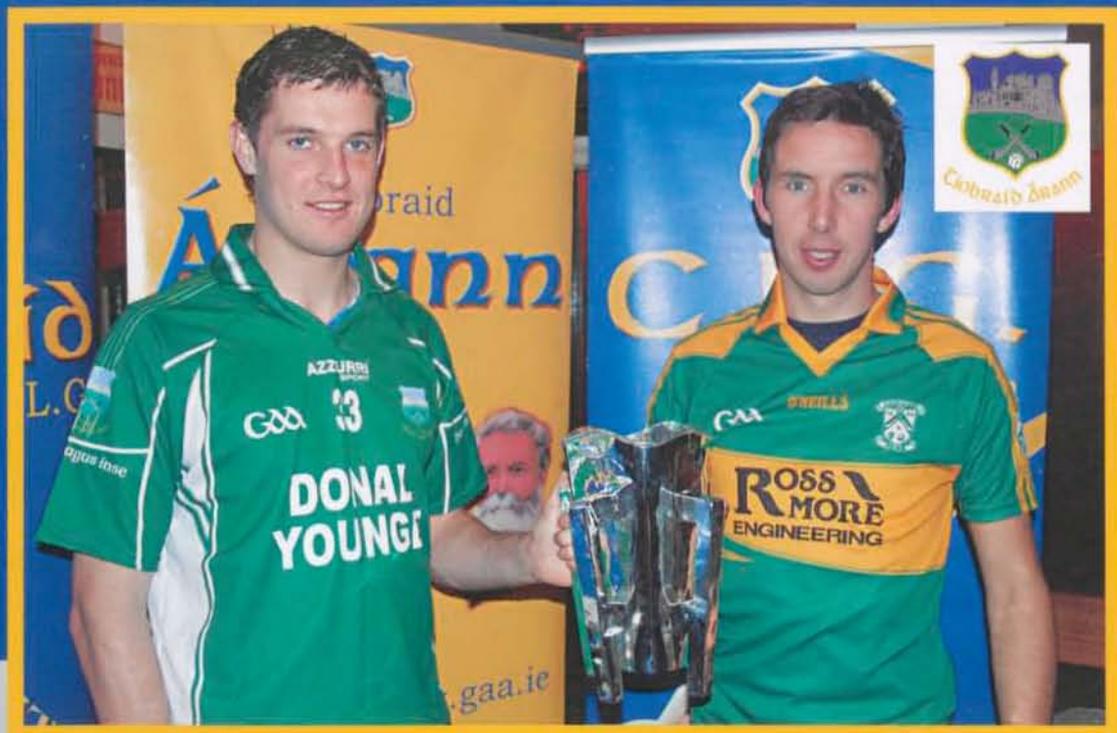


Co. Tipperary Senior Hurling Final  
Match Programme  
2011

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Tiobraid Árann



# *Craobh Chluichí an Chontae 2011*

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Dúrlas Éile*

*16ú Deireadh  
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## Fáilte ón gCathaoirleach



Fáilte romhaibh go léir go dtí Cluichí Ceannais Iomána Tiobraid Árann anseo i Stáid Semple. Taim cinnte go mbeidh iomaníocht laidir ann idir na foirne ins an dá chluiche cheannais. Fáilte fé leith roimh na h-imreoirí, na h-oifigigh agus na reiteoirí agus tá súil agam go mbeidh sar chluichí spoirtíúla againn.

In welcoming the teams, players and officials, for both games, Knockavilla Kickhams and Moycarkey Borris in the Seamus Ó Riain Final and Clonoulty Rossmore and Drom and Inch in the senior final for the Dan Breen Cup, I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our referees Paddy Ivors and Pat Gibson and their officials who will officiate at today's games. Indeed I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our referees, umpires and linesmen in the county for their dedication to our games and recognise that without them it would not be possible to run our games. I would also like to thank our referees coordinator in the county John Lonergan and his committee for the wonderful work they do in continuously striving to help ensure that we have a constant supply of well trained referees to handle our games.

In the senior final we have in Clonoulty Rossmore and Drom and Inch two teams who have been knocking at the door for the last few years and I believe that they will give us an intriguing final today. Having watched both teams on the path to the final, I think that they have won their way to this decider in convincing style and either team will make superb champions.

In the Seamus Ó Riain final, Knockavilla Kickhams and Moycarkey Borris will be

going full tilt to try and bring back county success to their respective clubs and I am sure that these two clubs with their proud traditions will give us a very exciting opening game.

The Kilruane McDonaghs team who will be honoured as part of today's programme are most welcome and I hope that today will bring back fond memories to them of their wonderful exploits during their playing careers.

To groundsman Philly Butler, I say a thousand thanks for the wonderful work he does with all the other stadium staff in presenting the stadium again in great condition for today's games.

I would also like to thank Ger Corbett and the programme committee for another top class production today and compliment them on their deserved McNamee Award this year.

Finally to all our supporters today and all year, many thanks for the effort you make in coming to our games and I must say that as a county, Tipperary can be rightly proud of all our supporters at club and county games.

I hope you all have a great day out, good luck to all the teams, and irrespective of which clubs go home victorious I know that hurling will be the winner today.

*Barra Ó Briain*  
**BARRA Ó BRIAIN**  
Cathaoirleach Chontae  
Tiobraid Árann

1. Fáilte ón gCathairleach
5. Meet the Referees
6. Novel Pairing for Final  
*By Noel Dundon*
8. Odds & Ends  
*By Seamus O'Doherty*
10. Where To Now?  
*By Seamus O'Doherty*
13. Scribes on the Spot  
*By Noel Dundon*
14. Ó Riain Cup Results
15. Ó Riain Cup – The Perfect Curtain Raser
16. Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams lineout
17. Moycarkey Borris lineout
19. Did You Know?  
*By Seamus O'Doherty*
19. 50 Years + in Semple Stadium
20. County Final Moments  
*By Seamus O'Doherty*
22. Tipperary 1961 Team Pic
23. The March of Time
24. Clonoulty Rossmore Management
26. Clonoulty's Winning Formula  
*By J.J. Kennedy*
28. Clonoulty Player Interview  
*By Jackie Cahill*
30. Clonoulty's Path to Final
31. Clonoulty Rossmore Team Photograph and Substitutes

## Clár an Lae

- 1.10 Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams on to the field
- 1.12 Moycarkey Borris on to the field
- 1.30 Throw-In for the  
**SÉAMUS Ó RIAIN CUP FINAL**  
**Knockavilla**  
**Donaskeigh Kickhams**  
**v Moycarkey Borris**  
*Réiteoir: Paddy Ivors (Ballingarry)*
- 2.00 Half-time in Séamus Ó Riain Cup Final  
*(Entertainment by the Séan Treacy Pipe Band)*
- 2.10 Second half of Séamus Ó Riain Cup Final commences
- 2.40 End of Séamus Ó Riain Cup Final
- 2.50 Presentation of the Séamus Ó Riain Cup to winning Captain, followed by presentation of "Man of the Match" Award  
*(Sponsored by John Quirke Jewellers, Cahir)*
- 2.55 Presentation of the Kilruane McDonaghs 1985 County Champions
- 3.12 Clonoulty Rossmore team on to the field

## Amhrán an bhFiann

TODAY'S SINGER of Amhrán na bhFiann is **Paddy Dolan** from Borrisoleigh. Paddy has been a staunch member of Scór since 1970 with successes in Solo-singing, Novelty Act, Question Time and Ballad Group. His most recent victory was winning the Solo-Song competition in the County Final of Senior Scór earlier this year. Paddy has many other interests, which include collecting G.A.A. programmes, collecting coins and also has a keen interest in philately. He is married to Marian and they have three children, Aisling, Sinéad and Pádraig. Paddy is an employee of M. & J. Gleeson, Borrisoleigh.



# Clár an Lae

**3.14** Drom & Inch team on to the field

**3.25** Pre-Match Parade

**3.28** Amhrán na Bhfiann

**3.30** Throw-In for the

## COUNTY SENIOR HURLING FINAL

## Clonoulty

## Rossmore

## v Drom & Inch

*Réiteoir:* Pat Gibson (Burgess)



**4.00** Half-time of Senior Hurling Final  
*(Entertainment by the Séan Treacy  
Pipe Band)*

**4.10** Second half of the County Senior  
Hurling Final

**4.40** End of the County Senior Hurling Final

**4.50** Presentation of the Dan Breen Cup to  
the winning captain by Barra Ó Briain,  
Cathaoirleach an Chontae, followed  
by the presentation of the "Man of the  
Match" Award  
*(Sponsored by John Quirke Jewellers,  
Cahir)*

**32.** Clonoulty Rossmore Lineout

**33.** Drom & Inch Lineout

**34.** Drom & Inch Team Photograph and  
Substitutes

**35.** Drom & Inch's Path to Final

**36.** Drom & Inch Player Interview

*By Jackie Cahill*

**38.** Drom & Inch Management Team

**40.** If Hunger Counts....

*By Damian Lawlor*

**42.-43.** Club Stalwart

*- Passion and Pride*

**44.** Cian O'Neill - He left his Mark

*By Diarmuid O'Flynn*

**47.** Dick Martin - It is his Life

*By Noel Dundon*

**48.** 1931 Final

*By Jim Fogarty*

**50.** Kilruane MacDonaghs 1985/1986

*By Seamus J. King*

**56.** Youth View

**59.** GAA Coaching News

*By Andy Ryan*

**60.** Would you like to be part of Scór?

**61.** International 13s

**62.** Semple Stadium Safety  
and General Information

**63.** Níl aon tinteán....

*Le Séamus Ó Dubhagáin*

**64.** 'The Runaf'

*By Michael Dundon*

**COVER CAPTIONS** - *Front Cover: Team captains Seamus Callanan (Drom & Inch) and John Devane (Clonoulty Rossmore) at County Final launch night. Back Cover: Tipperary Minor team captain Liam McGrath lifts the Tom Markham Cup in Croke Park.*

## Buiochas

We hope you enjoy reading today's programme. It has been produced with the assistance of Ger Ryan (County PRO), Tim Floyd (County Secretary), Tom Maher (Assistant County Secretary), Liam Ó Donnchú and the officers in all four clubs. Many thanks to all those who contributed material - Seamus O'Doherty, Noel Dundon, Jackie Cahill, J.J. Kennedy, Damian Lawlor, Diarmuid O'Flynn, Seamus J. King, Jim Fogarty, Andy Ryan, Michael Dundon, Liam Hogan, Brian McDonnell, Shane Brophy, Eamonn Wynne, Seamus Ó Dubhagáin, Seosaimhín Ní Chathail and Mary Bourke. A special word of thanks to photographers John D. Kelly, Andy Jay, Bridget Delaney, Sarah Morris, Padraig Ó Flannábhra, Jerry Ring and Sportsfile.

GER CORBETT, Editor

# Tipperary G.A.A. Clubs' **Draw**

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# Meet the Referees

## PAT GIBSON

(Burgess)

REFEREE Pat Gibson takes charge of his first Ever county final this afternoon, having just taken up the whistle some five years ago.

The Burgess man, formerly of Kilruane MacDonagh, has been refereeing at adult and juvenile level since he first took up the whistle back in 2007 and has risen to the top of the profession very rapidly indeed, such has been his flair for the business. He has refereed North intermediate hurling and football finals as well as minor hurling and football finals in recent times. A production supervisor, based in Limerick, Pat describes the honour of officiating at today's decider and says that it is a huge boost to him and his umpires.

"It's a tremendous honour to be entrusted with the biggest game in the Tipperary hurling season and it is something I am really looking forward to. Of course, I'll be hoping that nobody in Semple Stadium realises I am there at all, because if people are talking about the referee, there is something wrong," Pat said.

Joining him as umpires this afternoon are Paddy McMahon, Tom Bourke, Philip Ryan and P.J. Hogan – the bulk of whom have been with Pat since he started out as the man in the middle. Ger Fitzpatrick and Anthony Sherlock are the linesmen for the game, while Philip Kelly is the fourth official.

It will be a big day for the Gibson family as Pat's brother Seamus, former Tipperary All-Ireland winning defender, will be honoured this afternoon also with the Kilruane MacDonagh team of 1985 which won the County Final and went on to win the Munster and All-Ireland titles as well. All the Gibson's will be on hand to see Seamus taking his bow, and Pat keeping order in the senior decider.

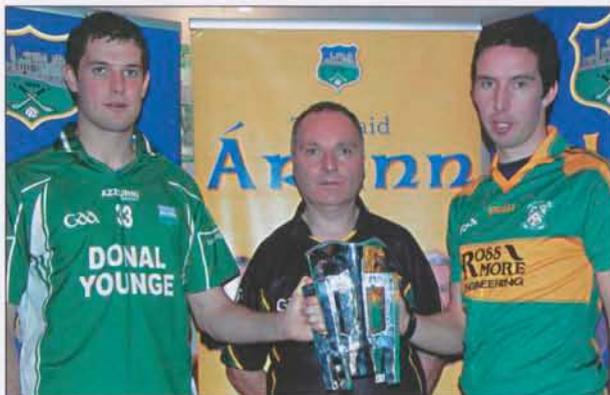
"Yeah it will be nice to see all the lads on the field again. I played up to minor myself with Kilruane MacDonagh but I always had an interest in refereeing and while I came to it relatively late, I am delighted to be getting this chance," Pat said.

Pat and his officials are congratulated on being selected and are wished well for the big day.

*Linesmen:* Ger Fitzpatrick (Roscrea) (Standby Referee), Anthony Sherlock (Kildangan).

*Sideline Official:* Philip Kelly (Ballinahinch).

*Umpires:* Paddy McMahon, Tom Bourke, Philip Ryan, P.J. Hogan.



Referee Pat Gibson with today's captains Drom & Inch's Seamus Callanan (left) and John Devane (Clonoulty Rossmore).

## PADDY IVORS

(Ballingarry)

PADDY is refereeing for ten years and is considered to be one of the fittest in the game. He is married to Catherine and they have three children, Joanne, Irene and Ian who was a member of this year's County Tipperary Under-21 hurling panel.

He is no stranger to the playing field himself. Paddy captained his native Ballingarry to County Junior 'B' honours in 2007. He has refereed at all levels in the South division and was man in the middle for the 2008 County Junior 'B' hurling final.

Paddy and his team are really looking forward to today's Ó Riain Cup decider.

*Linesmen:* Keith Delahunty (Moyle Rovers) (Standby Referee), P.J. Nolan (Killea).

*Sideline Official:* Michael O'Donnell (Clerihan).

*Umpires:* Tommy Sheehan, John Callanan, Timmy Cleere, Paul Cleary.



# Novel pairing for 115th County Senior Hurling Final

**S**O, HERE we are again. Another County senior hurling final in The Premier County – where has the last year gone, one wonders?

A novel pairing this time round – the West champions against Mid runners-up – neither team in action have seen success at this level in the new millennium; Drom-Inch never before.

It's rather curious to think that a club as steeped in history as the famed Drom & Inch men have never before tasted the spoils of victory in the County senior hurling championship, especially when one considers the many greats to have graced the game from the parish. Families with deep rooted Gaeldom; great hunger and passion for the Association; and with pride of parish ingrained from birth; have battled for the cause from generation to generation. But, to no avail so far. All that can change this afternoon.

Teddy Kennedy, Martin Butler and Andy Bourke will be immortalised, along with Sean Prendergast, if Drom & Inch manage to get over the finish line in pole position. This management team has been responsible for the rejuvenation of the side after they lost the Mid Final to Loughmore Castleiney. They worked on the mental wounds and ensured that when the players went to the well again in the county championship, there was plenty of substance to draw on. Since then, they have flourished and Drom & Inch are without doubt in flying form now. They carry

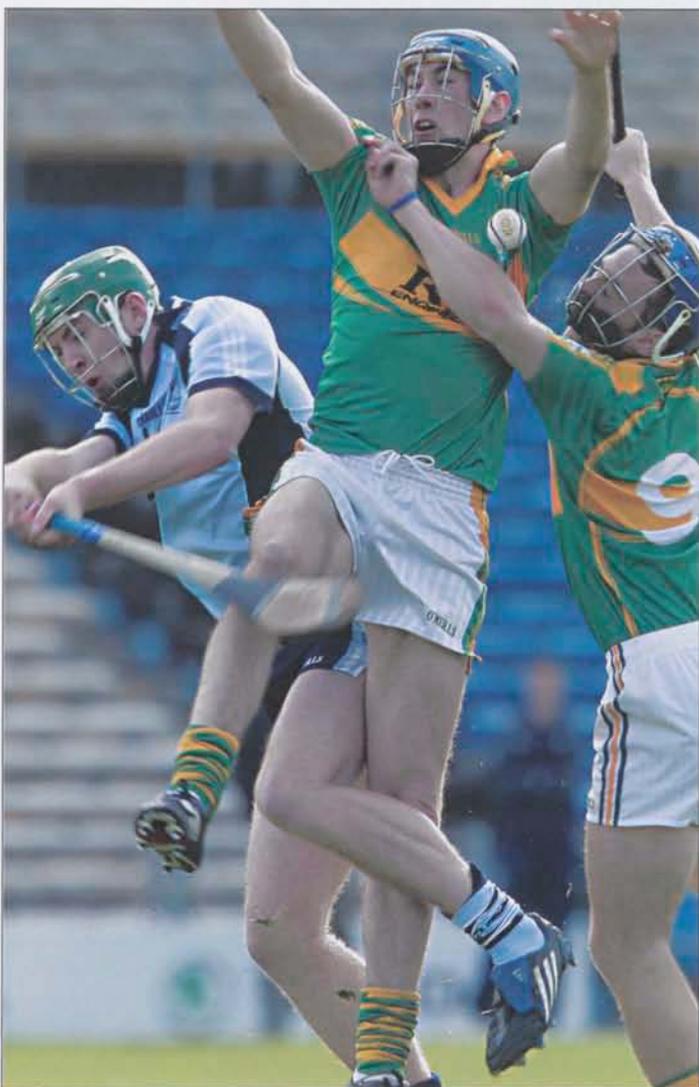
By: NOEL DUNDON



the favourites tag with them, but they have been very quick to point out that the quality of Clonoulty Rossmore's win over holders Sarsfields in the semi-final was from the top drawer. They accept the favourites tag,

but add the caveat that it means nothing when referee Pat Gibson throws-in the ball.

Injuries have robbed Clonoulty Rossmore of a full squad from which to pick for this decider. And, while it means that the five-in-a-row West champions will be depleted, spare a thought for those who are ruled out and will not play



Quarter-final action between Clonoulty Rossmore and Nenagh Éire Óg.

(Photo: John D. Kelly)

any part in this hurling showpiece. Thomas Butler and Paudie White in particular have a long road ahead of them having picked up cruciate knee injuries – they are wished all the best in their recovery.

It's 23 years since Dan Breen last visited the Clonoulty Rossmore parish – in fact the latest incarnation of the famed trophy has never been, since it was presented for the first time in 2006. Current selector Andrew Fryday was on that team in 1997 and was there also in 1989 when he was accompanied by current Manager T.J. Ryan. Two men who have seen an awful lot of hurling down through the years, their experience, together with that of Coach Liam Cahill helped plot the downfall of the 'unbeatable' Sarsfields outfit. They took much credit for that win, but have been emphasising the point that it counts for nothing if not followed up with another this afternoon.

There's probably nobody in Tipperary who would begrudge Drom & Inch a first title – apart from Clonoulty Rossmore folk of course. Curiously, when they won the title in 1997, Clonoulty Rossmore also denied Mullinahone a first ever title – could history repeat itself this



Drom & Inch's Seamus Butler is to the fore in this tussle for possession in the semi-final clash with Mullinahone.

(Photo: John D. Kelly)

afternoon?

On the other hand, nobody would begrudge the West men a date with the Dan Breen Cup either. They have been tremendous ambassadors for their division and have been in the county shake-up for a number of seasons. Their theory is, if you keep knocking on the door long enough, it will eventually open up – could this

afternoon be their appointed time?

The club scene has helped to make up for the disappointment of the All-Ireland Final defeat at the hands of Kilkenny in September. Let's hope this afternoon's game will whet the appetite for more to come in 2012.

Best of luck to both teams. Enjoy the game.

## County Senior Hurling Final REFEREES 1980-2010

1980	Martin O'Grady	(Moyné Templetuohy)	1996	Willie Barrett	(Ardfinnan)
1981	Billy Carroll	(St Mary's Clonmel)	1997	Michael Cahill	(Kilruane MacDonagh)
1982	George Ryan	(Lattin) <i>Draw &amp; replay</i>	1998	Willie Barrett	(Ardfinnan)
1983	John Moloney	(Galtee Rovers)	1999	Johnny McDonnell	(Roscrea)
1984	Willie Barrett	(Ardfinnan)	2000	Willie Barrett	(Ardfinnan)
1985	Donal O'Gorman	(Thurles Sarsfields)	2001	Seamus Roche	(Kilsheelan)
1986	John Maher	(Boherlahan Dualla)	2002	Paddy Russell	(Emly) <i>Draw</i>
1987	Gerry Long	(Knockshegowna)		Johnny McDonnell	(Roscrea) <i>Replay</i>
1988	Willie Barrett	(Ardfinnan)	2003	Seamus Roche	(Kilsheelan)
1989	John Moloney	(Galtee Rovers)	2004	Willie Clohessey	(Drom Inch)
1990	Willie Barrett	(Ardfinnan)	2005	Brian White	(Clonmel Commercials)
1991	Johnny McDonnell	(Roscrea)	2006	Richie Barry	(Cappawhite)
1992	Tommy Lonergan	(Kilsheelan)	2007	Tommy Ryan	(Kildangan)
	<i>Draw &amp; replay</i>		2008	Noel Cosgrove	(Marfield)
1993	Paddy Lonergan	(Galtee Rovers)	2009	Sean Bradshaw	(Knockavilla)
1994	Michael Doyle	(Holycross Ballycahill)			(Donaskeigh Kickhams)
1995	T.J. Corby	(St Mary's, Clonmel)	2010	Keith Delahunty	(Moyle Rovers)

# ODDS & ENDS

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



## Unrattled

THE DEPARTURE of Toomevara from the championship at the quarter final stage, ensures that Mickey 'Rattler' Byrne's record of fourteen county championship medals won with Thurles Sarsfields, remains unchallenged.



Terry Dunne

His closest pursuers who were involved this year, Terry Dunne and Tony Delaney from Toomevara, both have eleven medals – an outstanding achievement by any standards.

Having lost semi-finals in 2009/2010 and not reached the last four this time, it looks like the Toome' lads have lost their chance and that Mickey's record will stand for many years to come.

## Captains and custodians

IT IS interesting to note that over the past twenty six years, goalkeepers have been prominent as winning captains. In that time, there have been six successful number ones – namely Tony Sheppard (1985), Jody Grace (1993), Philip Ryan (1996), Justin Cottrill (2001), John Gleeson (2007) and Patrick McCormack (2010).

Prior to 1985, no goalkeeper had captained his club to Dan Breen Cup success.

## First final meeting

THERE HAS not been a previous County Final meeting of Clonoulty Rossmore and Drom & Inch. Their highest profile championship game to date was a County Quarter-Final meeting at Cashel on September 22nd 2007. Drom & Inch won by 0-15 to 0-13.

## Green flag day

DROM & INCH have been Co. Finalists in 2005, 2007 and 2009, and while they have lost each decider to Mid opposition, a consistent aspect of their defeats is an inability to score a goal. In their 'defence', only Thurles Sarsfields has scored one against them and that 2005 score was fortuitous, to say the least.

Perhaps today will see the wave of a green flag to go with the white ones and mark an historic day for Drom & Inch.

## Five timer

CLONOULTY Rossmore's achievement in winning their fifth consecutive West Tipperary title this year is a significant milestone for the club. Only Kickhams from 1952 to 1956 had previously won five in a row in the West.

In the other Divisions, Thurles Sarsfields won ten in the Mid from 1955 to 1964, while Moycarkey Borris won five from 1930-1934. Up North the record of seven is held by Toomevara between 1925 and 1931, with Roscrea on five from 1967 to 1971. The South has only once produced Champions for five consecutive years. The record is held by Carrick Swan who were victorious from 1944 to 1948.

# Talking points 2011

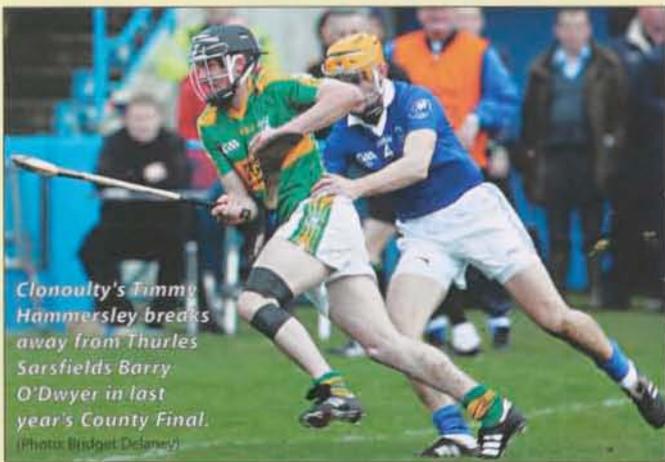
**E**OIN KELLY'S quarter final tour-de-force against Borris-Ileigh on September 25th, which yielded 2-13 after extra time, set a new scoring record for this stage of the championship. The previous best was Jimmy Doyle's 3-6, which he scored in an hour against Carrick Swan in 1960. Eoin's 0-10 in the semi-final against Drom & Inch wasn't enough to earn a first final appearance for his club since 2002.

The semi-finals on October 2nd produced an unusual scenario of Liam Cahill – a county title winner with Thurles Sarsfields in 2009 –

coaching Clonoulty Rossmore to dethrone his former team mates in their quest for a three in-a-row. Liam served as a selector with Clonoulty Rossmore's Declan Ryan, Thurles Sarsfields' Michael 'Glossy' Gleeson and Toomevara's Thomas Dunne in Tipperary's Provincial and All-Ireland Minor winning year of 2007.

The presence of Alan and David Kennedy from Clonoulty Rossmore in the Sarsfields colours provided another twist to the 2011 line-up.

Timmy Hammersley (Clonoulty Rossmore) took the overall semi-final scoring honours for 2011 with an impressive 1-8 in his club's victory over Thurles Sarsfields.



*Clonoulty's Timmy Hammersley breaks away from Thurles Sarsfields Barry O'Dwyer in last year's County Final. (Photo: Brendan Deane)*

## Modest returns

**T**ODAY the two finalists come face to face with a combined tally of three county titles. You would have to go back to 2007 for a more modest tally. When Loughmore Castleiney (one title) met Drom & Inch (no titles) it was the lowest combined tally of titles held by the finalists since the 1987 decider, when neither Cappawhite nor Loughmore Castleiney had won the championship previously. Prior to that, the last blank was in 1975, when Moneygall and Kilruane Ma Donaghs played for a first title. Carrick Davins and Lorrha lined out in similar circumstances for the 1966 championship.

## Defence is key

**A**NYONE who is expecting a goal fest today might do well to consider the evidence before investing in that option. In their seven County Finals to date, Clonoulty (with or without Rossmore), have averaged one goal per game.

Drom & Inch would probably consider that impressive, because they have yet to score a goal after three final appearances.

Their high profile quarter-final meeting in 2007 failed to produce a goal for either club. The average number of goals scored by each club

over their past four semi-final appearances, is one for Clonoulty Rossmore, who had extra time to boost them in the 2008 replay and only 0.75 for Drom & Inch!

## Sixty years ago

**C**LONOULTY ROSSMORE came into the 1951 County Final buoyed by their semi-final win over the champions of the previous two years – Borris-Ileigh. A five point win gave them every reason to fancy their chances of beating a team from the Mid, whose colours were green and white. If that scenario looks familiar, then so be it. Alas, for the Westerners the Final was a disappointment. Their captain, Tony Brennan, lined out at centre back and the damage was done by opposing full forward Ned Gorman, whose 3-0 helped his club to a convincing victory on a 5-15 to 1-4 scoreline. It was an entirely forgettable experience for the 5,000 or so spectators who came to Thurles Sportsfield expecting a final of substance.

Ned Gorman was the last man to score three goals in a Tipperary County Senior Hurling Final.

# Where to now?

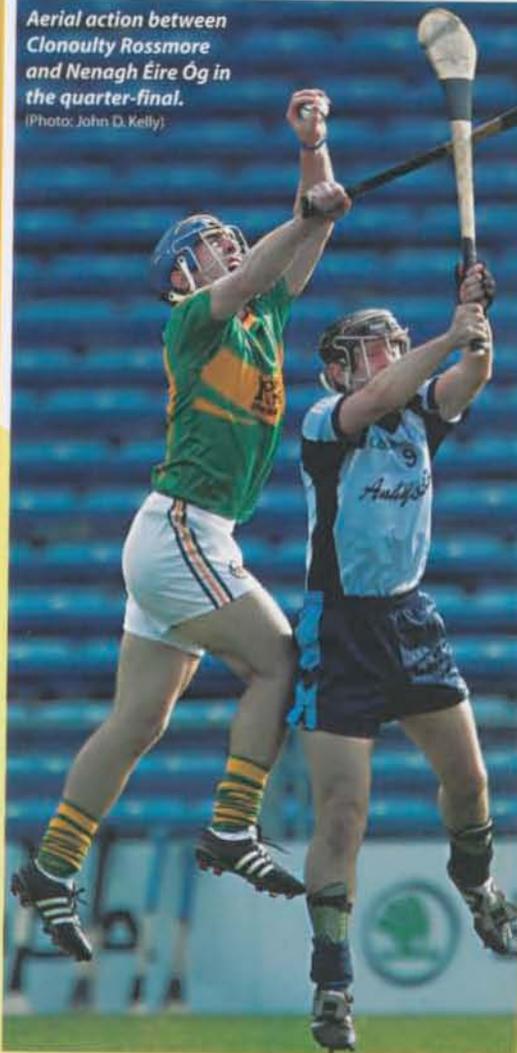
By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



**A**FTER TODAY'S county final, the losers will make their crestfallen way from 'The Field of Legends' having endured the pain of another county final defeat. Drom & Inch and Clonoulty Rossmore have been there very recently and

**Aerial action between Clonoulty Rossmore and Nenagh Éire Óg in the quarter-final.**

(Photo: John D. Kelly)



both know that they left their best form in the semi-finals.

The winners will celebrate with great energy and agree that their year-long commitment was all worthwhile. Later next week, thoughts will turn to the upcoming Munster Club championship first round meeting with the Waterford champions Ballygunner or Tallow.

The quality of this year's county championship has been modest and it will take a memorable final to leave an enduring positive memory of the 2011 campaign in patrons' minds. There were several downsides to this year's championship – inter alia – the number of participating teams, the runaway victories in many of the games, difficulties in finalising all Divisional competitions and small crowds at many of the games. My recent discussions with a cross-section of Tipperary hurling public, none of whom has been enthused by the status quo, have convinced me that there is now an acceptance of a need to consider changing the structure of our championship, not only to ensure it is more competitive, but to guarantee regulation on a current basis.

A related issue, which has also been frequently raised, is the diminishing status of a once high profile, competitive and valuable Intermediate grade.

A look towards North Tipperary is a worthwhile starting point. Once the dominant Division in Tipperary hurling, it has faded to a practical Toomevara monopoly over the past 25 years. Leaving aside 'The Greyhounds' 11 titles, only Borris-Ileigh (1986) and Nenagh Éire Óg (1995) have brought the Dan Breen Cup home in the past quarter of a century. This year the Division hosted twelve Senior teams – the same number as there are in all of Kilkenny! – and not one of them even reached this year's county semi-finals. You must go back to 1997 for the last time that happened and never before that in living memory. The performances of the Division's three representatives in the quarter-finals fell way short of expectations. Meanwhile, the same Division runs an Intermediate championship, comprising of only five teams and with the quintet knowing all there is to know about each other. Groundhog day lives on!

The current Senior Hurling championship system is unwieldy, with too many games being played, which have predictable outcomes. The real problem though is our insistence on maintaining a link to Divisional competitions. The Tipp Senior championships between 1969 and 1976 were run on an open draw, knock-out, basis and what happened was that the best team won the title every time. The contemporary observation was that they might not have if a Divisional feed of two teams each for quar-

ter-finals, which was reintroduced in 1977, had been in vogue. Forty years ago, there were 30 teams in the Tipp championship. The previous year's finalists (Roscrea and Thurles Sarsfields) were given first round byes and joined the fourteen winners in the second round. Moyne Templeuohy beat Ballybacon Grange in the semi-final before surprising three time champions, Roscrea, to win their first and only title. Nobody saw it coming until it happened. Moneygall broke through and won their brace 1975/76, but Roscrea 1969/70 and 1972/73 and Thurles Sarsfields 1974, also won the Dan Breen Cup under that system.

While there were some local derby games, there was also variety and because it was knock out, there were not as many games to be played, resulting in fewer trouncings and more cross-county appeal.

Not too many years ago, there was an official move to reform the county into two Units for GAA administrative purposes, but the opposition was tenacious

and what we have we hold! Nobody has dared to fly that kite since then and I am not suggesting that it should be 'aired' again. However, I believe that Tipperary should be thought of as one Entity, rather than four Divisions. Competitions should be structured with that in mind and whatever about the under-age grades (where a cross boundary format has already been established at some levels), I am firmly of the view that adult hurling championships should be arranged on an all-county basis.

There is no reason why the existing Divisional championships should end, but the County Championships would benefit from new arrangements if based on a meritocracy system. The top sixteen teams for year one could be selected from, say the consistent quarter-finalists in the Co. Championship over the past ten years. The grading would be self-regulating after year one.

For Senior Hurling there should be a Premier

County Senior Hurling Championship comprised of sixteen teams. There may also be a Seamus Ó Riain Senior Hurling Championship comprised of sixteen teams.

Each competition would comprise of four groups of four teams – with the teams allocated by open draw – and the top two to qualify for the quarter-finals. That stage would have a four winners v four runners-up in a cross-match, with the semi-finals then to be a totally open draw.

The bottom team in each group would be drawn for two games, with the losers meeting in a relegation decider, from which one goes down to the Seamus Ó Riain

Senior Hurling Championship, but retains its Senior status.

The Seamus Ó Riain Senior Hurling Championship could be run the same way, with the winner moving to the Premier County Senior Hurling Championship and one team being relegated, to the Intermediate grade.

The Intermediate County Championship would be run on

an All-County basis and the champions promoted to the Seamus Ó Riain Senior Hurling Championship for the following year. The Junior champions would upgrade to Intermediate with the aim of increasing participation and standards at that grade over a five year term.

The Divisions could continue to run their own competitions, including a Senior Championship and the All-County Leagues would still be there, so no significant reduction in games would arise. However, there would be a marked distinction between what we have now and what we could have in the future.

Competitive games are the lifeblood of any sport, but appropriate grading and progressive structures would prove beneficial in all respects.

Even if you don't agree, let's at least have the discussion!



Tony Scroope (Burgess) grapples with Drom & Inch's Eamon Buckley in the Round 4 match.

(Photo Andy Jay)



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# What the Scribes say



*The scribes of Tipperary have been very busy watching the senior hurling championship unfold over the last few weeks. There have been very many interesting twists and turns along the way but now that the final is upon us, we wondered what the knights of the pen had to say about the clash of Mid and West Tipperary in the decider. Here's their view:*

**Michael Dundon** "In their fourth final since 2005, I feel that Drom & Inch's hour has come. After a slow start to the year they have come into form at the right time and their win over Toomevara in the quarter-final showed how much they have matured. Clonoulty-Rossmore are no strangers to the closing stages and were beaten in last year's final. However, they will have to match the intensity and single-mindedness of their win over Sarsfields, the holders, in the semi-final to achieve their third title. It may all come down to how the 'big names' perform, and in that regard I think Drom & Inch have the edge and will win their first county senior hurling title."



**Jackie Cahill** "Drom & Inch have never done it and Clonoulty-Rossmore last did it back in 1997. But today, and with the shadow of Thurles Sarsfields removed from the equation, both clubs will never have a better chance of lifting the Dan Breen Cup and earning the honour of Tipperary senior club hurling champions. Drom & Inch have suffered final defeats in 2005, 2007 and 2009 but if they're on their game today, and led by the attacking prowess of Seamus Callanan, the men from the Mid are good enough to get past what promises to be a robust challenge from the West champions. Clonoulty-Rossmore are made of stern stuff, as they showed against the Sars, but injuries may just catch up with them in the end."



**Brian McDonnell** "Drom & Inch and Clonoulty-Rossmore have lit up the 2011 senior hurling championship and you can expect them to set it on fire once more this afternoon. With Clonoulty-Rossmore hamstrung by a series of injuries, it looks like Drom & Inch's turn to land Dan Breen. An emotional Seamus Callanan to lift the cup for the very first time!"



**Shane Brophy** "With both Drom & Inch and Clonoulty-Rossmore having suffered their fair share of finals disappointment in recent years, you would hate to see the disappointment continue for one of them but that is the way it will pan out unfortunately. At the fourth time of asking, Drom & Inch will attempt to win their first county senior championship and they have shown through the latter stages of this campaign that when they get into their stride that they are almost unstoppable. In Clonoulty-Rossmore they are an opponent that have shown what it takes to shut down opposition forward lines in particular and coupled with their great spirit and commitment, will ensure every ball is hard fought. In many ways, it will be decided by which team learns the lessons from their most recent final defeats when in '09 (Drom) and '10 (Clonoulty) both were well-beaten by Thurles Sarsfields but also neither side performed anywhere near their best on the day. Verdict: Drom & Inch."



**Liam Hogan** "Today's game will boil down to the Seamus Callanan factor. On his day, the Tipp star can hit double figures on the scoring chart. A big return by the number eleven and Drom usually win. However, the Clonoulty-Rossmore defence will be prepared to curb the Drom flyer as Joey O'Keeffe, James Heffernan, John Devane and John O'Keeffe will form a reliable rearguard for the West champions. In addition, the forward line can enjoy the added strengths of Tipp minors Sean Maher and Conor Hammersley as they provide solid support for the experienced John O'Neill and Timmy Hammersley, as recent wins testify. The win over Nenagh Éire Óg was impressive. Gaining the upper-hand on Thurles Sarsfields in the semi-final gave them a boost. On the other hand, Drom struggled to overcome Burgess. They also had a good win over Toome, but the North champions were hit by absences, while Mullinahone never reached their potential in the semi-final. This year Clonoulty look more focused under the management of Liam Cahill. The experience gained from appearing in last year's final will also stand to them. Clonoulty to win by at least five points."



**Eamonn Wynne** "Clonoulty/Rossmore and Drom & Inch provide a novel pairing in today's game in what is a fitting finale to a championship that started last April and concludes this afternoon with its 119th game. Both sides have been knocking on the door in recent years. Clonoulty were well beaten by Thurles Sarsfields in last year's final but turned the tables on the holders in this year's semi-final with a deserved 5-points win. Clonoulty have been boosted by the performances of players including Timmy Hammersley, John and Joey O'Keeffe, Conor Ryan, John O'Neill and their captain, John Devane. However, they also have a lengthy injury list to contend with as they chase their fourth title and their first in 14 years. Drom, meanwhile, have never won the Dan Breen Cup but it hasn't been for the want in trying in recent seasons, as they've been beaten finalists in 2005, 2007 and 2009. They've racked up big scores while beating Toomevara and Mullinahone in the quarter-final and semi-final. With Seamus Callanan in such devastating form and others such as James Woodlock, Johnny Ryan, Martin Butler, Eamonn Buckley, Mike Costello and Seamus and David Butler equally impressive throughout the campaign, they get a tentative vote to go all the way and create history."



# SÉAMUS Ó RIAIN CUP - Results

## Quarter-Final – 29th July:

Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams 1-16      Borrisokane..... 2-11

## Quarter-Final – 31st July:

Moycarkey-Borris..... 1-24      Ballingarry..... 2-14

## Quarter-Final – 6th August:

Boherlahan-Dualla..... 4-17      Cashel King Cormacs..... 3-19

## Quarter-Final – 10th September:

Moneygall..... 1-14      Ballybacon/Grange..... 0-12

## Semi-Final – 10th September:

Moycarkey-Borris..... 3-21      Boherlahan/Dualla..... 1-9

## Semi-Final – 24th September:

Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams 3-17      Moneygall..... 3-15

## Final – 16th October:

Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams \_\_\_\_\_ Moycarkey-Borris..... \_\_\_\_\_



←  
Moycarkey-Borris  
group at launch  
night (l.-r.): Martin  
Cooney (Selector),  
Pat Flanagan (Club  
Chairman), William  
Dempsey (Captain).



→  
Knockavilla Donaskeigh  
Kickhams group at launch  
night (l.-r.): Michael  
Shanahan (Captain), Tommy  
Hayes (Chairman), Helen  
Ryan (Secretary) and Patrick  
Ryan (Vice-Captain).

# Ó RIAIN CUP

By: NOEL DUNDON



## – the perfect curtain raiser

THE Seamus O'Riain Cup Final is the perfect curtain raiser to County Final Day here in Semple Stadium this afternoon and who better to contest the final than Knockavilla Kickhams and Moycarkey Borris – two of the finest clubs in The Premier County.

Yes indeed, it's another Mid vs West clash in this one, and anyone who would be bold enough to make a prediction would deserve enormous credit for trying – this game could go either way and what a big boost it would be to the winning club.

Of course the cup commemorates one of Tipperary's finest Gaels – the late and great Seamus Ó Riain – our last GAA President from Tipperary, and a real gentleman, who loved all things Irish, all things Moneygall, and all things Tipperary. Seamus Ó Riain was an historian of great note and when he spoke, as he did at many a GAA event, his natural story telling talents and his capabilities as an orator ensured that audiences were captivated by his comments. Of course, he was a teacher of note as well and loved to impart knowledge to all generations, not just the young.

Seamus Ó Riain was President of the County Tipperary GAA Board for many years and it is fitting that he is remembered in Semple Stadium on County Final Day each year.

So, Moycarkey Borris and Knockavilla Kickhams lock horns for the first of the day's silverware. The

Mid men had a disappointing campaign in their divisional championship and found it hard to get going all season long. They have recovered though in the Ó Riain Cup and embraced the second chance concept with open arms. They are now here in the final as deserving participants and will be hoping that their youthful side will gain much needed experience of the big day. A win this afternoon would do wonders for them.

Knockavilla Kickhams have lost a few players to emigration over the last few weeks and will rue those losses this afternoon. Unemployment has resulted in many clubs being robbed of key players as the modern day flight of earls continues for the current generations to the likes of Canada, Australia and New Zealand. They don't leave out of desire, they leave out of necessity – that's the sad part of it for communities and parishes all over Ireland at present.

Knockavilla Kickhams will be going all out to capture the silverware and Facebook the pictures to their comrades overseas. The club has gone through a lot of transition in recent times and a slice of silverware would certainly help then to develop and progress.

It's fair to say that both clubs on show here this afternoon in the Seamus Ó Riain Cup could really do with a win. Unfortunately, only one will win. Whoever that will be remains to be seen.



Photographed at the County Finals launch night are the Ó Riain Cup finalists captains (from left): Willie Dempsey (Moycarkey-Borris) and Michael Shanahan (Knockavilla-Donaskeigh Kickhams).



## FIR IONAIÐ

- (16) D. Ó hAodha  
**Damien Hayes**
- (17) T. Mac Cumascaigh  
**Tommy Comerford**
- (18) P. Mac Cumascaigh  
**Peter Comerford**
- (19) N. Ó Briain  
**Niall O'Brien**
- (20) A. Ó hInnéiri  
**Aiden Heney**
- (21) S. Ó Seancháin  
**James Shanahan**
- (22) S. Ó hAoláin  
**Shane Heelan**
- (23) S. Ó Muireasa  
**Shane Morrissey**
- (24) D. Ó Seancháin  
**David Shanahan**
- (25) B. Ó Fearail  
**Brendan Farrell**
- (26) G. Ó hAoláin  
**Gary Heelan**
- (27) S. Ó Briain  
**John O'Brien**
- (28) C. Ó hÓráin  
**Conor Horan**
- (29) R. Ó Dubhuir  
**Rory O'Dwyer**
- (30) N. Ó Briain  
**Noel O'Brien**
- (31) T. Ó Riain  
**Thomas Ryan**

# Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams

Dathanna: Dubh agus Ómra

(1)  
P. Ó Riain  
**Paddy Ryan**

(2)  
C. Ó Muireasa  
**Cathal Morrissey**

(3)  
N. Ó hAodha  
**Nigel Hayes**

(4)  
M. Ó Seancháin  
**Michael Shanahan (Capt.)**

(5)  
D. Mac Craith  
**Damien McGrath**

(6)  
E. Carrún  
**Eoin Carew**

(7)  
B. Ó hArgáin  
**Brian Horgan**

(8)  
P. Ó Briain  
**Patrick O'Brien**

(9)  
D. de Buitléir  
**David Butler**

(10)  
S. Ó Riain  
**Johnny Ryan**

(11)  
D. de Brún  
**Dara Browne**

(12)  
P. Ó Slatara  
**Paudie Slattery**

(13)  
F. Ó hArgáin  
**Fergal Horgan**

(14)  
D. Ó Braoin  
**Daniel Breen**

(15)  
P. Ó Riain  
**Patrick Ryan**

**MANAGERS/COACHES:** Paudie Slattery, Vincent Kelly.  
**SELECTOR:** Sean Bradshaw. **FIRST AID:** Michael Cummins

K'VILLA/D'SKEIGH	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	65m	Saor Pocanna
1adh leath					
2adh leath					
IOMLÁN					

# Moycarkey Borris

Dathanna: Dearg agus Buí



(1)  
S. Ó Ceallaí  
**John Kelly**

(2)  
S. de Paor  
**James Power**

(3)  
P. Ó Díomasaigh  
**Paul Dempsey**

(4)  
D. Ó Muiris  
**David Morris**

(5)  
L. Ó Díomasaigh  
**Willie Dempsey (Capt.)**

(6)  
P. Ó Maolmhuidh  
**Pat Molloy**

(7)  
R. Ó Riain  
**Rory Ryan**

(8)  
P. Ó Ciara  
**Patrick Carey**

(9)  
B. Ó Móráin  
**Brian Moran**

(10)  
C. Ó Muiris  
**Kieran Morris**

(11)  
P. Ó Ceallaigh  
**Phil Kelly**

(12)  
C. Ó Clochasaigh  
**Ciarán Clohessy**

(13)  
A. Ó hÉilí  
**Anthony Healy**

(14)  
R. Ó Deoráin  
**Robert Doran**

(15)  
P. Ráulbh  
**Pat Ralph**

**MANAGEMENT TEAM:** Conor Gleeson, Dick Quigley, Martin Cooney, Jim Fanning.

## FIR IONAID

- (16) S. Ó Deoráin  
**James Doran**
- (17) C. Ó Móráin  
**Kevin Moran**
- (18) L. Ó Riain  
**Lorcan Ryan**
- (19) S. de Búrca  
**James Bourke**
- (20) S. Ó Beirgin  
**John Bergin**
- (21) M. Ó Breaceín  
**Mossy Bracken**
- (22) G. Mag Uidhir  
**Gerry McGuire**
- (23) D. Ó Garba  
**Daniel Kirby**
- (24) P. Ó Deoráin  
**Paudí Doran**
- (25) N. Ó Súilleabháin  
**Niall O'Sullivan**
- (26) M. Cúisín  
**Michael Cussen**
- (27) S. Ó Giarubháin  
**Stephen Kirwan**
- (28) C. Ó hAodha  
**Conor Hayes**
- (29) E. Ó Flannagáin  
**Eamon Flanagan**
- (30) Ailbe de Paor  
**Ailbe Power**
- (31) S. de Barra  
**Jamie Barry**
- (32) M. de Róiste  
**Michael Roche**
- (33) D. Ó Beirgin  
**Donie Bergin**
- (34) E. Ó Clochasaigh  
**Eamon Clohessy**
- (35) S. Ó Súilleabháin  
**Joe O'Sullivan**
- (36) P. Ó Coinneáin  
**Peter Kinane**
- (37) G. Ó Conaill  
**Gary O'Connell**
- (38) P. Ó Briain  
**Peter O'Brien**

M'CARKEY BORRIS	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	65m	Saor Pocanna
1adh leath					
2adh leath					
<b>IOMLÁN</b>					

## Previous County Final appearances

### DROM & INCH

- 2005 lost to Thurles Sarsfields 1-17 to 0-15
- 2007 lost to Loughmore Castleiney 0-22 to 0-13
- 2009 lost to Thurles Sarsfields 0-14 to 0-5

### CLONOULTY ROSSMORE (or CLONOULTY)

- 2010 lost to Thurles Sarsfields 1-16 to 1-7
- 1998 lost to Toomevara 0-16 to 1-10
- 1997 beat Mullinahone 0-17 to 1-12
- 1989 beat Holycross Ballycahill 1-11 to 1-9
- 1951 lost to Holycross Ballycahill 5-15 to 1-4
- 1928 lost to Boherlahan 5-4 to 2-2
- 1888 beat Boherlahan 1-1 to 0-2.

## All-Stars

**D**ROM & INCH produced an All-Star hurler in Tommy Butler who was selected at left corner forward on the 1978 team. Clonoulty Rossmore also had an All Star in Declan Ryan, who was selected at right half forward on the 1988 team and at centre forward in 1997. Ballingary's Liam Cahill – now the Clonoulty Rossmore Coach – was a youthful winner, at right corner forward in 1996.

# DID YOU KNOW?

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

## Matching scorelines

**Y**OU WOULD imagine that after 114 County Hurling finals there might have been significant duplication in the final scores, but that is not the case. In the 1925 final, Boherlahan beat Toomevara by 5-4 to 2-3 and three years later they beat Clonoulty by 5-4 to 2-2. In modern times, Kilruane MacDonaghs and Roscrea nearly replicated final scorelines, with the honours shared, tallies the same and both games won by a late goal.

Kilruane MacDonaghs were defending champions in 1978, but it took a green flag from Gilbert Williams to retain their title on a 2-14 to 2-13

scoreline. The day was dominated by the superb marksmanship of Francis Loughnane and Seamus Hennessy respectively.

Two years later, Kilruane MacDonaghs were less than two minutes away from a four in-a-row, but substitute Roger Ryan smashed the ball to the net and Seamus Hennessy's late free drifted wide, leaving Roscrea champions by 3-11 to 2-13.

## Attendances

**T**HE HIGHEST county final attendances in the past twenty years were the 17,020 in 1997 (Clonoulty Rossmore v Mullinahone) and the 14,137 which attended the Nenagh Éire Óg v Boherlahan Dualla clash in 1995. The returns reached 12,000 in 1990, (Holycross Ballycahill v Cashesel KC), 12,140 in 2001 (Toomevara v Thurles Sarsfields) and 12,710 in 2005 (Thurles Sarsfields v Drom & Inch).

Drom & Inch drew 9,667 to their last final appearance v Thurles Sarsfields in 2009, while Clonoulty Rossmore and Thurles Sarsfields attracted 6,224 to last year's decider.

## CLERIHAN GAA CLUB



# Monster



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# The Sean Treacy Pipe Band

— over half a century in Semple Stadium



**A**SK ANY player who has had the privilege of playing in a county final and they'll tell you that walking in the parade and standing to attention for the National Anthem are two of the biggest moments of the day.

And the Sean Treacy Pipe Band is central to the whole build-up of the tension in advance of throw-in for Tipperary's showpiece.

The band has been part and parcel of County Final day for well over five decades, having come into being first back in 1934. The Borrís and Moycarkey National Band had been there beforehand and the tradition in the parish continued with the establishment of the Sean Treacy Pipe Band.

Ger Neville, Pipe Major, spoke of the preparations which go into the bands appearance in Semple Stadium for any event.

"It's a big day for us. We practice twice a week in the band hall in Littleton and make sure that the instruments are in perfect working order. We normally assemble at around 12 noon and get a bus into Thurles with Jerry Ryan. A quick warm-up then and we are ready for the half-time in the first game. The parade and National Anthem are the biggest parts of the day and when the crowd starts singing the Anthem, you could feel the hairs standing on the back of your neck. It's a great experience and we are thrilled to be part of it," he said.

Of course the Sean Treacy Pipe band has played to many a packed house in *The Field of Legends* with

Munster Finals and the All-Ireland Final of 1984, as standout moments.

At present there are 18 members in the band, but fifteen years ago there would have been up to 25. There is a great tradition of family involvement too with the Cooney's, Heffernan's, Flanagan's, Moloughney's, Sweeney's and McCarthy's to name a few, all having provided many members down through the years. Indeed, Mickey Flanagan, who lives only a short puck-out from Semple Stadium, claims to be the only man to have played in forty consecutive County Senior Hurling Finals!!!

The bass, tenor and snare drums together with the pipes make up the Sean Treacy Pipe Band. Rodge Heffernan is the Staff Man and his job is a very important one as he gives the signals and ensures that the turning and steps are carried out to perfection. Andy Cooney is presently the band Instructor.

"We always look forward to the County Final. It's a big day for us – any live performance would leave you with some butterflies in the tummy, in much the same way as a the players. I suppose the Sean Treacy Pipe Band is as much a part of County Final day now as anything else and we are delighted that the tradition is being maintained," Ger Neville said.

We thank the Sean Treacy Pipe Band for their contribution to making County Final Day so special in The Premier County. Long may they continue to entertain and enthral patrons to this famous old stadium.

# County Final MOMENTS

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

## Ten up – 1960-2010

THERE HAVE been some impressive scoring displays on county final day over the years and a player often performs superbly on the day that matters most in club hurling

The following hurlers scored a minimum of ten points for their clubs in Tipperary County Finals between 1960 and 2010. Interestingly, a high scoring player was on the **losing team** six times.

**Francis Loughnane** (Roscrea) 1-11 v Kilruane MacDonaghs 1978

**Eoin Kelly** (Mullinahone) 2-7 v Thurles Sarsfields 2002 (replay)

**John Enright** (Thurles Sarsfields) 0-13 v Toomevara 2008

**John Enright** (Thurles Sarsfields) 1-9 v Toomevara 2001

**Seamus Hennessy** (Kilruane MacDonaghs) 0-12 v Roscrea 1978

**Seamus Butler** (Drom & Inch) 0-11 v Thurles Sarsfields 2005

**Pat Mc Grath** (Loughnmore Castleiney) 1-8 v Cappawhite 1987

**Jimmy Doyle** (Thurles Sarsfields) 1-8 v Roscrea 1963

**Jimmy Doyle** (Thurles Sarsfields) 1-8 v Roscrea 1970

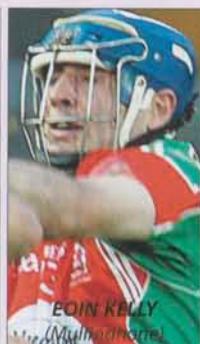
**Francis Loughnane** (Roscrea) 1-7 v Kilruane MacDonaghs 1980

**Thomas Dunne** (Toomevara) 1-7 v Nenagh, Éire Óg 1999

**Jimmy Doyle** (Thurles Sarsfields) 2-4 v Holycross Ballycahill 1964.



TOMMY DUNNE  
(Toomevara)



EON KELY  
(Mullinahone)

## On this date

THE LAST county Final played on October 16th was in 2005, when Thurles Sarsfields captained by Ger 'Redser' O'Grady defeated Drom & Inch on a 1-17 to 0-15 scoreline.

The attendance of 12,710 saw Sarsfields, who led by 1-9 to 0-9 at half time, win their first title since 1974. While Seamus Butler led the Drom challenge with 0-11, 7 frees, the greater scoring power of the Sarsfields players won the day. John Enright was their top scorer with 0-6, 3 frees, Wayne Cully hit 1-2, while Ger O'Grady and Richie Ruth landed 0-3 each. It was a first County Final appearance for Drom & Inch.

## Around the county

THE COUNTY Final is generally hosted at Semple Stadium, Thurles, since major development work was completed there in the 1960s. Since Thurles Sarsfields beat Kilruane MacDonaghs at St Cronan's Park, Roscrea in 1959, deciders have been played in Templemore (1960/1961), Nenagh (1963), Clonmel/Cashel (1965) and Cashel (1983).

## Laoch na gCluichi

THIRTY years ago a Man of the Match award was first introduced to County Final day. Today's finalists have won the prize once previously:



Seamus Butler

1997 Michael 'Shiner' Heffernan  
(Clonoulty Rossmore)

2005 Seamus Butler  
(Drom & Inch)

## Overdrawn

THE LAST drawn final was in 2002 when Thurles Sarsfields and Mullinahone finished level on 0-14 each. Mullinahone won the replay and their first title by 2-10 to 1-11. The team was captained by Ky Vaughan, who lined out for his club in this year's semi-final loss to Drom & Inch.

## Goal less

THE LAST County final which failed to produce a goal was the all-Mid decider of Thurles Sarsfields and Drom & Inch in 2009. The Blues won by 0-14 to 0-5. Johnny Enright was the winning captain and he also scored five points for his team.

# Come again

**E**IGHTY YEARS after the Dan Breen Cup was first presented, it is instructive to note that there have been only three repeat pairings in Tipperary County Finals.

- 2001 Toomevara 1-22, Thurles Sarsfields 1-13
- 2000 Toomevara 2-10, Thurles Sarsfields 0-11
- 1991 Cashel KC 2-8, Holycross Ballycahill 1-5
- 1990 Holycross Ballycahill 0-13, Cashel KC 0-10
- 1961 Thurles Sarsfields 3-4, Toomevara 0-9
- 1960 Toomevara 3-15, Thurles Sarsfields 2-8

In earlier years there were also repeat finals as follows:

- 1918 Toomevara 6-0, Boherlahan 3-4  
(Boherlahan won on an objection)
- 1917 Boherlahan 2-2, Toomevara 1-1
- 1916 Boherlahan 2-2, Toomevara 0-0
- 1907 Thurles 3-13, Lahorna De Wets 1-6
- 1906 Thurles 4-11, Lahorna De Wets 3-6
- 1896 Tubberadora 4-8, Suir View 2-2
- 1895 Tubberadora 3-9, Suir View 2-7  
(after extra time).



Action from the 1960 County Senior Hurling Final – R. Mounsey about to clear as J. Shanahan holds off J. Doyle.

## Missing the point

**T**HE TIPPERARY county final has produced some compelling contests over the years. There were seven occasions when a point separated winners from losers. It is interesting to note that Moycarkey Borris had to wait until 1982 for their next victory, while all of the other clubs were champions within five years of their narrow defeat.

- 1962 Thurles Sarsfields 1-7, Moycarkey Borris 1-6
- 1976 Moneygall 1-9, Roscrea 2-5
- 1978 Kilruane MacDonaghs 2-14, Roscrea 2-13
- 1980 Roscrea 3-11, Kilruane MacDonaghs 2-13
- 1987 Cappawhite 1-17, Loughmore Castleiney 2-13
- 1993 Toomevara 1-14, Nenagh Éire Óg 1-13
- 1996 Boherlahan Dualla 1-16, Toomevara 2-12.

## First again

**T**HIS YEAR'S county final pairing is a first ever, as was the 2010 meeting of Thurles Sarsfields and Clonoulty Rossmore.

## Lucky omen

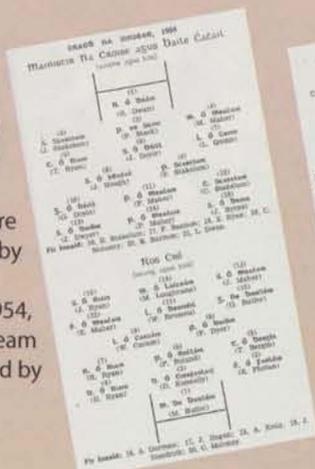
**T**HE LAST time that the North Division failed to provide a semi finalist, in 1997, Clonoulty Rossmore won the county title.

They dethroned the defending champions (Boherlahan Dualla) in the semi-final and a team, which had never won the county title (Mullinahone), in the Final.

# Goals win finals

**I**T IS HARD to visualise it these days, but there was a time when teams won county titles by scoring more goals than points.

It hasn't happened since October 3rd, 1954, when Francis Maher's Holycross Ballycahill team scored 6-5 to Roscrea's 2-3 in a game refereed by Mr. T. Semple.



# TIPPERARY

50 Years Ago

## 1961 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Champions



**The Tipperary team which defeated Dublin by 0-16 to 1-12 in the All-Ireland Final played in Croke Park on 3rd September 1961**

Back row (l.-r.): Matt O'Gara, Tony Wall, Tom Moloughney, Kieran Carey, Liam Devaney, Michael Maher, John Doyle, Mick Burns, Liam Connolly, John Hough, Paddy Ryan. Front row (l.-r.): Sean McLoughlin, Jimmy Doyle, Donie Nealon, Donal O'Brien, Matt Hassett (Capt.), Liam Moloughney, Mackey McKenna, Theo English, Tom Ryan, Roger Mounsey.

# The Times and the Joys that are Gone



**T**HIS IS how the stand at Semple Stadium, Thurles Sportsfield as it was known then, looked in the 1940s, '50s and early '60s.

Note the dressing rooms under the stand and the small construction beside it, which housed the commentator, usually Micheál Ó hEithir, on big match days. A great view of the old Thurles side-line is also seen.

This excellent record of the time was

photographed by local chemist Donal Sammon R.I.P., about the mid 1960s, shortly before the stand was demolished to make way for the present Ardán Uí Chuinneáin.

This new stand was opened in 1967. Oddly, this 'new' stand is now generally referred to as the Old Stand.

Such is the march of time!

– Liam Ó Donnchú





Clonoulty  
Rossmore  
Manager

T.J.

**RYAN**

“Whoever wins the county final will have a right hard battle on their hands. There is no doubt about that

What's coming into play for us now at the moment is the fact that we won a few county finals at U-12 level back in the early 90's and they are now coming through and learning the tricks of the trade. Youth is the way forward. You have to bring them in and we are being forced to do so now because of the injuries we have. But so be it.

We got great games from Cappawhite in the West. A lot of people feel that the West championship has been easy for us to win. But, we have had fierce battles there over the last few seasons. We won the final easier this year but Cappa' were without a few of their top players. There are four or five top clubs in the West who shove it up to us any year. The West is not a weak division by any means when it comes to hurling but it will be hard for clubs to keep going in the future with fellas going away and all that. We have been lucky in that we didn't lose any player so far. Our team has changed a lot though from the one which won the first of those five – an awful lot actually.

We were just delighted to win against Sarsfields and get through. It was a big match for us and to get over it was a big achievement. A lot of people said that Sarsfields were favourites and they just didn't turn up and were not fully focused. That was probably to our advantage. The lads played well on the day and it was a bit of revenge for last year and maybe even 2008. The lads are fairly well focused. You never really know how they will react until they go out onto the field. The took the game to Sarsfields from the start and the early goal stood to us. It will be hard to repeat that again – to get that level of performance two days running will be hard, but all we can is our best.

Every game is much the same when you come to this level whether it is a semi-final, quarter final or final. We are hoping that the experience of last year will definitely be a big help. After that, we will be trying to repeat our semi-final display, but that will be hard to achieve.”



# Clonoulty Rossmore

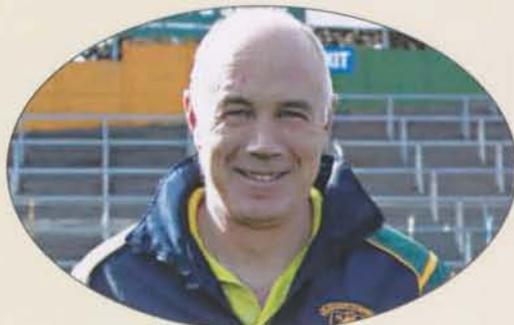
## MANAGEMENT TEAM



### LIAM CAHILL

*(Team Coach)*

**L**IAM CAHILL'S name certainly needs no introduction in Tipperary hurling circles. The Ballingarry man has won every major honour in the game. He would, however, love nothing more than to get his coaching career off to a dream start by helping guide the West kingpins to County honours. Cahill's man management skills and hurling acumen is certainly impressing the locals who have taken to him as one of their own. The former All-Star and All-Ireland winner has put in huge efforts with this talented bunch and he hopes to emulate his 2009 feat when he won the county decider with Thurles Sarsfields, co-incidentally against Drom & Inch.



### ANDREW FRYDAY

*(Selector)*

**A**NDREW FRYDAY brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the Clonoulty/Rossmore management team. The affable Clune man was goalkeeper on the last two occasions Dan Breen returned to the parish and he has worked with many successful teams throughout the years.. Andrew has enjoyed working with T.J. and Liam and the collective will of all three has a huge influence on the team. Having played for over 20 years as the senior hurling custodian, Andrew's enthusiasm for the game has never waned and he even lined out for the Juniors as late as last year. A shrewd judge of hurling, Andrew expects a battle royale in Thurles this afternoon.



Photographed at the Launch night were Clonoulty Rossmore club officers (l.-r.): Tom Ryan (Chairman), Laoise O'Keeffe (Secretary) and John O'Shea (Treasurer).

# CLONOULTY'S

## winning formula

By: J.J. KENNEDY



**I**N HURLING, as in other aspects of life, coming events are often well signposted. And so while the casual observer might be surprised by Clonoulty's consecutive county final appearances – the club's first since beaten twice by Boherlahan in 1927/28 – those with an ear closer to the ground will have seen the signs. The West's most dynamic club has been sowing the seeds for many years now and, inevitably, when you sow you reap.

A snapshot of the past ten years reveals just how healthy the production line has been in Rossmore and Clonoulty. Within the West they've outstripped their neighbours to an unprecedented extent. At U12 level, for example, Clonoulty have taken seven out of the last ten divisional championships – and three of those winning sides went on to harvest a hat-trick of county titles in '03, '04 and '05. Check back those winning teams and you'll find several of the same names on today's team sheet, names such as Martin Sadlier, Pdraig Heffernan, Sean Maher and Kieran Quirke. Sadly you won't find the '03 captain, Thomas Butler's name today because of injury. Conor Hammersley is another injury victim at present; he scored 3-4 out of 3-5 for a man-of-

The West's most dynamic club has been sowing the seeds for many years now and, inevitably, when you sow, you reap.

the-match input to the '05 county U12 win over Holycross.

Inevitably such precocious talent moved up the ranks in subsequent years. At U14 level Clonoulty have taken five of the last ten West championships; the class of '08 went on to add the county, toppling Toomevara in the final. At U16 level the success has continued with four of the last ten West championships and a little matter of a county addition in '09. And that's something else about Clonoulty: unlike some of their neighbours they tend to thrive outside the division.

Clearly the club has found a successful template which ensures a conveyor-belt of talent to reinforce their profile within the West and beyond. It wasn't always so and some would suggest that the present structures in the club had their genesis back in the seventies when things were bleaker. People like Paddy Maher and Mick Maxwell are often credited with the ground work back then which ultimately transformed the club and the way it nurtures talent. A former club secretary for many years, Michael Coen, recalls a time when the late Bro. Perkins was invited in and his ideas on coaching were embraced. Liam Kearney is another name



Keeping a close eye on proceedings on semi-final day were (l.-r.): Joseph O'Keefe, Michael Coen, John O'Shea and Philip Maher.



Action from Clonoulty Rossmore's semi-final victory over Thurles Sarsfields.

readily associated with the Trojan work that went on over the years.

It has all led on to a very vibrant modern club which appears to have a winning system in place. Visit Clonoulty national school on Fridays and you'll find Timmy Hammersley and John O'Keeffe on coaching duty with the youngsters. It's work that Tom Ryan (Declan's dad) successfully pioneered in the past. Such a policy is clearly paying a rich dividend up the ranks.

At senior level Clonoulty have taken a stranglehold on the West division. They completed a five-in-a-row this year, a club record, and who would bet against that run extending in future seasons. Add in the '02 win and they've taken six of the last ten West senior titles. This year they've a strong minor side too in a grade where they've taken five of the last ten West championships. They've also claimed four of the last nine West U21 titles and will be fancied to make it five out of ten when the 2011 competition is completed.

By any standards it's a spectacular title-take for a small rural parish, one without a major centre of population. Promoting the game within the parish seems to have a very receptive audience where past success is an encouragement for the present generation. They've more county senior titles than any other West club. The 1888 one is an item from

far-off history but 1989 was really a breakthrough year and then 1997 underlined their modern-day prominence. On today's panel Micheal Coen is a survivor from their last hurrah fourteen years ago.

In other areas too you see the dynamism of this club. Developing a second pitch and linked facilities has been a major undertaking in recent years. Their floodlighting too is the envy of others and for quite a distance over West and Mid Tipperary those lights are visible these dark evenings spotlighting a club that is clearly a market leader.

And so whether or not Clonoulty win today it seems certain that they're going to remain a force into the future. Within the West their near monopoly at all levels is a worry for others such as Kickhams and Cashel K.C. who are clearly struggling to keep pace. Not since Kickhams in the 1950s has one club so dominated the West division.

Clonoulty's semi-final defeat of Sarsfields may have been a major shock but when you take a more panoramic view of the scene it's easy to understand where the West side is coming from. After all they were desperately unlucky to lose a semi-final to Sarsfieldsthrree years ago. Injuries have been a major hindrance, of course, but today they bring a mixture of youth and experience to the big day as the West's top side seeks a fourth county title.

John

## DEVANE

(CLONOLTY ROSSMORE)

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



SO FAR 2011 has gone very much according to plan for John Devane and Clonoulty-Rossmore.

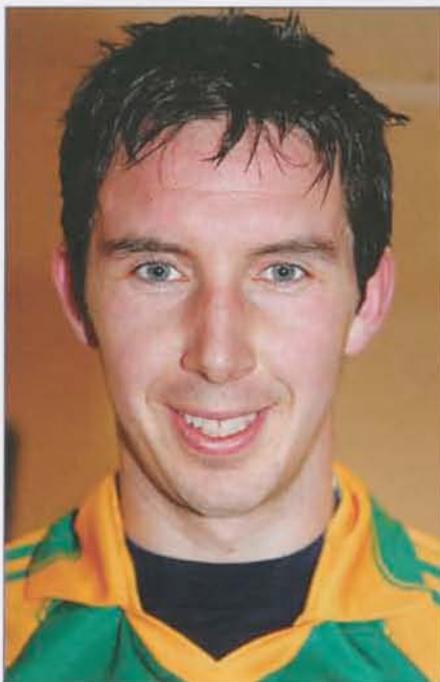
On county final day last year, he left Semple Stadium a bitterly disappointed man, his dreams of winning that elusive medal crushed by Thurles Sarsfields.

But the hurt of that nine-point loss has fuelled a renewed quest for the Dan Breen Cup and now, the West champions again stand just 60 minutes away from collecting the Holy Grail.

Opportunity knocks once again and Devane is determined to ensure that this time, Clonoulty-Rossmore won't pass up the chance.

The 29-year-old was one of the driving forces in that shock semi-final victory over the Sarsfields here a fortnight ago, a win that handed Clonoulty sweet revenge for 12 months ago, and also for a narrow semi-final replay defeat in 2008.

Devane, 29, explains: "It was the plan early in the year to get back there and avenge the disappointment of last year. We moved fairly ok in West Tipp. It's been a long year and you have to gauge how you're going. In fairness to Liam (Cahill), he's done that. We are where we want to be at different stages and now we're exactly where we want to be. The semi-final was a good win - we didn't know until the Monday before who we were playing and that meant we didn't have much time to focus. We just went out and gave it a rattle. The lads were tuned in and the losses and injuries we



had consolidated the panel."

Devane adds: "We just felt we didn't perform last year. People have been talking about us not being fully focussed. There were a couple of flashpoints and we were down to 14 men but we didn't go out to focus on anything other than hurling. The scores didn't come but they did this year. But that's in the past and we're focusing on Drom and Inch now."

For Devane, a secondary school teacher at Thurles CBS, winning a county senior hurling title would mean the world.

The vastly-experienced defender admits: "My God, it would be absolutely huge. It's the pinnacle for every fella that picks up a hurl and you dream about it from the age of five on. For me to have hurled college and county, medals are massive but towards the end of your career with the club, chances like this don't come around too often. It would be the icing on the cake for what I've done in my career."

Devane played minor hurling for Tipperary in 2000 and was full-back on the 2003 U21 team that won the Munster championship.

He made his competitive debut for the Tipperary seniors against Derry in March 2002 in the National Hurling League and his championship debut came in the 2003 All-Ireland qualifier against Laois, as a sub.

When Clonoulty last won a county final, Devane

was 14 years of age (in 1997) and he remembers a 15-year-old Eoin Kelly making a substitute's appearance for Mullinahone.

Devane reflects: "Eoin would be about nine months older than me. He came on that day and I was up in the stand, watching on. I was there for the semi-final too against Boherlahan, one of the few that hung around to see the three famous goals. I've seen the video of that 1997 final but I haven't looked at it for a while and I don't think I will either before the final. What's in the past is in the past and it would be lovely to add another video to that collection. A box-set would be great!"

Devane remains widely-regarded as one of the finest club hurlers not just in West Tipperary, but within the county as a whole.

He's still relatively young but has not featured with the county team since 2009, when he was a member of Liam Sheedy's squad.

The club, however, has remained constant throughout Devane's career and he has received huge support from parents Willie and Nora, brothers Conor and Liam and sisters Anne-Marie and Cait, a former county camogie player.

There are people, too,

"My God, it would be absolutely huge. It's the pinnacle for every fella that picks up a hurl and you dream about it from the age of five on"

who have helped to mould Devane into the exceptional player that he became and continues to be.

The late Fr. Jim Fogarty, former club President, will look down fondly on Clonoulty-Rossmore this afternoon, as will former mentor Seamus Coffey, who was laid to rest in 2008.

The late Jamesie O'Donoghue is also fondly remembered by Devane from his school days at Thurles CBS while John Stokes and Theo Lloyd were other formative influences.



# Clonoulty Rossmore

## PATHS TO THE FINAL



### WEST CHAMPIONSHIP

16/04/2011	Éire Óg 2-11 Clonoulty Rossmore 1-09
07/05/2011	Clonoulty Rossmore 6-16 Cappawhite 1-08
15/05/2011	Clonoulty Rossmore 2-13 Golden Kilfeacle 2-06
03/06/2011	Clonoulty Rossmore 2-14 Knockavilla Kickhams 0-14
26/06/2011	Clonoulty Rossmore 3-21 Cashel 1-08

### WEST SEMI-FINAL

17/07/2011	Clonoulty Rossmore 2-18 Golden Kilfeacle 1-07
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### WEST FINAL

31/07/2011	Clonoulty Rossmore 1-26 Cappawhite 0-13
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### COUNTY QUARTER-FINAL

24/09/2011	Clonoulty Rossmore 3-18 Éire Óg Nenagh 0-14
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### COUNTY SEMI-FINAL

02/10/2011	Clonoulty Rossmore 2-14 Thurles Sarsfields 0-15
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## Clonoulty Rossmore Scorers in 2011 Championship

Timmy Hammersley .....	10-63
John O'Neill .....	7-14
Paudie White .....	0-22
Fiachra O'Keeffe .....	0-12
Tom Butler .....	1-05
Seán Maher .....	1-05
Jason Forresta .....	1-04
Conor Hammersley .....	1-03
Conor Ryan .....	0-05
Kieran Quirke .....	1-01
Aidan White .....	0-05
Thomas Butler .....	0-04
Seán O Connor .....	0-03
John Devane .....	0-01
Jamie Moloney .....	0-01
Martin Sadlier .....	0-01



Clonoulty Rossmore Management Team (l.-r.): Liam Cahill, Andrew Fryday and T.J. Ryan (Manager).



Back row (l.-r.): Liam Cahill, Andrew Fryday, Jamie Moloney, Diarmuid Cullen, Aaron Ryan, Micheál Coen, Conor Ryan, Michael Heffernan, Sean Maher, Ciarán Quirke, Tom Butler, Anthony Kearney, R.D. Martin, John O'Keeffe, Andrew Quirke, Aidan White, Timmy Hammersley, Pdraig Heffernan, Declan O'Dwyer. Front row (l.-r.): T.J. Ryan, Niall Shanahan, Kieran Carroll, Kieran Hammersley, Seamus Carew, Martin Sadlier, Jason Forrestal, Joey O'Keeffe, John Devane (Captain), Paudie White, Conor Hammersley, John O'Neill, Kevin Horan, Fiachra O'Keeffe, James Heffernan, Jimmy Maher.

# Clonoulty Rossmore

## SUBSTITUTES



16. Jimmy  
Maher



17. Andrew  
Quirke



18. Anthony  
Kearney



19. Fiachra  
O'Keeffe



20. Micheál  
Coen



21. Martin  
Sadlier



22. Liam  
Devane



23. Michael  
Heffernan



24. Diarmuid  
Cullen



25. Aaron  
Ryan



26. Kieran  
Hammersley



27. Seamus  
Carew



28. Ciarán  
Carroll



29. Kevin  
Maher



30. Niall  
Shanahan



31. R.D.  
Martin



32. Aidan  
White



33. Thomas  
Butler



34. Paudie  
White



35. Conor  
Hammersley



36. Jason  
Forrestal



# Clonoulty Rossmore

Dathanna: Glas agus Ór

## FIR IONAIÐ

- (16) S. Ó Meachair  
**Jimmy Maher**
- (17) A. Ó Coirc  
**Andrew Quirke**
- (18) A. Ó Cearnaigh  
**Andrew Kearney**
- (19) F. Ó Caoimh  
**Fiachra O'Keeffe**
- (20) M. Ó Cadhain  
**Micéal Coen**
- (21) M. Sadlier  
**Martin Sadlier**
- (22) L. Ó Dúbháin  
**Liam Devane**
- (23) M. Ó hifearnáin  
**Michael Heffernan**
- (24) D. Ó Cuilinn  
**Diarmuid Cullen**
- (25) A. Ó Riain  
**Aaron Ryan**
- (26) C. Hammersley  
**Kieran Hammersley**
- (27) S. Carrún  
**Seamus Carew**
- (28) C. Ó Cearúill  
**Ciarán Carroll**
- (29) C. Ó Meachair  
**Kevin Maher**
- (30) N. Ó Seanacháin  
**Niall Shanahan**
- (31) R. D. Máirtín  
**R. D. Martin**
- (32) A. de Faoite  
**Aidan White**
- (33) T. de Buitléir  
**Thomas Butler**
- (34) P. de Faoite  
**Paudie White**
- (35) C. Hammersley  
**Conor Hammersley**
- (36) G. Fuireastal  
**Jason Forrestal**



(1) D. Ó Dubhuir  
**Declan O'Dwyer**



(2) S. Ó Caoimh  
**Joey O'Keeffe**



(3) S. Ó hifearnáin  
**James Heffernan**



(4) C. Ó hÓrain  
**Kevin Horan**



(5) S. Ó Caoimh  
**John O'Keeffe**



(6) S. Ó Dubháin  
**John Devane (Capt.)**



(7) P. Ó hifearnáin  
**Padraig Heffernan**



(8) S. Ó Conchúir  
**Sean O'Connor**



(9) T. de Buitléir  
**Tom Butler**



(10) S. Ó Meachair  
**Sean Maher**



(11) C. Ó Riain  
**Conor Ryan**



(12) S. Ó Maolomhnaigh  
**Jamie Moloney**



(13) S. Ó Neill  
**John O'Neill**



(14) T. Hammersley  
**Timmy Hammersley**



(15) C. Ó Coirc  
**Ciarán Quirke**

**MANAGER:** T.J. Ryan. **SELECTOR:** Andrew Fryday.  
**COACH:** Liam Cahill. **PHYSIO:** John Flaherty. **FIRST AID:** Philip Maher.

# Drom & Inch

Dathanna: Glas agus Bán



(1) D. de Siún

**Damien Young**



(2) M. de Buitléir

**Martin Butler**



(5) P. Mac an Ghaill

**Paul Stapleton**



(8) S. Ó Riain

**Johnny Ryan**



(10) S. de Buitléir

**Seamus Butler**



(13) P. Lupton

**Pat Lupton**



(3) M. de Buitléir

**Micheál Butler**



(6) E. Ó Buachalla

**Eamon Buckley**



(9) S. Uadlóg

**James Woodlock**



(11) S. Ó Callanáin

**Seamus Callanan (Capt.)**



(14) D. Ó Riain

**Declan Ryan**



(4) M. Mac Coisteala

**Mike Costello**



(7) S. Ó Riain

**James Ryan**



(12) D. Ó Coileáin

**David Collins**



(15) D. de Buitléir

**David Butler**



## FIR IONAID

- (16) S. Ó hAisi  
**Shane Hassett**
- (17) L. Ó Riain  
**Liam Ryan**
- (18) P. Ó Cinneide  
**Paddy Kennedy**
- (19) M. Ó Riain  
**Matthew Ryan**
- (20) D. Ó Cinneide  
**Donnacha Kennedy**
- (21) S. Lupton  
**Joe Lupton**
- (22) C. de Buitléir  
**Kevin Butler**
- (23) M. Eibhearard  
**Mike Everard**
- (24) Macdara de Buitléir  
**Macdara Butler**
- (25) E. Ó Coisteala  
**Eddie Costello**
- (26) E. Uadlóg  
**Eric Woodlock**
- (27) P. Ó Coileáin  
**Paul Collins**
- (28) S. Ó Cinneide  
**John Kennedy**
- (29) S. Ó Dúláinne  
**Shane Delaney**
- (30) E. Breathnach  
**Enda Walshe**
- (31) D. Ó Riain  
**Jerome Ryan**
- (32) P. Ó Lubaigh  
**Philip Looby**
- (33) M. Mac Craith  
**Martin McGrath**
- (34) M. Ó Buachalla  
**Matthew Buckley**
- (35) S. Ó Maolomhnaigh  
**Jamie Moloney**
- (36) M. Puirseil  
**Mike Purcell**
- (37) P. Mac an Ghaill  
**Pdraig Stapleton**

**MANAGER:** Teddy Kennedy. **SELECTORS:** Andy Bourke, Martin Butler.

**COACH:** Sean Prendergast. **PHYSIOS:** Helen Ryan, Carina Daly.

**MEDICAL:** Dr. Kevin Delargy



Back row (l.-r.): Michael Everard, Liam Ryan, Michael Purcell, Shane Delaney, Matthew Ryan, James Woodlock, David Butler, Paul Collins, Pat Lupton, Micheál Butler, Martin Butler, Eamonn Buckley, Paul Stapleton, Philip Looby, Eric Woodlock, Enda Walsh, Paddy Kennedy, Donncha Kennedy. Front row (l.-r.): Shane Hassett, Seamus Callanan, Kevin Butler, Declan Ryan, David Collins, Damien Young, Michael Costello, Johnny Ryan, James Ryan, Jerome Ryan, Jamie Maloney, Eddie Costello, Joe Lupton, Seamus Butler, Pdraig Stapleton, Macdara Butler.

# Drom & Inch

## SUBSTITUTES



16. Shane Hassett



17. Liam Ryan



18. Paddy Kennedy



19. Matthew Ryan



20. Donnacha Kennedy



21. Joe Lupton



22. Kevin Butler



23. Mike Everard



24. MacDara Butler



25. Eddie Costello



26. Eric Woodlock



27. Paul Collins



28. John Kennedy



29. Shane Delaney



30. Enda Walsh



31. Jerome Ryan



32. Philip Looby



33. Martin McGrath



34. Matthew Buckley



35. Jamie Maloney



36. Mike Purcell



37. Pdraig Stapleton

# Drom & Inch

## PATHS TO THE FINAL



### MID CHAMPIONSHIP

<b>Round 1</b>	JK Brackens 1-14 Drom & Inch 0-15
<b>Round 2</b>	Drom & Inch 1-17 Thurles Sarsfields 2-9
<b>Round 3</b>	Drom & Inch 3-17 Hollycross Ballycahill 1-3
<b>Quarter-Final</b>	Drom & Inch 3-21 Boherlahan 0-14
<b>Semi-Final</b>	Drom & Inch 3-24 JK Brackens 1-14
<b>Mid Final</b>	Loughmore Castleiney 3-15 Drom & Inch 1-14

### COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

<b>Round 4</b>	Drom & Inch 2-16 Burgess 1-18
<b>Quarter-Final</b>	Drom & Inch 1-23 Toomevara 1-13
<b>Semi-Final</b>	Drom & Inch 1-20 Mullinahone 0-14

## Drom & Inch Scorers in 2011 Championship

Seamus Callanan.....	5-62
Seamus Butler .....	4-16
David Butler .....	3-20
Johnny Ryan .....	0-23
James Woodlock .....	0-14
Pat Lupton.....	2-5
David Collins.....	0-10
Micheal Butler.....	1-5
Paddy Kennedy .....	1-1
Matthew Ryan .....	0-2
Martin Butler.....	0-1
Damien Young.....	0-1
Liam Ryan .....	0-1
Declan Ryan.....	0-1
Kevin Butler .....	0-1
James Ryan .....	0-1



The Drom & Inch Management Team (l.-r.): Andy Bourke, Martin Butler, Sean Prendergast and Teddy Kennedy (Manager).

# Seamus CALLANAN

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



(DROM & INCH)

**F**OR Drom & Inch forward Seamus Callanan, the choice is a simple one.

Give him the option of winning a senior All-Ireland title with Tipperary or a county championship with his club and there can only be one winner.

Drom & Inch is where it started for Callanan and ultimately the club is where it ends for every player.

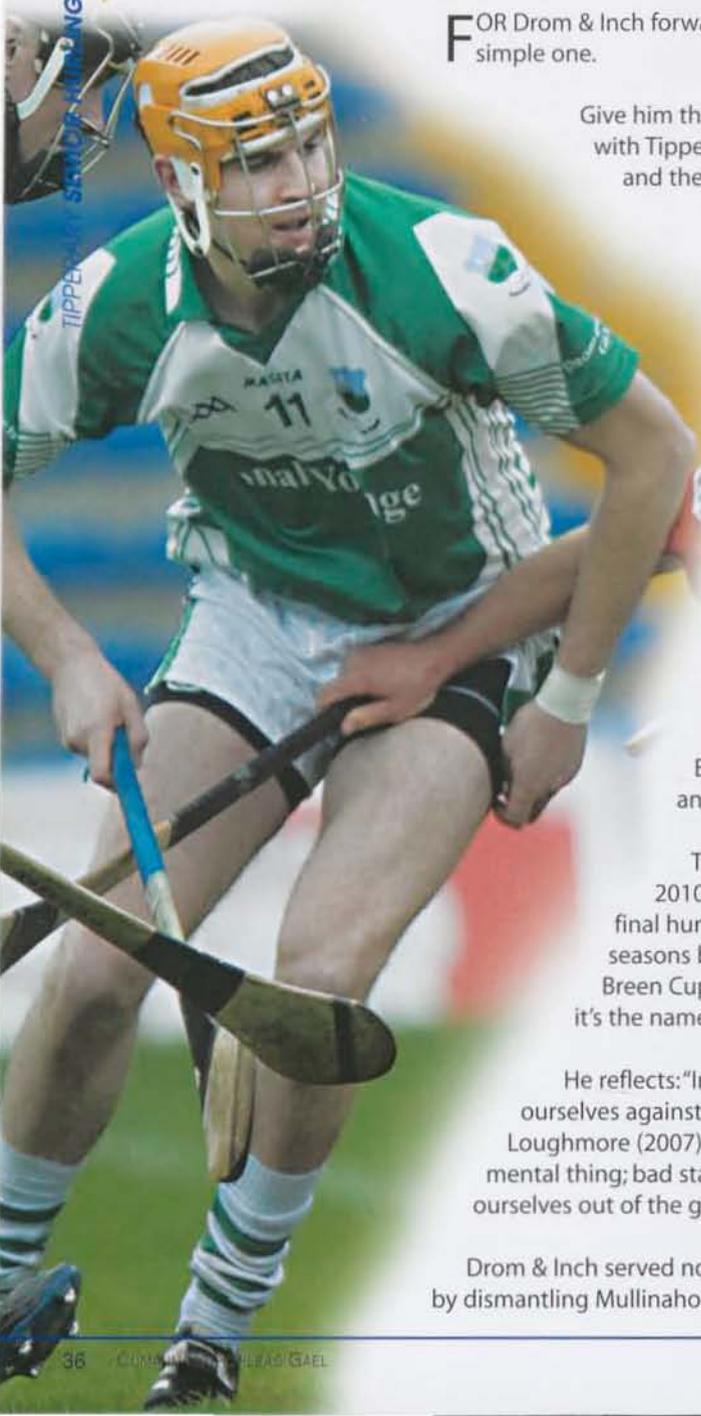
And having lost three county finals already (2005, '07 and '09), the flame of desire burns brightly inside the gifted 23-year-old forward.

He says: "A county title with my club would be everything. Winning the All-Ireland with Tipp (2010) was brilliant but I'd choose winning a county title with my club over that. It would be reward for the hard work that everyone puts in, the work of everyone in the parish, supporters and the women making the sandwiches and tea. Everybody puts their shoulder to the wheel and winning it is something you dream of."

This afternoon's final pits the beaten 2009 and 2010 finalists against each other. Both fell at the final hurdle against Thurles Sarsfields in the last two seasons but a fresh name will be inscribed on the Dan Breen Cup – and Callanan is determined to ensure that it's the name of Drom & Inch.

He reflects: "In 2005 we gave a good enough account of ourselves against Sars but we never turned up against Loughmore (2007) and Sarsfields (2009). I don't know if it's a mental thing; bad starts, things haven't gone right for us, we find ourselves out of the game and they've slipped away from us."

Drom & Inch served notice of their county championship intentions by dismantling Mullinahone on a 1-20 to 0-14 scoreline a fortnight ago.



Callanan had posted 1-5 by half-time, including a goal after just 50 seconds.

And he admits that the club's march to another county final has helped to wash away the bitter disappointment of All-Ireland final day last month, when he was called ashore at half-time against Kilkenny.

Callanan said: "It was great – a match couldn't come quick enough after the All-Ireland. You try to get that out of your mind and focus back on the club. I couldn't

wait to get back to the people you grew up with and know all your life. There are great people in our club and I've had great support from everyone. That's sport – you have to take the good with the bad but people in your own club will always be there and they're so proud of everything we do."

Callanan was pleased with Drom & Inch's victory over Mullinahone but admits that the second half display provided some cause for concern.

He said: "In the second half we were poor enough but we were ahead by a nice bit. We were expecting Mullinahone to come at us and being down 12 points, they had to come all out. We wanted to start the second half by getting a few quick scores but it didn't work out like that; they got the few frees and we lost our shape. But we had enough done and tipped away with a few points to keep the scoreboard ticking over.



"Everyone was saying before the semi-finals, after the draw was made, that it would be a Drom-Sars final but that was great for Clonoulty. They went in there perfect and the underdogs tag was great to have. They went in with nothing to lose and they had the bit of bitterness from the final the year before. They didn't let Sars hurl and any time a Sars man had the ball, there were two or three Clonoulty players in his face. They worked hard, they're

a physical team but they have great backs and forwards." Young Sean Maher has come in there at wing forward, his first year there, and getting some great scores against Nenagh and Thurles.

You have Timmy Hammersley and John O'Neill in attack as well and they were well on top in their half back line. They're just a balanced team all over."

Both teams lining out this afternoon will feel they have a massive point to prove after recent disappointments.

And Callanan admits: "I do believe it will come down to who wants it the most. Both teams are evenly matched and it's

great for the county. We're expecting a good crowd and for the last two years, Sarsfieldshave walked the thing. The county finals were not contested by ourselves or Clonoulty and to have the two us in the final now is great for everyone."

**“A county title with my club would be everything. Winning the All-Ireland with Tipp (2010) was brilliant but I'd choose winning a county title with my club over that”**



Drom & Inch  
Manager

*Teddy*

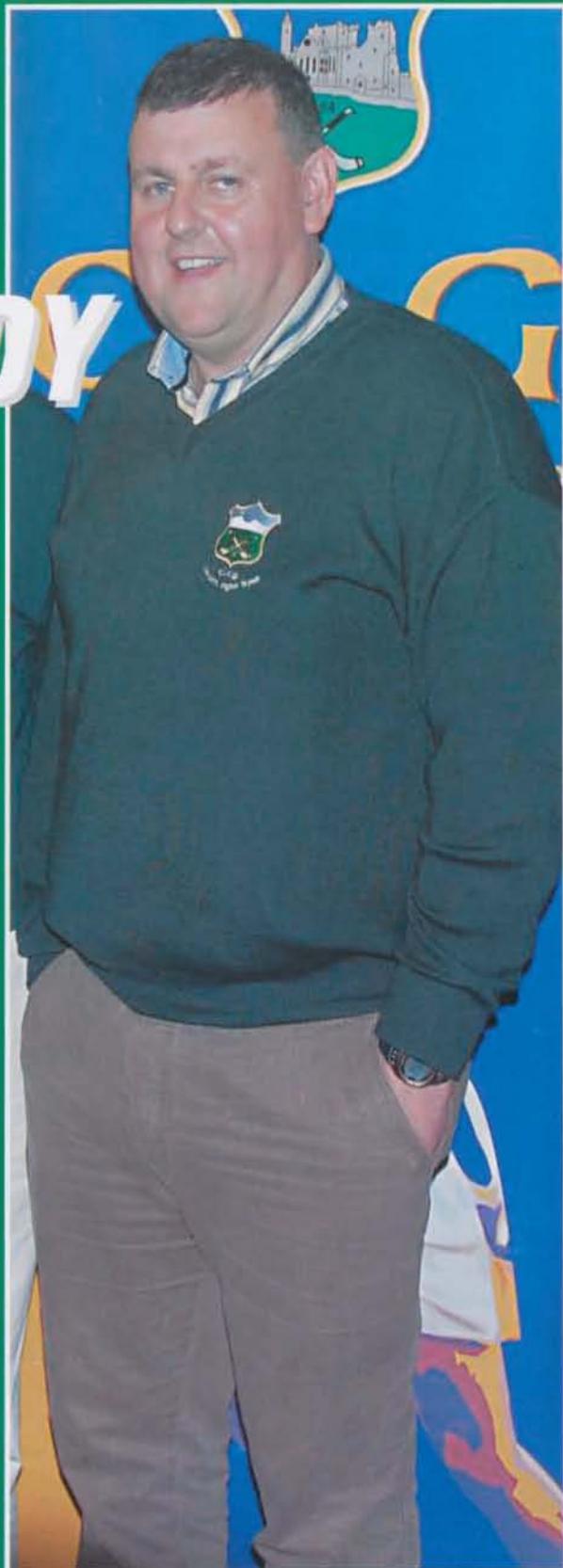
**KENNEDY**

“Everything has gone fairly well for us in terms of preparations. Sean Prendergast has been putting the lads through their paces since the semi-final and we have been very happy with the response. We have had a few colds and doses of the flu to deal with, but nothing major.

There is a great atmosphere in the camp at the moment. All the players are up for the match and can't wait to get in and get started. There has been a big buzz around the parish with the kids in the schools doing projects on the county final and of course the colour has appeared over the last week or so.

A County Final is a big event for the parish and the supporters, but we are treating it as just another match. That's the way we have worked all season long and even when we lost to Loughmore Castleiney in the Mid Final, we just got up and tried to get on with it again. The next game was always the all-important one as far as we are concerned and it is a policy which has served us well.

It's a 50/50 game now and it will be all about performing on the day. We are looking forward to it – it's the place to be for at this stage in the championship.”



# Drom & Inch

## MANAGEMENT TEAM



**SEAN  
PRENDERGAST**

*(Team Coach)*

**S**EAN PRENDERGAST of Lismore in Waterford returns as coach of the side after a spell in charge in 2008 which led them to the county final. Sean is a school teacher in Lismore.



**TEDDY  
KENNEDY**

*(Manager)*

**T**EDDY KENNEDY has been involved in club duties for many years now and up until last year held the role as chairman of the juvenile club. During his playing days Teddy played both hurling and football for the club.



**MARTIN  
BUTLER**

*(Selector)*

**M**ARTIN BUTLER has also been an active member of the club for many years and was part of the 1984 Mid final winning team alongside brothers Paudie, Tommy, Eamonn and Micheál.



**ANDY BOURKE**

*(Selector)*

**A**NDY BOURKE hurled junior with the club for much of his career and eventually went on to be a selector with the intermediate's during one of their first years after winning the Junior A county final in 2005. Andy follows in his late father Donal's footsteps in being a selector of the senior team. Donal was a selector of the 1984 team which won the centenary Mid final, defeating Moycarkey Borris before bowing out to Lorrha in the county semi-final.

Best Wishes to the Drom & Inch team from



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# If hunger counts, Drom & Inch to reach the Holy Grail

By: DAMIAN LAWLOR



**T**HERE ARE many reasons why today *should* finally signal the end of Drom & Inch's never-ending wait for a clutch of the Dan Breen Cup.

Here's just one: October 18, 2009, could have been one of the greatest days of James Woodlock's life - he was 23, captain in the county final against Thurles Sarsfields, but instead his day ended in pain and torture.

The sight of Seamus Butler rushing over to him, straightening his right leg onto a stretcher, as the Order of Malta men rushed across to the Town End of Semple Stadium, with Woodlock lay screaming in agony, did no-one in the ground any good.

In Semple's medical room, the midfielder was pumped with Morphine and Difene while the doctors got working on his broken tibia and fibula. It was meant to be the day when his club finally landed the coveted Dan Breen Cup, after losing finals in 2005 and 2007, but once again it ended in disaster.

We've seen the golden generation of Drom & Inch suffer on the big day at senior level quite a lot over the past 10 years and it hasn't been comfortable viewing. The horror shows on the big day have largely featured the same group of players and they'll finally be hoping to banish their miserable

record this afternoon.

But there are no guarantees. There must be mental scars from the past and remember, Thurles Sarsfields, despite their recent pedigree, have lost six finals since 1974 and between 2000 and 2003, fell at the final hurdle on four successive occasions. If Drom think that they can take the honours today, simply because they're due a twist, they can think again.

Sport doesn't work like that. Take the Limerick footballers - how many big games and Munster finals have they lost over the past decade by a point or two? And look at the Irish rugby team. Again, they boast a golden generation who never

failed to progress beyond a World Cup quarter-final. Just because Drom have been waiting forever to cross the finishing line doesn't automatically mean they'll do it today.



*Drom & Inch's goalkeeper Damien Young in action.*  
(Photo: Bridget Delaney)

It's the 115th Tipperary senior hurling championship final and the first between the two sides. Clonoulty have three titles to their name, but the last was in 1997, so whilst the mid-Tipp side are seeking a famous breakthrough they'll face an equally highly-charged opposition.

But you've just got to admire Drom's refusal to give up. They're an economical, intelligent, team that always make the most of what they've got. A small club, population wise, with around 1700 in the parish, they hold an excellent record at underage level with many of the current senior team leading the side to great heights at U21 level and before that, all the way through the juvenile system.

With back to back U21 "A" titles in 2000 and 2001 and Mid Senior Hurling titles in 2006, 2008 and 2009, it would be easy to speculate that the next step is a senior title, a natural progression.

But the players are around far too long to fall for that. In their last two finals, they'll know that they have not been themselves. They failed to light a fuse against Sarsfields two years ago, scoring just 0-5 on that occasion and they were way below par against Loughmore before that. Expectation has dogged their players since they were kids and maybe that has proven to be a burden at the highest level. If they don't learn from the experiences of the past, it won't be any easier for them today.

They must also keep their discipline if they are to get the better of their opponents.

There are positive signs,

however; we've seen heroic performances from the likes of Seamus Callanan and Damian Young this season. Callanan's late 90m winner against Burgess in the fourth round of the championship was worth the admission fee alone. He was immense on the day, scoring ten points but chances are he'll have to reproduce the same form today if they are to climb the steps.

Drom and Inch's management team, Teddy Kennedy, Andy Bourke, Martin Butler and Sean Prendergast will have a big job on their hands this afternoon. They'll have to make sure their men turn up on the day and just hurl like they are capable of. The big occasion, the warm-up, the weight of expectation and the burden of history all has to be put aside.

If there's sporting justice out there the cup will head towards the Ragg this evening. The club has produced some excellent displays all the way up the ladder over the past 10 years. They have just 100 members 90 adult players but yet this is their fourth senior county final in six years. They were also one of only a few teams this year to have a side competing in every adult grade

and like Clonoulty, have developed excellently both on and off the field as a unit.

If hunger counts for anything they'll reach the Holy Grail this afternoon, though. Turn up, play to their maximum and let the rest take care of itself.

They've been knocking on the door a long time. And they might never have a better chance of ending the hoodoo.



**Drom & Inch's Eamon Buckley (right) and Brian McCormack (Toomevara) tussle for possession during their quarter-final clash.**  
(Photo: Andy Jay)



# Teresa O'Brien

## CLUB STALWART

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



**T**ERESA O'BRIEN has been part of the fabric in Clonoulty for half-a-century and has collected some cherished memories from the local GAA club's exploits during that time.

She'll never forget the 1989 victory against Holycross-Ballycahill, a win that handed Clonoulty-Rossmore a first county senior hurling championship crown for 101 years.

Three of Teresa's brothers played on that victorious team – Cecil, Kevin and Patrick Ryan – and Kevin won another county championship medal in 1997, when Clonoulty-Rossmore last lifted the Dan Breen Cup.

Kevin was also captain of the Clonoulty-Rossmore team that won the 2002 West senior hurling championship before a pulling the curtain down on a memorable career.

In addition, Teresa's brother Patrick captained the victorious U16 B football team that won the 1995 county title before winning a county minor hurling crown in 1996 and a senior title the following year.

A proud Teresa reveals: "I was born in Limerick but I've been living 50 years in Lassana. My mother was a Limerick woman and married a Tipperary man, Pakie Ryan from Clonoulty.

"My mother lives next door to me, she was 80 in June, and my father passed away seven years ago.

"In 1984, I started washing jerseys and I'm still doing that. I clean the dressing rooms too up in the clubhouse – the new dressing rooms were opened last year.

"I have a boy and a girl – Marcella and Patrick. Marcella is married in Holycross to a Kilkenny man and they have a boy and a girl, Philip and Megan. Patrick is married in Boherlahan to Valerie Moylan.



"I'm currently vice-treasurer with the club and county board draw co-ordinator, for the last eight years."

The local GAA field is close to Teresa's heart and she smiles: "I go up there every day. There's a lovely walk there and I'd do six rounds of the field, three miles. There are lovely facilities there and please God, we'll be able to get a stand and seating put down.

"We have some great youngsters coming through too and we're a thriving club in the West. But we have to mind them and look after them – emigration is an awful thing, not just in West Tipp, but for all clubs."

Teresa, who has fond memories of Clonoulty-Rossmore's last county SHC success in 1997, is quietly confident that a 14-year gap can be bridged this afternoon but admits that it will be a tough task against Drom & Inch.

She says: "There's no point in beating the Sarsfields if they can't continue on and win the county final. It would be a major achievement. We've had some injuries but other boys have stepped up to the mark when called upon. I call them my children – I have the two but I have another 102 between U16s, minors, U21s, junior and seniors. I've been washing their jerseys for the last 27 years!"



Alice

# Costello

CLUB STALWART

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



**W**INNING a county senior hurling title would mean "everything" to Drom & Inch, according to one of the club's best-known servants, Alice Costello.

A former vice-chairperson and chairperson of Drom & Inch juvenile GAA club, Alice also served as secretary of the adult club for seven years until 2009.

Alice smiles as she describes herself now as the "washer-upper" and one of the sandwich-makers at the local clubhouse, helping to feed hungry players after heavy training sessions.

The Costello family is steeped in hurling tradition as Alice's husband Michael also played at corner back for the club.

Interestingly, Michael is a nephew of Kilkenny legend Jim Langton, a two-time All-Ireland senior medallist who hurled with the Cats from 1939-1954 and who was later named at left half forward on the GAA Hurling Team of the Millennium.

Alice and Michael are the proud parents of three sons and one daughter.

Michael Jnr. will line out at corner back today as Drom & Inch look

to secure the Dan Breen Cup for the very first time while Eddie is also a member of the panel.

Back in 1995, Brian captained the victorious Drom & Inch Féile team that captured the prestigious Christy Ring Cup and Michelle is married to Declan Fitzpatrick, who works tirelessly with the club's underage teams.

Alice reveals: "I have three grandchildren playing with the underage club - Maidhc, Darragh and Cormac Fitzpatrick. From the age of four or five, they have a hurley in their hand and we have football going strong as well. We try to keep them all going."

Alice, a former schoolteacher, taught in Thurles town for 37 years and is now working for Hibernia College, supervising teaching students on teaching practice.

Brought up in Killahara in the parish of Loughmore, Alice has been living in Dovea for the last 37 years, just a mile from the Drom & Inch field that has become her second home.

She also dipped her toes in the world of management too, masterminding an U12 county championship alongside trainer Paudie Butler.

But winning that elusive senior title is the Holy Grail for Drom & Inch, following final defeats in 2005, 2007 and 2009.

Alice admits: "It would mean everything. So many people, over generations, have looked forward to this day. This would be the culmination of a long, long ambition.

"We've been here before and made mistakes but we've definitely learned from them. And now we have a good mixture of experience and young blood. We hope we have the right mixture this time and that we perform well.

"The big thing during the week before the match is to keep things on an even keel."



# Cian O'NEILL

By: DIARMUID O'FLYNN



**G**OING BACK to what he knows best, that's Cian O'Neill. For the last four years the Kildareman has been the trainer of the Tipperary hurlers, and a good one he was too. During those four years Tipp

won three Munster titles and a National League; at All-Ireland level they reached three finals in a row, came very close in the first, won the second, lost the third, all against what is now accepted as the best hurling team of all time. In all of those

games, win or lose, one thing Tipperary didn't lack – physical conditioning.

Gaelic football is Cian's first love, however, and now he's gone back to it, recently announced as the new coach to Mayo, working under their young and innovative coach James Horan. So, how was it, his stint as a hurling trainer to one of the top teams in the country? Good, he says, oh – very good indeed! "I had an absolutely amazing four years with Tipperary – players, management, backroom staff, the county board, everyone was just brilliant, I couldn't say a bad word about them."

They hit the ground running, won Munster title and National League in 2008, their first season, but that's not to say it was all plain sailing from the start. "At this stage the fitness and strength levels are exceptional but when we first started it was from a relatively low level. The first year – eventhough the hurling was going well – was just about conditioning players to accept what was needed, why we were doing what we were doing. The second year was about building on the foundations of the first year, and that season they grew almost exponentially so that by year three, the year we won the All-Ireland, we were only topping up everything we did the year before. It didn't happen overnight, it happened over a number of years."

For Cian too, and even though he is the man who oversees the



Physical Education and Sports Science degree course at UL, it was a learning process. "The principle of training any team remained the same in terms of breaking it up into individual components, what was needed in terms of strength, power, speed, skill and so on. The main challenge was to ensure that the drills focused on what was required specifically for hurling as opposed to other sports, and that was key – running laps and so on, the players would get some benefit but they would not be training to their optimum, and it's all about getting the best out of players. That worked well for the first year but in the subsequent years, and while it was still the same basic requirements, the players don't want the same training, they want something different and that was a big challenge, keeping it all fresh."

Having finally won the All-Ireland last year, manager Liam Sheedy left, and with him went his coach, Eamon O'Shea and the third selector, Michael Ryan. Cian, however, stayed on – an easy decision. "The key element there was the players, an absolutely fantastic bunch, just a pleasure to work with – I never had the slightest bit of trouble with anyone of them. That really informed my decision; the relationship we had built up was second to none but keeping some element of continuity, with a new team management coming in, was important as well – I couldn't just walk away."

They came close again this year, Tipperary, won Munster again and reached their third All-Ireland final in a row. Ultimately, however, they came up short against that supremely talented Kilkenny side. Played three, won one – not the best

strike rate but look deeper, says Cian. "We came so close in 09, won in 2010; this year we played quite poorly by our own standards and yet with five minutes to go there were only three points in it. People talk about how brilliant Kilkenny are, and rightly so, yet even while playing quite badly we were still within striking distance of them – all things considered, not bad."

Now, back to football, and Cian will be taking much of what he's learned over the last four years and applying it to his new job in Mayo. "Absolutely, yes; number one, from every session you should learn something yourself, that's key. But under people like Liam, like Eamonn, like Declan (Ryan) and Tommy (Dunne, Tipp manager and coach this year), you try to pick up on the key things and you try to pick out the elements most relevant to your role and

apply those. I did learn a lot – even in terms of off-field stuff, Ger Ryan was exceptional as a PRO, a model in that field. Every single session I learned something and I'll be bringing that to Mayo. But you know what, I learned from what we did wrong also. Nothing is ever perfect and we did make mistakes over the last four years; we recognised those, and I'll be trying to make sure I don't repeat those mistakes with Mayo. My job in UL directly involves training, the physical preparation of teams, but coaching is my passion, improving teams on the field in terms of tactical play, improve individuals as players. I'm looking forward to that now."

He's a loss to Tipp, a loss to hurling, but he left his mark, a very positive mark. What odds now on Mayo making their own breakthrough?



Tipperary team trainer Cian O'Neill during squad training ahead of GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship Final 2010 at Semple Stadium.

(Photos: Brendan Moran, Sportsfile)



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# Dick

# MARTIN

CLONOULTY - ROSSMORE

**O**NE MAN who is well used to County Final day in the Clonoulty Rossmore colours is the popular Richard – better known as Dick – Martin, who already has two county senior hurling final medals to his name.

A legend in the parish of Clonoulty Rossmore, West Tipperary and indeed throughout the Premier County, Dick is an avid Manchester United fan and is hoping that the winning attitude promoted by Sir Alex Ferguson might prevail in the Clonoulty Rossmore dressingroom this afternoon also. Victory would be a huge lift the parish, he said.

"It was low key after the semi-final win, but it was great to see the colours appearing on the roads since then. The kids were bringing their helmets and hurleys into school as well as there has been a lot of talk about the final. It's nice to see and it is great for everyone in the parish," he said.

However, Dick recalls the heartbreak of losing to Sarsfields in last year's final and says that it is a not a nice feeling. "Any game can go 50/50. It went against us against Sarsfields last year and it went against them in the semi-final this year. The

final today is a 50/50 game as well – it could go either way," Dick says.

Whichever way it does go, it's quite likely that Dick Martin will be called upon to sing a few songs in the village of Clonoulty tonight. A great entertainer, the former bread delivery man with Irish Pride has been known to perform late into the night, and

maybe even in the early morning, depending on what the collective mood is like.

Dick is looking forward to the final and has great praise for the management team of T.J. Ryan, Andrew Fryday and Liam Cahill. "Liam is a fantastic Coach and he has us playing to a plan. It is all about the panel with him and if you are not playing well, you come off and let someone else have a go. It doesn't mean that you are suddenly not a good hurler, it's just one of those things. All players have their bad days and Liam makes sure that if you have one, you are not left feeling down in the dumps. Every player has a part to play and T.J. and Andrew would be saying that as well," Dick says.

When looking for a hero – someone to look up to – Dick hadn't to look very far at all. "Ah sure, that would have to be Declan (Ryan). There's no one like him. He's a great guy and a great friend. And sure we all know he was a fair hurler as well – what he did in 1997 in the championship was great, not to mention what he did with Tipp through the years," Dick said.

Clonoulty Rossmore would not take to the field without Richard Martin in toe. His presence in the dressingroom is as important as the Coach and Manager. And, Clonoulty Rossmore GAA club is as important to him as life itself.

Because, it is his life.



# ~ 1931 Final ~

## TOOMEVARA FIRST WINNERS OF DAN BREEN CUP

By: JIM FOGARTY\*

Toomevara ..... 5-4  
Moycarkey-Borris ..... 0-2

**T**HE 1931 final was played on the 14th February, 1932. Toomevara defeated Moycarkey-Borris on a beautiful but cold day at Thurles. A good attendance from the four divisions came to see the two best teams in the county.

One man who ensured that the spoils would go to North Tipp was Tom O'Meara, the Toomevara goalie. The first 25 minutes featured some brilliant saves from O'Meara against a series of Moycarkey attacks, which could have put the men from Mid Tipperary well ahead. O'Meara was at the top of his

form and his judgement never failed.

At the other end of the field, Martin Kennedy and Paddy O'Meara had the better of the Moycarkey backs. They, in addition to the reliable Garrett Howard, were the inspiration behind a defeat for Moycarkey, by a margin, which none had anticipated.

The game was not up to the standard of previous county finals. It was lively in the earlier stages, but then the pace dropped. With the exception of Phil Purcell in the first half, the Moycarkey men were not up to their usual standard. J.J. Hayes and Phil Cahill tried hard, but the latter was a long way off his previous brilliant form. The

remainder of the team had not the finished touch of Toomevara. The Toome forwards were well supplied by Jack Gleeson and Garrett Howard and made few mistakes.

Phil Cahill opened the scoring for Moycarkey with a point from a 21 yard free. Jack Gleeson, from in front of the stand, sent to Tom Byrnes, who passed to Martin Kennedy and a wonderful goal ensued. A minute later, Paddy O'Meara goaled again for Toome. Then Kennedy after receiving the ball some distance out, worked his way in and scored a neat point, leaving Toomevara ahead at half-time by 2-1 to 0-1.

In the second half, O'Meara scored his second goal for



**Toomevara - 1930 Senior Hurling Champions**

Front row (l.-r.): Tom Collison, Tom Gleeson, Malachy Collison, Martin Kennedy, Jack Gleeson, Jack Kennedy, Paddy Ryan, Jack Conway. Back row: Jack Harty, Jack O'Meara, Jack Naughton, Din Kelly (Trainer), Paddy Kennedy, Tom Conway, Jack Gleeson, Din Kelly, Paddy Hennessy - some of whom played in the 1931 final.

(Photo courtesy of Toomevara GAA 1885-1985)

Toome. Phil Cahill, in a great effort to score for Moycarkey was foiled by O'Meara in the Toome goal. Cahill, who was now steadily improving, had a point for the Mid team. Toomevara replied with a point and following a melee in the goalmouth, Kennedy scored his second goal. This was followed by a Gleeson point for the leaders. Toome forced two 70's and from the second one, Martin Kennedy scored his third and his team's fifth goal. There was no way back for the losers.

This final was the end of a wonderful era for Toomevara. The loss of players such as Tommy O'Meara, Martin Kennedy, Jack Donovan, Garrett Howard and Jack Gleeson would prove to be too large a handicap to overcome.

Captain Johnny Leahy of Boherlahan, wearing a blue and gold sweater, with a light blue



Referee Johnny Leahy

cap, a souvenir of the American Tour, refereed.

Admission to the game was 1/- with entrance to the stand another 1/-.

**Scorers** – Toomevara: Martin Kennedy 3-1, Paddy O'Meara 2-0, Jack Gleeson 0-3(2fs).  
Moycarkey: Phil Cahill 0-2(1f).

**Toomevara** – Tommy O'Meara, S. Gleeson, John 'The Wren' Kennedy, Stephen Hackett, M 'Swimmer' O'Brien, Paddy Collison, John Guilmartin, Jack Gleeson, Garrett Howard, Tom Byrnes, Bill O'Meara, Tom Gleeson, Paddy O'Meara, Martin Kennedy (Capt.), Jack Donovan.

**Moycarkey** – Tom Kelly, Joseph Maher, J.J. Hayes, John Maher, William O'Brien, Martin Dwyer, Phil Purcell, Tom O'Meara, Martin Maher, Phil Cahill, John Fanning, Tom Bourke, John Ryan, Bill Kennedy, Tom Hayes.

\* *Jim Fogarty is working on a history of Tipp county finals for the Dan Breen Cup 1931-2011. He would appreciate the loan of photos of county final teams, action shots, memories of finals, etc. He can be contacted at 25 Meadow Way, Kilkenny. Phone (086) 1512946.*

## Tipperary GAA Yearbook

The **2012 Tipperary G.A.A. Yearbook** is being compiled at present and the Yearbook committee under the Chairmanship of Seamus King is seeking articles and information for inclusion.

Clubs that have accomplished any unique achievement in 2011 such as winning a major title for the first time, achieving a double, opening new dressing rooms or a new grounds, etc are requested to send through an appropriate article for inclusion.

The Yearbook committee are looking to all clubs to submit any obituaries of their deceased members in the last 12 months. The maximum number of words for an obituary is 150 and please include the club name and the years also, e.g. 1935-2011 as well as his/her G.A.A. achievements and a photograph of the deceased person.

The deadline for sending information is **1st November 2011**. You can e-mail completed work to **Seamus King** at [seamusjk@eircom.net](mailto:seamusjk@eircom.net) or **John Smith**, Secretary Yearbook committee at [johnsmiththurles@eircom.net](mailto:johnsmiththurles@eircom.net). All photographs must be named and can be e-mailed to Seamus King or John Smith. Photographs can also be posted to **John Smith, c/o Tipperary GAA Office, Slievenamon Road, Thurles.**

# Kilruane MacDonaghs

## win 1985 County Senior Hurling Title

By: SEAMUS J. KING



WHEN Kilruane MacDonaghs won the county final at Semple Stadium on October 13, 1985 it was the fifth time that the senior hurling title had gone to the parish of Cloughjordan. The first occasion was in 1902 when the famous Lahorna de wets won the title. There was a long wait until 1977 for the second title and this was the start of three-in-a-row. However, there was at least one connection between the two teams, the secretary of the de Wats club was Michael Gaynor of Rapla, the grand-uncle of Len, who contributed so handsomely to the victories of 1977-78-79. Many would agree that his hand was very much responsible for the 1985 success as well.

Kilruane's trek for county honours commenced with the north championship for which nine teams affiliated. They were divided into two groups with Kilruane in the smaller group together with Lorrha, Moneygall and Silvermines. They qualified for the semi-final in which they defeated Borrisoleigh by

2-14 to 0-5 at Nenagh on August 17. In the second semi-final Roscrea defeated Lorrha by 2-7 to 0-12 in a replay.

The north final was played at Nenagh on September 8 and Kilruane were successful by 2-10 to 1-10. The basis of their success were two goals in the first twelve minutes and the Cloughjordan men led all through. Although their display left a lot to be desired they revealed a toughness which was going to be an important factor in winning the county final. It was Kilruane's eight divisional senior title, while Roscrea were seeking their seventeenth.

### NORTH V. MID

The quarter-final games between the North and the Mid took place at Semple Stadium on September 21. In the first game Kilruane MacDonaghs had a seven-point victory over a very disappointing Thurles Sarsfields. In fact the winning margin did not do justice to the northmen's superiority. Kilruane dominated the first half and led by 1-9 to 0-2 at the interval. It took Sarsfields ten minutes to score and they got their second point just before the interval. Thurles improved in the second half but they revealed a shortage of scoring power



and, in the end, were behind by 2-10 to 2-3.

In the second game Holycross-Ballycahill's dream of adding the county to their mid title came unstuck when, in spite of a wholehearted performance, they went down by a four-point margin to Roscrea in a scoreline of 2-11 to 1-10. Because the game was keenly competitive and the sides close, the game was interesting and entertaining. Holy-cross had the benefit of the wind in the first half but failed to make use of their chances. Two Roscrea goals at vital stages saw them ahead by 2-3 to 0-5 at half-time. The mid men produced their best hurling in the second half, but their effort wasn't sufficient to get the better of Roscrea.

### SEMI-FINALS

And so the stage was set for the semi-finals at Semple Stadium on the last Sunday in September. The first game was between the north champions and the west champions. By any standards this was a disappointing game with little of a competitive edge about it. It was marked by a complete failure on the part of Cappawhite to make use of the scoring opportunities they got. One looked around for the forward line that had moved with such speed and purpose during the 1984 championship. As an indication of their poor performance Cappawhite scored only two points in the first fifty-three minutes of the game. When their two goals came Kilruane's place in the final was already secure. Cappawhite shot ten wides in the first half and were

## Kilruane MacDonaghs Club Officers 1985

*President:* Very Rev. E., Whyte, P.P.  
*Vice-Presidents:* Con Heffernan, Frank Darcy,  
 Rev. Fr. Liam Murray, C.C.  
*Chairman:* Jim Casey  
*Vice-Chairmen:* Tom Cleary and Mick Mulcahy  
*Secretary:* Tom Kirby  
*Treasurer:* Michael Hennessy.

### JUVENILE CLUB OFFICERS:

*Chairman:* Connie Grace  
*Secretary:* Denis Darcy.  
  
*Senior Selectors:* Jim Casey, Billy Shea,  
 Len Gaynor.  
*Trainer/Coach:* Len Gaynor.

behind by 1-4 to 0-1 at the interval. The final score was 2-8 to 2-2 in favour of Kilruane. The other point about the game was the relatively poor performances by the north men.

These poor performances contrasted with a very fine display by Roscrea in the second semi-final when they overwhelmed Carrick Swans by 4-17 to 2-8. One of the great performances in the game was given by veteran, Francis Loughnane, who had a personal tally of 2-4 and who posed a constant threat to the Swans' backline. The first half was close enough with only three points between the sides at the interval. The score was 0-10 to 1-4 in favour of Roscrea. In fact the swans squandered a number of scoreable opportunities during the period and didn't seem to be hurling with the same confidence as they had shown in the quarter-final. In the second half it was all Roscrea after Eamon Bergin got a goal four minutes into the second half. After that the south men lost all composure and gradually faded from the scene.



## Kilruane-MacDonaghs – All-Ireland Club Champions 1986

*Back row (l.-r.):* Jack Darcy Thomas Killacky,  
 John Quinlan, Phillip Quinlan, John Cahill, Enda Hogan,  
 Joe Banaghan, Denis O'Meara, Eamon O'Shea,  
 Jim Williams, Eamon Gaynor, Paddy Williams,  
 Michael Hogan, Paul Mulcahy, Sean Williams.  
*Front row (l.-r.):* Eamon Kirby, David Quinlan, Gilbert  
 Williams, Jim O'Meara, Dinny Cahill, Tony Sheppard  
 (capt.), Gerry Williams, Seamus Gibson, Pat Quinlan,  
 Seamus Hennessy, Ned Darcy, Ned Fogarty (masseur).

(Photos: © Pádraig Ó Flannabhra, Photoart Studio, Pócán, Nenagh)

## THE COUNTY FINAL

Ten and a half thousand people turned up for the county final at Semple Stadium on October 13. There were many children present. They had been invited along as guests of the county board from schools throughout the county. The day was pleasant and dry and all the arrangements contributed to an enjoyable occasion.

As a result of the semi-finals, Roscrea were regarded as the more skillful outfit with greater scoring ability. And during the course of the first half they seemed to justify that projection. In contrast the Kilruane performance was pedestrian and without imagination. Roscrea had three points on the board before there was a reply from the north champions. They dominated at centre-field where Peadar Queally was king and Bergin, Scully and Loughnane looked dangerous in the forwards. However opportunities were not taken, no goal was scored and what seemed to be a victorious Roscrea first half resulted in a lead of only 0-8 to 0-4 at the interval. Not enough by a long shot!

Kilruane resumed with a new centrefield of Dinny Cahill and Joe Banaghan and the move soon brought results. Queally's influence declined and Roscrea never re-established control in the area. On the top of that was the move of Eamon O'Shea to centreforward. Gradually gaps began to appear in the Roscrea half-back line and Kilruane points, two from O'Shea, brought them within a point of their opponents.

But the game was dogged and the result still hung in the balance. That was until the fifty-first minute when O'Shea burst through to set Pat Quinlan up for a goal and the lead for the first time for Kilruane. Two minutes later O'Shea sealed Roscrea's fate when he double on a dropping ball, from a long

range free from Gilbert Williams, and scored Kilruane's second goal. Roscrea's challenge came to an end and it is significant that they scored only two points in the second half to leave the final score 2-11 to 0-10 in favour of the north champions.

The teams for the final were:

**Kilruane MacDonaghs** – Tony Sheppard (capt.), John Cahill, Dinny O'Meara, Seamus Gibson, Michael Hogan, Jim O'Meara, Gilbert Williams, Seamus Hennessy, Enda Hogan, Jerry Williams, Jim Williams, Eamon O'Shea, Dinny Cahill, Paddy Williams, Pat Quinlan. *Subs:* Joe Banaghan for Enda Hogan, Philip Quinlan for Seamus Hennessy. *Others:* Ned Darcy, Paul Mulcahy, Jack Darcy, Sean Williams, Joe Burns, John Quinlan, Thomas Killachy, David Quinlan, Eamon Kirby.

**Roscrea** – Kevin Moloney, Joe Bergin, Val Ryan, Tadgh O'Connor, Paul Delaney, Donal Kealy, Kevin O'Connor, Peadar Queally, Ger Ryan, John Stone, Ger O'Connor (capt.), Liam Spooner, Michael Scully, Francis Loughnane, Eamonn Bergin. *Subs:* Francis Fletcher for E. Bergin, John Pyne for T. O'Connor. *Others:* Jimmy Cunningham, Purdy Loughnane, Tony Maher, Austin O'Meara, Sean McLoughney, Aidan Shanahan.

The referee for the game was Donie O'Gorman of Thurles Sarsfields. The cup was presented to Tony Sheppard by county chairman, Michael Lowry. The Man of the Match award, sponsored by Frosts Garage, Nenagh was presented to Eamon O'Shea by Donal Shanahan, representing the sponsors.

The victory was a great achievement for the Kilruane MacDonagh club. It was the best possible success to have in the Centenary year of the club. But it wasn't a stand-alone achievement. Kilruane also won the county junior championship and the divisional senior football championship. To top it all the parish priest of Cloughjordan, Fr. Eddie Whyte, produced a fine club history, which told the story of the G.A.A. in the parish up to 1985.

# Kilruane MacDonaghs win the 1986 All-Ireland Club Final

*(This account of Kilruane's All-Ireland win by Very Rev. Eddie Whyte, P.P., Cloughjordan appeared in the 1987 Tipperary Yearbook.)*

**T**HE AVERAGE age of the Kilruane players was 30 years and thus very few G.A.A. followers in Tipperary gave the Cloughjordan men any chance of winning the Tipperary county final in 1985 much less winning the Munster and All-Ireland club championship.

All roads led to Tallow, County Waterford, on 27th October, 1985 for the first round of the Munster club championship between the champions of Waterford, Tallow, and the standard bearers of Tipperary, Kilruane MacDonaghs. This was a game of hurling which enthralled a huge gathering. The atmosphere was electric for sixty memorable minutes which saw



*Kilruane MacDonagh's Captain Tony Sheppard holds aloft the Cup after the presentation by Mick Loftus, GAA President.*

MacDonaghs snatch victory from the jaws of defeat in a never-to-be-forgotten last five minutes. Down five points at half-time and still trailing by four points with time almost up, Kilruane staged a dramatic come-back, culminating with a winning point by Gilbert Williams in the last puck of the game. Score: Kilruane 1-18; Tallow 1-17. Next day this match was described by several journalists as one of the most exciting games ever played in the Munster club championship.

## MUNSTER FINAL

Sunday, November 24, was a cold frosty day for a big crowd at Limerick Gaelic Grounds when the famous Blackrock team of Cork met Kilruane in the Munster Club championship final. The Cork men were firm favourites and rightly so for they had in their line-out Dermot McCurtain, Eamon O'Donoghue, Jim Cashman, Pat Moylan, Frank Cummins and others who had worn the Cork jersey with distinction. It was not a great game of hurling — conditions were against fast ground play. For long periods Kilruane appeared to be superior in many departments and yet the scores did not come. With a last minute controversial 21 yards free Blackrock drew level, 1-8 for each team.

The replay was fixed for the Gaelic Grounds the following Sunday, December 1, with the same referee, Terence Murray of Limerick in charge. Here we saw a very different Kilruane outfit in action. Right from the throw-in they got down to the business in hand. Raw courage, character, discipline which was sadly lacking in the drawn game, fast ground hurling, a will to win were in evidence as the Cork men were simply brushed aside in the second half. The final score was 12 points to 6 points, in Kilruane's favour. On the day the Tipperary men were deserv-

ing winners. Few Cloughjordan people will forget the rousing reception given to the team that cold December night in 'the little village'.

After a few weeks rest the MacDonaghs were once again called into training by Len Gaynor. Desmonds of London were unknown. Rumour had it that several inter-county hurlers were playing with them — so Gaynor was taking no chances. It was a home venue for Kilruane on 19th January, 1986. The pitch was waterlogged and possibly the game should not have been played. It turned out to be a test of courage and endurance rather than a display of hurling skills. Although not playing up to their full potential the Munster Champions won easily by 2-9 to 0-4, Pat Delaney of Laois, was a capable referee.

## ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL

On 2nd February Turloughmore of Galway came to Nenagh to play Kilruane MacDonaghs in the All-Ireland semi-final. A small crowd, estimated at 1,500, on a bitterly cold day, witnessed a game of hurling which lacked real bite and excitement. The result, a win for the Munster champions, was on the cards long before Paschal Long of Kilkenny sounded the final whistle. The Kilruane men were satisfied with just winning and this they did on the score 3-9 to 0-9. A feature of the game was that Ger Bourke of Turloughmore got all his team's scores.

## THE ALL-IRELAND FINAL

The railway station in Cloughjordan is nearly 150 years old. Never in its long history did it cater for such a huge crowd as it did on 16th March. Three special trains were put on by C.I.E. to ferry all the people, young and old, to Dublin for the All-Ireland club championship final. Black and white flags, scarves, dresses, hats, shirts and umbrellas were

everywhere in evidence. The banter, the crack, the excitement was great.

Buffer's Alley of Wexford and Kilruane MacDonaghs of Tipperary had come through to meet in the final. In 1984 Kilruane had beaten the same opponents in the All-Ireland 7-a-side championship and everyone knew that they were out for revenge this time.

From the very beginning it was a thrilling encounter. The legendary Tony Doran put panic into the Kilruane back line every time play was in that sector and he duly scored two goals. However as the game progressed Denis O'Meara got the upper hand and Doran was a danger no longer, even though Mick Butler was a menace to the final whistle.

10,176 spectators were thrilled by a breath-taking



*Kilruane MacDonagh's Captain Tony Sheppard being carried shoulder high in Croke Park in Club Final victory.*

second half performance by Kilruane who were four points behind at half-time. All the sixteen Kilruane men were heroes – Dinny Cahill, Jim, Gerry and Gilbert Williams, Tony Sheppard and Pat Quinlan were the pick of the lot. It was a famous victory, Kilruane 1-15 to 2-10 for Buffer's Alley. Many neutrals have said that a draw would have been a fairer result – and maybe they are right.

## *Kilruane MacDonaghs* PLAYER PROFILES

CAPTAIN of the team was **Tony Sheppard**. He was an inspirational leader and an outstanding goalkeeper. Tony was also an accomplished footballer and was selected on the North Tipperary centenary team.

Left full back was **John Cahill**. He captained the U-21 team to win the North title in 1978 and won intermediate North and county medals the same year. John was a fearless and swashbuckling defender.

Full back marking the legendary **Tony Doran** in the All-Ireland club final was Dinny O'Meara. He captained the first Kilruane MacDonaghs team to win a county U-21 hurling title in 1973. Dinny also led the 1975 senior football side to county final victory.

Left corner back was **Seamus Gibson**. He lined out in the number four jersey the Tipperary

senior team which defeated Cork in the famous 1987 Munster final in Killarney. Seamus was a defender in the traditional mould who revelled in the tough going.

Right wing back wearing the number five shirt was **Joe Banaghan**. He was an impressive and stylish wingback with his long striking launching many an attack. Joe is one of five members of the side who holds both county U-21 hurling and football medals.

Centre half back was **Jim O'Meara**. In the number six jersey he anchored the defence with calm and assured authority. Jim is one of twelve members of the panel who holds seven North senior hurling medals.

Left wing back was **Gilbert Williams**. He captained the club to county minor honours in 1971 and All-Ireland Sevens success in centenary year. Gilbert has

served as club secretary and is currently the club PRO.

**Dinny Cahill** lined out at centre field. He captained MacDonaghs to county honours in 1977. Dinny coached the Tipp minor team to the All-Ireland title in 1996, steered Portumna to All-Ireland club success and is currently the Antrim manager.

The powerful **Enda Hogan** played an influential role in the middle of the field. He won All-Ireland minor and U-21 medals. Enda also played senior hurling for Tipperary.

**Ger Williams** was right wing forward. He was the youngest of the four Williams brothers on the team. Ger's uncanny positional sense and shrewd reading of the game made him a difficult opponent and a prolific scorer.

Centre half forward was **Jim Williams**. He scored five points from play in the club final against

Buffers Alley. Jim played senior hurling for Kilruane MacDonaghs for twenty six successive years and along with thirteen of his colleagues he holds four county senior medals, lifting the Dan Breen Cup in 1978.

Left half forward was the speed merchant of the team **Eamon O'Shea**. He holds All-Ireland minor and U-21 medals as well as a National Hurling League medal. Eamon coached the Tipperary senior hurling team which defeated Kilkenny in the never to be forgotten 2010 All-Ireland final.

**Pat Quinlan** wore the number thirteen jersey. He was the youngest member of the team in the All-Ireland final. Pat was an opportunist corner forward and scored the crucial goal which helped to defeat Buffers Alley in Croke Park.

Full forward **Paddy Williams** was the oldest member of the panel and in 1986 he was starting his 21st successive year as a senior hurler with Kilruane MacDonaghs. He captained Tipperary to win the National League in 1979. Paddy was freetaker and top scorer during the campaign with 2-33 to his name.

Left full forward was **Philip Quinlan**. He was a forceful physical presence in the attack, creating chances for his colleagues and contributing some vital scores during the season. Philip played minor football for Tipperary.

**Seamus Hennessy** was one of MacDonaghs most outstanding and consistent performers during the golden years of the seventies and eighties. He was a free taker of the highest quality and his marksmanship was admired by friend and foe. Seamus is one of five members of the panel who holds four county U-21 medals.



*Len Gaynor celebrating in Croke Park at Club Final victory.*

(Photos: © Pádraig Ó Flannabhra, Photoart Studio, Poca'n, Nenagh)

**Michael Hogan** was an all action wing back who always made life difficult for his opponent. He captained the U-21 hurlers to win the county title on 1976. Michael is a former club chairman.

**David Quinlan** was the youngest of the four Quinlan brothers on the panel. He was an effective operator both in attack and midfield. David was on the first MacDonaghs team to win a divisional U-12 title.

**Sean Williams** was a tenacious and reliable wingback. He also saw action in the attack and scored the clinching goal in the All-Ireland semi-final. Sean was also a key member of the junior team which won the county title on 1985.

**John Quinlan** was the eldest of four Quinlan brothers on the panel. He has won county medals at U-15, U-17, minor, U-21, junior, intermediate, senior hurling and senior football. John was a versatile player who was equally at home in defence and attack.

**Paul Mulcahy** was captain of the most successful juvenile team in the history of the Kilruane MacDonaghs club. In 1980 he led the U-14 team which

reached the All-Ireland Feile final. Paul was an elegant defender who relied on his skill and craft.

**Jack Darcy** was one of the finest ever juvenile backs to wear the black and white. He used his strength and power to great effect on the edge of the square. Jack skippered the MacDonaghs U-14 team which won North and county titles in 1978.

**Tom Killackey** was another member of the successful 1980 U-14 side. He was a very skillful player who operated at either wing back or wing forward with equal effectiveness Tom was a deadly sharpshooter from placed balls.

**Ned Darcy** is one of five players on the panel who played in the 1980 All-Ireland Feile Final. He was an outstanding juvenile. Ned was a competitive defender who gave little leeway on either the inside line or at wingback.

At 17 years of age **Eamonn Kirby** was the youngest player on the panel of twenty five. He was goalkeeper on the 1980 U-14 team which reached the All-Ireland Féile Final. Eamon was a skillful and tidy forward who rarely failed to get on the scoresheet.

# YOUTH



**M**Y NAME is **Jack Ryan**. I am 8 years old. I go to Barnane National School.

I play full back with the under 8s and in goals with the under 10s. My favourite players are David Collins, Seamus Callanan, and James Woodlock. I look forward to senior training every week. I know the lads will give everything today. It's time for the door to open – we have been knocking long enough. Up DROM

**M**Y NAME is **Katie Murphy** and I am 12 years old. I go to Clonoulty School.

We were delighted to beat Thurles Sarsfields in the semi-final. No one expected us to beat them. We had a great win and hopefully we'll have another today. We're ready now for the match Clonoulty Rossmore vs Drom and Inch. Being in a county final has given a great lift to the parish, especially now when so many are losing jobs. Everyone is



getting excited. Banners are up, the bunting is raised and the flags are waving strongly in the wind. The last time we won a county final was in 1997 against Mullinahone, so we are determined to win another in 2011. Is féidir linn!



**M**Y NAME is **Nathan Slattery**. I go to Rossmore N.S.

My favourite players are Seán Maher and John O'Keeffe. We had a great win against Thurles Sarsfields. Hopefully we will win the County Final because we have the experience of last year. Our backs are unreal. It will be a tough match. In the end there won't be much in it but I think Clonoulty-Rossmore will win!



**M**Y NAME is **Anthony McCarthy**. I'm in 6th Class in Ballagh School.

Clonoulty Rossmore have a long history of hurling. Our community revolves around hurling and has a great reputation in the West and in the County.

We have won five West finals in a row, beating Cappawhite this year, but we haven't won a county final since 1997 and this is what makes it such an important match

We played very well against Thurles Sarsfields two weeks ago. I thought the lads moved the ball very well to create some

# VIEW

good chances. The backs held very well and the midfielders played some very good ball which the forwards turned into very good scores. I also thought they were running off the ball really well.

I hope we will play the same way against Drom/Inch in the final.

Best of luck to the team today. I really hope ye can win this and the whole parish is behind ye – Come on Clonoulty Rossmore.



**H**I, MY name is **Niamh Long**. I am 10 years old. I go to Inch N.S.

My favourite players are Seamus Callanan and James Woodlock. I think the county final will be a close match but Drom and Inch will win because we have the best forwards and Seamus Callanan will get lots of scores. UP DROM!



**M**Y NAME is **Fintan Purcell**. I go to school in Drom N.S.

I play in goals for Drom under-12s and in the backs for the under-10s. My favourite players on the team are Johnny Ryan and David Collins. I think it will be a good match on Sunday and I think Drom will win.

## Nominations sought for

### Tipperary Sports Stars of the Year Awards

EACH YEAR the Tipperary United Sports Panel presents its annual Annerville awards, sponsored by Bulmers, to the county's top amateur sports stars of the year.

The Panel members, who are now meeting to choose the stars for 2011, welcome nominations from the public, clubs and sporting organisations.

Anyone who wishes to nominate any sporting achievement by a team or individual, since the beginning of the year, may do so by contacting any member as soon as possible.

The Panel includes:-

*Chairman* – Liam Ó Donnchú, Ballymoreen, Thurles.

*Secretary* – Seamus King, Cashel.

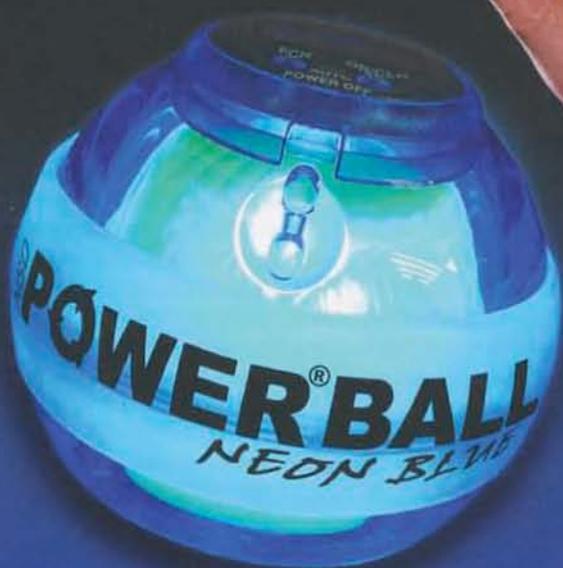
*Treasurer* – Ken Conway, Clonmel.

*Committee* – Jimmy Cooney, Johnny O'Loughlin, Eamonn Wynne, Richie Blanche and Davy Hallinan (all Clonmel); Seamus McCarthy (Bansha) and James Holohan (Kilsheelan).

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# It's all go

By: ANDY RYAN

## COACHING NEWS

**A** GAIN THIS year all clubs and schools in Tipperary took part in hurling and football "Go Games" blitz programmes. 2011 was the first year that the under-12 championships were run on the *Go Games* model.

As per usual Tipperary Games Development Administrators (South John Cummins, West Kevin Halley, North Tadhg O'Connor, Mid Andy Ryan, County Games Manager Dinny Maher) ran a number of blitzes for our under-8 and 10 age groups within the divisions. There was a number of county blitzes held this year. Our under-8 and 10 blitzes took place on a monthly basis with most clubs playing 6-8 blitzes throughout the year at both age groups.

Cumann na mBunscoil under-11 games were run on the *Go Games* model this year. In addition to these, a number of schools took part in *Go Games* blitzes. These schools included small schools that wouldn't have enough pupils to take part in Cumann na mBunscoil competitions.

The "Go Games" model is defined by the following criteria:

- Full participation for all players.
- Games are organised in a non competitive way.
- Games are small sided.
- Playing rules are modified to suit the development of the children.
- Playing area is modified.

Advantages of "Go Games":

- Games are small sided and all players get to play.
- Games are played in a fun environment with the emphasis to improve skill.
- Child is not the subject to win at all cost approach.

Some quotes from mentors, players and teachers who were involved in *Go Games* blitzes throughout 2011

*"Dad I got a game"*

*"We had a great time today"*

*"I think I was man of the match"*

*"When is the next blitz?"*

*"We played three games today"*

*"Go Games are the only chance my school team get to play matches"*

*"These days are great for our schools especially our small ones"*



LEFT:

Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams



ABOVE:

Moycarkey-Borris



ABOVE:

Drom and Inch



RIGHT

Clonoulty Rossmore

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**C**ultúr CULTURE  
**Ó**ráid RECITATION  
**R**ince DANCE

*Then, **Is féidir leat** – You can!! Enjoy the fun, the laughter, the challenge, the friendship, the excitement and the competition that is SCÓR. There is something for all – the child, the teenager and the adult. Score with your club off the field this year! These clubs did in 2010/2011.*



Moycarkey – Scór na nÓg.



Éire Óg Nenagh – Scór na bPáistí



Clonoulty/Rossmore – Scór Sinsear.



Drom & Inch – Scór na bPáistí

For details on getting involved in **SCÓR** contact your local club or **Noel 087-9050226, Mary 087-2160430, Josephine 086-8212258. Is féidir linn le chéile.**

## *Dhá chlub is fiche: Aon chontae amháin*

Mar chuid de Phlean Stratéiseach Thiobraid Árann a foilsíodh i mbliana moltar do na clubanna uile an Ghaeilge agus ár gcultúr Gaelach a chur chun cinn sa chlub. Tá go leor slíte chun é seo a dhéanamh ach ceann de na dúshláin is fearr atá againn ná an Ghaeilge labhartha nó an cúpla focal a úsáid chomh minic is is féidir.

### **NOT JUST IRISH BUT GAELIC AS WELL**

*"Beatha an teanga í a labhairt"*

Whether on the field, on the sideline, coaching, in the clubhouse, at a meeting, writing your club notes, updating your website, talking G.A.A. use your cúpla focal . . . Ná bíodh leisce ort!

Tús maith leath na hoibre . . . Seo leat

**IS MAITH É AN T-IOMÁNAÍ AN TÉ AR AN GCLÁÍ / THE BEST HURLER IS THE ONE ON THE SIDELINE**  
**ARDFHEAR-DHEIN TÚ ÉACHT / WELL DONE, YOU PLAYED A GREAT GAME**  
**CÚL IONTACH-NÍ RAIBH SEANS AG AN GCÚLBÁIRE / GREAT GOAL – THE GOALIE DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE.**  
**BHÍ AN SAOL FÓDLACH I LÁTHAIR / THERE WAS A GREAT CROWD PRESENT**  
**CUIREADH AN CLUICHE AR ATHLÓ / THE MATCH WAS POSTPONED /**  
**BEIDH LÁ EILE AG AN BPAORACH / THERE WILL BE ANOTHER DAY**  
**BEIDH TRAENÁIL AR SIÚL AR A HOCHT – BÍ IN AM(TÉACS)**  
**LAOCH NA HIMEARTHA / PLAYER OF THE MATCH**

# Thurles Sarsfields

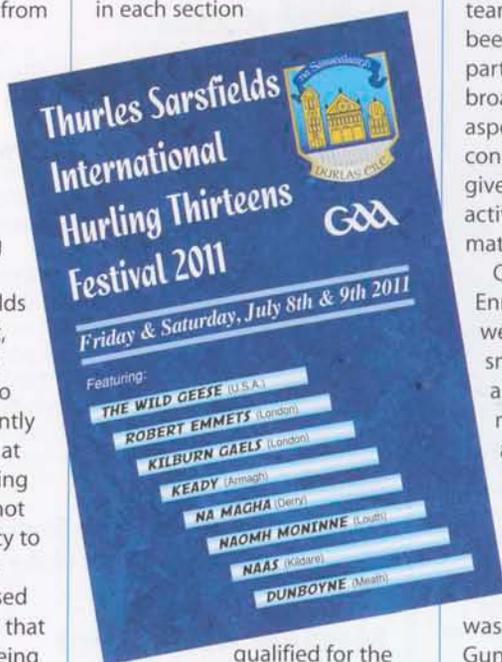
## International Hurling Thirteens Festival

"Brilliant", "What a week-end", "We'd love to come again next year", some of the reactions from the clubs which came from England, Northern Ireland and the United States to participate in the inaugural **Thurles Sarsfields International Hurling Thirteens Festival** which was held at Munster hurling final week-end in July.

The brain-child of Sarsfields Vice-President, John Enright, who chaired the committee which brought the festival to fruition, and designed to jointly promote tourism to Thurles at Munster final time, and hurling among clubs which would not normally get the opportunity to play at Semple Stadium, the success of the event surpassed all expectations, so much so that arrangements are already being put in place for next year's event, again to be staged at Munster final week-end.

Kilburn Gaels of London became the first winners of the tournament and were presented with the Tom Semple Cup by Anne Gunning, daughter of the late GAA legend, Tom Semple, after a thrilling final against Dunboyne of Meath. Eight teams took part, the novelty attraction being "The Wild Geese", a group of U.S marines based in England. The other clubs came from London, Armagh, Derry, Louth, Kildare and Meath. They were divided into two groups of four with games played at Morris Park

and Sarsfields own grounds, on a round-robin basis. The top two in each section



qualified for the semi-finals and the final was at Semple Stadium.

A very popular additional extra was the Poc Fada competition held at half-time of the final and involving representatives of all the clubs. On the opening night of the tournament there was a concert featuring Comhaltas musicians and signers at Sarsfields Social Centre, followed later by entertainment by the Jim O' the Mill traditional group. Younger interests were catered for with a local live band on Saturday evening at the centre.

Looking ahead to next year, the organising committee are contemplating a twelve-team

tournament, with A and B sections to facilitate the weaker teams. Already soundings have been made with potential participants with a view to broadening the international aspect of the event, and consideration is also being given to an expansion of activities, but as yet all these matters are under discussion.

Committee chairman John Enright said that Sarsfields were very pleased with how smoothly the event was run and he thanked the clubs, the managements of Morris Park and Semple Stadium, and Sarsfields own members, for their great help in getting the inaugural event off to such a successful start.

He said that the club was honoured that Anne Gunning and her husband Sean were in attendance and he hoped that the tournament would be a fitting commemoration of the late Tom Semple whose contribution to the GAA as a player, referee, and administrator, was immense.

John was particularly grateful to those who had come forward with sponsorship to assist in the running of the tournament. He stressed that they were all local people who, in their various enterprises, were doing so much for the community by providing employment and assisting ventures like the hurling festival which were designed to promote Thurles.

**FESTIVAL SPONSORS** – Thurles Credit Union Moran's Menswear, Naomi's Cafe, Ryan Brothers Waste Management, Jim Ryan Property & Financial Ltd., McKeivitt's Costcutter, Templemore Arms Hotel, Des Hanafin, Brian Farrell Catering, Anner Hotel, Home Instead Senior Care, Josephine Lowry Event Management, Ely's Centra, Hanafin's Furniture Store, Mitchel House Restaurant, The Classic Barber Shop, Thurles Co-Operative Society, Stakelum Office Supplies, Walsh Colour Print (Castleisland), Murphy Office Systems, Lisheen Mines.

## REGULATIONS Stáid Semple

1. All persons entering this ground are admitted only subject to the following Rules (which are designated to protect the Health and Safety of all entrants to the ground). Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all of these Rules.
2. The management reserves the right of admission.
3. The instructions of the stewards must be obeyed at all times.
4. All persons entering the ground agree to be searched by a member of the Garda Síochána.
5. Every person (including infants) entering the ground must have a ticket.
6. The following are not permitted:
  - 6.1 Entry upon the pitch or engaging in conduct that causes or is likely to cause injury or harm to, or otherwise interferes with, disrupts, hinders, or distracts a person playing in, refereeing or otherwise having a role in a match at this ground.
  - 6.2 Any unauthorised contact with the boundary wall surrounding the pitch or incursion on to the pitch. Any such unauthorised contact or incursion constitutes a trespass to property.
  - 6.3 The climbing of floodlights or other pylons, stands or other buildings. Such behavior constitutes a trespass to property.
  - 6.4 Throwing of objects onto the pitch.
  - 6.5 Remaining or loitering in any gangway or aisle.
  - 6.6 Behaving in an offensive or indecent manner.
  - 6.7 Bringing of alcohol into the ground.
  - 6.8 Bringing into the ground of fireworks, smoke canisters, bottles, glasses, cans, flags, banners, poles, distress signals, laser pointers and similar articles or containers, including anything which could or might be used as a weapon.
  - 6.9 Excessive noise such as that from use of radio sets, air horns, vuvuzelas or other appliances and behaviour likely to cause confusion or nuisance of any kind including foul or abusive language.
7. If a person commits a trespass, reasonable force may be used to prevent, restrain or terminate any trespass.
8. Where a person is in breach of any of these rules, or where the management believes that a person constitutes a source of danger to others, or to the ground, such person may be refused entry or ejected from the ground, and reasonable force may be used for that purpose.

## Safety and General Information

Supporters are asked to respect the fact that they are entering and leaving the stadium through residential areas.

### Safety Notice



In the interests of safety, patrons will not be allowed to enter the playing area after the games.

The policy to prohibit such encroachment in the future has been taken to avoid injuries and possible fatality and has been taken on the advice and promptings of the safety authorities, namely the Gardaí, Fire Brigade and the HSE.

The full co-operation of supporters is requested to avoid serious injury and to ensure that games can be enjoyed without resource to fencing or avoidable obstructions to seeing action from all vantage points.

Together we can ensure that the Stáid Semple experience is both enjoyable and safe, particularly for the young and vulnerable.

### Smoking Policy

Stáid Semple operates a No Smoking policy except in designated areas of the ground.



### Medical Assistance

First Aid Centres are located at the four corners of the pitch and at the centre on both sides.

Should you require assistance please enquire which is the nearest to you from a member of An Garda Síochána or official steward.



### Lost Children

Lost children should be brought to Stewards at the Centre of the Pitch on either side.



# Níl aon tinteán....

By: SÉAMUS Ó DUBHAGÁIN

COTHROM an ama seo anuraidh bhí an ceiliúradh faoi lán seol le corn mhic Cárthaigh ar an mbord tar éis a bheith ar seachrán leis na blianta. Ní hamhlaidh atá i mbliana ach ní hé sin a rá go gcuireann sé isteach ar ócáid stáiriúil an lae inniu. Ar shlí is fíor chúis ceiliúrtha í an choimhlint inniu, níos gaire bhféidir do phréamhacha agus cosmhuintir na hiománaíochta.

Caithfidh go bhfuil lúcháir agus gliondar croí ar lucht leanúna Cluain an Ultaigh Rós Mór chomh maith le Druim agus Inse. Le blianta beaga anuas bhí an dís san iomaíocht ag críochnaíocht na bliana ach déarfainn gur beag eolaí a chuir an beirt in aghaidh a chéile i mbliana. Go breá ciúin ach le fonn is fuinneamh thug siad faoin dúshlán. Ar an dá thaobh tá daoine atá sáite i modhanna gairmiúla an chluiche idir chontá, Declan Ryan agus Damien Young ach go háirithe. Sin an buntáiste is mó agus is

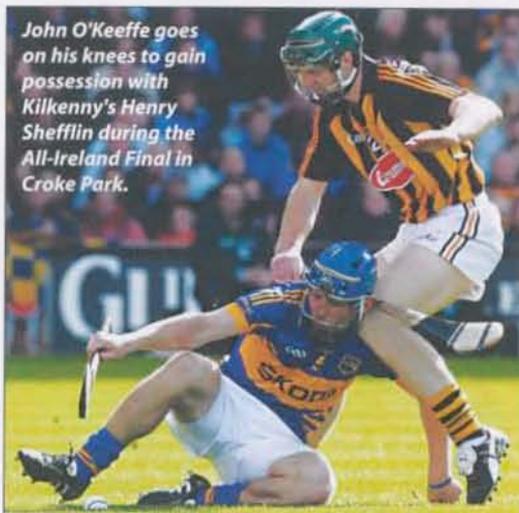
fad thréimhsí atá leis an gcur chuige seo ná go scaiptear an t-eolas in measc na gclubanna áitiúla. Is beag club anois nach ndéanann anailís ar an bhfiseán nó nach bhfuil fear na staitisticí agus an peann luaidhe ina aige in airde san árdán ag chluas glacadh tomhais ag gach cluiche.

Ní taise do shiceolaithe spóirt nó foirne leighis is bia.

Ach is é an rud ionraic atá ag an dá fhoireann ná spiorad an pharóiste, luaite ag Kickham i Knocknagow blianta fada fairsing ó shoin ach fós an tréith is tábhachtaí i múnla fóirne. Tá clú agus cáil ar an dá pharóiste ina leith siúd idir flaithiúlacht anama, gnó phobail, díograis imeartha agus go leor eile. Ina

theannta san, breactha ar fúd na páirce tá flúirseach imreoir a chaith an gorm is an ór seal, dream eile a bhí sáite in iománaíocht na gcoláistí is na nollscól agus thar aon ní eile chuile dhuine ar an dá fhoireann a dhfheastail agus a dhfoghlaím a gcuid iománaíochta ag an scoil

*John O'Keeffe goes on his knees to gain possession with Kilkenny's Henry Shefflin during the All-Ireland Final in Croke Park.*



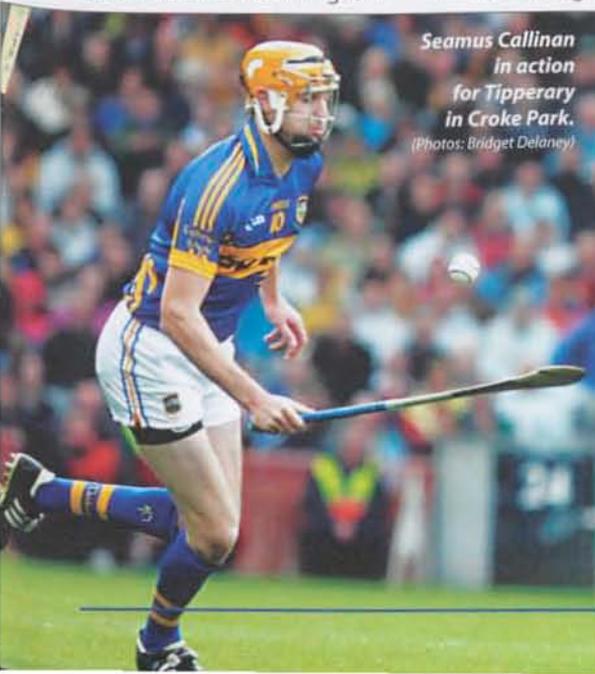
náisiúnta áitiúil. Inniu lá na scolb do mhúinteoirí bun scoile a chaith tráthnóntaí fada sa soineann is doineann ar feadh na mblianta.

Is beag difríocht atá sa stil imeartha, iad beirt iontach snasta ó thaobh cosanta de agus cé gur bhfear cailliúint, na gonta do Chluain an Ultaigh, cuirfidh a bhfuadar imeartha go mór lena gcás. Beidh na comhraic beirte thar a bheith suimiúil freisin agus beidh go leor ag faire go gear ar gach liathróid a thiteann ón spéir idir John Devane agus Séamus Callinan.

Táimid bréan de chláir teilifíse, leathanaigh lán de phraiseach ar nuachtáin na tíre, agallaimh radio is teilifíse ag daoine nach eol dóibh an difríocht idir an cos is an bas agus imeachtaí seafóideacha cumarsáide a leanann an sorcas darbh ainm cluiche ceannais na hÉireann. Inniu, táimid ar ais ar fhód Thiobraid Árann le fóirne dílse a bhfuil an t-iománaíocht go smior iontu. N'Fheadar fútsa ach táimse ag tráth go mór leis.

*Seamus Callinan in action for Tipperary in Croke Park.*

*(Photos: Bridget Delaney)*



# "The Runai"

**H**URLING FOLLOWERS in the county and much further afield can look forward to some interesting reading with the launch on Nov 11th at Thurles Sarsfields clubhouse of "The Runai", which records the career in Cumann Lúthchleas Gael of **Tomás Ó Baróid**, current President of the County Board, who served as Secretary of the Board for almost forty years, and who was actively involved in several projects which changed the face of the association during his time in office.

Tommy's GAA career is recorded in his biography written by Susan Max, whose father, Jim, is currently Treasurer of the Mid Board, and a key figure in the management team at Semple Stadium, as was his late father, Tommy, before him. It deals comprehensively with his years, firstly as football secretary, and then as secretary of the Thurles Sarsfields Club from the early fifties until his election as county secretary in 1963 in succession to Pat Stakelum of Holycross who stood down for health reasons. He continued in the post until 1999, a record term of office which will never be equalled.

The book chronicles his input into the foundation of Féile na nGael, along with the then county chairman, Seamus Ó Riain, later to be President of the GAA, William Corbett, Eamon deStafort, Tom Kirby, Liam Ryan and others, which, since 1971 has been the largest national festival of juvenile hurling.

The on-going development of Semple Stadium from being an important provincial ground to its status today as a major venue, second only to Croke Park, also occupied much of his time as a member of the Semple Stadium Management Committee. He was also to the fore in the organisation of the Centenary All-Ireland in 1984 and the subsequent ventures to finance the cost of that project.

However, though he was to serve on several Croke Park committees, his priority always was Tipperary and the state of the games here. During his early time as secretary, Tipperary won the '64, '65, and '71 All-Irelands and he was also at the helm when the 'Babs' Keating led teams ended the eighteen year famine with the All-Ireland success in 1989.

While his years in administration are the main focus of the book, his own very successful playing career are also featured. He was an accomplished footballer, winning medals with Sarsfields, following the revival of football in the club in the early fifties, but he also won six county senior hurling championship medals as a forward with "The Blues", his first in 1952, and as part of the all-conquering five-in-a-row team which dominated the county scene from '55 to '60.

Indicative of his prowess with the camán was his selection on the county squads in '54, '55, and '56. He won a National Hurling League medal in 1955, making a significant contribution in the defeat of Wexford in the final and played against Clare in the Munster championship that year.

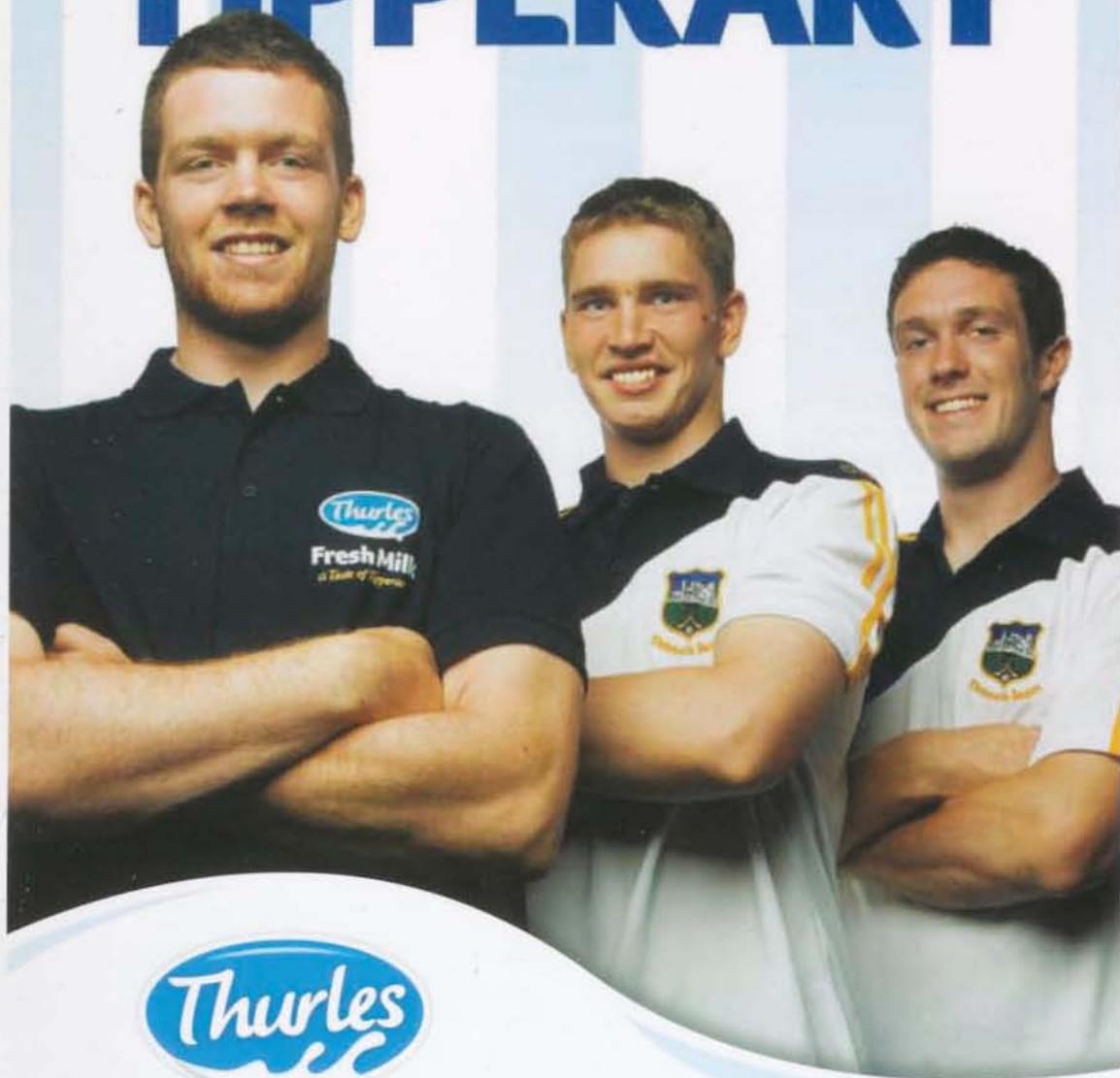
In many ways Tommy's story mirrors the history of the association in the county during the second half of the last century. Never a man to shirk a challenge or to voice his opinion on subjects close to his heart, his views of the issues which arose during that period are thought-provoking, and make for engaging reading.

Tommy and Susan are congratulated on the publication of the book which will be launched by former GAA President, and long-time friend, Peter Quinn. In the run-up to Christmas, it should make an ideal present for Tipp GAA fans at home and abroad.

All enquiries can be sent to [therunai@gmail.com](mailto:therunai@gmail.com)



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