moment and there's nothing I cherish more! Loughnane worships it passionately, while Liam Griffin entitles it the "Riverdance of Sport", but to me it's pure artistry in motion.

I began covering the final games of Tipp's inclusion in the National League until their subsequent departure from the competition in their semi-final defeat by the tribesmen at Cusack Park, Ennis. While my interest in the championship included minor, under-21 and senior level, the county sponsors, Finches of United Beverages, had match reports on the senior championship as their first priority. Therefore the extent of Tipp's survival in the championship campaign up to the final hurdle was vitally important for my reporting.

In the opening game at Thurles against Limerick an almighty battle was predicted. However, the provincial title holders were rattled early on as Tipp steamrolled into their second successive final. In the final, I made the journey to the Cork venue from early morning in an effort to witness the pre-match tension and euphoria of another epic Munster final. I was accompanied by a good friend and fanatic hurling enthusiast Paddy Quirke who's a well known figure within U.C.C. circles.

We ventured into Mulligan's Pub just off the city centre

ROVING REPORTER'S SEASON

By:
LENNY FITZGERALD

which is owned by Tracton's Tom Kingston. The excitement was building with every minute with the main talking-point surrounding the introduction of the new "back-door" system as a set-back to the intensity of the provincial decider.

On the day, Gaynor had prepared Tipp. for the promised land, yet he could only watch as the fruits of Loughnane's crop had sown the seeds for a resounding victory.

Their championship hopes were now clinging by a thread but they drew the short straw to meet Ulster champions Down at St. Tiernach's Park, Clones, in the quarter-final.

Only the die-hard supporter made the long journey with the N55 as the only significant route to the northern amphitheatre.

The Tipp. panel and backroom team were based at the Kilmore Hotel just outside Cavan town. I arrived at the hotel at mid-day where the mood was optimistic in all sectors. All the players seemed very relaxed with their minds firmly focused on the job in hand.

There were a number of distinguished guests present, including the voice of Gaelige, Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh. I managed to have a pleasant conversation with the sports journalist of the *Irish Independent*, Vincent Hogan, by which our thoughts and interests on the game was the prime discussion.

Fortunately for me, my club-mate, Eugene O'Neill, was making his senior championship debut. He was conscious of the pressure but relished the prospect. I was curious of his potential at the highest level and he performed admirably with a goal after 13 minutes and a lead that the Premier county subsequently never relinquished.

In the semi-final against defending All-Ireland champions, Wexford, Tipp.'s recent form suggested that their championship ambitions were to be short-lived. However, they tore the script to shreds in cancelling the Slaneysiders winning momentum to record a seven point victory. There were pleasing aspects about the game. The spirit had returned and that



Clare players Ollie Baker, Frank Lohan and Anthony Daly fail to prevent Aidan Ryan from making progress during the All-Ireland senior hurling final at Croke Park.

augured well for the hurling final showdown with bogeymen Clare.

In the final itself, the packed Croke Park witnessed a unique, all Munster, all consuming battle. I stayed in Dublin on the Saturday night before the big finale. The Tipp. contingent were based at the Grand Hotel in Malahide but I wandered around the Póitín Stil in Rathcoole in a craving hunt for spare tickets, but to my astonishing amazement even the scraps of viewable tickets were devoured

instantly.

I must compliment Finches for all the excellent tickets that I received during the year and my viewing for the final was no different.

Tipp. had the edge in the first half while the Banner's resurgence in the second paid dividends. However, Clare weathered a late Tipp. onslaught to be crowned champs again.

After such a long season, I was filled with mixed emotion and disappointment at Tipp's defeat, but I've no regrets. I enjoyed every moment and being able to comment on each match was a learning experience.

I must also thank Finches for all their assistance and especially to the accounts manager, Patricia O'Donnell, who gave me valuable information for each outing. Michael McGrath of the *Tipperary Star* deserves special praise for all his time, gratitude and support. I just hope that both Finches and the *Tipperary Star* continue with this competition through the 1998 season as some lucky reader may gain the experiences of the journalistic world.



Team captain Conor Gleeson introduces Michael Cleary to An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern prior to the All-Ireland final against Clare. Also included is President of the G.A.A., Mr. Joe McDonagh.

Tipperary Students do well



Action from the Fitzgibbon Cup Final 1997. Eddie Enright (Thurles Sarsfields), U.C.C. and Conor Gleeson (Boherlahan), Garda. Incidentally, Eddie is U.C.C. Captain for 1998.



←
Johnny Enright (Thurles Sarsfields) receiving the Iamród Éireann "Man of the Match" award at the Fitzgibbon Cup Final in Cork in March 1997. Johnny also won a "Sports Star of the Year" award for hurling in U.C.C. in 1997.



U.C.C. - Fitzgibbon Cup Winners 1997

Back row (l.-r.): Danny Murphy (Cork), Eddie Enright (Tipperary), Richard Woods (Clare), Niall Murphy (Limerick), Brendan Kelly (Cork), Martin Hayes (Cork). Front row (l.-r.): Seanie McGrath (Cork), Denis Twomey (Cork), Derek McGrath (Waterford), Colm O'Brien (Limerick), Kieran Morrison (Cork), Johnny Enright (Tipp.), Johnny Brown (Cork), Joe Deane (Cork), Tom Bambury (Cork).

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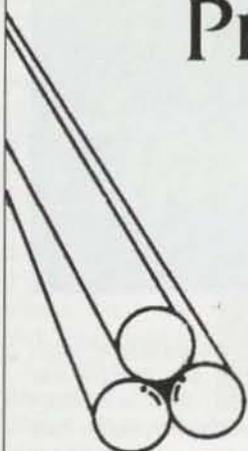
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Recent Publications

by Seamus J. King

Dunne, Katie: (Ed.) *Grangemockler Church and People, 1897-1997*, (Grangemockler Centenary Committee), 1997. £10.

Fullam, Brendan: *Legends of the Ash*, (Wolfhound Press) 1997, £16.99.

McRory, Seamus: *The Voice from the Sideline*, (Blackwater Press) 1997, £9.99.

O'Leary, John (with Martin Breheny): *Keeper of the Flame*, (Blackwater Press) 1997, £9.99.

Rafferty, Eamonn: *Talking Gaelic*, (Blackwater Press) 1997, £8.99.

Ryan, Senator Willie: Golden-Kilfeacle: *The Parish and its People*, (Golden-Kilfeacle GAA Club) 1997, £20.

The list of publications so far this Christmas is not overwhelming. The two local ones deserve special mention. The Grangemockler book originated with the idea of celebrating the Centenary of St. Mary's Church in the village. The parish has a few noted alumni, such as T.F. Kiely of athletic fame and on whom an exhibition opened on November 27 in the County Museum, Clonmel, Mick Hogan, immortalised in Croke Park, Cardinal Michael Browne of the Dominicans and Vincent Comerford, Professor of Modern History in Maynooth.

The book contains almost 200 pages, is well illustrated and the section devoted to the GAA has over 30 pages. The club won its first county final in 1890, halting the famous Bohercrowe's run of victories. They nearly repeated the success in 1895 and '96 but an objection in the first year and the narrowest of defeats in the second prevented this. In 1903 the club commenced an unprecedented period of dominance in Tipperary football, winning five county titles in a row. The book traces the fate of the club, mostly in the doldrums, until the next county final in 1931. One highlight of these years was Bloody Sunday in 1920. Seventeen of the nineteen man panel for that Tipperary-Dublin game came from the south and four, Jerry Shelly,

Mikey Tobin, Dick Lanigan and Mick Hogan, were from the parish. Because of his father's illness, Mikey Tobin was unable to travel. Three players from the club, Jerry Shelly, Dick Lanigan and Mickey Tobin, were on the 1920 team, which won Tipperary's last football All-Ireland, played in 1922.

Ballyneale is the other half of the parish and the relationship hasn't always been a happy one. In the thirties each part went its own way and Ballyneale entered teams of their own in both hurling and football. (The former game always tended to be more popular in Ballyneale). In 1943 both ends re-united to take the south junior football championship, but they again went their separate ways in 1946. And, as luck would have it, they were drawn against each other. It took three matches to resolve the conflict, with Ballyneale winning out in the end and going all the way to a county final. Ballyneale also brought the first hurling success to the parish, a divisional junior hurling success in 1948.

With this division in the parish Grangemockler declined as a senior footballing force and returned to that state as a combo only in later years. The story of the club in these years is patchy with 1990 an outstanding year, when four divisional championships were won. By 1992 Grangemockler were back in senior football for the first time in nearly thirty years.

The GAA section is well illustrated and perhaps the length of space available caused important omissions. There is no mention of the Stars of the Sea team from Ballyneale, which won the county schools championship in 1929 under Joseph Manning, N.T. Nor is there any mention of Paddy Blanchfield and James O'Shea, two members of the team, who were on the last Tipperary team to win a minor football All-Ireland in 1934. But these are minor blemishes in a piece that whets the appetite for more.

A more substantial work is the Golden-Kilfeacle parish history. This work started out as a history of the Golden-Kilfeacle GAA club some years back but evolved into a comprehensive work on the parish. There is a fine introduction by Des Marnane in which he places the parish of Golden-Kilfeacle in its



Launch of *Slievenamon in Song and Story* in Kilsheelan. Left to right – Michael O'Meara, Sean Nugent, Micheal Ó Muircheartaigh, Sean Fogarty.

The second publication is *The Blues News*, a production of the Thurles Sarsfields club. Two issues are to hand and a third will be available for the Christmas. The first one highlighted the celebration of All-Ireland medal winners from the club, which was held early in the year, as well as other club news. The publication is a mixture of current club activity and glimpses into the past. It is eight pages long, printed on good quality paper with fine photographic reproductions. An idea for any club which had an able and imaginative member to take on the task. But, be forewarned: such publications cost money and the vast number of club members and players are not inclined to put their hands in their pockets and pay for them.

On the national level, Brendan Fullam's third book in the final one in the popular trilogy, which records the big names of the game of hurling over the past century. His two previous books, *Giants of the Ash* and *Hurling Giants* were well received as they recorded for posterity the hopes and aspirations and personal motivation of the hurling giants of each decade. In *Talking Gaelic* Eamonn Rafferty interviews a host of well-known personalities from player to politician, die-hard to dissenter. President McAleese is included. John O'Leary's story covers the life of a great sportsman, who was first choice goalkeeper for the Dublin senior football team for seventeen years. Finally, in *The Voice from the Sideline* key Gaelic football managers tell us about their management strategies, motivation, discipline, their drive to succeed and their concerns for the future.

I haven't seen any sign of Brian Carthy's, *The Championship 1997*, as yet but I hope it appears. His books for 1995 and 1996 were outstanding records and reference works for those two years' hurling and football championships and it would be a huge gap in GAA literature if the 1997 book wasn't published.

historic setting as a fording point on the Suir and a place of religious settlement. There's a lengthy piece on Athassel Abbey, pieces of reminiscences of parish life in the thirties, forties and fifties, including a nostalgic piece by Frank Delaney, one of the parish's famous sons, the long and strong connection between the parish and greyhounds and horses and accounts of the many clubs, organisations and societies which make the parish work.

Over half the work is devoted to the history of the Golden-Kilfeacle GAA club. The pages of this section make sometimes lively reading as the writer, Senator Willie Ryan, weaves tales from the social life of the period into the sporting life of the parish. The club won its first divisional senior hurling championship in 1969 and repeated the victory three years later. However, in spite of producing a respectable body of players, who have done their parish proud in all grades at county level, – in all, members of the club have won fifty provincial and All-Ireland medals in hurling and football – the club has not been successful in senior hurling since 1972. Football has brought more success. Winning a first west senior football championship in 1980, further honours were won in this grade in 1986, 1988, 1995 and 1996.

The club history comes to an end in 1995 and what a fitting year on which to go out. The year was celebrated many times throughout the parish. Six west titles were won,

senior football, intermediate hurling, junior football, under-21 football, minor football and under-16 hurling. On top of that were county titles in intermediate hurling and under-21 football. Never before in a single year had such a haul of medals come to the hurlers and footballers of Golden-Kilfeacle.

There's an impressive collection of photographs in the book ranging from a land league hut from 1882 to the minor hurling team beaten in the county 'A' final this year, the first time to qualify in thirty years. There's an eight page spread of colour photographs in the centre of the book which adds impressively to the impact of the work. Also, a comprehensive sites and monuments map. Overall a fine production and a model for any parish that hasn't yet produced a history.

Two other publications of smaller scale can be mentioned. The South Board produced *South Tipp '96* a booklet outlining the achievements of the clubs during the year. Mostly pictorial and statistical, it brought together the pictures of all the winning teams, information on finals, intercounty players and sponsors. It contained forty pages and had a bright colourful cover. It was well received and divisional secretary Michael O'Meara, is hoping to bring out a similar record for 1997. The only inhibiting factor is cost but the popularity of the publication may overcome that obstacle.

CAPPAWHITE LADIES

FOOTBALL CLUB 1997

IN THE under 12 Championship Cappawhite played four games and reached the county semi-final where they lost by 5-2 to 3-2 against Templemore. In the previous rounds they had a victory over Monroe but were beaten by Templemore and Ardfinnan who contested the county final which Ardfinnan won.

U12 Panel – Cathy O'Neill (capt.), Ann O'Dwyer, Marion Renehan, Aisling McGrath, Emma Kennedy, Sheelagh Carew, Joanne O'Doherty, Jennifer Buckley, Fiona Fox, Josephine Crowe, Roisin Ryan, Orla Ryan, Mary Morrissey, Denise Renehan, Antionette Murnane, Jayne Clancy, Emma McHugh, Catriona White, Ruth Kennedy, Ann Marie O'Neill, Michelle Grant, Kathleen O'Connor, Elaine Ryan, Aine McGrath, Kay Ryan, Michelle O'Neill, Catherine Cranley, Audrey Dargan.

Cappawhite represented Tipperary in the Feile Peil na nÓg which was held in Donegal. Bundoran was the club which hosted Cappawhite and gave them a wonderful reception. This was the first time that Tipperary ladies were represented at this competition. Cappawhite defeated Bundoran by 2-5 to 2-2 in their first game. In the next round they had a 2-3 to 1-3 win over the Kildare representatives Leixlip. This was followed by a 3-5 to 0-0 win over Ballyshannon which qualified Cappa for the semi-final. They then travelled to Convoy to play Ballygar of Galway. Having lost three players through injury in the previous rounds they were overcome by Ballygar on the score 2-3 to 0-1.

Ballygar went on to win the final so Cappa came very close and considered they could have beaten Ballygar with a full team.

In the skills competition Ann Marie Ashton of Cappawhite took second place. A tired but very happy group returned to Cappa on Sunday night after a hectic weekend.

In preparation for the U14 championship Cappa played six challenge matches including matches in Laois, Limerick and against



Cappawhite County Senior Ladies Football Champions 1997

Front row l to r – Kathleen Cummins, Tracy Maguire, Teresa White, Lisa White, Ann Costello, Siobhan Costello, Yvonne Quinlan, Sandra Barry, Angela McDermott, Niamh Hogan. Back row l to r – Lorraine Barry, Eimear O'Keefe, Aileen Crowe, Triona Hennessy, Ann Marie O'Dwyer, Mairead Crowe, Patricia Crowe, Michelle Ryan, Marie O'Neill, Aileen O'Keefe (capt.), Catriona Fitzgerald, Geraldine Meagher. Missing from photo – Helen McDermott, Rachel Kelly, Ann Breheny, Patricia Bourke.

Ballymacarbury of Waterford. In the championship Cappawhite were in a group with Aherlow and Templemore. In the first game Aherlow defeated Cappa by 2-3 to 0-7 in Tipperary Town. Cappa then defeated Templemore by 4-9 to 2-1. This win put them in the semi-final where they defeated Monroe by 7-5 to 3-0 in New Inn. It was now all go for another meeting with Aherlow in the county final which was played in Bansha after a great game victory went to Aherlow in the score 3-2 to 0-4.

The U14 panel were – Catriona O'Neill, Marion Ryan, Ann Marie Ashton, Marion Renehan, Shellagh Carew, Maire O'Neill, Ann Kennedy, Sinead Buckley, Siobhan Costello, Jane O'Neill, Tracy Maguire, Elaine Renehan (capt.), Denise Horan, Tayna Guerin, Catherine Morrissey, Roisin McCarthy, Fiona Fox, Triona O'Brien, Helen Kennedy, Cathy O'Neill, Ann Treacy, Josephine Crowe, Roisin Ryan, Mary C. O'Neill, Antoinette Murnane, Julie Dargan, Mairead Carew, Jennifer Buckley, Denise Renehan, Amy Quinn.

Cappawhite also took part in the U16 Championship.

In the first game they were beaten by

1-12 to 3-2 by Aherlow in Bansha. In the next game Cappa were beaten 0-3 to 6-8 by Templemore. This ended their championship campaign for 1997.

The U16 panel were – Catriona O'Neill, Lisa Buckley, Patricia Crowe, Mairead Crowe, Sandra Barry, Marie O'Neill, Ann Marie Ashton, Aileen Crowe, Tracy Maguire, Siobhan Costello, Tina Barry, Teresa White, Orla McCarthy, Faustina Renehan, Kathleen Cummins (capt.), Niamh Dunne, Sarah Carr, Susan English, Marguerite Crowe, Margo Horan, Louise Renehan, Alice O'Connor, Sinead Ellis, Michelle Ryan, Mary C. O'Neill, Elaine Renehan, Sinead Buckley, Alice Ryan, Aisling Barry.

On our senior league in which 6 teams took part Cappawhite had victories over Slievenamon and Aherlow. They were beaten by Ardfinnan and drew with Brian Borus and Templemore. A win against Templemore in their last game would have taken them into the league final but the match ended level.

In the senior championship Cappa started the campaign against Brian Borus in Golden but were beaten by 1-

9 to 3-2. In the next game Cappa defeated Slievenamon by 3-11 to 1-3 in Cashel. This was followed by 3-4 to 0-8 victory over Templemore. Cappa then received a walkover from Aherlow. Cappa were now in the County Semi-Final against Templemore which was played in Drombane on the 19th October. Cappa got off to a great start in this game with a few early goals and ended up winning by 4-2 to 0-2.

The scene was set then for the County Final played in New Inn on the 16th November against Brian Borus. The game started well for Cappa and showing great skills they led Brian Borus by 1-3 to 0-1 at half time after playing with the wind.

The second half was a very exciting game. It was end to end, heroic defending, clever attacking and bouts of individual brilliance, by both sides. Brian Borus came strongly in the second half and within minutes had two points by Nora Noonan who was to prove a thorn in the Cappa side for the remainder of the game. Cappa withstood the early pressure and Ann Marie O'Dwyer blasted a 20 meter free into the top corner of the net. Brian Borus replied quickly with a minor from Nora Noonan. She quickly followed with a goal after good approach play by the south Tipp girls. Minutes later she appeared to have Cappa's heart broken when she worked her way through for a well taken goal. It looked all over for Cappa, when shortly afterwards the ball was deflected into the Cappa net off the outstretched hand of a defender. Ann Marie O'Dwyer gave Cappa something to cheer about when she pointed. By this stage the wind was stronger and Brian Borus were taking

their chances well and defending stoutly. A quick break saw that girl, Nora Noonan again strike to give Brian Borus 4-4 to 2-4 lead with about 10 minutes to go. At this stage Cappa threw everything into attack.

Star of the show, Angela McDermott came storming into the attack and made a series of piercing runs through the Brian Borus defence. Ann Marie O'Dwyer pointed a free and Tracy Maguire followed with a similar score. Cappa's other star Ann Marie O'Dwyer blasted another free to the net to leave the minimum between the sides. It was fitting that it should be Angela McDermott who after a bout of intense Cappa pressure slotted over the equaliser with only seconds remaining shortly afterwards. Sean Toomey blew the final whistle to end this pulsating game. In addition to those already mentioned Cappa had good performances from Michelle Ryan, Patricia Crowe, Sandra Barry, Triona Hennessey, Siobhan Costello and Ann Costello and sub Geraldine Meagher.

It was back then again to New Inn on Sunday 23rd November for the replay which Cappawhite won on a score of Cappawhite 4-2, Brian Borus 3-1.

Scorers: Cappawhite – Ann Costello (2-0), Geraldine Ryan Meagher (1-1), Ann Marie O'Dwyer (1-0), Mairead Crowe (0-1). **Brian Borus** – Nora Noonan (1-1), Siobhan O'Dwyer (1-0), Suzanne Wall (1-0).

TEAMS

Cappawhite – Yvonne Quinlan, Michelle Ryan, Aideen O'Keefe (capt.), Patricia Crowe, Sandra Barry, Triona Hennessey, Marie O'Neill, Angela McDermot, Lisa White,

Catriona Fitzgerald, Geraldine Ryan Meagher, Siobhan Costello, Mairead Crowe, Ann Marie O'Dwyer and Ann Costello. **Subs** – Aileen Crowe, Tracy Maguire, Lorraine Barry, Eimear O'Keefe, Helen McDermot, Rachel Kelly, Teresa White, Kathleen Cummins, Niamh Hogan, Ann Breheny and Patricia Bourke.

Brian Borus – Eileen Myles, Audrey Wyse, Lisa Kenneally, Emma Wall, Lisa Fitzgerald, Helen Norris, Mary T. Slattery, Orla Fleming, Geraldine Barry, Karen Barry, Terry Hennessey, Mary Kenneally, Suzanne Wall, Nora Noonan and Siobhan O'Dwyer. **Subs** – Ann McGrath, Aoife O'Dwyer and Fiona Daly.

Referee Sean Twomey of Arravale Rovers handled the game well in very demanding conditions.

Cappawhite were represented by Marie O'Neill, Siobhan Costello, Ann Marie Ashton, Sinead Buckley and Tracy Maguire on the Tipperary U14 team which reached the Munster final against Kerry.

Patricia Crowe and Sandra Barry played on the U16 County team. Eimear O'Keefe and Lisa White played on the U18 County team. In the Junior, Catriona Fitzgerald, Eimear O'Keefe and Ann Marie O'Dwyer represented Cappa on the County team.

The officers of the club for 1997 were:

Chairperson	Eugene Maguire
Vice-Chairperson	Ann Costello
Secretary	Cecilia Walsh
Assistant Secretary	Patricia Walsh
Treasurer	Marian Crowe
P.R.O.	Josephine Crowe



At Tipperary Association Person of the Year Awards left to right – Jim Dunne, Seamus McCarthy, Adi Roche, Liz Howard, Paddy Morrissey.

Mid Tipperary Review '97

BOARD OFFICERS

President: Bob Stakelum (Holycross-Ballycahill)
Chairman: Harry Ryan (Moycarkey-Borris)
Vice-Chairman (2): Michael Bourke (Upperchurch-Drombane)
Pat Gleeson (Loughmore-Castleiney)
Treasurer: John O'Donovan (Rahealty-Kickhams)
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Asst. Sec: Noel Murphy (Thurles Sarsfields)
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ALL THE RESULTS

McLoughlin Road Markings Senior Hurling Final
Sunday 20th September at Semple Stadium
Holycross-Ballycahill 1-17 Boherlahan-Dualla 0-4
Ref. D. Curtis

Centenary Rooms Intermediate Hurling Final
Saturday November 1st at The Ragg
J.K. Brackens 8-19 Holycross-Ballycahill 2-4
Ref. P.J. Hewitt

Roadstone Provinces Junior A Hurling Final
at Holycross
J.K. Brackens 4-11 Drom-Inch 2-13

Irish Pride Bakeries Junior B Hurling Final
Sunday 19th October at Castleiney
Drom-Inch 1-5 Thurles Sarsfields 0-6
Ref. J. Sweeney

Roadstone Provinces U21A Hurling Final
Sunday 16th November at The Ragg
Thurles Sarsfields 0-13 Boherlahan Dualla 1-9
Ref. W. Clohessy

Vale Oil Thurles U21B Hurling Final
Saturday 20th September at Holycross
J.K. Brackens 2-9 Moycarkey-Borris 1-12
Ref. R. Lowry

Replay
Saturday 27th September at Holycross
J.K. Brackens 2-11 Moycarkey-Borris 0-14
Ref. R. Lowry

Supermacs Minor A Hurling Final
Saturday 20th September at Holycross
Drom-Inch 1-17 Thurles Sarsfields 0-7
Ref. M. Greene

Thurles Credit Union Minor B Hurling Final
Saturday 13th September at The Ragg
Boherlahan-Dualla 3-10 J.K. Brackens 1-5
Ref. J.P. Stakelum

Cahill Cup Final
Monday June 2nd at Holycross
Thurles Sarsfields 2-12 Holycross-Ballycahill 3-7
Ref. P. Cullen

Junior A Hurling League Final
Friday 6th June at Templemore
Drom-Inch 3-11 J.K. Brackens 2-3
Ref. P.J. Leahy

Junior B Hurling League Final
Thurles Sarsfields 1-13 Clonakenny 1-8

Junior C Hurling League Final
at Holycross
Holycross-Ballycahill 6-7 Thurles Fennellys 2-10
Ref. R. Lowry

Senior Football League Final
Saturday 28th June at Clonmore
Loughmore-Castleiney 0-9 Moyne-Templetuohy 0-7
Ref. J. O'Shea

Hibernian Insurance Senior Football Final
Friday 15th August at Templemore
Loughmore-Castleiney 0-12 Gortnahoe Gaels 1-6
Ref. Jim O'Shea

U21A Football Final
Saturday 19th April at The Ragg
Loughmore C 0-19 Holycross-Ballycahill
Ref. T. Maher

U21B Football Final
Saturday 12th April at Holycross
Moycarkey-Borris 2-4 Gortnahoe G. 1-4
Ref. Martin Treacy

Minor A Football Final
Wednesday 6th August at The Ragg
Holycross-Ballycahill 1-7 J.K. Brackens 0-10
Ref. B. Lowth

Replay (after extra time)
Wednesday 13th August at The Ragg
Holycross-Ballycahill 2-13 J.K. Brackens 2-12
Ref. B. Lowth

Minor B Football Final
Friday 1st August at Boherlahan
Moycarkey-Borris 1-8 Boherlahan-Dualla 2-2
Ref. J. Sweeney

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Mid Tipperary Review '97



◀ The Loughmore-Castleiney panel that defeated Thurles Fennellys (and the fog) to win the Mid Tipperary junior 'B' football title at Drombane. Back row (l to r) – Taffee McGrath, Paddy Henessy, Murtagh Brennan, David Connell, Timmy Connolly, John Paul Russell, Stephen Maher, Michael Connell, Patrick Gleeson, Pat Treacy. Front row – Jimmy McGrath, John Paul Foy, Gerry Sweeney (captain), Kevin Kelly, Damien Cullen, Tom Maher, Gary Sweeney, John Treacy.

▷ Referees and Boards officers of Mid Tipperary GAA photographed at a function in the Park Avenue House Hotel

Standing (l to r) – Philly Ryan, J.P. Stakelum, Tom Maher, Martin Treacy, Michael Jordan, Denis Curtis, Brinsley Lowth, John Ryan, Jim O'Shea, Pat Cullen, Willie Clohessy, all referees. Seated – Liam Connolly, P.J. Hewitt, referees; Sean Mockler, former chairman of the Board who was the recipient of a presentation at the function; John O'Donovan, Mid GAA Board treasurer; Harry Ryan, Mid Board chairman; P.J. Leahy, referee; Matty Connolly, Mid Board secretary; Michael Greene, referee.



Officers of Mid Tipperary GAA Board with some of the sponsors of this years Mid hurling and football championships. Included are seated l to r – Michael Grogan, Irish Pride Bakeries (Junior 'B' hurling); John Mullen, Thurles Credit Union (Minor 'B' hurling); Enda Walsh, Thurles Credit Union; Harry Ryan, chairman Mid Tipperary GAA board; John Houlihan, Barlo Thurles (Junior Football); Michael Heffernan, Barlo Thurles; D.J. Darcy, MacLochlainn Roadmarkings (Senior hurling). Standing – Noel Murphy, Assistant Secretary Mid GAA Board; John Curran, Thurles Credit Union; Darragh Lambe, 'Supermacs', Thurles (Minor 'A' hurling); Sean Whelan, Vale Oil, Thurles (Under-21 'B' hurling); Larry Mackey, Mackeys Lounge Bar, Thurles (Intermediate football); Dick Corrigan, Roadstone Provinces (Under-21 'A' hurling); John O'Donovan, Treasurer Mid GAA Board; Matty Connolly, secretary Mid GAA Board.

Mid Tipperary Review '97



The Holycross-Ballycahill team which regained the Mid senior hurling title by defeating Boherlahan-Dualla in the MacLochlainn Roadmarking Mid senior hurling final at Semple Stadium

Back row (l to r) – Paul Maher, Noel Maher, Declan Quinlan, William Ryan, Michael Ferncombe, Paudie Lee, Donal Ryan, John Butler. Front row – Tony Lanigan, David Burke, Timmy Gleeson, Phil Dwyer (captain), John Ferncombe, Philip Ryan, Richard Doyle.



The Loughmore-Castleiney team which regained the Hibernian Insurance (Thurles) Mid senior football championship title by defeating Gortnahoe Gaels in the final at Templemore on Friday last

Back row (l to r) – Noel Kennedy, Philip Kennedy, Ned Ryan, David Kennedy, Declan Laffan, Mick McGrath (K), Pat McGrath. Front row – Tim Cullen, Noel Cahill, John Kennedy, Seamie Bohan, Dominic Brennan, Michael McGrath, Paul Ormonde, Michael Ormonde (captain). Mascot: Noel McGrath.



The Drom-Inch panel that won the 'Supermacs' Mid minor 'A' hurling title defeating Thurles Sarsfields at Holycross

Back row (l to r) – Darren Kennedy, Eamonn Buckley, Robert Hicks, Micheál Cahill, Pdraig Butler, Shane Kennedy, Seamus Walsh, Trevor O'Connor, Damien Young, Noel Kenehan, Mattie Ryan, Daniel McGrath, John Kiely, Eamonn Ryan, Michael Scanlon, John Cahill, Fergal Mccloughlin, P.J. Shanahan. Front row – Martin Butler, John Kennedy, Liam Brett, Brian Boyle, Paul Stapleton, Michael Cahill (captain), Liam Kennedy, MacDara Butler, Brian Costello, Alan Ryan, Seamus Butler, William Ryan, Kieran McGrath.

Mid Tipperary Review '97



The Holycross-Ballycahill panel and selectors which won the Mid minor 'A' football final after extra-time in the replay against J.K. Brackens in The Ragg

Back row (l to r) – Declan Ryan (selector), Thomas Dillon, Alan Dermody, Thomas Hayes, Frank Dwan, Michael Hayes, Daragh Duggan, William O’Gorman, Bobby Stakelum, Robert Quinlan, John Fogarty, Kevin Ryan, Noel Ryan, Liam McCullagh, Peter O’Donoghue, Brendan Bannon (selector), Liam McGrath (selector). Front – John Ferncombe, Paul Fogarty, Stephen Flanagan, Paul Gould, Paul Dwyer (captain), Mark Fogarty, Shay Doyle, Liam Judge, Kevin O’Riordan, Jack Doyle. Mascot Denis Ferncombe.



The Boherlahan-Dualla panel that won the Thurles Credit Union Mid minor 'B' hurling title by defeating J.K. Brackens at The Ragg

Back row (l to r) – Gary Kearney, John Dwyer, Patrick O’Brien, Karl Walsh, Pdraig Ryan, David Maher, Eoin O’Connor, Declan Donnelly, Edmund O’Dwyer (captain), Denis Leamy, Patrick Maher. Front row – Michael O’Dwyer, Michael Maher, John Edward O’Connor, Johnny Maher, John Paul Ferncombe, Laurence Hickey, David Burke, David Flanagan, Eamonn Donnelly.



The Moycarkey-Borris panel which won the Mid Tipperary minor 'B' football title by defeating Boherlahan-Dualla in the final at Boherlahan.

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Mid Tipperary Review '97



The Thurles Sarsfields team that won the Roadstone Provinces Ltd. Mid under-21 'A' hurling title by defeating Boherlahan-Dualla by the narrowest of margins in the final played at The Ragg

Back row (l to r) – Mark Wade, Paudie Ryan, John O'Dwyer, John Enright, Brian O'Grady, Gary Mernagh, John Bowe, Colin Coppinger. Front row – Gary Coppinger, Lar Mackey, Tommy Collins, Matthew O'Dowd (captain), Niall O'Riordan, T.J. Maher, David O'Riordan.



LEFT: The Loughmore-Castleiney panel which defeated Aherlow in the county under-21 'A' football final at Cashel
Back row (l to r) – Michael Walsh, David Kennedy, Kieran Webster, Paul Maher, Donal Bolger, Ollie Ryan, Tom Foy, Micheál Webster, Thomas Ryan, Pat Nolan, Dominic Brennan, Murtagh Brennan, Martin Cosgrave. Front row – Tom King, David O'Connell, Joseph Sweeney, Michael Brennan, Johnny Gleeson, Gary Sweeney, David Sweeney, Alvy Stapleton, Joe Danagher (captain), Paul Ormond, Brian Webster, John Paul Foy, Liam Brennan. Mascot: Evan Sweeney.



The J.K. Brackens panel that beat Moycarkey-Borris in the Thurles Vale Oil Ltd. Mid under-21 'B' hurling final at Holycross.

Back row (l to r) – Andrew Kelly, Darren Owens (captain), Phonsie Deegan, James Maher, Paddy Kirwan, Kevin Mulryan, Adrian Moynihan, Paul Doyle, Benny Fogarty, Michael Fogarty, Brendan Guidera, Michael Cahill. Front row – David Bourke, Aidan Bourke, Aidan Doyle, Eamonn Corcoran, Aidan Ivers, Richard Grimes, Philly Ryan, Michael Grimes, Kevin Ivers, David Maher.



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Tiobraid Árann Mean



Mid Tipperary G.A.A. Board

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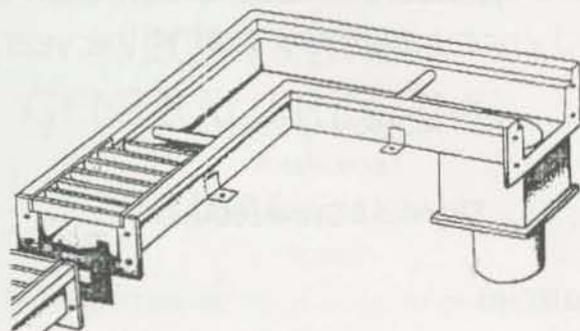
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Mid Tipperary Review '97

MOYCARKEY-BORRIS U-21 MID & COUNTY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

In the Mid championship the team defeated Drom-Inch by 1-12 to 0-3 and Gortnahoe-Glengoole by 2-4 to 1-4 in the divisional final. In the county semi-final Moycarkey-Borris defeated Kilruane McDonaghs by 1-9 to 2-1 and thus qualified to meet Ballyporeen, in the county decider at New Inn. Playing with a gale force wind in the first 30 minutes the Mid side led by 1-6 to 1-3 and the result looked ominous. Anthony Kirby was the goal scorer. But against the wind Moycarkey played with great determination with the defence magnificent limiting the South team to just 3 points and with the attack snapping up any chances that came their way. Two goals of rare quality from Pat Coman and David Minchin and a Ken Ryan point left the final score Moycarkey-Borris 3-7, Ballyporeen 1-6. Captain Noel Butler received the trophy from Mr Michael Frawley, chairman of Tipperary football Board amid great scenes of jubilation. This victory was only the second ever county football final won by the club, the other the 1980 intermediate crown.



County Champions – The Moycarkey-Borris panel which won the club's first ever under-21 football title by defeating Ballyporeen in the county under-21 'B' final at New Inn.

Back row (l to r) – Matthew Shortall, James Cashin, David Bannon, David Minchin, Danny Meaney, Kevin O'Regan, Robert Doran, Robert Clancy, Tomás Coman, Donal Donnelly, William Cashin, Nicky Hogan, Anthony Kirby, Michael Shortall. Front row – Paddy Shanahan, Kevin Shortall, Michael O'Regan, Brian Lamphier, Noel Maher, Thomas Kelly, Patrick Coman, Conal O'Reilly, Michael Hassett, Noel Butler (captain), T.J. Ryan, Ken Ryan.



The J.K. Brackens panel that won the Mid Junior 'A' hurling title by defeating Drom-Inch at Holycross

Back row (l to r) – James Maher, Peter Bourke, Phonsie Deegan, Ray Doyle, Seán Scully, David Bourke, Ronan Loughnane, Paddy Kirwan, Benny Fogarty, Tommy Conroy, Aidan Bourke, Andrew Kelly, Seamus Bourke, Paul Doyle, Kevin Mulryan, John Martin, James Cahill. Front row – Aidan Ivers, John Ivers, Richard Grimes, John Fitzgerald, Seán Percy, Eamonn Corcoran, Aidan Russell, John Maher (captain), Raymond Burke, Michael Cahill, Kevin Ivers, Michael Grimes, David Maher.



The Boherlahan-Dualla team which won the Mid Tipperary junior 'A' football title by defeating J.K. Brackens at Holycross

Back row (l to r) – Brian Dwyer, James Tarrant, Robert Hunt, Sean Corbett, John Wardick, Alan Wade, T.J. O'Dwyer, Philip O'Dwyer. Front row – David Ryan, Tommy O'Dwyer, Pio Delaney (captain), Philip Ryan, William Hickey, Conor Gleeson, Liam Maher.

Mid Tipperary Review '97



The Drum-Inch panel which won the Irish Pride Bakeries Mid junior 'B' hurling title by defeating Thurles Sarsfields at Castleiney

Back row (l to r) – Danny McGrath, Matthew Cahill, Richard Kennedy, Noel Kenehan, Tommy Kennedy (captain), Tommy Kenneally, Eddie Kinane, Pdraig Butler, Mike Shanahan, Oliver Dwan, Sean Ryan, Bill Callanan. Front row – Benny Kennedy, Andy Kenehan, Brendan McGrath, Adrian Dempsey, Matthew Ryan, Seamus Hassett, Bernard Looby, Michael Bourke, Noel McLoughlin, Willie Lowry, Trevor O'Connor.



The Thurles Sarsfields team that won the Cahill Cup by defeating Holycross-Ballycahill in the final at Holycross

Back row (l to r) – Gary Mernagh, Tommy Kennedy, Eamon Walshe, Brendan Carroll, Peter Broderick, John Callanan, Johnny Enright, Pat Murray, Connie Maher. Front row – Thomas Ryan, Matthew O'Dowd, Tommy Maher, Seamus Quinn, John Dorney, Ciaran Carroll.



The J.K. Brackens panel and selectors that won the Centenary Rooms Mid intermediate hurling title by defeating Holycross-Ballycahill at The Ragg

Back row (l to r) – Seán Scully, David Bourke, Paddy Kirwan, Michael Larkin, Michael Delaney, Seán Collum, Michael Marnell, Martin Bourke, Paddy Clarke, P.J. Corcoran, Darren Owens, Batt Bourke, John Maher, Benny Fogarty, Kevin Mulryan, Ronan Loughnane, James Cahill, Ray Doyle, Michael Corcoran (selector). Front row – John Fitzgerald, Aidan Ivors, Seamus Bourke, Seán Cashman, Aidan Doyle, Donal Bourke (captain), Seamus Delaney, Paddy Marnell, Anthony Marnell, Eamonn Corcoran, Seán Percy, Michael Cahill, Richard Grimes, Aidan Russell, William Cahill, Johnny Loughnane (selector).



The Upperchurch-Drombane team which won the County Intermediate Hurling league title by defeating Thurles Sarsfields in the final at Holycross

Back row (l to r) – Jerry Ryan, Darren Keane, Sean Purcell, Jim Ryan, Seamus Armstrong, Pdraig Hayes (captain), L.T. Ryan, Pdraig Burke. Front row – Pat Leamy, John Keane, Brian Phelan, Michael O'Dwyer, Michael Ryan, Seamus Griffin, Tomas Keane.



The Thurles Sarsfields panel which won the Mid Tipperary Junior Hurling League (Group 2) final at Castleiney.

Back row (l to r) – Denis Maher, Seán Ryan, Stephen Mason, Jerry Nolan, Jason Kavanagh, John Bowe, Jim Corbett, Tony Coman, Trevor Cooke, Eugene McAree, Pat McCormack (B), Lar Barrett. Front row – Seamus Brophy, Michael Bowe, Tommy Collins, Leonard Philips, John Purcell, Eamonn Stakelum (captain), Rory Purcell, Sean Mullaney, Andy Rossiter.

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Mid Tipperary Review '97



Chairman of Mid Tipperary GAA Board, Harry Ryan (second from left) presents the Tom O'Hara Memorial Shield of 'Man of the Match' Timmy Gleeson (Holycross-Ballycahill) following his outstanding contribution to his team's defeat of neighbours Boherlahan-Dualla in the MacLochlainn Roadmarkings Mid senior hurling final at Semple Stadium. Also included in photograph are Matty Connolly, secretary Mid GAA Board (left) and Noel Murphy, assistant secretary Mid GAA Board.



Harry Ryan (from left) presenting the 'Senior Club of the Year' award to Boherlahan-Dualla delegates at the Board's Annual Convention at Sarsfields Social Centre. Included are (front, l to r) - Harry Ryan, Mid Board chairman; John Devane, Boherlahan-Dualla club chairman; Matty Connolly, Boherlahan-Dualla and secretary Mid GAA Board. At back are club officers (l to r) - P.J. Maher, vice-chairman; Liam O'Dwyer, treasurer and Co. Board Munster Council rep.; Billy Maher, outgoing chairman and Bob McLoughlin, secretary.



Incoming chairman of Mid Tipperary GAA Board, Harry Ryan (from left) presenting the 'Junior/Intermediate Club of the Year' award to Upperchurch-Drombane delegates at the Board's Annual Convention at Sarsfields Social Centre. Included in photograph are (front) - Harry Ryan and Donal Hayes, club secretary. At back are club officers - Phil Lowry, vice-chairman; Tommy Ryan, treasurer and Michael Bourke, club chairman.



President of Mid Tipperary GAA, Bob Stakelum (left), presents the Mid Tipperary GAA 'Hall of Fame' award to Martin 'Sonny' Maher, Boherlahan-Dualla, at last January's Annual Convention.



Photograph shows chairman of Mid Tipperary GAA Board, Harry Ryan (second from left) making a presentation to the previous chairman, Seán Mockler, at a Board function in the Park Avenue House, Thurles. Also included in photograph are Matty Connolly, secretary Mid GAA Board (left) and John O'Donovan, treasurer Mid Board (right).

Mid Tipperary Review '97



Photograph taken at Park Avenue House, Thurles, show members of Mid Tipperary GAA clubs who completed a First Aid course organised jointly by the Mid GAA Board and the Thurles Unit of the Knights of Malta. Included are (seated, l to r) – Thomas Curtis, Moyne-Templetuohy; Mary Ryan, Gortnahoe-Glengoole; Lieut. Denis Jordan, Thurles Unit Knights of Malta; Harry Ryan, chairman Mid Tipperary GAA Board; Sean Hickey, Gortnahoe-Glengoole. Standing Edmund O'Dwyer, Boherlahan-Dualla; Declan Donnelly, Boherlahan-Dualla; Brendan Gavin, Moyne-Templetuohy; Jimmy Leahy, Moycarkey-Borris; Colm Ryan, Moycarkey-Borris; Jimmy Meighan, Gortnahoe-Glengoole; Denis Maher, Thurles Sarsfields; David Fogarty, Moycarkey-Borris.



Upperchurch NS 'A' team, winners of the Mid Tipperary Primary Schools GAA Table Quiz, photographed with some of the organisers of the competition after the presentation of prizes. The quiz took place in Loughmore Hall. Included are (seated l to r) – Noel Ryan, Philip Bourke (captain), Michael Ryan (D) and Claire Quinn, all team members. Standing – Martin Treacy, secretary Mid Bord na nÓg; Maria Morrissey, Co. Board Youth Officer; P.J. Harrington, principal Upperchurch NS; Matty Connolly, secretary Mid GAA Senior Board; Andy O'Gorman, Mid GAA Board Youth Officer.

Coiste Tiobraid Árann Meanach

The Board wishes to thank Clubs, Gaels and Sponsors of Mid Tipperary for their continuing support in the promotion of Gaelic Games in our Division. Congratulations to all Divisional and to Championship winners.



Officers of Mid Tipperary GAA Board photographed at their Annual Convention at Sarsfields Social Centre.

Seated (l to r) – Noel Murphy, Assistant Secretary; John O'Donovan, Treasurer; Harry Ryan, elected chairman at the Convention; Matty Connolly, Secretary and PRO; Bob Stakelum, President; Michael Bourke, Vice-chairman and Co. Board Junior Clubs Rep.; Pat Gleeson, Vice-chairman. Standing – John Ryan, County Development Officer; Jim Max, Semple Stadium Rep.; John Moloughney, Co. Board Junior Clubs Rep.; Andy O'Gorman, Youth Officer; Pat Cullen, Co. Board Trustee; Liam O'Dwyer, Munster Council Rep.

Sarsfields honour former stars

By Michael Dundon

It was like a who's who of Tipperary hurling. Players whose exploits are legendary gathered together for a unique re-union. The occasion was the coming-together of the Sarsfields teams of the fifties and sixties who won an unmatched and probably never-to-be-matched ten Tipperary senior hurling championships in eleven years from '55 to '65.

The brainchild of club chairman, Liam O'Donnchú and secretary Ger Corbett who spearheaded the hard-working committee which brought to reality the organiser's dream, it was a marvellous evening, as old acquaintances were renewed, great triumphs again celebrated and absent colleagues remembered in an atmosphere of delightful conviviality.

After all who could remain straight-faced when Mickey "Rattler" Byrne, fearsome defender over three decades which saw him win a record fourteen county championships, is in full flight with his hilarious accounts of the characters whose doings have enriched hurling history over the years.

It can safely be said that no other club could have had together in one room such an array of talent. All-Ireland cap-



Liam Ó Donnchú (Sarsfield's chairman) makes a special presentation to Mick Craddock of the 1929 championship team, at the re-union.

tains Tony Wall, Jimmy Doyle and Mick Murphy headed a galaxy of stars whose accumulation of silverware and medals is beyond counting. Mickey Byrne, Flor Coffey, Connie and Larry Keane, Ray Reidy, Bobby Mockler, Noel Murphy, Martin "Musha" Maher, Paddy Doyle and Seán McLoughlin were among the senior All-Ireland medal winners in attendance, along with a "slua" of players who between them have won hundreds of Tipperary championships.

There was a special welcome on the night for Mick Craddock of the club's championship winning side of 1929, who was made a presentation by the chairman.

Club officers of the period were not forgotten either, with former patrons, Very Rev. James Feehan and Canon William Noonan there to join in the reminiscences with former secretary Mícheál Small.

Indicative of the extraordinary spirit among the group was the lengths that people went to, to be present. Seamus Browne travelled all the way from Mayo for the occasion and there was a large

contingent from Dublin. Mick Fogarty, a Galway selector in recent times, crossed the Channon while Anne Ryan, widow of the late "Little Tommy" Ryan came from Cork.

T. J. Semple, himself a great clubman and inter-county player lent the presence of the famed hurling Blue's name to the event.

Liam Ó Donnchú in his address spoke of the pride the club had in the achievements of the players present on the occasion and told them they would always be remembered. He hoped that their deeds would serve to inspire the Sarsfields players of the future.

The hurling get-together was the forerunner of a similar event for the Thurles Crokes football team which won a county senior football title in 1960. That year, Sarsfields winning sequence in hurling was halted by Toomevara but many of the club's hurlers added to their county medal collection by assisting the Croke's selection which won the county championship.

This too was a great evening and thoroughly enjoyed by the big turn-out.



At the annual social, presentations were made to the members of Thurles Crokes panel who won the county senior football final in 1960. Photograph taken at the social shows the members of the panel following the presentations. Seated (l-r): Mícheál Maher, Mícheál McElgunn, Martin Maher, Tommy Barrett, Nial O'Dea (captain of the team), Eddie Maher, Noel Maher, Paddy Doyle, Thomas Callanan. Standing: Larry Keane, Frank Brolan, Tom O'Neill, Tony Casey, Seán McLoughlin, Fr. Ray Reidy, Michael Craddock, Gerry Gardiner, Pat O'Brien, Owne Durkin, John Corcoran, Jimmy Doyle.

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Remembering

JOHNNY and MUTT

By: JOHN O'GRADY

JOHNNY RYAN

IF CAN BE SAID of few brothers that they were born in the same year – and died in the same year.

That chronological oddity was not the only thing in which Johnny and "Mutt" Ryan were alike. The year was 1914 and the likeness was that each won an All-Ireland for Tipperary as well as County and Mid Championships for Moycarkey-Borris, along with their brother Paddy ("Sweeper"). Larry, Timmy and Billy also played for the parish.

Johnny's particular achievement came to him in his early twenties. He was left wing back, flanking John Maher and fronting captain Jim Lanigan at Killarney in 1937 when they readily saw off the Kilkenny challenge in a final transferred from Dublin because of the building of the Cusack Stand. And curiously enough Johnny's nickname all his hurling life and afterwards was "Cusack".

Three years earlier he had won the County title with his parish in the last of a three-in-a-row in a side led, in every sense, by the powerful Phil Purcell. A second came to him, along with the national crown, in 1937 but the following year's selection by his club fell foul of the notorious "Cooney Case" – Clare objected to Jimmy Cooney on a technicality in his "declaration" from Dublin for his native county. It originated in suspension under the Ban.

So, discounting the strange episode of 1941 – Tipp. winning the Munster final in October after Cork had won the All-Ireland in the absence of Tipp. and others due to the "Foot and Mouth" outbreak and a restriction on travel – it wasn't until 1945 that Johnny – in company with Mutt and "Sweeper" – won further championship reward.

He played all the way up to the final – his marking of Cork's forward sprinter Joe Kelly came to be regarded as his "finest hour" – but an unfortunate injury in a junior football game put him out of the September side. This was a cruel turn of fate in another way – "Sweeper" was brought on for the final, "Mutt" of course held his



Mutt and Johnny Ryan.

place, and a truly remarkable three-some was on the cards until that wretched episode prevented it.

Johnny's ability was recognised also by Munster in a period when there was a wealth of great backmen – he was on the winning selection of 1942 beside the famous John Keane of Waterford. On the club front the following season, 1943, brought one of his greatest disappointments in a Moycarkey-Borris jersey. The hottest of favourites to take their first since 1940, they led Anacarty Eire Óg into the last quarter. Legend has it that Johnny ventured downfield towards the town goal as they sought to put the issue beyond all doubt, only for a clearance to reach Willie O'Donnell for a goal – and Tom Jaye to score another immediately and take the title to the West. Legend also says that celebratory casks remained unopened in Littleton, Horse and Jockey and Two-Mile-Borris!

He hurled on for many years – he was on the 1948 team which lost at Gaile in a famous match to the rising Holycross-Ballycahill men who featured the young Stakelum and Doyle. Johnny's final appearance was in 1956 against Sarsfields in a Mid decider – he had played for well over twenty seasons.

All that is history and statistics, but it was the man, the personality that raised him above the common level. Nobody was a better raconteur of old times, the legendary hurlers he saw in his youth, the details and the highlights. Thankfully his voice lives on in taped interviews, especially one with Donncha Ó Dulaing. He had a grand sense of the nobility and the chivalry of the game. It didn't matter where a player was from, county or parish – Johnny gave due honour to any hurler of ability.

He had a particular link with the Kilkenny, Cork and Limerick men of his time and he kept up contact and friendships as best he could. One day a knock on his door brought him out to look in momentary puzzlement at a visitor. The stranger said to him – "nineteen forty-five" and was a stranger no longer. "Joe Kelly!" exclaimed Johnny and welcomed in the priest for warm reminiscences. His party piece was to recite that balled on a famous fracas: *The Battle of New Ross*.

Johnny held extremely well into old age, a respected – even loved – patriarch of the camán. The passing of his wife Katie, sister of the old parish goal-keeper Tommy Kelly, was a blow from

which he never fully recovered, and he followed her within a brief period. The funeral was what he deserved, a remarkable tribute from many counties and parishes to one of the game's great players and one of its most delightful characters.

MUTT RYAN

IF JOHNNY RYAN had the height, the poise and measured judgement of a classic defender, Mutt had the more volatile temperament, the fire and the quickness of a very fine forward, good enough to gain the highest honours.

He was on the winning 1933 minors and his Tipp. career extended to 1948 and the important "breakthrough" victory over Cork at Thurles in the League Final in the Spring of '49.

The peak was, of course, the 1945 All-Ireland, another very much needed come-back to the top for Tipperary after the blank since 1937. If one score stood out and was always remembered to his credit, it was the goal he scored from below the old stand into the town goal at a vital stage of the second half.

The "unlucky 13th" was secured against Kilkenny by a good margin, but the "famine" returned with three years of first round defeat by Limerick until the 1948 League – the final in early '49 – raised Tipp's morale. Mutt's career ended before the three-in-a-row side of 1949-'51 elevated the Blue and Gold to unprecedented heights.

Moycarkey-Borris defeated Cashel – Mick Burke the biggest name on the opposing teams – in both 1937 and 1940. Mutt was very prominent in those finals as the victors accumulated eleven goals between the two. The *Star* report credited him with "spectacular solos" in the 1940 decider.

A year later in the delayed Munster Final against Cork at Limerick Johnny was captain – he shared in that eight point win over the "official" All-Ireland champions from his regular place on the right wing.

An amusing – if unorthodox – incident early in 1945 involved Mutt and Tommy Doyle. They were Tipp's wing forwards in the eventual triumph, but went mightily close to being unavailable for a tough championship opener against Waterford. A tournament game at the Sportsfield between Sarsfields and Moycarkey-Borris got heated enough to have the referee

decide to dismiss both of them. A swift intervention by an alarmed Fr. Phil Fogarty led to them being 'reprieved' and Tipp. along with them, perhaps! If Mutt was a skilled ball-player he also had plenty of "sting" in him, as that episode demonstrated.

He had a very droll way with him and was always good for a quotable comment. When in later years he took up golf in the Thurles club, along with "Sweeper", Paddy Maher and Fr. Dinny O'Meara, he brought a personal angle to the vocabulary of the game!

A ball gone into a bunker was said to have found "the sand-pit". A shot finishing close to the flag was saluted as being "welded to the stick". There was a good deal of hurling in his wristy swing but he brought good timing and an eye for a ball from the other code, and he was a very effective partner in a fourball. It was a new lease of life for him, out in the fresh air, in good company, and with a competitive aspect that suited his temperament.

Sad as the occasion was, there were smiles among the large attendance in Littleton cemetery when the excellent tribute by County Secretary Tommy Barrett recalled some of Mutt's characteristic witticisms along with the highlights of his hurling life.

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County Bord na nÓg Results at a glance – 1997

HURLING:

U-12 'A' hurling	Toomevara 10-3	Killenaule 1-3
U-14 'A' hurling	Toomevara 1-7	Cahir 0-6
U-14 'B' hurling	Loughmore/C'iney 4-7	Rosegreen 1-7
U-16 'B' hurling	Moyne/T'uoohy 3-12	Newcastle 1-9
Féile na nGael	Toomevara 0-6	Moyne/T'uoohy 0-2
Peadar Cummins Tour	North Tipp 2-10	Mid Tipp 1-6
Tony Forrestal Tour	Limerick 2-6	Tipperary 1-6
	Dublin 2-5	Tipperary 2-3
	Tipperary eliminated	
Carrigdown Tourney	Cork 3-8	Tipperary 0-7
	Limerick 1-10	Tipperary 1-6
	Tipperary 2-9	Waterford 0-6
	Tipperary eliminated	
Féile Skills winner	Conor O'Mahony (Newport)	
Poc Fada winner	David Kennedy (Toomevara)	
Nenagh Co-op Tour	Tipperary 1-14	Kilkenny 1-4
	Tipperary 2-14	Wexford 1-6
	Tipperary 4-16	Waterford 0-7
	Tipperary 2-14	Cork 0-7
Semi-Final	Tipperary 1-15	Galway 1-12
Final	Tipperary 1-20	Limerick 1-12

Garda Cup Hurling Munster U-16 Hurling Final

No yet completed.

Sth. Tipp 1-9

South Limerick 0-9

FOOTBALL:

U-12 'A' Football	Moyle Rovers 6-5	Moyne/T'uoohy 0-3
U-14 'A' Football	Galtee Rovers 2-4	Cahir 1-4
U-14 'B' Football	Moyle Rovers 2-17	Solohead 2-4
U-16 'A' Football	Roscrea 1-7	Fethard 0-9
U-16 'B' Football	Burgess 5-10	Kilsheelan 1-9
Peil na nÓg	Cahir 4-5	Ballina 3-6
Special Munster Competition U-14	Clare 1-9	Tipperary 2-5
Jim Power Tournament	Laois 2-4	Tipperary 0-5
Jim Power Shield Final	Tipperary 2-12	Limerick 1-3
Limerick U-16 Tournament	Sth. Kerry 1-10	Tipperary 0-11
	Tipperary 3-11	Waterford 1-11
	Tipperary qualified for Shield Final	

"Friends of Tipperary" U-16

Not yet completed.

County Bord na nÓg Round-up 1997

In a year in which one point defeats deprived the county senior, intermediate, U-21 and minor teams of hurling glory, unfortunately the under-age scene did not bring much joy at inter-county level either. However, at local level we had many outstanding games in all grades of hurling and football with titles going to each division.

In hurling Toomevara were once again to the fore. They captured their third U-12 'A' county title in-a-row. They defeated a gallant Killenaule team in the final. The defeated semi-finalists being Galtee Rovers and Drom/Inch. At U-14 'A' Cahir defeated Emly in one semi-final with Toomevara overcoming Dúrlas Óg to set up an unique pairing. However, despite a tremendous effort, the Cahir boys were edged out by the more experienced North champions. The U-14 'B' semi-finals brought together Loughmore/Castleiney and Newport and Rosegreen against St. Patrick's, thereby setting up a meeting between the Mid and West champions. The final which finished in a heavy downpour and rapidly fading light produced excellent fare, with the Loughmore/Castleiney boys finishing strongly to claim the title. The U-16 'A' semi-finals saw Drom-Inch overcome Kickhams at New Inn. In the second semi-final Roscrea overcame Killenaule after a replay. The final played in Nenagh in Mid-October was a hard, tough encounter. Indeed it became too tough at times with a fracas involving



Officers and divisional representatives of Co. Tipperary Bord na nÓg photographed at a meeting at Park Avenue House, Thurles. Included in photograph are (seated l. to r.) Liam Hogan, P.R.O., Co. Bord na nÓg; Jimmy Conroy, secretary, Co. Bord na nÓg; Connie Grace, chairman Co. Bord na nÓg; Frank Morris, Treasurer Co. Bord na nÓg; James Gleeson, Co. Bord na nÓg Rep. to Senior Board; Joan Needham, secretary North Bord na nÓg. Standing: Martin Treacy, secretary Mid Bord na nÓg; Jimmy Coppinger, Mid Bord na nÓg rep.; Seán Hickey, South Bord na nÓg rep.; Christy Aylward, South Bord na nÓg rep.; Dominic Everard, Mid Bord na nÓg rep.; Bill Corcoran, chairman, Mid Bord na nÓg; Larry O'Keefe, chairman, West Bord na nÓg; Denis Ryan, West Bord na nÓg rep.; James O'Donoghue, West Bord na nÓg rep.

players and spectators ten minutes from the end spoiling the game as a spectacle. However, this did not detract from Drom-Inch's splendid if narrow victory. The U-16 'B' final was played in New Inn between Moyne-Templetuohy and Newcastle. Moyne-Templetuohy overcame Éire Óg Anacarty in the first semi-final with Newcastle proving surprise winners over Lorrha. However, the

final was a one sided affair with the Mid champions proving far too strong for the South winners.

TOURNAMENTS

The Peadar Cummins Tournament played in mid-July saw the North and Mid qualify for the final. In a close, hard fought game, the trophy went to the North who finished with a late scoring burst. At the time of writing the Garda

Cup had not yet being completed. However, pride of place in the hurling scene this year goes to the South who captured their first Munster U-16 Inter Divisional Championship. They produced many fine displays in their march to the title. At inter-county level Tipperary surrendered their Tony Forresteral title rather tamely by failing to Limerick and Dublin. Again this year we took part in the Carrigdown Tournament which is run by the South East Cork Board. In the opening game we were well beaten by an impressive and well prepared Cork side.

The next game against Limerick was very close with the result in doubt right up to the final whistle. However, Limerick finished stronger to gain a place in the final. The final game against Waterford had nothing but pride at stake. Tipperary ran out easy winners. The one obvious lesson gained from our participation in those tournaments is that without proper preparation we will be out of our depth against sides who have weeks of hard training under their belts. Our U-16 team have at present qualified for the semi-final of the Nenagh Co-op tournament. They have turned in some impressive displays with victories over Kilkenny, Wexford, Watford and Cork, to win out their Group. In the semi-final they produced their best performance to overcome holders Galway in Bruff. In the final against Limerick at Nenagh, Tipp won on the score 1-20 to 1-12.

In football Moyle Rovers headed the honours list by capturing two titles. At U-12 'A' they overcame a strong Roscrea outfit in the semi-final. Meanwhile the other semi-final between Moyne-Templetuohy and Galtee Rovers ended in a draw.

However, in the replay the Mid champions had a six point victory. The final played in New Inn was a very one-sided encounter with Moyle Rovers recording a big win. The U-14 'A' semi-finals saw Cahir overcome Moyne-Templetuohy in a fine game. The second semi-final between Galtee Rovers and Roscrea proved to be a marathon affair as the sides finished level in a replay, before Galtee Rovers emerged one point winners after extra time. The final played at Holycross in early July was a tense affair before Galtee Rovers took the title by a three point margin.

The U-14 'B' final saw Moyle Rovers face West winners Solohead, both sides having overcome Moycarkey-Borris and Kildangan respectively in the semi-finals. However, the final proved disappointing as Moyle Rovers recorded an easy win. At U-16 'A' North champions Roscrea overcame Knockavilla to qualify for the final. The other semi-final between Fethard and J. H. Brackens proved to be an excellent game with Fethard emerging as narrow winners. The final played in Drombane on July



Chairman of Co. Tipperary Bord na nÓg, Connie Grace (left), presents the trophy to Damien Young, captain of the Tipperary team that won the Nenagh Co-op Tournament (inter-county under-16 hurling) by defeating Limerick in the final at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh. On right is Martin Linnane, Assistant Chief Executive Nenagh Co-op. sponsors of the tournament.

21st turned out to be a thrilling game with both sides evenly matched. Midway through the second half Roscrea forged ahead by three points but had to withstand a fierce Fethard onslaught.

They held out to capture the title by the minimum margin. The U-16 'B' semi-finals saw Kilsheelan easily overcome Holycross-Ballycahill. Burgess had to withstand a late Eire Óg Annacarty rally before booking their place in the final. However, the final saw Burgess easily overcome the South champions and in the process produce excellent football to capture the title. At inter-county level our U-14 team reached the final of the new Munster competition, only to lose to Clare by the narrowest of margins. In the Jim Power Tournament in Waterford they were defeated by Laois but captured the Shield title by defeating Limerick. The U-16s again participated in the Limerick competition.

They were defeated by South Kerry by a two point margin in the opening game but qualified for the Shield final by defeating Waterford. This final will be played at a later date. Our Peil na nÓg representatives were Cahir who made the long trip to Donegal where they turned in some excellent displays.

THANKS

As the curtain comes down on another year I would like to thank my fellow officers and all members of Bórd

na nÓg for their commitment and dedication during the year. I would like also to thank the Senior Board for their help and interest in our work. To our dedicated referees and their officials we offer our sincere thanks. To the various field committees who prepared pitches and put them at our disposal we are most grateful. Our gratitude to the following for their sponsorship of our championships:

A.C.C., Thurles, Nenagh/Roscrea Oil, A.I.B., Nenagh, Avonmore Creameries, Vale Oil, Thurles, Watch Centre, Nenagh, Templemore Jewellers, Pike Fast Foods, Thurles.

We are most appreciative of their help. Above all we are most thankful to the clubs in the county who continue the great work amongst the youth and a special word of thanks to the people who attended our games. To all the players who gave us so much enjoyment during the year, we are especially grateful.

Of course it would be most satisfying to report that all our games were incident free, but unfortunately this was not the case. Even though the number of games which were marred by unsavoury incidents, was very small, nevertheless any unruly behaviour which does occur is most disturbing. Indeed I often wonder if those involved in such behaviour realise that they are in the presence of young people who are at an impressionable age.



John Cahill, Nenagh Oil, presenting sponsorship for the U-16 hurling county championship Bord na nÓg to Jimmy Conroy, secretary county Bórd na nÓg.

(courtesy of the Nenagh Guardian)



Four hurling supporters from Cappawhite photographed with members of the senior hurling panel at a training session. Included are (left to right) Amy Quinn, Orla McCarthy, John Leahy, Faustina Renehan, Eugene O'Neill and Cathriona O'Neill.



Officers of Co. Tipperary Bord na nÓg photographed with sponsors of the Bord's competitions in the Park Avenue House, Thurles. Included are (seated - l. to r.) Seán Whelan, representing Vale Oil, Thurles, sponsors of the county Under-12 'A' hurling competition; Frances Treacy, representing "The Pike" Fast Foods, Thurles, sponsors of the Under-14 'A' football competition, Larry Moloney representing AIB, Thurles, sponsors of the Under-14 'A' hurling competition. Standing - Jimmy Conroy, secretary Co. Board na nÓg; Connie Grace, chairman, Co. Board na nÓg; Frank Morris, treasurer Co. Bord na nÓg.

Winning team: Tipperary selectors photographed before the successful final of the Nenagh Co-op Tournament (inter-county under-16 hurling) against Limerick at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh. Included are (l. to r.): Noel Russell (Carrick Swans); Denis Ryan (Clonoulty-Rossmore); Vincent McKenna (Borrisokane), coach; Martin Treacy (Holycross-Ballycahill).



Photograph shows J. C. Ryan (seated second from left) presenting a new trophy to the County Tipperary G.A.A. Board in memory of his father, the late Jacksie Ryan, Upperchurch. The trophy, named the 'Jacksie Ryan Cup', which will be presented to the winners of the county intermediate hurling championship, replaces the Miller Cup which has been donated to Lár na Pairce G.A.A. Museum in Thurles. Included in photograph are relatives of the late Jacksie Ryan and officers of the Co. G.A.A. Board. Seated (l. to r.) John Ryan (nephew); J. C. Ryan (son); Paul O'Neill, chairman of Co. Tipperary G.A.A. Board; Tomás Ó Baroid, secretary Co. Tipperary G.A.A. Board. Standing: Conor Ryan (nephew); Philip Ryan (nephew); Eoin Ryan (grandson); Seán Fogarty, Co. Tipperary G.A.A. Munster Council rep.; Joan Ryan (daughter-in-law); Tom O'Donnell, treasurer Co. Tipperary G.A.A. Board.

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The North Tipperary panel which won the Peadar Cummins Tournament (under-14 inter-divisional hurling) at Borrissoleigh. They beat Mid Tipperary in the final.

Front row (l.-r.): Shane McGrath, Shane Ryan, Matthew Stapleton, Michael Flannery, Alan Kelly, Michael Aherne, Noel McDonald, Sean Delaney, Willie Ryan, Shane Tynan, Patrick Tucker, Conor O'Mahoney, Michael Gleeson, Aaron Ryan, Pauric Maher, Gary Burke. Back row (l.-r.): Roy Darcy, Ger Griffin, Shane Creamer, Dave Hickey, David Kennedy, Noel Gleeson, Diarmuid Fitzgerald, Donal McKeogh, Ronan O'Meara, Damien O'Brien, John Brennan, Robert Nolan, Ger Sheehy, David Maher, James McKeogh, Christopher O'Meara, Damien Egan, Martin Ryan.



←

The Mid Tipperary panel which played Tipperary in the final of the Peadar Cummins Tournament (under-14 inter-divisional hurling) at Borrissoleigh.

Back row (l.-r.): James Lawlor, Jodie Brennan, Conor Doyle, Sean Stakelum, John Kennedy, Eamonn Gleeson, Peter Graydon, Michael Costelloe, Joseph Ryan, Declan Bolger, Michael Kennedy, John Minchin, Martin Power, Martin Costigan, Padraig Hickey. Front row (l.-r.): Rickie Quigley, Nicholas Murphy, Liam Power, Seanie O'Dwyer, John Hassett, Paddy McCormack, John Butler, David O'Dwyer, Paul Collins, David Owens, Pat Shortt, Damien Bergin.

Peadar Cummins Tournament 1997

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The South Tipperary panel which won the Peadar Cummins Tournament (under-14 inter-divisional hurling) Losers Group Final by defeating West Tipperary at Borrissoleigh.



←

The West Tipperary panel which played South Tipperary in the Peadar Cummins Tournament (under-14 inter-divisional hurling) at Borrissoleigh.

Back row (l.-r.): James Moloney (selector), Noel Browne (selector), John Ryan (coach), Ross Doyle, Patrick Sadlier, Billy Condon, Paul Breen, David Byrne, Conor O'Gorman, Mark Ryan, Andrew Morrissey, Philip Doherty, Nicholas Lonergan (selector), Eugene O'Neill, Christopher Long, Donal Condon, John Ryan (coach). Front row: Thomas O'Donovan, Eric Higgins, Alan O'Neill, Harry Horgan, Patrick Hally, Bernard O'Callaghan, Denis Kelly, Pat Maguire, Georgie Kelly, Liam Stapleton, James Breen, Michael Bourke, James O'Dwyer.

YOUTH AFFAIRS

By:

MARIA MORRISSEY
(County Youth Officer)

AS THE new County Youth Officer in Tipperary this year in truth I hardly knew what that would involve. In brief I will fill you in on what I got up to for the year.

Firstly, let me introduce my committee – some new faces but also some long standing ones:

D. J. Carr, Golden; Jim Foley C.C., Hollyford; James Gleeson, Templeberry; Liam Hogan, Puckane; Jim Lynch, Cahir; Joe Moran, Littleton; Andy O’Gorman, Gortnahoe; Eugene Ryan, Cloughjordan. At this stage I thank them for their work and support.

My first duty as County Youth Officer was to attend a seminar for Youth Officers in the New Stand, Croke Park. Almost all counties were represented at the meeting hosted by the National Youth Committee under the chair of the now President Joe MacDonagh.

I found this most informative and very worthwhile. An ideal opportunity for me to find out just what we do in other counties and a starting point for myself. I will have to admit the day initially was rather daunting as I was the only female amongst the group and was informed I am the first female Youth Officer and the youngest to their knowledge.

One of my most enjoyable tasks was the U-11 Ground Hurling Tournament which continued again this year. This is still very much in its infancy but is most definitely growing from strength to strength.

This year over 50 teams participated with 15/16 venues over three Saturdays in August. The emphasis remains on friendly non-competitive participation. Each team received a Tipperary pen on the final Saturday.

This could not have been so successful but for the work and committee of so many. I would like to thank all the clubs, the clubs who hosted teams, Bord na nÓg, the Youth Committee and the chairperson, secretary and committee of Coaching and Games Development.

A new venture for the Youth Committee this year was “Cúinne na nÓg”, the quiz page in our county programmes. Something that has been well received by all our young people. We even featured in the year’s Munster



Tipperary representatives at National Youth Convention – Front row (l.-r.): Brian Coffey, Newport; Mark Ryan, Gortnahoe/Glengoole; John Dunne, J.K. Brackens. Standing (l.-r.): Sínead Gaynor, Kilruana; Maria Morrissey, County Youth Officer. (Photo: Seamus Bourke)

Hurling and Football Senior final programmes.

I would like to thank John McCormack, programme editor, for his assistance and all the young people for responding so well to this quiz page.

Our County Youth Convention took place on Saturday, 1st November. Clubs were very ably represented by their young delegates. The speakers on the night were Michael Cleary, Len Gaynor and Paudie Butler. All speakers were extremely good and I thank them for their participation but also for their sincerity and honesty. I know that all the young delegates thoroughly appreciated them. I was very pleased with the night.

At short notice Liam Griffin of Wexford became unavailable, but Paudie Butler more than filled his place at little notice.

The young people themselves deserve the biggest congratulations with their lively and engaging discussions. The G.A.A. I feel should not fear for its future with the calibre and quality of the young

people who attended the convention.

A lot of people worked very hard to make the night a success – thank you all. Brian Coffey, Newport; Sínead Gaynor, Kilruane; Mark Ryan, Gortnahoe and John Dunne, J.K. Brackens will represent Tipperary at the National Youth Convention at the end of November.

All Divisions at this stage have organised, or are doing so, the Primary Schools Table Quiz. Five teams will qualify from each Division for the County Final in early January. I would encourage all schools to take part. All questions are G.A.A. orientated and on the current year.

My first year has been most enjoyable and I look forward to the coming years hopefully. Many people have made my job so much easier and helped me in many ways. I did not think it possible to met so many new people in less than a year who all have the G.A.A. at heart. I thank again everyone for their help during the past year.



Tipperary senior hurling goalkeeper Brendan Cummins (back centre) photographed with a group of Tipperary supporters after the National Hurling League match between Tipperary and Limerick in Páirc na nGael, Limerick.

West Tipperary Bord na nÓg Review

Bord na nÓg Tiobráid Arann Thiar wish to acknowledge their appreciation to our sponsors for the sponsorship of our Divisional Championship during '97.

Over 300 games were organised for the juveniles of West Tipperary in 1997, the first games – U-16 football began on March 31st, with the Garda Cup U-15 hurling on November 2nd, the final divisional action.

County Board chairman Paul O'Neill honoured the division by launching the Board's Fixture Booklet in The Royal Hotel clubroom, Tipperary, on April 21st, Friday 14th Nov. in Emly was the date for the annual medals presentation night. Clubs, captains, groundsmen, referees and guests along with the Boards sponsors. '97 saw Emly win their first U-14 (A) hurling title and Galtee Rovers retain their county U-14 (A) football titles. The Board wishes Denis Ryan (Clonoulty) the best of luck as Denis is appointed County Minor selector, Denis served this Board as chairman, six years as vice-chairman and five years as county U-16 hurling selector.

1997 Officers

Life President:	James O'Donoghue	(Arravale Rovers);
Chairman:	Larry O'Keefe	(Solohead);
Vice-Chairman:	Liam O'Dwyer	(Eire Óg);
Vice-Chairman:	John Ryan	(Cappawhite);
Secretary:	Gerry Beary	(Cappawhite);
Treasurer:	Nicholas Lonergan	(Solohead);
Registrar:	Roger Ryan	(Cashel King Cormacks);
Assistant Secretary/P.R.O.:	John Barry	(Cappawhite);
Co. Board na nÓg Reps:	Larry O'Keefe	(Solohead);
	Gerry Beary	(Cappawhite)'
	Denis Ryan	(Clonoulty-Rossmore);
	James O'Donoghue	(Arravale Rovers).

Competitions	Sponsor	Winners	Captain	Runners-up
U-12 hurling A	Gleeson Concrete	Galtee Rovers	David Morrissey	Kickham's
U-12 hurling B	Tipperary Co-op	Cashel King Cormacs	Michael Coleman	Golden/K.
U-12 hurling C	Noel Browne Bus Hire	Rockwell Rovers	Shane Moloney	Sean Treacy's
U-12 hurling shield	Quirke Jewellers, Cahir	Solohead	Brendan Whelan	Emly
U-12 football A	Fitzpatrick's Printers	Galtee Rovers	Ciaran Bergin	Arravale Rvs.
U-12 football B	Tipperary Credit Union	Cashel King Cormacs	Kevin Manton	Solohead
U-12 football C	Irish Permanent Building Society	Rockwell Rovers	Paul Malley	Lattin/Cullen
U-12 football Shield		Clonoulty/Rossmore	Stephen Kearney	Kickham's
U-14 hurling A	John Kelly Soft Drinks, Tipp	Emly	Stephen Creamer	Cappawhite
U-14 hurling B	Friary Street, Fryer, Cashel	Rosegreen	Philomena Fogarty	Cashel K.C.
U-14 hurling C	Seamus Hanley Tyre Centre	Lattin/Cullen	Evan Hanley	Rockwell Rvs.
U-14 Féile na nGael	Coca Cola	Emly	Michael Sheedy	Cappawhite
U-14 football A	Corrib Minrals	Galtee Rvs.	Brendan Murphy	Rosegreen
U-14 football B	Sergeant Peppers	Solohead	Darren Ryan	Rockwell Rvs.
U-14 football C	Colm Whelan Sports	Aherlow	Brian Moroney	Golden/K.
U-14 Féile na nÓg	Coca Cola	Cashel K.C.	Mark Ryan	Galtee Rovers
U-16 hurling A	A.I.B.	Kickham's	Garrett Ryan	Clonoulty/R.
U-16 hurling B	Centenary Co-op	Eire Óg	Wesley Ryan	Cappawhite
U-16 hurling C	P. J. Burns Fuel & Plumbing (Tipp)	Séan Treacy's	Eamonn Ryan	Lattin/Cullen
U-16 football A	A.I.B.	Kickham's	Philip Ryan	Galtee Rovers
U-16 football B	Quirke Jewellers, Cahir	Éire Óg	Richard Leahy	Golden/K.
U-16 football C	Cashel Credit Union	Séan Treacy's	Eamonn Ryan	Solohead
U-11 football blitz	Friends of Tipperary Football	Aherlow	Vincent Hennessy	
U-11 hurling blitz	O'Dwyer Bros., Tipperary			
U-14 hurling skills	Harry Horgan	Kickham's		
U-14 Puc Fada	Paul Breen	Kickham's		



Éire Óg U-16 (B) hurling – Front row (l. to r.) Seamus McGrath, Aidan Quinn, Thomas Quinn, Philip McGrath, Ronan O'Brien, Conor O'Brien, Raymond Barry, Austin Bradshaw, Michael O'Dwyer. Back row (l. to r.): Paul Bradshaw, Michael Leahy, Wesley Ryan (captain), Eugene Carew, Patrick Ahern, Richard Leahy, Patrick Horan, Brian Ryan, Gareth O'Brien, Jamie Hanley, Stephen Quinn.



Éire Óg U-16 'B' football: Front row (l. to r.) P.J. McGrath (mentor), Robert Hogan, Conor O'Brien, Michael O'Dwyer, Ronan O'Brien, Eugene Carew, Phillip McGrath, Austin Bradshaw, Michael O'Dwyer, Aidan Quinn, Patrick Crowe. Back row: Wesley Ryan, Paul Bradshaw, Seamus McGrath, John O'Dwyer (coach), Thomas Quinn, Richard Leahy (captain), Brian Ryan, Shane O'Dwyer, Gareth O'Brien, Patrick Ahern, Michael Leahy, Jamie Hanley, Raymond Bam, Patrick Horan, Stephen Quinn, Colm Bradshaw.



Lattin-Cullen U-14 (B) hurling team: Front row (l. to r.) William Condon, Jamie Morrissey, James Breen, Michael Kenny, Pat Maguire, Evan Hanley (captain), Patrick Kenny, Donncha O'Grady, James Maguire. Back row: Brendan Hanley, Liam Vaughan, Billy Condon, Michael Byrne, Adrian Maloney, Timmy Byrne, Michael Leahy, David Boland, James O'Dwyer.



Kickhams – West U-16 champions – Front (l. to r.): John F. O'Brien, Richard Horgan, Darran Nolan, Joseph Kennedy, David Shanahan, Daniel Breen, Alan Horgan, Paul Breen, David Horgan, Noel O'Brien. Back row: Seán Ryan, Gareth Ryan, Damien O'Brien, William Keane, Liam Morrissey, Derek Breen, Fengal O'Brien, John Keane, Philip Ryan, William Ryan, Conor Ryan.



Cashel King Cormacs – West U-12 'B' hurling champions 1997. Back row (l. to r.): Declan O'Dwyer, Christy McCarthy (selector), David McCarthy, T. J. Hickey, Tomás O'Connor, Alan O'Meara, Owen Davern, Roger Ryan (selector), Darren Harding, Greg Ryan, Ryan O'Dwyer, Tony Hewitt, John Manton, Kevin Manton, Tommy Fitzgerald (selector). Front row: Edmund O'Dwyer, Seán Slattery, David Slattery, William Fitzwell, Michael Coleman (captain), Michael Hickey, Dean Hickey, Owen Fitzgerald, John Fitzgerald (mascot).



West Tipperary U-15 hurling – Garda Cup champions 1997. Back row (l. to r.): Daniel Slattery, Mark Ryan, Richard Ryan, Ciaran Farrell, Robert White, P. J. Mooney, Stuart Hickey, Darren Redmond, Martin Hickey. Front row: David Delahunty, Brian Minogue, Michael O'Connor, Philip Taylor, Marcus McCarthy (captain), Christopher Ryan, Roger O'Dwyer, Ross Doyle.



Cashel King Cormacs – U-12 'B' Football champions 1997 – West Tipperary Champions 1997 – Back row (l. to r.) Christy McCarthy (selector), Darren Harding, Alan O'Meara, David Slattery, William Fitzell, John Higgins, T. J. Hickey, Owen Davern, Greg Ryan, Tomás O'Connor, Brian Lowe, Tony Hewitt, Michael Coleman, John Manton, Roger Ryan (selectors). Front row: Tommy Fitzgerald (selector), John Fitzgerald (mascot), Owen Fitzgerald, Seán Slattery, Michael Gallahue, Declan O'Dwyer, Ryan O'Dwyer, Kevin Manton (captain), Daniel McCarthy, Robert Ryan, Andrew O'Reilly, Edmund O'Dwyer, Patrick Hally.



Cashel King Cormacs – West U-14 'B' hurling finalists and Páil na nÓg champions 1997 and U-14 hurling finalists. Back row (l. to r.) Philip Ryan, David Culley, Daniel Doherty, Mark Ryan, Laura Lee Hickey, Darren Redmond, Ross Doyle, Martin Hickey, Daniel Carrie, Nicholas Maher, Martin Browne. Front row: Sean Ryan (mascot), Darren McGrath, Jonathan Fitzgerald, Ryan O'Dwyer, Mark Moloney, Daniel Cleary, Jonathan Kennedy, Eoin Lonergan, Roger O'Dwyer, Andrew Flanagan, John Paul Peters, Michael Coleman.



West Tipperary Bórd na nÓg sponsorship launch: Front row (l. to r.): John Barry, Gerry Beary, Roger Ryan, Nicholas Lonergan. Back row: Seamus King, Lar O'Keefe, Mick Frawley, Paul O'Neill, Jimmy Conroy.



Skills winners at the 1997 G.A.A. Camp hosted by Cashel King Cormacs and Cashel Camogie Club. Included in photo are: Anne Moloney, secretary, Cashel Camogie Club; Matty Finnerty, chairman, Cashel U.D.C. and Roger Ryan, Cashel King Cormacs (juvenile coach)



Camp Cappawhite – Front row: T. J. Ryan, Mark Quinlan, Kevin Foxe, Paul Fitzgerald, Stephen Crowe, Timmy Cranley and Jimmy Ryan (middle row) Kieran Ryan, Séan Hogan, Des Renihan and Colm White.



Girls at Camp Tipperary. Back row (l. to r.): Treasa Edmonds (Tipperary); Paula O'Carroll (Tipperary); Jane O'Connor (Tipperary); Audrey McGrath (Oola); Michelle Ryan (Oola); Jennifer Noonan (Tipperary); Claire Crowe (Tipperary). Front row: Emma Ahearn (Tipperary); Nicole Connolly (Tipperary); Edel McCarthy (Bandon); June Morrissey (Bansha); Kerry McAuley (Emly); Elaine McCahill (Tipperary); Brid Condon (Emly); Áine Fitzgerald (Tipperary).



Kickhams – West U-16 hurling champions – Front row (l. to r.) Richard Morgan, David Shanahan, Noel O'Brien, Darren Nolan, Paul Breen, Joe Kennedy, Alan Horgan, David Breen, Christopher Keane, John O'Brien. Back row: David Horgan, Conor Ryan, Derek Breen, Liam Morrissey, John Keane, Philip Ryan, William Ryan, Fergal O'Brien, Damien McGrath, Seán Ryan, William Keane, Garrett Ryan.



Rockwell Rovers U-12 'C' West hurling champions – Back row (l. to r.) John Scanlon, Paddy English, Andrew Dudley, Michael O'Halloran, James Dudley, Derek Fitzgerald, John Flanagan, Alan Moloney, Eoin Ryan, Willie Flynn, Maurice Barrett. Middle row: Eoin Shine, Eoin Barrett, Patrick Boland, James English, Michael Prendergast, Evan Moore, Pat Prendergast, John Keating and Kevin Laffin. Front row: James O'Donnell (selector), Donal Moloney (selector), Pat Cummins, Stephen Quirke, Paul Halley, Shane Moloney (captain), Robbie O'Halloran, Gearóid Moloney, Noel Barrett, Tomás Barrett, Kieran Barrett (selector), Tim Joe Dudley. Missing from photo: Shane Ryan, Eamon Peters, John O'Donnell.



Seán Treacy's – U-16 West hurling champions 1998



Seán Treacy's – U-16 West football



Solohead U-14 'B' football – Back row (l. to r.) Barry Ryan (c.), David O'Brien, Noel Kennedy, Philip O'Doherty, Peter O'Hara, Ml. O'Connor, Gerry Dee, Eamon O'Brien, Brendan Whelan, Nico Riordan, (manager). Front – Pauric Greensmyth, Colm Riordan, Darren Ryan (S) (captain), Jamie Ryan (c), Carol Riordan, Joseph O'Doherty. Subs: Ciaran O'Dwyer, Paudie Collins, Jamie Kennefick, Wally Myers, Brian Hartnett.



Pictures at the G.A.A. camp hosted by Cashel K.C. and Cashel camogie club were Mattie Finnerty, chairman Cashel U.D.C. who presented awards to David Slattery and John Morrissey.

Galtee Rovers – West U-12 'A' football champions – Front row (l. to r.) Allison Lonergan, Tony Egan, Thomas Peters, Tony O'Brien, Kieran Bergin (captain), Gary Grogan, Kevin Peters, Raymond O'Dwyer, James Keating, Donal Collins, Donal O'Brien, Damien Ryan, Paul Hayes, Shane Egan. Back row: Aileen O'Connell, Mandy Crowe, Gerard Crowe, Patrick Byron, David Morrissey, John Peter (selector), Pat Marnane, Michael O'Connell, Paddy Crowe (selector), Shane Grogan, Seán Buckley, Brian Hogg, Pa O'Brien (selector), Mark O'Brien, Kieran Marnane, Owen Wade.



Shreelawn Oil – sponsors of West S.F.C. – (l. r.) John Lacey (Shreelawn Oil), Raymie Ryan (Cashel), John Fenton (Shreelawn), Seamus King (West chairman), Tony Merrigan (Shreelawn Oil).



John Carew – Carew Investments – at presentation of sponsorship for West senior hurling championship to Seamus King. Also in photo is Denis Ryan, West Board vice-chairman.

South Tipp Bord na nÓg

By Patsy O'Halloran

Competition	Winner	Runner-up	Date	Venue	Referee
U-12 Football (A)	Moyle Rovers •	Commercials	29/5/97	Ardfinnan	Frank O'Brien
U-12 Football (B)	Swan	St. Patrick's	30/5/97	Clonmel	Christy Aylward
U-12 Football (C)	Fr. Sheehy's	Moyle Rovers (B)	11/6/97	Ardfinnan	Willie Barrett
U-14 Football (A)	Cahir	Fethard	23/6/97	Bye Pass	John Cahill
U-14 Football (B)	Moyle Rovers •	Swan	26/6/97	Kilsheelan	Tommy Lonergan
U-14 Football (C)	Grangemockler	Ballylooby	26/6/97	Marfield	Christy Aylward
U-16 Football (A)	Fethard	Killenaule	12/7/97	Cloneen	John Harrington
U-16 Football (B)	Kilsheelan	Newcastle	8/7/97	Ardfinnan	Willie Barrett
U-16 Football (C)	Ballyporeen	Ballylooby	10/7/97	Clogheen	Frank O'Brien
U-12 Hurling (A)	Killenaule	Ballybacon/Grange	31/7/97	Bye Pass	Seán Quirke
U-12 Hurling (B)	Fethard	Davins	14/8/97	Monroe	John Cahill
U-12 Hurling (C)	Moyle Rovers	St. Patrick's	14/8/97	Bye Pass	Tommy Lonergan
U-14 Hurling (A)	Cahir	Killenaule	16/8/97	Clonmel	Miceál McCormack
U-14 Hurling (B)	St. Patrick's	Davins	16/8/97	Clonmel	P. J. Hassett
U-14 Hurling (C)	Fr. Sheehy's	Ballyneale	29/8/97	Bye Pass	Christy Aylward
U-16 Hurling (A)	Killenaule	Ballingarry	17/9/97	Cloneen	Christy Aylward
U-16 Hurling (B)	Newcastle	Ballybacon/Grange	16/9/97	Clonmel	T. J. Corby
U-16 Hurling (C)	Fr. Sheehy's	St. Patrick's	12/9/97	Marfield	P. J. Hassett

• Denotes County Champions.

SCÓR NA nÓG WINNERS (11-12-96)

Ceili Dancing	(Newcastle)
Solo Singing	Ardfinnan (Fidelma Murphy)
Instrumental Music	Fr. Sheehy's
Novelty Act	Moyle Rovers
Question Time	Fr. Sheehy's
Recitation	Newcastle (Ashling O'Keeffe)
Ballad Group	Moyle Rovers
Set Dancing	Newcastle



Moyle Rovers – Summer Camp 1997 – One of the groups pictured with coaches Declan Browne, Eamon Power and Jimmy McCarthy.



Ballyporeen U-16 football team – South Tipp Champions 1997 – Back row: (l. to r.) Tom Flannelly, selector David Slattery, Paul Maher, Brian Flannelly, Tomás Mee, Tomás Molan, Paul McCarthy, Michael Crotty, Kevin McGrath, Michael Finn, Eddie Maher, selector. Middle row (l. to r.) Michael John Meaney, Jamie Cahill, Paul McLoughlin, Francis Martin (captain), John O'Gorman, Darragh Lyons, Brendan Finn, David Russell. Front row (l. to r.) Pat Donoghue, Kevin Lynch, Paul Hennessy, William Carey. Missing from photo: Eoin Kearney, Patrick Kelly, Shane Molan.

1997 OFFICERS:

Chairman:	Michael Lonergan
Vice Chairman – Co. Board Rep.	Christy Aylward
Vice Chairman – Co. Board Rep.	Séan Hickey
Secretary	Patsy O'Halloran
Treasurer	Jim Hennessy
P.R.O.	Robert Reid
South Senior Board Rep.	Nicholas Moroney
Registrar	Tony Hogan



Grangemockler/Ballyneale 1997 U-14 South Champions – Grade 'C'.
Back (l. to r.) J. Toole, selector, J. McAndrew, E. Hearn, B. McCarthy, M. Muilliney, P. Downey, B. Hanrahan, D. Murray, J. Murphy, selector (front) T. Kennedy, J. Ryan (snr.), P. Kennedy, R. Murphy (captain), P. O'Toole, M. Connelly, J. P. Wallace, O. Connelly.
Missing from picture: R. J. Tobin (no. 2), J. Delaney, M. O'Reilly (no. 14), Theo English (no. 10), B. Blanchfield. Subs and selector: James St. John, P. Downey sub for T. Kennedy, B. Blanchfield sub for M. O'Reilly; J. Ryan sub for D. Murray.





Killenaule – U-12 'A' County Hurling runners-up



The Moyle Rovers Under-12 panel which won the county 'A' football title by defeating Moyne-Templetuohy in New Inn.



Kilsheelan – South U-16 'B' football champions and county finalists – Back row: Jim Healy, Pierce Larkin, James Ryan, Trevor Cloona, John Walsh, Glen Spillane, Michael Dempsey, Ross King, John Cahill, Pat Ormonde, David Power and Edward Sweeney. Front: Tomás O'Dwyer, Damien Cahill, Brian Ahearne, Peter O'Connell, Aidan Slattery, Adrian Walsh, Graham Loughman, Anthony Walsh, Niall Walsh and Edmond Walsh, Donnacha Lonergan (mascot)



Moyle Rovers – 14 'B' – South and County football champions 1997



1977 Draw Committee – Back: Tommy Grogan (Cashel King Cormacs); Ger Gavin (Nenagh Eire Óg); Gerry Creedon (Cappawhite); Michael Egan (Gortnahoe-Glengoole); Seán Quirke (Clonmel Óg); John Donovan (Rahealty); Nicholas Moroney (St. Pat's, Drangan). Front: Tom O'Donnell (Co. Treasurer); Dan Costigan (Cahir); Liam Hennessy (Draw Chairman); Paul O'Neill (Co. Chairman); Tim Floyd (Draw Administrator); missing from photo – Billy Ryan, Borrisoleigh; Mike Nolan (Kildangan).



Left to right – Len Gaynor, Liam Hennessy, Tim Floyd

Results of the North Tipperary Bord na nÓg Finals

By Josephine Needham (Runai)

Date	Grade	Teams	Teams	Venue	Referee
July 7	S. Finals	Burgess 2-4	N. Éire Óg 0-4	Ballina	Tom Gleeson
July 7		Toomevara 4-7	Roscrea 2-1	Cloughjordan	Tom Killackey
July 25	U12 H.A.	Toomevara 4-5	Burgess 0-3	Nenagh	Tom Killackey
June 20	U12 H.B.	Moneygall 2-1	Ballina 2-1	Puckane	Michael McGrath
	S. Finals replay	Moneygall 3-2	Ballina 1-1	Puckane	Michael McGrath
June 29		Kilruane MacDonagh 3-1	Lorrha 0-4	Puckane	Ger McKeogh
July 14	Final	Kilruane MacDonagh 2-2	Moneygall 1-3	Toomevara	Seán Hogan
July 10	U12 H.B.	Shannon Rovers 2-3	Ballinahinch 0-0	Puckane	Tom Killackey
July 13		Silvermines 2-5	Portroe 2-3	Kilcolman	J. Kissane
	Final	Silvermines 2-3	S. Rovers 0-4	Nenagh	Dan Darcy
July 22	S. Finals U14 H.A.	Toomevara 3-5	Burgess 1-8	Portroe	T. Ryan
July 23		Nenagh Éire Óg 2-2	Roscrea 1-8	Cloughjordan	T. Killackey
	Final	Toomevara 2-8	Roscrea 0-4	Moneygall	Michael Cahill
July 1	S. Finals U14HB	Silvermines 5-8	Kilruane MacDonagh 0-0	Nenagh	L. Hogan
July 14		Moneygall 0-3	Newport 4-5	Dolla	T. Ryan
July 31	Final	Silvermines 2-1	Newport 1-4	Nenagh	L. Hogan
August 8	Replay	Silvermines 1-1	Newport 1-5	Kilcolman	L. Hogan
Aug. 7	U14 H.B. S. Finals	Portroe 3-8	Shannon Rovers 1-1	Nenagh	M. Darcy
		Ballinahinch 3-9	Templederry 0-3	Nenagh	J. Kissane
	Final	Portroe 2-4	Ballinahinch 1-5	Kilcolman	M. Delaney.
Sept. 4	U16 H.A. S. Finals	Toomevara 1-13	Burgess 3-7	Puckane	Tom Killackey
Sept. 5		Roscrea 3-5	N. Éire Óg 1-3	Cloughjordan	M. Cahill
Sept. 13	Replay	Toomevara 2-6	Burgess 1-6	Puckane	Tom Killackey
Sept. 17	Final	Roscrea 2-10	Toomevara 1-6	Moneygall	Tom Killackey
Aug. 25	U16 H.B. S. Finals	Lorrha 2-7	Ballina 2-3	Puckane	Tom Killackey
		Silvermines 3-5	Borrisokane K'gowna 2-4	Cloughjordan	M. Cahill
Sept. 8	Final	Lorrha 3-3	Silvermines 0-12	Cloughjordan	M. Cahill
Sept. 17	Replay	Lorrha 2-14	Silvermines 4-6	Cloughjordan	M. Cahill
Sept. 1	U16 H.C. S. Finals	Portroe 1-8	Templederry 3-0	Dolla	M. Delaney
Sept. 6		Ballinahinch 5-9	Newport 1-2		
Sept. 27	Final	Ballinahinch 1-4	Portroe 0-4	Toomevara	M. Delaney
Football:					
April 20	U12 F.A.	Ballina 2-1	Burgess 1-2	Portroe	J. Kissane
April 24		N. Éire Óg 3-1	Roscrea 2-4	Borrisokane	Paul McKenna
May 4	Replay	N. Éire Óg 3-1	Roscrea 4-5	Toomevara	M. O'Leary
May 12	Final	Roscrea 3-2	Ballina 2-3	Nenagh	Tom Ryan
May 2	U12 F.B. S. Finals	Kildangan 1-1	Borris-Ileigh 1-1	Toomevara	Tom Killackey
		Moneygall 1-5	Newport 3-3	Templederry	M. Griffin
	Replay	Borris-Ileigh 1-2	Kildangan 0-1	Templederry	Tom Killackey
May 18	Final	Newport 2-5	Borris-Ileigh 3-1	Dolla	M. Griffin

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June 13 May 23 Sept. 2	U12 F.B. S. Finals Final	Kilruane MacDonagh 2-3 Templederry 8-7 Templederry 1-3	Shannon Rovers 1-3 Silvermines 2-2 Kilruane MacDonagh 1-2	Borrisokane Toomevara Toomevara	N. Kiely B. McGrath M. Delaney
June 7 June 16 May 18	U14 F.A. S. Finals U14 F.B. S. Finals Final	Roscrea Ballina 1-8 Roscrea 3-4 Kildangan 7-8 Borris-Ileigh rec. w.o. from Kildangan 2-11	Burgess N. Éire Óg 1-2 Ballina 1-1 Lorrha 3-1 Moneygall Borris-Ileigh 0-3	Moneygall Portroe Kilcolman Borrisokane	M. Darcy Paul Hearty Paul Hearty Ger Hayes
May 26 May 31	U14 F.C. S. Finals Final	Portroe 3-3 Kilruane MacDonagh 1-11 Kilruane MacDonagh 4-9	Shannon Rovers 1-8 Ballinahinch 2-6 Portroe 1-2	Nenagh Dolla Nenagh	J. Conroy J. Kissane G. McKeogh
April 20	U16 F.A. Final	No semi-finals Roscrea 4-12	Ballina 0-8	Nenagh	Paul Hearty
April 14 April 27	U16 F.B. S. Finals Final	Borris-Ileigh 1-9 Burgess 2-7 Burgess 5-6	Kildangan 1-7 Silvermines 0-6 Borris-Ileigh 2-8	Toomevara Dolla Toomevara	M. Darcy J. Kissane J. Kissane
July 14	U16 F.C. S. Finals Replay Final	Ballinahinch 2-4 (Game not finished due to player injured) Ballinahinch 2-14 Kilruane MacDonagh	Portroe 1-2 (Game not finished due to player injured) Portroe 0-2 Ballinahinch	Kilcolman Kilcolman	M. McGrath M. McGrath J. Kissane
Skills	Conor O'Mahoney	Newport			
Poc Fada	Dara Kennedy	Toomevara			



Moneygall Under 10 Hurling Team – Winners of Nessan Tournament 1997

Back row – Jimmy Maher, Sean King, Paul Maher. Middle row – Niamh Greene, John Ryan, Robert Jones, Phil Fanning, Pajo Troy (capt), Patrick Doughan, Joseph Treacy, Thomas Devereux. Front row – Cian Kennedy, Aodhán, Denis Carroll, Stephen Maher, John King, Martin Deane, Mary Ryan, Dwayne Collison. Missing from picture: Robert Jones, Shane Collison and Marie Bergin.



Dermot Gleeson, Ballinahinch, on left, captain of Dean Ryan team with cup at St. Flannan's College, Ennis.



Templederry Kenyons, North Tipperary U12 'C' Football Champions '97

Back row: Eoin Mulcahy, Michael Younge, Thomas Stapleton, Pat Ryan, Pdraig Gleeson, Matthew Ryan, Brian McLoughlin (capt.), David Ryan, Donal McGrath, Michael Ryan, Brendan Hayes, Pdraig O'Leary, Andrew Ryan, Willie O'Dwyer. Front row: Sé O'Dwyer, Michael O'Dwyer, Eddie Fahy, Michael O'Leary, Daniel Shannahan, Eoghan Murray, James Hogan, Damian Carey, Tom McLoughney, Billy Corcoran, Geroid Ryan, Tommy Hogan, Dan Fahy and Alan Carey. Missing from photograph: Aileen Kennedy, John Butler, Eoghan Ryan.



Kildangan Under 12 Football Team – winners of the 1997 Kirwan Cup and semi-finalists in the North Tipperary Championship

Back row l to r – Eoin Ryan, Colm Darcy, Darragh Egan, Joseph Clarke, Eoin Kelly, Conor Hayes, Niamh Hackett, Fiona Harrison (captain). Front row l to r – James Tuohy, Brian McLoughlin, Gearoid Connors, Andrew Murphy, Sean Forde, Brian Freeman, Donncha Mulcahy.



Competitors in the North Tipperary under-14 Poc Fada competition at Cloughjordan photographed after the competition. Included are (l to r) – Eoin Mannion, Lorrha; James McKeogh, Ballina; David Kennedy, Toomevara (winner); Damien Egan, Silvermines.



Kilruane McDonaghs U12 panel and mentors – North 'B' winners

Back row l to r – Darren Killackey, Joe Whelan (selector), Derek Kenneally, Eamonn Darcy, Kevin Quinlan, Connie Grace, North Bord na nÓg chairman presenting the cup to team captain Garry Prout. Diarmuid Cahill, Liam O'Meara, Vivian Dooley (selector), Colm Williams, Jason Reddan, Stephen McCarthy, Gilbert Williams (selector). Second row – Tommy Hogan, Thomas Hayes, Christopher Darcy, Kevin Prout, William Kenneally, James Keogh, Redmond McLoughrey, Cormac Williams, Martin Walshe. Front row – Shane Quinlan, Sean Hayes, Seamus Hennessy, Michael Costello, Thomas Williams, Liam Gibson and Shane Williams.

CAPTAINS – WITH A DIFFERENCE!



Kildangan appointed two girls as captains of their under-12 and under-14 football teams during 1997. Photograph shows Fiona Harrison under-12 captain (on left) and under-14 captain Ailish Kennedy. Both captains had an amount of success during the year as Ailish captained her under-14 side to victory in the north final and Fiona captained her under-12 team to success in the final of the Kirwan Cup – an under-12 football tournament in North Tipp involving seven clubs. Is this a first for Kildangan or has any other club had two or more female captains in the same year?



Toomevara U12 Panel – North and County Champions

Back row l to r – Joseph McLoughrey, Colm McCarthy, James O'Meara, David Kelly, Brian McCormack, Enda Slattery, John Delaney, Kieran Fitzpatrick, James McGrath, Patrick Tuohy, Stephen Cummins, Sean Hassett and Stephen Egan. Front row – Jim Duignan, Dermot McGrath, Seamus Meagher, Kieran Brislane, Denis Tierney, Damien Dunne, David Young, Thomas McCarthy, Terry Delaney and Pdraig O'Meara. Mascot Ryan O'Meara.



Toomevara U-14 panel – North and County Champions

Back row l to r – David Kennedy, Michael O'Brien, James McGrath, Sean Hogan, Conor Maxwell, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Paddy Kelly, Joe McCormack (captain), Ronan O'Neill, Francis Devaney, John Boland, Michael Hassett. Front – Andrew McCarthy, Eddie O'Meara, Niall Connolly, William Ryan, Shane Tynan, Robert O'Neill, Sean Delaney, Edward Quinlan, Ger Cuddihy, D.J. Maher and John O'Meara.



Newport North Tipperary U14 H (B) Champions

Back row l to r – David O'Gorman, David Moore, Mark Shinnars, Gary Conway, Eoin Murphy, Diarmuid Sheridan, Daniel O'Toole, Richard Shinnars, Ciaran McCabe, Paul Coffey, Martin Moloney. Front row l to r – Vincent Moloney, Christopher Koyce, Eoin Shinnars, Conor O'Mahony, Andrew Hickey, Michael Ahern, Michael Flannery, Shay O'Gorman, Joseph Powell, Shane Ryan.



Kilruane-McDonagh's – North Tipperary U14 C Football Champions

Front row l to r – Christopher Darcy, Stephen McCarthy, Patrick Coughlan, Diarmuid Cahill, Colm Williams, Kevin Quinlan, Gary Prout, Shane Williams, Cormac Williams and Eamonn Darcy. Back row l to r – Gary Hoare, Paul Killackey, Paddy Ryan, Damien Cahill, Declan Souch, Willie Darcy, Seamus Williams (capt.), Nigel Reddan, Darren Killackey and Derek Kenneally.



Kildangan U14 North Tipp 'B' Football Winners '97

Back row l to r – Paul Darcy, Stephen Carey, Johnny Spencer, Michael Slattery, Patrick Lynch, Liam Kelly, Thomas Mackey. Front row l to r – William Burke, Bryan Forde, Eoin Kelly, Ailish Kennedy (captain), Bridin Hackett, Enda McGrath, Darragh Egan, Conor Foley.



80 and still cycling – Jack Culhane



**Portroe U14 Hurling C – Winners
North Tipperary**

Back row l to r – Liam Sheedy (manager), Jason Hogan, Gillian Slattery, Patricia O'Halloran, Dawn Ryan, Pdraig Hickey, John Sheedy (sel.), Mick Donnellan (sel.). Middle row l to r – Jimmy Creamer, Charlie Wilford, Vincent Power, Edward O'Grady, Ollie Ryan, Robert Freeman, Donal Carr, Shane Creamer. Front row l to r – Derek White, Sean Donnellan, Nigel Kennedy, Raymond Cottrell (capt.), David O'Halloran, Pdraig Malone, Elaine Ryan, John Shinnors.



Ballinahinch U16C Football & Hurling Champions

Hurling team – back row l to r: Mike Healy (trainer), Eoin O'Sullivan, Alan Kelly, Stephen McNamara, Derek Walsh, Ciaran Kennedy, Donnacha Ryan, Raphael Ryan (captain), John Doheny, Kieran Ryan, Shane McGrath. Front row l to r: Michael Ryan, Micheál Gleeson, Marcus Ryan, Pdraig Berkery, Daniel Lyons, Matthew Kennedy, Michael Fitzgerald, Dermot Gleeson.



Lorrha U16 Hurling Section B

Front row – Paschal Moran, Trainer; Thomas Lambe, Dermot Power, Anthony Slevin, Colm Dolan (capt.), Shane Brophy, Derek Walshe, Eoin Mannion, Jimmy Dunne. Back row – Ritchie Burke, Pdraig Deane, Enda Moran, Robert Quinn, Michael Carroll, Brendan Coen, David Burke, Shane Mannion, Barry Moran, Patrick Cleary, David Needham. Missing from photograph: R. O'Meara, A. Kennedy.



**Burgess U16 Panel and Mentors – North and County
Football 'B' Champions**

Back row l to r – J.P. McDonnell (selector), Garry Howard (selector), Noel McDonnell, Frankie Hogan, Damien O'Brien, Kevin McGrath, Shane Cleary and Paddy Seymour (selector). Middle row – Michael Fogarty, David Quinlan, Donal Hogan, Alan Seymour, Gerard Hogan, Jason Seymour, Patrick Ryan, David Maher. Seated – Eoin Hogan, Shane Maher, Colm O'Brien (capt.) with brother John, Pdraig McDonnell, Cathal Hanrahan, Tony Scroope and Niall McGrath.

Mid Tipperary Bord na nÓg

Martin Treacy (secretary)



Photograph shows officers and guests who attended the recent Mid Bord na nÓg Convention in the Park Avenue House, Thurles. Included are (seated, l. to r.) J. C. Ryan, Mid Bord na nÓg rep. to Senior Board; Fr. O'Rourke, president Mid Bord na nÓg; Frank O'Regan, treasurer Mid Bord na nÓg; Jimmy Conroy, secretary Co. Board na nÓg; Jimmy Copinger, Mid Board na nÓg rep. to County Board. Standing - Seán McLoughlin, P.R.O. Mid Bord na nÓg; Andy O'Gorman, Mid Senior Board Youth Officer; Maria Morrissey, County Senior Board Youth Officer; Connie Grace, County Bord na nÓg chairman; Dominic Everard, Mid Bord na nÓg rep. to County Board; Joe Moran, Mid Bord na nÓg vice-chairman. Absent from photo: Harry Ryan, chairman Mid Senior Board and Paudie Butler, vice-chairman Mid Bord na nÓg.

The year 1997 will go down as one of the busiest ever for the Board with the number of games being played increasing every year. With the increase in games the burden on the clubs and the Board also increases. While some clubs are well organised and have an abundance of personnel to look after teams, other clubs are finding it very difficult to get adequate numbers of coaches and selectors. Clubs will have to look to retired players and hope they give back something to the games.

THE GAMES

On the field of play our under-14 hurling team played in the annual Peadar Cummins Tournament in Borrisoleigh. In the semi-final they defeated West Tipperary comfortably. North Tipperary were their opponents in the final. This was a very good advertisement for hurling with both teams showing great commitment. At the end of a fine game the North boys emerged victorious.

The county under-14 team played in the annual Forristal Tournament in Waterford. Mid players on the team were Joe Ryan, Martin Power, Brian Creed. Boherlahan/Dualla: Jodie Brennan. Upperchurch/Drombane: John Kennedy; Drom/Inch. The team were narrowly beaten in the first and second games and thus failed to qualify for the knock-out stages.

The county under-14 footballers were beaten by Clare in the Munster Final and were victorious in the Plate competition in the Power Memorial Tournament played in Waterford. On the team were Declan Bolger, Loughmore-

/Castleiney; Damien Bergin, Moyne-Templetuohy; David Owens, J. K. Brackens; John Minchin, Moycarkey/Borris; Dominic Everard, Moyne-Templetuohy, was coach to the team while Jim Leahy, J. K. Brackens, was Mid selector.

On the county under-15 hurling team that took part in the Carrigdown Tournament in Cork were Eamon Buckley. John Cahill, Drom/Inch; Eoin Costelloe and Aidan Dundon, Durlás Óg; Kevin Ivers, J. K. Brackens; Peter Bourke, J. K. Brackens.

The county under-16 hurlers had a very successful run in the Nenagh Cop inter-county tournament. Winning all their games including a hard fought victory over Galway in the semi-final. The final against Limerick was played in Nenagh with victory going to Tipperary after a fine second half performance on the score 1-20 to 1-12. Martin Treacy was Mid selector. His players on the panel who contributed greatly to the victory were Colm Ryan, Moycarkey/Borris; Stephen Mason, Durlas Óg; Kevin Ivers, Aidan Ivers, Kevin Mulryan, J. K. Brackens; McDara Butler, Brian Costelloe, Liam Brett, Trevor O'Connor, Damien Young, Drom-Inch; John Sweeney, Moyne-Templetuohy.

Our divisional under-16 team commenced their Munster championship campaign with a victory over East Clare in Tulla. East Cork side, Imokilly were next where the Tipp boys had a comfortable victory. Our semi-final opponents were South Tipperary. Played in Cashel this was a game which produced some excellent hurling from both sides. At the end of the hour the teams were

level. The eagerly awaited replay also at Cashel again produced an exciting game. However, the South boys finished the stronger to achieve victory by a narrow margin. They then went on to take Munster honours and we heartily congratulate them on this fine victory.

Clubs in the division once again took part in the ground hurling. This has been an outstanding success and all participants received beautiful bios.

Early in March we heard the news of the passing of one of our presidents Tom Purcell of Moyne-Templetuohy. For many years Tom was a very valued member of our Board where he represented his club with distinction. His first love was his own club and was mentor with under-age teams over a long period. He was also a member of the County Board na nÓg. May he rest in peace.

MÍLE BUÍOCHAS

The Mid Board had an outstanding year thanks to the co-operation of everyone involved in the promotion of our games. The Board would like to thank everyone who helped in the running of our championships. We would like to thank all the clubs for their co-operation, the field committees for the use of their fields, the referees and their officials to whom we are deeply indebted. To the *Tipperary Star* and photographer Brendan O'Connor, we say a sincere thank you. A special word of praise to our sponsors who again came up trumps with financial support. Finally we wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.

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Mid Bord na nÓg Championship Results 1997

FOOTBALL:

	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Runner-up</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Referee</u>
U-21 (A)	Moyne/Templetuohy	J. K. Brackens	Páirc na nÓg	B Louth
U-12 (B)	Holycross/Ballycahill	Moycarkey/Borris	Páirc na nÓg	P. J. Hewitt
U-12 (C)	Gortnahoe/Glengoole	Clonakenny	Páirc na nÓg	Ml. Jordan
U-14 (A)	Moyne/Templetuohy	Loughmore/Castleiney	Ballycahill	R. Lowry
U-14 (B)	Moycarkey/Borris	Clonakenny	Ballycahill	J. Sweeney
U-16 (A)	J. K. Brackens	Moycarkey/Borris	Castleiney	Ml. Greene
U-16 (B)	Holycross/Ballycahill	Loughmore/Castleiney	Littleton	J. Crawford

HURLING:

U-12 (A)	Drom/Inch	Dúrlas Óg	Templemore	P. Cullen
U-12 (B)	Loughmore/Castleiney	Gortnahoe/Glengoole	Páirc na nÓg	T. Maher
U-12 (C)	Clonakenny	Upperchurch/Drombane	Páirc na nÓg	P. J. Hewitt
U-14 (A)	Dúrlas Óg	Moyne/Templetuohy	Holycross	J. O'Shea
U-14 (B)	Loughmore/Castleiney	J. K. Brackens	The Ragg	D. Curtis
U-16 (A)	Drom/Inch	Dúrlas Óg	Templemore	P. Cullen
U-16 (B)	Moyne/Templetuohy	J. K. Brackens	The Ragg	J. P. Stakelum
Féile na nGael	Moyne/Templetuohy	Dúrlas Óg	Páirc na nÓg	R. Lowry
Peil na nÓg	Moyne/Templetuohy	Dúrlas Óg	Ballycahill	J. Sweeney
Skills winner:	David Judge	Holycross/Ballycahill		
Long Puck winner:	Michael Costelloe	Drom/Inch		

CHAMPIONSHIP SPONSORS:

- U-12 (A) Hurling – Centenary Co-op –Ballyduff.
- U-12 (B and C) Hurling – Conor Stakelum – Stakelum Office Supplies, Thurles.
- U-14 (A) Hurling – Spain family, Thurles.
- U-14 (B & C) – Bowe Travel, Thurles.
- U-16 (A) Hurling – Thurles Credit Union.
- U-16 (B & C) Hurling – T. J. Ryan, Rosegreen Construction.
- U-12 (A) Football – Templemore Jewellers.
- U-12 (B & C) Football – Park Avenue House, Thurles.
- U-14 (A) Football – A.I.B., Thurles.
- U-14 (B & C) Football – First National, Thurles.
- U-16 (A) Football – John O'Keeffe, Horse & Jockey.
- U-16 (B & C) Football – Michael Moran Drapery, Thurles.

BOARD OFFICERS 1997:

- Presidents: Rev. J. J. O'Rourke P.P., Gortnahoe/Glengoole; Tom Purcell, Moyne/Templetuohy R.I.P.
- Chairman: Wm. Corcoran (J. K. Brackens).
- Vice-Chairmen: Paudie Butler, Drom-Inch; Joe Moran, Moycarkey/Borris.
- Secretary: Martin Treacy, Holycross/Ballycahill.
- Treasurer: Frank O'Regan, Moycarkey/Borris.
- P.R.O.: Sean McLoughlin, Dúrlas Óg.
- County Board Reps: Dominic Everard, Moyne/Templetuohy; Jimmy Coppinger, Dúrlas Óg.
- Mid Senior Board Rep.: J. C. Ryan, Upperchurch/Drombane.

BOARD REFEREES 1997:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Willie O'Grady, Moyne/Templetuohy. | Michael Webster, Loughmore/Castleiney. |
| Denis Curtis, Thurles Kickhams. | Jimmy Sweeney, Loughmore/Castleiney. |
| P. J. Hewitt, Thurles Sarsfields. | John Crawford, Moycarkey/Borris. |
| Michael Greene, Upperchurch/Drombane. | P. J. Leahy, Moyne/Templetuohy. |
| Tom Maher, Moyne/Templetuohy. | Michael Jordan, Drom/Inch. |
| Pat Cullen, Loughmore/Castleiney. | John Ryan, Boherlahan/Dualla. |
| Brinsley Lowth, Boherlahan/Dualla. | J. P. Stakelum, Holycross/Ballycahill. |
| Jim O'Shea, J. K. Brackens. | Rody Lowry, Upperchurch/Drombane. |
| Joe Moran, Moycarkey, Borris. | Gary O'Shea, J. K. Brackens. |
| Liam Connolly, Boherlahan/Dualla. | Séan McLoughlin, Dúrlas Óg. |
| Martin Treacy, Holycross/Ballycahill. | |



The Dúrlas Óg panel and selectors which won the Mid Under-14 'A' hurling title by defeating Moyne-Templetuohy at Holycross. Back row (l. to r.) Declan Ryan, Pat Callaghan (selector), Willie Collins, Gerry O'Dwyer, Eoin Ryan, John Ryan, Eamonn Tuohy, Eamonn Gleeson, Peadar Graydon, Paudie Duggan, Adrian Quinlan, Seanie O'Dwyer, David O'Dwyer (captain), Wayne Culley, Paddy Moore (coach), Jimmy Coppinger (selector). Front row: Colm Duggan, Hugh Mockler, David Kennedy, T. J. Gleeson, Lee Shanahan, Brian Graydon, Paddy McCormack, David Callaghan, Shane Ryan, Richard Ruth, Patrick Ruddy, Lorcan Burke, Jonathan Gleeson, Stiofáin Ryan.



The Loughmore/Castleiney panel that won the Stakelums Office Supplies Mid Under-12 'B' hurling title by defeating Gortnahoe/Glengoole in the final at Páirc na nÓg, Thurles. Back row (l. to r.) Enda Hackett, Philip Treacy, Leonard Ryan, Colm Campion, Ronan Stapleton, Edward Connolly, Thomas Maher, John Scully, Martin Ryan, Kieran McGrath, Catherine Ryan, Siobhán Brennan, David McGrath (captain), Stephen Ryan, Colin Sweeney. Front row: Aidan McGrath, Cian Hennessy, John Campion, Shane Hennessy, Mark Kiely, Damien Russell, Raymond Webster, Thomas McGrath, Ciaran Hackett, Andrew Sweeney, Gerard Connolly, Mark Heffernan, David Foy, Shane Purcell, Diarmuid Brennan.



The Clonakenny panel that won the Stakelum's Office Supplies Mid under-12 'C' hurling title by defeating Upperchurch-Drombane in the final at Páirc na nÓg, Thurles. Back row (l. to r.): Catherine Green, Maria Costigan, Ann Murray, Helena Costigan, Niall Matthews, Gerard Smith (capt.), Micheál Coonan, Conor Ryan, David Killoran, William Moloughney, Peadar Byrne. Front row: Jamie Maxwell, Edward Byrne, Kevin Treacy, Thomas Carroll, Donal Greed, Philip Crampton, James Cody, Brian Treacy, Nicholas Ryan, Stephen Carroll.



The Loughmore/Castleiney panel that won the county Under-14 'B' hurling title by defeating Rosegreen at Holycross. Back row (l. to r.): James Kiely, Colm Campion, Aisling Brennan, Lorraine Sweeney, Liam Doyle, Paul Brennan, Derek Bourke, David McGrath, Michael Treacy, Conor Scully, Declan Bolger, Denis Higgins, Philip Treacy, Martin Walsh. Front row: John Kiely, Andrew Sweeney, Enda Hackett, Fiona Connolly, Edward Connolly, Colin Sweeney, Darren Danagher (captain), Evan Sweeney, Brendan Healy, Kevin Stapleton, Eoin Brennan, Brendan Maher.



The Drom-Inch players and selectors who won the Centenary Co-op Mid Tipperary Under-12 'A' hurling title by defeating Dúrlas Óg at Templemore. Back row (l. to r.) Mattie Ryan, Paudie Butler, John O'Connor, Austin Broderick, Tommy Butler, Martin Flynn, Sally Young, Alice Costello, Bernie Butler. Middle row: Diarmuid Kennedy, Kieran Hassett, Jerome Ryan, Greg Broderick, Michael Sheridan, Edward Costello, Thomas O'Connor, Matthew Ryan, Mark Cahill, Kieran Young. Front row: Johnny Ryan, James Woodlock, Cathal Flynn, Daniel Long (captain), John Callanan, Donncha Kennedy, Martin Butler, Seamus Callanan, Micheál Butler, Gary Ryan.



The Drom-Inch panel and selectors that won the county Under-16 'A' hurling title by defeating Roscrea at Nenagh. Back row (l. to r.): Willie Clohessy (selector), John Kennedy, Trevor O'Connor, Michael Cahill, Tommy O'Halloran, Brian Costello, Damien Young, Eamonn Buckley, MacDara Butler, Liam Brett, John McGrath, Paudie Butler (selector). Front row: Fergal McLoughlin, James Kennedy, John Cahill, Eamonn Ryan, Robert Hicks (captain), Michael Costello, Michael Scanlon, Michael Kennedy, P. J. Shanahan, David Moran, Kieran McGrath.



The Dúrlas Óg panel which took part in the Ground Hurling Tournament (Under-11) in Páirc na nÓg. Back row (l. to r.) Ian Maher, Garrett Foxton, Muiris O'Sullivan, Barry O'Donovan, Barry Maher, Richard O'Gorman, Justin Cleary, Eoin Russell, Eoin Sutton, David Cullen, Thomas Dorney. Front row: Thomas Brophy, David Russell, Greg Fewer, Darren O'Connor, Andrew Fogarty, Cian Gleeson, Barry O'Dwyer, Michael Collins, Greg Bowe, Michael Gleeson, Stephen Fewer.



The Moyne-Templetuohy panel which won the Mid Tipperary Under-14 'A' football final by defeating Loughmore-Castleiney at Ballycahill. Back row (l. to r.): Ronan Ely, Eddie Everard, Denis Meade, Gerard McGuinness, Hugh Coughlan, Patrick Leahy, Mark Kelly, Mark Russell, Martin Costigan (captain), John Hassett, William Delahunty, David Kennedy, Martin Cantwell, Damien Bergin. Front row: Denis Maher, Denis Kelly, Eoin Dunne, Kieran Walsh, Kevin Quinlan, Richard Ryan, Kevin Fogarty, Edward Kelly, John Butler, Craig O'Donnell, Jim O'Donnell.



The Mid Tipperary panel which qualified for the semi-final of the Munster Under-16 inter-divisional championship by defeating holders, Imokilly (Cork), in the quarter-final at Semple Stadium. Back row (l. to r.): P. J. McCormack, Barry McLoughlin, Brian O'Loughlin, Trevor O'Connor, Colm Everard, Stephen Mason, Kevin Mulryan, Damien Young, Tomás Ryan, John Ferncombe, Donncha Murray, Kieran McGrath, Tom King, Eamonn Buckley, Kevin Ivors. Front row: Robert Hicks, John Cahill, John Sweeney, Ronan Keane, Liam Brett, Fergal McLoughlin (captain), Paul O'Brien, Macdara Butler, Colm Ryan, Kevin O'Regan, Aidan Ivors, Brian Costello.



Officers of Moyne/Templetuohy Juvenile G.A.A. club receiving the 'Club of the Year' award at Mid Tipperary Bord na nÓg's Annual Convention. Included are (l. to r.) Marian Stokes, treasurer Moyne/Templetuohy G.A.A. club; Dominic Everard, secretary Moyne-Templetuohy Juvenile G.A.A. club; Bill Corcoran, chairman, Mid Bord na nÓg; Willie Butler, chairman Moyne-Templetuohy Juvenile G.A.A. club; Mary Butler, P.R.O. Moyne-Templetuohy Juvenile G.A.A. club.



The Holycross-Ballycahill panel which won the Mid Under-16 'B' football title by defeating Loughmore/Castleiney at Littleton. Back row (l. to r.) James Barrett, Thomas Hayes, Aidan Spillane, Frank Dwan, Alan Ryan, Darragh Duggan, John Lacey, Paul Tuohy (captain), John Quinlan, Edward Morrissey, Matin Flanagan. Front row: Nicky Irwin, Thomas Maher, Matthew McCullagh, Robby Stakelum, Keith Durack, Kevin O'Riordan, Conor Hayes, Edmund Shaw, Paddy O'Gorman, Liam McGrath, David Judge.



Officers of Gortnahoe/Glengoole Juvenile G.A.A. club receiving the 'Most Improved Club' award at Mid Bord na nÓg's Annual Convention in the Park Avenue House, Thurles. Included are (l. to r.) Bill Corcoran, chairman, Mid Bord na nÓg; John Coleman, secretary Gortnahoe-Glengoole Juvenile G.A.A. club; Ronan Stanley, Assistant Secretary Gortnahoe/Glengoole Juvenile G.A.A. club.



The Moyne-Templetuohy Under-12 panel which won the Mid Under-12 'A' football final by defeating J. K. Brackens at Páirc na nÓg. Back row (l. to r.): Brian Kelly, Eoin Butler, Ciaran Flynn, Eddie Everard, Gary Killeen, John Paul Costigan, Kevin Quinlan, Rickie Ryan (captain), Ronan Ely, Denis Kelly, Tomás Hassett, Kevin Davy, Michael Maher, Richard Liston, James Egan. Front row: James Forristal, Michael Ryan, P. J. O'Brien, Niall Russell, Conor Quinlan, Ciaran Walsh, Paul Carroll, Niall Walsh, Tomás Ryan, James Meade, Gerard Doherty, Michael Buckley, Jim O'Donnell.



The Holycross-Ballycahill panel which won the Mid under-12 'B' football title by defeating Moycarkey-Borris in the final at Páirc na nÓg. Back row (l. to r.) Patrick Byrne, Tadgh Flanagan, Patrick Stakelum, Kieran Barrett, Jamie Lowry, Kevin O'Dwyer, Michael King, Donncha Duggan, Eamon Lowry, Michael Watters, Stephen Delaney, Patrick Ryan, Garrett McDonald, Adrian Bourke, Hilton Feehan. Front row: Thomas Lowry, Pierce Stakelum, David English, Pádraig Comerford, Stephen Ryan, Brian Barrett, Michael Harty, Thomas Stakelum (captain), Timmy Ryan, Catal Delahunty, Mark Fennessy, Donncha Ryan, Michael Kennedy, Martin Bourke, Gerard Cronin, James King.



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Some members of County Scór Committee. Back (l. to r.): Seamus McGrath, Johnny Delaney, Paudie Quirke, Martin Kennedy, Paddy Kelly. Front row: (l. to r.): Joe O'Halloran, Nora Troy, Joan Ryan, Maria Morrissey, Breda Corcoran, Jim Keane. (Photo: Seamus Bourke)

Scór

COUNTY SCÓR NA nÓG WINNERS:

Rince Foirne: Gortnahoe/Glengoose.
Amhránaíocht Aonair: Kilruane MacDonaghs.
Ceol Uirlise: Fr. Sheehy's.
Nuachleas: Moyne/Templetuohy.
Tráth na gCéisteanna: Seán Treacy's.
Aithriseoireacht: Upperchurch/Drombane.
Bailéad Ghrúpa: Upperchurch/Drombane.
Rince Set: Borrisoleigh.

Munster Champions:

Amhránaíocht Aonair: Kilruane MacDonagh's.
Tráth na gCéisteanna: Seán Treacy's.
Bailéad Ghrúpa: Upperchurch/Drombane.

All-Ireland Champions:

Bailéad Ghrúpa: Upperchurch/Drombane.

COUNTY SCÓR SINSEAR WINNERS:

Rince Foirne: Upperchurch/Drombane.
Amhránaíocht Aonair: Seán Treacy's.
Ceol Uirlise: Silvermines.
Nuachleas: J. K. Brackens.

Tráth na gCéisteanna: Newport.

Aithriseoireacht: Cappawhite.

Bailéad Ghrúpa: Portroe.

Rince Set: Cappawhite.

Munster Champions:

Amhránaíocht Aonair: Seán Treacy's.

COUNTY SCÓR NA bPÁISTÍ

Rince Foirne: Gortnahoe/Glengoose.

Amhránaíocht Aonair: Borrisoleigh.

Ceol Uirlise: Boherlahan/Dualla.

Nuachleas: Upperchurch/Drombane.

Tráth na gCéisteanna: Silvermines.

Aithriseoireacht: Boherlahan/Dualla.

Bailéad Ghrúpa: Moyle Rovers.

Rince Set: Seán Treacy's.

SCÓR na nÓG:

	North	North	South	West
<i>Rince Foirne</i>	Gortnahoe/ Glengoose	Templederry	Newcastle	Seán Treacy's
<i>Amhránaíocht Aonair</i>	Upperchurch/ Drombane	Kilruane MacDonaghs	Ardfinnan	Seán Treacy's
<i>Ceol Uirlise Nuachleas</i>	Upperchurch/ Drombane	Roscrea	Fr. Sheehy's	Clonoulty/Rossmore
	Moyne/ Templetuohy	Toomevara	Moyle Rovers	Lattin/ Cullen Seán Treacy's
<i>Tráth na gCéist</i>		Borrisoleigh		
<i>Aithriseoireacht</i>	Upperchurch/ Drombane	Templederry	Newcastle	Golden/Kilfeacle
<i>Bailéad Ghrúpa</i>	Upperchurch/ Drombane	Roscrea	Moyle Rovers	Seán Treacy's
<i>Rince Set</i>	Gortnahoe/G'goole	Borrisoleigh	Newcastle	Seán Treacy's

SCÓR na pPÁISTÍ:

	Mid	North	South	West
<i>Rince Foirne</i>	Gortnahoe/ Glengoose	Borrisoleigh	Newcastle	Seán Treacy's
<i>Amhránaíocht Aonair</i>	Moyne/T'uoohy	Borrisoleigh	Kilsheelan	Lattin/Cullen
<i>Ceol Uirlise Nuachleas</i>	Boherlahan/ Dualla	Templederry	Kilsheelan	Clonoulty/ Rossmore Seán Treacy's
	Upperchurch/ Drombane	Templederry	Moyle Rovers	
<i>Tráth na gCéist</i>	J. K. Bracken's	Silvermines	St. Patrick's	Cappawhite
<i>Aithriseoireacht</i>	Boherlahan/ Dualla	Borrisoleigh	Fr. Sheehy's	Lattin/Cullen
<i>Bailéad Ghrúpa</i>	Upperchurch/ Drombane	Roscrea	Moyle Rovers	Lattin/Cullen
<i>Rince Set</i>	Gortnahoe/ Glengoose	Borrisoleigh	Ballybacon/Grange Grange	Seán Treacy's

SCÓR SINSEAR:

	Mid	North	South	West
<i>Rince Foirne</i>	Upperchurch Drombane	Portroe	Newcastle	Seán Treacy's
<i>Amhránaíocht Aonair</i>	Moyne/ Templetuohy	Roscrea	Mullinahone	Seán Treacy's
<i>Ceol Uirlise Nuachleas</i>	J. K. Bracken's	Silvermines	Mullinahone	
	J. K. Bracken's	Portroe	Mullinahone	Cappawhite
<i>Tráth na gCéist</i>	Moyne/ Templetuohy	Newport	Newcastle	Clonoulty/ Rossmore Cappawhite
<i>Aithriseoireacht</i>	Drom/Inch	Portroe	Ballingarry	
<i>Bailéad Ghrúpa</i>	Moyne/ Templetuohy	Portroe	Mullinahone	
<i>Rince Set</i>	Moycarkey/Borris Borris	Borrisoleigh	Newcastle	Cappawhite

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Friday the 13th December saw the beginning of another busy and successful year for Scór in Tipperary. On this night Halla na Féile, Cashel, hosted our County Scór na nÓg final. We had a packed house and a great nights entertainment. All our county winners did us proud at the Munster semi-final in Cashel again and we were to be well represented at the Munster Final in Connolly Hall, Cork.

Amhránaíocht Aonair, Tráth na gCéist agus Bailéad Ghrúpa titles came home to Tipperary. Success was to be ours again with Upperchurch/Drombane Ballad Group bringing home the All-Ireland title from Athlone. Both our Solo Singer from Kilruane and our Quiz team from Seán Treacy's can be proud of their achievements and hope that success will be theirs next year. To all those involved in the Ballad Group all are well aware of their commitments over many years which ultimately were rewarded.

Scór Sinsear on Friday, 28th February saw us again in Cashel. Scór Sinsear would appear to be in difficulties with all Divisions experiencing problems, however, our County Final was laden with talent and hugely entertaining with a packed house. Maybe this does not paint a true picture but quiet obviously we have immense talent as Tallow, Co. Waterford, the host of the Munster semi-final was to prove.

Tipperary came through in most items with a tremendous showing at the Munster Final in Templemore. We were very proud to help in the hosting of this event. A first for Our Lady's Secondary School in Templemore, a most acceptable venue with potential for more events. Maybe even an All-Ireland in the not too distant future!! Of course our victory here made the whole occasion even sweeter with Deirdre O'Connell of Seán Treacy's, winning the Munster Final Amhránaíocht Aonair title.

The All-Ireland Scór Sinsear final saw us travelling to Monaghan where Deirdre did her county proud. Victory was not to be Deirdre's this year, but I am sure her efforts will be rewarded eventually.

Scór na bPáistí was the final competition of our year in Cashel again on Friday, 4th April. This competition goes from strength to strength and is probably one of the most enjoyable ones.

Our work for the year at this stage was still not over. Again this year we had an end of year Dinner Dance to honour our All-Ireland victors. A small token of our appreciation in the form of five individual trophies was presented to each member of the group. This function was held in the Anner Hotel. The Greene Ceilf Band were of course ever



←
Borrisoleigh senior set dancers – North Champions. Back row (l. to r.) Philip Ryan, Declan Maher, Henry Groome, Thomas Walsh, Michael Browne. Front row (l. to r.) Helen Carroll, Maria Ryan, Linda Scanlon, Carol Bradshaw.



Portroe – North senior Scór Novelty Act winners. Back row (l. to r.) Tom Gleeson, North Scór chairman; John Sheedy, Seán Creamer, Stephen Egan and Nicky Cottrell. Seated: Nan Kelly, Kathleen O'Connor, Caroline Egan and June Byrne.

→
Upperchurch/Drombane Figure Dance – Group – County Champions 1997 in Scór na Sinsear. Back row: Mary Griffin, Clare Buckley, Siobhán Ryan, Breda Hayes. Front row: Eleanor Quinn, Pat Grant, Edel Griffin, Annette Quinlan.



present and entertained us all until the early hours of the morning.

Scór continues to hold a very important place in the lives of many Tipperary people. We are all indebted to those who promote Scór, all the Divisional Boards, and committees and the many individuals, the County and Divisional Senior Boards and Bord na nÓg. This past year saw bereavements hit many County Board officers. To all those who suffered a loss we extend our sympathies. I could not but mention our beloved Gael Bill Flanagan who passed to his untimely eternal reward during the year, by an unusual coincidence this should happen the morning of our All-

Ireland Scór Sinsear Final. None would be prouder of Deirdre O'Connell than our own Bill, as she sang the "Rose of Keeper Hill" in Monaghan.

We look forward to the coming year after a very productive annual general meeting. The year ahead sees some new personnel, with a new chairperson Jim Keane of Golden/Kilfeacle, taking over from Joe O'Halloran, who has given many years of service. Also there is a 'new' treasurer, with Joe O'Halloran, being elected to this position which was previously so capably held by Joan Ryan of Upperchurch/Drombane. We wish all the new and not so new officers every good wish for their term ahead.

Maria Morrissey (Runaí)



Aidan Doran (Roscrea) North Senior Scór Song winner.



Scór na nÓg – North Tipperary Champions – Roscrea – 1997 – Instrumental Music. Back: Paul Ryan, Ann Marie Cummins. Front Melanie Thompson and Laura Ryan



Scór na nÓg – North Tipperary champions – Roscrea 1997 – Ballad Group. Back: Róisín Fahy, Jade Carney and Pamela Aiken. Front: Catherine Minogue and Paul Ryan.



Upperchurch/Drombane – All-Ireland champions – Ballad Group – Jean Ryan, Norma Harrington, Joan Marie Ryan, Mary Ryan. Seated: Nora Harrington, John Quinn, Avril Harrington.



Scór na nÓg winners – Lattin/Cullen Novelty Act. Catherine Heffernan, Catherine Breen, Carol O'Donnell, Helen O'Dwyer, Edel Byrne, John Landers (principal), Victoria O'Dwyer, Orla Byrne.



North Tipperary champions Scór na nÓg – Templederry Figure Dancers. Back: Helen Shanahan, Martina Kennedy, Jackie Shanahan, Catherine Shanahan, Philip Ryan. Seated: Michelle McGrath, Sarah Fogarty, Elizabeth Ryan, Catriona Kennedy.



West Scór na nÓg Figure Dancing winners – Seán Treacy's – Back (l. to r.) Susan O'Gorman, Elaine Berkery, Adrian O'Gorman, Catherine Keane. Front row: Nuala O'Gorman, John Berkery, Shane O'Gorman, Brema Berkery.



Scór na nÓg winners Seán Treacy's – West winners – Ballad Group. (l. to r.) Margaret Byrne, Denis O'Connell, Mary T. O'Connell, Julie Phelan, Siobhán O'Connell.

Mid Tipperary Scór 1996/97

Mid Tipperary Scór Committee had a very busy season with a good response from most clubs in Scór na nÓg and Scór na bPaistí, we are still endeavouring to have a better input from clubs in Scór Sinsear.

Our representatives in Scór na nÓg won in county final in Cashel on 13th December, 1996. Rince Foirne – Gortnahoe/Glengoose. Recitation – Sharon Armstrong, Upperchurch. The nuachleas – Moyne/Templetuohy got to Munster, The Ballad Group from Upperchurch went on to win the All-Ireland in Athlone in February, 1997. Comhghairdeas to this talented team and their tutors Mary and Joan Ryan.

The Upperchurch/Drombane club had a celebratory party in Park Avenue House in April and presented the group with suitably inscribed plaques, Coiste Scór Thiobraid Arann laid on a little party for them also on 6th June in The Anner Hotel.

Our Figure Dancers from Upperchurch and J. K. Brackens Novelty Act went to Senior Munster Final in Templemore and although they gave great performances they were unlucky on the night.

In Scór na bPaistí county final in Cashel on 4th April our Figure Dancers from Gortnahoe/Glengoose, Instrumental Music and Recitation – Corine Mulcahy from Boherlahan/Dualla and Upperchurch's Novelty Act – were worthy county champions.

A great friend and supporter of Scór – Bill Flanagan, Galbertstown, Holycross, passed to his eternal reward on 19th April. Bill was a fine traditional singer and gave of his time for many years in tutoring at many singing workshops around the county, he appeared on Liam Ó Murchu's "Up For The Match" with Comhaltas Group in the Premier Hall when Semple Stadium staged the Centenary All-Ireland in 1984. Bill's presence shall be sadly missed at our competitions and meetings in future. Go ndeanfaidh Dia Trocaire ar a anám.

Our committed chairman Johnny Delaney (J. K. Brackens), retired from Mid Committee and we congratulate him and wish him well as vice-chairman on Coiste Scór Condae. We welcome our new chairman Paddy Cooney, Moycarkey/Borris. Paddy is from the well known family in dancing and musical circles and has been involved in Scór activities since its inception and we wish him well in his new position.



Borrisileigh Set Dancers – County Champions Scór na nÓg. Back row (l. to r.) Joe O'Halloran, Seamus Farrell, Paraic Maher, Seán Fogarty, Martin Maher, Pierce Ryan, Philip Ryan. Front row (l. to r.) Kim Bourke, Bernice Walsh, Michelle Maher, Bernadette Stapleton.



West Scór na nÓg winners – Clonoulty-Rossmore – Instrumental Music. L. to r.: Cora Heffernan, Padraig Coen, Áine Heffernan.



Scór na nÓg – North winners – Borrisileigh – Question Time – l. to r. Vincent Stapleton, Eoin Stapleton, Paraic Maher.

Coiste Scór Thiobraid Arann Mheán wish to thank our host clubs during season also our sponsors Mid Board, Thurles credit Union, John Kennedy Centenary Rooms, Thurles, A.C.C., Tivoli Cleaners, Grants and Kinane's, Upperchurch and Michael Ryan, Drombane, Publicans, Thurles Livestock Mart and Lycon Auto Spares.

ELECTED OFFICERS:

Chairman: Paddy Cooney, Moycarkey; *Vice-Chairman:* Martin Kennedy, Drom/Inch; *Runaí:* Breda Corcoran, Upperchurch; *Cisteoir and P.R.O.:* Nora Troy, Thurles Sarsfields; *Asst. Runaí:* Noel Joyce, J. K. Brackens; *Delegate to Munster:* Joan Ryan, Upperchurch; *Delegates to Co. Scór:* Breda Corcoran and Josie Kenny, Gortnahoe/Glengoose.

Nora Troy (P.R.O.)



Scór na nÓg – Solo Song – Munster Champion 1997 – Catriona Heffernan, Kilruane.



North Tipp Champion Recitation – Scór na nÓg – Niamh Ryan, Templederry.



Scór na nÓg South and Co. Tipperary champions 1997 – Instrumental Music. Sharon and Patrick Sheehan, Sharon and Patrick represented Tipperary in the Munster Finals, they performed extremely well on the day and were very unlucky not to take the Munster title.



Scór na nÓg – North Champions – Toomevara – Novelty Act team. Back row (l. to r.) Theresa Martin, Mairéad Ryan, Mary Cornally, Ciara Harty and Margaret Walsh (coach). Seated: Elaine Harty, Pamela Harty, Denise O'Meara and Maria Tynan



Upperchurch/Drombane – Winners County Final – Scór na bPáistí, 1997 – Nuachleas. Back row: (l. to r.) Joe O'Halloran, Donncha Ryan, John Fogarty, Brinora Brett, Helen Shanahan, Mary Harrington. Front row (l. to r.) Noelle Greene, Claire Quinn, Siobhán Carew, Philip Bourke.



Scór na bPáistí – North champions – Borrisileigh Set Dancers. Back row (l. to r.) Sheila Kenny, Pamela Ryan, Philip Ryan, Anne Marie Kavanagh, Anne Marie Farrell. Front row: (l. to r.) Mary Bradshaw, Margaret Ryan, Grainne O'Donnell, Mairád Maher.



North Tipp champions – Scór na bPáistí – 1997 – Novelty Act – Templederry – Standing: Catriona Madden, Tom McLoughney, Donal McGrath, John Fogarty. Seated: Catriona McLoughlin, Tara Kennedy, Martina Kennedy.



Borrisileigh Figure Dancer – Scór na bPáistí – North winners and county runners-up: Back row (l. to r.) Marion O'Mahony, Gemma Ryan, Margaret Ryan, Mary Bradshaw, Dearbhla O'Mahoney, J. O'Halloran. Front row (l. to r.): Elaine Stapleton, Gill Chadwick, Maura Bradshaw, Marie Ryan



Michael Corcoran, Borrisileigh – North Winner Recitation – Scór na bPáistí



Ballad Group – Scór na bPáistí – Back (l. to r.) Kate Ryan, Caroline Tracey, Laura O'Brien. Front row (l. to r.) Debbie O'Neill, Catherine Shanahan.



North Tipp champions – Instrumental Music – Templederry – Scór na bPáistí – Catherine Shanahan, Jackie Shanahan, Blathnaid Crowe.



Anne Marie Kavanagh, Borrisoleigh – Co. winners – Solo Song – Scór na bPáistí – with Joe O'Halloran, County Chairman.



Portroe – North Senior Scór Ballad Group winners: Stephanie Lawlor, Billy Power, Riva Lawlor, Nicky Cottrell and Carol Crennen.

Silvermines U-12 panel, 1997 – Back row (l. to r.) Shauna Kennedy, Emma Dunlea, Maurice Leamy, Jason McDonald, Mattie Ryan, Gavin Steed, Declan Mulqueen, Seán Forde, Shane Horan, Ronan Sherlock, Eugene Slattery, Damian Corcoran, Cathal Sherlock, Thomas Gleeson, Niall Quinn, Kevin Dunne. Front (l. to r.) Keith O'Flynn, Keith Fahy, Daniel Keogh, David Keogh, Alan Dunlea, Eoin Grace, Orie Quirke, Michael Hogan, Damien Boland, Gearóid Quinn, Keelan Chadwick.



Killenaule girls Mini-Sevens team with Niall Quinn after presentation of medals in the school. Back row – B. Mullins (teacher), Sara Healy (sub), Emma Walsh, Emer Shelley, Thomas Fitzgerald (trainer), Norah O'Dwyer, Áine O'Dwyer, Neddy Grant (manager). Front row: Emma Webster, Annette Hanly, Niall Quinn (who presented medals) Emma McMenamin (sub), Jacqueline Grace (sub) and Tracy Hanly.

Beatha is sláinte chuíg muintir Thiobraid Árann sa bhaile agus i gcéin

Tipperary Handball '97

by Eddie Corbett

It was another busy year for Tipperary Handball with success in the adult and juvenile grades

All-Ireland title for ladies

JACKIE KEATING and Carol Moloney (Cashel) superbly won the All-Ireland 40/20 Senior doubles title, in April in UCD in Dublin. The Cashel pair travelled to Dublin as outsiders in the championship but they recorded two famous wins, to win the All-Ireland 40/20 ladies senior doubles title. In the semi-final, Jackie and Carol met Joe Carey and Liz Nichol (Kildare) and had a good 21-11, 21-14 win. The Cashel girls were in fine form teaming up well in their 1st time playing doubles together and won in two well contested game.

In the final, Jackie and Carol met the '95 and '96 champions Liz Campbell and Susanne Smith (Antrim) in a brilliant match. The Cashel girls played well with Carol playing strongly on the left-side and Jackie showing her class on the right-side, they were unlucky to lost the 1st game 21-19. They recovered well to win the 2nd game 21-18. The 3rd game was a thriller with Jackie and Carol recovering from a 10-1 deficit to come back brilliantly and win Tipperary's 1st All-Ireland of the '97 season with 21-19 victory.

Corbett wins National's title



Irish Nationals Champion John Corbett (Ballyporeen).

JOHAN CORBETT won the Irish Nationals 40/20 singles title in April in Dublin. John produced a brilliant performance to beat Shane Dormer (Laois) 21-6, 21-12 in the Irish 40/20 men's (C) singles final in DCU in Dublin.

John won Tipperary's first ever Nationals title with a superb display. He began well with some great kills with both hands. He dominated the first game, not letting Dormer into it. He ran out easily winning the first game 21-6.

John again began the 2nd game in top form with some top class kills and some solid serving he ran into a 17-9 lead. Dormer made it to 12 aces but John then made a break getting the remaining aces to win Ballyporeen and Tipperary's first ever Irish Nationals title.

It was a great campaign for John with wins over M. Clancy (Carlow), P. Hynes (Carlow), C. McCory (Tyrone), R. Grugan (Tyrone) and then the final win over S. Dormer (Laois) in a very competitive competition.



All Ireland 40/20 Senior Singles Finalist Jackie Keating (Cashel)

Keating reaches senior final

JACKIE KEATING (Cashel) reached the All-Ireland 40/20 senior singles final in April.

Jackie did very well in this year's ladies 40/20 championship with wins over Sinead Boyle (Antrim), Brid McCorry (Antrim) and Sue Carey (Kildare) on her way to her first senior final.

In the final, Jackie met the champion Bernie Hennessy (Limerick) in Belfast. It was a very exciting final with Jackie just losing out 21-15, 16-21, 21-17. In three very close games, Jackie turned in a great performance just losing out in a thrilling final.

KEATING IN WORLD ACTION

JACKIE KEATING (Cashel) was Tipperary's only representative at the World

Handball Waterford Crystal Championships in Canada last August. Jackie won her place as ladies singles representative on the Irish team with wins in the Irish trial.

Jackie won four matches, which included a win over fellow clubmate Carol Moloney (Cashel), a win over Sue Carey (Kildare), a hard fought win over Sinead Boyle (Antrim) and then she beat Brid McCorry (Antrim) to win her place on the Irish team.

Jackie then travelled to Winnipeg, Canada as part of the Irish team. Jackie was now in with the world's best lady handballers and she did well.

Jackie lost out in the quarter-final to Yvonne August (USA) 21-14, 21-9, who is the current No. 3 in the USA. Jackie can be happy with her performance as it was her first trip on international handball duty at senior level.

Munster 40/20



Munster 40/20 Silver Masters (B) doubles winner Connie Collins (Ballina).



Munster 60/30 Diamond Masters (B) Doubles & Singles winner Michael 'Bisie' Hogan (Nenagh)

TIPPERARY HANDBALLERS won three Munster 40/20 adult titles in 1997.

Michael 'Bisie' Hogan (Nenagh) won two Munster titles. Michael won the Diamond Masters (B) singles title with a 21-11, 21-9 win over fellow Tipp player Patsy Tobin (Carrick-on-Suir) in the final. In the All-Ireland semi-final, Michael was out of luck losing out 21-11, 21-9 to John O'Keefe (Carlow) in Garryhill.

Michael teamed up with Jeremy Rioran (Ballina) to win the Diamond Masters (B) doubles title with a hard fought win over John Ryan and Willie Sweeney (Cork) 21-6, 15-21, 21-10 in the final in

Galbally. In the All-Ireland semi-final in Nenagh, Michael and Jeremy had a good 21-7, 21-11 win over Syl Dowd and Liam Ferguson (Dublin). But in the All-Ireland final, Michael and Jeremy lost out to Mick Lally and Mark Munny (Galway) 21-7, 21-10 in Curraghboy, Roscommon.

Billy McCarthy (Ballyporeen) and Connie Collins (Ballina) won the Silver Masters (B) doubles final with a fine win over Dan O'Brien and Tony Buckley (Cork) 21-13, 10-21, 21-9 in Galbally. In the All-Ireland semi-final in Nenagh Billy and Connie lost out 21-16, 21-18 in a close fought match to Vinny Farrelly and John Hoban (Dublin).

All-Ireland win for Supples

AIDAN AND PAT SUPPLE (Ballyporeen) won the All-Ireland 60/30 U-21 doubles title in October.

Aidan and Pat won their first ever All-Ireland with a thrilling campaign.

They won the Munster title in comfortable fashion with a 21-17, 21-4 win over E. Clancy and J. Kenneally (Limerick). The All-Ireland semi-final win must rank as one of the great comebacks. Aidan and Pat won the first game 21-18, lost the second game 21-6 and the Wexford pair of James Doyle and Terry Donovan ran into a 17-4 lead in the 3rd game but Aidan and Pat made an amazing comeback from the dead to just edge home 21-19.

In the All-Ireland final in Roscommon Aidan and Pat won a thrilling final with a 19-21, 21-8, 21-14 win over Vincent Moran and Paul Flynn (Mayo). The Supple brothers played superbly, and were most unlucky to lose a very close fought first game by a mere two aces. But they fought back brilliantly to comfortably win the second game 21-8. They now played impressively in the third game to win a thrilling game 21-14 and lifted their first ever All-Ireland title.



Irish Nationals Ladies 40/20 Singles Final Jackie Keating (Cashel) being presented with her trophy by Con Moore (Irish Handball Council President) and John Foley (Sales and Marketing Director Waterford Crystal).

Keating beaten

JACKIE KEATING (Cashel) lost out to Bernie Hennessy (Limerick) 21-12, 21-12 in the Irish National's Ladies Singles final in Croke Park in the month of April.

Jackie in her first Irish National's final did not play to her best form losing out in two competitive games against Hennessy who was in good form.

Gleeson wins All-Ireland

PAT GLEESON (Lahorna) won his first ever All-Ireland title in the month of October. Pat won the All-Ireland 60/30 Emerald Masters (B) singles title.

Pat represented Munster in this grade and in the All-Ireland semi-final in Castlebridge, Wexford. Pat had a comfortable 21-7, 21-10 win over Sean Stafford (Wexford) with an excellent performance.

In the All-Ireland final in Roscommon, Pat lifted his first All-Ireland with a 21-19, 19-21, 21-1 win over Frank Maughan (Roscommon). In a close fought match which saw Pat taking time to settle into the Roscommon court, he played well at times to win the first game 21-19. The second game was much the same as the first game with scores close but Maughan had the luck and won the second game 21-19. In the third game, Pat showed his best form with brilliant serving and many fine killshots. He was by far the better player to go on and lift the title. This was Pat's first All-Ireland and it was also Tipperary's first win in this grade.

All-Ireland title for Juveniles



All Ireland 60/30 U16 Doubles Finalists Noel Moroney and David Hickey (Ballina) with coach Pat Gleeson (Ballina).

THE TIPPERARY juvenile pair of David Hickey and Noel Moroney (Ballina) won the All-Ireland 40/20 U15 doubles title in May.

David and Noel travelled to Armagh under the guidance of their coach Pat Gleeson and had a great 21-13, 21-16 win over Paul Ferguson and Eddie Haligan (Cavan) in the U15 doubles final.

The Tipp lads were by far the better pair with David in good form and Noel solid on the right-side. They won both games without being over worried against the Cavan pair.

David and Noel were never troubled in the championship beating Clare, Cork and Waterford easily in the Munster championship and then beating Wicklow in the All-Ireland semi-final and Cavan in the final.

Munster 60/30

TIPPERARY HANDBALLERS WON TEN MUNSTER 60/30 TITLES IN 1997



◁ Munster 60/30 Masters (A) doubles winner Pakie Mullins (Clonmel)

▷ Munster 60/30 Masters (A) doubles winner Noel Ryan (Clonmel)

▽ Munster 60/30 Diamond Masters (B) singles winner Jeremy O'Riordan (Ballina)



Paul Coleman (Ballina) won Tipperary's first 60/30 Munster title of the '97 season. Paul had four fine wins in the minor singles campaign beating Brian Manrián (Clare), Colm Jordan (Cork), Michael Roche (Limerick) and then Adrian Manrián (Clare) in the Munster final. In the All-Ireland semi-final, Paul lost out to Eoin Kennedy (Dublin) in Croke Park in two close fought games.

Billy McCarthy (Ballyporeen) won the Munster 60/30 Silver Masters (A) singles title with a good win over J.J.



Wright (Waterford) in the final in Ballyporeen. But in the All-Ireland semi-final, Billy started well against Eugene Kennedy (Dublin) winning the first game 21-14. But then Billy lost out in the two other games 21-14, 21-4 to a better Kennedy.

Billy McCarthy teamed up with Martin Maher (Silvermines) to record a comfortable win over Sean Doyle and Tom Morrissey (Clonmel) in an all Tipp Silver Masters (A) doubles final. Billy and Martin were unlucky to lose out to Eugene Kennedy and Gerry Scully (Dublin) in three close games in Croke Park in the All-Ireland semi-final.

John McQuaid (Roscrea) won the Munster Junior Singles title with a good 21-20, 21-13 win over Martin Kiely (Limerick) in the final in Tuamgraney. John went under 21-19, 3-21, 21-15 in the All-Ireland semi-final to Frank Daly (Dublin) in Ballyporeen.

Aidan Supple (Ballyporeen) won the Munster U21 singles title with two easy wins in the championship. Aidan beat John Kenneally (Limerick) in the semi-final and Dessie Kelly (Ballinahinch) in an all Tipp final. Aidan was most unlucky to lose out to James Doyle

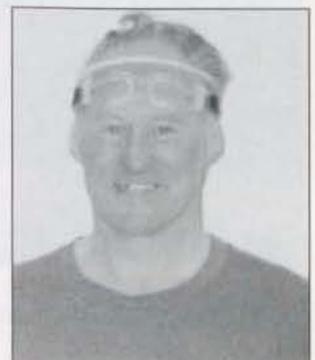


Munster 60/30 Silver Masters (A) Singles Winner Billy McCarthy (Ballyporeen)



Munster 60/30 Silver Masters (A) Doubles winners Martin Maher (Silvermines) and Billy McCarthy (Ballyporeen).

Munster 60/30 Silver Masters (B) Doubles Winner Patsy Tobin (Carrick-on-Suir)

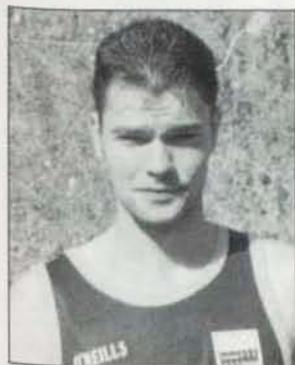


(Wexford) 21-10, 21-20 in the All-Ireland semi-final in St Mary's, Wexford.

Noel Ryan and Pakie Mullins (Clonmel) represented Munster in the Masters (A) doubles and in the All-Ireland semi-final in Ballyporeen. Noel and Pakie began well but lost out 21-18, 21-8 to Billy Mullins and Paddy Hope (Offaly).

Jeremy O'Riordan (Ballina) had a titanic battle with Jim Kennedy (Cork) before winning 21-7, 9-21, 21-16 in the Munster Diamond Masters (B) singles final in Ballina. But in the All-Ireland semi-final in Ballina, Jerome lost out to Brian Murphy (Wexford) 21-4, 21-9.

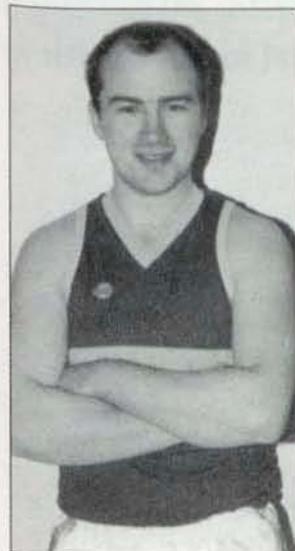
Paddy 'Musha' Maher (Clonmel) and Patsy Tobin (Carrick-on-Suir) just got the better of Michael 'Bisie' Hogan (Nenagh) and Jeremy O'Riordan (Ballina) 5-21, 21-20, 21-0 in the Munster Diamond Masters (B) doubles final in Hospital. But in the All-Ireland semi-final Paddy and Patsy made their exit when losing out 21-7, 21-8 to Brian Murphy and P.J. Whelan (Wexford) in Castlebridge, Wexford.



Munster
60/30 U-21
Singles
winner
Aidan Supple
(Ballyporeen)



Munster
60/30 Minor
Singles
winner
Paul
Coleman
(Ballina)



Munster
60/30 Junior
Singles
winner
John
McQuaid
(Roscrea)

Juvenile team win All-Ireland



Munster 60/30 U12 & U13 Team Winners

Back row l to r: E. McKeogh, G. Coonan, G. O'Brien. Front row l to r: A. Hickey, T. Coonan.
Missing from photo: M.J. Meaney and D. Lyons.



All-Ireland U12 & U13 40/20 Team Champions - Tipperary

Back row l to r: M.J. Meaney, D. Lyons, G. O'Brien. Front row l to r: S. McGrath, G. Coonan, N. Collins and E. McKeogh.

The Tipperary U12 and U13 team won the All-Ireland 40/20 team championship in Salthill in May. The 'Thurles Fresh Milk' sponsored Tipp juveniles travelled to Salthill and came away with the All-Ireland title, in thrilling fashion.

In the All-Ireland semi-final, the Tipp team of Darragh Lyons, Michael John Meaney (Ballyporeen); Enda McKeogh, Ger Coonan, Neil Collins (Ballina); Shane McGrath (Ballinahinch) and U16 Gerry O'Brien (Ballina) had a nailbiting win over Wicklow on the scoreline of 73 aces to 58 aces.

In the final, the Tipp team were now in top form and met Roscommon who earlier beat Tyrone in the other semi-final. In the final all six lads played brilliantly and with a high class performance they overwhelmed a strong Roscommon side 75 aces to 37 aces.

Well done to the Tipp lads on their great win.

Many thanks to all the supporters and families who travelled to support them and special praise to team manager Pat Gleeson.



Community Games, Ballina – U15 Champions
Back row l to r: N. Moroney, D. Hickey, P. Grace. Front row l to r: S. Hickey, T. Manly, K. Kennedy



Community Games, Ballina – U13 Boys Finalists
Back row l to r: E. McKeogh, G. Coonan, G. O'Brien. Front row l to r: O. Sheehy, N. Collins, A. Kennedy.



Community Games, Ballina – U13 Girls Champions
Back row l to r: A. Moran, A. Hickey, M. Hickey. Front row l to r: K. Collins, N. Moroney, M. Coleman.

Community Games success for Ballina

BALLINA handballers had a great success in the All-Ireland Community Games in Mosney, Co Meath in August.

Ballina club had three teams in the finals winning 2 titles and runner-up in the other one.

The girls U13 team of Aoife and Maria Hickey, Marion Coleman, Aisling Horan, Karen Collins and Nicole Moroney did brilliantly winning gold in the U13 with an easy win over Donegal in the semi-final and in the final they had a thrilling win over Roscommon.

The boys U15 team of David and Shane Hickey, Kevin Kennedy, Noel Moroney, Paul Grace and Thomas Manly also lifted gold with a comfortable win over Antrim in the semi-final and they then convincingly beat Roscommon in the final.

The boys U13 team of Ger Coonan, Enda McKeogh, Niall Collins, Gerry O'Brien, Anthony Kennedy and Owen Sheehy won silver, being very unlucky to lose the gold after beating Cavan easily in the semi-final and just losing by 2 aces in the final to Kilkenny.

Well done to all and to the three team managers Pat Gleeson, Chris Hickey and Michael Collins on a job well done.

Munster Open

THE FINALS of the Munster 60/30 Open were played in Hospital in the month of August.

There was no joy for the two Tipperary pairs in the finals. Paddy Collins and Michael Gleeson (Ballina) lost out 21-8, 21-9 to Tom Lynch and Noel Raymond (Kerry) in the Masters (B) doubles final.

Paddy and Michael met an in-form Kenny pair and were unable to push them close after a good opening, losing out in two straight games.

Pat and Christy Griffin (Toughalarra) lost out also to the current Munster 60/30 Novice doubles champions Anthony and Dominic Lynch (Kerry) 21-5, 21-7 in the mixed doubles final. The lack of match practise for Pat and Christy showed as they have been out of championship handball for a number of weeks. They lost out to a better Kerry pair in two straight games.

Schools Finals

THE CUMANN na mBunscol All-Ireland handball finals were played in Croke Park in the month of May.

Tipperary had 10 players involved in both boys and girls competitions. All the players did very well with a very high standard of play.

In the boys, Tipperary had 4 players involved.

Ger Coonan (Ballina) did very well beating Mayo, Dublin, Meath and Donegal to win the boys U11 singles title.

Michael John Meaney (Ballyporeen) did well beating Dublin and Armagh but lost out to Galway in the boys U13 singles competition.

Niall Collins and Enda McKeogh (Ballina) reached the final with wins over Roscommon, Dublin, Tyrone but lost out to Wexford in the boys U13 doubles final.

In the girls, Tipperary had 6 players involved.

Danielle O'Connell (Hollyford) was first into action beating Kildare, Galway, Antrim but losing in the final to Dublin in the girls U11 singles competition.

Geraldine Horan and Karen Collins (Ballina) won out the U11 girls doubles with good wins over Dublin, Carlow and Antrim.

Aisling Horan (Ballina) was 3rd in the girls U13 singles competition with a win over Dublin and Tyrone but losing to Wexford and Roscommon.

Tracy Coonan and Aoife Hickey were in superb form winning the girls U13 doubles title with wins over Dublin, Carlow, Roscommon and Donegal.



Feile na nGael, Ballina girls who took part in Division 1
Back row l to r: T. Coonan, A. Horan, A. Conroy. Front row l to r: A. Hickey, M. Hickey.



Feile na nGael, Ballina - Division 1 Finalists
Back row l to r: K. Kennedy, E. McKeogh, S. Hickey. Front row l to r: G. Coonan, N. Collins.

Féile news

TIPPERARY had two teams in Féile na nGael 1997 in Waterford in June.

Ballina boys team of Kevin Kennedy, Shane Hickey, Enda McKeogh, Ger Coonan and Niall Collins reached the final of the 60/30 Division 1 with wins over Kilkenny and Roscommon but in the final they lost out to Bal-laghadereen, Co. Mayo.

Ballina girls team of Alma Conroy, Aoife and Maria Hickey, Aisling Horan and Tracy Coonan beat Derry but lost out to Roscommon and Mayo in Division 1 section B 40/20.

The two team managers were Pat Gleeson and Gloria McKeogh.



Danielle O'Connell
All-Ireland Under
11 singles school
final runner-up,
Hollyford club



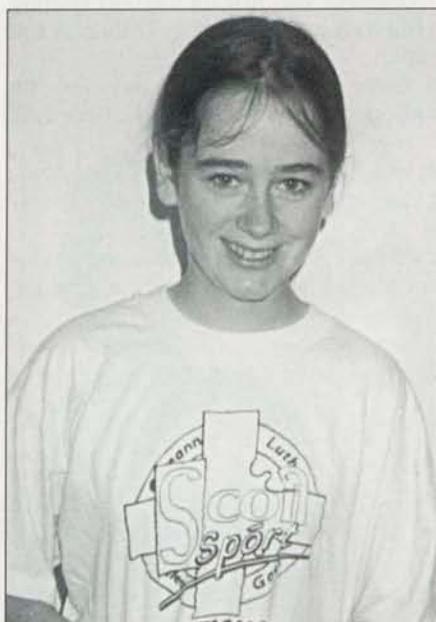
Cumann na mBunscol Tipperary players who took part in the All-Ireland finals in Croke Park

Back row: M.J. Meaney, G. Coonan, N. Collins, E. McKeogh. Front row: G. Horan, T. Coonan, A. Moran, K. Collins.





All-Ireland 60/30 U13 Doubles College Champions
Aoife Hickey and Tracy Coonan, St Anne's Community College, Killaloe.



All-Ireland 60/30 U13 Singles College Champion
Aisling Horan, St Anne's Community College, Killaloe.



All-Ireland 60/30 & 40/20 Colleges Finalist
Paul Coleman (Ballina)

Coleman loses Colleges

PAUL COLEMAN (Ballina) reached both the 60/30 and 40/20 All-Ireland Senior Singles Colleges finals during the past year. Paul won the Munster 60/30 title with an easy win over A. Manrian (Clare) in the final. In the All-Ireland semi-final, he overcame R. Cleary (Wexford) but he was out of luck in the final in Roscommon, losing out to Ciaran Meenagh (Tyrone).

Paul also reached the 40/20 final easily winning the Munster final with a win over A. Manrian (Clare). Paul beat D. Stapleton (Carlow) in the All-Ireland semi-final. But in the All-Ireland final, Paul lost out to Ricky McCann (Antrim) in Leixlip.

County 40/20 Juvenile winners 1997

- U10 Singles – E. Quinn (Silvermines)
- U10 Doubles – M. Kelly & D. McGrath (Ballinahinch)
- U11 S – G. Coonan (Ballina)
- U11 D – O. Sheehy & A. Kennedy (Ballina)
- U12 S – E. McKeogh (Ballina)
- U12 D – G. O'Brien & N. Collins (Ballina)
- U13 S – S. McGrath (Ballinahinch)
- U13 D – M.J. Meaney & D. Lyons (Ballyporeen)
- U14 S – D. Egan (Silvermines)
- U14 D – K. Kennedy & S. Hickey (Ballina)
- U15 S – J.P. King (Nenagh)
- U15 D – D. Hickey & N. Moroney (Ballina)
- U16 S – J. Egan (Silvermines)
- U16 D – S. Spillane & B. Darcy (Nenagh)
- U17 S – M. Purcell (Silvermines)
- U17 D – D. Riordan & M. Rohan (Ballina)



Munster 40/20 & 60/30 U13 Doubles Champions
Michael John Meaney & Darragh Lyons (Ballyporeen)



Munster 40/20 Girls U12 Doubles Title
Aoife and Maria Hickey (Ballina)



Munster 40/20 Girls U13 Doubles Winners
Aisling Moran and Tracy Coonan (Ballina)

County 60/30 Juvenile winners 1997

- U10 Singles – M. English (Ballyporeen)
- U10 Doubles – D. Gleeson & T. Grace (Ballina)
- U11 S – G. Coonan (Ballina)
- U11 D – O. Sheehy & A. Kennedy (Ballina)
- U12 S – E. McKeogh (Ballina)
- U12 D – G. O'Brien & N. Collins (Ballina)
- U13 S – T. Coonan (Ballina)
- U13 D – M.J. Meaney & D. Lyons (Ballyporeen)
- U14 S – P. Grace (Ballina)
- U14 D – K. Kennedy & S. Hickey (Ballina)
- U15 S – B. Darcy (Nenagh)
- U15 D – P. Casey & A. Comerford (Lahorna)
- U16 S – T. Mee (Ballyporeen)
- U16 D – D. Hickey & N. Moroney (Ballina)
- U17 S – M. McNamara (Nenagh)
- U17 D – D. Riordan & M. Rohan (Ballina)



Munster
60/30 U-15
Girls Singles
winner
Tracy
Coonan
(Ballina)



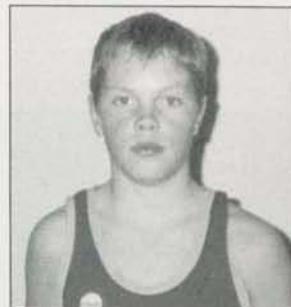
Munster
40/20 and
60/30 U-12
Singles
Champion
Ger Coonan
(Ballina)



Munster
60/30 U-16
Girls Singles
Winner
Una Ryan
(Hollyford)



Munster
60/30 U-12
Girls Singles
winner
Marion
Coleman
(Ballina)



Munster
60/30 U-15
Singles
Winner
Brian Darcy
(Nenagh)



Munster 60/30 U14 Girls Doubles Winners
Alma Conroy and Aoife Hickey (Ballina)



Munster 60/30 U14 Doubles Winners
Shane Hickey and Kevin Kennedy (Ballina)



Munster 60/30 Juvenile Girls Winners
L – R: N. Mononey and G. Horan (U11 doubles winners) and
K. Collins (U11 singles winner).



Munster 40/20 & 60/30 U12 Doubles Champions
Niall Collins and Enda McKeogh (Ballina)

Election of Officers '97

Chairman

Pat McKenna

Secretary / Treasurer

Ken Conway

Congress Delegates (3)

Pat McKenna,
Geddi McKeogh,
Paddy Collins

Munster Convention Delegates (4)

Pat McKenna,
Jim Ryan,
Geddi McKeogh,
Majella Grace

Munster Council Delegates (2)

Jim Ryan, Paddy Collins

GAA Board Delegate (1)

Pat McKenna



Waterford Crystal National Awards '97

Coach of the Year, Eddie Corbett (Ballyporeen) pictured receiving his award from l - r: John Foley, Sales & Marketing Director, Waterford Crystal; Brendan Lynch, Lord Mayor of Dublin; Joe McDonagh, President of GAA; Con Moore, Irish Handball Council President.



County Camogie Report

By Marion Uí Greachain



As I put together the happenings in our Association within our county as I saw them during 1997, we have come to the end of another chapter for Tipperary. Whilst in the past we have had great tidings to report, this year exceeds all others due to the wonderful achievements of our Intermediate team in winning the All-Ireland Final. Not forgetting the contribution made by all our teams and clubs. I hope all clubs will avail of the space available in the Year Book to promote and advise their followers of the activities within their club. I will give a short report on the county teams as our P.R.O. will report in detail on all inter-county games.

Success in any county is only gauged by an All-Ireland title and this year our Intermediate team have the Premier County back at senior level where they so rightly deserve. This success did not come automatically but with a lot of hard work and dedication by our players and mentors. While credit must go to the present players and mentors let's not forget the people who have gone before and put an amount of time into the game, players in particular who travelled long distances to training and that elusive medal evaded them. We are back now at senior level – a grade we have not contested since 1985 and I hope that if not next year then with the turn of the century a Tipperary captain will raise the O'Duffy Cup on the steps of Croke Park and the name Tiobraid Árann will be engraved alongside the elite of our Association for the first time.

At Junior level we reached the Munster Final, but unfortunately Cork who were the opposition came out on top on the night. In the Junior National League Tipperary never came to full potential and were out to the competition in the early stages of the League. With the talent that is available to selectors at the moment Tipperary should be able to produce a Junior team almost equal to our senior squad.

Our U-18s lived up to expectations this year. With a massive victory over Waterford in the semi-final, they travelled to Cork for the final. After extra time Tipperary took the title by the narrowest of margins. This team should definitely be followed through as our future Junior team. With the exception of a number of girls who were on the All-Ireland Intermediate winning panel the rest of the panel and with some more added should go places next year.



All-Ireland senior officials: Left to right: Carmel O'Brien, Noreen Delaney (umpires), Áine Derham (line umpire), Biddy Phillips (Referee), Sheila Delaney (umpire), Miriam O'Callaghan (line umpire), Marian Graham (umpire).



Ours at last – Noelle Kennedy, Una O'Dwyer, Meadhb Stokes, Deirdre Hughes, Claire Madden, Suzanne Kelly and Ciara Gaynor in a jovial mood with the All-Ireland Cup.



Anthea Browne, Barware, Clonmel, presents the Tipperary team with a set of kit bags prior to the All-Ireland Final. Left to right: Una O'Dwyer, Kaiife Moloney, Anthea Browne, Deirdre Hughes and Emily Hayden.

Our Minors for the first time in six years failed to take any honours. They reached the Munster final by defeating Waterford and Clare and in a thrilling Munster final were defeated by old rivals Cork by six points.

Well done to all our Inter County teams and their mentors and congratulations to U-18 Munster champions and the Intermediate All-Ireland champions. We look forward to the future with anticipation and with the talent that is emerging, I have no fear but that elusive Senior title will be in the Premier County in the not too distant future.

At club level we had some very good games in all grades and an increase in spectator attendance. But there are areas in the county where camogie is weak or don't exist at all and every effort should be made to help them and it takes local interest and commitment to promote camogie in those areas.

The following is the list of winners and runners-up for the competitions run by the Board during 1997.

Congratulations to all the above winners and commiserations to the losers. Well done to all those who took part in competitions whether it was at 'A' or 'C' Senior or Junior 'B' you played the game and hopefully your team achieved something from taking part in a team competition. Winning is not everything, it helps, but if you've worn your jersey with pride and dignity, given your best to your club, respected those in charge then you have achieved a lot by playing the game.

Well done to Toomevara who took the ultimate honours at the All-Ireland seven-a-side in Kilmacud Crokes, Dublin, in September. Tipperary were well represented at the All-Ireland seven-a-side, besides Toomevara, Burgess, Templemore and Drom/Inch also took part.

In the Féile na nGael Skills competition Philomena Fogarty (Cashel) represented Tipperary. Unfortunately after a brilliant performance by Philomena she got pipped by just one point in the final part of the competition. This player is showing tremendous talent and looks like having a bright future in camogie ahead of her.

In the Pan Celtic competition held in Ennis this year Burgess took the Senior 'B' title and Templemore were the U-16 'B' champions.

Well done to all the above teams who represented their club and county in the respective competitions. Keep up the good work and keep the flag flying for the Premier county.

A FIRST FOR BIDDY AND TIPPERARY

Undoubtedly the biggest honour for any referee would be refereeing a Senior All-Ireland Final in Croke Park



The referee meets the captains - Moira McMahon (Clare captain), Áine Derham (referee - Dublin), Deirdre Hughes (Tipperary captain).

and this year the honour was bestowed on none other than our Intermediate Coach and Inter County Referee, Bidy Phillips. Bidy has refereed at all levels, including the Minor, Junior and Intermediate All-Ireland Finals, National Junior and Senior League Finals and Club Championship Final.

However, on the first Sunday of September this year Bidy stepped onto the green sod of Croke Park to referee the Senior final between Cork and Galway.

This was also the first time a Tipperary lady was in charge of a senior final in Croke Park. Bidy's officials on the day were Miriam O'Callaghan, Offaly, Áine Derham, Dublin, both sub-referees, Sheila Delaney, Noreen Delaney, Carmel O'Brien and Marion Graham umpires.

The demand on club officials is increasing every year. New competitions are added to our programme annually which increases the workload for the officers, in particular the secretary and chairperson. I would impress that clubs appoint delegates to attend Co. Board meetings, those delegates do not have to be the secretary and chairperson. The list below indicate that some clubs have no interest in attending meetings.

By attending meetings you are aware of what is happening in your county and if your club have a particular problem you will not be seen as attending just because your club has a problem, which seems to be the case for a lot of clubs. This year in particular we had a huge decrease in club attendance and this is a major concern, one which will have to be addressed without delay.

In all there were a total of eleven meetings called including our Conven-

tion. One meeting had to be abandoned because we did not have quorum. Below is a list of club attendance at our monthly meetings which speaks for itself.

During the year a National Administration Course was called in Charleville for the local counties. Unfortunately no club from Tipperary availed of this worthwhile course and it was decided to hold one within the county. This course was held on Thursday, November 13th in Sarsfield's Social Centre, the following clubs attended. Templemore, Thurles, Drom/Inch, Gortnahoe/Glen-goole, Toomevara, Portroe and Cashel. Good administration is essential for the smooth running of any organisation, unfortunately most of our clubs in our county think differently and did not take advantage of this course.

DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE

On March 22nd an announcement from Michael Lowry, T.D. was made at a special meeting of Tipperary Camogie Board. Michael Lowry announced the approval of a £40,000 Grant from the Minister of Sport, Bernard Allen. This Grant will give tremendous boost to the construction of the much needed facilities at the Co. Camogie Grounds in The Ragg. This construction will consist of four dressing rooms, shower and toilet facilities and outside toilets.

In his announcement he complimented the Camogie Board for their leadership and encouragement of young girls to play camogie. He went on to say that the existing facilities were appalling and an embarrassment, especially when there are visiting teams playing on our pitch.

Unfortunately, the development has not commenced due to a number of factors.

Our Finance Committee tried their best to get through to the clubs that just because we have been allocated £40,000 does not mean that we have all the finances we need. In order to get this Grant we have to raise at least £20,000 ourselves. This cannot be done without the help of our clubs. A suggestion that we make a big effort to sell the G.A.A. Lotto for just one year would have definitely been a money spinner was turned down. With twenty-seven clubs affiliated to the county – if each club sold fifty tickets a week and no expenses involved it would bring in a total of £675 a week, a total of £35,100 for just one year.

Maybe clubs would reconsider and give it one major effort for 1998. Fifty tickets divided between the officers of each club would only add to ten tickets per person per week. I do not believe that your local G.A.A. clubs would interfere with this venture for one term. Thanks to the members of the Finance Committee who tried to raise the funds, they may have been disillusioned at times but stick with us and we will eventually get there and your efforts will be worthwhile.

SPONSORSHIP

Again we had to call on the good nature of a number of people during the year for sponsorship, particularly leading up to the Intermediate All-Ireland Final. Thanks to all the G.A.A. clubs who contributed to our appeal, to the County G.A.A. Board for their support, to Hayes' Hotel, Thurles, for sponsoring the jerseys, to John Browne, Barware, Clonmel, for the beautiful kit-bags and to the many other private individuals for their financial support.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all our camogie friends who took the big step to the altar during the year, in particular Meadbh Stokes, who got married on the eve of our All-Ireland Final, but nevertheless turned up on the day and played a major part in bringing the title to the county. Congratulations also to all the new mummies in our camogie circles, they were quite a few of them, hopefully all will be back on the playing fields in the Spring – hail and hearty.

However, we again had to pull ourselves together for the Intermediate Championship. Challenge games against Wexford, Kilkenny, Lisdowney, Freshford, etc., were organised. The players began to believe in themselves again and some great performances in these challenge games gave them the hunger and the will to win. Full attendance and great commitment at training also paid off.

The Gael-Linn Interprovincial Finals took place in Dublin in June. Tipperary were well represented and Munster recorded victories in both the Senior

Club	Meetings attended	Convention	Total
Borrisoleigh	3	Present	4
Burgess	6	Present	7
Ballinahinch	3	Present	4
Clonakenny	3	Present	4
Cashel	4	Present	5
Drom/Inch	6	Present	7
Drangan/Cloneen	2	Absent	2
Gortnahoe/Glengoole	0	Absent	0
Holycross/Ballycahill	9	Present	10
Knockavilla/Donaskeigh	0	Absent	0
Killenaule	0	Absent	0
Kilruane McDonaghs	3	Absent	3
Lorrha	8	Present	9
Moycarkey/Borris	9	Present	10
Moneygall	3	Present	4
Newport	1	Present	2
Portroe	7	Present	8
Silvermines	6	Present	7
St. Rita's/Fethard	1	Absent	1
St. Cronan's/Roscrea	7	Present	8
St. Bernadettes/Roscrea	1	Present	2
Shannon Rovers	2	Present	3
Seán Treacy's	0	Present	1
Thurles	3	Present	4
Toomevara	4	Present	5
Templemore	3	Present	4

and Junior grades.

We had a long wait for our first intermediate championship game. This game did not take place until August 3rd. Our opponents were our old rivals Cork. We travelled to Cork, and in the most appalling weather conditions overcame them by fifteen points.

The All-Ireland semi-final was against Armagh. We knew that having to travel up North to play the locals was never going to be easy, and that we would have to play with all the skill and determination we knew we had. The girls produced it on the day, and with a fine blend of youth and experience we had on this team, put up a great performance and took the spoils. Tipperary 4-15 (27 pts.); Armagh 3-11 (20 pts.)

We were here. This is where we set out to be way back in February. Our first intermediate All-Ireland camogie final. Our opponents again were Clare. This would be our third meeting in the space of a few months and it was one win for Tipp one win for Clare. The sides were very evenly matched. It would depend on who played better on the day and who took the chances presented to them.

The big day, Sunday, September 21st had arrived. Having won the toss for the venue we were at home. This was a good omen. The day dawned bright and sunny. The crowds turned out in force to support their teams. The scene was set. The camogie players from Tipp and Clare lined out in the hurling final in the

Ragg. The referee Áine Durham from Dublin was in charge. People were anticipating a great game of camogie and this they got.

Scoring 2-19 to Clare's 2-12, Tipperary clinched the title to ensure our place in senior ranks in competing for camogie's highest honours for 1998. This intermediate All-Ireland was no less than the entire panel deserved. It was just reward for their commitment, dedication and skill, not just on the day, but from the time they set their sights on this goal. The motivator and driving force behind the scenes was Biddy Phillips, and she was justly rewarded. Congratulations and well done to all concerned.

TIPPERARY INTERMEDIATE ALL-IRELAND WINNING TEAM:

Nora Dwan (Toomevara), Emily Hayden (Cashel), Sinéad Nealon (Burgess), Suzanne Kelly (Toomevara), Claire Madden (Portroe), Therese Brophy (Burgess), Ciara Gaynor (Kilruane), Maeve Stokes (Cashel), Noelle Kennedy (Toomevara), Helen Kiely (Drom-Inch), Deirdre Hughes (Toomevara), Jovita Delaney (Cashel), Una O'Dwyer (Cashel), Cathriona Hennessey (Drom Inch), Aine Hogan (Burgess), Helen Campion (Cashel), Sinéad Collins (Burgess), Niamh Bonar (Burgess), Helena Frawley (Burgess), Kaffie Moloney (Cashel).

COUNTY JUNIOR TEAM

In the Junior League, as in the Senior league, we faced Cork. This was the last

of our Junior league games as the league had began in 1996. A win was vital if our hopes of progressing any further in the league were to stay alive. However, having started well, the young Tipperary team did not have the experience of their Cork rivals and conceded three soft goals in as many minutes to go down to Cork by 5-7 to 1-6.

There was a big gap before the Juniors were to play in the junior championship. The first round of the Munster championship was actually the Munster semi-final. This was played on Sunday, 29th June in Templemore against Clare. Tipperary won by three points – Tipperary 1-11 (14 pts.) Clare 2-5 (11 pts.) In the other semi-final Cork easily disposed of Limerick, so the scene was set for yet another Tipperary/Cork Munster Final.

The Munster Final was played in Watergrasshill, Cork, on Tuesday, July 22nd. Many felt that this was a game which could have been won, but alas, it was not to be. Cork had five points to spare over us at the final whistle. Cork 1-12 (15 pts.), Tipperary 1-7 (10 pts.).

Cork went on to contest the All-Ireland Junior Final.

TIPPERARY

JUNIOR TEAM

Deirdre O'Connor, Noelette O'Dwyer, Maeve Corcoran, Sheena Howard, Claire Maher, Phiona Loughnane, Siobhán Ryan, B. O'Dwyer, Rena Fogarty, Claire Horan, Grace Ormonde, Emma Carroll, Patricia Carroll, Jacinta Fahey.

U-18 COUNTY TEAM

ARE CROWNED

MUNSTER CHAMPIONS

AFTER A FOUR YEAR GAP

This U-18 competition is where some great games of camogie can be seen, and this year was no exception. It is a pity that it is not allowed to proceed beyond Munster Final stage.

In the semi-final we played Waterford in the camogie pitch – The Ragg, on Saturday, 13th August. Tipperary had a massive win. This was such a one sided affair it did not give the selectors a very good picture as to the talent available to them.

However, they knew they had to face Cork in the Munster Final, who had notched up a big score against Limerick in their semi-final.

Once more this game was played in St. Finbar's G.A.A. Grounds in Cork. At full time, after a very exciting sixty minutes of camogie, the sides were level 0-17 pts. each.

Extra time had to be played, and at the end of this extra time Tipp were ahead by one point Tipperary 0-18 pts., Cork 0-17 pts. This was a sweet victory for Tipperary who had de-throned the champions of the last four years, to recapture the trophy they last won in 1992.

COUNTY U-18

MUNSTER FINAL TEAM

Niamh Harkin (Drom-Inch), Emily Hayden (Cashel), Maria Harkin (Drom-

Inch), Sheena Howard (Burgess), Jane Ryan (Drom-Inch), Una O'Dwyer (Cashel), Brid Kilbane (Holycross-Ballycahill), Helen Campion (Cashel), Eimear McDonnell (Burgess), Siobhán Ryan (Holycross-Ballycahill), Joanne Ryan (Drom-Inch), Cathriona Hennessey (Drom-Inch), Siobhán Maxwell (Toomevara), Deirdre Delaney (Drom-Inch).

COUNTY MINORS

The county minors set out to defend their Munster title on Saturday, 12th April in The Ragg. Their opponents Waterford were no match for them on the day. Tipperary recorded a massive 6-18 (36 pts.) to Waterford's 1-1 (4 pts.)

The second round was away to Clare and Tipperary had an equally easy victory.

These two wins meant that they had reached the Munster Final, but these games, having been won so easily, were of little benefit to the team or to the selectors. Cork, their Munster Final opponents however, had a much harder path to the final and this probably helped them.

On May 17th the Munster Final took place in Ovens, Cork. Cork were out to avenge Tipperary's great win in last years Munster Final, when they were beaten by Tipperary in one of the greatest under-age finals ever seen. This they did. After yet another epic encounter Cork emerged victorious by six points. A scoreline, agreed by many, not to be a true reflection.

Intermediate Camogie All-Ireland

By Sheila Delaney, County P.R.O.

Our first training session took place on Sunday, February 9th – we had six more sessions before our first senior league game which was against Cork. This game was preceded by a Junior League game, Tipperary and Cork also. Taking on the might of Cork at any time is a daunting task, and having the added disadvantage of playing them on their home ground was enough to deter any team. But our players were determined to prove to themselves as well as to the county that they were serious. They took on Cork and beat them by three points. Thus having the distinction of being the only team in Ireland to defeat the senior All-Ireland Champions. Tipperary 6-6 (24 pts.), Cork 3-12 (21pts.)

With the senior/intermediate and junior league club games being played in March and April, the county team had little opportunity to train and had only a few training sessions before their next senior league outing. We travelled

to Wexford and having played against a very stiff breeze in the first half, were trailing by seven points at the interval.

However, the girls gave a great second half performance and won by the narrowest of margins. Tipperary 2-18 (24pts.), Wexford 4-11 (23pts.)

Our third game was against Clare. This was our first home game and a good performance was vital if we were to overcome this determined Clare team. The girls were not found wanting on the day and emerged winners by four points. Tipperary 3-12 (21pts.), Clare 1-14 (17pts.)

Our next game was also at home and our opponents were our neighbours Limerick. We had a somewhat easy victory winning by seven points. Tipperary 3-9 (18 pts.), Limerick 1-8 (11pts.)

Our stumbling block came when we played Kilkenny in the senior league semi-final. Kilkenny beat us by ten points. We would attribute this heavy defeat to being short too many key players on the day. This game was

played on Sunday, 25th May, just prior to the Leaving and Junior Certificate examinations, and having so many young players on our team it was inevitable that most of them would be sitting these examinations.

However, the team we chose to play on the day put up quite a good performance and were close to Kilkenny up until the last quarter when superior fitness, craft and experience won in the end.

Naturally we were very disappointed firstly having been beaten and secondly having lost by such a big margin.

The task now facing the coach Biddy and the selectors was to motivate the team to compete in the intermediate Munster championship. Here we were to face Clare again. Having beaten them already in the senior league I suppose the players were somewhat over-confident. Most of them did not make themselves available to us. Clare caught us on the hop and defeated us by four points.



Tipperary minor camogie panel and mentors prior to the start of the thrilling Munster minor final, at Éire Óg G.A.A. grounds, Ovens, Co. Cork. Back row (l. to r.) Conór Ryan (manager), Linda Grogan, Lorraine Bourke, Sórcha Loughnane, Mary Barron, Martina Moloney, Philomena Fogarty, Louise Ryan, Mary Rose Ryan, Siobhán Ryan, Norma Maher, Helen Collier, Noel Hennessy (selector) and Marian Graham (selector and county Board secretary). Front row: Muireann O'Donoghue, Siobhán McCarthy, Norma Coffey, Amy Kissane, Denise Ryan, Sinéad O'Sullivan, Eimear McDonnell, Niamh O'Dwyer, Niamh Harkins, Sheena Howard (captain), Una O'Dwyer and Deirdre McDonnell, Mascots: Áine Ryan and Makala Graham.



Hughes takes her point



A pep talk from the captain - Deirdre Hughes gives encouraging words to her team before the final, also in the picture is Ciara Gaynor and Helen Kiely.



Tense moments in the final, while Una O'Dwyer (Tipperary) awaits the outcome.



Scoreboard



– Compiled by Marion Uí Greachain –

Under-12 'A' Championship Final	Templemore 7-3	Drom/Inch 0-0			Fethard 2-2	Drom/Inch 1-2
Under-12 'B' Championship Final	Silvermines	Knockavilla		Semi-Final	Fethard 1-3	Borrisoleigh 0-4
Under-12 'C' Championship Final	Moneygall 2-2	Lorrha 0-0				
Under-12 'A' League Final	Templemore 1-5	Silvermines 1-0		Junior 'B' Championship Final	Toomevara	St. Cronan's
Under-12 'B' League Final	Moneygall 6-3	St. Cronan's 0-0		Path to Final	Toomevara 3-8	Knockmeale Rvs. 0-0
Under-12 'C' League Final	Seán Treacy's 2-1	Clonoulty 1-1			Toomevara 2-4	St. Cronan's 2-8
					Toomevara 1-4	Drangan 0-3
Under-14 'A' Championship Final	Drom/Inch 6-1	Templemore 2-2		Path to Final	St. Cronan's 6-8	Knockmeale Rvs. 0-1
Under-14 'B' Championship Final	Knockavilla 1-3	Cashel 0-2			St. Cronan's 2-8	Toomevara 2-4
Under-14 'C' Championship Final	Portroe 1-3	Moneygall 0-1		Semi-Final	St. Cronan's 4-4	Lorrha 2-1
Under-14 'A' League Final	Templemore 3-2	Drom/Inch 1-0		Intermediate Championship Final	Kilruane 2-7	Holycross 1-7
Under-14 'B' League Final	Portroe 1-1	Kilruane 1-0		Path to Final	Kilruane 3-7	Holycross 1-11
Under-14 'C' League Final	Lorrha 1-3	Burgess 0-3			Kilruane 3-6	Portroe 2-5
					Kilruane	walk over from Knockavilla
Under-16 'A' Championship Final	Drom-Inch 3-3	Burgess 1-8		Path to Final	Holycross 1-11	Kilruane 3-7
Semi-Finals	Burgess 3-4	Templemore 1-4			Holycross 6-13	Knockavilla 0-3
	Drom/Inch 2-5	Cashel 1-4			Holycross 4-9	Portroe 2-6
Under-16 'B' Championship Final	Holycross 0-8	Fethard 0-7		Jimmy Carroll Cup		
Semi-Finals	Holycross 5-4	Lorrha 3-4		(Intermediate League)	Templemore 1-8	Holycross 0-8
	Fethard 1-3	St. Cronan's 1-2		Path to Final	Templemore 4-10	Holycross 2-7
U-16 'C' Championship Final	Portroe 1-1	Newport 0-3			Templemore 6-12	Kilruane 4-6
Semi-Finals	Portroe 3-2	Ballinahinch 0-0		Path to Final	Holycross 2-7	Templemore 4-10
	Newport 2-2	Seán Treacy's 1-2			Holycross 4-7	Kilruane 3-3
U-18 'A' Championship Final	Not completed			Senior Championship Final	Toomevara 4-10	Cashel 0-10
U-18 'B' Championship Final	Holycross 1-13	Borrisoleigh 0-3		Path to Final	Toomevara 3-13	Cashel 1-12
Junior 'A' League Final	Drom/Inch 6-3	Borrisoleigh 0-3			Toomevara 1-10	Drom/Inch 1-14
Path to Final	Drom/Inch 0-2	Moycarkey 1-3			Toomevara 3-6	Shannon Rvs. 1-1
	Drom/Inch 1-7	Drangan 0-4			Toomevara 6-6	Burgess 0-12
	Drom/Inch 2-9	Fethard 2-2		Semi-Final:	Toomevara 1-15	Drom/Inch 0-12
Semi-Final	Drom/Inch 2-6	Toomevara 0-9		Path to Final	Cashel 1-12	Toomevara 3-13
Path to Final	Borrisoleigh 0-9	St. Bernadette's 2-0			Cashel 2-7	Burgess 3-8
	Borrisoleigh 1-4	Toomevara 2-6			Cashel 1-3	Drom/Inch 3-7
Semi-Final	Borrisoleigh 1-4	Moycarkey 1-1			Cashel 4-10	Shannon Rovers 2-4
Junior 'B' League Final	St. Cronan's 6-4	Clonakenny 0-2		Semi-Final	Cashel 2-9	Burgess 0-6
Path to Final	St. Cronan's 5-3	Knockmeale Rvs. 0-0		Senior League Final		
	St. Cronan's 4-4	Lorrha 2-2		(Ann Fraser Cup)	Drom/Inch 2-10	Burgess 3-5
Path to Final	Clonakenny walk over from Lorrha			Path to Final	Drom/Inch 2-12	Cashel 3-5
	Clonakenny 3-3	Knockmeal Rvs. 1-0			Drom/Inch 3-12	Shannon Rvs. 0-3
Junior 'A' Championship Final	Templemore 3-16	Fethard 0-3		Semi-Final	Drom/Inch 2-11	Toomevara 2-6
Path to Final	Templemore 3-7	Borrisoleigh 0-6		Path to Final	Burgess 4-9	Shannon Rvs. 1-4
	Templemore 4-12	St. Bernadette's 1-1			Burgess 3-7	Toomevara 0-6
Semi-Final	Templemore 6-12	Moycarkey 3-4		Semi-Final	Burgess 2-13	Cashel 0-4
Path to Final	Fethard 3-5	Moycarkey 1-4				

**Beatha is sláinte chuig muintir Thiobraid Árann
sa bhaile agus i gcéin**

CAMOGIE

Noelle Kennedy player of match



THE JOY that greeted Tipperary's victory on All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Final was unrestrained and on no one was so much attention showered than on Noelle Kennedy (Toomevara).

The Ballinacloy native, who lines out in the Toomevara colours showed accuracy of an extraordinary quality, ending the hour with no less than 1-18 to her credit, and such a tally went a long way in taking Tipperary into senior ranks again, after quite a long absence from the 'elite' group.

Noelle's performance was not just a once off performance, she has been instrumental in Toomevara's six county titles in a row, their Munster Club and this year's All-Ireland seven-a-side. Noelle is also an active member with her native club Silvermines and was a mentor for the U12's who won the championship this year. Noelle is also a member of the County Fixtures Committee.

Photo shows Noelle Kennedy being presented with Armagh Crystal Trophy for 'Player of the Match' from the President of Camogie Association, Phyllis Breslin.



Sean Treacy's U-12 County League Winners 1997

Back row, left to right - Geraldine Carr, Michelle Murphy, Danielle O'Connell, Tara Carey, Noelle Greene, Ann-Marie Hourigan. Middle row - Josephine Quigley (trainer), Majella Carey, Orla Carey, Michelle Hickey, Christine O'Brien, Joan Shortt (trainer). Front row - Claire Ryan, Angela Ryan, Padrena Clancy, Tracy Ryan, Aoife Harty, Margaret-Ann O'Brien.



Michelle Murphy, Sean Treacy's captain raises aloft the county under-12 Camogie Trophy after their league win over Clonoulty.

SEAN TREACY'S Camogie Club made their own piece of history on Saturday 11th October 1997 at The Ragg camogie pitch when their under 12 team won the 'league' county final over Clonoulty, bringing their first county title to the club.

They had shown themselves to be a most dedicated bunch of girls whose courage and determination are an example to all.

Their hard work and discipline were duly rewarded in a breakthrough that surely has laid the foundation for greater days ahead.

An important force behind the girls is their trainers Joan Shortt and Josephine Quigley.

On the way to the final they defeated Ballinahinch, Newport, Borrisoleigh and Portroe.

The club was formed four years ago by Fr. James Foley, Nora Quigley and Mary O'Dwyer and their dedication and hard work and commitment is now being rewarded with their club's first county final success.

This year our U14's and U16's reached county semi-finals in both league and championship.



Silvermines Under 12 B County Champions

Back (l-r) – Joan Kennedy, Treasa Timmons, Triona Butler, Mary Coughlan, Grainne Gleeson, Mairead O'Donohoe, Evelyn Egan, Teresa Kennedy, Joanne Nolan, John Kennedy, Collette Ryan, Fiona Kennedy, Noelle Kennedy.
Front (l-r) – Lisa Tuohy, Joanne O'Brien, Denise O'Brien, Helena Ryan, Emma Dunlea, Sandra Griffin (capt.), Edel Ryan, Shauna Kennedy, Maria Butler, Rosemary Kennedy.

County Camogie Clubs Successes



Kilruane McDonagh's U-14 County Finalists

Front row (l-r) – Gillian O'Meara, Jessica Hill. Second row left to right – Nicola Hoare, Mary Williams, Marguerite Keogh, Patricia McGrath, Laura Dwan, Lisa Dwan, Rachel Hoare. Back row (l-r) – Sinead Sheppard, Deirdre Williams, Katie Starr, Louise Cahill, Ann Marie O'Meara, Peig Costello, Evelyn Peters, Lindsay Dunne.



Kilruane McDonagh's Intermediate County Champions

Front – Ciara Gaynor. Front row left to right – Aoife O'Brien, Alice Deane, Sinead Prout, Debbie Carroll, Mary O'Meara. Second row left to right – Marcella Keogh, Yvonne Williams, Michelle Larkin, Susan Williams, Aoife Heffernan, Ciara O'Brien, Marie White. Back row left to right – Maureen Dooley, Susan Kelly, Nicola Mulcahy, Collette Cleary, Bridget Cleary, Breda Blessing, Sinead Gaynor, Bernie Darcy Meagher, Una O'Rourke.

Toomevara Junior 'B' Champions 1997

Back row (l-r) – Conor Troy (selector), Emer Guilfoyle, Mary Rose Ryan, Bridget Phelan, Mary Stapleton, Triona Maxwell, Majella Maxwell, John Kennedy (coach). Front row (l-r) – Deirdre Troy, Brid Delaney, Ann Bergin (capt.), Natalie Ryan, Trisha Ryan, Theresa Maxwell, Mary Cleary.



Toomevara senior camogie panel that won the County title for the sixth year in succession

Back row (l-r) – John Kennedy (coach), Cora Kennedy, Regina O'Meara, Theresa Maxwell, Josie Browne, Mary Rose Ryan, Siobhan Maxwell, Triona Maxwell, Aileen Delaney, Mary Stapleton, Siobhan Cusack and Conor Troy (selector). Front row – Miriam Maxwell (captain), Anne Gleeson, Noelle Kennedy, Grainne Shanahan, Deirdre Hughes, Suzanne Kelly, Nora Dwan, Lena Woods, Aine Fitzpatrick, Natalie Ryan, Brid Delaney and Anne Bergin. Mascots – C. Shanahan, A. Shanahan and T. English.



Toomevara All-Ireland Seven-a-Side Division 1 Champions

Back row (l-r) – John Kennedy (coach), Cora Kennedy, Aileen Delaney, Nora Dwan, Noelle Kennedy, Anne Gleeson, Conor Troy (selector). Front row (l-r) – Siobhan Cusack, Grainne Shanahan, Miriam Maxwell (capt.), Deirdre Hughes, Suzanne Kelly.





Moneygall Camogie Club – Winners of U12 C Championship 1997; Winners of U12 B League 1997

Back row l to r – Annette Costello, Lara Sutton, Aileen Moten, Marie Jones, Margaret Carroll, Bernadette Devereaux, Suzanne Shelly, Julie Kirwan, Maeve Kennedy, Emer Ryan, Lisa Larkin, Geraldine Cahill. Front row l to r – Maria Bergin, Niamh Greene, Eilis Quinlan, Maura Kirwan (capt.), Deirdre Kirwan, Michelle Kirwan, Fiona Kennedy, Mary Ryan.



Knockavilla / Donaskeigh – U14 B Champions



Under-18 'B' county champions – Holycross – Back row (l. to r.) Siobhán Ryan, Caroline, Bourke, Margaret Long, Catherine Flanagan, Deirdre Browne, Margaret O'Gorman, Theresa Kilbane, Maura Fanning. Front row (l. to r.): Linda Ryan, Ann Gleeson, Rose Stakelum, Edel Shanahan, Noelette O'Dwyer (captain), Mai O'Gorman, Louise Ryan, Mary B. Gleeson.



U-16 'B' County Champions – Holycross/Ballycahill – Back row (l. to r.) Holycross U-16 'B' county champions, Peggy Shanahan, Tommy Lanigan (trainer), Rachel Browne, Orla Darmody, Paula Ryan, Maggie Cullagh, Daniele Feehan, Theresa Kilbane, Mai O'Gorman, Deirdre Browne, Mary B. Gleeson, Joanne O'Gorman, Ann O'Brien (selector). Front row (l. to r.) Bríd Fennessy, Jennifer Ryan, Maura Fanning, Linda Ryan, Siobhán Ryan (captain), Ann-Marie Barrett, Margaret Fanning, Louise Ryan, Grace Harty, Phil Lowry (trainer/selector).



Cashel Senior County Finalists 1997

Back row left to right – Kaiffee O'Connell, Meadhb Stokes, Roisin Nash, Jovita Delaney, Edel O'Donnell, Michelle Kennedy, Marie Tobin, Margaret Ryan, Anne Marie Fitzgerald, Edel Tobin. Front row left to right – Philomena Fogarty, Neasa O'Dwyer, Una O'Dwyer, Olivia Hayden, Paula Bulfin (capt.), Helen Campion, Emily Hayden, Libby Toomey, Mary Tarrant.



Cashel U14 'B' County Finalists

Back row left to right – R.A. Craddock, Padraig Skeffington, A.M. Farrell, E. O'Dwyer, S. Moloney, N. O'Brien, J.M. O'Dwyer, P. Fogarty, L. Hickey, B. Cronon, A. Moloney, H. O'Leary, B. Kelly. Front row left to right – C. Browne, S. O'Connor, R. Shanahan, F. Keenan, C. M. Fogarty, M. A. Cooney, S. Slattery, L. Bourke, R. Walsh, E. Burgess.



ABOVE:

PORTROE – Under-14 'C' champions 1997 – and U-14 'B' League winners

Back row (l. to r.) Sarah O'Connor, Elaine Hogan, Sheena Richardson, Dawn Ryan, Patricia O'Halloran, Gillian Slattery, Brid Hackett, Christine Soaight (trainer). Front row (l. to r.) Lisa Hickey, Deirdre Hennessy, Elane Ryan, Dyane Hogan, Lynn Slattery.



U14 County Feile Champion

Philomena Fogarty (Cashel) County U14 Feile Skills Champion and runner-up in the National Finals



←
 Templemore – All-Ireland U-16 'A' Pan Celtic winners 1997. Front row (l. to r.): Mairead Bourke, Eilish Meagher, Lorraine Bourke, Norma Maher, Helen Collier, Facha Loughnane (captain), Bridin Jones, Jemeel Devaney, Andriana Webster, Elizabeth Jones, Claire Grogan. Back row (l. to r.) Mick Curley, Aileen Brennan, Jim Brennan, Laura Bourke, Bernie McLoughney, Leona Bohan, Michelle Purcell, Joanne Carton, Edel McDermott, Linda Grogan, Sarah Kennedy, Kathleen Maher, Martin Bourke.

→
 Templemore – All-Ireland U-12 'A' championship winners 1997. Front row (l. to r.): Marie Bourke, Emma O'Meara, Freida Morkan, Eimear Buckley, Grace Hennessy, Elaine Burke, Claire Grogan (capt.), Lisa Buckley, Claire Murphy, Catherine Ryan, Laura O'Connor, Karen Maher, Sharon Sparrow. Back row (l. to r.): Sinéad Bourke, Catherine O'Doherty, Marguerite Bourke, Brid Keely, Jim Brennan, Siobhán Brennan, Marlyn Purcell, Martin Bourke, Jenny Kavanagh, Carmel Phelan, Clarisa Bohan, Patricia Jones. (Missing Orlaith McDonnell)



←
 Templemore – County junior champions – County Intermediate league champions 1997. Front (l. to r.): Paula Stapleton, Bridin Jones, Nancy Delaney, Jackie Carroll, Norma Maher, Patricia O'Brien, Niamh Connolly, Eilish Meagher, Joanne Carton, Elizabeth Jones, Lorraine Bourke, Jemeel Devaney. Back row (l. to r.): Helen Collier, Grace Ormond (capt. junior), Ailish Delaney, Helen Grogan, Fiona Loughnane (capt. intermediate), Ciara Ormond, Linda Grogan, Catherine Cahill, Michell Purcell, Siobhán Bourke, Maire Brennan, Sorcha Loughnane.

→
 Templemore County U-14 'A' League winners 1997. Front row (l. to r.) Marlyn Purcell, Grace Fogarty, Jean Timmons, Bridin Jones, Fiona Purcell (captain), Shirley Bergin, Sinéad Scully, Claire Grogan, Fiona Connolly. Back row (l. to r.) Martin Bourke, Laura Carton, Catherine Ryan, Noelle Bergin, Serena Doran, Aileen Brennan, Sarah Ryan, Siobhán Brennan, Ashling Brennan, Mick Curley.



←
 Templemore – County U-12 'A' league champions 1997. Front (l. to r.): Marie Bourke, Sinéad Bourke, Freida Morkan, Eimear Buckley, Elaine Burke, Brid Keely, Catherine Ryan, Carmel Phelan, Claire Murphy, Laura O'Connor, Patricia Jones. Back row (l. to r.) Martin Bourke, Marguerite Bourke, Catherine O'Doherty, Claire Grogan, Marlyn Purcell, Siobhán Brennan, Jenny Kavanagh, Sharon Sparrow, Karen Maher, Jim Brennan.

Post-Primary Camogie '96-97

The growing strength of camogie in Tipperary was again reflected in the level of participation at post-primary level. Fifteen schools participated in competitions from Under-14 to Under-18.

The Under-14 competition is played on a one day blitz with Our Lady's (Templemore) emerging winners of the A section and Presentation Convent (Ballingarry) winners of the B section.

The Under-16 competition was played on a league basis and after some fine league games St. Mary's (Nenagh) defeated Cashel Community School in a close, keenly contested final.

The Under-18 competition was in its inaugural year. Six schools competed with Ursuline Convent (Thurles) emerging as schools' champions, defeating Presentation Convent (Ballingarry) in the final. This is a competition that is likely to grow in interest and it is geared to schools that do not compete at senior level in Munster Schools competitions.

For '97 - '98 a 10-a-side first year competition has been introduced. This competition has attracted great interest and it augurs well for the years ahead.

Again, I would like to express my sincerest thanks and deep admiration to all the teachers and staff members who are involved in organising and training these young girls. Champions or otherwise, your contribution to the growth of these young people is very valuable. Keep up the good work. Also thanks to the camogie county board for their invaluable and total support. A special thanks to our secretary Ursula Ryan of Cashel Community School for her trojan work in organising and running all the competitions. A Happy Christmas and enjoyable camogie to all for the year ahead.

Martin Quirke



Our Lady's Secondary School (Templemore) – County U-14 camogie blitz champions 1997 – back row (l. to r.) Siobhán O'Sullivan (coach), Siobhán Bourke (assistant coach), Brid Jones, Marie McGrath, Aisling Brennan, Serena Doran, Leona Bohan, June Donnelly, Bernadette Byrne, Mandy Harkin, Catriona Hennessy, Teresa Brennan (manager). Front row (l to r): Shirley Bergin, Sara Ryan, Aileen Brennan, Lorraine Bourke (captain), Caroline Greed, Grace Fogarty, Laurena Meagher, Danielle Devaney, Emma Hennessy. (Photo: Seamus Bourke)



St. Mary's (Nenagh) Co. Tipperary U-16 county champions 1997 – Back row (l. to r.) Ger Dullea (trainer), Niamh Hogan, Carmel Brislane, Sinéad Gaynor, Michelle Slattery, Amy Kisane, Shena Howard, Deirdre Kyne, Eimer Guilfoyle, Olive Slattery, Edel Hogan. Front row (l. to r.) Mary Rose Ryan, Ann Marie Callaghan, Eimer McDonnell (captain), Anna Woods, Deirdre Troy, Deirdre McDonnell, Denise Ryan, Siobhán McCarthy.



← Presentation School (Ballingarry) Under-14 camogie winners 1997 – Back row (l. to r.) Breda O'Neill, Michelle Ryan, Anita Moriarty, Tracy Lonergan, Natasha Ivors, Avril McGrath, Anita Brennan, Jackie Hayes, Teresa Moloney. Front row (l. to r.) Louise McGeehan, Bridgid Maher, Grace Costelloe, Michelle Cody, Aine Brennan (captain), Angela Breen, Deborah Maher, Margaret Marshall, Cora Phelan.



→ Drom-Inch Under-16 camogie team 'A' county champions. Back row (l. to r.) Deirdre Delaney, Norma Harrington, Marie McGrath, Breda McGrath and Aine Everard. Front row: Sinéad Egan, Anne Ryan, Sarah O'Brien, Teresa Maher, Niamh Harkin, Breda O'Halloran and Bridget Ryan.

Tipperary Post-Primary Games 1997

Seán Ó Costagáin

Once again as the end of another year approaches it is my pleasure to cronicle the events of another very enjoyable year on the post primary front. We had once again many fine games both domestically and at provincial level and as usual the Tipp schools have acquitted themselves very well. The following are the results of various competitions.

CANON FITZGERALD CUP (U-17) A HURLING SEMI-FINALS

Killenaule V.S. 3-13
Thurles C.B.S. 1-7

Nenagh C.B.S. 2-11
Cashel C.S. 0-8

Final:

Killenaule V.S. 3-9
Nenagh C.B.S. 1-9

This the premier post-primary hurling competition in the county provided us with very deserving winners in 1997. Killenaule V.S. after many years of frustration and hard graft finally achieved their cherished ambition on April 29th when they were crowned premier champions of Tipperary for the first time. This they achieved with a well deserved win over Nenagh C.B.S. in a game of quality hurling much to the delight of school principal Michael Hassett and energetic coaches Ger Maguire and Francis Kearney.

FITZGERALD SHIELD (U-17) B HURLING

Semi-Finals:

Roscrea C.B.S. 5-12
Carrick-on-Suir 3-2
Nenagh V.S. 4-9
Presentation (Ballingarry) ... 1-4

Final:

Nenagh V.S. 3-12
Roscrea C.B.S. 3-6

In what was an outstanding year for Nenagh V.S., winning three post-primary titles I am sure this victory gave them great satisfaction as they avenged last years defeat by Roscrea C.B.S. in the final. This was a good competition with fourteen schools participating and in the end we had worthy champions.

CROKE CUP (U-16) A HURLING

Semi-Finals:

Thurles C.B.S. 6-10
Roscrea C.B.S. 0-4
Our Lady's (Templemore) 2-8
St. Joseph's (Borrisoileigh) 1-7



1997 Fitzgerald Cup winners – Killenaule V.S. – Back row (l. to r.): Aidan Maher (Mullinahone); Damien Healy (Killenaule); Eamonn Cahill (Ballingarry); Darren Kenny (Gortnahoe-Glengoole); Eoin Teehan (Gortnahoe-Glengoole); Rory Rice (Four-Mile-Water); Damien Gleeson (Killenaule); Niall O'Dwyer (Killenaule); Niall Curran (Mullinahone); Tom O'Connor (Drangan); Noel O'Grady (Killenaule); John Gleeson (Drangan); Matthew Galligan (Killenaule); Michael Cleary (Gortnahoe-Glengoole); Kieran Ryan (Moyle Rovers). Front row (l. to r.) Eoin Kelly (Mullinahone); Seán Brennan (Ballingarry); Thomas Fitzgerald (Killenaule); Michael Carroll (captain) (Fethard); Paul Curran (Mullinahone); Tony Doyle (Killenaule); Peter Kennedy (Killenaule); Donal Shelly (Ballingarry); Gerard Ivors (Ballingarry); Adrian Tobin (Killenaule).



Fitzgerald Shield winners – Nenagh Vocational School – Panel: (from row 1 to r.) Tony Delaney, Brian Hassett, Michael Devanney, William Forde, Leonard Ryan, Paul Sherlock, Denis Slattery, Vincent Forde, Maitiu Ryan. (Middle row l. to r.): Robert Ryan, Alan McCormack, Paul Kirwan, Tommy Connors, Paul McGrath, Brian McLoughlin, Hugh Flannery, Billy Dooley. (Back row l. to r.): Dan Hackett, Gerald Slattery, Kevin Hackett, Daniel Corbett, Cliff Morgan, Eamonn Murtagh, Shane Spillane, Seán Quirke, Thomas Hassett, Martin Nolan, Liam Heffernan (coach).



Thurles C.B.S. – Croke Cup champions (Back row – l. to r.) Eddie Morrissey (Holycross-Ballycahill); David Barron (Moycarkey/Borris); Joe Ryan (Emeralds); Patrick McCormack (Gortnahoe/Glengoole); William Dempsey (Moycarkey/Borris); Colm Ryan (Moycarkey/Borris); Thomas Campion (Durlas Óg). Middle row (l. to r.) Macdara Butler (Drom/Inch); Aidan Dundon (Durlas Óg); Eamonn Ryan (Moycarkey/Borris); Francis McCormack (Gortnahoe/Glengoole); Brian O'Loughlin (Durlas Óg); Damien Young (Drom/Inch); John Devane (Clonoulty-Rossmore); Billy Kelly (Durlas Óg); Colm Rourke (Durlas Óg); Colm Everard (Moyné/Templetoohy); Larry Corbett (Durlas Óg). Front row (l. to r.): Patrick Carey (Moycarkey/Borris); James Harrington (Holycross/Ballycahill); Tomás Ryan (Moycarkey/Borris); Philip Maher (Galmoy); John Kelly (Moycarkey/Borris); Brendan Cahill (captain) (Emeralds); Tom Butler (Clonoulty/Rossmore); Aidan Fogarty (Emeralds); Jer Joyce (Emeralds); John O'Loughlin (Johnstown).

Final:

Thurles C.B.S.	2-9
Our Lady's (Templemore)	0-6

This final of (U-16) A championship for the prestigious Croke Cup provided us with an excellent final in Semple Stadium with the final scoreline rather flattering Thurles C.B.S. as with ten minutes to go just a goal separated the teams.

HENNESSEY CUP (U-16) B HURLING

Semi-Finals:

Nenagh V.S.	5-11
Presentation (Ballingarry)	1-10

(replay)

Borrisokane V.S.	2-10
Newport V.S.	0-5

Final:

Nenagh V.S.	4-6
Borrisokane C.S.	1-7

Nine schools participated and once again Nenagh V.S. emerged deserving winners.

McGABHANN CUP (U-18) A (FOOTBALL)

Semi-Finals:

Rockwell College	2-16
Tipperary C.B.S.	4-10

(Tipp won replay by seven points)

Clonmel High School	5-14
Cashel C.S.	1-5

Final:

Tipperary C.B.S.	3-8
Clonmel High School	1-13

Once again after a game of excellent football in our Premier post-primary football competition Tipp C.B.S. once again captured the title but this victory was more pleasing than the one achieved in 1996.

Having also won the Munster senior football (B) title one can be in no doubt but football in the Abbey is on a solid footing.

McGABHANN SHIELD (U-18) B (FOOTBALL)

Semi-Finals:

Nenagh V.S.	1-13
Carrick-on-Suir V.S.	1-7
Cahir V.S.	4-9
Roscrea C.B.S.	4-7

Final:

Nenagh V.S.	4-10
Cahir V.S.	1-11

In this Shield competition Nenagh V.S. retained their title making it a great year for the North Tipp school winning three titles. It also indicates how strong football has become in North Tipp.

CUSACK CUP (U-15) 'A' FOOTBALL

Semi-Finals:

Cashel C.S.	5-4
Our Lady's (Templemore)	3-7
Killenaule V.S.	2-9
Tipperary C.B.S.	1-6



Nenagh Vocational School – Hennessey Cup winners (U-16) B hurling – Panel (Front row l. to r.): Seán Gleeson; William Forde; Paul Sherlock; Alan McCormack; Denis Slattery; Brian Hassett; Derek O'Meara; William White; Damien Martin. Middle row (l. to r.): Eoin Cleary, Derek Tucker, Paul Hogan, Dermot O'Halloran, Gary Corcoran, Noel McGrath, Billy Dooley, Eric Kirwan. Back row – l. to r.): Michael Devanney, Kevin Hackett, Martin Nolan, Daniel Corbett, Cliff Morgan, Shane Spillane, Vincent Forde, Maitiu Ryan, Liam Heffernan (coach).



Thurles C.B.S. Whyte Cup Munster U-15 (A) champions – (Back row l. to r.): A. Dundon (Durlas Óg); J. Devane (Clonoulty); D. Duggan (Holycross); P. Dwyer (Durlas Óg); T. Connolly (Durlas Óg); K. Joyce (Emeralds); D. Crosse (Clonoulty); J. McGrath (Drom); D. Maher (Boherlahan); L. McGrath (Holycross); P. Horan (Gortnahoe). Middle row: J. Barrett (Holycross); M. Shortall (Moycarkey); E. Ryan (Moycarkey); P. J. Campion (Gortnahoe); T. O'Connor (Durlas Óg); G. Joyce (captain) (Emeralds); E. Costello (Durlas Óg); F. McCormack (Gortnahoe); N. Dunne (Gortnahoe); D. O'Dwyer (Durlas Óg); J. Ryan (Gortnahoe). Front row – E. Ryan (Durlas Óg); T. Ruth (Durlas Óg); M. Harnett (Durlas Óg); J. Lillis (Durlas Óg); A. Fogarty (Durlas Óg); E. Gleeson (Durlas Óg); B. O'Dwyer (Durlas Óg); A. Guilfoyle (Emeralds).



Our Lady's Secondary School (Templemore) Munster (U-15) Corn an Phiarsaigh – winners for 1997 – Back row (l. to r.) Seamus Burke (coach); Aidan Webster (Loughmore); Damien Bergin (Moyn/Templetuohy); Ray Everard (Moyn/Templetuohy); David Kennedy (Moyle/Templetuohy); Martin Gleeson (Loughmore); Gearóid Byrne (Clonakenny); Ian Kilroy (Brackens); John Costigan (G.A.A. games master); Brendan Corcoran (Brackens); John Cahill (Drom-Inch) (captain); Declan Bolger (Loughmore); John Dunne (Brackens); David Owens (Brackens); Rory Purcell (team coach). Front row l. to r.): Ricky Fogarty (Moyn/Templetuohy); Hugh Coughlan (Moyn/Templetuohy); John Sweeney (Moyn/Templetuohy); Martin Joe Murray (Clonakenny); Kevin Fogarty (Moyn/Templetuohy); Martin Costigan (Moyn/Templetuohy); Con Shortt (Upperchurch); Darren Danagher (Loughmore); Mark Bourke (Borrisoleigh); Kevin Ivors (Brackens); Peter Burke (Brackens).

Final:

Killenaule V.S. 1-16

Cashel C.S. 1-11

This (U-15) A football competition provided us with some excellent games of football before Killenaule emerged winners over Cashel C.S. in a game of quality football. Adding this to the Fitzgerald Cup made 1997 an outstanding year for the South Tipp School.

CUSACK SHIELD (U-15) B FOOTBALL

Semi-Finals:

Roscrea V.S. 2-8

Tipperary V.S. 0-7

Cahir V.S. 2-10

Nenagh V.S. 0-5

Final:

Roscrea V.S. 2-10

Cahir V.S. 0-10

This win for Roscrea V.S. in the U-15 B football competition gives another indication of the strength of football in North Tipp.

Under-14 "A" Champions in football for 1997 were Cashel C.S. who comprehensively defeated Fethard in the final.

The remaining Post Primary football championship for 1997 saw Carrick-on-Suir C.B.S. capture the U-14 (B) title, defeating Rockwell College in the final.

The Rice Cup for (U-14) hurling did not come to Tipperary in 1997 as Callan C.B.S. with a team of all talents brushed all opposition aside with ease.

Tipperary had some consolation when Cashel C.S. with a team that improved right through the year captured the Westcourt Cup (U-14) B title with a great win over Ard Schol Rís (Limerick) on the score 3-8 to 3-6 in the final.

As we look back on the Post-Primary scene for 1996-97 we can feel satisfied that the schools of the county are playing their part in the promotion of hurling and football. Apart from the schools that had successes on the domestic scene we had a number of notable performances at Provincial level.

Pride of place must go to Thurles C.B.S. – whose U-15 team captured the Munster championship in that grade, defeating St. Flannan's (Ennis) in a cracking final. Another notable performance was the victory of Tipperary C.B.S. in the Munster senior (B) football championship. The victory of Our Lady's (Templemore) in the Corn an Phiarsaigh Munster (U-15) B championship is an indicator of the strength of teenage hurling in the Premier County. While once again at senior hurling level Nenagh C.B.S., despite a gallant effort against talent-laden St. Coleman's (Fermoy) failed to bring that elusive Harty to North Tipp at senior (B) level. Cashel C.S. failed by a one point margin to St. Clement's of Limerick in the Munster Final. The subsequent All-Ireland victory of St. Clement's gives an indication of how the new Cashel post-primary



Nenagh Vocational School – McGabhann Shield Winner – Panel (front row l. to r.): John Lynch, John Slattery, Michael Delahunty, Leonard Ryan, Paul Kirwan, Enda Nolan (captain), David Cohen, Michael Crowe, Noel Tomlinson. (Middle row l. to r.): James McLoughney, Tommy Connors, Ronan Tynan, Dermot O'Halloran, Gary Corcoran, Denis Slattery, Seán Quirke, Paul Sherlock, Hugh Flannery, Brian Hassett. (Back row l. to r.): Tom Delaney (coach); Dan Hackett; John O'Meara; Gerard Slattery; Kevin Hackett; Cliff Morgan, Eamonn Murtagh; Brian McLoughlin; Martin Nolan; Shane Spillane; Thomas Hassett; Vincent Forde.



Scoil Ruáin (Killenaule) Cusack Cup winners 1997 – (Back row l. to r.): Gerry Treacy (coach); Noel O'Grady (Killenaule); Eoin Teehan (Gortnahoe/Glengoole); Vincent Doherty (Mullinahone); Adrian Maher (Mullinahone); Andrew Lawlor (Gortnahoe/Glengoole); Tony Doyle (Killenaule); Neil O'Brien (Mullinahone); Gearóid Maher (Gortnahoe/Glengoole); Philip Hogan (Gortnahoe/Glengoole); Eoin Kelly (Mullinahone); Pádraig Guilfoyle (Gortnahoe/Glengoole); William Hogan (Gortnahoe/Glengoole); Eamon Cahill (Ballinacorney); Paddy O'Reilly (coach). Front row: Michael Farrell (Killenaule); Darren O'Donoghue (Gortnahoe/Glengoole); Brian Coen (Fethard); Patrick Kerwick (Killenaule); Jonathan Guilfoyle (captain) (Gortnahoe/Glengoole); Daragh Blake (Killenaule); Johnny Prout (Ballinacorney); Joseph Ceasar (Killenaule); Joseph Hogan (Gortnahoe/Glengoole). Missing from photo: Brian Hogg (Moyle Rovers).

school is very near the much sought after breakthrough.

In the Dean Ryan Cup Munster (U-16 $\frac{1}{2}$) A hurling championship we had very good performances from Thurles C.B.S. and Our Lady's (Templemore). The Templemore school failed by a two point margin 1-9 to 1-7 to eventual winners St. Flannan's (Ennis) in the semi-final.

I think the powers that be in Tipp can feel happy that the people involved in underage hurling in our county are working very hard in the promotion of Gaelic games. Just the same at the moment I feel the talented underage player in the (15-17) age bracket is get-

ting a surplus of matches whereas the ordinary players who cannot get on schools teams or inter-divisional teams are being somewhat neglected.

I think a realistic assessment of the whole situation needs to be done in order that we can maximise the development of our players in order that our clubs and county teams can continue to compete with the best on the fields of Tipperary and further afield. To conclude I wish to thank all who have helped out on the post-primary scene over the past year and I take this opportunity to wish them a happy and holy Christmas and a productive New Year on the G.A.A. playing fields.



Roscrea Vocational School – Cusack Shield (Football) 1996-1997 – U-15 (B) Tipp Champions 1997. (Front row – l. to r.): Chris Moore (Killavilla); Barry Teehan (Coolderry); David King (Killavilla); James Gleeson (Roscrea); Damien Cummins (Roscrea); James McDonnell (Roscrea); Keith Tooher (Roscrea); Michael Cordial (Shinrone). (Centre row – l. to r.): Mr. B. Greaney (coach); Colm Kennedy (Roscrea); Damien Delaney (Roscrea); Michael Lynch (Roscrea); David McLoughlin (Ballyskenach); Trevor Fitzpatrick (Killavilla); Philip McKelvey (Roscrea); Brian Kirwan (Roscrea); Brian Eastwood (Roscrea); Emmet Dooley (Coolderry); Joseph Brady (Coolderry); Diarmuid Loughnane (Roscrea). (Back row l. to r.): Ruairi O'Connor (Roscrea); Michael Carney (Roscrea); Trevor Conlon (Roscrea); Patrick Carey (Knock).



Cashel C.S. – Winners of the Tipperary U-14 (A) football championship for 1997 – (Back row – l. to r.): Brian Creed (Boherlahan); Trevor Downey (Rosegreen); Brendan O'Connor (Boherlahan); Mark Ryan (Cashel); G. Rea (Cashel); Paul Breen (Knockavilla); Padraig Whelan (Cahir); Brian Pattwell (Rosegreen); Martin Hickey (Cashel); Mark Harnett (Rosegreen); Robert O'Brien (Rosegreen). (Front row – l. to r.): Liam Cantwell (Cahir); Podgy O'Dwyer (Cashel); David Cully (Cashel); Paddy O'Flaherty (Cahir) (captain); David Ryan (Rosegreen); Chris Ryan-Preston (Golden); Joe Ryan (Boherlahan).



Westcourt Cup – U-14 hurling winners (B) Champions – Cashel Community School (Back row l. to r.): Philip O'Connor, Clonoulty, Darren Redmond, Cashel; Martin Hickey, (Cashel); Trevor Downey (Rosegreen); Ross Doyle (Cashel); Brendan O'Connor (Boherlahan); Joe Ryan (Boherlahan); Brian Patwell (Rosegreen); James Hayes (Boherlahan); Mark Ryan (Cashel); Nicholas Murphy (Boherlahan). (Middle row (l. to r.): Padraig Hickey (Boherlahan); Brian Creen (Boherlahan); Liam Cantwell (Cahir); Robert O'Brien (Rosegreen); David Ryan (Rosegreen); Paul Breen (captain) (Knockavilla); Roger O'Dwyer (Cashel); Paddy O'Flaherty (Cahir); Liam Hayes (Clonoulty); Padraig Whelan (Cahir); David Kennedy (Clonoulty). Front row (l. to r.): David Quirke (Rosegreen); James McGrath (Boherlahan); David Coffey (Cahir); Nicholas Maher (Cashel); Eamon Barrett (Cahir); Patrick Halley (New Inn); Edmund Leamy (Boherlahan); Brian Slattery (Clonoulty).



Cashel Community School – Grade S.H.C. 'B' runners-up – Front (l. to r.) Martin Peters, Andrew Hyland, Barry Shortall, Declan Donnelly, Eamon Morrissey, Michael Ryan, David Burke, Alan Kennedy, Joseph Tobin, John Simon O'Dwyer, Eoin Morrissey, Gerald O'Gorman, Gavin Manton, Joe Breen, Michael Sherlock Darragh Farrell, Brendan Bulfin, Kevin McCarthy, Edmond O'Dwyer, Glen Doherty, Liam Manton, James Tierney, T. J. Ryan, Laurence Hickey, Willie Hickey (captain), Paul Casey.



Nenagh C.B.S.
The Nenagh C.B.S. team which failed in their quest for Dr. Harty Cup (Munster Colleges senior hurling) honours when they were defeated by St. Colman's, Fermoy, for the second consecutive year in the final at Clonmel.



Scoil Ruain

The Scoil Ruain, Killenaule (panel) which won the coveted Canon Fitzgerald Cup (under-17) 'A' hurling for post-primary schools, for the first time by defeating holders Nenagh C.B.S. at Semple Stadium. Back row (l. to r.): Aidan Maher, Damien Healy, Eamonn Cahill, Darren Kenny, Eoin Teehan, Rory Rice, Damien Gleeson, Niall O'Dwyer, Niall Curran, Tom O'Connor, Noel O'Grady, John Gleeson, Matthew Galligan, Michael Cleary, Kieran Ryan. Front row: Eoin Kelly, Seán Brennan, Thomas Fitzgerald, Michael Carroll (captain), Paul Curran, Tony Doyle, Peter Kennedy, Donal Shelly, Gerard Ivors, Adrian Tobin.



Church & General
Cumann na mBunscol

Tipperary Primary Schools

ALL children have a dream to represent their county, when they see the senior stars of football and hurling in action. For 32 primary school footballers and hurlers from every county in Munster this dream became a reality in 1997. These children had the opportunity of playing before thousands of fans prior to all Munster senior games in a game entitled 'The Primary Game'. As the senior players listened to the team talk in the dressingroom, players from the Primary Schools in their county were in action setting the scene.

Cumann na mBunscol, Tiobraid Arann were involved in three football games and one hurling. It must be stressed that these games were not championship games but exhibition games and so winning was not of prime importance. We faced Limerick in the first football game and after an exciting match we lost by four points. As Tipperary won the replay of the senior game we then went on to face Waterford.

We travelled to Dungarvan for this game and got off to a flying start with two goals in the first few minutes. Waterford gradually came into the game and won by four points again. The Waterford team had a native of Kenya in goal by the name of Toto Wanie O'Cuilliu. As Tipperary won the senior game we were again on the road this time to Tralee to face Kerry. Kerry got off to a very good start and were seven points to one up at one stage. Tipp however fought back and were unlucky to be three points in arrears at the end.

While our hurlers had only one game – what a game it turned out to be. Tipperary played Limerick in Semple Stadium before the senior game with the same counties. The first half was very even and Tipp led by a point at the break. Tipp came more into the game after the break and ran out winners on the score 2-5 to 1-2.

LIATHROID LAIMHE

Our county handball finals were played this year in Dolla Handball Club. The county winners then went forward to Ennis to play in the Munster Finals in which they met players from Clare and Kerry. The Munster winners then went forward to Croke Park where they met players from all over Ireland.

RESULTS

Under 11

GIRLS: Danielle O'Connell (Hollyford N.S.) (County and Munster titles). (Beaten in All Ireland final).

Doubles – Geraldine Horan and Karen Collins (Ballina N.S.) (County and Munster



Tipperary Primary Schools Hurling Team 1997

Front row l to r: Even Sweeney (Loughmore); Michael Bergin (Moneygall); Willie Ryan (Toomevara); Enda McGrath (Carrick-on-Suir); Tom Kennedy (Nenagh); Derek Whelan (Ballylooby); Trevor Ivors (Ballingarry); Pakie O'Dwyer (Cahir); and Andrew Cahill (Thomastown). Back row l to r: Eugene Ryan (Moneygall); P.J. Harrington (Upperchurch); Harry Hogan (Knockavilla); Seamus Ryan (Rossmore); Neil Kelly (Lissenhall); Sean O'Dwyer (Scoil Ailbe); Patrick Kennedy (Inch); Pat Shorte (Upperchurch); and Donal McCarthy (Ballylooby). Also on the team is Edward Kelly (Templetuohy).

titles).

BOYS: Singles – Ger Coonan (Ballina N.S.) (County, Munster and All-Ireland titles).

Doubles – Paudie Drislane and Donal McInglis (Ballyporeen N.S.) (County title).

U-13 GIRLS: Singles – Aisling Horan (Ballina N.S.) (County and Munster titles).

Doubles – Tracey Conney and Aoife Hick-

ey (Ballina N.S.) (County, Munster and All-Ireland titles).

BOYS: Singles – Michael John Meaney (Ballyporeen N.S.) (County and Munster titles) (Beaten in All-Ireland final).

Doubles – Enda McKeogh and Niall Collins (Ballina N.S.) (County and Munster titles) (Beaten in All-Ireland final).



Tipperary Primary Schools Football Team 1997

Back row l to r: Andrias O'Sullivan (Carrick-on-Suir); Paul Cagney (St. Olivers); Jonathan Gleeson (Killenaule); Paraic Breen (Nenagh CBS); David Morrissey (Thomastown); Paul Brennan (Castleiney); James Kenneally (Ballyporeen); Michael Lynagh (Templemore); John Sheehan (Buncourt) and Eamon Dwyer (Fethard). Front row l to r: Paul Brett (Clonmel); Marcus O'Sullivan (Ardfinnan); Lorcan Bannon (Grange); John Cantwell (Cahir); Noel O'Donnell (Carrick CBS); Nicky Noonan (Fethard); Paul Vines (Ballingarry); Paraic Maher (Shanakill) and Liam O'Sullivan (Ardfinnan). Missing from team is Gerard Ryan (Ayle).

I.N.T.O. / G.A.A. MINI-SEVENS

IOMANAÍOCHT: 22 schools took part in this competition and after four regional qualifying games Dunkerrin N.S., Glengoole N.S., Gortnahoe N.S., Emly N.S. and Mullinahone N.S. reached the final. This was played in The Ragg and what a final it turned out to be. The result was in doubt right up to the finish but Dunkerrin N.S. ran out winners to win the trophy for the first time.

PEIL (BUACHAILLI): 24 schools took part in the football for boys with the following schools reaching the finals: Lisvernane N.S., Rosegreen N.S., Boher N.S., Grange N.S. and Carrick C.B.S. The finals were played in Littleton and in the last round Boher needed to beat Lisvernane to stay in contention. Lisvernane however won to take the title themselves.

Lisvernane N.S. – Danny 'Mike' Hennessy, Vincent Hennessy, Gerard Peters, Michael Brennan, Barry Grogan, Laurence Coskeran, Joseph O'Brien, Joey Fahy, Cathal Dillon, Aidan Ryan and Tadhg O'Donovan.

PIEL (CAILINI): 18 schools took part in the girls football and the following schools reached the finals – Ardfinnan N.S., Loughmore N.S., Killenaule N.S. and Ayle N.S. The games were played in Clonoulty and the decider was the game between Ardfinnan N.S. and Killenaule N.S. Ardfinnan were on top for a lot of the game but could not put the scores on the board. Killenaule took the chances that came their way and so were worthy champions.

Killenaule N.S. – Emma Walsh, Nora O'Dwyer, Emer Shelley, Annette Hanley, Emma Webster, Aine O'Dwyer, Tracy Hanley, Sarah Healy and Emma McMenamin.

CAMOGAÍOCHT: 8 schools took part in the camogie with the following schools reaching the finals. Moneygall N.S., Inch N.S., Dunkerrin N.S. and Portroe N.S. The finals were played in Moneygall and Dunkerrin won out again to bring off an unique double of hurling and camogie champions.

COUNTY HURLING FINALS

ROINN A:

Thurles CBS 7-2, Nenagh CBS 0-1

This was a sweet victory for Thurles CBS over Nenagh CBS as in the previous two years Nenagh had got the better of Thurles. Sean O'Dwyer was the star for Thurles just as he was for the Tipperary Primary School team the previous Sunday against Limerick.

ROINN B:

Holy Cross N.S. are Roinn B champions.

ROINN C:

Redwood / Lorrha N.S. 0-4, Inch N.S. 0-3

This was a very close encounter which finished in a frenzy of excitement with Lorrha holding on to a point lead. Inch led by a point to no score at the break. Lorrha edged in front in the second half and managed to hold out for victory.

ROINN D:

Ballingarry N.S. 3-5, Kilbarron N.S. 3-3

This was one of the most exciting finals of the day with both schools striving to win their first ever county title. Ballingarry had the better of the first half and led by 2-5 to 0-2 at the break. Kilbarron fought back brilliantly in the second half but a late goal for Ballingarry sealed victory for them.

CAMOGIE:

Templemore G.N.S. 3-6, Portroe N.S. 2-1

St. Joseph's G.N.S. regained the county camogie championship thanks in no small



Lisvernane Under 11 team who won the County B Schools Football Championship 1997

Front – Tommy O'Neill, Bernard O'Brien, Thomas Fahy, Lawrence Coskeran (capt.), Ciaran Mac Donald, Gordon Peters, Christian Mac Donald. Back – Michael Brennan, Kevin Fitzgerald, Cathal Dillon, Vincent Hennessy, Martin Peters, Peter MacKnight, Tom O'Shea (Teacher).



County Primary Schools Football Finals

Ardfinnan N.S. team who beat Ballingarry N.S. in the Girls Football final played at Clonmel. Also included is trainer Liam O'Sullivan.



Scoil Ailbhe Thurles, Foireann Faoi 13A County Champions

Back row l to r: Wayne Moylan, Sean O'Dwyer, Mark Hegney, Tadhg Flanagan, Bernard O'Mahony, Shane Ryan, Stephen McNeil, Gerard O'Dwyer, Lorcan Burke, Thomas Ryan, David Murphy, Patrick Ruddy, Eamon Lawlor, David Kennedy, Peter Maher, David Sparrow, Donal Ryan (trainer). Front row l to r: Philip McCormack, Philip McCarthy, Wayne Cully, Kieran O'Connor, David O'Callaghan, Brendan O'Sullivan, Patrick McCormack, Martin Treacy, Colin Sweeney, Brendan Duggan, Thomas Russell, Dean Butler.



The Holycross N.S. panel which drew with Toomevara N.S. in the Cumann na mBunscol (Roinn B) hurling final at Semple Stadium.

way to Claire Grogan, daughter of John, the former Tipperary hurler. Templemore led by five points at the break and while the second half was more even Templemore held out for victory.

ROINN E:

Boher N.S. 7-7, Moyne N.S. 2-1

Moyne had wind advantage in the first half but were still in arrears at the break. Boher took over in the second half to run out easy winners.

ROINN F:

Clonmore N.S. 4-5, Ayle N.S. 2-2

This Roinn F for the smaller schools was a very fine game. Clonmore were the better side but Ayle never gave up but they tired near the end to let Clonmore secure a good win.

FAOI 11 A:

The first half of this game was very even but Thurles took over in the second half for a good win over Carrick C.B.S.

Friday, Nov. 7th was a red letter day for Cumann na mBunscol, Coiste Thiobraid Arann, because on that day for the first time eight football finals were held on the same day. Our thanks to the Clonmel Sportsfield Committee who put their fields and facilities at our disposal. We wish to thank also all our guests who graced us with their presence on the day. Among our guests were Tommy Norris, Mayor of Clonmel, Tony Bates, President of the I.N.T.O., Michael Frawley, Chairman Tipperary Football Board, Eddie Lonergan, Secretary Tipperary Football Board, John Cummins, Tipperary Football coach and Jerry Daly, Hon. President Cumann na mBunscol.

Despite the time of year we were blessed with a beautiful day for the finals with no wind and very little in the way of cold. Here below is an account of how the games went.

ROINN A:

Carrick CBS 1-4, Cashel BNS 0-1

Despite the scoreline this was a game that with a little luck Cashel could have won. Carrick had a slight edge in the first half and thanks to a goal and a point from Wayne Murphy led by 1-1 to 0-1 at the break. After the half time break Cashel came more into the game but unfortunately for them they had too many wides. In all they shot up to eight wides in this half which in the end played a big part in their defeat.

Best for Carrick were Dara Kavanagh, Aidan Hitchens, Wayne Barry, Sean Finn, Kevin Keegan and John Murphy while for Cashel Ryan O'Dwyer, Paul Hoare, Michael Coleman and T.J. Hickey played their hearts out.

Carrick CBS – Aidan Hitchens, Richard McGrath, Wayne Barry, Derek Reid, Kieran Reid, Sean O'Shea, Patrick Dowley (captain), Brian Dunne, Daryl Kavanagh (0-1), Stephen Walsh, John Finn, Kevin Keegan (0-1), Wayne Murphy (1-2), David Kelly, Peter White, Eamonn Daniels, Patrick Hanrahan, Eamonn Russell, Colm Murphy, Stephen Torpey, Brian Kenny and John Norris.

Cashel BNS – Greg Ryan, Brian Lowe, John Mantan, Tomas O'Connor, Tony Hewitt, Eoin Davern, Ryan O'Dwyer, Paul Hoare, Michael Coleman, Declan O'Dwyer, T.J. Hickey (0-1), Michael Gallahue, Oliver McGlinchy, Alan O'Meara and William Fitzgerald. Subs: Kevin Mantan, Darren Harding, Michael Lonergan, Jason Campion,



Ballingarry NS Hurling Team

Front row: Seamus Purcell, Declan O'Connell, Philip Ivors, Sean Cahill, Paul Vires, Gary Fitzgerald. Back row: Andy Maher, Natalie Scott, Ruth Maher, John Fitzgerald, Trevor Ivors, Keith Brennan, David Cashin.



The St. Joseph's Primary School, Templemore, panel which won the Cumann na mBunscol final by defeating Portoe at Semple Stadium. Back row (l to r) – Barbara Larkin, Claire Murphy, Freida Morkan, Patricia Jones, Carmel Phelan, Brid Keely, Martin Bourke (trainer), Jenny Kavanagh, Claire Grogan, Marlyn Purcell, Jean Timmons (captain), Catherine O'Doherty, Brid Dunne. Front row – Laura O'Connor, Sylvia Madden, Eimear Buckley, Karen Maher, Grace Hennessy, Maria Bourke, Sharon Sparrow, Elaine Burke, Lisa Buckley, Claire Maria Murphy.



The Boher N.S. panel which won the Cumann na mBunscol (Roinn E) hurling title by defeating Templetohy N.S. in the final at Semple Stadium.



Clonmore N.S. County Champions (Roinn F)

Back row (l to r) – Mrs. Carmel Kenny, Michael Doyle, Michael John McGrath, Padraig Bourke, James Moore, Mr. Brian Kenny, Lorcan Egan, Tom Murphy, Frank McGrath, Robert Bourke, Ms. Fiona Butler. Front (l to r) – James Cody, Edward Moore, Shane Bergin, Marguerite Bourke, Michael Moore (capt.), Noelle Bergin, Michael Delahunty, Denis Deegan, Timothy Leahy.

Patrick Hally, Robert Coates, John Higgins, Patrick Ryan and Daniel McCarthy.

ROINN B

Tipperary CBS 1-9, Ballyporeen BNS 2-3
 Tipperary got off to a great start in this game and by halftime it seemed they were in for an easy win. At the break Tipperary led by 0-7 to 0-1. But Ballyporeen are not known for giving in easily and so in the second half they were a transformed team. Gradually they clawed their way back into the game and two goals from Kevin Lynch brought them level and a point from Paul Hennessy put them ahead. Tipperary however rallied and a goal from their captain, Barry Quinn put them in front again, a lead they held to the end.

Best for Tipperary were Pauric Ryan, Carl Lowry, Barry Quinn, Dara Dullea and Michael Tuohy while for Ballyporeen James Roche, David Russell, Shane Molan and Kevin Lynch were outstanding.

Tipperary CBS – Thomas Gleeson, Thomas Byrnes, Brendan Hanley, James Halligan, Cormac Moore, Pauric Ryan, Adrian Fitzgerald, Carl Lowry, Ian Hanley (0-2), Barry Quinn (captain) (1-2), Michael Tuohy (0-2), Derek Ellard, Eamonn Crowe (0-1), Edward Kinnane and Dara Dullea (0-1). Subs: John Tuohy (0-1), Barry Fitzgerald, Eric Fennessy, Greg O'Brien and Paul Ryan.

Ballyporeen BNS – Danny English, Eamonn Flannelly, James Roche, Eoin Meaney, Hugh O'Brien, David Russell, Michael Bailey, Shane Molan, Paudie Drislane (0-1), Harry English, Christopher and Ricky Murphy. Subs: James Sheehan, Brian Carey, Sean Sweeney, Darra O'Sullivan, Patrick Quinlan and Richard Hickey.



County Primary Schools Football Finals

Carrick-on-Suir N.S. team who beat Fethard N.S. in the Under 11 County Final played at Clonmel.



County Primary Schools Football Finals

Carrick-on-Suir C.B.S. N.S. team who beat Cashel N.S. in the Division A County Football Final played at Clonmel.



County Primary Schools Football Finals

Monastery Tipperary Town N.S. team who beat Ballyporeen N.S. in a very exciting Division B final played at Clonmel.



County Primary Schools Football Finals

Grange N.S. team who beat Clogheen N.S. in the Division C final played at Clonmel. Also included is school principal Tom Slattery and Michael Mullane, coach.

ROINN C

Grange NS 8-8, Clogheen NS 2-0
 When these two schools met in the league it was a very close game. In the meantime however Grange did some very intensive training under the guidance of John Phelan with help from Mick Mullane and it showed on the day. Grange were into their stride from the start and with Philip Bannon outstanding in the backs and Gerard Mullane in fine scoring form they built up an interval lead of 5-6 to 1-0. Fair play to Clogheen they kept plugging away in the second half and matched Grange for most of the half. Grange however put on enough scores to take the title back to their school. By the way the chairman of Cumann na mBunscol, Tomas Ó Slattara, is principal of Grange NS.

Outstanding for Grange NS were Philip Bannon, Tommy O'Donnell, Louis Ronan, Sean Phelan and Gerard Mullane while for Clogheen NS Jeremiah Norris, Patricia Hickey and Eoin Walsh played very well.

S.N. na Grainsi – Kevin Queeney, Noelle Browne, Tony Ryan, Philip Bannon, John Hally (captain), Tommy O'Donnell, Louis Ronan (1-3), Alan Fitzgerald (0-1), Sean Phelan (1-1), Peter Hally (1-2), David Lonergan, Gerard Mullane (3-1) and Liam Pollard (2-0). Subs: Catherine Slattery, Kevin Price, Mark O'Donovan, Joseph Cunningham, Daniel Purver, William McCarthy, Gerard Lonergan, Conor Slattery, Brian Sullivan, Aidan Kelly, Shaun Costigan, Gerard Bannon and David Foley.

St. Mary's NS Clogheen – Jeremiah Norris (captain), James Cahill, Patrick Moran, John O'Connor (1-0), Andrew Sweeney (1-0), Patricia Hickey, Joseph Foy, Christopher Smith, Thomas O'Donnell, Eoin Walsh,

Michael Myles, Shane Gleeson, Shane Smith, Robert Platt, Steven Fitzpatrick and Tara Flynn.

FAOI 11A

Carrick CBS 2-9, Fethard BNS 1-1

It was double joy for Carrick CBS when their under 11 team secured their second win of the day in this final. The win also gave them a three in a row victory in this competition. The first half was evenly contested with the score at half time Carrick 0-2, Fethard 0-0. Carrick opened up the play in the second half and some fine point scoring from Barry Walsh and Lee Waters gave them a fine victory.

Carrick CBS had some fine footballers in Andrew Walsh, James Dowley, Barry O'Hanlon and Rory Murphy while the following played very well for Fethard, John Leahy, Paul Kenrick, Peter Gough and Keith Lawrence.

Carrick CBS - Andrew Walsh, Shane Waters, Damien Roche (1-1), James Dowley, Paul Coghlan, Stephen Hahessy (0-1), Barry O'Hanlon, Shane Hogan, Barry Walsh (1-3), Colm O'Sullivan, Lee Waters (0-4), Neal Keogh, Rory Murphy, Keith Keogh, Keith Ryan, Kieran Reade, L.J. Keegan, Kevin Walsh, A.J. Cronin, Shane Butler, Daryl Whitty, William Lonergan and Alan Quinn.

St Patrick's BNS Fethard - John Leahy, David Prout, Paul Kenrick, Peter Gough, James Williams, James Smyth, Connie O'Flynn, William O'Brien, Keith Lawrence (0-1), David Conway, Darren Sharpe, Kieran Allen, Francis Lonergan, Glynn O'Meara (1-0), Sean O'Hara, Edmund Sheehan, Stephen O'Meara, Liam Ryan, Bill Walsh, Cathal Brett, Damien Shine and Eoin Condon.

CAILÍNÍ

Ardfinnan NS 7-8, Ballingarry NS 1-0

In this girls encounter the experience gained by the Ardfinnan team by playing with the boys team was the difference between the sides in the end. Ardfinnan had a blistering start and led at half time by 4-5 to 0-0. This lead was due in no small way to the play of Amanda and Lisa Grace daughters of that well known Ardfinnan character, Stefan Grace. The second period was more even but Ardfinnan ran out worthy champions.

Besides the Grace sisters others to play excellently for Ardfinnan NS were Amanda Condon, Bridget Lonergan and Claire Murphy while for Ballingarry NS Ann Marie O'Neill, Mairead Maher, Sylvia Ivors and Irene Ivors played their hearts out.

Ardfinnan NS - Erica Condon, Maria Nugent (1-0), Siobhan Lambert, Sabrina Bray (1-0), Carmel Long (0-1), Amanda Condon (0-1), Amanda Grace (0-2), Lisa Grace (1-1), Bridget Lonergan (2-3), Niamh O'Mahoney, Claire Murphy (2-0) and Ruth O'Donnell. Subs: Claire Dermody, Kim Gilligan, Michelle Griffin, Kiera Flynn, Deborah Doolan, Karen Burke, Linda Lonergan, Moira Hally and Fiona Murphy.

Ballingarry NS - B. McGrath, Jenny Brennan, Stacey Cleere, Linda Cahill, Natasha Scott, Ann Marie O'Neill, Natalie Scott (1-0), Arlene Shelley, Mairead Maher, Sylvia Ivors, Lisa Condon and Irene Ivors. Subs: Emma Dunne, Sabrian Ivors, Yvonne Ivors, Rita Croke and Niamh Corbett.

ROINN D

Kilsheelin NS 4-7, Loughmore NS 2-9



County Primary Schools Football Finals

Tony Bates, president INTO presenting plaque to joint captains Lisa Grace and Bridget Lonergan of the Ardfinnan N.S. team who beat Ballingarry N.S. in the Girls Football County Final. Also included is coach Liam O'Sullivan and teacher Catherine Phelan. Final score: Ardfinnan 7-8, Ballingarry 1-0.

For most people present this Roinn D final was the outstanding game of the day. From start to finish the play flowed from end to end with no team fully getting the better of the other. Loughmore NS got off to a flying start and seemed to be the better team. Kilsheelin however settled down and gradually clawed their way back into the game and led at the break by 2-3 to 0-5. The flowing football continued in the second half with Kilsheelin just managing to stay ahead of Loughmore all the time. A storming finish by Loughmore was repelled by Kilsheelin who held out to win their first trophy for many years.

For Kilsheelin James Byrne, Lee Doyle, Thomas Ryan, Eoghan Ryan, Steven Cloona and Michael McHugh were in great form while outstanding for Loughmore were Colm Campion, Tommy Connolly, Edward Connolly and Ronan Stapleton.

Kilsheelin NS - James Byrne, Michael O'Reilly, Lee Doyle, David Hanrahan,



County Primary Schools Football Finals

Secretary Primary Schools Board Donal McCarthy presenting plaque to Owen Ryan, captain of the Kilsheelan N.S. team who beat Loughmore N.S. in the Division D County Final. Final score: Kilsheelan 4-7, Loughmore 2-9.



County Primary Schools Football Finals

Kilsheelan N.S. team who beat Loughmore N.S. in the Division D County Final played at Clonmel. Also included are Jacinta Coman, Christy Carroll and Gerard Hennebray.

Thomas Ryan, Senan O'Halloran, Shane Geoghegan (0-3), Eoghan Ryan (captain) (0-2), Steven Cloonan (1-0), Michael McHugh (2-1), Brian Dempsey (1-0) and George Stewart (0-1). Subs: Thomas King, Shane Prendergast, Keith Condon, Ian Coughlan, Shane Crotty and Ian Ormond.

Loughmore NS – Mark Kiely, Colm Campion, Shane Hennessy, Thomas Maher, Stephen Ryan, Tommy Connolly, Ciaran McGrath (0-1), Edward Connolly (1-3), Ronan Stapleton, Raymond Webster (1-0), Damien Russell (0-1) and Declan Keane (0-4). Subs: Michael Corry, Gerard Connolly, Shane Purcell, John Campion, David Foy, Cian Hennessy, Matthew Nesbitt, Padraig Heffernan, Vincent Heffernan, Shane Nolan, Tara Ryan, Fiona Hennessy, Marie Danagher, Breda Bourke, Martin Bourke, Sinead Hennessy, Therese Cullen, Karen Healy, Denise Fogarty and Deirdre Danagher.

ROINN E

Golden CBS 3-1, Ayle NS 0-3

This was another game in which the play ebbed to and fro all through the game and the result was in doubt right up to the final whistle. After a very exciting first half Golden led by 1-1 to 0-2. After the break both teams strived manfully to get the upper hand and after a great game Golden NS just held out to win their first ever trophy in Cumann na mBunscol.

On the day the stars for Golden were James Maher, Kevin Blake, Niall Kennedy, James McCarthy and David Bargary while Ayle had their stars in Tadhg Kiely, Timmy Ryan, Jane-Anne O'Neill, Ciaran Ryan and Joseph Harding.

Golden NS – James Maher, Catriona Blake, Kevin Blake, Niall Kennedy, James McCarthy (1-0), Patrick Ivors, Michael Harding (1-1), Sean Walshe, Stephanie Horan (1-0) and David Bargary. Subs: Joseph Lonergan, Emma O'Brien, Mary Ryan, Shane Ryan, Sabrina Halley, Edel Whelan and Stephanie Moloney.

Ayle NS – Tadhg Kiely, Noel Julian, Colm O'Keeffe, Timmy Ryan, Jane-Anne O'Neill (0-1), Ciaran Ryan (0-2), Joseph Harding, Cathy O'Neill, Richard Cleary and Marian Fahy. Subs: Jimmy Coughlan, Michael O'Neill, Michael Ryan, Shane O'Brien, Catherine Anderson, Audrey Dargan, Evelyn Murphy, Siobhan O'Donnell, Stephen Cleary, Joanne Fahy, Michelle Harding, Cormac Ryan, Antoin Dargan and Mark Quillinan.

ROINN F

Mount Bruis NS 10-13, Cloneen NS 4-1

Despite the scoreline this was a very nice football game with the difference being the outstanding display given by Tim Byrnes for Mount Bruis. Tim ended the game with a personal tally of 4-8 and with Sinead Dunne scoring 2-3, they were the thorns in Cloneen's side. There was great excitement at the final whistle as the Mount Bruis team, teachers and supporters jumped for joy as Mount Bruis were winning their first ever trophy in Cumann na mBunscol.

Others to play well for Mount Bruis were Pat Power and Michael Kenny while for Cloneen Patrick O'Gorman, Carmel Sheehan, Siobhan O'Shea and Kevin Dempsey



County Primary Schools Football Finals

Golden N.S. team who beat Ayle N.S. in the Division E final played at Clonmel. Also included is school principal Dick Hennessy.

played their very best.

Mount Bruis NS – Diarmaid O'Dwyer, Karen Greene, Pat Power, Tim Byrnes (4-8), Michael Kenny (2-1), Jackie O'Brien (2-0) and Sinead Dunne (2-3). Subs: Naomi Enright (0-1), Elaine O'Connor, Eoin Casey, Sheena O'Dwyer, Liam O'Dwyer, Seamus Ryan, Elaine Ryan and Kevin Hourigan.

Cloneen NS – Patrick O'Gorman, Damien O'Halloran, Carmel Sheehan, Siobhan O'Shea, Kevin Dempsey, Aidan O'Brien, Lorcan Noonan, Anne Sheehan, Thomas Bourke, Vincent Delaney, John Smith, Samuel Materne and Andrias Doyle.

Cumann na mBunscol would like to thank most sincerely the following officials T.J. Corby, Seamus Mullins, Tony Roche, Micky Mahoney, Joe O'Donoghue and P.J. O'Meara who gave of their time and energy on the day and without whom the day could not have been the success it was.



County Primary Schools Football Finals

Mayor of Clonmel Cllr. Tommy Norris presenting plaque to James Maher, captain of the Golden N.S. team who beat Ayle N.S. in the Division E final. Also included is school principal Dick Hennessy and Tomás Ó Slatara, chairman Primary Schools Board. Final score: Golden 3-1, Ayle 0-3.



County Primary Schools Football Finals

Mount Bruis N.S. Lattin/Cullen team who beat Cloneen N.S. in the Division F County Football final. Also included is school principal John Landers.



Scoil Choimhin win football blitz

The primary schools' under-11 'Roinn C' football blitz was held in Littleton recently. Scoil Choimhin (Littleton), Inch, Upperchurch and Clonoulty were the teams involved in this group. The blitz was held on a round-robin basis, with the team obtaining the highest points or highest scoring aggregate declared the winner.

In the opening round Upperchurch beat Inch 6-4 to 2-1 and Scoil Choimhin beat Clonoulty 3-3 to 1-2. In the second round of games Upperchurch beat Clonoulty 3-3 to 1-2 and Scoil Choimhin beat Inch 8-2 to 2-0.

The meeting of Scoil Choimhin and Upperchurch in the final round turned out to be the crucial game of the blitz as both teams had won their opening two games. Clonoulty recorded their first victory in the last round against Inch 2-1 to 1-2.

The vital game between Scoil Choimhin and Upperchurch turned out to be a thriller. Both teams gave their all in pursuit of victory. The standard of football was very high and at the final whistle the teams were level 1-2 to 1-2. The aggregate scores of both teams were then added up and amid great tension Scoil Choimhin were declared the winners as they obtained the highest score over the three games.

Mr Paudie Butler, in presenting the cup to Scoil Choimhin's captain Phil Kelly complimented all the teams on their skill levels and sportsmanship.

Scoil Choimhin – Anthony Healy, Kevin Moran, Peter O'Brien, Brian Moran, Eoin Cantwell, Phil Kelly (captain), Ciaran Clohessy, Martin Graham, Marc Healy, Richard McCarthy, Ken Ryan, David Corcoran, Aidan Ryan, Joseph Grace and Martin Slattery.

Clonoulty – Diarmaid Cullen, Anthony Kearney, P.J. Butler, James Heffernan, Jason Forrestal, Timothy Hammersley, Jamie Purcell, Thomas Maher, Roseanne Quirke, Sean Maher, Robert Coman, Denis Murphy, Denis Ryan, Rory Ryan, James Stapleton, James Hennessy and Nikki Cullen.

Inch – Geraldine Stapleton, Matthew McGrath, Edward Costello, Philip Ryan, Martin Butler, Eric Woodlock, Ciara O'Doherty, Matthew Buckley, Siobhan Butler, Seamus Callanan, Enda Walsh, Adrian Bourke, Laura Hogan, Caraoisa Egan, Christina Lawlor.

Upperchurch – Leonard Purcell, Matt Ryan, Martin Bourke, Padraig Stapleton, John Ryan, Joseph Ryan, Jamie O'Toole, Michael Ryan (captain), Patrick Lowry, Gearoid Crowe, Colm Ryan, Colm Stapleton, Eamon Fogarty, Fiona Clancy.

Inch N.S. U11 School Champions

Back row 1 to r: James Woodlock, Ciara O'Doherty, Geraldine Stapleton, Eric Woodlock, Matthew McGrath, Enda Walsh, Siobhan Butler, Edward Costello, Kieran Young, Michael Butler, Donncha Kennedy, Sinead Walsh. Front row 1 to r: Diarmuid McLoughlin, Philip Ryan, Gary Ryan, Greg Broderick (captain), Seamus Callanan, Aoife Ryan, Claire Costello, Cathal Flynn, Michelle Ryan, Cariosa Egan, Matthew Buckley.



Scoil Ailbhe Thurles, Foireann Faoi 11A, County Champions

Back row 1 to r: Thomas Dorney, Stephen Lillis, Barry Delahunt, Barry Maher, Barry O'Donovan, Keith Moore, Muiris O'Sullivan, Brian Graydon, Patrick Kenny, Daniel Kirby, Richard Ruth (capt.), Aidan Brennan, Cian Gleeson, Morgan Moran-Gleeson, David Corcoran, Br. Fitzgerald (trainer). Front row 1 to r: Justin Cleary, Gareth Foxton, Michael Collins, Stephen Fewer, Mark Ruddy, James Molumby, Andrew Sweeney, Gregory Bowe, Shane Moloney, Matthew Quinn, Andrew Fogarty, Barry O'Loughlin, Lorcan Lyons, Conor Gleeson.



Kilbarron N.S., Coolbawn, Nenagh

Back row 1 to r: Michael Burke, William O'Meara, Noel O'Donoghue, Roy D'Arcy (capt.), Robert O'Halloran, Alan Byrne, Shane Carroll, Rita Burke, Liam Cleary, Caroline Prout, Charlene Burke, Martin Cleary. Front row 1 to r: Eoin O'Donoghue, Seán Tiernan, Dan O'Halloran, Emma McLoughney, Carmel Prout, Amanda Burke, Lee D'Arcy, Daryl D'Arcy, Claire Hourigan, George Hannigan, Robert O'Gorman.

Guim sonas agus síocháin an Nollaig agus na h-Athbhliana ort.

North Tipperary Primary Schools

Dunkerrin N.S. recorded a unique double when they won the I.N.T.O. Mini-Sevens titles in both hurling and camogie this year.



Camogie: Back (left to right): Eimear Ryan, Natasha Callaghan, Angela Hogan, Maeve Kennedy, Fiona Kennedy, Michelle Kirwan. Front Row: Máire Kirwan, Madeline Maher, Dierdre Kirwan, Julie Kirwan.



Hurling: Back (left to right): Ger Morten, Phil Fanning, Patrick Doughan, Joseph Treacy, Colm Hogan, Ger Kirwan. Front Row: Philip Byrne, Paraic White, Bill White, John Maher



Toomevara Primary Schools (Section B) North Champions: Back Row (l to r): Eddie O'Meara, John Delaney, Tommy Doran, John Walsh, Brian McCormack, Stephen Egan, Paul Bartley, Kieran Fitzpatrick, William Ryan and Malachy Maher. Front Row: Patrick Tuohy, Terry Delaney, Gerard Cuddihy, Joseph McLoughney, Sean Delaney, Pdraig O'Meara, Seamus Maher, Michael Fleming, James O'Meara, Jim Duignan. Mascots: Shaw Nolan, Darron Delaney and Ryan O'Meara.



Lorrha-Redwood National School Panel '97: Back Row: (left to right) John Cleary, coach, J. Needham, teacher, Eoin Mannion, captain, Noel Needham, Kevin Coughlan, James Dunne, Donal Kennedy, Anne Hough, Dóirínna Moran, Siobhan O'Meara, Sharon Slevin, Melissa Kelly, Maria Shewbridge, Angela Coonan, Pat Hynes, teacher, Fr. John Oakley C.C., selector. Front Row: Michael Slevin, Derek Walsh, Alan Kennedy, Aidan Duggan, Emmet Power, Garrett O'Meara, Noel Hillman, Jack Maher, Kevin Hough, Pdraig Mannion, Tony Horgan, Colm Duggan, Marcus Houlihan, Darren Mannion, Lisa Hogan.



Moneygall Under 12 Girls Football Team: Community Games County Champions 1997. Back Row: Margaret Carroll, Máire Kirwan, Maeve Kennedy, Eilish Quinlan, Julie Kirwan, Lara Sutton, Eimear Ryan, Geraldine Cahill, Milissa McDonnell. Front Row: Fiona Kennedy, Deirdre Quinlan, Marie Hogan, Niamh Greene, Mary Ryan, María Jones (Capt.), Edel Treacy, Annette Maher, Marie Bergin, Aileen Morten, Michelle Kirwan

SCOREBOARD 97

Compiled by Seamus O'Doherty

COUNTY FINALS – HURLING

Senior	
Clonoulty Rossmore.....	0-17
Mullinahone.....	1-12
Intermediate	
Arravale Rovers.....	1-6
J.K. Brackens.....	0-6
Junior 'A'	
Toomevara.....	1-4
Galtee Rovers.....	1-3
Junior 'B'	
Silvermines.....	2-9
Killenaule.....	0-10
Under 21 'A'	
Under 21 'B'	
Ballingarry v Borrisileigh	
Minor 'A'	
Toomevara.....	2-12
Golden Kilfeacle.....	1-6
Minor 'B'	
Moneygall.....	3-5
Galtee Rovers.....	2-2
Under 16 'A'	
Drom-Inch.....	1-12
Roscrea.....	3-4
Under 16 'B'	
Moynes-Templetuohy.....	3-12
Newcastle.....	1-9
Under 14 'A'	
Toomevara.....	1-7
Cahir.....	0-6
Under 14 'B'	
Loughmore Castleiney.....	4-7
Rosegreen.....	1-7
Under 12	
Toomevara.....	10-3
Killenaule.....	1-3

COUNTY FINALS – FOOTBALL

Senior	
Fethard.....	3-8
Aherlow.....	1-9
Intermediate	
Junior 'A'	

Junior 'B'

Under 21 'A'	
Loughmore-Castleiney.....	1-9
Aherlow.....	0-9
Under 21 'B'	
Moycarkey-Borris.....	3-7
Ballyporeen.....	1-6

Minor 'A'

Arravale Rovers.....	4-8
Kildangan.....	0-11

Minor 'B'

Carrick Swans.....	3-7
Burgess.....	1-9

Under 16 'A'

Roscrea.....	1-7
Fethard.....	0-9

Under 16 'B'

Burgess.....	5-10
Kilsheelan.....	1-9

Under 14 'A'

Galtee Rovers.....	2-4
Cahir.....	1-4

Under 14 'B'

Moyle Rovers.....	2-17
Solohead.....	2-4

Under 12 'A'

Moyle Rovers.....	6-5
Moynes-Templetuohy.....	0-3

INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS – HURLING

Senior

<i>At Semple Stadium June 15 (semi-final)</i>	
Tipperary.....	1-20
Limerick.....	0-13

At Páirc Uí Chaoimh July 6th (Munster final)

Clare.....	1-18
Tipperary.....	0-18

At Clones July 26th (quarter-final)

Tipperary.....	3-24
Down.....	3-8

At Croke Park August 17th (semi-final)

Tipperary.....	2-16
Wexford.....	0-15

At Croke Park September 14th (final)

Clare.....	0-20
Tipperary.....	2-13

Intermediate

<i>At Semple Stadium June 15th (R.1)</i>	
Limerick.....	1-14
Tipperary.....	0-16

Under 21

<i>At Limerick June 19th (R.1)</i>	
Tipperary.....	5-15
Limerick.....	2-12

At Semple Stadium July 16th (semi-final)

Tipperary.....	5-16
Waterford.....	1-15

At Semple Stadium July 30th (Munster final)

Cork.....	1-11
Tipperary.....	0-13

Minor

<i>At Fermoy April 23rd (R.1)</i>	
Tipperary.....	3-9
Waterford.....	1-12

At Limerick May 7th (semi-final)

Tipperary.....	1-15
Limerick.....	0-13

At Páirc Uí Chaoimh July 6th (Munster final)

Tipperary.....	2-13
Clare.....	1-13

At Croke Park August 17th

<i>(All Ireland semi-final)</i>	
Galway.....	2-9
Tipperary.....	0-14

Under 16

<i>At Golden April 5th (R.1)</i>	
Imokilly (Cork).....	3-17
West Tipp.....	2-4

At Tulla April 5th (R.1)

Mid Tipp.....	2-14
East Clare.....	1-7

At Dungarvan April 5th (prelim-round)

West Waterford.....	3-9
North Tipp.....	1-9

At Fermoy April 12th (R.1)

South Tipp.....	2-14
Avondhu (Cork).....	0-11

At Semple Stadium April 19th (quarter-final)

Mid Tipperary.....	0-13
Imokilly.....	1-8

At Clonmel April 19th (quarter-final)

South Tipp.....	1-14
West Waterford.....	1-7

At Cashel May 3rd (semi-final)
 South Tipperary 3-14
 Mid Tipp 4-11
 (draw)

At Cashel May 18th (replay)
 South Tipp 0-18
 Mid Tipp 1-13

At Tipperary June 29th (final)
 South Tipp 1-9
 South Limerick 0-9

Church and General National Hurling League 1997 (Division 1)
 At Nenagh March 9th (R.1)
 Offaly 2-14
 Tipperary 1-15

At Rathdowney March 23rd (R.2)
 Tipperary 1-23
 Laois 2-9

At Semple Stadium March 30th (R.3)
 Galway 1-16
 Tipperary 0-17

At Limerick April 13th (R.4)
 Tipperary 1-12
 Limerick 1-12

At Semple Stadium April 27th (R.5)
 Tipperary 2-12
 Wexford 1-8

At Cusack Park May 10th (R6)
 Tipperary 1-10
 Clare 0-12

At Semple Stadium May 31st (R.7)
 Tipperary 3-19
 Kilkenny 3-11

At Semple Stadium July 12th (quarter-final)
 Tipperary 0-14
 Dublin 0-8

At Ennis August 23rd (semi-final)
 Galway 1-14
 Tipperary 0-6

INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS – FOOTBALL

Senior
 At Limerick May 11th (R.1)
 Tipperary 0-16
 Limerick 1-13
 (draw)

At Clonmel May 18th (replay)
 Tipperary 1-17
 Limerick 2-8

At Dungarvan June 1st (quarter-final)
 Tipperary 2-7
 Waterford 1-5

At Tralee June 29th (semi-final)
 Kerry 2-12
 Tipperary 1-10

Junior
 At Limerick May 11th (R.1)
 Limerick 1-12
 Tipperary 0-8

Under 21
 At Páirc Uí Rinn March 22nd (R.1)
 Tipperary 1-12
 Cork 2-9
 (draw)

At Clonmel March 29th (replay)
 Cork 1-12
 Tipperary 1-6

Minor
 At Limerick April 9th (prelim rds)
 Clare 2-12
 Tipperary 0-6

At Newcastlewest April 17th (prelim rds)
 Tipperary 3-5
 Limerick 1-11

At Clonmel April 30th (prelim rds)
 Tipperary 2-16
 Waterford 1-4

At Clonmel May 18th (prelim final)
 Limerick 3-9
 Tipperary 3-7

All-Ireland Senior 'B' Championship
 At Castleblaney October 4th
 Monaghan 0-20
 Tipperary 1-9

McGrath Cup Senior Football
 At Bansha January 12th
 Tipperary 1-14
 Limerick 1-8

At Killarney February 23rd
 Kerry 2-9
 Tipperary 2-6

CHURCH AND GENERAL NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1996/97 (Division 4)
 At Dungarvan February 2nd
 Tipperary 2-10
 Waterford 2-6

At Irvinestown February 9th
 Fermanagh 2-13
 Tipperary 0-11

At Newcastlewest February 16th
 Tipperary 0-6
 Limerick 0-3

At Tipperary Town March 2nd
 Tipperary 2-5
 Sligo 1-8

1997/98 (Section D)
 At Clonmel October 19th
 Cork 4-17
 Tipperary 3-5

At Newry November 2nd
 Down 2-10
 Tipperary 1-7

At Templemore November 16th
 Kildare 2-9
 Tipperary 1-11

MASTERS' HURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

At The Ragg June 9th
 Tipperary 3-9
 Galway 2-11

At Nowlan Park June 16th
 Kilkenny 2-20
 Tipperary 1-11

At The Ragg July 21st
 Tipperary 7-14
 Laois 1-2

At The Ragg July 28th
 Wexford 2-17
 Tipperary 2-13

MUNSTER CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP – HURLING

At Limerick November 16th (semi-final)
 Patrickswell (Limerick) 0-18
 Clonoulty-Rossmore 0-14

MUNSTER CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP – FOOTBALL

At Limerick October 25th
 Fethard 1-13
 Galbally (Limerick) 0-12

At Clonmel November 23rd (semi-final)
 Fethard 0-6
 Cooraclare (Clare) 0-4

IARNRÓD ÉIREANN INTER-PROVINCIAL – HURLING

At Ballinasloe November 8th (semi-final)
 Munster 1-19
 Connacht 2-15

At Ballinasloe November 9th (final)
 Munster 0-14
 Leinster 0-10

IARNRÓD ÉIREANN INTER-PROVINCIAL – FOOTBALL

At Ennis January 26th (semi-final)
 Connacht 2-15
 Munster 1-17

FITZGIBBON CUP – HURLING

At Templemore February 8th (quarter-final)
 Garda College Templemore 2-7
 Maynooth College 0-5

At The Mardyke March 1st (semi-final)
 Garda College Templemore 1-8
 Waterford RTC 1-7

At Páirc Uí Rinn March 2nd (final)
 UCC 0-14
 Garda College Templemore 1-8

SENIOR HURLING CHALLENGE GAMES

At The Ragg February 16th
 Galway 1-6
 Tipperary 0-7

At Goatenbridge March 2nd
 Tipperary 1-11
 Waterford 0-11

At Murroe March 16th
 Tipperary 0-18
 Limerick 1-15

COUNTY SENIOR HURLING LEAGUE

At Portroe November 16th (final)
 Nenagh Éire Óg 0-16
 Portroe 0-5

SENIOR FOOTBALL CHALLENGE GAMES

At Clonmel April 27th
 Tipperary 1-16
 Meath 1-16

ALL-IRELAND 'ELEVENS' HURLING

At Carlow May 3rd (quarter-final)
 Castletown (Laois) 2-5
 Thurles Sarsfields 0-1
(No other Tipp club reached the play-off stages)

ALL-IRELAND 'SEVENS' HURLING

At Dublin September 13th (quarter-final)
 Portroe 7-2
 Nenagh Éire Óg 4-7

At Dublin September 13th (quarter-final)
 Borrisoleigh 2-7
 Sarsfields (Galway) 3-2

At Dublin September 13th (semi-final)
 Borrisoleigh 4-2
 Athenry (Galway) 2-2

At Dublin September 13th (semi-final)
 O'Toole's Dublin 4-7
 Portroe 2-6

At Dublin September 13th (final)
 Borrisoleigh 5-6
 O'Toole's 2-6

INTER-FIRM HURLING

Co. Junior Final
 Ranbaxy (Ireland) 2-13
 Erin Foods 2-12

FÉILE NA NGAEL U14 HURLING

At Cashel May 24th (semi-final)
 Moyne-Templetuohy 1-9
 Killenale 1-1

At Holycross May 24th (semi-final)
 Toomevara 1-11
 Emly 0-2

At Cashel May 24th (final)
 Toomevara 0-6
 Moyne-Templetuohy 0-2

TONY FORRISTAL U14 HURLING TOURNAMENT

At Waterford August 30th
 Limerick 2-6
 Tipperary 1-6

Dublin 2-5
 Tipperary 2-3
(Tipp did not qualify for play-off stages)

PEADAR CUMMINS U14 HURLING

July 19th at Borrisoleigh
 North Tipp beat South Tipp.

Mid Tipp beat West Tipp.

(Final)
 North Tipp 2-10
 Mid Tipp 1-6

NENAGH CO-OP U16 HURLING

At The Ragg October 11th
 Tipperary 1-14
 Kilkenny 1-4

At New Ross October 18th
 Tipperary 2-14
 Wexford 1-6

At Cappoquinn October 24th
 Tipperary 4-16
 Waterford 0-7

At The Ragg October 26th
 Tipperary 2-14
 Cork 0-7

At Bruff November 8th (semi-final)
 Tipperary 1-15
 Galway 1-12

At Nenagh November 15th (final)
 Tipperary 1-20
 Limerick 1-12

GARDA CUP U16 HURLING

Unfinished.

GARDA CUP U16 FOOTBALL

Unfinished.

CO. PRIMARY SCHOOLS' HURLING FINALS

A. Thurles CBS 7-2
 Nenagh CBS 0-1
 B. Toomevara
 Holycross (draw)
 Replay - Holycross w.o. Toomevara scr.
 C. Redwood Lorrha 0-4
 Inch N.S. 0-3
 D. Ballingarry N.S. 3-5
 Kilbarron N.S. 3-3
 E. Boher N.S. 7-7
 Moyne N.S. 2-1
 F. Clonmore N.S. 4-5
 Ayle N.S. 2-2

U14 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

At Fermoy
 Tipperary 1-9
 Cork Co. 0-2
 Tipperary 2-8
 Waterford 1-6

MUNSTER U16 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

At Adare November 1st (R.1)
 South Kerry 1-10
 Tipperary 0-11
(At Adare - November 1st)
 (Shield)
 Tipperary 3-11
 Waterford 1-11
(At Adare - November 29th)
 (Shield final)
 Limerick 1-13
 Tipperary 1-6

DR HARTY CUP

Munster Colleges Senior Hurling 1996/97

At Buttevant February 16th (semi-final)
 Nenagh CBS 1-6
 Colaiste Christ Rí (Cork) 0-8

At Clonmel February 23rd (semi-final)
 St. Colman's Fermoy 2-18
 Thurles CBS 0-7

At Clonmel March 16th (final)
 St. Colman's 1-17
 Nenagh CBS 0-8

1997/98

At Clonmel October 15th
 Middleton CBS 0-11
 Nenagh CBS 0-7

At Cappamore October 15th
 Thurles CBS 2-11
 Hospital Comm. School 1-13

At Cappamore November 12th
 St. Flannan's Ennis 3-11
 Thurles CBS 1-4

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS' INTER CO. HURLING

1997
 At Rathkeale March 22nd (quarter-final)
 Tipperary 4-14
 Kerry..... 1-2

At Borrisokane April 13th (semi-final)
 Galway..... 1-15
 Tipperary 1-14

ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES' HURLING 'B' FINAL

1997
 At Nenagh April 27th
 St. Clements Limerick 1-8
 Cistercian College Roscrea..... 0-7

OUTSTANDING RESULTS 1996

County Finals

Under 21 'A' Hurling
 Holycross-Ballycahill..... 4-16
 Clonoulty-Rossmore 3-10

Junior 'A' Hurling
 (Replay)

Ballina 1-8
 Skeheenarinky..... 0-7

(Draw)
 Ballina 0-11
 Skeheenarinky..... 0-11

Under 21 'B' Hurling

Erin's Hope 1-8
 Drom-Inch 1-5

Intermediate Football

Knockavilla-Donaskeigh Kickhams... 2-7
 Moyne-Templetuohy 1-7

Junior 'A' Football

Boherlahan-Dualla..... 0-11
 Clonoulty-Rossmore 1-5

Junior 'B' Football

Gortnahoe-Glengooile 0-8
 Solohead..... 0-5

Waterford Crystal Senior Hurling League

At Semple Stadium, December 8th (R.4)
 Tipperary 0-14
 Kilkenny 1-9

At Walsh Park, December 15th (final)

Kilkenny 1-11
 Tipperary 0-13

Garda Cup Under 16 Football

At Drombane November 30th (final)
 South Tipp 2-5
 North Tipp 0-6

Inter Firm Senior Hurling All-Ireland Final

At Nenagh December 14th (draw)
 Proctor & Gamble (Nenagh)... 2-11
 CR Bard (Galway) 1-14

At Castlegar December 21st (replay)
 CR Bard 4-20
 Proctor & Gamble 2-10

Colleges' Hurling - Croke Cup U16 Hurling final

At Semple Stadium November 27th
 Thurles CBS 2-9
 Our Lady's Templemore..... 0-6

Outstanding results will be published in next year's production.

REMINDER TO PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS

Please ensure when reporting on your club's games that the following information is given:

- The name of the competition.
- The date of the game.
- The venue.
- The result.

*Congratulations to Tipperary's
 Eircell Hurling All-Stars 1997*



**PAUL
 SHELLY**

(Killenaule)

Right Full Back



**THOMAS
 DUNNE**

(Toomevara)

Midfield



**DECLAN
 RYAN**

(Clonoulty-
 Rossmore)

Centre
 Half Forward



**JOHN
 LEAHY**

(Mullinahone)

Left
 Half Forward

Eamon Butler

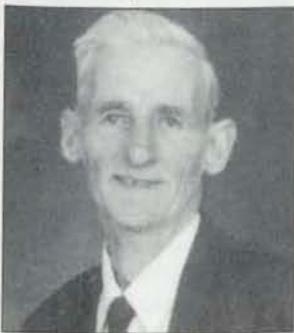
EAMON BUTLER died at the end of December 1996. After leaving the Patrician Brothers School, Fethard, Eamon served his time as a telegram boy in Fethard. He went to Cork City as a postman in 1951 and remained there for five years. He played football with St. Michael's and hurling with Blackrock. He won a Cork County football championship with St. Michael's and playing with him on that team were Cork's outstanding goalkeeper, the late Mick Cashman, father of Tom and Jim, Jimmy Brohan, Paddy Philpot and Tommy Furlong.

Eamonn was appointed postman in Kilsheelan in 1956. He met and married Frances Roche and they set up home in Kilsheelan. Never confined to one job, Eamon served the people of the parish on lots of different committees and was the current chairman of the Tidy Towns committee. You would only have to ask any committee member about his drive and then you would understand why Kilsheelan is such a beautiful village.

But Eamon never lost his Fethard roots, was ever present when Fethard played in Kilsheelan and wore the blue jersey with pride, talking to goalkeepers who played with him. Eamon won a South Senior Football Championship with Fethard in 1969.

The eldest of seven boys and three girls, he was in Fethard every Sunday to visit his eighty-three year old mother. Always a great man at a party, he would liven things up with his beautiful voice. When we laid him to rest in Gambonsfield, Kilsheelan, had lost a faithful postman and Fethard another great son. God gave us memories that we might have roses in December. God rest you Eamon Butler.

Jimmy Butler



THE DEATH occurred in October of Jimmy Butler following a long and painful illness borne with courage and dignity.



At the time of his death Jimmy was honorary president of Fr. Sheehy's GAA club. He was always present at their games and his encouraging words were always appreciated by the players. When victory escaped us his verdict was always optimistic. "What harm lads, it's only a game. We will win the next game."

Jimmy was held in high esteem by all who knew him. He was chairman of the Burncourt Community Council for some year and did his duties with grace and humour. The Butler family have a long association with Gaelic activities and his family are involved in the playing of Gaelic games with Fr. Sheehy's.

To his wife Kitty, daughters Mary and Noreen, sons John, James, Michael and Richard, brother Seán, relatives and friends, we offer our sympathy. May the green sod of his beloved Burncourt rest lightly on him. Ní bheidh a leithéad arís ann.

John "Sonny" Byrne



THE death occurred of John "Sonny" Byrne of Carrigeen, Clonoulty on 10th October, 1997 after being unwell for some time.

Sonny was a well respected member of the farming community.

He was a stalwart member of the Clonoulty-Rossmore team of the 1930's. Up to the time of his illness, he took a keen interest in the affairs of the club.

His other sporting interest

was, breeding and training of greyhounds in which he was very successful.

The club would like to extend their deepest sympathy to his wife Margaret, brother Fr. Vincent and sisters Gretta, Mary and Alice and all his relatives, neighbours and friends.

Tommie Joe Callanan



THOMAS Joseph Callanan of Lisbalting, Kilsheelan, better known as Tommie Joe, played his first game on a school team. Later he played minor and junior football. He also played on the hurling team. No great success was achieved on the field of play as he was unfortunate to be playing when the club was experiencing a fairly barren patch, in both hurling and football. His usual position on the field of play was full-forward where he used his height and strength to good advantage.

On joining the Garda, he still served the Club to the best of his ability, never failing to make the journey from Dublin, where he spent most of his time as a Garda, whenever or wherever the match was.

His brothers Seamus and Philly played their part for the local teams, again success on the field eluded them.

However, honour came his way as did also to his brother Philly, also a Garda, when they had the great honour and unique distinction of being awarded the Scott Medal for bravery – the highest honour to be awarded to a Garda.

Mary Casey (Burgess)



MARY CASEY, The Bridge, Newtown passed away on April 16th last. Mary came from a family, renowned for their exceptional traditional music talents. The Bridge, at Newtown was an open house for all who were interested in Irish music, song and dance. People travelled from near and far to this popular venue, and noted personalities included Ciaran MacMathuna.

Mary's brother Paddy O'Brien was an internationally famous accordion player.

In years gone by, both Mary and Paddy travelled by bicycle to numerous hurling games. She was a noted step dancer and dancing teacher. She cycled to teach dancing in such places as Coolbawn, Ballinderry, Ballyscanlon and Terryglass, and always carried the gramophone on the back of the bike. Mary was a noted adjudicator for dancing in Scór competitions. Indeed both Mary and Paddy were great contributors to the promotion of Scór. May she rest in peace.

Jerry Coffey



ON AUGUST 9th 1997 the death took place of Jerry Coffey, Ballinree, Boherlahan. Jerry was the eldest of three brothers who wore both the club and county jerseys with distinction in their day. All three brothers played in the county championship victorious side in

1941 and then Jerry went on to captain the county senior side in 1942. His younger brothers John and Flor won senior All-Ireland medals in 1945.

Jerry first demonstrated his hurling ability way back in the early thirties as a school boy in Ballytarsna. Later in the thirties he graduated to minor and junior level and won junior county medals in 1934, 1935 and 1936. Soon Jerry progressed to the senior side which took the county title in 1941 and he continued to give the club loyal service right up to the early fifties.

When his playing days were over he continued to serve the club for a number of years and engendered into his sons his own intense interest in the game.

Jerry Coffey was laid to rest in the family burial ground in the Bianconi cemetery, Boherlahan.

"Ar dheis lámh Dé go raibh a anam."

Martin Connolly



THE DEATH occurred unexpectedly of Martin Connolly, Burncourt, during the year. Although in poor health for some time his untimely death came as a deep shock to his family and friends.

Martin was born in Ballylanders, Co. Limerick and as a youth came to live and work with his cousins, the Curtin family. He played hurling with Skeheenarinky and later married and lived and farmed in Burncourt.

He maintained his interest in Gaelic games and was involved with Fr. Sheehy's as a hurling selector for many years. He had a great interest in community affairs and was involved with Burncourt community council and also was involved in the local political scene.

His interment in Burncourt cemetery saw a big crowd which overflowed the church grounds showing the esteem Martin and his family were held in our locality. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

John Crosse



THE KNOCKNAVILLADONASKEIGH Kickhams GAA Club lost one of its most loyal and stalwart members during 1996 with the passing of John Crosse, R.I.P.

John was a father figure to all of us in the Club and his loyalty to it could never be questioned. He was one of a family who gave sterling service to the club; he himself winning 2 west finals.

He was also a member of the 1938 team which failed narrowly to a very strong Thurles Sarsfields team in the County Senior final of that year, along with his brother Tommy.

John was also instrumental in the bringing together of both ends of the parish to form the Kickham Club. His very wise advice given so freely to us was always of great help, and those who were lucky enough to have worked alongside him will always treasure that privilege.

He is a huge loss to us all, but above everything else he will be very sadly missed by his heartbroken wife Mary Kate and family. Go ndeanaf Dia trocaire ar a anam dílis.

John Delahunty



WHEN the news of the death of the late John Delahunty filtered through to the Thurles Sarsfields clubmen, there was widespread regret and sadness as one of the great Sarsfields' men had passed

to his eternal reward.

John's talents with the hurley were first recognised in Thurles CBS where he played on both Dean Ryan and Dr. Harty Cup teams in the mid and late thirties, winning the Harty Cup in 1938.

In the previous year he occupied the corner forward position on the Tipperary minor hurling team which was beaten by Cork in the Munster semi-final played at Thurles.

He was a member of the Sarsfields senior team that won the County Championship in 1939, '42, '44 and 1945. Tipperary's All-Ireland victory in 1945 was backboned by many of our club's hurlers, captained by John Maher, and included John Delahunty.

To his family, friends and colleagues, Sarsfields extend the hand of sympathy. May he rest in peace.

Paddy Dwyer



IN OCTOBER 1997, after a long illness, courageously borne, Paddy Dwyer of Raheen, Dublin (and late of Rossmore) went to his eternal reward.

Paddy played for Rossmore in the 50's winning a west junior final in 1956. The club's great achievement at that time was playing in the 1959 west senior hurling final.

He continued his hurling with Brian Boru's of London for four years and after that with Young Irelands of Dublin. At the young age of 26 his hurling career came to an end when he developed M.S. His love of his native parish and his interest in the fortunes of Tipperary hurling never wavered over the years.

He was laid to rest in his beloved Rossmore and the large attendance at his funeral testified to the esteem in which he was held.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Stephen Dwyer

THE DEATH occurred of Stephen "Stephie" Dwyer of Clonbanane, Clonoulty on the 1st March 1997. He was a respected member of the farming community.

"Stephie" as he was affectionately known, played minor hurling for Clonoulty-Rossmore at thirteen years of age. He had the honour of playing for the Tipperary minor team in the 1941 Munster final against Cork, lining out at wing back. He continued to play for Clonoulty-Rossmore up to 1945.

Up to the time of his death, he took a keen interest in the affairs of the GAA and particularly the fortunes of his native parish. It was only fitting that on arrival of his remains to Clonoulty Church that a guard of honour was formed by the members of the Clonoulty-Rossmore Club.

The Club would like to extend its deepest sympathy to his brothers, Tom and Bill, all his relatives and many friends.

Go ndeanta Dia Trocaire ar a anam.

Jim Finn

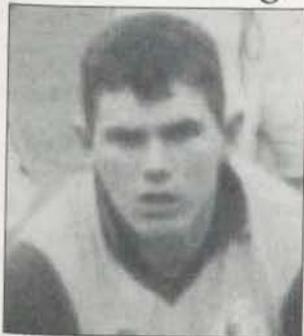


IT WAS with great regret that we learned of the sudden passing of Jim Finn. He took a keen interest in football in his youth. The highlight of his career was in 1942 when Kilsheelan won South and County Junior Football titles. Jim lines out at corner-back. He was well suited to the demands of this position as he had a fine pair of hands, plenty of strength and played no small part in his sides success. In later years when a team was formed in Kilcash he switched allegiance to his native parish.

Down through the years he took a great interest in the fortunes of both his club and county and readily aired his views on their performances.

Go ndeanta Dia Trocaire ar a anam.

Sean Fleming



THE PARISH of Clogheen and Burncourt was shocked and saddened in early May by the news of the tragic death of Seánie.

Born into a family with a strong GAA tradition, football and especially hurling came as second nature to him.

Seánie played a vital and inspirational role in Fr. Sheehy's triumphs.

Success followed success, winning South U-12 hurling, County U-14 football, South minor hurling and football and finally an U-21 hurling title.

We all have wonderful memories of these achievements in the blue and gold. Seánie's courage skill and determination were tremendous but above all it was his dedication, loyalty and mischievous humour that endeared him to team-mates and friends.

May the sod of Shanrahan rest lightly on his noble breast. Ar dheis lámh Dé go raibh a anam.

Neil Fogarty



NEIL FOGARTY, Templemore, who passed to his eternal reward on June 18, 1997 at the age of 73 years, became involved in the GAA in the early forties. In 1942 he played on the Templemore junior football team beaten by Templetuohy in the semi-final and continued to play with the club for fifteen years.

He became club secretary in 1949 and represented the club for many years at divisional level.

He was a member of the UDC, a member and captain of

the local golf club, a clerk of the church and, in later years, a liturgical reader. He was also very involved in the local historical society. The large turnout at his funeral was a fitting tribute to his great involvement in the community.

Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís agus go ndéana Dia trocaire ar a anam dílis.

Denis Gleeson



DENIS GLEESON (Middleplough) who gave outstanding service to Templederry has passed to his eternal reward. His playing career flourished during the 1940's and championship success was always a real possibility with his powerful displays.

Nothing gave him greater pleasure than attending games and for days, if not weeks, afterwards his analysis was much sought after.

His intimate knowledge of the game of hurling saw him on many occasions utilise it to best effect as a selector.

The enthusiasm with which he went about the task engendered total commitment in any team.

Denis retired from farming some years ago and took up residence in Borrisoleigh.

Though in failing health for some time he bore his illness with courage and dignity. He had the rare distinction of breaking a cross-bar and the match had to be abandoned.

To his sister Kitty and relatives we extend our sincere sympathy.

Joe Goldsboro



THOUGH he was in failing health for some time, nevertheless, Joe Goldsboro's

unexpected death caused widespread grief. When people recovered from their first sense of shock they slowly realised the truth, that a pillar of the parish was gone.

Joe had many interests and hobbies in life, but he had a very special love for hurling and was a keen supporter of all parish teams. He gave a life-long service to the GAA, a skilful hurler where he played in goal; an efficient and impartial umpire. At the end of a distinguished playing career Joe became active on the administrative side of the club and was club co-ordinator for Tipperary GAA members draw until failing health caused him to retire.

Joe spent most of his working years with Avonmore Co-op where his pleasing manner and pleasant smile made him a favourite with customers and staff alike.

Our sympathy goes to Nuala, son and daughters, brothers, sisters and all his relatives.

Bill Griffin



THE DEATH of Bill Griffin (Aherlow) on 13th December 1995 marked a major passing in the history of the GAA in Aherlow.

Born in Lisvernane in April 1916, Bill played full-back on the Tipperary All-Ireland winning minor football team of 1934.

His playing career consisted of minor football with Clonpet, senior football with Bansha and West Tipperary and junior football with Aherlow, 1934 to 1946. In 1950 Bill married Hannah Gallagher and moved to Lough Gur, Co. Limerick. From there he moved to Mitchelstown in 1957 where he purchased a farm. He played a leading role in the development of Mitchelstown Co-Op and Cork marts.

Aherlow GAA were privileged to have Bill as guest of honour at the opening of our football field in 1979. Always a kind gentleman on and off the field, Bill is sadly missed by his family and friends in Mitchelstown and the Glen.

Tom Harrington



The late Tom Harrington (Lisgoriff) passed to his eternal reward in December 1996, a great follower and gael. Templederry's success at county level in 1996 gave him very special pleasure.

He has a special place in the history of hurling, though not actually winning a championship medal in his prime in the 1940's.

He had a long and distinguished career and was acknowledged as one of the greatest leaders on the field of play.

His special qualities meant that he measured success not in the number of medals won, but in the number of games he played and the length of his playing career.

How our club has benefited from those great gael's whose courage, dedication and hope gave Templederry so much joy in recent times.

To his wife Mary, daughters Margaret, Bridget and Mary we offer our condolences.

Michael Hayes

Michael or Mickie Hayes, (as he was affectionately known), Clover, Two-Mile-Borris, was a great follower of gaelic games and pastimes right up to his death in October. In his youth he played junior hurling with Two-Mile-Borris teams and was a member of the 1940 team winners of the Mid No. 2 championship. A very likable character on and off the field Mickie was always enjoyable company to be with and needed little encouragement to recite or sing and his favourite recitations lauded the Tipperary All Ireland winning teams of the 1950's and afterwards. In more recent years he took great pride in seeing his nephew Sean and nieces Sadie and Josie competing in the scor competitions with the Moycarkey-Borris club and in the 1970's the group won the County, Munster and All-Ireland titles in the set dancing.

Mickie was a great supporter of hurling be it at local or coun-

ty level and he took great satisfaction from good games and good successes.

Peace to his soul.

Gerry Healy



AS THE forest of blue and gold flags greeted the arrival of the Tipp team onto Croke Park on the second Sunday in September, there were more than a few whose minds turned for a few nostalgic moments to a Clonmel cemetery where at that moment what was mortal of Gerry Healy was being laid in Tipperary earth. All his preparations had been made for the All-Ireland, tickets ready, travel-companions organised and just one quiet round of golf before the turbulence of the weekend. He died on the third green.

If Gerry was a Corkman by birth and an enthusiastic supporter of any Cork team no matter what the game, he was above all a lover of hurling. One was apt to meet him at any venue where there promised to be a good game and in his dental practice in Clonmel his tendency to lace professional comment on the job immediately in hand with comments on last Sunday's or next Sunday's game was well known. And when two years ago, his cousin, Brian O'Keefe, captained the winning Cork team in the minor All-Ireland, his heart nearly burst with pride; it wasn't just that his blood relation had captained an All-Ireland team – but a Cork team!

He loved the company of hurling men, past and present, and he was never as happy as discussing the finer points of games with those best qualified to appreciate such matters. He was Gaelic to the core, always speaking in Irish to anyone he considered, in his own words, 'that way inclined', ever willing to contribute his party-piece, the Irish version of 'Sliabh na mBan', in any gathering.

There will be more All-Irelands and there will, no doubt, be many as good as the best of those past. But for many who knew him they won't be quite the same without his inimitable contribution to the crack in

Gerry Chawke's and elsewhere on the days before the game and the days after.

Dia le'n a anam. SJL.

Jack Healy



ON THURSDAY, October 9th, 1997, the passing from this life of Jack Healy, Tinvoher, Loughmore, was mourned by all followers of our games throughout the parish of Loughmore-Castleiney.

Although he suffered ill health in recent years, he followed the club's teams in all grades, all his life, and his last attendance was the 24th August, 1997 to see the U14 hurlers take the county title of which his grandson Brendan was part of.

In the early years he recalled of his match attendance by bicycle to the various venues particularly the famous Gaelic pitch in Boherlahan.

As a selector on various teams the highlight of his club career was as a member of the five man selection committee in charge of the senior footballers who won the county final in 1973.

His remains draped in the club colours were met by a guard of honour on arrival to Loughmore Church.

To his family our deepest sympathy.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Gerald Hogan



FOLLOWING the recent death of Gerald Hogan (Cloghinch) we laid to rest the last surviving member of the victorious 1931 Intermediate Hurling Championship team.

1932 saw Templederry return to the senior ranks where they had played quite successfully in

the early part of this century.

In the late 1920's Gerald won North Tipperary Junior and Intermediate medals with Dolla. Late 1970 having returned to the championship winning ways the purchase of a playing field was an agreed priority.

Gerald Hogan with five others set up a committee, negotiated a purchase and finally through those efforts, Templederry now had its own playing pitch.

His was a life of sustained and distinguished service during which he never sought the lime-light despite his many notable achievements.

To his wife Josephine, daughter Teresa, sons Jerry and Pat, grandchildren, nieces and nephews we tender our sincere sympathy.

Eddie Halloway



EDDIE HALLOWAY died unexpectedly at his home in Greenside, Carrick-on-Suir in March. Eddie was Chairman of the Swan Club in the mid-eighties. He took a very keen interest in the running of the club and especially in our juvenile players. Eddie's life-long hobby was in photography. He featured The Swans photographs of teams and events down through the years. Eddie also covered many Munster championships and All-Ireland finals. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife Kathleen and family.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

William Jones



WIDESPREAD expressions of regret were voiced when it became known that Billy Jones (Cullenwaine) had passed away. He died peacefully in his home

in Cullenwaine on Friday, 4th October, after a long and fruitful life of ninety years. Having lived through all but ten years of the twentieth century he had witnessed many stirring events and momentous changes in all aspects of rural life.

His memory is chiefly associated with Moneygall Hurling and Football Club.

He was devoted to hurling from a young age, practising with his brothers and neighbouring boys in a field beside the home. He was a determined and full-bodied player who represented the club at championship matches at junior, intermediate and senior grade winning North Tipperary medals, junior 1929, and intermediate in 1943, as well as junior football in 1942.

When St. Flannan's Park was acquired in 1935, Billy was one of a group who took off their coats and levelled the playing area.

Billy was many times elected chairman of the club and he served as secretary for a time. As the club's representative on the North Board he regularly cycled into Nenagh for the meetings to represent the clubs interests there.

His boundless energy found an outlet in athletic contests where he figured with his brothers Jack and the late Phil in long distance races at many meetings. His greatest achievements were in cross-country where his strength and stamina were assets in this demanding sport. He and Phil joined the famous Coolcree club that dominated cross-country events in the thirties and they were included in the teams that won junior and senior All-Ireland championships.

Sympathy is extended to his wife Kitty, his family and relatives.

May he have eternal rest.

Gerry Kelly



WHEN NEWS of Gerry Kelly's (Toomevara) sudden illness began to filter through the crowd at Semple Stadium on County final day, it was greeted with shock, amazement and disbelief. On a day when Toomevara people

would rightfully be feeling proud and triumphant about a great success, nobody was in a celebratory mood when the seriousness of Gerry's illness became known.

What more hallowed place than Semple Stadium could the great Referee on High, signal to Gerry that he was calling him to a more hallowed, sacred abode. He was telling him that he had done more than enough in the game of life; that he had played his part; that he gave a magnificent display of all his talents during his short stay on the field – a display that it is hoped will be emulated by many of those who came in contact with him.

Gerry was a big man in every way. He gave of himself, he spared no effort, he never counted the cost in his lifelong work for the GAA. He gave generously of his time, often neglecting his own work in the furtherance of GAA activities in the club and in the broader fields of the Association. He gave generously of his energy, his zeal, his enthusiasm to every facet of the Association and no sacrifice was too big for him, as long as it was for the good of all around him.

He had an all consuming passion for hurling. He ate, drank and lived hurling, and his special interest was in the younger grades of hurlers. He took a particular delight and enthusiasm in nurturing the game among the young boys of the parish. His philosophy was driven by the need to keep a constant supply of young hurlers to fulfill the needs of the adult grades in later years.

He served as Chairman of the Juvenile Club and Vice-Chairman of the Senior Club as well as being a member of the Committee for many years. He was involved on all teams from Under 12 to Minor – all of which teams brought County titles to the parish. He was tireless in his work for the Club and no task was ever too great if the Club needed help.

He was involved in affairs in the Gortagarry side of the parish. He was a tremendous help to the teachers of Gortagarry National School in preparing and training school teams for inter-school matches and competitions.

He was a kind and generous neighbour, a caring husband and a proud father. Gerry's loss to the parish is great but a much greater loss to his wife Mary, his daughters Mary B. and Geraldine, his sons Denis, Michael and Paddy and his sisters Christine and Betty. He will be sadly missed. *Ar dheis go raibh a anam.*

Dick King



IT WAS with deep sadness we learned of the death of Knockshewanna G.A.A. Club President Dick King.

His passing has left our community and club without one of its great Geals. A dedicated clubman he followed Knockshewanna and Erin's Hope teams throughout the division for a long number of years.

Dick played with Knockshewanna and won a North junior medal with the 1934 team. The King name is very much associated with the club as his sons Richard, Phonsie and Jimmy and now his grandsons Paul and David have given great service to our club.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Michael McCarthy

(Toomevara)



ON THE 1st November 1997 Michael McCarthy, Clonolea, Toomevara, aged 25 years, died at Nenagh General Hospital, as a result of a road traffic accident.

Michael was a lifelong supporter and member of Toomevara G.A.A. Club. He had a great interest in refereeing and completed the referees course in North Tipperary during last winter.

Another interest of his was juvenile hurling. Michael was always in the field on Saturday mornings for parish league games and always available to give a helping hand and to referee a match if required.

Whenever a match was played in St. Michael's Park, let it be juvenile or senior, championship or challenge, Michael was always available to do what

he could to help Toomevara G.A.A. Club.

Michael had other interests outside the G.A.A. and was a valued member of the Local Civil Defence, the Tidy Towns Committee and the Toomevara Soccer Club. He was also an avid Manchester United supporter.

Michael will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

To his father Billy, his mother Phil, sister Olivia and brothers Alan, Brendan and Andrew our sincere sympathy on their sad loss.

John McDonnell

(Rathcabbin, Castleiney)

IN AUGUST of this year the Lougmore/Castleiney Club lost one of its former stout-hearted players with the sudden passing of John McDonnell.

John served the club with great distinction in both codes, winning a county minor title in 1956 with Castleiney. He went on to win a number of Mid senior football titles when the club started its winning sequence in 1965, and captained the side to victory in 1969.

Although he was domiciled North of the county, John was always present at our bigger games following the fortunes of the club to which he gave so much sterling service. To his wife and family our deepest sympathy.

P.O'H.

Lorraine McGrath

(14 years old)



KNOCKAVILLA Donaskeigh Camogie Club lost one of its most promising players in mid August through a tragic road accident.

Young Lorraine McGrath had the potential to become of our stars of the future. Alas, the good Lord had other plans and Lorraine, who had starred for our U-14 county final (B) winning team just a few weeks before, was

called to her eternal reward.

To her heartbroken parents, Johnny and Geraldine, brothers John, Kevin, Damien and Patrick, our sincere and heartfelt sympathy.

John Joe Maher

(Roscrea)



THE name John Joe Maher has been synonymous with hurling in Roscrea for the most part of seventy years up to his death on 4th December 1996.

Son of Ned Maher, one of the noted hurling family of Killinan, who entered the licensed trade in Roscrea as a young man, and helped to establish the hurling club in the town.

Reared in a hurling environment, John Joe displayed early promise as a skilful player and played minor with Roscrea in the initial championship in 1928.

Promoted to junior status the following year he earned a place on the North Tipperary selection in 1929 and led Roscrea to gain the Divisional title in 1930.

Entering senior ranks in the early thirties he figured prominently on his club's team in their progress to a divisional title which was crowned with success in 1936. It was the first of his eight senior medals in the division and when he retired in 1950 he had given twenty-two years service in the club's colours playing generally in the back line and occasionally at centre-field.

During his playing career he also devoted his time and energy to the administration of the club as its secretary. When he retired as a player he continued in that administrative role and his shrewd influence had been a major contribution to the outstanding successes achieved by the club in those years, which included five County Senior hurling titles, eight County Minor hurling titles, and the pinnacle of club achievement – the All-Ireland club championship in 1971.

That same year he savoured
Tipperary GAA Year Book – 199

the greatest moment in the history of his club when Roscrea's Tadhg O'Connor held aloft in triumph the Liam McCarthy Cup outside John Joe's premises in the Main Street.

When he retired in 1975 his term as secretary had extended to almost half a century marked by a richness of achievements. His fellow-townsmen honoured his services to hurling when in 1979 Roscrea Junior Chamber presented him with the Hall of Fame Award.

In the administrative sphere he was his club's delegate to the North Divisional Board for many years and for close on thirty years he was elected one of the Board's representatives on the County Board.

He was regularly in attendance at the Divisional and County Annual Conventions that he enjoyed as annual re-unions. He regarded it as a special prerequisite to be chosen as one of the County's delegates to the annual Munster Convention and whether it was in Tralee, Tramore, Shannon or Cork City he had a special interest in the debates and afterwards enjoyed the convivial entertainment in the company of the leading officials of Munster.

For his unique and outstanding service to hurling in the division the North Tipperary Board unanimously chose him as the Board's Honorary President in 1985, an honour he richly deserved and proudly accepted.

His Gaelic Bar was a mecca that attracted hurling pilgrims from far and wide where the great hurling stars of different eras dropped in for a chat. They mingled with the lesser players and the hurlers on the ditch who were glad to rub shoulders with the great. John Joe presided over the sessions and drew from his own great fund of stories and reminiscences.

It is doubtful if he missed any All-Ireland final from his first as a young boy when his father took him to the 1917 final between Dublin and Tipperary, up to the Wexford v. Limerick game in 1996.

He counted as one of his greatest experiences his trip to New York (at his own expense) with the Tipperary team in 1964 and he took a delight in telling of his encounters with Jack Dempsey and John Kerry O'Donnell.

Roscrea Club accorded him due honours at his funeral. There will not be another like him. Our sympathy to his widow Madge and his many relations and friends.

S.O.R.

Paddy & Padraig Maher

(Ballymoreen, Littleton)

THE DEATHS in August of Paddy Maher and his son Padraig left a great void in Moycarkey-Borris and in further afield sporting circles.

Paddy, a native of Boherlahan was associated with the Suir View Club for a number of years before taking up residence in Littleton. He became very much involved in the Gaelic affairs of his adopted parish.

He was brother of the late Tim Maher, Boherlahan-Dualla official and a Mid Tipperary Board chairman. A prominent officer and member of the juvenile club for years, Paddy did a trojan amount of work at under age level and saw the club gain numerous successes during his time with them. He was also a committee member of the senior club where his expertise and guidance was always sought and appreciated. At the time of his death he was a vice-president of the club.

A keen allround sportsman, he enjoyed a round of golf immensely and was a former captain of Thurles Golf Club. Paddy's son, Padraig, passed to his eternal reward just two weeks after his father's demise. Padraig played hurling and football for the Moycarkey-Borris Club and won many honours at juvenile level and afterwards played on the successful teams of the 1980's.

He was a keen follower of the Tipperary senior hurling team and travelled far and wide to cheer them on.

Those fortunate enough to know both Paddy and Padraig will have great memories of their company as both were always great fun and congenial friends to be with.

May Heaven be their beds. Sincere sympathy to the bereaved.

Tom Maher

(Burncourt)



THE DEATH took place during 1997 of Tom Maher. Tom was an outstanding

footballer in his youth.

He was a member of a family with long connections in the local G.A.A. scene. Together with his brothers, Patrick and Richard, he was an outstanding member of the Burncourt team that won their first county junior football championship in 1947.

A stylish footballer and a prolific scoring forward, he had the honour of playing junior football for his county during that period.

In 1945, when a member of the local defence force, he played for the Cahir division in the Tipperary Local Defence Forces Championship and won a county medal.

To his brother Richard, sisters, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends, we tender our condolences. Interment was in Burncourt cemetery.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.

Seanie Mullaney

(Thurles Sarsfields)



TWENTY-SIX years is a short span in the game of life, but in so brief a term, Seanie Mullaney touched so many lives – and left them all the richer.

Hurling was his great passion and Sarsfields his spiritual home. He loved the craic in the club. He was in his element when the dressingroom repartee was at its liveliest, and sensitivity gone out the window. Seanie was a dedicated "ball hopper" and delighted in being at the centre of whatever was going on.

No truer "Blue" could be found. He took great pride in playing for the club. He celebrated triumphs with gusto, and hurt greatly when defeat was their lot. Appropriately, his last great action in this life was to play for the club in the Mid junior hurling final.

Never short of a song in any session, his party piece "Seán South" and "The Little Shirt Me Mother Made For Me" reflected the rebel and the loveable rogue, the cornerstones of Seanie's personality.

Looking back, his untimely passing is still beyond comprehension – an emotion expressed

by so many in the huge concourse who turned out to pay their respects to a young man who was so well-known, far and wide.

To Pa Joe, Mary, his brothers and sisters, Trevor and Rosemary, relatives and friends, we extend the hand of sympathy.

James Murray

(Ballingarry)



JAMES shared many things with his brother Joe. They loved athletics, Ballincurry and lowland of the hills. When he moved to Earlishill to be near Tom and Cissie he was moving to the high altitudes. James never left Ireland and although he spent some years in Dublin in the 60s he never really left Ballincurry. In Dublin he followed and selected the Young Irelands. How appropriately that a Ballingarry man should join a club with that name, especially someone like James who knew the story of 1848 and the importance of its legacy. Apart from James' involvement in playing, selecting, administration, there are two other contributions which need to be mentioned. The first is his Heruclean work with his friends Sam Melbourne and Seán Lyons in collecting and cataloguing memorabilia and artefacts of the great G.A.A. players from all over Ireland. I remember visiting the exhibition in Drimnagh Castle in Dublin where Joe and Sam displayed with pride their valued collection.

James recognised that games of hurling and football apart from providing great exhibitions of skill were also part of the very fabric of Ireland, the history of the lives of the people. His other great contribution is the history of Ballingarry G.A.A. Club – 1887 Ballingarry 1987 – 100 years of Gaelic Games. James was chairman of the club's History Committee but typically in the introduction to this fine record James took no credit but dedicates his work 'to those who rendered such sterling service to the club throughout a century'.

Sterling – now that's a word fit for James. The club history was a

fine, solid achievement and very much a labour of love for James and his Ballincurry friend Paddy Connell and all the others who assembled history. I remember meeting him in the National Library in Dublin's Kildare Street, pouring over dusty newspapers searching for that elusive reference to Ballingarry and if anyone could find it James would. It's a lovely warm book, full of fresh young faces out to give service to club and community.

James recognised that a club like a nation needs its memories: needs its archive. The proper keeping of records has always been a hallmark of civilisation.

He was chairman of the juvenile section of Ballingarry club and it was very touching at his funeral Mass to see how genuinely affected the young were at James's death.

James like Joe supported Ballingarry in bad days and good. How appropriate that he lived to see William Maher captain the Tipperary minor team to All-Ireland glory and to see Liam Cahill, a neighbour's son from across the Black Hill - Knockadeeve - fulfil all the great promise James had so long recognised and nurtured to become an All-Star.

His old G.A.A. friends stood by him to the end - Liz Howard and Breda Ryan, Mickey Byrne, that man of steel, and that great oracle of the G.A.A. in Tipperary, Br. Joe Perkins. James inspired friendship because he was an unselfish, caring person. Ballingarry, Ballincurry will be poorer places without him but we were all enriched by his presence among us.

Willie Nolan

Paschal Nugent



SATURDAY morning, October 4th, 1997, as members of the J.K. Brackens G.A.A. Club assembled at the Town Park to put the final touches to the pitch and surroundings in preparation for the county senior hurling quarter-final - Holycross v Borrisoleigh and the county minor hurling semi-final - Drom v Toomevara to be played there that afternoon, a feeling of

shock, real sadness and deep regret descends on the area as the news filtered through of the passing of Paschal Nugent to his eternal reward at the early age of thirty three.

Over that bleak October weekend, news began to circulate rapidly that Paschal had been seriously ill and in the early hours of that Saturday morning, our worst fears were realised when we learned that Paschal had lost the fight.

Paschal's great love from an early age was sport and as a young boy, he figured prominently with Roscrea juvenile G.A.A. club. He played an active part in the primary school leagues which were very popular and were contested with tremendous determination and commitment in Roscrea in the early 70's. While the skills of the game did not come naturally to Paschal, his tremendous wholehearted endeavour on the field of play made up for any limitations.

He gave great service to the juvenile club and continued with the senior club when he was an active member of the Roscrea minor hurling teams in 1981 and 1982. He was wholehearted in the promotion of Gaelic games in Mount Saint Joseph's in Roscrea where he obtained his secondary education and he also excelled at rugby, swimming and athletics there.

While in Templemore, he returned to his great love in sport namely hurling and he played with the G.A.A. clubs in the parish, Clonmore, Templemore, Killea and late J.K. Brackens. Paschal loved the game and made many good friends in the parish who will miss his enthusiasm and good company. As a businessman, he was very generous in his financial sponsorship and on many occasions, his generous contribution to the G.A.A. in the parish exceeded our wildest expectations. He was a sponsor of the J.K. Brackens juvenile leagues on an annual basis and prior to the 1996 county intermediate hurling final, he also kitted the entire panel with beautiful kitbags.

In one way or another, we were all much better for having Paschal Nugent walk among us, sharing his friendship and gentleness of heart. We miss this special friend, a loyal and true colleague. We miss his companionship, his humour, his wit, his gentle smile and his generous spirit. As we recall the memory of Paschal Nugent, we bid him a fond farewell and look forward to the day when, through the grace of God, we will be reunited

with him in the peace and joy of heaven.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh anam uasal Paschal.

Padraig O'Dwyer

THE passing of Padraig O'Dwyer R.I.P. during the year was another loss to Kickham's club of one who gave loyal service as a player during the 1950's, winning two West junior titles with the club, which he held in high regard.

The O'Dwyer family was very much involved in the club during that era. Then alas business ordained that they should reside outside the parish and county. J. J. of O'Dwyer Steel, and of Tipperary Supporters' Club was very actively involved in the club and retained a great interest, never found wanting when called on.

To Eileen and the family and to J. J. and family we tender sincere sympathies on their loss. From all in Kickhams G.A.A. club.

Noel O'Halloran



THE death occurred of Noel O'Halloran from Kilsheelan in September. Noel and his brothers made a large contribution to the club in their playing days. He came to prominence in 1960 when Kilsheelan qualified for the South Junior hurling final but were defeated by Newcastle. 1964 was the start of a very successful period for the club and Noel played no small part in it. He was top scorer when they defeated Commercials in the South Junior football final.

They later lost to Moneygall in the county final replay. Noel was equally adept with the hurley. In the same year Kilsheelan beat Coolmoyne in the junior hurling final and lost to Burgess in the county semi-final. He always played in attack and on many occasions he was assigned to the free-taking duties in both codes. Noel, whose brother Patsy is South Board na nÓg secretary, suffered ill-health a few years ago but made a good recovery and enjoyed reasonable health until

his untimely death.

Go ndeana Dia Trocaire ar a anam.

Willie O'Meara



THE death of Willie O'Meara in September of 1997 removed from the G.A.A. scene one of its greatest supporters and personalities.

Billy as he was known to us all commenced his hurling career with the Ballymackey junior team. His talent was soon recognised and he was a member of the Toomevara team that won the North senior hurling final in 1946 when they defeated Roscrea.

Work then took him to Thurles and he maintained his huge love for hurling and he played with Thurles Kickhams for a number of years. However, Billy's heart was always in Toomevara and when he returned to the parish in the mid 1950's and his playing career over he was appointed a selector with the senior team. Success soon followed with North final victories in 58, 60, 61 and 62. And of course that historic county final victory against Thurles Sarsfields in 1960 and return of the Dan Breen cup for the first time since 1931.

In 1961 Billy was appointed a selector with the Tipperary senior team that defeated Dublin in the All-Ireland.

Billy took up residence in the parish of Lorrha in 1963 and he was to remain there until the time of his death. His value as a selector were soon realised in Lorrha and he served the club with distinction for many years. May he rest in peace.

Gerard O'Shea



IT WAS with widespread shock and sadness that the people of Lattin-Cullen learned of the

untimely death of Gerard O'Shea, Glenbane, Lattin.

Gerard took a keen interest in the G.A.A. affairs in the parish and represented his club at all levels in football.

In 1975 he played in goal for the Lattin-Emly minor football team, who were narrowly defeated in the county final by Clonmel Commercials.

Gerard was also a very keen and enthusiastic supporter of the Tipperary senior hurling team.

Sadly missed by his family and friends.

Go nDeana Dia trocaire ar a anam.

Monsignor Tom O'Sullivan

(Ballingarry and Los Angeles)



THE last Monsignor Tom O'Sullivan was attending Slievardagh N.S., The Commons, at the time of the outbreak of the First World War and the Easter Rising, and was well embarked on his secondary education in Cistercian College, Roscrea when the Irish State was founded.

After studying in St. Patrick's College, Thurles, he was ordained in 1928, and served in parishes in the archdiocese of Los Angeles where he built two churches and was chaplain to the marines before he was appointed P.P. of Visitation Parish. He spent a total of 52 years in this parish until he went to Nazareth House about two years ago, where he died.

He was a lifelong lover of Gaelic games. It was astonishing that he could have such a grasp of the intricacies of the championships while only spending a month or two in Ireland every year, thanks in part to the *Tipperary Star* which was sent to him every week. He could remember Munster and All-Ireland finals in details over many years and could pinpoint many incidents accurately to the year.

His warmest devotion went, of course, to his native Tipperary and he even, on one occasion,

to my certain knowledge, went so far as to offer Mass for their success in an All-Ireland against Kilkenny and had the gall to announce this to his Kilkenny congregation! I'm sure they weren't too enthusiastic.

Although his long standing toast, 'Saol fada agus bás in Éireann' was only half fulfilled (he would have been 93 in January), I know his spirit will remain joyous around the Commons, Ballingarry and Kilmanagh and especially in Sempie Stadium on Munster Final Day.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dhílis.

Colm Phelan



COLM PHELAN who died tragically on July 21st 1996 was son of Michael and Marie Phelan, the Market House, Main Street, and brother of Paul and Collette. Hurling was in his blood, his father was captain of the Roscrea minor team, which won North and County titles in 1958, and later hurled in Dublin, winning a senior championship medal there in 1963.

The family came back to Roscrea in the late seventies, purchasing Finnan's licensed premises. Mick is secretary of Roscrea G.A.A. Club, and Paul is its treasurer. Colm's sporting life began in 1982 with the under-12 footballers from Inane Rovers. The following year he won an All-Ireland community games hurling medal in Mosney, playing at full forward for Roscrea. In 1985 he won a Munster colleges under-15 medal with Roscrea C.B.S. and three years later won a North minor hurling medal. He won junior football medals with Inane Rovers in 1992 and 1993, for the past five years he had been the club's senior hurling keeper.

Former Roscrea club chairman, Fr. Tom Seymour, now P.P. in Broadford, said that Colm was a very quiet, inoffensive fellow, a gentle giant, who was very dedicated to hurling.

Tadhg O'Connor recalled his commitment to training and his willingness to play at all times.

He would come down from Dublin for mid week training. Tadhg said he was proud of his Dublin birth, and was dedicated to the Dubs.

Francis Loughnane, said that over the previous two years he was impressed by Colm's total dedication to the game. He was always willing to play, always willing to make a commitment to train. He was also one of the great characters of the team, a wonderful personality, who was always the life and soul of the dressing room.

The funeral to St. Cronan's church, Roscrea was one of the largest ever seen in the town.

The remains were received at the church by Rev. Pat Mulcahy C.C., and Very Rev. Frank Bergin, P.P., Shinrone. A guard of honour of past and present members of Roscrea hurling club, including former Tipperary greats Roger Ryan, Kieran Carey, Francis Loughnane and Tadhg O'Connor, flanked the hearse.

L.D.

Tom Purcell (Moyné-Templetuohy)



WHEN news filtered through on March 8th of the death of Tom Purcell, it was greeted with a deep sense of sadness by the people of his beloved Moyné-Templetuohy. While he had been in failing health for some time, his demise left a yawning void in the community.

Tom Purcell's involvement with the juveniles of Moyné-Templetuohy began in the 1940's. At that time, it was a familiar sight to see him leave Moyné village on his bicycle, followed by the juveniles of the day to compete in the various competitions. This dedication to duty finally bore fruit in the late 50's and early 60's when a series of juvenile teams emerged in the club who were considered a match for the best, and dominated the juvenile scene at that time.

These were the teams that provided the nucleus of the team

that won Moyné-Templetuohy's only county senior hurling title in 1971. Tom Purcell's contribution to that success was great indeed.

He continued to imbue and nurture the love and skill of our native games in our juveniles for many more years, until failing eyesight intervened. Even when his eyesight failed completely he continued to attend all games the club were involved in, and kept well informed by his beloved daughters, he continued to savour the atmosphere and enjoy the action. At the time of his death he was honorary president of both Mid Tipperary G.A.A. Board and Moyné-Templetuohy G.A.A. club.

His contribution to the G.A.A. in the parish can never be quantified, so it must have been some consolation to his wife Elizabeth and family that the huge crowd who came to pay their respects, coupled with the sincere and dignified tributes by the Moyné-Templetuohy club on both days left no doubt but that his lifelong efforts were much appreciated and fondly remembered.

Tom Purcell was a warm humble and sincere man, who will have no fears in meeting his God. We express our sincere sympathy to his wife, daughters, sisters, relatives and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go mbeidh a h-anam dílis, agus ta súil agam go mbuailfhimis le ceile arís.

Thomas Russell



THOMAS RUSSELL was a great G.A.A. man. He died suddenly on the day of the Cork - Tipp Under-21 football games in Clonmel. When he was growing up he played a little for Aherlow. While boarding in De La Salle College in Waterford he played hurling. He was an ardent follower of our games at club and county level. Four of his sons played for Aherlow, Seán being full-back in the county final. His daughter Brid played football for the club and his wife Pauline is chairperson of Tipperary Ladies' Football Association.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

Johnny Ryan (Rodger)

(Gurth, Milestone)



HE WAS a real hurling man. From an early age at his home in Knockbrittas, he hurled with his brothers and neighbours, showing great promise – indeed he often said, “they’d go to the hurling field during the day, meet up with the Hayes brothers, and hurl until dark and maybe finish off by playing handball at the Barracks.”

He won a Leinster junior medal with Dublin in 1938. He was asked to train with the senior panel but couldn’t get time off work to train. This team, of course, subsequently went on to win the All-Ireland. He played with the Commercials Club in Dublin for years and won many titles.

He also hurled with Kilcommon, Rea, and Hollyford on his return from Dublin. Johnny was a keen and loyal supporter of the local Seán Treacy Hurling Club as he was of the Tipperary county team, and rarely missed club matches or All-Ireland finals.

Johnny Ryan was a true gentleman, who will be remembered as a man, who in his life, loved the game of hurling, loved the land and who was a dedicated husband to his late good wife Eileen, and a good and committed father to a large family.

Matthew A. (Gus) Ryan

(Loughane)



THE laying to rest in April of Gus Ryan following his sudden death brought to an

end the life of one of Temple-derry’s greatest gaelis.

As a player he came to prominence in the 1940’s. At that time championship success just eluded our various teams.

His enormous generosity of his club was ongoing and knew no bounds at any time.

For decades he directed his great energy and hope for the future in imbuing the love of our games and culture in our young people.

This culminated in many championship wins from the 1960’s onwards.

He served the club in many capacities and at the time of his death he was life president, an honour he greatly appreciated.

To his wife Rita, daughter Marian, sons Matty, Terry and John, grandchildren, nieces and nephews we extend our sincere sympathy.

Jack Shanahan

(Colheen)



ALTHOUGH in declining health for some time, Jack Shanahan bore his suffering with fortitude and serenity.

He was acknowledged as a great follower of gaelic games but especially of Temple-derry and Tipperary. His immense interest, knowledge and recollection of games were qualities admired by all who knew him.

In the colours of Kenyons he learned this great game of hurling. He blossomed as a player about 1940.

His hurling prowess was rewarded with Commercials in 1948 and 1949 when he won Dublin County Championships.

Like so many before him he took up employment in Dublin in 1943, there he remained until retirement some years ago.

To his sisters and brother, nephews and nieces we tender our sincere sympathy.

Josephine Sheehan



FOLLOWING a long illness bravely borne, Josephine Sheehan passed to her eternal reward at her residence on the 29th November 1996, aged 36 years.

Josephine was a loyal Moyle Rovers supporter, travelling throughout the South division and beyond to the various games as time allowed. Indeed, she attended the final replay of the County senior football championship at Ardfinnan and on the following Sunday, the Munster club game at Dungarvan, just a short few weeks before her untimely death.

She was also an ever-present promoter of the County Board Draw and with her family provided generous sponsorship to our club.

To her young son and family we extend our sincere sympathy. No words can ever adequately describe her sad loss to them and indeed to all of us.

Josephine, may you rest in peace.

Tom Shortt



THE absolute finality of death is always a shock and though failing in health for some time, the death of Tom Shortt, Main Street, Templemore, on the 27th December 1996, brought a deep sense of sorrow and loss to the entire community of Templemore and rural areas for miles around.

Tom left home at an early age to serve his time at drapery and business in the reputable house of Lee’s of Rathmines, Dublin, in which he was very successful.

Later, he returned home to

take over the thriving business of his late father John Shortt. Assisted by his popular mother, success followed success and Shortt’s Drapery became a household name in town and county.

Not only was it a business, it was a haven where there was always a welcome for advice or a chat.

Tom was helpful also in more practical and tangible ways and many is the rigged me out from head to toe for some special occasion in tough times. His traditional business continued to prosper, serving successive generations.

When Tom wasn’t in his shop he was sure to be on some beneficial mission to the community. He did so many things and did them all so well, that one had to wonder about his source of energy.

A man of many interests, Tom’s greatest love was the G.A.A. and Gaelic games, in particular hurling and football. Tom’s involvement with the local club in the playing pitch was limited to a very short playing career due mainly to his working in Dublin, but he figured on the junior football team of 1945, and was vice captain of the junior football team in 1947.

He gave many years of unselfish service to the local club at committee level and in a period from 1948 to 1980 he served on numerous positions, including treasurer, Mid Board representative, sportsfield representative and selector on various teams.

From 1961 to 1963 he almost single handed took charge of Na Fianna, an amalgamation of Templemore, Drom and Clonakenny for minor hurling and football. This involved collecting players from the rural areas and bringing them to training sessions at his own personal expense and it exposed a certain number of players to big time hurling and football that might not have otherwise got the opportunity.

These were very successful years with Na Fianna winning three divisional minor hurling titles and a minor football title in 1962 with John Costigan as captain.

Over the years he did everything possible to further the success of the G.A.A. Club and to improve the playing and field facilities.

One could sum up entirely his life by saying there will never be another to equal Tom’s acumen towards youth and personality in business.

Ar dheis lámh Dé go raibh anam uasal Tomás.

Jimmy Slattery

(Burgess)



THE local community and its surrounds were devastated at the sudden passing of Jimmy Slattery, Barbaha, Carrigatoher, at his residence on June 25th.

Jimmy gave full commitment to all of his duties. He was a devoted family man, kind neighbour, knowledgeable parishioner, progressive farmer, and despite a hectic schedule, Jimmy always found time to pray.

The Barbaha native was a noted club hurler in the late fifties and early sixties. The tenacious corner-back played minor hurling with the Burgess-Kildangan combination team and progressed to the Burgess intermediate team, with which he won North I.H.C. medals in 1959, 1963 and 1964. He was a member of the Burgess panel which brought the first county title to the club in 1964.

Jimmy's son James won a county under-16 medal in 1964, while his nephews Joe and Pat Sexton are prominent players with the Portroe senior hurling team. Go ndeana Dia trocaire ar an anam.

Pat Sullivan

(Burgess)



ON February 1st last, the community was in total shock when the news filtered through that Pat Sullivan, Barbaha, Carrigatoher had died at the young age of eighteen.

The rural life of farming was a labour of love for Pat and he took special pride in his beloved sheep, to which he was a great shepherd.

He an immense interest in hurling and football and played Gaelic football at juvenile level. Pat was a member of the Burgess N.S. 1989-90 team that reached the inaugural primary schools football (Section C) north final against Kilruane N.S. and he was a member of the Burgess U-14 football panel that reached the 1992 North (Section II) final.

The throngs of people who attended the funeral was testimony of the esteem in which Pat and his close knit family are held in the parish and its surrounds.

Tom Tobin

(Turtulla, Thurles & Dublin)



THIS Turtulla native was a prominent member of the Moycarkey-Borris senior hurling team for a number of years in the late 30's and early 40's and his death in the Autumn brought back memories of some great players and teams of that era. His hurling career started in that great Mid Tipperary nursery of the code, Thurles C.B.S., and he had the honour of winning a Harty Cup medal in 1938 while a student there.

The following year he played with the Graigue junior team, one of four No. 2 teams from the parish affiliated in that grade. This team gave some great displays to capture the divisional honours with Tom a prominent defender. Soon afterwards he graduated to the Moycarkey-Borris senior side and won the Mid and County senior double with them in 1940 and the 1941 Thurles Sportsfield gold medal tournament.

For the next two years he donned the club jersey at senior level but then took up employment in Dublin where he lived until his death. Sympathy is extended to his family.

Mickey Walsh

(Castleiney)



AS A player, Mickey Walsh distinguished himself in both codes with the club taking honours in both.

When the parishes of Loughmore and Castleiney rejoined in 1961 he continued to play, although coming to the end of his career.

Perhaps to the younger generation it will be as a team selector, fund raiser and club official he will be best remembered.

He was also a great servant to the juveniles of the parish down the years, taking charge of teams in local parish leagues, a job he took as seriously as if senior championship fair.

His remains, draped in the club flag, were met with a guard of honour by his former teammates and present and past players of the club.

To his daughter Mar, sons Jack, Martin and Mike, sister Pat and brother Din our deepest sympathy.

No ndeanna Dia trocaire ar a anam.

P.O'H.



Solas na bhFlaitheas dá
n-anamnacha

TIOBRAID ÁRANN

Munster Minor Hurling Champions 1997



BACK ROW (l.-r.): Cathal O'Shea, Declan Fanning, Philip Maher, Willie Maher, Ger O'Grady, Donncha Fahey (Captain), Enda Fitzgerald.
FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Paddy O'Brien, Seamus Butler, Eoin Kelly, Declan Maher, Fergal Horgan, Paul Kelly, Donal Shelly, T. J. Maher.

TIOBRAID ARANN

All-Ireland Senior Hurling Finalists 1997



The Tipperary team which played Clare in the historic All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final 1997 – BACK ROW (l-r): Thomas Dunne, Brian O'Meara, Noel Sheehy, Brendan Cummins, Michael Ryan, Liam Sheedy, Conal Bonnar. FRONT ROW (l-r): Michael Cleary, Eugene O'Neill, John Leahy, Paul Shelly, Conor Geeson (Captain), Liam McGrath, Declan Ryan, Colm Bonnar.