

Co. Tipperary Senior Hurling Final

Match Programme

2009



GAA

Craobh Cluichí an Chontae

**Stáid Semple,
Dúrlas Éile**

**18ú Deireadh
Fomhair 2009**

www.tipperary.gaa.ie

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Runar

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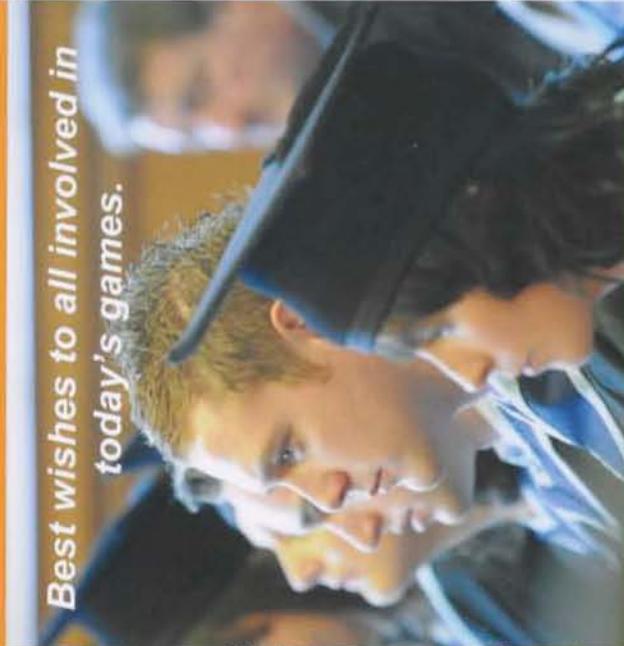
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Best wishes to all involved in today's games.



St. Patrick's College, Thurles

* in collaboration with Tipperary Institute





Fáilte ón gCathaoirleach



IS COIS MHÓR athais dom fíorchaoin fáilte a fhearadh romhaibh go léir go dtí Stáid Semple inniu le haghaidh Cluichí Cheannais Iomáint an Chontae. Fearaim fáilte faoi leith na himreoirí ó na Cumainn a bheidh ag ghlacadh pairte anseo inniu. Tá súil agam go mbeidh lá iontach taithneamhach ag gach uile dhuine.

Today we gather in Semple Stadium for what is a special day in our sporting lives, the county senior and intermediate hurling finals. I would like to welcome the four teams taking part and thank them and all involved in their clubs for getting them to this, the ultimate stage in both competitions. I would like to extend my best wishes to the players of Drom and Inch, Thurles Sarsfields, Arravale Rovers and Carrick Davins and I hope they have a memorable and enjoyable day. I do not believe that even the most experienced pundits could have forecast the finalist in today's games and this is what makes the uncertainty of sport so intriguing. I certainly would not attempt to predict the outcome of either match.

Our thanks to our referees for today, Sean Bradshaw and John Cleary and their officials whom I am sure will do a wonderful job as usual. They represent all the referees and officials within the county who officiate at games at venues throughout the county, year in, year out. We are and should be grateful for the dedication they bring to their role as referees. I would again take the

opportunity to ask anyone who may be interested in becoming a referee to contact our county referee's administrator John Lonergan.

A special welcome to the men of Borris-Ileigh who are here today to celebrate their achievements in the past. This is now part of the tradition on County final day and I am sure that it is part of the programme that we will continue long into the future.

Semple Stadium is again in wonderful condition for today's games and considering the major programme of games that have taken place here throughout the year the condition of the pitch is a credit to all those involved.

A special thank you to Sean Nugent, Tom Maher and all the members of County CCC who organise our fixtures throughout the year. This indeed is an onerous task but one which they carry out very effectively.

Finally, we look forward to both games in anticipation of seeing the type of hurling that has this year brought Tipperary back to a standard which leaves us with high hopes of achieving the ultimate success as a county, in the near future.

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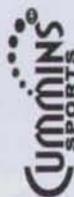


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Clár an Lae

**Cluichí Cheannais Iomána
Thiobraid Árann Sinsear
agus Idir-Mheánach**

*Stáid Semple, Dúrlas
18th October 2009*

- 1.15 Arravale Rovers team on to field
1.17 Carrck Davins team on to field
1.30 **Throw-in for Co. Intermediate Hurling Final**
ARRAVALE ROVERS v. CARRICK DAVINS
Réiteoir: JOHN CLEARY (Knockshgowna)
- 2.00 Half-time in Co. I.H. Final
(Entertainment by Sean Treacy's Pipe Band)
2.10 Second Half of Co. I.H. Final commences.
2.40 End of Co. I.H. Final
2.50 Presentation of the Jacksie Ryan Cup to winning Captain followed by presentation of 'Man of the Match Award' sponsored by John Quirke Jeweller.
2.55 Presentation of Borris-Ileigh 1981-1986 teams
3.15 Drom and Inch team on to field
3.17 Thurles Sarsfields team on to field
3.24 Paráid na bhFoireann
3.28 Amhrán na bhFiann (sung by Marie Ní Fhlóid)



- 3.30 **Throw-in for County Senior Hurling Final**
DROM & INCH
v. THURLES SARSFIELDS
Réiteoir: SEAN BRADSHAW (Knockavilla Kickhams)



- 4.00 Half-time of Senior Hurling Final
4.10 Second half of Senior Hurling Final commences
4.40 End of County Senior Hurling Final
4.50 Presentation of Dan Breen Trophy to winning Captain followed by presentation of the 'Man of the Match Award' sponsored by John Quirke Jeweller

Buíochas

We hope you enjoy reading today's programme. It has been produced with the assistance of Ger Ryan (County PRO), Tim Floyd (County Secretary), Liam Ó Donnchú and the officers in all four clubs. Many thanks to all those who contributed material for today's programme – Seamus O'Doherty, Noel Dundon, Christy O'Connor, Jackie Cahill, Seamus J. King, John Smith, Pat Bracken, Seamus Ó Dubhagáin, Seamus Leahy, P. J. Maxwell, J. J. Kennedy, Denis Maher and Brendan O'Dwyer. A special word of thanks to Bridget Delaney, Jerry Ring and Michael Boland for photographs.

GER CORBETT (Programme Editor)



Referee Bradshaw looking forward to the Final

TRUE TO FORM, Knockavilla Kickhams referee **SEAN BRADSHAW** has not lost any sleep over the impending County Senior Hurling Final assignment he has been handed by the County Board.

His laid back refereeing style mirrors his off-field demeanour and while Sean may appear to be almost dismissive of the big game, stating that it is just another match, he is nonetheless conscious of what a huge honour it is to be handling the counties premier showpiece.

"Someone said to me that this is as good as it gets and that it will be all downhill from here on," he joked when we caught up with him. But, the gentle giant who has previously covered two County Minor 'A' hurling finals and well as two West senior finals and a host of other high profile games, actually had no intention of ever taking up the whistle prior to his retirement from the game.

When he decided to hang up the boots in a playing sense, he was asked to come on board and referee a few juvenile games in the West just to give a hand out. That hand out soon



became a permanent fixture in the life of Sean Bradshaw and his family.

So how will he prepare for his afternoon's game? "I will do a lot of walking leading up to the game and on the night before the match, I will, as usual have a read of the rule book just to reinforce some of the regulations in my head. I wouldn't be the kind to think too much about the game in advance but I will have a chat with the umpires after I collect them and we are driving to the game. We'll chat about what to look out for and few other things like that. But, my attitude is simple enough – at the end of the day, it is just another game of hurling and I'll be doing everything in my power to ensure that it is a great game for everyone concerned," Sean said.

We wish Sean well in his first County Senior Hurling Final and look forward to a great contest.

Umpires: Willie Morrissey, Christy Ryan, Vincent Bradshaw, Liam Quinn.

Linesmen: Seamus Roche (*Kilshelan Kilcash*), Tommy Ryan (*Kildangan*).

4th Official: Fergal Horgan (*Knockavilla Kickhams*)

INTERMEDIATE GAME:

Referee: JOHN CLEARY (*Knockshewowna*)

JOHN has been refereeing since 2005 and has steadily risen through the ranks to become one of Tipperary's most experienced referees, taking charge of Divisional finals at all levels throughout the county. Prior to today he was the man in the middle for the 2006 County 'A' hurling final.

His family are steeped in GAA activity with his sons regulars on the Lorra-Dorrha senior hurling



team and his wife is chairperson of the Lorra-Dorrha Camogie Club. Despite a busy refereeing schedule, John also found time to coach his native Knockshewowna this year. We wish John and his officials well today.

Umpires: Sean Cleary, Michael Kennedy, Richard King, Eamon Flanagan.

Linesmen: Pat Gibson (*Burgess*),

Denis Curtis (*Thurles Sarsfields*)

4th Official: Fergal Horgan (*Knockavilla Kickhams*)



What odds on a draw?

By: NOEL DUNDON (Tipperary Star)

AND SO it's a repeat of the 2005 County Senior Hurling Final.

Yes, Mid Tipperary rivals Drom-Inch and Thurles Sarsfields square up to one another in what is an eagerly anticipated County Final – the third all-Mid affair in five years with the Drom-Inch lads having been involved in all three.

The scenario has changed somewhat from 2005 though. That year it was Sarsfields who came through to the County Final with a 100% record intact having won the Mid championship at the hands of their great rivals. This time round though, Drom-Inch are the unscathed side having defeated Upperchurch Drombane in the Mid Final and gone on to defeat neighbours Borris-Ileigh and county champions Toomevara in the semi-final.

Drom-Inch have bounced back from the trials of the '05 and '07 finals to launch another stern attack on the title. They are bidding for their first ever county senior hurling final and the fact that they have banked a credible degree of experience over the last half decade or so, makes them very realistic potential champions. They have matured, developed, learned and progressed steadily over the last few seasons and their mounting of a serious challenge comes on foot of top class coaching, mental and physical preparation, and a huge hunger to land the ultimate prize.

Victory would do wonders for the game in Mid Tipperary and in the parish of Drom-Inch, where Gaelic Games is as strong as it possibly could be, it would be just fantastic. So many people have taken the helm at various levels down through the years with Drom-Inch sides – were victory to materialise, it would be as a result of their efforts, no matter how great or small. Yes, those involved in 2009 will take all the applause, but they too will be quick to point to the massive foundations built to support this assault on Dan Breen.

Thurles Sarsfields have had a very regular date here in Semple Stadium on County Final day. But, they have experienced more heartbreak than enjoyment – 2005 being the one exception. On that day, everything they touched turned to gold and they emerged to

bridge a 31 year gap with Ger 'Redser' O'Grady having the honour of being the first man since Jimmy Doyle to lift the famous silverware.

Sarsfields are bidding for their 30th title but they know that they must produce their best performance to date in the championship if they are to win out. They know all there is to be known about Drom-Inch – and vice versa – and will hope to counter the tight defensive shackles placed on high profile Toomevara attackers in the semi-final, as well as trying to close down the fleet-footed and elusive forwards at the other end. It will be a big task for Sarsfields, but, past history suggests that they have the knowhow to do it. Time will tell.

Today will see two great captains leading their sides into battle. James Woodlock has been a great warrior for Tipperary over the last few seasons and he brings the same level of energy to Drom-Inch. To be the first Drom-Inch man to lift the Dan Breen would be very special indeed and would go some way towards making up for the disappointment of losing the All-Ireland Final a few weeks ago.

But, for Sarsfields Johnny Enright, captaining his side to victory would be the icing on the cake of a career dedicated to the blue and white jersey. If ever a player deserved the honour it is Johnny – a true gentleman on and off the field – and a man whose blood runs blue. That he is featuring at all this afternoon is testimony to his dedication, having suffered a serious shoulder injury in the clash with Kilruane MacDonagh. Lesser men would have walked away from the season and nothing less would have been thought of them. But, Johnny set about recovering immediately and it is remarkable to say that he is leading out his club this afternoon.

When the cup is hoisted this evening Johnny or James will be in seventh heaven. Who it will be, is in the lap of the Gods – unless of course they can't

decide either, and seek another day out to make the decision.

You know, there aren't too many who would argue with a draw at the end of today. What are the odds?

Enjoy the game – the showpiece of the Tipperary calendar.



Attending the launch (from left): Ritchie Ruth (Thurles Sarsfields), James Woodlock (Drom-Inch Captain), Padraic Maher (Thurles Sarsfields) and Seamus Callinan (Drom-Inch).

(Photo: Bridget Delaney)



MARTIN 'MUSHA' MAHER — Semple's Longest Serving Styleman



Martin "Musha" Maher today completes 54 years of loyal service to Semple Stadium as one of the many dedicated stylemen in the county. And, he is not finished yet.

Musha, a Sarsfields and Tipperary great who has a comprehensive medal haul both at county and national level, began working as a styleman back in 1955 at the behest of Tomás Ó Baróid, when he was still hurling for the Blues. And, even though he had to juggle his playing days with his work in Semple Stadium, he managed to do both and became a very familiar face to many thousands of people who passed through his turnstyle down through those five decades plus.

He is the longest serving styleman in Semple Stadium and he also operates the gates at county matches all over the Premier County for the Board, as well as helping out the Mid Board on busy weekends also. Musha also worked in venues such as Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Cork; Fitzgerald Stadium, Killarney; the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick; Cusack Park, Ennis; and many more including Croke Park for a number of years. Throughout all of this time, Musha became one of the most popular stylemen

and his easy demeanour and outlook helped to ease the strain of trying to gain access to the pressure-cooker cauldron which would be the major stadia on big match days.

A retired employee of Thurles Sugar Factory, Musha will be hoping that his beloved Sarsfields can put one over Drom-Inch this afternoon to bring back the Dan Breen Cup once more to Arus na Sairsealaigh.

We thank Musha for his efforts in Semple Stadium and look forward to many more years of service from him.

New Semple Stadium Director Appointed

TODAY we extend a cordial welcome to the new Stadium Director in Semple Stadium and the Dome, Mr David Morgan.

A native of Limerick, but living in Templemore for the last 11 years, David has assumed responsibility for running Semple Stadium and the Dome on a commercial basis and he has established an office in the Dome.

"So far this year we have welcomed over a quarter of a million people to Semple Stadium and my role will be to try and grow the commercial opportunities for the Association and for the community in a business sense and overall. The vision for the Dome itself is to see it being used as a multi-functional venue from a centre of excellence, to a concert venue, to a sporting facility for Youth Development Clubs etc," said David who has been the Commercial and Operations Manager with the Irish



Greyhound Board, prior to taking up his position in Semple Stadium.

Stating that Semple is "an iconic stadium" and the second home to big GAA games after Croke Park, David is very excited about the prospects and possibilities for this famous venue which has seen many an enthralling contest down

through the years – his recall of the 1984 Munster Final springs to mind immediately.

Having been touched by the warmth of the welcome from the Semple Stadium staff and management, and the Principal, Fiona O'Sullivan, and staff of Coláiste Mhuire, David is looking forward to growing the relationship between all bodies and is hopeful that a synergy with the Tipperary Institute could also be pursued.

The Dome, a state-of-the-art facility to the rear of Ardán Uí Riain, can seat 560 people in tiered seating, with a stage etc. – it is proving to be an extremely versatile facility and can be booked by clubs, organisations etc for use. Contact info@semplestadium.ie for further details.

So, a big welcome to David Morgan – we look forward to him breathing a new lease of life into Semple Stadium and the Dome.

Amhrán na bhFiann

THE National Anthem will be sung today by Marie Floyd from Newport.

Marie hails from a family steeped in GAA and Scór tradition. Marie is a student in Mary Immaculate college Limerick, where she studies liberal arts. She is no stranger to the big stage, and has represented her club on numerous occasions in Scór. Marie came through the ranks of Scór na bPaistí, Scór na nÓg, and is now a Scór Sinsear competitor. Among her Scór achievements are North and County titles in Scór na nÓg Solo singing and ballad group and a North title in Solo singing at senior Scór level which she achieved in 2009.





By: SEAMUS LEAHY

COUNTY Finals

THERE IS something different about a county final.

Nowadays an All-Ireland attracts the kind of media attention that many of those who go through the turnstiles on a regular basis from spring through autumn would prefer to be without. We have all had the experience of sitting through a game in Croke Park beside somebody who confides that these hurling games are hugely exciting and that if he had known they were like this he would have gone to one every year.

The county final is not like that. Whatever glamour attaches to it is of a different kind to any inter-county clash. It is a local event and yet one is apt to find oneself sitting beside a hurling man from any hurling county. He will be a real hurling man and he may have had difficulty in deciding whether he would come to Thurles or to a match elsewhere. County finals are primarily for the participating parishes but, after that, they are for all lovers of hurling.

What a pity, then, that they are necessarily relegated to second place on the hurling calendar and usually only take place when the inter-county championship has run its course. Most county finals are played on October evenings when the long nights are closing in and when many who had been clocking up much mileage to games on summer evenings and autumn afternoons have decided to call it a day until spring is in the air again.

But for those who brave it out, a county final is a county final.....

And there is something special about today's pairing.....

Who can talk of Thurles Sarsfields without thinking of greatness! There was Jim Stapleton and the men of 1887 who wrote Tipp's name at the top of the roll of hurling honours. There was Tom Semple and his men and Jobie Callanan and Lanigans

County finals are primarily for the participating parishes but, after that, they are for all lovers of hurling

and John Maher of Killinan. There was Tommy Doyle, the most complete ball-player of them all, and Wall, the rock-like centre-back, and Jimmy Doyle, the acknowledged peer of Ring and Keher and the greatest forwards of the game. And there was Mickey Byrne, his wit as sharp as the blade he lowered when things were toughest in Hell's Kitchen. And dozens of others. And who can say that the Sarsfields men who wore the Blue and Gold in that torrid game against Kilkenny on the first Sunday in September this year will not be remembered with the greatest who wore the Blue of Thurles over the 122 years since the first All-Ireland.

Drom and Inch may have a less distinguished history

behind them. But in recent times they have shown signs of being on the way to writing their own history. Their representatives, too, played heroes' parts for Tipperary in what is already acknowledged to have been perhaps the greatest All-Ireland final of recent and not-so-recent times. They will not be fazed by reflections on the greatness of the long ago. Gods, said Patrick Kavanagh, make their own importance. Today is the day when we may see Drom and Inch make their own importance.

In the days of huge and memorable success by Tipperary hurlers, one of our brightest stars was born and bred in the parish of Inch – at the cross of the Ragg. Seamus Bannon began as a full-back for Tipp minors. Thereafter he played in every line on the field, was a vital cog in the Tipp team that won three All-Irelands in a row and a bag of Leagues and was a regular member of Railway Cup winning teams at a time when a Railway Cup medal was the highest honour that could be bestowed on a hurler. He was a magnificent specimen of manhood and when Jim Barry, legendary manager of Cork teams, was asked in the early '50s who was the best hurler in Ireland, he unhesitatingly answered, Seamus Bannon or Pat Stakelum.

Bannon and Stakelum and Barry – no doubt all three will be watching the game today from the very best seats in the sky.



DROM

to roll at last

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

IF DROM INCH are looking for an omen today, they might think of first ever Co. Final victories for Roscrea in 1968 and Mullinahone in 2002. Both clubs had lost a decider a short time before. The common link is Thurles Sarsfields, who were the losing team on both occasions. The last two beaten County finalists, neither of whom scored a goal in those defeats, now have a chance to redeem themselves on "The Field of Legends", with the winner due to play here again in two weeks time, against Cork's best, on the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the GAA.

There is no doubt that a team which loses a final learns much and when the opportunity comes again experience often helps to find the path to victory. When Drom Inch reached their first decider four years ago, they were less battle-hardened than they are now, but a parish tragedy changed their focus on that occasion and in the circumstances, they did well to perform as they did. The game itself turned on two first half incidents, a line ball struck by Wayne Cully into the Killinan end after nine minutes of play, which found its way to the net and a claim for a penalty, which was not awarded, about ten minutes before half-time, during a period of Drom pressure, when Michael Butler appeared to be fouled. The winning margin was five points.

Two years ago Drom Inch made another appearance on Final day and with Loughmore Castleiney coming through the tough side of the draw, there was a perception that Drom would be fresher. Alas, it was all over by half-time, as Loughmore Castleiney led by 0-13 to 0-5. Their twin strike force of Evan Sweeney (0-9) and Noel McGrath (0-6) guided the green and red to victory. It was a shattering loss, but an eight point margin reflected the difference between the teams. In most of the key collisions, Drom came off second best, so their possession was not sufficient to make an impact.

Last year, Drom beat Sarsfields in a competitive Mid final at Templemore. Their two goals proved decisive. They met again in the Co. quarter-final at Semple Stadium and Sarsfields made some effective adjustments to their defensive line up. The "match-ups" were better planned and the game was effectively decided long before the finish. It is expected that Sars-

fields will have recalled that successful strategy in their preparation for this contest! The scoring threat is obvious from Seamus Callanan's scoring prowess in the quarter-final (1-9) and semi-final (0-12) and if that danger is not addressed, there is no doubt about who will win.

Sarsfields are capable of scoring freely and it was great to see the recently injured Johnny Enright lining out against Upperchurch Drombane in the Co. semi-final. The current club captain brings so much know-how to the forward line, which is well balanced and possesses an abundance of pace. Lar Corbett missed the semi-final, but is expected to play a significant part today, if Sarsfields are to win. It is a potent attack at its best, with proven finishers in Pa Bourke, Richie Ruth, Enright and Corbett. Drom's defence was deservedly lauded for the tenacity and discipline which proved decisive in containing the Toomevara attack, which had registered impressive tallies in the previous two rounds of the championship. They have been coping well in the absence of Eamon Buckley, whose injury has kept him out of the wins against Borris-Ileigh and Toomevara respectively. Paul Stapleton has been impressive in his stead and having conquered Borris and Toome, he won't lack confidence now.

The Drom defence has a superb understanding of its responsibilities and you don't see too much space opening up in front of goal as the zones are covered and incoming ball is attacked with venom. The goal conceded against Toomevara was exactly that – conceded rather than scored. The calamity would have shattered many teams, but Drom are now mature enough to look ahead rather than reflect and it is what happens afterwards that concerns them. Seamus Butler remains a key player for them and in his current form he will surely leave an imprint on this final. James Woodlock's return to form has been a major boost to their quest.

Sarsfields have been unconvincing for much of the year, but have rediscovered their flair in recent weeks as the championship reached its most significant stage. They are much changed from 2005, but the team is performing again. Home town management and former Blues' stalwarts, 'Glossy', Paddy Mc and Johnny Bourke will maximise their players' performances. The



memory of 2008 still hurts and only a win can erase that empty feeling. There is no doubt that the replay and extra time against Clonoulty Rossmore drained them significantly, a mere week before meeting Toomevara.

Padraic Maher has become a household name this year and he has produced some masterful performances for his club. His display today will be significant to his team's chances of success. Shane Ryan is now being appreciated for his ability to win possession and distribute intelligently and his importance won't be overlooked by anybody in either camp.

Despite the presence of several free scoring forwards on both teams, I think this final will be won by defence. Defenders will be aware that possession is the key and if that can be restricted, it renders scoring very difficult. The Drom full back line played like men possessed in the semi-final. Martin Butler, Edward and Michael Costello performed heroically all through and will strive to repeat that tour-de-force today.

Discipline in the tackle is vital, because in Pa Bourke and Seamus Callanan, we have two of the most consistently accurate free-takers in the county. Drom were especially controlled against Toomevara and in reducing the number of scoreable frees conceded, they eliminated much of the scoring threat from the defending champions.

Sarsfields have a potent attack, but there were times, especially in the quarter-final, when it wasn't clicking. Last time out they landed 2-17, which is more than they will be expected to score today.

Drom may depend on Callanan to direct their attack and land many of the scores, but they are well coached and brilliant at taking the correct option. Putting the ball where most value can be achieved and accepting that each score is for the team are among the Drom beliefs which have brought them here. Among their numbers, John Kennedy, David Collins, David Butler, Johnny Ryan and Seamus Butler are all capable of boosting their club's scoring total. They will need to score at least one goal to complement the white flag tally, if they are to win.

Today, it is critical to take control of the game early on – and recollections of Drom on some big days in recent years is that they don't do comebacks, as well as leading from the front and pushing on to victory. Callanan is in perpetual motion, drifting around the field, assessing the possibilities and pouncing to score. His first touch and pace render him uncatchable in open field. Those who insist that he is not an orthodox centre forward have missed the point completely!

Sarsfields have also lost a few recent county finals because of bad starts, so they know the score. Both teams have the class, balance and experience to win. Whichever succeeds will relish their victory, but there won't be any consolation for the losers. The stakes are exceptionally high. Expect the opening exchanges to be hectic, as supremacy is being claimed.

In the final analysis, I think Drom's defence will be good enough to stifle the Sarsfields attack and that Callanan & Co. will edge them into history, point by point and inch by inch!

IN KEEPING with the practice of the past number of years, the Tipperary County Board, in conjunction with the 'Tipperary Star' and Younge's of the Ragg, honour Borris-Ileigh – the County Senior Hurling Champions of 1981, 1983 and 1986, at the County Senior Hurling Final at Semple Stadium today. The members of the victorious panel will be given a reception at the Thurles Greyhound Track at 12 noon and will be guests of the County Board at the finals. At about 3 pm they will be led onto the field and introduced to the crowd. After the games they will be taken to Younge's of the Ragg for dinner. Following the meal they will be made a presentation by the 'Tipperary Star'. The occasion should be a great opportunity for the members of the teams to reminisce about their great exploits on the field of play over twenty years ago. (* See pages 50-55)



Tipperary Star and Younge's The Ragg are the joint sponsors of honouring the Team of the Past on County Hurling Final day at Semple Stadium on Sunday. Borris-Ileigh teams that won County SHC titles in 1981, '83 and '86 are honoured this year (from left): John Costigan (County Board), Seamus King (Organising Committee Chairman), Philomena Maher, Barry O'Brien (County Board Chairman), Noelle Maher (Borris-Ileigh Club Chairman), Donal Younge (Younge's The Ragg – Sponsor) and Pat Carey (Tipperary Star). Picture: Bridget Delaney



Drom-Inch Milestones

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

- 1967** Reached the Mid senior final for the first time, but lost to Moycarkey Borris by 4-8 to 0-9. Drew with Roscrea in the Co. quarter-final (2-4 to 0-10), but lost the replay 5-17 to 2-2.
- 1973** Lost Mid final to Thurles Sarsfields 0-16 to 3-5. Beat Borrisileigh in Co. quarter-final 5-7 to 1-16, lost to Kilruane MacDonaghs in the Co. Semi final by 4-10 to 5-3.
- 1974** Won first Mid title beating Thurles Sarsfields 3-9 to 3-6.
- 1978** Beat Carrick Swan in Co. quarter-final 2-15 to 3-7, lost to Roscrea in Co. semi-final 4-13 to 3-6
- 1980** Lost Mid final to Sarsfields by 1-10 to 1-6. Lost Co. quarter-final to Sean Treacy's 2-11 to 0-8
- 1984** Won Mid title beating Moycarkey Borris in a replay by 1-9 to 1-8. Beat Eire Óg (South) in Co. quarter-final replay, but lost to Lorrha in Co. semi-final 2-7 to 0-6.
- 2004** Lost Co. quarter-final to Golden/Eire Óg 1-15 to 1-14
- 2005** Reached first ever Co. Final, beating Nenagh Eire Óg 2-17 to 0-14 in the semi-final, but lost the decider to Thurles Sarsfields by 1-17 to 0-15.
- 2006** Won Mid title, beating Boherlahan Dualla in the final by 3-13 to 0-16. Lost Co. semi-final to Nenagh Eire Óg 2-14 to 1-13
- 2007** Beat Killenaule in Co. semi-final 1-19 to 0-19, but lost Co. final to Loughmore-Castleiney by 0-22 to 0-13.
- 2008** Beat Sarsfields in Mid Final by 2-19 to 0-21, but lost to them in the Co. quarter-final by 3-15 to 2-9.
- 2009** Qualified for third County Final, beating defending champions Toomevara in the semi-final by 0-19 to 1-12.

25 Years Ago ...

MOYCARKEY-BORRIS – County Senior Hurling Champions 1984

MOYCARKEY-BORRIS lost the Mid Final in 1984 before winning their way back in to the County Final for the second time in three years thanks to victories over Carrick Swans and Cappawhite (after a replay). Their County Final opponents were North champions Lorrha on October 21st in Semple Stadium. Lorrha played against the breeze in the first half but played well and led by 0-6 to 0-4 at the interval. Lorrha led by three points going in to the final quarter but two late goals ensured victory for Moycarkey-Borris on a scoreline of 2-8 to 0-9. Jack Bergin was the winning captain.

Thanks to this victory, Moycarkey-Borris became the only club in Ireland to record the jubilee and centenary county final double.



Back row (l.-r.): W. Ryan, Jim Bergin, Jim Flanagan, T. Quigley, T. Mullins, Jimmy Leahy, N. Slattery, J. Hackett, T. Doran, R. Hayes, L. Dempsey, J. McCormack, L. Hackett, M. Clohessey, M. Burke, M. Fanning. Front row (l.-r.): M. McKenna, D. Kirwan, L. Bergin, T. Cullen, J. Bergin (capt.), John Flanagan, E. Darmody, D. Quigley, T. Noonan, E. Darmody, W. Fogarty, D. Fogarty. Masco: R. Doran.



INTERMEDIATE HURLING FINAL

Quest for Crowning Glory

By: BRENDAN O'DWYER

WITH THE senior final lineup having been decided some two weeks ago now, all eyes turned to the prospect of the curtain-raiser on the biggest day of the Tipperary GAA club calendar. It was a toss-up between the Intermediates and the minors to see who would get the show on the road.

Once Sarsfields got knocked out of the competition, after a rematch to Arravale Rovers, the path was clear for the Intermediates to raise the curtain on County Final Day.

Truth be told, the teams that are playing this final have been waiting for the curtains to raise for many's a moon already and Arravale Rovers and Carrick Davins are more than ready to take the stage.

A peculiar incident of this years competitions is the lack of divisional winners in county final showdowns and the Intermediate final throws up such an example. Both sides were beaten in their divisional finals, but have timed their run to perfection, peaking when it matters most. Interestingly, Moyle Rovers beat Davins by a point in the south final but went on to suffer defeat by the hands and hurleys of Arravale Rovers. By default, does this give Rovers an edge over Davins? Not likely.

Carrick Davins have never won an Intermediate title. Sure they've had their hey-day in the Senior circuit, winning back to back titles in the sixties, but since joining the ranks of the Intermediates, this occasion has been much sought after. As a witness to the expressions of pure relief and joy amongst the Davins hurlers when they defeated Ballina in the semis, I can

tell you, these boy's want it. "A county final!" I heard them bellow to each other, as if it were some magical kingdom and they had just been handed the keys to the city.

They looked sharp that day against the North Finalists, scoring four goals and weathering a war of attrition that lasted until the last puck of the game.

Now, they seek entry to the highest tower in the land, and Rovers will not let them pass easily.

The west boys have battled just as hard to reach this stage and, they have the benefit of being here before. Back in '97 they won their first and only intermediate title. Since then they have tasted success in many different competitions but could never climb the heights of the Intermediate championship.

And now they have their chance. Having led Sarsfields by a point for the last four minutes of the semi's, they conceded a late late free that would lead to a re-match, which in fairness, they won well. Will this extra game give them an edge coming into the finals? Possibly. On the flipside, it gave Davins an opportunity to see their rivals in action and spot the areas of Rovers' lineup that could be exploited.

These sides are evenly matched, no doubt. They have both been on the quest for too long now and are desperate to crown their achievements and, on the day, it'll all come down to hunger. Who want's it most? Who can keep their focus on this, the biggest of stages, and deliver to their parishes, supporters and selves what they so deeply desire?

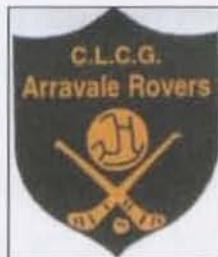
If this contest it to be the curtain raiser, the day as a whole will be a memorable one indeed.

Simple Stadium Management Committee and the Tipperary County Board would like to express their thanks and appreciation to the Thurles branch of the Order of Malta who provide medical cover for players and patrons on match days in Simple Stadium.





Arravale Rovers



Michael Perdue
(Arravale Rovers Coach)

BELOW – Arravale Rovers Intermediate Selectors (from left): Jamesie Hogan, Damien Quinlan and Paddy Delaney.



PATH TO FINAL

WEST CHAMPIONSHIP:

19/7/09 – Cappawhite:

Arravale Rovers	1-13
Sean Treacys	1-6

8/8/09 – Golden:

Arravale Rovers	0-10
Galtee Rovers	0-10

13/9/09 – Golden – (West Final):

Arravale Rovers	1-11
Galtee Rovers	1-12

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP:

26/9/09 – Cashel – (Quarter-final):

Arravale Rovers	2-17
Moyle Rovers	1-13

3/10/09 – Boherlahan – (Semi-final):

Arravale Rovers	0-14
Thurles Sarsfields.....	1-11

10/10/09 – Cashel – (Semi-final replay):

Arravale Rovers	2-14
Thurles Sarsfields	0-14



Arravale Rovers Intermediate Hurling Panel at West final. Back row (l.-r.): Francis Coughtian, Pat Duggan, David Heffernan, Sean Spillane, Ian Richardson, Sean O'Meara, James Mulhair, Eric Higgins, Stephen Spillane, Thomas Gleeson, Johnny O'Donnell, Roger O'Connor, Brian Jones, John Hayes, Darren Lowry. Front row (l.-r.): Donagh Leahy, Brian Lowry, Richie Lohan, Darragh Fitzpatrick, Paul Ryan, Damien Kiely, Michael O'Sullivan, Paddy Dalton, Ger O'Dwyer, Mikie O'Dwyer, Donie Ryan, Ger Mulhair, Timmy Dalton, Brendan Lohan.



Pen Pics

ARRAVALE ROVERS



THOMAS GLEESON

(23) *Teacher*

Thomas has been first choice Intermediate goalie in since 2003.

GERARD O'DWYER

(18) *Student*

Gerard is a relatively new addition to the starting fifteen having made his first championship start in the West Championship opener with Sean Treacys. He has impressed in the Arravale defence in his first season.

PAUL RYAN

(21) *Student*

Paul has had an unfortunate year with sickness. This is Paul's 4th year on the panel and he has developed into a tough full back.

STEPHEN SPILLANE

(22) *Student*

Stephen has been an outstanding contributor to the club cause this year through his performance versatile in moving from between wing back and full back.

BRIAN JONES

(21) *Student*

Brian has been versatile member of the panel playing at different positions throughout the championship. Brian has secured his starting place.

ROGER O'CONNOR

(25) *Linesman*

Our captain for the year, Roger made his debut in IHC for the club in 2001. He has been a regular starting player on the IHC panel since then. He has been impressive at centre back.

GERARD MULHAIR

(18) *Student*

Gerard made his Intermediate debut coming on in the West Intermediate Hurling final against Galtee Rovers. A tough opponent for any wing forward.

TIMMY DALTON

(21) *Student*

Timmy has been impressive in the Arravale attack for the last number of years. He scored a decisive goal in the County semifinal victory over Thurles Sarsfield.

DARREN LOWRY

(19) *Student*

In his first year in the IHC panel, Darren showed true grit and determination through his performance at midfield in the co semifinal against Thurles Sarsfield in Cashel.

PADDY DALTON

(17) *Student*

This is another relative newcomer having secured his starting place at corner back fro the West championship moving to wing forward in county semi-final following strong minor and U21 displays.

DAMIEN KIELY

(22) *Student*

A member of the panel for the last few years, Damien has secured his centre forward position this year through his strength and tough ariel ability.

JAMES MULHAIR

(20) *Student*

James is captain of our U21 hurling team competing in the up and coming West Final facing Clonoulty Rossmore. It's James first year in the IH championship and has made wing forward his own.

BYRAN LOWRY

(17) *Student*

One of the youngest members of the panel aged 17, Byran impressed in the forwards in West Junior championship and was incorporated onto the panel for the West final and has kept his starting position since that game.

JOHN O'DONNELL

(30) *Carpenter*

A young minor when Arravale won their last County Intermediate Final in 1997, scoring 1-1. John has been a regular feature of his Intermediate lineup this year.

MICHAEL O'DWYER

(19) *Student*

Michael is the older brother to the corner back Gerard, Michael has shown that his speed and skill has generated vital scores for the club when needed in the championship games.

DONIE RYAN

(40) *Lab Technician*

A long standing member of the IHC panel since his debut in 1994, his skill continues to make him a constant threat to any defence. One of the four remaining players on panel of the winning County Intermediate team of 1997.

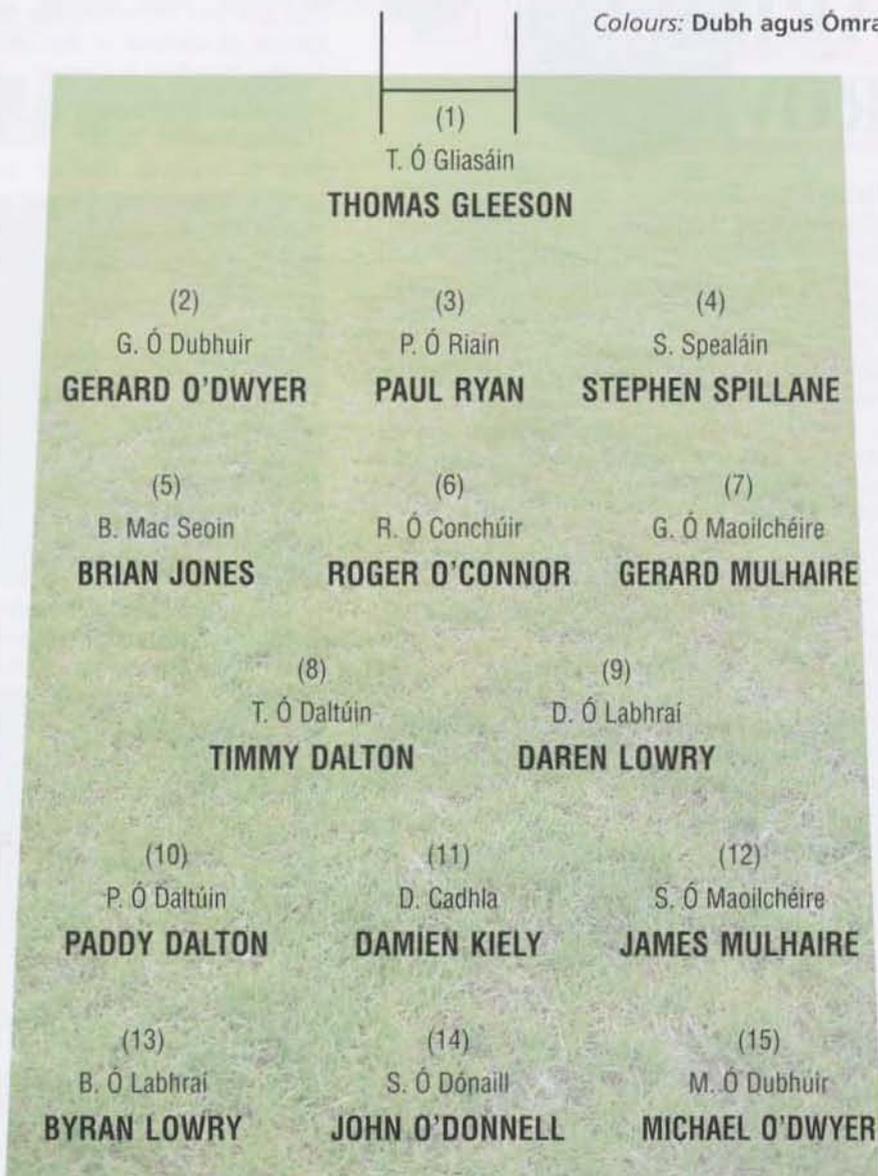


Arravale Rovers

Colours: Dubh agus Ómra

**Fir Ionaid:**

- (16) D. Laocha
Donough Leahy
- (17) D. Ó Riain
Donal Ryan
- (18) D. Ó hÍfearnáin
David Heffernan
- (19) S. Ó Cuinn
Stephen Quinn
- (20) S. Ó Meára
Sean O'Meara
- (21) S. Ó hAodha
John Hayes
- (22) E. Ó hUiginn
Eric Higgins
- (23) I. Mac Risteaird
Ian Richardson
- (24) S. Ó Spealáin
Sean Spillane
- (25) B. Ó Leocháin
Brendan Lohan
- (26) D. Mac Giolla
Phádraig
Darragh Fitzpatrick
- (27) F. Ó Cochláin
Francis Coughlan
- (28) C. Franks
Kevin Franks
- (29) P. Ó Dugáin
Pat Duggan
- (30) S. Ó Laocha
Shane Leahy
- (31) P. Ó Meachair
Paddy Maher
- (32) R. Ó Leocháin
Richie Lohan
- (33) M. Ó Suilleabháin
Michael O'Sullivan

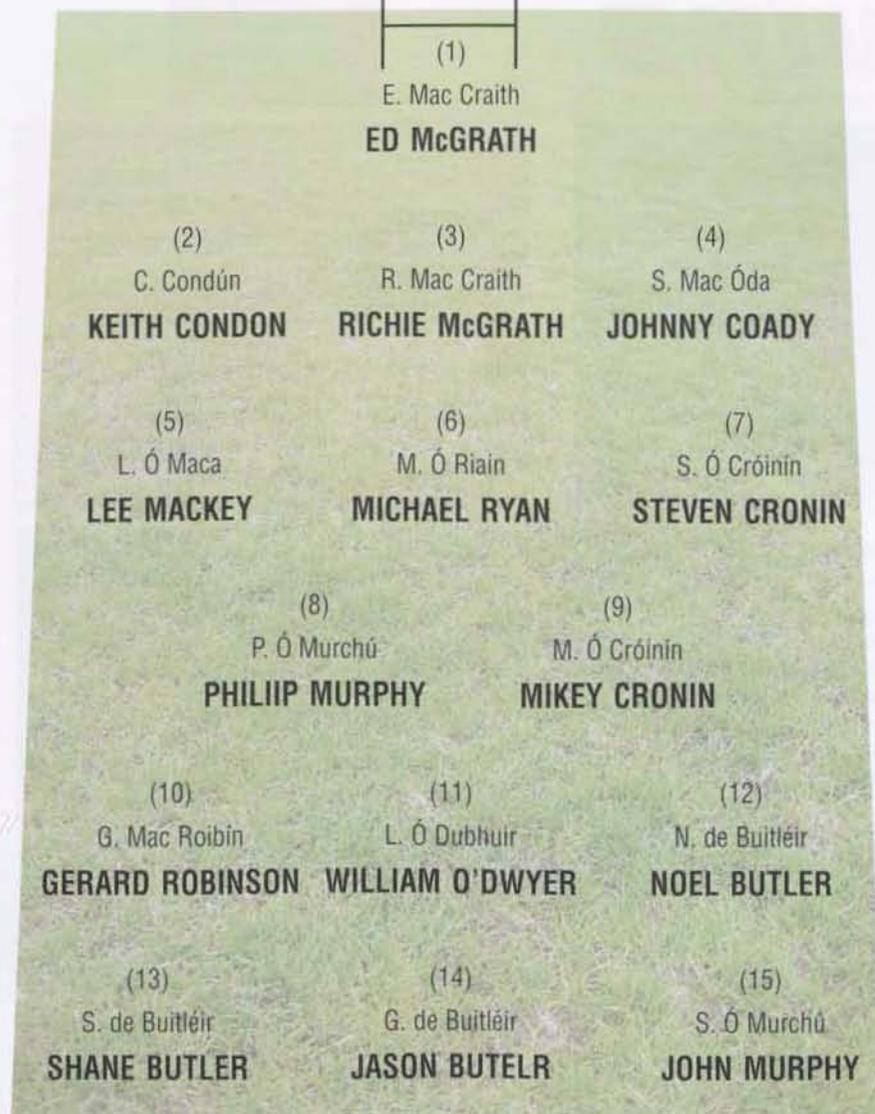
**MANAGEMENT TEAM**Coach: *Michael Perdue.*Selectors: *Jamesie Hogan, Damien Quinlan, Paddy Delaney.*

ARRAVALE ROVERS	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	65m	Saor Pocanna
1adh leath					
2adh leath					
IOMLAN					



Carrick Davins

Colours: Dearg agus Bán



MANAGEMENT TEAM

Selectors: John Robinson, Thomas Foran, Gerry McGrath, Nico Butler, Paddy Walsh.

Trainer: Paul Tobin.

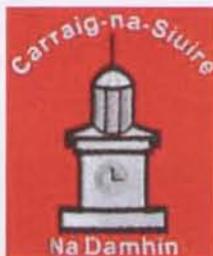
CARRICK DAVINS	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	65m	Saor Pocanna
1adh leath					
2adh leath					
IOMLAN					

Fir Iomaid:

- (16) E. de Flainn
Englan Power
- (17) R. Ó Súilleabháin
Paul Tobin
- (18) M. Mac Eoin
Michael Mackell
- (19) S. Ó Néill
James Waters
- (20) L. Ó Forain
Luke Foran
- (21) B. de Buitléir
Brendan Butler
- (22) S. Mac Aoidh
John Reyes
- (23) S. Breathnach
James Walsh
- (24) S. Ó Cláirín
Steven Kerwick
- (25) P. Ó Néill
Patrick Harris
- (26) M. de Flainn
Mark Roche
- (27) L. Ó Dubhuir
Leo O'Dwyer
- (28) N. Ó Briain
Nigel O'Brien
- (29) S. F. Mac Craith
John Paul McGrath



Carrick Davins



Gerard Robinson
(Carrick Davins Captain)

Management team of
(left to right) John Robinson
(selector), Paul Tobin (trainer),
Thomas Foran (selector),
Gerry McGrath (selector),
Nico Butler (selector) and
Paddy Walsh (selector).



PATH TO FINAL

27/09/2009:

County Intermediate Quarter-Final:

Carrick Davins..... 1-11
Galtee Rovers..... 1-9

03/10/2009:

County Intermediate Semi-Final:

Carrick Davins..... 4-10
Ballina..... 1-17



Back row (l.-r.): William O'Dwyer, Ed McGrath, Noelle Butler, Mikey Cronin, Luke Foran, Nigel O'Brien, Johnny Coady, Gerard Robinson, Mikey Ryan, Keith Condon, Ian Dwyer, Jim Walsh, Paul Tobin, Michael Hackett, Steven Cronin, James Waters. Front row (l.-r.): John Keyes, Jason Butler, Mark Roche, Shane Butler, Brendan Butler, Eoil Power, Philip Murphy, Richie McGrath, Patrick Harris, John Murphy, Steven Kerwick, Lee Mackey, John Paul McGrath.



Pen Pics

CARRICK DAVINS

ED McGRATH

is having a great year so far in goal. Always provides a solid performance between the posts.

KEITH CONDON

is rock solid at corner back and is on excellent form. A dynamic player.

RICHIE McGRATH

is a former Tipperary minor captain and also played on the 2003 Tipperary minor Munster winning team. He is a consistent player and is back this year to his very best.

JOHNNY COADY

is one of the younger members of the team. He is a dependable back who never has a bad game and always gives 100%.

LEE MACKAY

was a member of the Tipperary Minor All-Ireland winning team of 2006. Lee is a dedicated club player and always gives his all to the team. He is a specialist in long frees.

MICHAEL RYAN

is son of former Tipp legend P.J. Ryan. He is a naturally gifted hurler with an effortless style. He is outstanding at halfback.

STEVEN CRONIN

is a dedicated and committed clubman – A great Davin man and G.A.A. all-rounder, who also feels at home on the football pitch.

PHILIP MURPHY

is another who has giving great service to the club. He is a former winning South minor captain and a very versatile player. A warrior in the Red and White!!

MIKEY CRONIN

is always on the attack in mid-field. A reliable and enthusiastic player who will raise the spirits of any team. He's always good for a few scores!!

GERARD ROBINSON

is today's captain. Always a powerhouse in attack and gives his all. He scored a superb goal in the semi finals.

WILLIAM O'DWYER

was also a member of the Tipperary minor 2006 panel. He is a strong running centre forward and is on top form this season.

NOEL BUTLER

is the 'Usain Bolt' of this team, as quick as lightning on his feet. He causes problems in any defence.

SHANE BUTLER

is exceptional at corner forward. He is having a terrific year and will relish playing in Semple! He has exceptional scoring abilities.

JASON BUTLER

is the youngest of the three Butlers brothers. A class act who was on superb form in the semi finals. He can make an impact on any game.

JOHN MURPHY

comes from a strong Davin family. He is an elusive player, is hard to mark and always gives his all.

**Eoghan Power, Paul Tobin,
Michael Hackett, James Waters,
Luke Foran, Brendan Butler,
John Keyes, James Walsh,
Steven Kerwick, Patrick Harris,
Marc Roche, Ian O'Dwyer,
Nigel O'Brien, John Paul McGrath**

While not on the first 15, any one of these bunch of lads can be relied upon to give a great display if called up to the mark, which some have proved on our journey to the county final.

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*Best Wishes to
Thurles Sarsfields and Drom & Inch*

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Photographer Brigid's *great service to the GAA*

A VERY familiar sight in and around Semple Stadium on match day is photographer Brigid Delaney who has been following GAA far and wide for many years.

A native of Burgess, Brigid got into the whole area of photography by simply taking pictures of her native club teams and sending them into the local papers for publication. Little did she think that this would turn into a career for her, or that she would be the main sports photographer for the *Tipperary Star* and *Nenagh Guardian* within a few years.

"I started first as PRO of my club Burgess back in 1992, when I used to send in the photos to the papers. It was always a big thing for me when they were published and after a while the *Nenagh Guardian* asked me if I would take photos at a few events for them. It all progressed from there and it has been a great journey for me. I have gotten to know so many people through my involvement with the GAA – I know someone in every parish in The Premier County," Brigid says.

Of course Brigid's interest in not just confined to GAA – she also has a great love of rugby, and Munster rugby specifically. She was in Northhampton last weekend and Semple Stadium this weekend – a great way of life for a lady who takes sport to heart.

Much has changed from the time Brigid first started taking photos. She began with an old film camera, but was forced to change with the times to digital and computerisation as time moved on. Having recognised that there was a lot to be learned,

Brigid undertook a number of courses and became very proficient in the whole area of digital photography. Her top class photos are recognised far and near but she has a favourite which she says she anticipated before it happened.

"It was the All-Ireland qualifier game between Tipperary and Cork in Semple Stadium in 2007. A high ball was coming in on top of Diarmuid O'Sullivan (Cork full back) and Darragh Egan (Tipp forward). I knew what was going to happen and I took the picture as the ball dropped. You could see the hurley breaking off Darragh Egan and the pain in his eyes as the impact of the slap registered. It was a very dramatic photo, but it is only when you look back through them that you realise what you have captured," Brigid says.

Having visited both camps in advance of the County Final, Brigid has nothing but the height of praise for Drom-Incah and Sarsfields for the warmth of their welcome. And, it is like that all over the county, she says, having admitted to meeting people in all sorts of places, including rugby games, who come up to her and ask her to take their photo. "I might have taken their picture with some team or other and sure I'd be hard pressed to recognise them all, even though they would know me," she says, adding that

such a scenario occurred in Northhampton last weekend when she met up with a gang from Moycarkey and Clonoulty.

Brigid Delaney is providing a vital service to the GAA – they say a picture is better than a thousand words – if that really is the case, Brigid has produced many volumes of top class fare for this great Association.



Bridget Delaney photographed with boxer Bernard Dunne.



SARSFIELDS and DROM-INCH

By: J. J. KENNEDY

go head-to-head

FOR THE second time in four years Thurles Sarsfields and Drom/Inch go head-to-head for premier hurling honours. Near neighbours and intimately acquainted, the rivalry is ultra-keen. It was similar in '05 when Sars' prevailed by 1-17 to 0-15, having earlier dumped Toomevara at quarter-final stage by 1-20 to 1-16.

When you glance back at the starting sides in '05 what stands apart is the huge turnover of players on both sides in a mere four years. I don't have the starting fifteens for next Sunday but based on the expected line outs I anticipate that Sarsfields will begin with about five of the '05 starters, while in the case of Drom the number is likely to be eight. That's a low survival rate, which means that the head-to-head confrontations this time will be quite different from '05.

One area, however, that hasn't changed is that of goalkeeping with Patrick McCormack and Damien Young once again between the sticks for their respective teams. Both goalies will be widely known for their involvement with county teams. Patrick McCormack spent three years with the county minors, captaining the team to Munster honours in '02 and then spending two years with the county U21s, collecting a Munster medal in '04. Damien Young also spent three years with the county minors, captaining the side on the last of those years, 1999. He then progressed through the U21 ranks and spent two years on the county senior panel, '05 and '06. In recent times he has diversified, developing a reputation as a very able coach, a role he played with this year's county minors. So, both clubs are well served by very able shot-stoppers.

Sarsfields' full back line has been reinvented since 2005. The big story of course is the emergence of Padraic Maher after a phenomenal breakthrough year with the county seniors. He holds two All Ireland minor medals and few will forget his display in the '08 All Ireland U21 defeat to Kilkenny. He'll be flanked by two other All Ireland minor medal winners in Michael Cahill and Kevin O'Gorman. Cahill's capability as a defender was recognised this year when he was drafted onto the county senior side and it will be no surprise if at some stage today he meets up with Seamus Callanan. Kevin O'Gorman won his All Ireland minor medal in '07 and quickly adjusted to the heavier demands of senior hurling to become a permanent fixture now in Sarsfields' number four jersey.

By contrast Drom's inside line of defence isn't decorated with All Ireland medals, but, nonethe-

less, has become one of the bedrocks of their progress this season. In the defeats of Borrisoleigh and Toomevara especially their disciplined tightness was duly noted as a key ingredient in the team's success. All three have been part of county panels, though without All Ireland silverware to show for it. Martin Butler (son of Martin senior) was part of the '04 county minor panel while the following year Eddie Costello played full back with the county minors. His elder brother, Michael, was with the Tipperary intermediates in '08. The Costello brothers were there in '05 too, so they won't lack for experience when squaring up to the Sarsfields attack.

At wing back Stephen Lillis is a '05 survivor for Sarsfields. He too has worn the county jersey at different levels for Tipperary and, if the need arises, is capable of impacting at midfield too. Beside him Liam Cahill is in his third year with Sarsfields having transferred from Ballygarry in '07. He was a precocious underage talent spending three years each at county minor and U21 levels and graduating spectacularly to the county seniors in 1996, winning an Allstar award on his debut year. Barry O'Dwyer completed the half back line in the semi-final. He is a product of the Dúrlas Óg and Sarsfields underage conveyor belt and has established himself as a steady defender. He is unique on the Sarsfields' team for not having worn the county jersey at some stage.

In their Mid campaign, final especially, Eamonn Buckley was a key cog at the heart of the Drom defence and many feared that his absence through injury would prove very costly in the latter stages of this championship. Yet, into the breach stepped Paul Stapleton, one of the older members of the Drom side, who has managed to shore up that line very effectively. He played for the Tipperary intermediates in '06 and on Sunday is likely to be flanked by Donnacha Kennedy and Micheál Butler. Kennedy is a '05 survivor, a fine club player though without inter-county exposure. Micheál Butler, one of four of Tommy's sons on the panel, is another solid club player but without county experience; he played in attack in '05.

The transfer of the Kennedy brothers this year from Clonoulty has undoubtedly strengthened Sarsfields. Alan plies his trade at midfield and has been very influential in recent games. Given his pedigree, he's at home with Sarsfields being a grandson of Tommy Doyle and having played county minor in '98 and county U21 in '00 and



'01. Beside him is **Michael Gleeson**, another ex-county minor and U21 player; he won an All Ireland minor medal in '06.

That midfield battle, however, could be quite interesting because Drom are well equipped in that area too. **James Woodlock** brings all his inter-county experience to the job. After a quiet spell in the quarter-final against Borrisoleigh he played a key role in the defeat of Toomevara in the semi and is likely to figure prominently on Sunday too. **Seamus Butler** played beside him the last day. Correction: Seamus Butler started beside him but Butler doesn't do a static, stand-up role, instead he travels all over, hunting the play, reading, anticipating and linking up with others. He's played all grades for Tipperary, a gifted hurler who seemed to be coming back to his best in the semi-final.

Sarsfields this year have made a forward 'find' in county minor **Denis Maher**. More noted as a defender – I'd rate him player of the Harty Cup last year for Thurles C.B.S. – he has adapted exceptionally well to his new role, hitting a vital goal against Nenagh and some quality points against Upperchurch. With 'Redser' struggling with injury **Shane Ryan** has been filling the number eleven jersey for Sarsfields in this campaign. He played county intermediate in '07. **Pa Bourke** completed the half forward line in the semi-final. Another precocious talent who's played all grades for Tipperary he's one that Drom will need to watch having played a match-winning role in the quarter-final against Nenagh.

Then again Drom have their own match-winner at half forward in **Seamus Callanan**. His displays in recent games have set him apart as an outstanding talent. In '05 he was a skinny adolescent, listed at corner forward and being substituted during the match. Since then his rise to prominence has been phenomenal. In '06 he won an All Ireland minor medal but once he left the minor grade his progress became spectacular. '08 was his breakthrough year with the county seniors and this year he's surely in the running for an Allstar award. That's progress. **Eric Woodlock** and **John Kennedy** played beside him on the 'forty' in the semi. Woodlock is more noted as a defender and brings great energy and work rate to the task. John Kennedy is considered one of the most committed players on the team. He played county minor in 2000 and 2001.

David Kennedy has made his mark on the Sarsfields' side in recent games and is likely to start at full forward on Sunday. A former county minor and U21 his career shipped a major setback when breaking a leg while playing a West final for Clonoulty, but he has bounced back impressively this year and is one that Drom will need to watch on Sunday. They'll need to watch

Ritchie Ruth too.

He's another ex-county minor and U21 who bagged both goals against Upperchurch in the semi-final. In the other corner **Johnny Enright** made his return from injury in the semi. He spent three years as a county minor, followed that with three more for the U21s and was a member of the Tipperary senior panel in '02. **Lar Corbett** missed the semi-final but is expected to be back for the final. A certainty for an Allstar award this year he made his breakthrough for the county seniors under Nicky English. Curiously he never played county minor for Tipperary.

In the semi-final Drom played **Michael Long** at full forward where his acknowledged physical strength is an asset. **David Butler** played in the right corner. Surprisingly he didn't make the county minors in recent years but he certainly played a crucial role with Thurles C.B.S. in their Harty and All Ireland success. **Johnny Ryan** completed the full forward line against Toomevara. He won an All Ireland minor medal as goalie in '06 but plays outfield for Drom, often at midfield. He's a first cousin of Pa Bourke. **David Collins**, a county minor this year, regularly comes on for Drom and as often delivers some crucial scores.

Drom-Inch this year are managed by **Pat Looby**, who is assisted by selectors, **Seamus Fahey**, **Liam McLoughlin** and **Eamon Long**, all ex-senior players for the club. Portumna's **Damien Coleman** coaches the side. Sarsfields have retained their backroom structure from last year. The team is managed by **Michael Gleeson**, assisted by selectors **Paddy McCormack** and **Johnny Burke**.





Final Day MISCELLANY

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

WHEN Thurles Sarsfields beat Drom Inch in the 2005 County final, they clinched the double, having previously beaten the green and white in the replayed Mid decider. Sarsfields showed consistency in all three meetings, scoring exactly 1-17 every time.

LAST YEAR the clubs also met in the Mid Final and Drom Inch won by 2-19 to 0-21. Their joy was short lived however, as Sarsfields avenged that loss in the Co. quarter-final on a 3-15 to 2-9 scoreline.

WHILE Sarsfields have won the Co. Title on 29 occasions, they have also lost some finals. So, if people have some sympathy for Drom's two losses in recent years (2005 and 2007), they must remember that Sarsfields have lost five finals in the present decade.

DROM INCH have lost two County Finals in their history and on both occasions to Mid opposition. They have also failed to score a goal on the big day, although Seamus Butler's performance in scoring eleven points, seven from frees, in the 2005 decider against Sarsfields, earned him the Man of the Match award. Sarsfields have yet to win this Award, but four years ago they only had eyes for the Dan Breen Cup.



JOHNNY ENRIGHT was Sarsfields' top scorer in the 2005 final with 0-6, but the decisive score was Wayne Cully's goal, which came from a line ball after only nine minutes. Sarsfields led by 1-9 to 0-9 at half time in that decider, played on October 16th, in front of an attendance of 12,710 and refereed by Wexford native Brian White.



WHEN Sarsfields won the 2005 title, their first in thirty one years, the captain was Ger 'Redser' O'Grady. The Drom Inch captain on that occasion was their goalkeeper Damian Young. The current captains, John Enright and James Woodlock, have given tremendous service to their clubs and are deserving of the honour of leading their teams, in the GAA 125 Co. Final.

DROM INCH won their first Mid title, in 1974, beating Thurles Sarsfields in the decider by 3-9 to 3-6 at Semple Stadium on September 8th. Five weeks later Sarsfields, captained by Jimmy Doyle, won the Co. Title at the same venue, beating Silvermines by 3-6 to 1-10.

THE respective titles haul at Senior level shows Sarsfields with 40 Mid and 29 Co. Titles. Drom Inch have been Mid Champions on five occasions and they hope that today will be third time lucky for a first County title. The clubs have shared the last five Mid titles, Drom won in 2006, 2008 and 2009.

BOTH finalists have played Upperchurch Drombane in their 2009 campaigns. Sarsfields beat them in the Group stages of the Mid Championship, lost in the semi final of that competition and then proved superior by 2-17 to 0-10 in the Co semi final two weeks ago. Drom Inch beat the black and amber in the Mid final at Holycross on a very wet day last August by 2-11 to 0-14.

TWENTY ONE of the last fifty County finals have been decided by a goal or less. Seven of these games were won and lost by one point: 1962 Moycarkey Borris lost to Thurles Sarsfields, 1976 Roscrea lost to Moneygall, 1978 Roscrea lost to Kilruane MacDonaghs, 1980



Kilruane Mac Donaghs lost to Roscrea, 1987 Loughmore Castleiney lost to Cappawhite, 1993 Nenagh, Eire Óg lost to Toomevara and 1996 Toomevara lost to Boherlahan Dualla.

THE LAST Drom Inch man to referee the County Final was Willie Clohessy, who took charge of Toomevara's 2004 victory over Golden/ Eire Óg (The Combo). Thurles Sarsfields were last represented by a referee in 1985, when the late Donal O'Gorman was the man in the middle for Kilruane MacDonaghs' win over Roscrea.

THE LAST Co. final which failed to produce a goal was the 2007 decider, which saw Loughmore Castleiney beat Drom Inch by 0-22 to 0-13.

ALL MID COUNTY finals were once a regular occurrence, but since Thurles Sarsfields beat Holycross Ballycahill in the 1964 decider, there have only been two prior to today – the 2005 and 2007 clashes. A third clash in five seasons emphasises the current strength of the game in the Division.

TOMMY BUTLER (Drom Inch) was the first All Star to be chosen from that club. He was honoured in 1978 at left corner forward. Tommy scored the RTE Goal of the Year in 1980, for a cracker at the town end of Semple Stadium, in a league game against Kilkenny on February 24th. Tipp won by 3-10 to 1-8. His brother Paudie, who was Coach to Drom Inch, when they reached their first Co. Final four years ago, is now the GAA's National Director of Hurling.



THURLES SARSFIELDS' first All Star award was won by Eddie Enright, who was honoured at mid-field on the 2001 team.

MICKEY BYRNE holds the record for County titles won with an astonishing fourteen, won between 1944 and 1965. Mickey captained the winning teams in 1955 and 1956. His son, Paul, was on the 1974 Co. final winning team.

THURLES SARSFIELDS lost the 2003 Co. final to Toomevara, despite scoring an amazing 3-16. It was a score big enough to win every County final in the previous fifty years, except for 1995, when Nenagh Eire Óg registered 2-25 in their victory over Boherlahan Dualla.

FORMER Thurles Sarsfields midfielder Michael Fogarty was a selector with the Galway Minor hurling team which won this year's All Ireland Title. Tipperary's Minor coach in 2009 was the Drom Inch goalkeeper, Damien Young.



THE Mid Division has monopolised the County finals at the end of each quarter of a century, since the foundation of the GAA. The first twenty five year span ended in 1909, when the county final was won by Thurles, who beat Racecourse Grange-mockler in the final by 10-4 to 5-2. In 1934, Moycarkey Borris celebrated the Golden Jubilee year by beating Kildangan Kilbaron 3-6 to 2-3. Twenty five years later, Thurles Sarsfields overcame Kilruane MacDonaghs by 3-12 to 2-6 and in Centenary year, Moycarkey Borris beat Lorrha on a 2-8 to 0-9 scoreline. This year, in GAA 125, a Mid win is also guaranteed.



Drom & Inch Officers. Seated (from left): Tommy Butler (Chairman), Alice Costello (Secretary), Eddie Kinane (Vice-Secretary). Standing: Pat Egan (Treasurer) and Kevin Bourke (Mid Representative).

(Photo: Bridget Delaney)



Co. Final Marksmen

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

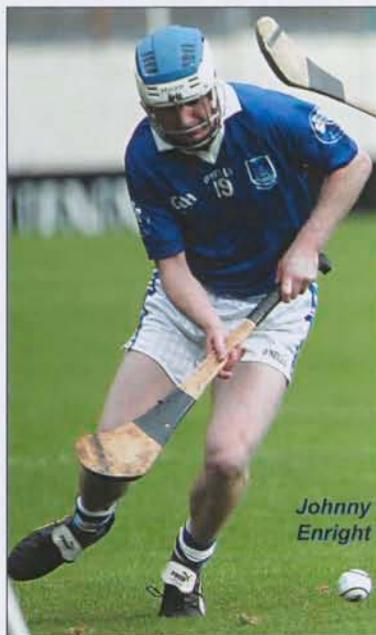
SINCE the GAA Centenary Year (1984), **THURLES SARSFIELDS** have played in seven county final, winning in 2005. Their top scorers were:

- 1992** Seamus Quinn 1-2 (Draw)
Connie Maher 1-5 (Replay)
- 2000** Johnny Enright 0-4
- 2001** Johnny Enright 1-9
- 2002** Lar Corbett and Stephen Mason 0-3 each (Draw).
Johnny Enright 0-6 (Replay).
- 2003** Lar Corbett 2-1
- 2005** Johnny Enright 0-6.
- 2008** Johnny Enright 0-13.

Only Eoin Kelly (Mullinahone) with 2-7 in the 2002 final replay, has scored as much as Johnny Enright in a Tipperary Co. final over the past thirty years. Johnny was injured for the 2002 drawn final and was only introduced as the game went into injury time.

DROM INCH have played in two county finals in the club's history and their chief marksmen were:

- 2005** Seamus Butler 0-11
- 2007** Seamus Callanan 0-5



50 Years Ago ...

1959 COUNTY HURLING FINAL

Thurles Sarsfields 3-12, Kilruane Mac Donagh 2-6

Sarsfields, going for their 'five-in-a-row' of county successes, had defeated Carrick Swans in the semi-final, while Kilruane accounted for Kickhams. The county final was played at Roscrea on August 23rd. The North lads provided stiff opposition and led by a point at half-time and were on level terms with twelve minutes to go. Now the Blues started to perform and scored 2-3 in the last eight minutes.



Back row: Ray Reidy, Micheál McElgunn, Benny Maher, Connie Keane, Very Rev. Christopher Lee, Michael Dorney, Tom Behan, Sean McLoughlin, Larry Keane, Noel Murphy, Tony Kelly, Eddie Gleeson, Michael Callanan. Front row: Tommy Butler, Patsy Dorney, Bobby Mockler, Michael Keane, Tony Wall (Capt.), Jimmy Doyle, Michael Murphy, Musha Maher, Mickey Byrne, Timmy Grace.



County Final Memories....

Pat McGrath (Loughmore Castleiney)

1988 – Loughmore Castleiney 2-7, Borris-Ileigh 1-8 (replay)

MY FIRST memory was of a video coming to the village and during a training session in Castleiney on the Sunday before the game, a new dimension at the time. Having lost the previous year's final to Cappawhite we were determined not to lose another and with Borris-Ileigh as opposition, we were aiming for revenge on the 1983 defeat. The game itself was a replay and the first final played on a Saturday. The game was nip and tuck all through. There was five minutes left and we were trailing by two points. I was sent in to corner forward by coach Jackie Walsh. A ball cleared by the Borris defence seemed to be our last chance gone, however I recall Liam Cormack collecting a pass outfield and putting it in my direction. I put up my hurley, pulled the ball down and fired hard, just passing Noelie Maher's effort to save and up went the green flag. From puck out my brother Michael added another point for a 2-07 to 1-08 victory and a first ever County senior hurling final for the club. Having brothers Tom, Michael, and Frankie on the team and my father Mick as a selector it was a special day for our household. The celebrations that followed that night and for the week including visiting the parish schools will forever live in my memory. A fantastic occasion.



Michael Cleary (Nenagh Eire Óg)

1995 – Nenagh Eire Óg 2-25, Boherlahan-Dualla 2-8

WINNING the county final with Nenagh in 1995 was one of the highlights of my career. It was Nenagh's first and only ever triumph and brought great joy to all the players, club, town and exiles all over the world. We still on occasion talk fondly of the matches leading up to the final and the years of heartbreak that the team suffered in the run up to 1995 - lost 91 quarter final replay by 1 point to Holycross Ballycahill, lost 92 semi-final replay by 2 points to Thurles Sarsfields, lost 93 county final by 1 point to Toomevara. We also reminisce about the weeks immediately after and the joy it brought to the town, very fond memories indeed. I look forward to experiencing that again soon!



Conor Gleeson (Boherlahan-Dualla)

1996 – Boherlahan-Dualla 1-16, Toomevara 2-12

WE LOST the final in 1995 so it meant a huge amount to come back and win the title in 1996. There is a very strong hurling tradition in Boherlahan but it was over 50 years since we had last won the title. It was definitely the best moment of my hurling career. It means an awful lot to win a title with the players you grew up with and knew so well. I also recall what it meant to the parish. We have a close knit community and I remember the bonfires, the excitement, old men who had seen our previous win crying with delight. When you do win, you think it will happen again but looking back now I realise how precious it is to have won one.





Our Games – the future?

An Opinion!

Is there a more dedicated amateur sports enthusiast to be found anywhere in the world who would surpass the efforts made by your average GAA player or club member on a constant basis throughout their lives. Individually there probably is but I am confident that as a group the GAA have a greater number of these people than any other amateur sporting organization. The development and growth over the last 125 years is probably proof enough of this point. We have proof that we have had the people and the structures in place to survive and prosper, but is this still the position?

Our priority is and always should be the playing of our games, and more importantly making the playing of our games accessible to as many people as possible. In seeing this as our main priority one would think that every person available to play our games would be given the opportunity to play. We have the people and the infrastructure to provide this opportunity, yet there are large numbers of young people who never played, or having played at a young age does not continue playing. There must be a reason for this and I believe that we are all aware of this reason. It is commonly referred to as "FIXTURES". Before I go any further I must declare that I was deeply involved in and for a period was even in a position of control of "THE FIXTURES" in this county for couple of years. It is also my belief that the people involved in the past and at present are doing the best they can within the existing structures. When we think of change, we think within existing structures and that is the root of our problem.

We have not, and will not provide the opportunity for people to play regularly at the highest standard of which they are capable of playing within our existing structures. It is possible to get general agreement on this point, but to get agreement on a solution, therein lays the challenge.

For years we have moved around existing structures which has resulted in temporary relief of the problem, but in the long term our actions

are similar to the act of moving ones deck chair on the Titanic, the ship will still sink.

It is now time to start a debate that may shake our existing beliefs in how best to organize ourselves on a local basis to ensure that we provide an opportunity for regular and competitive games for all who wish to play. In order to do this we must examine our club structure and the operation of the parish rule in the county. The thought of interfering with this structure will send shock waves throughout the county. But it is necessary to be opening minded so as to ensure that we are still here as strong as ever in 125 years time. What would I suggest?

Firstly, we do not have the number of players required at the various age levels we run competitions for within the existing club and parish structures to provide regular games for all these players.

The cross over from one age group to another makes it impossible for any age group to have as many games as we require. LET US LOOK AT THE SOLUTION.

If we take any three neighbouring parishes in the county you will find that they field teams individually in the A B or C grade at underage, and they field in either senior, intermediate or junior at adult level. We will have within these groups players playing in C competitions at underage who are capable of playing in the A competition and vice versa. At adult level you will find players, playing Junior or intermediate who could play senior. So within the neighbouring three parishes we have players who are confined to play at a level which does not match their ability based on nothing other than the geography of where they were born.

We all believe it is essential to keep the existing club structure in place and that our parish rule and loyalty to our parish has been a central tenet or our organisation in Tipperary since the GAA was founded. But in order to attract and keep players into the future and provide a regular games programme the following may be necessary.



If we divided the county into groups containing not more than three existing neighbouring parishes in each group we would end up with approximately 25 to 30 groups. From within these groups teams would field in all grades at underage and adult level i.e., A, B, C in u12, u14, u16, u18, u21 and Junior, Intermediate and Senior.

Each team would be made up from players within the three parishes involved and players could only play at one grade in both hurling and football. This is already the position at adult level but would now be possible at underage also because with teams being drawn from three parishes the numbers would be available to field teams without having to draw on players from outside their age range. Each parish would field at A, B or C but use players from the three parishes within their group. The existing club name and facilities would be used to train, prepare and field a team at one grade in each underage level and at either junior, intermediate or senior at adult level. The parish with the most players on the panel to look after a particular team for example.

Three Clubs:

Club Name	Crokes	Semple	Slievenamon	New Team
No of players				
U12 C	10	9	5	CROKES
U12 B	5	10	9	SEMPLÉ
U12A	9	5	10	SLIEVENAMON

This would result in us maintaining our existing clubs and facilities but give our players the opportunity to play at the highest standard they are capable of, and also allow us to provide a fixtures programme with at least fifteen games in football and hurling for each age and grade.

Surely this would be progress!

Or maybe it just an unhelpful opinion?

We need to do something radical to protect and enhance the playing of our games to attract and keep our players for the future. DONT BE THE HURLER ON THE DITCH.

Send your views and opinions to semple59@gmail.com.

75 Years Ago ...

MOYCARKEY-BORRIS – County Senior Hurling Champions 1934

Moycarkey-Borris captured their third County title in a row on October 7th 1934 when they defeated North champions Kildangan/Kilbarron by six points. Team captain Phil Purcell and Paddy "Sweeper" Ryan were the backbone of the winning team according to the *Tipperary Star* report of the game. The County Board produced distinctive medals for the Jubilee occasion which were given to the victorious Moycarkey-Borris panel. 1934 ended a glorious era for the club where only one Championship match had been lost in the previous five years.





County Final Memories....

Pat O'Donoghue (Cashel King Cormacs)

1991 – Cashel King Cormacs 2-8, Holycross-Ballycahill 1-5

HAVING being defeated in 1990 by Holycross, our meeting with Holycross in the '91 County final was all the more intense. With memories of our defeat the previous year still raw, and having being paraded as beaten finalists around our town, our determination to put this right was undaunted. We coasted through the West division and found ourselves in a County final against Holycross once again, this was the final we wanted. The build up to the final was manic, Cashel town was in a frenzy, our preparation was calm and measured, we were not going to let this one slip. With six minutes to go we were seven points ahead and coasting, playing some of our best hurling ever, our first ever County championship was on its way, the excitement was palpable. For myself the final whistle was the culmination of years of hard graft, bitter defeats and great victories, but above all the fact that this team were the first ever King Cormacs men to bring Dan Breen to the Rock a truly great day.



Brian O'Meara (Mullinahone)

2002 – Mullinahone 2-10, Thurles Sarsfields 1-11 (replay)

2002 was the pinnacle of a journey that started with a County Junior Final win thirteen years earlier. After a lot of ups and downs, Mullinahone were County Senior Hurling Champions. It was a victory that touched every family in our Parish. The feeling of achievement that day was incredible. This team had created hurling history in what was traditionally a football club. I'll never forget the tears in my mother's eyes after the game. My father, who passed away in April of that year, would never have believed that we actually made it. Then again, maybe we needed that little bit of divine inspiration to get us across the line.



Brendan Carroll (Thurles Sarsfields)

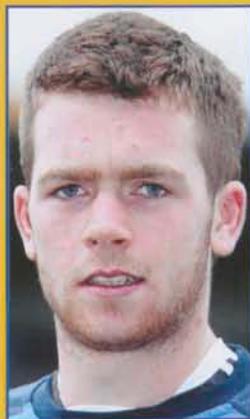
2005 – Thurles Sarsfields 1-17, Drom & Inch 0-15

THE 2005 victory was the culmination of years of effort and years of disappointment. Going into my eighth final (two replays), having failed to win one over the years, I felt confident. 2005 always felt different – there was a real sense of togetherness, ruthlessness and confidence in everyone's ability that we would do it. I can remember very little of the game itself except for a masterful display by our captain 'Redser'. Winning, personally buried all the past disappointments suffered at both club and inter-county over the years. It gave me a massive sense of pride in the team, the management, my club, family and friends and the players and management I played with who never won. It also answered the many critics who said we lacked bottle, leadership and the real will to win. That was really satisfying. Winning a county final is the difference between something I would have always remembered and something I will now never forget.





Congratulations to **Tipperary's Vodafone All-Stars 2009**

**PADRAIC MAHER**

No. 3 Full Back
Thurles Sarsfields
(first award)

**CONOR O'MAHONY**

No. 7 Left Half Back
Newport
(second award)

**LAR CORBETT**

No. 10 Right Half Forward
Thurles Sarsfields
(first award)

**NOEL McGRATH**

No. 13 Right Full Forward
Loughmore Castleiney
(first award)

County Final Memories....

Martin McDermott (Cappawhite)

1987 - Cappawhite 1-17, Loughmore-Castleiney 2-13

TRAVELLING to Thurles on that morning, I couldn't believe the amount of banners, flaggings and posters up on the main street and beyond wishing us well. My son Shane was mascot on the day and I was pre-occupied with him before hand. Like previous matches, we had fallen behind, with the Loughmore forwards posing problems for our defence. But slowly we brought ourselves back into contention. We never led in the match until manufacturing the winning point in the final minutes. As the final whistle sounded, I knew we as a Club had achieved something unique, something extra special. We had put in a mammoth effort all year and it paid off. As the sea of White and Blue invaded the pitch, Thurles suddenly became engulfed with well-wishers, die-hard hurling enthusiasts just overwhelmed at what had happened before their eyes. I remember being greeted by Mick Caplis of Sean Treacy's. Our Clubs had some ferocious battles on the field down the years but it seemed the whole of West Tipp were shouting for us that day. Those unforgettable moments will be etched in my mind for ever more. That night, the square was full; bonfires were ablaze on both ends of the parish, people came from everywhere just to see the homecoming - which was a monumental occasion. That day was a defining moment for such a small parish. Since then I have met many that rekindle extracts of that dry autumn afternoon with a fondness that never fades with the passing of time.





Drom & Inch

PATHS TO THE FINAL



MATCHES IN 2009:

Drom & Inch	1-11
Loughmore-Castleiney	1-11
Drom & Inch	3-15
Moycarkey-Borris	0-7
Drom & Inch	2-14
Holycross-Ballycahill	0-12
Drom & Inch	2-15
Loughmore-Castleiney	1-10
Drom & Inch	2-11
Upperchurch-Drombane	0-14
Drom & Inch	2-15
Borris-Ileigh	0-19
Drom & Inch	0-19
Toomevara	1-12

Drom & Inch top scorers 2009

Seamus Callanan	5-41
Johnny Ryan.....	0-19
Seamus Butler.....	3-10
John Kennedy.....	0-09
David Collins.....	2-03
David Butler.....	1-05
James Ryan.....	0-08
Michael Long	1-00
James Woodlock	0-04
Kevin Butler	0-01
Total Scored.....	12.100
Total Conceded.....	3.85



←
Drom & Inch backroom team:
Helen Ryan (Masseur) and
Ena de Búrca (First Aid).

www.drominch.com



DROM & INCH Management (l.-r.): Pat Looby, Seamus Fahey, Liam McLoughlin, Eamon Long and Damien Coleman (Coach).
(Photo: Bridget Delaney)



Drom & Inch panel that defeated reigning champions Toomevara in the County Senior Hurling Championship semi-final.

(Photo: Bridget Delaney)

Drom & Inch Substitutes



Ciarán Hassett



Eamonn Buckley



David Collins



Matthew Ryan



Declan Ryan



Liam Ryan



James Ryan



Paddy Kennedy



John Lillis



Shane Delaney



Paul Collins



Philip Looby



Enda Walsh



Michael Everard



Tom Cantwell



Padraig Butler



Matthew McGrath



Paul Connors



Brian Costello



Kevin Butler



Paul Ryan



Drom & Inch

Dathanna: Glas agus Bán



FIR IONAIÐ

- (16) C. Ó hAisi
Ciarán Hassett
- (17) E. Ó Buachalla
Eamonn Buckley
- (18) D. Ó Coileáin
David Collins
- (19) M. Ó Riain
Matthew Ryan
- (20) D. Ó Riain
Declan Ryan
- (21) L. Ó Riain
Liam Ryan
- (22) S. Ó Riain
James Ryan
- (23) P. Ó Cinnéide
Paddy Kennedy
- (24) S. Laighléis
John Lillis
- (25) S. Ó Dúláinne
Shane Delaney
- (26) P. Ó Coileáin
Paul Collins
- (27) P. Ó Lubaigh
Philip Looby
- (28) E. Breathnach
Enda Walsh
- (29) M. Eibhearad
Michael Everard
- (30) T. Cantual
Tom Cantwell
- (31) P. de Buitléir
Padraig Butler
- (32) M. Mac Craith
Matthew McGrath
- (33) P. Ó Conchúir
Paul Connors
- (34) B. Mac Coisteala
Brian Costello
- (35) C. de Buitléir
Kevin Butler
- (36) P. Ó Riain
Paul Ryan



(1) D. de Siún
Damien Young



(2) M. de Buitléir
Martin Butler



(3) E. Mac Coisteala
Edward Costello



(4) M. Mac Coisteala
Michael Costello



(5) D. Ó Cinnéide
Donnacha Kennedy



(6) P. Mac an Ghail
Paul Stapleton



(7) M. de Buitléir
Micheál Butler



(8) S. Uadlóg (Capt.)
James Woodlock



(9) S. de Buitléir
Seamus Butler



(10) E. Uadlóg
Eric Woodlock



(11) S. Ó Callanáin
Seamus Callanan



(12) S. Ó Cinnéide
John Kennedy



(13) D. de Buitléir
David Butler



(14) M. Ó Longáin
Michael Long



(15) S. Ó Riain
Johnny Ryan

MANAGEMENT TEAM: Pat Looby, Seamus Fahey, Liam McLoughlin, Eamon Long.
Coach: Damien Coleman. First Aid: Eno de Búrca. Masseur: Helen Ryan.

DROM & INCH	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	65m	Saor Pocanna
1adh leath					
2adh leath					
IOMLAN					



Thurles Sarsfields

Dathanna: Gorm agus Bán



(1) P. Mac Cormac
Patrick McCormack



(2) M. Ó Cathaill
Michael Cahill



(3) P. Ó Meachair
Padraic Maher



(4) C. Ó Gormáin
Kevin O'Gorman



(5) B. Ó Dubhair
Barry O'Dwyer



(6) L. Ó Cathaill
Liam Cahill



(7) S. Ó Laighléis
Stephen Lillis



(8) A. Ó Cinnéide
Alan Kennedy



(9) M. Ó Glasáin
Michael Gleeson



(10) P. de Búrca
Pa Bourke



(11) S. Ó Riain
Shane Ryan



(12) D. Ó Meachair
Denis Maher



(13) R. Rút
Richie Ruth



(14) L. Ó Corbáid
Lar Corbett



(15) S. Mac Ionrtractaigh (Capt.)
Johnny Enright

FIR IONAID

(16) L. Mac Cormaic
Bill McCormack

(17) S. Ó Leathlobhair
John Lawlor

(18) M. Ó Coileáin
Michael Collins

(19) G. Ó Gradaigh
Ger O'Grady

(20) D. Ó Cinnéide
David Kennedy

(21) D. Ó Dubhair
David O'Dwyer

(22) C. Ó Ruairc
Colm Rourke

(23) S. Ó Meachair
John Maher

(24) P. Ó Laocha
Patrick Leahy

(25) E. Ó Ruiséil
Eoin Russell

(26) T. Ó Coileáin
Tommy Collins

(27) S. Ó Masón
Stephen Mason

(28) W. Mac Colla
Wayne Cully

(29) S. Ó Corbáid
Jim Corbett

(30) A. Rút
Tony Ruth

(31) G. Ó Meirtneach
Garry Mernagh

(32) S. Ó Conchúir
John Connors

MANAGER: Michael Gleeson. **SELECTORS:** Paddy McCormack, Johnny Burke. **DOCTORS:** Dr. Paul Ryan.

PHYSIOS: Mick Clohessy, Roddy McConnell. **EQUIPMENT MANAGER:** John Moroney.

THURLES SARSFIELDS	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	65m	Saor Pocanna
1adh leath					
2adh leath					
IOMLAN					



Thurles Sarsfields team prior to their county semi-final victory over Upperchurch-Drombane in the County Senior Hurling Championship.

(Photo: John O'Loughlin)

Thurles Sarsfields



Substitutes



Bill McCormack



John Lawlor



Michael Collins



Ger O'Grady



David Kennedy



David O'Dwyer



Colm Rourke



John Maher



Patrick Leahy



Eoin Russell



Tommy Collins



Stephen Mason



Wayne Cully



Jim Corbett



Tony Ruth



Garry Mernagh



John Connors



Thurles Sarsfields

PATHS TO THE FINAL


Sunday 26/04/09
Mid Tipp Senior Hurling Championship:

 Thurles Sarsfields 2-12
 Boherlahan/Dualla 1-10

Saturday 16/05/09
Mid Tipp Senior Hurling Championship:

 Thurles Sarsfields 1-18
 Upperchurch/Drombane 0-16

Sunday 07/06/09
Mid Tipp Senior Hurling Championship:

 Thurles Sarsfields 2-13
 J.K Brackens 0-17

Sunday 19/07/09
Mid Tipp Senior Hurling Semi-Final:

 Thurles Sarsfields 1-14
 Upperchurch/Drombane 1-16

Sunday 13/09/09
County Senior Hurling Championship 1st Round:

 Thurles Sarsfields 0-18
 Knockavilla/Kickhams 1-08

Sunday 20/09/09
County Senior Hurling Championship 2nd Round:

 Thurles Sarsfields 3-15
 Kilruane/McDonaghs 2-09

Saturday 26/09/09
County Senior Hurling Championship Quarter-Final:

 Thurles Sarsfields 1-17
 Eire Óg Nenagh 0-17

Sunday 04/10/09
County Senior Hurling Championship Semi-Final:

 Thurles Sarsfields 2-17
 Upperchurch/Drombane 0-12

 Declan Ryan
 (Chief Supporter)

➔

**THURLES SARSFIELDS
 Management (l.-r.):**

 Johnny Bourke, Michael Gleeson
 (Manager) and Paddy McCormack.

Photos: Bridget Delaney

**Overall Scorers in
 Championship 2009**

Pa Bourke	(2-64)
Richie Ruth	(2-12)
Larry Corbett	(3-09)
Pat Lawlor	(3-05)
Denis Maher	(1-06)
Johnny Enright	(0-10)
Michael Gleeson	(0-08)
Alan Kennedy	(0-04)
Stephen Lillis	(0-04)
Shane Ryan	(0-02)
David Kennedy	(0-02)
David O'Dwyer	(0-02)
Liam Cahill	(0-01)
Ger O'Grady	(0-01)
Barry O'Dwyer	(0-01)

**Total scored in
 8 Chamionship
 Matches** (11-131)
Total conceded (5-105)


www.thurles-sarsfields.com


←

 Thurles
 Sarsfields
 backroom team:
 Paul Ryan (team
 doctor), John
 Moroney
 (equipment
 manager) and
 Mick Clohosey
 (physio).



Richie

By: JACKIE CAHILL

RUTH

FORWARD star Richie Ruth has admitted that was a long road for Thurles Sarsfields following the Mid semi-final defeat against Upperchurch-Drombane on July 19.

Few would have predicted that Sars would bounce back to reach this afternoon's county final after losing in Holycross that day but Thurles have built up a nice head of steam in recent outings to revive their season.

Some harsh words were spoken after the Upperchurch defeat but the wheel turned full circle in the county semi-final when Sars comfortably defeated the same opposition to book their place in a third final in five seasons.

Bawntameena native Ruth reflected: "That day in Holycross against Upperchurch took a lot out of us. It was a long road back. We had a chat after that match and said we'd keep the heads down for a couple of months and hopefully it would pay off. So far it has but we know that the job isn't done yet."

Ruth played his part in the semi-final win with a haul of 2-2 from corner forward but is disappointed that brother Tony won't be involved today.

He smiled: "Both of my parents, Vincent and Antoinette, are from Donegal so I don't have much of a hurling background! "Tony's involved as well but unfortunately he broke his finger at the start of the summer and that put him out for six weeks.

"Recently, he broke his leg so he won't be playing any part. "It's always something extra special when you have a brother on the panel to go training with, getting the gear ready and all that.

"As well as Tony being on the panel, my neighbour is wing-back Barry O'Dwyer. There's always something extra special when you get this far in the championship with your club and lads you grew up with. It's a nice feeling so hopefully we can finish the job."

GOAL - Richie Ruth puts the ball in the net for Thurles Sarsfields despite the best efforts of Upperchurch goalie Gerry Quinn in the County SHC Semi-Final.

(Picture: Bridget Delaney)





Ruth, who won a county senior medal in 2005 aged 19, has plenty of experience of intercounty hurling too.

He explained: "I've been in a lot of big days but a lot of them have gone against me.

"I know the joys of winning and hardship of defeat. Even at 23, I have a small bit of experience and hopefully that will stand to me on another big day.

"I was minor with Tipperary in 2003, when we were beaten in the All-Ireland semi-final against Galway.

"That game will always stick with me, three points up with a few minutes to go and we got beaten by three. Galway got six unanswered points.

"It just proves that the game is never up. That's the way you have to approach every game, especially against Drom with the

rivalry there and the crowd they will have behind them. "They have great support so if they get any way on top, they're never say die."

Ruth won Munster U21 medals with Tipperary in 2004 and 2006 but lost subsequent All-Ireland finals in both seasons.

He said: "I was unfortunately involved in 2004 at Nowlan Park. I was on the panel for the second year but I had a number of injuries and wasn't involved as much. In

my final year, I was corner forward all year long. We had a replay at Semple Stadium and that was another tough defeat to take."

Off the field, Ruth is teaching in Kilkenny city at the famed St Kieran's college, where Kilkenny senior hurler Michael Rice is one of his colleagues.

Ruth passed through Thurles CBS, where he naturally played in the Harty Cup, before lining out for University Limerick in the Fitzgibbon Cup.

Another big day awaits Ruth and Thurles Sarsfields this afternoon but there's a cool head on young shoulders and that will stand him in good stead when the heat rises.

He insisted: "You can never give a favourites tag with Drom and Sars. There will always only be a few points in it at the end of the day. It's going to be a massive task and they're the only team in the entire championship unbeaten. They're putting in the performances week in, week out so we have to match them for everything."

There's always something extra special when you get this far in the championship with your club and lads you grew up with





James

By: JACKIE CAHILL

WOODLOCK

NOTHING will ever erase the heartbreak of Tipperary's All-Ireland final defeat last month for James Woodlock but a county senior championship win with his beloved Drom & Inch this afternoon would certainly ease the pain.

Woodlock was left devastated by the manner of Tipp's defeat at Croke Park and to make matters worse, the dynamic midfielder is based in Kilkenny City and at the mercy of unforgiving Cats supporters.

Leading up to the final, Garda Woodlock proudly flew two blue and gold flags from his car in the Marble city but admits that he's been slow to recover from the events of September 6.

"It will be there again next year," said the straight-talking 23-year-old.

"The Munster final this year, to be honest, didn't mean as much because we had won it last year.

"I said it all year, we had to get to an All-Ireland final for Tipp to be improving. We did that and we were very close on the day. We absolutely gave it everything. We didn't get the rub of the green."

Woodlock is honest enough to admit that not even reaching today's showpiece club decider against Thurles Sarsfields compensates for the Kilkenny loss but as team captain, he recognises the significance of this game for his club.

Woodlock amassed a stack of medals at underage level with Drom & Inch but in his own words, he's become "sick of losing" big games in recent years.

He reflected: "I've lost two senior county finals, two county U21 A finals, an All-Ireland senior final, an All-Ireland U21 final, Mid finals, two minor A county finals. I've lost enough. I'm sick of losing and there's no place for losers medals anywhere. It would be huge for us and being captain, bringing back the Dan Breen Cup for the first time would be absolutely huge."

Woodlock was thankful for a three-week break after the All-Ireland final and since then, Mid champions Drom & Inch secured notable victories against Borrisoleigh and last year's county champions Toomevara to reach the county final.

"The three-week break was grand for myself, Séamie (Callanan) and Eamonn (Buckley) but for the other boys, it





doesn't do you any good when you have a long lay off," Woodlock said.

"We came back against Borrisoleigh very sluggish. Borris could have pipped us, we scraped through by two points but the game brought us on for the semi-final.

"We played well against Toome', we had to. But they were county champions and it was easy enough to get up for them. "We came in off the back of a mediocre performance against Borris and we came in against Toome and gave it everything. "Lucky enough we came out with the victory. We played ok but we have to improve again to win a county final."

Woodlock was a member of the Drom & Inch teams that contested, and lost, county senior finals in 2005 and 2007.

Bubbling beneath the surface lies a fierce desire to finally capture the coveted Dan Breen Cup but Woodlock has huge respect for Sars, who won the 2005 county final.

It would be huge for us and being captain, bringing back the Dan Breen Cup for the first time would be absolutely fantastic.

He noted: "There's a great rivalry there. They pipped us twice in 2005, in the Mid and county finals. They knocked us out again last year in the county quarter-final so they're our one bogey team. We beat them in the Mid final last year alright. It brings the best out of us when we play Sars but they'll be favourites and deservedly so."

Unfortunately, Tipperary defender Eamonn Buckley will play no part for Drom & Inch in today's game through injury.

And Woodlock revealed: "I've never seen a man so devastated in all my life. We played a challenge match, he got a belt and that's the way it goes, he's gone. He's been our trump card at centre back all year. We brought him out of full back to see would it work and it was working superbly. He's a grafter and a club man. It's such a disappointment that we don't have him on the big day."





Hurling that time was a case of **FRIENDSHIP**

By: P. J. MAXWELL

HURLING is Jimmy "Butler" Coffey's life and has been always that way since he first saw the light of day near the Chapel in "Dear old Newport Town" on 26th October 1909. On that very same illustrious day Francis Bacon the famous British painter was born and also that day Japan lost its no.1 Statesman Prince Hironumi Ito who was known as the "Bismarck of Japan" was assassinated.

Jimmy had four brothers and four sisters and acquired the 3R's in the local National school in Newport. It was here that Jimmy would develop a love for his schoolmates and pride in his own place. The Coffey house was a "cuardaiocht" house and Jimmy remembers the local characters coming in to spend many an entertaining hour under their roof, telling yarns, regaling stories of local "giants" of men and courageous deeds that they performed.

One of the nocturnal visitors was a man with a long white beard by the name of Phil Butler, who was an agent for Cullen and the poor guy used to talk through his nose. Now Jimmy was seven and Jack his brother was five but a dangerous "cliffler" and he was running after Jimmy with nothing in his head only devilment, when he swung an elbow and met Jimmy bang on the nose. Well Jimmy, feeling sorry for himself, went to his Mother for soothing and when she asked him what happened, Jimmy replied in an schnoozer voice, which prompted his Mam to say, "You sound the same as Butler". And there it is – "Butler" was his pet name for life.

Jimmy remembers the "goings on" of the Rising, the dread of the First World War, the War of Independence and the Civil War in a way that only a youngster could. Jimmy remembers Canon Michael K. Ryan being County Board Chairman, a Newport born man. During the War of Independence the hurling fields were empty and deserted and the Civil War, which wreaked havoc with the G.A.A. championships, ended in May 1923. During this period young lads were hurling canisters and stones up and down the streets of Newport and Jimmy's lovely Mother was fondly remembered by all as the Woman who dressed all the wounds, cuts and bruises before the boys went to their homes.

The first big match that Jimmy and his friends went to see was a local derby hurling match between Newport and Ahane which was held in Tom Bourke's field and was to whet their appetite for things to come. Jimmy remembers clearly his first sojourn to Thule's Sportsfield with his father in 1926 when on the 25th of July after three games Cork slipped it across us on the scoreline 3-6 to 2-4.

That day Jimmy laid eyes on legends that were the Leahy's of Tubberadora, giants that were Stephen Hackett of Toomevara, Major Col-lison of Moneygall, the colossus' that were the Darcys of Nenagh Mick and Jack, the fastest and most skilful of his time, according to "Carberry" who held the mike for the first broadcast of a gaelic game, and the all-round best full forward that ever pulled on a jersey, Martin Kennedy of Toom. That fire that was lit that day in Thurles by his father has yet to be unquenched.

Jimmy's career started with Tipperary as a Minor in 1928 when he lined-out in the Blue and Gold at Carrick-on-Suir but were beaten by Waterford 8-2 to 4-2. In 1929 Jimmy lined out on the Tipp. minor team alongside his brother Jack and Mick Lee of Newport. They beat Cork 2-1 to 0-2 in Mitchelstown and Clare by 3-3 to 2-0 in Limerick, but on the 3rd No.v came a cropper to Waterford 7-5 to 1-2.

Jimmy, Jack and Jim Close of Newport were to make amends in 1930 by landing the Minor title against Kilkenny which was to prove an historic year for the Premier County, as we achieved the treble of senior, junior and minor All-Ireland titles that year.

Jimmy first lined out for the Tipp seniors in 1932 and his career was cut short prematurely in 1940 when he suffered a bad injury to his foot. At that time there was no insurance or loss of earnings compensation, so he had to forego the hurling and mind his job as it was war time and good jobs were as scarce as hen's teeth. In those eight years, Jimmy won one Munster and one All-Ireland with Tipp. and one Railway Cup with Munster.

Jimmy was employed by O'Byrnes Mineral Water Company in Limerick and he travelled all East Clare, North Tipperary and Limerick county.



GENERATION GAP - Jimmy 'Butler' Coffey (who will soon celebrate his 100th birthday) is the oldest Tipperary man who won an All-Ireland senior hurling medal – achieved in 1937 against Kilkenny at Killarney. Jimmy won a North SHC medal with Newport in 1935 and met up with his great grandnephew Pearse Morris who played on the Nenagh Eire Óg team that won this year's title, thus bridging a 74 year gap. In the foreground is the Frank McGrath Cup, which is the North SHC Cup.

(Photo: Bridget Delaney)

He was taking orders, collecting money and making the deliveries also. Jimmy's own unique warm and gentle personality endeared him to all his customers and it was a "little" help to him that he could talk hurling. Sure they all wanted to buy from and keep him coming back. He was known the length and breadth of the country as his prowess and skills as an exceptionally talented, clean, hard but fair hurler preceded him everywhere he went. Not to mention all the hurling men in the parishes were "plucking" for him as well.

Jimmy played club hurling in the 40's with Young Irelands, Cappamore and Ahane of Limerick as he had married and settled down in the lovely village of Cappamore and started a family there. Jimmy trained Cappamore to county titles when his own hurling career ended and indeed was a valued selector on the Limerick team that won the 1955 Munster Title.

Jimmy fondly recalls clearly cycling to matches in Birr, Roscrea, Borrisokane, and Thurles. He cycled from Newport through Rearcross, Upperchurch, Ballycahill and on to the Thurles Sportsfield and from Cappamore he cycled through Doon, Cappawhite, Dundrum, Clonoulty, Holycross and to the Field that way. Always cycling with his friends and neighbours, picking up avid hurling followers on the way, stopping for tea and sandwiches and chatting about "what went wrong" or "what do we have to do to beat them" or to enquire "any news from the boys".

Nowadays I visit Jimmy regularly in his new abode in Newport where he is always receptive to visitors, particularly those who want to talk hurling. Jimmy is extremely clear and very accurate with his information. His power of recall is truly amazing and he can at will give you line-outs, scores, incident that happened during games. I suppose what impresses me most about this human library is his indepth knowledge on all G.A.A. matters from current happenings in 2009 back to 1919. Jimmy is extremely generous with people who come to interview him, chat with him or just want to find out info. for their research.

Above all, what I admire about my special friend Jimmy "Butler" Coffey is his humility, his kindness, his generosity, his thoughtfulness, his respect for others and the spiritual connection he shares with those who are like minded in the love, and pride of our National Game.

I have never heard Jimmy criticise opponents, fellow teammates, referees, officials, and he would never compare the great men of today with the great men of yesteryear.

Jimmy celebrates 100 years on 26/10/2009 and his great friend and hurling soulmate Martin White of Kilkenny celebrated his 100th birthday recently, met on opposing sides in the 1937 All-Ireland played in Killarney and their friendship and mutual respect for each other coupled with their passion and pride in the games has stood the test of time.



Tipperary Supporters' Club Junior Membership



This interview with **BRENDAN CUMMINS** was won as a prize by **DENIS O'CONNELL**, who is a Junior Member. You can join as **FREE Junior Member** on www.tippsupportersclub.com.

*Denis is 13, plays with the Templederry Club and is in Nenagh CBS.
He is related to Willie Ryan and Pa Bourke.*

1. Do you still wear your Manchester United jersey under your Tipperary one?

(Question from: John Coffey, Moycarkey.)

Yes, I'm wearing it since 1993 for all games, club and county, even in challenge matches. It's like a comfort blanket for me!

2. (a) Of the different designs of goalie jerseys down the years which do you least prefer?

(Question from: Joey Kelly and Karl Kelly (twins), Ballinahinch Club.)

It was the gold one from 2005 or thereabouts. Tim Floyd asked me for my opinion beforehand and even though it looked ok then, when it came to match time I didn't like it at all!

(b) How much training do you do on your own? Do you do any training in a ball alleyhurling wall?

I use the ball alley in Ardfinnan which has four walls and is all closed in and I would be in there for 15 minute sessions in the lead up to Championship matches. I also use the wall ball in the club.

3. What do you think about the new rule the GAA have introduced that all players must wear helmets?

(Question from: Cairtriona O'Connor, Brooklands Drive, Nenagh.)

I will have to get used to it. It is a good rule and should have come in years ago especially as I would always encourage young players to wear a helmet. This year against Cork the penalty was struck and hit me in the wrist but it could have done more damage if it hit me on the head. The ball is travelling faster in modern hurling.

4. You are my hurling hero, who would you say is yours?

(Question from: James Finn, Garrykennedy, Portroe.)

Nicky English is my main man. I was lucky to have played with Nicky and he was our manager when we won the All-Ireland in 2001



Denis O'Connell and Brendan Cummins

5. How do you hit the sliothar so far?

(Question from: Tom Maher, Castleknock Hurling and Football Club, Dublin.)

Technique makes a difference. When I was young we had a small yard and I would use a heavy broken football so that it would not go out over the fence but it was great training for distance. Also, when I prepare for the Poc Fada I use a sliothar soaked in a bucket of water overnight and it strengthens up your shoulders naturally without having to use weights.

6. What made you try out for the Tipperary team?

(Question from: Aoife Brennan, Maudemount Cross, Dundrum.)

When I was 14, I was asked to go to a trial and I got on that team and stayed there up along the age groups. I always wanted to be in goals, diving around like Peter Schmeichel from Manchester United!

7. (a) Would you like to become the Tipp Captain next year? I think you would make a good Captain!

(Question from: Denis O'Connell, Glenduff, Curreeny (Templederry Club).)

Like everyone else, I would love to captain my county but when you play for Tipperary every player must take on the responsibility and play like a captain every time.

(b) How many hurleys do you keep in your gear bag?



I use 3 hurleys for puck outs, with different weights for different distances. I used the same hurley for 9 years for puck outs until that broke. Then the one I used for saves broke against Cork this year. It was nearly a panic for me to get used to a new one in time for the Clare game!

(c) Have you a favourite sliothar?

Yes, anyone one other than the one used in 2003 which was like a ping-pong ball! When Cork started using the Cummins ball first, I had not practiced with it but once I bought a few of them and brought them to the ball alley there was no problem. Overall though the O'Neills one is the one I like best.

(d) Who makes your hurleys?

Jim O'Brien in Drangan is the man.

(e) Do you still play football?

Unfortunately, I have not played football for 3 years. I decided that I would go all out for hurling when I got my second chance, in case I got injured playing football. I enjoyed playing football but playing with Tipperary is special to me and I cannot take the risk.

(f) What did you really say to the Referee when you asked him about that penalty in the All-Ireland Final?

I could not believe that a penalty had been awarded as I can see the 14 metre line from the goals. The referee told Paul Curran that the free was for hand around the neck. I then asked the referee to look at the big screen because it was so important. After that I had to go back and prepare to try to save the free. It is important to be fully concentrated on preparing everyone for the save rather than be distracted with anything else, which could effect your heart rate and reflexes.

(g) Would you like your son to go on to be a goalkeeper or to be outfield when he gets older?

I'm not sure I would like him to be a goalie as I could not watch the matches! Goalies can be under a lot of pressure. It will be his own choice.

8. Did you always play in goal?

(Question from: Andrew Ormond, Forest, Templemore.)



Denis O'Connell and his sister Marie photographed with Brendan Cummins.

Yes, but I played out field for the Club a few times. My father was playing in goals for the Club and I was a sub! My father claims he retired to let me play in goals! So I have worn a helmet when playing out the field.

9. How did you become such a class goalkeeper and how do you feel about being nominated for another All-Star?

(Question from: Patrick Finn, Garrykennedy, Portroe.)

It's all down to practice.

Every day I am thinking about hurling or I'm training. It's part of my life and I am lucky to be able to do it. I am keen to listen and improve my game whenever I can. It is important to have the drive to win. All-Stars can be nice for recognition but the key thing is if I am happy with my performances and getting better than last year rather than being ahead of other players.

10. Who is the best penalty taker that you have ever faced?

(Question from: Liam Coman, Naomh Jude Club, Templeogue, Dublin.)

Paul Flynn of Waterford is deadly because of putting top spin on it. Similar to this year with the shot against Clare, it's a massive skill to start the shot going above the crossbar and then dip it under it. This year against Cork was the fastest penalty I have seen.

11. I'm a goalkeeper but I struggle to catch the ball. How do you catch it under pressure?

(Question from: Niall Ryan, Boolteeny, Dolla (Silvermines Club).)

The key thing is to concentrate on the ball and not on the player who has hit it. I was told that if you do something 23 times it becomes a habit! If you train hard enough and often enough, instinct takes over and automatic reactions happen in a match based on all the training. Also you must use mistakes to make you stronger, deal with it and move on. Also try to forget that the goals are behind you as they can put pressure on you. You can always judge where your goals are by looking down the field at the other goals.

Thanks very much Denis and best of luck with your hurling career!



Thurles Sarsfields Supporters' Club would like to wish our Senior hurlers the very best in today's County Final.

We would also like to wish all our teams remaining in their respective championships the best of luck as they strive for silverware.

Thurles Sarsfields Supporters' Club was formed in March 2005 and is the first of its kind in Tipperary. The Supporters Club has many aims and objectives as set out in its Constitution. One of the most important objectives of the Supporters Club is to raise funds to support all of the teams, from minors to the senior team.

To date the Supporters' Club has:

- Funded the purchase and installation of a state of the art Ice Bath.
- Purchased a Defibrillator as part of the Clubs medical equipment.
- Purchased Training/Playing Gear for all Club teams.
- Funded the upgrading of the Outside Field Lights to facilitate winter training.
- Provided two Annual Scholarships for Club members attending 3rd Level Colleges.
- Contributed to the ongoing training costs for all Club teams.

The Supporters' Club has recently embarked on a **weekly club lottery** to replace the successful monthly draws which took place over the last four years.

Your support for this lottery is much appreciated and if you would like to join the lottery on a yearly basis you can contact Thomas Callanan @ 086-3120276 for more details.

As a bonus to signing up on a yearly basis you will also become a member of the Thurles Sarsfields Irish National Lottery Syndicate!

Tickets for each draw can also be purchased in the Sarsfields Social Centre or from Supporters' Club committee members and the weekly draw is held each Wednesday in the centre.



Na Sairsealaigh Abú!



Cuimhne na marbh

J. J. McGRATH

(Boherlahan Dualla)

ON July 31st 2009, the death occurred of J.J. McGrath after a long illness bravely borne. J.J. spent his early years in St. Isidore's National School, Boherlahan, where he progressed, not only academically but also at hurling and football. This was no surprise as the McGrath family had a proud tradition in hurling. Young J.J.'s hurling career began in the early eighties and by 1984, he was a member of the U14 'B' hurling and football teams to win Mid Tipperary honours. Through the eighties, he progressed to Minor grade and in 1988, he was a member of the Minor 'B' hurling team which defeated Éire Óg in the County Final in Cashel. In the nineties, he moved on to U21 and Senior grades and by 1995 he had won a Mid Senior Hurling Final, only to lose to Nenagh Éire Óg in the County Final. 1996 was his greatest year, when Boherlahan defeated Toomevara in the County Final. J.J. received the Man of the Match award, which he treasured to the end. His playing days over by the turn of the Millennium, he then took the onerous task of Club Secretary. An only son of Rose and Seamus McGrath, his untimely death was a sad occasion throughout the parish especially for the younger generation among whom he was held in the highest regard. Aided by his sorrowing parents and girlfriend, ever loyal to the end, he fought illness with the same tenacity so often shown on the playing field. Despite his efforts he had to courageously face defeat in the end. "Guimid co-bhrón lena athair is a máthair, lena gaolta go léir agus lena chairde uiligh agus guimid solas sriarri ar a anam uasal óg".



DINNY RYAN

(Roscrea and Tipperary)

IN LATE September word came through of the death of a former outstanding hurler with club and county, Denis (Dinny) Ryan of Roscrea. In early July his sister, Eileen Barrett, had died, so it has been a year of sadness for the Ryan family. Dinny was one of a Sheehills family dynasty, who played for Tipperary at various grades. His brothers, Mick and Jack, were also Senior All Ireland medal winners in the 1949/51 era and were best known of the family, but Roddy and Donal, like the other three, also played Minor hurling for Tipperary. Mick travelled a bit and won County Senior hurling medals in Kilkenny and Cork. He died two years ago, but his reputation endures.

Dinny had a great love for hurling, was fiercely competitive and in the opinion of the late Dr. Hanly (a long time friend and supporter of Roscrea hurling) he had no peer when fully fit. Only a few years ago Dinny was honoured at a Roscrea club reunion of the 1954 North Tipp Senior hurling winning team. The club had many reasons to appreciate him. Dinny was a star on three of Roscrea's North Minor titles 1943 to 1945 and he was in the Tipp Minor squad which reached that year's All Ireland final but lost unexpectedly to Dublin. He was on the Roscrea Senior team as a teenager and won North titles in 1945, 1949 and 1954. Alas, Thurles Sarsfields spoiled the party in a replay of the 1945 County Final, while Holycross Ballycahill proved superior in 1954. Dinny was a tenacious defender and the Roscrea full back line in 1954 was highly respected.

Dinny's family were immersed in the game and his son Roddy played for many years with Roscrea Hurling Club and Inane Rovers Gaelic Football Club. Roddy married a former Tipperary camogie player Rose Ryan and the next generation is already making its mark on hurling in Roscrea. Dinny's other sons were also active in the GAA with Val playing for Roscrea in their last Senior Co Final appearance in 1985, while Donnchadh was an excellent underage player in both codes.

Predeceased by his wife Maura, Dinny enjoyed a chat about past and present hurlers and loved to see Roscrea and Tipperary doing well. Ar dheis De go raibh se.

ROGER RYAN

(Toomevara, Roscrea and Tipperary)

ONCE described in a match commentary by Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh as "Ruairi Mor Ó Riain", Roger was certainly that and more. He had a big heart and enjoyed the game, whether he won or lost. Roger had a promising early career with Toomevara and in many ways resembled his late brother Tom, who died too young. Roger's impressive club form brought him to the attention of the Tipp selectors and he made his debut in the 1970 Munster Championship — the start of the 80 minutes duration for some but not all Senior inter-county Championship games. His All Ireland victory came in 1971 when his two goals put a dent in the Kilkenny challenge. Despite all of his hurling that was the peak of his success. He was one of the most feared full forwards in the game for the duration of his career, but championship wins were getting scarce for Tipp. He had a good day against Cork in 1973 when he led Tipp's late rally to score four goals in the last nine minutes, to steal a Tipp win by six points. Roger scored two of Tipp's five goals. Limerick spoiled the party in the final, but Roger's battle with Pat Hartigan will be remembered for its honesty and intensity. Tipp lost by a point in a thriller. There were many shouts of his famous "ah rei!" when he failed to secure possession on that hectic Munster final day.



In 1974 Roger captained Tipp in the championship against Clare, but Tipp scored a miserable 1-7 and lost by a point. The bad spell continued in 1975 when a draw and loss to Limerick marked the end of Roger's inter-county career — or so we thought.

In 1977, Tipp lost a six point lead to Clare and the first round game ended in a draw. For the replay Roger, who was a selector with John Doyle and Paddy Kenny, came out of retirement to play at full forward. His presence led to an early Tipp goal, but they lost by three points and Roger concentrated on the club game after that.

He had won a County medal with Roscrea in 1973, playing at centre forward against Kilruane MacDonaghs and continued to give the club good service in a variety of positions. In 1976 and 1978, Roscrea lost County Finals to Moneygall and Kilruane MacDonaghs — both by a point, but they had their reward in 1980 when Roger, who had been injured for most of the year while captain, scored the winning goal less than a minute and a half from the end, having come on as a substitute a few minutes earlier. His goal finished the Kilruane MacDonagh bid for four in a row. Kevin Brody, the acting captain, lifted the cup.

Roger had another chance in 1981 but suffered the disappointment as captain of losing the North and County Finals to Borrisleigh. He served Roscrea in an official capacity and was great to encourage players who were not regulars on the teams. He also had a habit of thanking players who came on and went off after the games. One of his great hurling memories was an Inter Firm All Ireland won with Roscrea Bacon Factory in 1972.

In latter years, Roger had returned to Toomevara and helped the club as a Senior selector to win several of their county titles. Having been ill for some time, the full time whistle sounded for him last May. There were many good stories told at his obsequies by former colleagues and opponents. Roger would have enjoyed it all. A Tipp hero has left us. God bless his memory and console Teresa and his family.



The ULTIMATE Shootout

By: CHRISTY O'CONNOR, 'The Sunday Times'

SIXTY MINUTES into last month's All-Ireland final, Kilkenny's Michael Rice scrambled a loose ball into the path of Eddie Brennan, who failed to lift it with what was clearly a tired effort. Noel McGrath swooped in but his launched effort at the target from 65 metres drifted just wide. It was Tipperary's sixth wide from play in the second half, while they'd also failed to take two glorious goal chances. Conversely, Kilkenny had had just four shots at the target in the same timespan and had scored all four. From the puckout, T.J. Reid made it five from five.

Kilkenny's greater economy was keeping them in the game because they were effectively on the ropes by that stage. Tipperary had made 26 more plays than their opponents in that second half and were generating far more possession, largely through the obliteration of Kilkenny's puckout. Tipperary should have put the game beyond Kilkenny but most of their hard won possession was being contaminated by Kilkenny's tackling and intensity and crucially, Kilkenny won the overall hook/block/tackle count 31/22. It's proven that whichever team wins that statistical

category wins 85% of games and Kilkenny have never once lost that battle over the last four years.

One reverse trend that has become apparent this season though, is that Kilkenny are making less plays now than they had been over the previous three seasons, when they'd averaged 173 plays a match. When they'd been averaging 157 plays this year, it was logical to assume that Kilkenny were pacing themselves but they made 156 plays against Tipperary. There have only been two occasions in the last four seasons where Kilkenny made less plays than the opposition and both of those occurred this season. That's a clear indication that Kilkenny are slipping slightly but it's also a testament to their desire that they can still always dig out a result. Kilkenny may have had an extra man but when the game was really up for grabs in the last 13 minutes, they made 37 plays to Tipperary's 18. Serious.

Another noticeable decline in Kilkenny's play this year is that they're no longer so dominant on their own puckout; Tipperary won 21 of Kilkenny's puckouts, whereas Kilkenny won just ten

of Tipperary's puckouts, primarily because of Brendan Cummins' short puckouts and precision striking, which is clearly the most improved part of his game.

Yet Ger Loughnane made the point in his half-time TV analysis that Tipp's short puckout strategy was "not working" and had resulted in "three points for Kilkenny". That was clearly wrong. Kilkenny did register two points after Tipp short puckouts but both of



Diarmuid Kirwan's decision to award a penalty to Kilkenny proves not popular with Tipperary players Declan Fanning, Brendan Cummins and Conor O'Mahony.

(Photo: Bridget Delaney)



those scores came over 20 seconds after Cummins' delivery and had broken down in areas further up the field. Loughnane said Cummins should "go long" but three of Kilkenny's first half points came immediately after long Tipp puckouts. Surely Kilkenny's direct strategy proved that consistently going long doesn't



Eoin Kelly slips at the wrong time when shooting from close range during the All-Ireland Final.

(Photo: Bridget Delaney)

successfully work anymore in the modern game.

It was Kilkenny's greater precision in other areas which counted. Whereas Tipperary made 17 accurate stick passes from 40 yards or less - compared to Kilkenny's 19 - Tipperary made four more inaccurate stick passes than their opponents over the same distance. Too often, Tipperary held up possession or took the wrong option and they just lacked Kilkenny's devastating economy, decision-making and accuracy. From five first half plays, Eddie Brennan scored three points, was fouled for a converted free and had another shot at the target which later resulted in a point.

Apart from the sending-off and penalty, two of the central turning points were PJ Ryan's excellent saves from Seamus Callanan and Eoin Kelly after half-time. Kilkenny had never conceded more than one goal in an All-Ireland final under Brian Cody but two Tipp goals at that stage would surely have given Tipp an unstoppable momentum. Ryan was brilliant but he would appreciate that his first stop from Callanan was the only truly outstanding save of the four he made - unquestionably the best save in an All-Ireland final since Joe Quaid's unbelievable stop from Gary Laffan in 1996. A goalkeeper of Ryan's class would have been expected to save the other three.

Kilkenny's greater experience and some liberal refereeing decisions were decisive but it still always comes back to Kilkenny's immense scoring ability. Apart from having 11 scorers, compared to Tipp's five, their wide count of five was even more impressive than the two they hit in

last year's final annihilation. Up until the 67th minute of this year's final Kilkenny had hit just two wides from play. And the game was decided by then.

Their goals sealed the deal but Kilkenny have also taken point-scoring to a totally new level. In 2006, they became the first team in history to hit 20 points or more in four consecutive championship games. They equalled that feat in 2007 and 2008 and they'd surely have managed it again this year if Dublin hadn't contained them with a seven-man defence.

Tipp were always going to take them on with their scoring power and they opened up Kilkenny like never before. Twenty three points was the highest number Kilkenny ever conceded under Cody; although Clare created seven goalscoring opportunities in 2002 - the highest number Kilkenny ever coughed up in an All-Ireland final under Cody - Tipp created far more clear-cut goalscoring chances in September.

The scoring power of both teams highlighted just how good the game was. When Kilkenny annihilated Waterford last year, the game produced the highest number of scores ever recorded in an All-Ireland final but that total of 47 scores was equalled this year. However, in the history of All-Ireland finals, two teams had never each hit more than 20 scores. Moreover, Kilkenny's total of 24 scores had only been surpassed in a 70-minute final on just two occasions and both of those were annihilations.

It was the ultimate shootout - a truly excellent final. And Tipp will surely have learned a great deal from it.

MITCHEL HOUSE RESTAURANT



COUNTY FINAL
HIGH TEA MENU
Sunday, 18th October

To Begin....

Crispy Spring Roll of Thai Chilli Beef

Roasted Field Mushroom

With Baby Spinach & Roasted Red Peppers, topped with Gorgonzola Cheese

Cesar Salad

The Daily Soup

Mains....

Grilled Prime Minute Steak
crispy fried Onion Rings, Pepper Sauce

Roast fillet of Salmon

With Olive crushed Potatoes, White wine & Tomato Cream

Baked Breast of Chicken

With a Bacon & Cabbage stuffing with natural Parsley juices

Classical Irish Lamb Stew

To Finish.....

Chef's Choice of Desserts

2 Course €17.95

3 Courses €22.95

**TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION FOR AFTER THE MATCH
CALL US NOW ON 0504 90776**



GAA National Celebrations

in Thurles – “the birthplace of the GAA”

SATURDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 31st:

7.00 p.m. Grangemockler GAA Club Bloody Sunday Commemoration Game:
Senior Football: TIPPERARY v. CORK in Semple Stadium (Under Lights)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1st

11.00am: Special 125 Mass

To be celebrated by Archbishop Dermot Clifford
Presentation of gifts. (Introduced by Liam Ó Donnchú)
Readings by Uachtarán agus Ardstiúrthoir CLG.
Guí an Phobail by Provincial Chairmen.
Music and Hymns by Cathedral Folk Group
Special Mass Booklet

12.00 noon: Procession from Thurles Cathedral to Croke Monument at Liberty Square.

Led by the Artane School of Music.
A flag colour party carrying the 32 county flags.
Also the Tricolour, the 4 provincial Flags and the 125 Flag by National GAA representatives.
Representatives of each County, Ard Comhairle and Past Presidents.

12.15 pm: Ceremony at the Dr Croke monument Liberty Square.

Fear a Tí: Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh
Welcome from Cathaoirleach Chontae Thiobraid Árann, Barra O'Briain.
Pat Walsh (descendent of Maurice Davin) to read letter from Dr. Croke to Ml. Cusack.
Wreath to be laid by Uachtarán CLG.
Music from Artane School of Music

2.30 pm: Munster Club S.H. Championship: TIPPERARY v. CORK

Big Screen on Town End Terrace
Distribution of flags by TG4
Presentation of TG4 Player Awards

4.15 pm: Coiste Chontae Thiobraid Árann: Laochra Sean Ghael Awards in Dome Semple Stadium

32 recipients ie. 8 from each Division in Tipperary.
Special Guest: Christóir Ó Cuanáigh, Uachtarán CLG.

Kids Party in the Dome Today

After the game why not take the children to the “Kids Party” in the Dome, behind the New Stand (Ardáin Ó Riain).

For just €3 each child:

- Will receive a Snack Meal (Chips and Sausages) and drink • Dance at the Kids Disco •
- Meet the Tipp Senior Hurlers • And maybe a few All-Stars?????? •

Tickets for the Party are limited to the first 100 and they can be purchased at any of the Tipp GAA Merchandise Shops in Semple Stadium.

(ACCOMPANYING ADULTS ARE FREE).



1981 ~ 1983 ~ 1986

BORRIS-ILEIGH'S

THREE COUNTY SENIOR TITLES

ON THIS day we honour the Borris-Ileigh teams who became county senior hurling champions in 1981, 1983 and 1986. The eighties were a great time for the club and when they won the county final in 1981 they were returning to the winners enclosure in senior hurling for the first time in eighteen years.

There were seven teams in the North senior hurling championship in 1981 and it was run on a league basis with six games for each team and the top four qualifying for the semi-finals. Borris-Ileigh defeated Kilruane-MacDonaghs by 2-12 to 2-7 at Nenagh on August 8, and Roscrea defeated Lorrha by 3-10 to 2-10 at Borrisokane on the day after. In the final at Nenagh on September 27, Borris-Ileigh toppled the champions, Roscrea, on a day when the ball was thrown in by the famous Tipperary full-forward, Martin Kennedy.

Already the quarter-finals had been played at Thurles on August 30. Borris-Ileigh defeated West champions, Eire Óg by 2-19 to 1-7, and went on to overcome Moycarkey-Borris by 1-15 to 3-8 in the semi-final at Templemore on October 4. Roscrea came through on the other side of the draw so that the two sides met in the final

at Thurles on October 25. Borris-Ileigh repeated the North result, on a scoreline of 1-14 to 0-12, to take their first county final since 1953.

The victorious side was: Owen Walsh, Michael Ryan, T. F. Stapleton, Timmy Stapleton (capt.), Timmy Delaney, Gerry Stapleton, Francis Spillane, Timmy Ryan, Pat Ryan, Brendan Kenny, Bobby Ryan, Noel O'Dwyer, Michael Coen, Tommy O'Dwyer, Pat Kavanagh.

GREAT EUPHORIA

There was tremendous euphoria in the parish as a result of the victory and one of the biggest ever receptions was afforded to the team on their return to the town. However, the jubilation of the victory came to an abrupt end at

Waterford six days later when they were beaten by Mount Sion, 2-12 to 0-12, in the first round of the Munster club championship.

Borris-Ileigh appeared to be returning to their old ways in 1982 when they were defeated in the first round of the North championship by Silvermines. However, they returned to the kind of form, that had brought success in 1981, the following year. Seven teams affiliated in the 1983 North championship with the semi-finals played at Nenagh on July 24. Lorrha defeated Kilruane-MacDonaghs by 2-9 to 2-8, and Borris-Ileigh



Borris-Ileigh – County Senior Hurling Champions 1981 – Back row (l.-r.): Liam Carroll, Paddy Ryan, John Slattery, Richard Stakelum, Donny Maher, John McGrath, T. F. Stapleton, Noel Dwyer, Brendan Kenny, John Kinnane, Pat Ryan, Pat Kavanagh, Philip Kenny, Tommy Dwyer, Timmy Ryan. Front row: Don Ryan, Billy Ryan (c./man), Rory Kinnane, Francis Collins, Mick Cowan, Timmy Delaney, Bobby Ryan, Owen Walsh, Timmy Stapleton (capt), Michael Ryan, Gerry Stapleton, John Stapleton, Francis Spillane, Tom Ryan, Tom Tierney (coach/trainer).



defeated Eire Óg by 2-15 to 1-10. In the North final at Nenagh on August 14, Borris-Ileigh defeated Lorrha by 1-11 to 2-6.

In the county quarter-final at Holycross on August 28, Borris-Ileigh were convincing winners over Eire Óg, Ballingarry on a scoreline of 1-14 to 0-6. Because of the re-development of Semple Stadium, it wasn't possible to play the semi-finals or finals there, and Borris-Ileigh were severely tested before defeating Moycarkey-Borris by 1-13 to 1-12 at Cashel on September 25. The final was played at the same venue on October 30. Their opponents were Loughmore-Castleiney and nine members of the respective panels were members of Templemore C.B.S. All-Ireland Colleges champions team in 1978. The former school colleagues were rivals at Cashel and Borris-Ileigh triumphed by three points, on a scoreline of 1-14 to 1-11.

The winning side was as follows: Owen Walsh, Mick Ryan, T. F. Stapleton, Timmy Delaney, Richard Stakelum, Gerry Stapleton, Noelle Maher, Timmy Ryan, John McGrath, Philip Kenny, Bobby Ryan, Aidan Ryan, Mick Coen, Timmy Stapleton, Noel O'Dwyer (capt.)*.

*Frank Spillane was team captain but didn't play on the day because of injury. Vice-captain, Noel O'Dwyer, substituted on the field but Frank came in to receive the trophy from county chairman, Mick Frawley, after the game.

BEATEN IN REPLAY

The winners were better prepared for the Munster club championship on this occasion. They had a bye in the first round and defeated Patrickswell by 2-6 to 0-11 at Kilmallock in the semi-final.



Michael Ryan (Borris-Ileigh) and Kevin Hennessy (Midleton) in a struggle for possession during the Munster Club Championship 1983.

In the final against Midleton at the same venue two weeks later, the Cork champions grabbed a draw with a 65 in the last minute of the game on a scoreline of 1-12 to 3-6. Borris-Ileigh lost the replay by 1-14 to 1-11



Timmy Delaney, T. F. Stapleton and Pat Kavanagh with the North and County Cups at the Borris-Ileigh 1981 victory dance.

on December 4, although leading by four points with a number of minutes to go.

Local poet Gerard

Ryan celebrated Borris-Ileigh's county final victory:

Once more the premier trophy returns to Borris town.

The vanquished have retreated, the victors won renown,

But all combined in sportsmanship a heritage to uphold,

*A Gaelic pastime to renew, its pleasures to unfold
Onwards, onwards men of Borris-Ileigh, to the year of '84*

Help restore Tipp to its rightful place, standard-bearers as before.

There was little joy for Borris-Ileigh in 1984. Eight teams affiliated in the North senior championship and were divided into two groups with the top two in each qualifying for the semi-finals. Borris-Ileigh failed to qualify. Nine teams affiliated in 1985 and were divided into two groups. Borris-Ileigh qualified for the semi-final but were badly beaten by Kilruane-MacDonaghs.

BACKDOOR ENTRY

Borris-Ileigh came back with a bang in 1986. Matters didn't look so good earlier in the year when they were defeated by Kilruane, 1-15 to 0-7, in the semi-final of the North championship, played at Nenagh on July 26. It looked as this was the end of the road for them once again. Kilruane went on to defeat Toomevara in the championship final.

However, Borris-Ileigh had been runners-up in the Hogan Cup, which had been given a new status that year of allowing the winners to play





Borris-Ileigh – County Senior Hurling Champions 1983 – Back row (l.-r.): Timmy Stapleton, T. F. Stapleton, Gerry Stapleton, Richard Stakelum, Philip Kenny, John McGrath, Bobby Ryan, Timmy Ryan. Front row (l.-r.): Noel Maher, Owen Walsh, Mick Ryan, Noel O'Dwyer, Michael Coen, Timmy Delaney, Aidan Ryan.

the runners-up in the championship for the right to represent the division as the second team in the county championship. As Kilruane were championship and league winners, Borris-Ileigh gained the right to play-off with the runners-up in the championship, Toomevara. The game was played at Roscrea on August 24 and resulted in a comprehensive win for Borris-Ileigh of 3-19 to 2-9.

Borris-Ileigh went on to defeat Carrick Swan by 3-17 to 5-3 in the county quarter-final at Boherlahan on August 31. They beat Holycross-Ballycahill by 3-10 to 1-7 at Templemore on September 14. Their opponents in the final at Semple Stadium on September 28 were Kilruane, who had defeated them twice already and were definite favourites to do so again. On one of the warmest days ever for a county final, the game was gripping all through but Borris-Ileigh were the faster, hungrier and more determined team and won by 0-14 to 0-7, a big reverse on the results in the earlier matches, 0-14 to 2-6 in the North league, and 1-15 to 0-7 in the championship. Philip Kenny was the star of the success, scoring six points in all, and many gave great credit to trainer, Paddy Doyle, for Borris-Ileigh's improved performances during the year. The mascot of the Borris-Ileigh team, a cock, was in attendance, under the charge of Shane Tierney.

The team was: Noel Maher, Francis Spillane, Timmy Stapleton, Mick Ryan (capt.), Richard Stakelum, Gerry Stapleton, Bobby Ryan, Timmy Ryan, Francis Collins, Aidan Ryan, Noel O'Dwyer, Conor Stakelum, Michael Coen, Philip Kenny, John McGrath.

ALL-IRELAND GLORY

Borris-Ileigh had a bye to the semi-final of the Munster club championship. They played Claughaun at Limerick on November 16 and won by 2-10 to 1-9. Their opponents in the final, played at Limerick on November 30, were Clarecastle. In a very disciplined performance they defeated the Clare champions by 1-13 to 1-9, to take their first Munster club title. The champions continued their good work into the new year with a 3-16 to 3-8 victory over Ballycastle-McQuillans at Thurles on February 8. The final was played at Croke Park on March 17 with Borris-Ileigh gaining victory by 2-9 to 0-9 over Rathnure.

The winning side was as follows: Noel Maher, Francis Spillane, Timmy Stapleton, Mick Ryan (capt.), Richard Stakelum, Gerry Stapleton, Bobby Ryan, Timmy Ryan, Francis Collins, Conor Stakelum, Noel O'Dwyer, John McGrath, Mick Coen, Philip Kenny, Aidan Ryan. Sub: Brian Kenny for Timmy Ryan. The other members of the panel were John Glasheen, Philip Delaney, Pat Ryan, Seamus Devaney, John Joe Maher, John Ryan,



John Maher (Boherlahan-Dualla), referee throwing in the ball for the start of the 1986 county senior hurling final between Borris-Ileigh and Kilruane-MasDonaghs with Borris-Ileigh's Timmy Ryan and Francis Collins contesting the ball with their counterparts.



Joe Loughnane, Timmy Delaney.

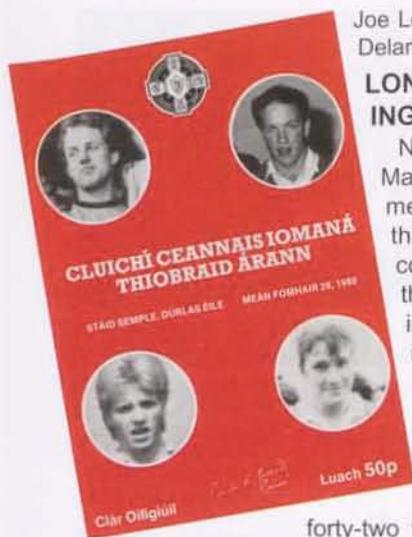
LONGEST-SERVING MEMBER

Noel, or Noelie, Maher, who was a member of the three victorious county teams, is the longest serving senior hurler in the club. He came on the senior panel at the age of seventeen years and finished at

forty-two years, a total of

twenty-five years, two more than Noel O'Dwyer. During his career he played in goals for six years and outfield for eighteen years until his retirement in 1994.

He captained Borris-Ileigh in 1987 when they won the Yoplait All-Ireland Hurling Sevens. Currently



he is in his tenth year as secretary of the club.

THE BORRIS-ILEIGH COCK

The cock is synonymous with the Borris-Ileigh club and occupies a prominent place on the club crest. There are a number of stories as to the origin of the cock. One is that on achieving unity in 1948 the Borris and Ileigh players were so proud that they would strut confidently, regardless of the opposition, on to the playing field like bantam cocks. Others point to a much older origin to the days of the faction fights. In the glory days of the early fifties Paddy D'Arcy of Ileigh used to sell the team colours on match days and he used to have as his 'assistant' the cock, resplendently dressed up in the club colours. With his business for the day complete, Paddy would attend the match parading around the field with the proud and colourful cock by his side.



Paddy Doyle (trainer), John McGrath, Timmy Ryan, Francis Collins, Michael Ryan and Noel O'Dwyer after a training session in 1986.



Club stalwart Paddy Dolan holding Borris-Ileigh's famous mascot.



Borris-Ileigh – County Senior Hurling Champions 1986 – Back row (l-r): Joe Harkin, Philip Delaney, John Glasheen, Timmy Stapleton, Tommy Dwyer, Philip Kenny, Richard Stakelum, Noel Dwyer, Gerry Stapleton, John McGrath, Timmy Ryan, Bobby Ryan, Timmy Delaney, Brendan Kenny. Front row: Tom Tierney, John Ryan, Mick Cowan, Brian Kenny, Conor Stakelum, Mick Ryan (capt), Francis Spillane, Francis Collins, Aidan Ryan, Noel Maher, J.J.Maher.



Borris-Ileigh – All-Ireland Club Champions 1987
 – Back row (l.-r.): John Glasheen, Philip Delaney, Pat Ryan, Conor Stakelum, Gerry Stapleton, Richard Stakelum, Noel O'Dwyer, Timmy Stapleton, Tommy O'Dwyer, Timmy Ryan, Bobby Ryan, Brian Kenny, Seamus Devaney. Front row (l.-r.): John McGrath, John Joe Maher, Aidan Ryan, Noel Maher, Philip Kenny, Mick Ryan (captain), Francis Collins, Mick Coen, Francis Spillane, John Ryan, Joe Loughnane, Timmy Delaney. Mascot: Aidan Coen.



Borris-Ileigh - The Golden Days

1981

North Final, at Nenagh, September 27th: Borris-Ileigh 1-8, Roscrea 1-6

Co Quarter Final, at Semple Stadium, August 30th: Borris-Ileigh 2-19,

Eire Og, Annacarty 1-7

Co Semi Final, at Templemore, October 4th: Borris-Ileigh 1-15,

Moycarkey Borris 3-8.

Co Final, at Semple Stadium, October 25th: Borris-Ileigh 1-14, Roscrea 0-12

Co. Final lineup and scorers: Owen Walshe, Mick Ryan, TF Stapleton, Timmy Stapleton (Capt.), Timmy Delaney, Gerry Stapleton, Francis Spillane, Timmy Ryan, Pat Ryan, Brendan Kenny, Bobby Ryan (0-3), Noel O'Dwyer (0-8, Man of the Match), Mick Coen (0-2), Tommy O Dwyer (1-1), Pat Kavanagh.

1983

North Final, at Nenagh, August 14th: Borris-Ileigh 1-11, Lorrha 2-6

Co Quarter Final, Holycross, August 28th: Borris-Ileigh 1-14,

Eire Og, (South) 0-6.

Co Semi Final, at Cashel, September 25th: Borris-Ileigh 1-13,

Moycarkey Borris 1-12.

Co Final, at Cashel, October 30th: Borris-Ileigh 0-17, Loughmore Castleiney 1-11

Co. Final lineup and scorers: Owen Walshe, Mick Ryan, T.F. Stapleton, Timmy Delaney, Richard Stakelum, Gerry Stapleton (0-2), Noel Maher, Timmy Ryan, John McGrath (0-1), Philip Kenny (0-6), Bobby Ryan, Aidan Ryan, Mick Coen (0-3), Timmy Stapleton (0-1), Noel O'Dwyer (0-3, Man of the Match). Subs: Brendan Kenny (0-1) for J. McGrath, Tommy O'Dwyer for A. Ryan, Francis Spillane (capt. injured and unable to start) for N. Maher.

1986

North play off, at Roscrea August 24th: Borris-Ileigh 3-19, Toomevara 2-9

Co Quarter Final, at Boherlahan, August 31st: Borris-Ileigh 3-17,

Carrick Swan 5-3

Co Semi Final, at Templemore, September 14th: Borris-Ileigh 3-10,

Holycross Ballycahill 1-7

Co Final, at Semple Stadium, Sept. 28th: Borris-Ileigh 0-14,

Kilruane MacDonaghs (holders) 0-7

Co. Final lineup and scorers: Noel Maher, Francis Spillane, Timmy Stapleton, Mick Ryan (Capt.), Richard Stakelum (0-1), Gerry Stapleton, Bobby Ryan, Timmy Ryan, Francis Collins, Aidan Ryan (0-3), Noel O'Dwyer (0-3), Conor Stakelum (0-1), Mick Coen, Philip Kenny (0-6, Man of the Match), John McGrath.

Munster Club Championship

Semi Final, at the Gaelic Grounds, Nov. 16th: Borris-Ileigh 2-10,

Cloughaun (Limerick) 1-9

Final, at the Gaelic Grounds, Nov. 30th: Borris-Ileigh 1-13,

Clarecastle (Clare) 1-9.

All Ireland Semi Final, at Semple Stadium, February 8th, 1987:

Borris-Ileigh 3-16, Ballycastle McQuillans (Antrim) 3-8

All Ireland Final, at Croke Park, March 17th, 1987:

Borris-Ileigh 2-9, Rathnure (Wexford) 0-9.

Lineout and scorers: Noel Maher, Francis Spillane, Timmy Stapleton, Mick Ryan (Capt.), Richard Stakelum, Gerry Stapleton, Bobby Ryan, Timmy Ryan, Francis Collins, Conor Stakelum (0-1), Noel O'Dwyer (0-4), John McGrath (0-1), Mick Coen, Philip Kenny (1-1), Aidan Ryan 1-2. Sub. Brian Kenny for Timmy Ryan.

BORRIS-ILEIGH Senior Hurling County Champions 1981, 1983, 1986

Captains

TIMMY STAPLETON (Capt. '81)

A stalwart in defence and powerhouse in attack, Big Tim, as he is fondly known, always gave his best for Borris down through the years. Timmy began his senior hurling career as a wing forward.

FRANCIS SPILLANE (Capt. '83)

A fast and tight marking defender "Speedie" as he is known to his friends was one of Borris's staunch defenders during his playing career.

MICHAEL RYAN (Capt. '86)

A tight marking tenacious defender Michael played with distinction for Borris for many years, and never gave an inch to any forward that came up against him.

Goalkeepers

PADDY RYAN:

A tenacious and capable goal keeper. Paddy gave many a sterling performance between the posts for his native club.

OWEN WALSH:

A stalwart for Borris between the posts for many years. Owen held the last line of defence through many battles.

Backs

BRIAN KENNY:

An honest and skilful hurler Brian gave many fine displays for his club both in defence and mid-field.

JOHN KINANE:

A skilful hurler and striker John contributed in defence for many years.

DONIE MAHER:

A tight marking corner back who always responded when called upon in the Maroon & White.

BOBBY RYAN: (Tipperary Capt.)

Very shy and withdrawn! Bobby's hurling exploits are well documented. His dashing play lifted the hearts of Borris followers for many years.

RICHARD STAKELUM: (Tipperary Capt. '87)

Remembered for his famous quote "The Famine is Over" Richard shone as a Borris back man at every level.

GERRY STAPLETON:

Brother of Timmy one of the best centre backs of his era. Gerry's undoubted talent was widely recognised throughout the county.

JOHN STAPLETON:

John "The Saint" Stapleton, father of current Tipperary star Paddy, also served the Borris cause during the 80s

**ANTHONY KELLY:**

A very accomplished hurler, who had pace and skill in abundance.

J.J. MAHER:

Brother of Donnie and first cousin of Paul and Owen Kelly, Mullinahone, John Joe was a very effective corner back.

JOHN RYAN:

Fourth and youngest of the Ryan brothers, John was a pacy and energetic performer at mid-field or half back.

TOM RYAN:

Very effective as a defender, Tom was a tight-marking corner back. He gave many years of valuable service to his club.

T.F. STAPLETON:

The last of the traditional full backs. His long clearances and bone crushing tackles made the square a no-go area for forwards the length and breath of the county.

JACKO TREACY:

Very often introduced on the half-back line, Jacko was a good close marker with very effective clearances.

Centrefield**PAT RYAN:**

The older of the Ryan brothers, Pat (Flowry) is remembered for his non compromising, powerful pulling and never say die attitude. Flowry could always be depended upon to give his best for Borris.

TIMMY RYAN:

Remembered as one of the last of the overhead pulling and first time hurling midfielders, Timmy gave many years of honest and stalwart service to his club.

FRANCIS COLLINS:

An industrious, busy and energetic midfielder. His work ethic and high energy performances helped secure many victories for Borris.

JOHN GLASHEEN:

A strong and pacy mid-fielder John played some great games at senior level.

TIMMY DELANEY:

Renowned for his lightning wrists and stickwork, and a great reader of play. Timmy had the ability to control the game from many positions, and served Borris for well over twenty years.

PADDY TYNAN:

Equally effective at mid-field or half-back, Paddy always played his part when called upon.

Forwards**AIDAN RYAN:**

The third of the Ryan brothers, and the engine of the forward line Aidan's relentless attacking play will long be remembered. He will always be regarded as a great servant to club and county over many years.

JOHN McGRATH:

A powerful attacker with the ability to take scores and run at backlines, John was always difficult for any backman to tie down and served his club with distinction at all times.

BRENDAN KENNY:

Renowned for his speed and score taking abilities, Brendan, son of the legendary Sean, was a powerful forward. He had the ability to carve open a backline and presented many headaches for defenders throughout the county.

PHILIP KENNY:

Stylish and fleet footed, Philip had unerring accuracy. His pace on the ball left many backmen floundering and wrong footed.

NOEI O'DWYER:

One of the unquestionably outstanding stalwarts for Borris over three decades.

Noel provided leadership in defence and attack. A marvellous servant of club and county he was always 'the ace in the pack' for Borris & Tipp during his distinguished career.

CONOR STAKELUM:

Brother of Richard and an outstanding forward with pace and strength, Conor had unerring accuracy and kept the score board changing in Borris's favour on many occasions.

MICHAEL COEN:

A dependable and determined hurler Mick gave his all in defence, at mid-field and in attack. Giving and asking no quarter. He never faltered on the many occasions that he donned the Maroon & White with pride and distinction.

TOMMY O'DWYER:

Brother of Noel. Powerful and effective in attack, Tommy regularly answered the call for Borris whenever a dominant backman needed to be curbed he was never found wanting. He also "minded the net" on many occasions.

PAT KAVANAGH:

A highly skilful forward Pat's score taking ability helped secure many victories. A winner of county finals with his native Rower-Innistigue, and All Ireland medal holder with Kilkenny Pat's arrival in Borris brought valuable scoring capacity to our forward line.

LIAM CARROLL

A versatile forward who had notable ability to gain possession and set up scores. Liam played with distinction with Borris-Ileigh at all levels from juvenile upwards.

DON RYAN:

A strong and forceful forward, Don had the ability to break up play and create scoring opportunities for other forwards. His bustling style made him a difficult opponent. A notable footballer, Don's grandfather, big Jim Ryan, played with Tipperary in Croke Park on Bloody Sunday in 1920.

RORY KINANE:

A very effective forward. He popped up to take many opportunist scores for Borris from time to time.

JOHN SLATTERY:

A fast and skilful, forward John was often introduced to great effect. His athletic background made him a very fast and elusive forward.

JOE HARKIN:

Father of present goalkeeper Jody, Joe was an effective forward with pace and scoring ability. Joe gave many good performances in the maroon and white.

LIAM CORBETT:

Liam was a fast hardworking forward. He could create and take scores with great consistency. Though domiciled in Dublin for many years, Liam is always Borris at heart.

PHILIP DELANEY:

Son of the late Paddy Delaney (goalie for Borris in '49/50 golden era) Philip was an energetic and hard working forward with a great eye for a score.

SEAMUS DEVANEY:

Son of the legendary Liam, Seamus kept a long standing Devaney tradition alive in Borris.

JOE LOUGHNANE:

An effective midfielder or wing back Joe gave many stalwart performances for his club.

NOEL MAHER:

An athletic and widely acknowledged stylist, Noel was equally at home in defence or attack. Before his retirement he manned the goalkeeping spot with distinction. Noel is currently secretary of Borris-Ileigh club.



Encore galore

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

THE frequency of repeat pairings in Tipperary County Finals reached a peak in the past twenty years, when a sense of Déjà vu overtook the big day, on several occasions. There was relief at the end of this year's county semi-finals that the most frequent final pairing in the past two decades would not be receiving an encore in 2009. No offence to Toomevara, whose modern day achievements are highly impressive, but a different final pairing is what most patrons wanted. Thurles Sarsfields and Drom Inch have only met once before in a decider. Let's hope this will be a final to remember and as an upgraded Mid derby, with much recent history and the big prize at stake, it has all the ingredients to entertain!

The pairings which have provided an encore on County Final day since 1984 are:

Toomevara v. Thurles Sarsfields	1992, 2000, 2001, 2003 and 2008.
Toomevara v. Nenagh Eire Óg	1993, 1999 and 2006.
Holycross Ballycahill v. Cashel KC	1990 and 1991.
Thurles Sarsfields v Drom Inch	2005 and 2009.



Sliotars as they were . . . The ball used in an 1886 game between St. Finbarr's of Cork and Holycross of Tipperary, together with a modern style sliotar.

100 Years Ago . . .

1909 County Hurling Final

Thurles Sarsfields 10-4, Racecourse-Cashel-Boherlahan 5-2

FETHARD was the venue for the county final, which took place in August 1910, before a very poor attendance. This was a very one-sided game in which Racecourse, captained by Dan Delaney, was trounced by the Thurles lads. One notable fact about this game is that it was the first played under new rules in Tipperary. These rules saw the old 'point posts' abolished.

Team: Tom Semple (Capt.), Hugh Shelly, Jack Mooney, Jack Mockler, Tom Kerwick, Jerry Fogarty, Tom Toss Mockler, Bill Smee, Andy Callanan, Paddy Brolan, Martin O'Brien, Mick Brien, Tom Dwan (Goal), Anthony Carew, Joe McLoughney, Ned McGrath, Thady Dwyer.



Tom Semple



County Final QUIZ

~ By: PAT BRACKEN ~

- Name the current inter-county manager who was centre back for Lorrha-Dorrha in the 1984 Centenary Co. Final?
- Who holds the record for winning the most Co. Senior Hurling Medals? Is it (a) Jimmy Doyle, (b) Tommy Doyle or (c) Mickey "Rattler" Byrne.
- Only four clubs have won the Senior County Final since 2000. Toomevara, Thurles Sarsfields and Loughmore-Castleiney are three. Name the other club?
- Toomevara were the first holders of the Dan Breen Cup. In what year was it first presented? Was it (a) 1931, (b) 1932 or (c) 1933
- Who was the Moycarkey Borris captain in their 1982 Co Final success, after a replay, against Roscrea? Was it (a) John Flanagan, (b) Jack Caesar or (c) Jack Bergin?
- Who was the goal score in the 2005 County Final when Thurles Sarsfields overcame Drom-Inch? Was it (a) Wayne Cully, (b) Johnny Enright or (c) Lar Corbett?
- The first Tipperary County Final, held in 1887, between Thurles and North Tipperary was played in (a) Templemore, (b) Nenagh, or (c) Borrisoleigh?
- Including the Centenary Co Final, in 1984, only 13 clubs have been county champions over the next 25 years up to today's final. Toomevara lead the way with 11 titles in this period. Only two other clubs have won the title more than once in this period. Loughmore-Castleiney is one. Name the other club?
- Perhaps Barack Obama might come to Semple Stadium to watch this club, back to back County Champions in 1975 and 1976, if they were once more to reach the Senior Co Final. Name this club?
- Who was the Holycross Ballycahill captain in their 1990 Co Final success over Cashel King Cormac's, who later went on to lift the McCarthy Cup in 1991?
- Name the County Final winning captain, pictured here, from the Moyne Templetuohy club, Co
- Champions in 1971. Is it (a) Tom Fogarty, (b) Willie Fogarty, (c) Jim Fogarty.
- The highest score by a winning team in the County Final was achieved 100 years ago, in 1909 when Thurles were once more champions. Did they score (a) 5-21, (b) 10-4 or (c) 4-23?
- This club, from the west division, won their only Co. Senior Hurling title in 1987. Was it (a) Cappawhite, (b) Cashel King Cormacs or (c) Eire Óg Annacarty?
- Who were the 1970 County Champions who later went on to become the first club from Munster to become All Ireland Senior Club Champions? (a) Kilruane MacDonaghs, (b) Roscrea or (c) Borris-Ileigh?
- Tommy Dunne captained Toomevara to two County Final victories in 1999 and 2006. Name another Toomevara captain, pictured here, to be presented with the Dan Breen trophy on two occasions?
- Scoring 1-5 in a replay to defeat Borrisoleigh in the 1977 Co Final decider, this club won the Co Final with the lowest winning score since Thurles Sarsfields scored 1-4, also after a replay, to win the 1945 title. Name the 1977 Champions?
- This club were Golden Jubilee County Champions in 1934 and Centenary County Champions in 1984. Name the club?
- South Division club who were back to back County Champions in 1966 and 1967, and who were also the first Tipperary club to win the Munster Senior Hurling Club title in 1966?
- How many different clubs, Tipperary County Final winners, have gone on to win the Munster Senior Club Hurling Championship? (a) 6, (b) 8, (c) 10?
- Cashel King Cormac's won the 1991 County Final reversing their loss to Holycross-Ballycahill in the previous year's final. They scored two goals in the game, one scored by Tommy Grogan and the other by one of the Bonnar brothers, but which one (a) Colm, (b) Cormac, (c) Conal or (d) Ailbe?



• Answers on page 64 ➤



County Games Development Administrators appointed

Johnny Cummins

Mobile 086-8660913. email: Johnny.cummins.gda.tipperary@gaa.ie

Johnny is a member of the Ardfinnan/Ballybacon Grange club. He has been working as a GPO since 2000 having previously worked as Urban Development Officer in Carrick-on-Suir. Johnny has responsibility for all clubs and schools in the South Tipperary division and is vastly experienced in all areas of coaching and games. He is a qualified Hurling and Football Coach Tutor. Johnny played at all levels of hurling and football for his club, he also played Senior football for Tipperary. In coaching terms he is heavily involved in the football development squad program. Johnny coached minor and u21 county football teams, he was also manager of the Waterford Senior and Junior football teams.



Kevin Halley

Mobile 086-1925188. email: kevin.halley.gda.tipperary@gaa.ie

Kevin is a member of the Rockwell Rovers club where he plays hurling and football. He was captain of the Rockwell Rovers "celebrity bainisteoir" team recently seen on the TV program of the same name (his eternal claim to fame). Kevin acted as treasurer in his club and is still heavily involved in club matters. He commenced as a GPO in West Tipperary in December 2007 and is currently GDA for the division. He was a selector on the Tipperary Minor Football Team 2009 a position he relinquished on his appointment as GDA. Kevin also worked as administrator for the South Tipperary Gaa Centre, Clonmel from 2004 to 2007



Andy Ryan

Mobile 087-9090985. email: andy.ryan.gda.tipperary@gaa.ie

Andy is a native of Thurles where he played hurling and football with Durlas Og and Sarsfields winning County Minor and U21 Hurling medals as well as a County Junior Football medal. Emigrating in the late eighties to London he continued his playing career with Robert Emmetts. He continued to coach Robert Emmett's Senior hurlers as well as Young Irelands Football team. On returning to Thurles he became involved in Dúrlas Óg where he coached hurling and football teams as well as acting as selector on Sarsfields u21 teams 2005/6. Now residing in Inch, he is involved in camogie coaching in his adopted parish (will there be a clash of interests today).

Andy commenced as GDA for Mid Tipperary in August having served as Youth Officer on the Tipperary County Board. He is a qualified coach tutor.



Tadhg O'Connor

Mobile 086-8978873. email: tadhg.oconnor.gda.tipperary@gaa.ie

Tadhg started as GDA for North Tipperary in August having been previously working on a part-time basis in the division. He has won every honour in Hurling, including three All-Star awards and captained Tipperary to Senior success in 1971. He also played Minor and U21 Football for Tipperary. He was a constant member of the all conquering Roscrea teams of the 60's 70's and 80's playing in 13 County Finals winning six. He managed the County U21 Hurling team 1987/88 and is currently involved with the County underage development squad program. Tadhg worked for many years in Antigen Roscrea rising to the rank of I.T Manager. Tadhg brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new position in North Tipperary.





RESPECT FOR ALL *initiative*

WE'VE ALL seen it. Ten minutes into the first round of the under-12 championship and things are not going too well for the Coaches team. The veins begin to protrude at the side of the neck and the profanities start to come out of his mouth. The six weeks work he has put into the team is unravelling before his eyes. He pounds up and down the sideline, no one is safe in his immediate vicinity. His own players, the referee, the opposition players, his own club mentors all come under his wrath. It is not a pretty sight, yet we see it all too often on the playing pitches at our games.

The **GAA Respect Initiative** aims to promote positive behaviour and to ensure that an enriching environment is provided for the promotion and development of Gaelic games. This includes respect for and from all participants on and around the field. The initiative is currently being piloted in four counties (Armagh, Waterford, Kilkenny and Sligo) at all levels up to Under 12 with national roll out at this level planned in 2010.

What is involved?

- Implementing the Code of Behaviour
- Coach & Referee Education (Young Whistlers)
- Designated Spectators' Area
- Go Games Programme
- Strong Club Leadership
- Respect Awareness Programme
- Education Programme
- Recognition and Merit Awards

How does it work?

- Players and coaches line up behind their manager before and after the game to shake hands with the referee, opposing players and coaches
- A captain is appointed for each game to maintain high standards of behaviour and to communicate with the referee
- A merit award – based on sporting endeavour and fair play – is awarded to a player at the end of each game/blitz.
- Supporters remain in designated areas at the side of the pitch for the full duration of each game.
- Each unit must strive to achieve maximum participation for all players
- Referees to be welcomed to the GAA Club.

A Checklist for Behaviour

- Responsible
- Encouraging
- Supportive
- Positive
- Enabling
- Considerate
- Tolerant

MANAGING PLAYERS

The referee will work with the captain and coaches to manage the game effectively. Referees will control the game by applying the rules of the game

and by dealing with any instances of dissent firmly. In the event of a player using foul language or behaving in an unsporting manner it is recommended that:

1. A Free is awarded to the opposition and the player is informed that he will be asked to leave the game in the event of repeat behaviour
2. In the event of repeated abusive language or unsporting behaviour, the referee instructs the coach to replace the offending player and the game is recommenced after this.

MANAGING THE SIDELINE

In the event of a person – other than a player – using foul language or behaving in an unsporting manner it is recommended that:

1. The matter is brought to the attention of the designated team representative
2. The representative reminds the person concerned of his/her responsibilities
3. Where the behaviour continues, the game may be terminated
4. A full report is provided by the referee to the committee with responsibility for the fixture.

We all understand the passion and effort that so many people put into our games week in week out throughout the country, however inappropriate behaviour cannot be allowed to tarnish all of the good work that is being done. It is hoped that the roll out of this initiative along with the on going Coach-Mentor Education Programme will help in no small way to making the playing of our games and the attendance at our games a more rewarding and positive experience for all concerned.

DINNY MAHER

Games Manager, Tipperary County Board



The referee and players from both sides shake hands after the Kerry v Meath Go Games game in Croke Park.

(Photo: Ray McManus, Sportshill)



The victorious Kilsheelan/Kilcash captain Martin Gibbs receives the County Under-12 'B' Shield from Sean Creamer, County Bord na nÓg Chairman. Neil Ryan, County Bord na nÓg Secretary is on the left.

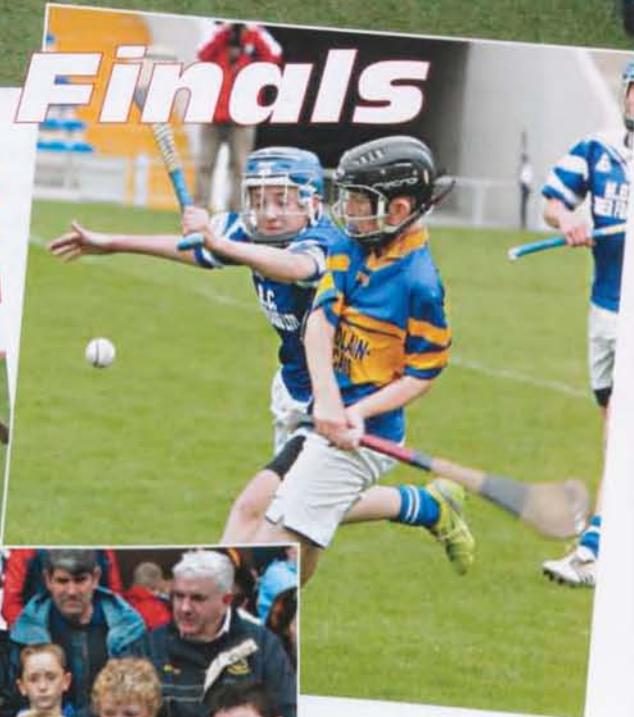
County Under-12





The Moyle Rovers panel that defeated Drom/Inch in the 'A' final.

2 Hurling Finals



←
Portroe captain Robert Byrne receives the County Under-12 'C' Cup from Sean Creamer, County Bord na nÓg Chairman. Neil Ryan, County Bord na nÓg Secretary is on the left.



County Final Memories....

Declan Ryan (Clonoulty Rossmore)

1989 – Clonoulty Rossmore 1-11, Holycross/Ballycahill 1-9

IT HAD been 101 years since the parish had won the Co Championship when we reached the final in 1989 against Holycross-Ballycahill. We played some good hurling and with Len Gaynor as coach, we played to the end without fear. Peter Hayes scored the all important goal in the second half. The game will forever be spoken about in the parish. Natives of the parish came from far and wide to support us. Travelling to Semple Stadium with the opportunity to win the Dan Breen is an incredible experience for players and supporters alike. The build up brought out the best in everyone. The feeling of unity brought to the game that day carried us through and the feeling of unity after winning was as good as it gets. The pride felt when your parish wins the County Final is more deep-rooted than winning with your county. You play with the guys you have grown up with and with the older guys you have admired and tried to emulate. To everyone that made the day that will always stay with us – thanks for the memories.



Declan Carr (Holycross Ballycahill)

1990 – Holycross Ballycahill 0-13, Cashel King Cormacs 0-10

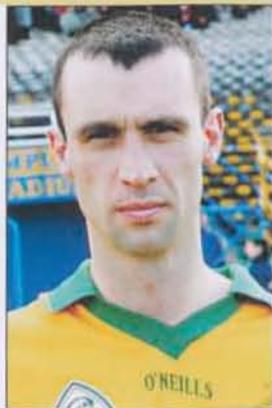
IT MAY be 19 years on, but Holycross-Ballycahill captain of 1990, Declan Carr, still has vivid memories of that year's county senior hurling final. He recalls the torrents of rain that fell as Cashel King Cormacs and Holycross – Ballycahill took the field. In fact it rained so heavily that the pre-match parade had to be abandoned. When the action started, a gripping contest ensued, with some great individual battles throughout the field. With the teams level, 0-10 each entering the final minutes, Tony Lanigan's three stylish points gave Holycross – Ballycahill a famous win. Declan lifted the Dan Breen Cup on behalf of an ecstatic Holycross – Ballycahill, but Cashel King Cormacs would return to claim the title twelve months later.



Tommy Dunne (Toomevara)

1992 – Toomevara 0-12, Thurles Sarsfields 1-6 (Replay)

I REMEMBER there was great excitement and anticipation in the build-up. It was 31 years since we had played in a final so it was a whole new experience. Pat Joe Whelehan was our manager at the time and his experience of big games was really important. It was a tight and tense game against Thurles Sarsfields and there was a huge crowd and great atmosphere. It ended in a draw. We won the replay the following weekend and we felt both a sense of achievement and relief. We had lost North finals and county semi-finals in the years leading up to 1992 so it was magnificent to put all that behind us. The win meant a lot to all of us but probably meant most to the older experienced players. The homecoming was a phenomenal experience. The bonfires, the crowds – it was wonderful and I will always remember it. The whole parish was on a high.





Unite the Divisions

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

TIPPERARY GAA has been defined for many decades by its four divisions – North, South, Mid and West. Efforts to restructure the process several years ago, met with overwhelming opposition and the status quo remained.

Within the county there are numerous committees which help to organise the games and ensure that progress is made on a range of issues from club development, to IT enhancements, to Public Relations initiatives. Tipperary is very well served by outstanding officials, excellent referees, a vibrant playing membership at club, school and Bord na nÓg

levels, as well as probably unequalled infrastructure at club and county. The support base is phenomenal and everyone wants to see the county doing well and being successful in as many grades as possible.

The one issue which bothers me in our administrative structures (and there are two County Councils as well!) is the use of the appellation Division, to identify a GAA unit of our county.

There are four Divisions, but there is only one Tipperary. If it isn't time to change the boundaries, then perhaps consideration might be given to the introduction of alternative contemporary nomenclature such as Areas, Districts or Regions. United we stand!

122 Years Ago ...

The First County Hurling Final - 1887

Thurles Sarsfields 0-3, North Tipperary 0-0

NORTH TIPPERARY and Thurles had the honour of playing in the historic first ever county hurling final. Borrisoleigh was the venue on 24th July. The teams were scoreless at half-time but then the North began to weaken and had to give way to the fresher Thurles team. The final score was three points and two forfeit points to nil.

The victorious Thurles team in their green and gold jerseys, which won the first Tipperary Hurling Championship, was: Denis Maher (Captain), Andy, Tom and Matty Maher, Jim Stapleton, Ned Murphy, Jer Dwyer, Jack, Dinny, Ned, and Matty Maher, Con Callanan, Tom Burke, Dan Davern, Jim Sullivan, Pat Ryan, Stephen Purcell, Dick Butler, Ned Flanagan, Martin McNamara (Mack) and Jack Bannon.





Saibhreas Órga

N'fheadar go díreach cén fath a bhfuil meas chomh foirleathan sinn ar Buirgheas Uí Luíoch mar fhoireann iománaíochta – an é go raibh an cumann láirneach i scéalta draíochta iománaíochta Thibraid Árann sna caogaidí, seascaidí agus ochtóidí – nó an é nach bhfuil áit ar domhan a bhfuil an t-iománaíocht maraon leis an gceol, na madraí agus an spiorad ionraic sin chomh fite fuaite le saol an phobail. Pé scéal é, agus sinn ag ceiliúradh na fóirne

iontaigh sin i dtús na hochtóidí tuigtear gurab iad aobhneas, greann agus scil den scoth a las an bealach dóibh go barr réime sna blianta stairiúla sin. Bhuaigh siad craobh uile Éireann na Club, Corn Dan Breen, Craobh an Tuaiscirt agus gach gradam iománaíochta gur féidir breith air. Is iomaí iomhá a thagann chun cuimhne, an coileach i lár an fhaiche, neart agus misneach Noel Dwyer, imirt snasta Michael Coen,

na fathaigh geanúla de chlann Stapleton, iománaíocht órga Timmy Delaney agus na hainmneacha ársa Ryan, Stakelum agus Kenny i láthair go deo. Ní hé gur séal siad isteach in aon fhoireann ach le foighne, luas agus smacht iomlán ar an sliotar fuairadar an lámh in uachtar ar a sheas sa tslí orthu.

Nuair a chraith tú lámh leo ag deireadh an chluiche, bhí tú breá buíoch gur chuid de cheiliúradh uasal na hiománaíochta thú, go raibh do chuid déanta agat agus gur fhan tú bródúil agus sásta gur sheas tú leo tráth, le huaisleacht agus le maorgocht. Bronnaimid urraim agus ómós ar na laochra sinn inniu. Tá an cuma ar an scéal go bhfuil an marún agus bán ar tí fillleadh athuair – beidh fáilte Uí Cheallaigh rompu.

Nuair a chraith tú lámh leo ag deireadh an chluiche, bhí tú breá buíoch gur chuid de cheiliúradh uasal na hiománaíochta thú.



Noel O'Dwyer (Borrisoleigh) receiving the 'Man of the Match' award from Donie Shanahan, representing the sponsors after the 1983 county final at Cashel.

Séamus Ó Duagáin

QUIZ answers

Quiz on Page 57

1. John McIntyre (Galway).
2. (c) Mickey "Rattler" Byrne.
3. Mullinhone Kickhams.
4. (a) 1931.
5. (c) Jack Bergin.
6. (a) Wayne Cully.
7. (c) Borrisoleigh.
8. Clonoulty Rossmore in 1989 and 1997.
9. Moneygall.
10. Declan Carr.
11. (c) Jim Fogarty.
12. (b) 10-4.
13. (a) Cappawhite.
14. (b) Roscrea. Kilruane MacDonaghs were All Ireland Club Champions in 1985 and Borrisoleigh captured this title in 1986.
15. Michael Bevens, in 2003 and 2008.
16. Kilruane MacDonaghs.
17. Moycarkey Borris.
18. Carrick Davins.
19. (b) 8. Toomevara (3 titles); Roscrea (twice), Carrick Davins; Moycarkey Borris; Kilruane MacDonaghs; Borrisoleigh; Cashel King Cormacs; and Loughmore Castleiney.
20. (b) Cormac.



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