



COUNTY TIPPERARY G.A.A. YEAR BOOK 1979



BLIAINIRIS THIOBRAID ÁRAINN

**Luach
80p**

MUNSTER UNDER-21 HURLING CHAMPIONS 1978

Front Row (left to right): Joe Hannigan, John Grace, Tommy Walsh, Tommy Ryan, Joe Minogue, Tommy Grogan, Pat Fitzelle (capt.), John Doyle, Seamus Burke, Michael Doyle.

Second Row (left to right): Patrick Loughnane, Kevin Fox, Enda Hogan, John Stone, Michael Murphy, Pat Ryan, Gerry Stapleton, Jimmy Cunningham, Tony Slattery, Vincent Mullins, Eamonn O'Shea, Paudie O'Neill, Joe O'Dwyer, Jim Bourke, Michael Stapleton.

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Tipperary G.A.A. Year Book

1979

Official Publication of
Tipperary County Board G.A.A.

Joint Editors: Bill O'Donnell and John O'Grady.

Year Book Committee: Cathaoirleach, Séamus Ó Riain. Rúnai, Martin O'Connor.

Coiste, Bill O'Donnell, John O'Grady, Michael McGuire, Patrick Mullins, Séamus Leahy, Patrick McLoughlin.

Contents:

	Page		
Editorial	3	How the Harty was won	45
Message from County Chairman	5	Division and County Records	48
Our Joint Editors	7	North Tipp. GAA Survey	51
The Under-21 Story	11	Eire Óg's Mighty Minors	53
Agus an Ghaeilge	15	The Turn of the Century	55
A Troubled Senior Season	17	The Cappa-Eire Óg Story	57
West Tipperary Survey	19	Camogie's Hard Road to Paradise	59
Aspects of Hurling Coaching	21	Roscrea on the March	63
Football Survey	23	North Vocational Review	65
Holycross come in out of the Cold	25	Templerederry raises a Monument	67
Fethard's Football Triumph	31	Tales and Gaels	69
Semple Stadium Development	33	The All-Star Tour '78	71
In the land of Giants	35	Colleges Scene in Tipperary	73
Kilruane Character Pays Off	37	County Bórd na nÓg Activities 1978	75
My Years with "The Guardian"	39	Post Primary Schools	81
South Survey	41	Tipperary Football Fortunes	83
Tipperary Handballers Greatest Year	43	Scór '78	85
		St. Mary's, Camogie Champions '78	87

Editorial

WHY a Yearbook at all? There are several valid reasons. A Yearbook is a medium of internal communication between the members of the Association and also between it and the well-disposed public. Then, too, a great deal of writing is done on Gaelic games by way of regular daily and weekly journalism, as well as in the few periodicals which battle bravely on in competition with rivals on the newsagents' display stands. Much of what is written is by its nature ephemeral and destined for a humble fate in the dust-bin or the fireplace. A Yearbook aims at being worth keeping as well as reading, at being a record of important, exciting, interesting and maybe amusing deeds done during a particular season.

A Yearbook is a printed expression of county identity. We hope therefore that the present compilation will have an appeal to all in whose ears the name of Tipperary rings with a rousing resonance. We have no wish to be narrowly partisan or to forget that the GAA is an organisation of all counties and of widespread exiles; but we confess that the status of Tipperary is a vital concern. In a relatively barren decade where the highest honours are concerned, the main objective is to regain a truly competitive position at senior level. Thus due honour and attention are given here to the Under-21 hurlers, who have given reason to be more hopeful than we were after the senior defeat in June.

Someone defined a committee as a group of people who individually can do nothing but who collectively decide that nothing can be done. As editors we can say that our committee, appointed by Co. Board, disproved that cynical definition right from the start. It soon decided what was to be done, and proceeded energetically to do it. Amateurs we may have been, but amateurs in the word's original sense that love of the games was the impulse.

Prospective writers, mostly themselves amateur but with a leavening of professionals, were approached after a preliminary listing of possible topics. The response was largely a willing one and in due time, with the aid of the odd reminder here and threat of an urgent deadline there, produced the contents which follow. We hope they will be judged adequately comprehensive of the year's events and broadly representative of the whole county.

The bill of contents, it will be seen, contains several items that deal with past rather than current affairs. A Yearbook should be basically topical, a reference-book to the facts and statistics of the specific season; but the men and the days gone by are far from out of place, either. Is this too sentimental, too romantic a view? We think not. No year is an isolated one. No team, county or club, comes onto a pitch without the shadow of their predecessors overhanging them, to the thoughtful mind. The player who pulls on the jersey without being glad to wear what other generations wore is missing a large part of what it means to be a hurler or a footballer. So we have included articles which remind us of our roots; we follow Biblical advice to "praise famous men and our fathers who begot us".

We do not aim the publication at any particular age-group rather than another. Those who are keen on sport are all young in spirit, anyhow; and we hope that Tipp. as a unit is also of youthful spirit. Of special relevance to the young, however, are the features on the Harty Cup and other college and vocational matters. There they will find what can be done with earnest youngsters and perceptive mentors; and they will learn that the local, the parochial and the county can still appeal loudly in a world that has so visibly shrunk in the sporting spectrum.

Present and past we have mentioned; the future has not been neglected either. Development is essential. This is so in the literally structural sense in the case of our major arena, Semple Stadium; we hope this book directs due attention to that important project – and support towards its completion. There is also the live theme of local club improvement, less dramatic but very practical of the players and followers are to feel that things are moving in their area. There is, furthermore, the matter of playing skills and techniques both team and individual. This is an age of analysis and study; the games are a fitting object for both, however much the traditionalist and the progressive may argue.

As editors we record our thanks to the Yearbook Committee as a whole, with special recognition of the impetus provided by the chairman and the secretary; to the host of contributors and the providers of photographic material, not least to the generous advertisers who have underwritten us against loss. We sincerely recommend them, their goods and services to the patronage of our readers. And for those readers we hope to have produced a publication worthy of our county's past and giving some inspiration towards its future.

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Message From County Chairman HUBIE HOGAN

THE production of another Year Book reminds us all not just of the approach of a new year, but also of the tremendous enthusiasm which continues to be shown in the county for outlining and reviewing the happenings and events of the year. It is proof, if proof were needed that here in Tipperary we have much to look back upon and indeed to look forward to and the dedication shown since the beginning of this decade by those entrusted with the task of producing the book, is something for which all of us must be eternally grateful.

For me, it is a particularly proud occasion because come Convention day, I will surrender the tremendous honour that has been mine over the past three years. I will do so with feelings of satisfaction, regret and not a little relief. The satisfaction I have is derived from the knowledge that I have in the past three years witnessed a great volume of hard and dedicated work on the part of many people; work carried out solely in the interests of the promotion of the affairs of the GAA in the county.

It was a real thrill to see first-hand the enthusiasm that abounds in the county and the preparedness of so many people to give their time and their services so unstintingly towards a great cause.

The element of sadness stems from the fact that on the inter-county front, we have not been as successful as we would have liked to be or indeed as one would expect a county with such a great tradition to be. But the signs are definitely there that things will change in that direction and from the ground-work carried out through our great minor team of 1976 and carried on with the under-21 side this year, we can look forward to a big break back very soon.

Relief? Well, the onus of responsibility is never without its worries and cares and while the trust placed in me by the clubs of Tipperary is something I will always cherish, stepping down after seven years as chairman of the North Tipp Board followed immediately by three at the helm on the County Board, is sure to bring relief, not least to my wife and family without whose utmost co-operation and help, it would have been impossible to act.

The immediate years ahead will be very important for Tipperary. Putting into operation what is accepted from the Commission report, as well as preparations for centenary year will put a heavy load on a big number of people and it is my earnest wish now that my successors will receive the same degree of co-operation and assistance as I received and that the proud name of Tipperary will continue to loom large in the affairs of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

The effort required leading up to 1984 will be of proportions not hitherto embarked upon. It will not be a job, just for Board officials. The clubs and the general public will be called upon also to play their part in various ways and I am confident the response will be worthy of the cause.

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OUR JOINT EDITORS

OUR joint Editors are two well-known Tipperary All-Ireland hurlers of the past. Both have been writing on G.A.A. activities in the County for a number of years.



Bill O'Donnell



John O'Grady

Bill O'Donnell was a regular on the County team from 1934 to 1943. His usual position was corner forward but he also played at wing back and in the centre of the field. In 1937 when Tipperary beat Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final in Killarney he played an outstanding game at corner forward. He was an automatic choice on the Munster team for many years and led the team to victory in the Railway Cup in 1942.

One of his proudest moments came in 1943 when he helped his club Eire Óg to the County Senior hurling title.

He contributes a weekly column on Gaelic games to the Nationalist and The Tipperary Star.

JOHN O'GRADY is well-known for his Cul Baire column on the Tipperary Star, and for his contributions to various G.A.A. publications. The pen name is apt. He had a distinguished career as a goalkeeper for club and county.

For three years he kept goal for Tipperary minors in the All-Ireland final, being on the winning team in 1947 and 1949.

While a student in Cork he played for U.C.C. and for Combined Universities against Rest of Ireland in 1952 and 1953.

After graduating he played with Blackrock.

For many years he was the regular Cul Baire for his native club Moycarkey-Borris and he succeeded Tony Reddan as the county's first choice and was on the All-Ireland winning team of 1958.

At last year's County Convention he was appointed County P.R.O.

Best wishes to Tipp GAA Yearbook
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Year Book Committee



Front (Left to Right): John O'Grady, Martin O'Connor, Seamus O'Riain, Bill O'Donnell. Back Row: Michael Maguire, Paddy McLoughlin, Patrick Mullins. Inset: Seamus Leahy.

Acknowledgment

The Year Book Committee wishes to express its gratitude to the following who supplied photographs:

"Cork Examiner";
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The Under-21 Story: Triumph and Failure

By JOHN O'GRADY

UNDER-21 is the youngest of all the championship categories. This sounds paradoxical, but the extreme youthfulness belongs to the grade rather than those who

play in it. Beginning in 1964 — with a Tipp victory — it was recommended for the axe in the 1971 G.A.A. Commission report, in the cause of lightening the

competitive load. The proposed sentence of death never came to execution; a reprieve was granted by the consensus of Association opinion.

A good thing that it was saved, for otherwise Tipperary's interest in the 1978 championships could not have extended beyond Munster final day in Thurles and the defeat of the minor team by Cork. Some four weeks earlier our seniors had gone tamely out of the premier grade. So what was left? What but the Under-21's? A whole pile of hope and faith was invested in this team, because whereas a good minor may or may not make the transition to good senior, the under-21 hurler has matured enough physically and mentally to be on the absolute verge of proven senior class.

Tipperary hurling has for at least four years been in a state of irritable discontent, self-questioning, argument and frantic conflict between optimism and pessimism. It has looked on unhappily at one Limerick All-Ireland, two Kilkenny, three Cork and a pair of Clare National Leagues. Like the thirsty desert traveller, it has scanned the dusty horizon for an oasis. This year's under-21 team promised to underline the good omens of the 1976 minor All-Ireland.

The scenario seemed logical. If an under-21 team based on a large quota of the champion minors could break through for Tipp's third under-21 title, was not the third step on the

upward ladder the supreme, the senior rung? Such were the hopes. In the end, on the eve of dull November, the script went wrong. Those who had thought, with a mixture of faith and confidence, that the Munster Final with Cork was a ritual All-Ireland since Kilkenny had failed in Leinster were taught a sharp lesson in realism by Galway. Two separate lessons, in fact, for the Connacht champions morally defeated us twice, in draw and replay. No use in hiding the depth of disappointment at the breaking under our feet of the second rung of the ladder of recovery. Tipp had been battling away on a long, hard trail, back to early summer and the first round against Waterford; on then through two desperate tussles with Cork. Galway had come into it later — a sprint compared to Tipp's slogging marathon — and the Westerners scooped the pool. Whether the sheer volume of training spells and the nervous strain of tight matches had robbed Tipp of freshness, that's a theme for argument. What is not is the plain merit of Galway, a big, mature, strong team with admirable dash and courage. Fine champions and additional material for a county already feared at senior level.



Tipp U-21 half-backs Joe Dwyer and Gerry Stapleton tussle with Cork opponents in the Munster replay.

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A CONSIDERABLE FEAT

Disillusion must not lead us from an over-sanguine attitude into the opposite feeling that it was all, in the end, a campaign without benefit. A Munster title may look lonesome all on its own but any year you beat Cork, and do it in Cork, is far from useless. That must stand as a considerable feat and the peak-point of 1978. Who will forget the way thousands of travellers leapt to their feet in the Paire Uí Chaoimh stands when Eamonn O'Shea crashed in the goal which ensured a halt to Cork's threatening rally – or the back-thumping, hand-grasping scenes outside and within the dressingroom? These things haven't lost all their validity on account of the way things went downhill in the later part of the journey.

To put the tale in good chronological order we've got to go back to early in the year, when the mentors engaged in a long series of exploration trials. They did not automatically assume that the 1976 minors should all walk on; those of a year earlier were also eligible. In the end the selection was fairly evenly divided between the two vintages, but with enough of the All-Ireland winners to cash in, hopefully, on the group spirit and rapport with mentors which had been noted in that team.

The under-21 home and away system in alternate ties forced Tipp to visit Waterford for the opener. This was not going to be all that easy a mission for Waterford not only can hurl but like to do it against Tipp. If the eventual 3-15 to 1-6 result looks facile it only became so through a very good second half performance with Seamus Burke's 1-9 leading the forwards and Fitzelle's centre-back play outstanding at the defensive end. It is interesting to remark that only three of that first line-out did not play in the team's final game – Minogue (full-back), Hannigan and Stone (front-line forwards).



Pat Fitzelle with his "Man of the Match" Trophy in the Tipp-Clare game at the opening of Canon Hayes Park, Bansha.

AUGUST THRILLS

When the August Wednesday evening arrived at the stadium, the team carried all that was left of the county's hopes. There was a great and swaying battle with Cork, one that we deserved to win but did not through defensive errors that – had we but known it – were to be expensively repeated in October. Chief memories are of fantastic Fitzelle accuracy on five first-half frees or seventies; a lead lost to two swift Cork raids on the call of half-time; a long battling spell forging another lead before Cashman hauled us back to equality with a free which sneaked through in the half-light; 3-13 to 4-10.

The replay ten days later was in Cork. The team showed no hesitancy, snapping two goals by Burke and Walsh before many supporters had crossed by the Lee ferry. Tommy Ryan of Treacy's was on for the ill Grogan in attack. Cork's four successive points were menacing, but Fitzelle's seventy and points from Burke and Walsh put Tipp six ahead and the followers delighted. Such comfort could not last against proud Corkmen. Amid the tightest tension, with Fitzelle a lion at wing-back surging upfield in defiance, Cork came to within a single point. Doyle doubled our lead; O'Shea goaled for apparent security and we survived conceding a second goal in the last desperate minute to win, 3-8 to 2-9. John Grace at midfield was tremendous. The spirit of the whole team was a heart-warmer. A blood-smeared Fitzelle received the cup from a provincial Chairman, Mick Frawley, who was – he said later – tired of handing trophies to everyone bar a Tipp captain!

Euphoria, in the currently fashionable term, succeeded. Rightly so, but perhaps it ran to extremes. The team could, and should, be promoted to senior almost en bloc; the mentors similarly. Tipp were bound to be favourites to win the All-Ireland. A semi-final with Antrim was an irksome journey but near to a formality. Actually, Antrim, with several hurlers who were forced to play twice in one afternoon, were no easy meat, only three late Burke goals making it safe. Galway went to Birr to meet Offaly, who were given a nice chance after winning out in Leinster. Galway won, played well and were assumed to be respectable final opponents.

ANALYSING DEFEAT

So, indeed, they were. The analysts are still picking over the bones of the defeat. It would be ungenerous not to salute Galway's worth and superiority. A whole host of theories jostle for priority in our post mortem. Psychological letdown after beating Cork? Over confidence? Mental and physical staleness? Not as good as we thought and hoped? An unsteady defence that conceded fifteen green flags in the whole campaign, to say nothing about white ones? Too much coaching? Not enough coaching? Not enough practical obedience to coaching? And that inevitable charge, faulty selection, especially in the attempts to cure the defensive flaws of the drawn game?

It is galling to look back and recall how easily all problems might have been solved if Grace's effort from before the posts had only gone over in the last moment on October 8th. Candour compels the confession that our rally deserved, at best, a draw. Attempting to tighten a defence badly caught out for three goals, the selectors dropped full-back Joe Minogue, gave the number three jersey to wing-back Joe Dwyer, restored Fitzelle to centre-back with a Stapleton on either side of him. It did not work, or even look like working. Substitutes Slattery and Hogan came on in the second half to face a Galway rampant and in full cry. Long before the end our brief tenure of a four-point lead was a memory of no particular satisfaction. Greaney, Earls, Mahon, Kilkenny, the Ryans, Connolly – there were the men who led Galway's charge for victory while Tipp struggled vainly to arrest it. Not the finale to the long crusade which we had visualised, but what was to be done but shake hands with the winners, be grateful for our own partial success and hope to see some of our hurlers develop into good seniors in 1979.

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CUMANN LÚITH-CHLEAS GAEL AGUS AN GHAEILGE

D'IARR mo chara is mo chomharsa, Liam Ó Domhnaill, orm aiste a scriobh ar an ábhar so thuas don iris bhliantúil seo. Mheasas, agus é dá iarraidh orm, garbh eagal leis gur rudai searbha a bheadh le rá agam. Níl aon fhonn orm abheith searbha le Cumann Lúith-chleas Gael mar bhi baint agam leis an gcumann o tháinig mé in aois fir agus níos faide na san. Sé firinne an scéil gur dhein C.L.G. ruda maithe móra ar son na teanga. Níor deineadh oiread agus dob fhéidir ach 'an té tá gan peaca caitheadh sé an chéad chloch'. Cén dream no cén cumann a rinne a gceart-oiread, an oiread do bhi riachtanach. Tá an teanga i mbaol fós, ainneóin ar deanadh ag stát agus cumainn agus ní ar aon dream amháin atá a locht san.

Rinne Cumann Lúith-chleas Gael rudai maithe móra ar son na teanga, a deirim. Luaim ar dtús an dea-shómpla do thug Uachtarán an Chumainn, daoine mar Conn Ó Murchú, Seamas Ó Riain, Padraig Fainin, Alf Ó Muireadhaigh, Aodh Ó Broin, Micheál Mac Eochaidh, Padraig Mac Con Midhe. Ba bholscairi móra ar son na teanga iad go leir, bail ó Dhia ortha, abhfuil beo diobh, agus solas na bhFlaitheas go raibh ag an mbeirt ata marbh.

Bhi an cumann igconai fial le gluaiseacht na Gaeilge, go mór mhór ó cuireadh comortas an Oireachtais ar bun, ó 1939 anuas. Chuir an comórtas san ciste ar fáil a choimeád dóirse oifig Chonradh na Gaeilge agus an Oireachtais ar oscailt agus a chuir ar chumas an dá fhoras san fuireann oifige lán-aimsireach a fhostú. Ba mhór an gníomh é sin. Bhi Co. Thiobraid Árann go minic sa chómortas san agus lucht an Oireachtais an-bhuioch diobh. Is minic a chuala mé Aindrias Ó Muimhneacháin ag caint faoin bhfáilte do bhíodh rompa in Dúrlas la cluiche Oireachtais agus faoi fhlaithiúlacht Choiste na Páirce.

Chuidigh C.L.G. le daoine achur chun na Gaeltachta agus tá san á dhéanamh igconai. Is cuimhim liom bliain amháin gur cuireadh cúrsa ar siúl i mBaile an Fhírtaraigh do abhar rúnaithe ó Cho. Thiobraid Árann. Bhi Seamas Ó Riain imbua an chúrsa agus d'eirigh thar bárr leis. Ba liosta le h-aireamh na daoine mór-le-rá do thug cuaird ar an gcúrsa san. Chuir na daltaí nó na micléinn leabhrán ar fáil (cló-scriofa) indiaidh an chúrsa. Tá an leabhrán san ós mo chómhair amach anois agus deanaim iontas de, mar gheall ar a fheabhas agus a shuimiúlacht. Fear amháin de na daltaí, níorbh **ábhar** runai é ach é ina rúnai ar Choiste Thiobraid Árann láir. Bé sin Sean Ó Riain ón dTeampall Mór. Tá sE marbh anois go ndeanai Dia trócaire ain.

Rinne muintir Chorcaí aithris orainn níos deanai agus d'eirigh go ri-mhaith leo. Bhíodh cúrsai mar seo ar siúl go rialta faoi stiúradh Alf Uí Mhuireadhaigh i Ros Goill i dTír Chonaill. B'fhéidir go bhfuilid ar siúl fós. Bheadh cúis ar leith leo i gCúige Uladh mar is tré Ghaeilge a deantar obair Chómhairle Uladh, ainneóin na fuil an Ghaeilge da muineadh ach i scoil anso is ansúd ins na Sé Condaetha.

Tá rialacha airithe san Treorai Oifigiúil ag tacaíocht leis an nGaeilge. An ceann is tabhachtaí ná an ceann faoi chlarú na n-imreóirí agus a séoltaí inGaeilge amháin. Bheadh an riail seo an tairfeach da spreagfadh sé na clubanna chun staidéar a dhéanamh ar shloinnte agus ar logainmneacha Ní h-eól dom gur deanadh a leithéiol de staidéar in aon ait. Sé an locht is mó a bhi ar na h-iarrachta go léir ar son na Gaeilge sa Chumann gur annamh baint ag na gnath-bhaill leo. Ar ndóigh is daoine óga iad na gnáth bhaill, fir óga idir a sé déag agus cuig is fiche. Daoine iad ambiom neart is fuinneamh ionta gus teasnach na h-óige. Ní h-ionduál go mbionn spéis aca in staidéar nó machnamh. Is fearr leo a bhfuinneamh agus a neart a thaispeáint agus a chaitheamh agus sé príomh-ghno C.L.G. feachaint chuige gur le cluichi na nGael a chaitear an bhreis fhuinnimh sin.

Triailleadh sceimeanna ó am go chéile. Dheanadar tairfe ach do réir a cheile cailleadh suim ionta gus chuadar i léig. Tá áthas orm ará go bhfuil scéim nua le triail imbliana agus gur sceim ar fónamh é.

Breis agus bliain ó shin ceapadh coiste le moltaí nua a chur ós comhair na h-Árd-Chmhairle. Leag an coiste seo (Coiste Teanga, Nóis, agus Oideachais) scéim amach agus tá glactha ag an Ard-Chomhairle leis an scéim agus tá tús le cur leis an iarracht imbliana.

Se an príomh-mholadh ata déanta go gceapfai duine ingach condac ina "Oifigeach na Gaeilge", fear óg fuinniúil a mbeadh liofacht Gaeilge aige, é dáiríre idtaobh na h-aitbheóchana agus oílte ar dhaoine a láimh séail; go mbeadh se mar chúram air na clubanna a spreagadh chun iarrachta agus gnimh, agus ar ndóigh go ndeanfadh sé iad a thréorú san iarracht a dheanfaidís. Bheadh sé in a bhall den Choiste Condac agus bheadh air cuntas a thabhairt, ag gach re cruinniú den choiste, ar dhulchun cinn na scéime. Tá Bórd na Gaeilge sasta costais an Ofigigh seo a ioc.

Failtimis go leir go croiúil roimh an scéim seo. Sé an cheim is dearfai é a tugaidh fós ag Cumann Lúith Cleas Gael Déanaimis ár ndítheall chun go n-eireóidh leis. Tá an teanga imbaol. Tá lagú tagaithe ar an spiorad Naisiúnta. Tá laighdú tagaithe ar usáid teanga i Ranna Stait, sa saol poiblí agus ins na mean cumar sáide. Tá isliú tagaithe ar chaighdeán na teanga ins na scoileanna. B'fhéidir go gcuirfeadh oibriú na sceime so tús le sprid nua a chasfadh an taoide arís, taoide a lionfadh, ar ball, in a taoide tuile.

MICHAEL McCARTAGH



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A Troubled Senior Season

By JOHN O'GRADY

THE SENIOR HURLING year has twin peak-points – the League and the Championship. A pair of tempting targets: Tipperary missed both of them, comprehensively, in what has in candour to be set down as a season of futility. The League ended for us after the absolute minimum schedule, the six section games; as early as February 20th relegation became a definite and displeasing fact – it would have come a week earlier but for the heavy snowfall. The sting was slightly soothed within a month by the parallel fate of Cork. The championship followed after an interval of about three months devoted to tournaments and training. Here again Tipp's involvement was minimally brief, the seventy drab and dissatisfying minutes in which Limerick ousted us in round one – a repeat of the first-fence failures that have dogged us since 1974.

Ironically, the very first signs of the season had been good. After two rounds of the League we had three points in the bag. Followers trooped out of the Stadium praising the effort and welcoming the win against Kilkenny at Thurles. The new selection committee had got off to a heartening start, although both teams had left off players from their county finalist clubs the following Sunday. This meant O'Dwyer of Borrisoleigh plus a few Kilruane candidates on Tipp's part; Kilkenny lacked rather more, but hunted Tipp down to the wire; the score was 1-17 against 3-10 after Tipp had been eight up.

NEW SELECTORS

The aforesaid selectors were five in number, one per Division plus Donie Nealon. Of the "troika" that held sway the previous year only John Doyle had been re-elected. His colleagues were John Kelly (West), Ml. Keating (South) and Mick Minogue (North) – all fine fairly recent hurlers of the

highest repute and wide experience as practical exponents of the game – which may not always add up to expertise in the handling of other players. Their aim was the difficult one of raising Tipp's low status. Theoretically they might use the League to try unproved material, while aiming also at the immediate goal of qualifying for the knock-out stage. Ideally this campaign should give them the majority of a panel for the championship, a settled group with some corporate spirit and team-sense. This ideal was not achieved as far as personnel or spirit were concerned – the team's relegation being no basis for confidence, and individual merit being still doubtful in too many cases. In a period bare of obvious high class this was probably inevitable.

A second ray of hope shone in the League with the draw in horrid conditions at Tulla against League holders Clare. Without O'Dwyer or O'Connor, and with Swans' Fitzpatrick out through a car accident on the way, Tipp went seven down



Tipperary had the distinction in 1978 of supplying the holders of Munster's premier official posts – a historic "first" for the county. Donie Nealon's record as North Tipp. Secretary, along with his outstanding career as a forward in the county's spell of supremacy in the 1958-1965 period, made him an outstanding candidate when the provincial secretaryship fell vacant with the death of Sean McCarthy. Michael Frawley was elected Chairman of the Council in 1977, following several years as Tipperary representative in partnership with Nealon. His apprenticeship to the chair's duties was in the West Division in the period 1973-75.

at one point. Butler's free near the end levelled the scores for a team that had Duggan as goalie, Liam Hogan as a trialist corner-back and Jim McLoughney on the wing of defence. Reports were complimentary as to the spirit of the effort at a venue where Clare had been invincible. Thoughts of qualifying now seemed realistic, with games to come against Galway and Offaly at home, Wexford and Cork away. The third outing was at New Ross. A bad start saw a big deficit, forcing mentors to call in veterans O'Connor and O'Dwyer for the second half for O'Meara and Dunlea. For the third time in succession Jim Kehoe was switched from full-forward to midfield for restorative purposes. A creditable rally, led by John Carey's 3-2, injected late hope, but it failed, with Carey getting a nasty head injury in the process. Still, on balance up to now a very reasonable position – if only Galway could be beaten in Cloughjordan the following Sunday.

CRISIS POINT

Here was the crisis and here – had we but realised – was the prime source of our later ills, the initial push towards the slippery slope to Division Two. One point, by Noel Lane, eventually did the damage, but the basic flaw was Tipperary sluggishness. Many questioned the policy of bringing Galway only the minimum distance over the Shannon at a time when every slight theoretical advantage was required. O'Dwyer was away on business, Carey was hurt. The game marked the end of the trial – if not of the trail – for Hogan and Fitzpatrick as defensive prospects, though we didn't discover anything visibly better by June. It also saw Duggan still in goal, McLoughney having been ill; McGrath and Flanagan were again in forward positions, with Jim Williams and Seamus Hennessy of Kilruane's champion team. Brophy was on trial at midfield. Michael Doyle got a run for a spell until Silvermine's Forde stepped in. Finally, on came Loughnane, out with knee trouble for the previous games. The team gave a disjointed performance, raising the tempo too late and seeing the luck of a tight finish go adverse.

The position was by now less than healthy, with a trip to Cork next on the agenda. Paddy Williams replaced Hogan as a claimant to a corner-back place, Fitzelle going to centre-half. Paudie Butler, brother of Tommy, was promoted as an attacker. Another new name on a side ringing significant changes in personnel was Moneygall's Seamus Ryan as a forward sub. John Flanagan was left off till near the end, came on briefly and was again taken out – the last seen for the season of the talented and controversial forward, whose comments seem to have been too blunt for selectorial ears. This Cork game had its good aspects but was in the end a fading let-down from its explosive two-goal start via Pat O'Neill, the slim Cappawhite student, and Kilruane's Hennessy. O'Donoghue and Moylan goals led Cork's rally to victory and left Tipp. propping the table but pleased to hear Cork's comments that Tipp. could be a championship force. At this time we were not sure whether to believe them or not.

Christmas came and so did Convention time as speculation centred on the state of the section table and the odds on escaping relegation. Tipp. were idle on Co. Convention day, but others were active. Not one solitary result was any assistance to us – Cork losing to Offaly, Kilkenny to Clare, Wexford to Galway. The final round fell foul of the heavy snowfall but when it did get played our win over Offaly was negated by what came through on the radio from the Cork-Wexford and Galway-Kilkenny matches. The reality of relegation had arrived and a long interval stretched away into June.

TOURNAMENT CIRCUIT

By that time Donie Nealon had become Munster Secretary and been replaced as selector-coach by Len Gaynor. The tournament circuit extended to seven or eight games at various venues. As so often, followers didn't know what valuations to ascribe to the displays at Kilsheelan, Borrisokane, Tynagh,

Emly and Thurles. The latter pair saw large leads evaporate against Clare and Kilkenny. In particular the Thurles game for Gortnahoe's Church Fund, the last rehearsal, ended in utter disarray and the loss of an incredible lead to a weak Kilkenny side.

DEFEAT IN THE SUN

June 11th was about as nice a day as the dubious summer provided. The sun shone endlessly on Pairc Ui Chaoimh – but its metaphorical counterpart for Tipp. stayed in dull eclipse. The game lacked class or sparkle – and we lost it, 1-14 to 0-9. The team featured O'Dwyer in his old centre-forward position, Fitzelle at centre-back, Barry of Upperchurch restored to his 1977 wing-back place, Phil Fanning another recalled from that year's selection; Seamus Bourke of Clonmore the latest recruit of all, as full-forward; Loughnane in again for another championship. As the end product of long preparation it was called in one report an "abject failure"; certainly no consolation could be derived from the standard of the contest; our troubles were technical and mental – no gallant surge evident at any time. As disappointing to the mentors – indeed more so – as to the eager Tipp. public – and the occasion of many a caustic comment, if few solutions. Defeat was no great surprise but the manner of it deepened the wound in Tipp. pride, especially when Limerick lost to Clare, and they to Cork – an uncomplimentary form-line indeed. Naturally, a lot of the championship team were afterwards criticised as not being up to it, or being less worthy than some rivals. The later showings of the Under-21 team appeared to highlight the deadness of the senior effort. The selection system, in number and individual element, seems sure to get its annual revision – though the trouble is probably deeper-seated than these measures can correct. Club standards will have to rise before county ones follow on. Cork are already identified as Tipp's first 1979 opponents, a tempting target to aim for. Our "slough of despond" has gone on too long for a county of Tipp's position. Instant popularity awaits the men and mentors who can end it.



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WEST TIPPERARY SURVEY

By W. O'DONNELL

SENATOR WILLIE RYAN entered his third and concluding year as West Tipperary's top executive when the delegates assembled for the Annual Convention last January. His supporting officers, who had reported on a successful 1977, remained on with him, except that Lattin's George Ryan replaced Joe Carroll from Cappawhite as one of the four delegates to the county board.

When adjourned Convention time came around, entries were received for the various championships. Up 15 to 110 from the previous year, the hurling teams were divided into Senior, No. 1 Junior, No. 2 Junior, Under 21 and Minor with a secondary knockout competition for senior hurling, for which the Crosco Cup was the trophy.

The No. 1 junior hurling competition was designed to take in hurling parishes which did not have senior teams, while the No. 2 championship helped to absorb the surplus hurlers in parishes where there were senior teams.

Football championships cater for Senior, Junior, Under-21 and Minor teams while the O'Donoghue Cup, a trophy presented by the Lattin-Cullen club to perpetuate the memory of the late Paddy O'Donoghue, one of the county's finest footballers, is generally used by all clubs, junior and senior, to gain some useful practice for the championships.

The senior hurling championship, the real money-spinner in the Division, attracted an entry of half a dozen teams and was run on the League system. The teams were divided into two groups, with Sean Treacys, Eire Óg and Cappawhite in one and Cashel King Cormacs, Knockavilla, Kickhams and a fusion of the Golden-Rockwell junior clubs in the other. Eire Óg and Golden-Rockwell, neither having won a game, were eliminated and the remaining four were drawn in the semi-finals as follows: Cappawhite v. Kickhams; Sean Treacys v. Cashel King Cormacs.

The former went on at Emly, and following an opening half largely dominated by Kickhams, the Cappa lads pulled themselves together and ran out easy enough winners in the end.

Having established a rare old rivalry over the past decade, the meeting between champions Treacys and ex-king pins King Cormacs, brought the fans in force to Clonoulty one sunny Sunday evening. Treacys doings against Kilruane, county champions, in last year's semi-final made them a force to be reckoned with. King Cormac's lineout for the occasion, with Pa Fitzelle at centre-forward and one or two others, as it turned out, misplaced, had the tongues wagging.

The champions were having it all too easy until an injury to the Cashel goalie sent Peter O'Sullivan between the posts, with other changes bringing Patsy O'Connor to No. 14. Defence tightened up, Dinny Ryan and John Carey found the way to goal harder to negotiate. Patsy O'Connor hit a couple of slashing goals and the champions were lucky to survive by four points.

Cappawhite appeared to be coasting to a shock win over champions Treacys, when they led them a merry dance in the opening half of the decider. Incidents that saw two players dismissed from each side, plus an error by Cappawhite mentors in not playing a full rearline in the second half brought a complete turnabout in Treacy's fortunes. John and Doney Carey, opposed by Cappa's two defenders, scored almost at will and Cappa went down to a fairly comprehensive defeat.

From an entry of five teams in the No. 1 Junior hurling, played on the League basis, with semi-finals among the top four, Solohead and Golden-Kilfeacle emerged to do battle for the title vacated by Eire Óg, now in senior ranks as a result of having won the previous year's county title in the grade. Solohead, in a game of mistakes and mishits, failed by only a single point, to come out on top against a side that had contested the senior championship for quite a few years up to the present season's Convention when they dropped to the lower echelon.

We had a massive twelve team entry for the No. 2 J.H. titles. A series of interesting games, many with a pretty tolerable standard of hurling, brought Cappawhite and Cashel King Cormacs into opposition in the decider. The day was good and for me, the game was the most thrilling and most entertaining of all the matches I had seen during the season. I have always held the view that the youths of Cappa and Cashel, so adept were they in the skills, were born with hurleys in their hands.

In this game of clean, manly hurling, it looked at half-time as if the lads from the ancient city were headed for a facile victory. They reckoned not, however, with the spirit and clan of Cappa, who fought tenaciously for and got the scores that saw them through by a single point in as exciting a finish as has been my lot to witness.

Pushing hard for top billing in the scoring area were Des O'Neill of Cappa and Michael Lawrence of Cormacs, both rifle-accurate score takers from play and placed balls.

Nine teams went after the title held by a combination of under-21 hurlers from the parishes of Cappawhite and Annacarty. This fusion had gone through to take county honours, the previous year, in an unforgettable final at Golden against Holycross-Ballycahill.

They have made the Divisional final again this year and await the winners of Cashel King Cormacs-Clonoulty-Rossmore tie. The latter pairing has been ordered by the Board to replay an abandoned, because of poor light, game of some time ago.

Anacarty and Cappawhite parishes got together for the second year running to produce a minor side that held on to the title they won last season from a field of 9 runners. Featuring three of the present county underage squad, Sean Hennessy, Pat Foxe and Austin Buckley, they were not overworked to reach the final in which they came up against a useful Kickham side from Knockavilla. It was only in the closing stages that they pulled away for a comfortable enough victory.

The Crosco Cup, testing trophy for hurlers, senior and junior, provided some great games, none harder or more entertaining than the final which had holders, Kickhams, in opposition to champions Sean Treacys. Here Treacys confirmed their previous year's championship superiority but with a vastly reduced victory margin.

Emly decided to affiliate a senior football team in the current year's championship and with Cappawhite winning the county title, we had a grand total of nine teams, the others coming from Solohead, Galtee Rovers, Arravale Rovers, Multheen Rovers (the footballing arm of the Eire Óg club), Cashel K.C., Lattin-Cullen and a combination from Golden and Rockwell junior clubs.

Solohead had wrested last year's crown from Galtee Rovers and their meeting in Round 1 at Emly, was eagerly looked forward to. For 25 minutes this was a fine game of cut and thrust but then Solohead lost a player through an indiscretion and the bottom fell out of the game as a contest, Rovers running out comfortable winners in the end.



Sean Treacy's, West Senior Hurling Champions, who beat Cappawhite in the final.

Cashel K.C. and Lattin Cullen had a great set-to with the former showing such great form in victory, that many installed them as possible champions. On the evening before the All-Ireland hurling final, they came up against Cappawhite, who had already disposed of Multheen Rovers in the semi-final. Although short the services of some of their players, they were expected to put away the newcomers to the senior scene. They didn't and Cappawhite, having won the junior championship last year now found themselves, a year later, in line for a crack at the senior crown against Galtee Rovers, county finalists for the past three years, in the decider. After a thrilling hour's football the teams finished all square and must meet again.

A record thirteen teams entered the race for the junior football championship run on a league basis. They were grouped, two fours and a five. Every possible playing opportunity was availed of and the teams that came through to contest the semi-finals were Aherlow, Sean Treacys, Kickhams and Golden-Kilfeacle.

Aherlow and Golden-Kilfeacle emerged narrowly over Sean Treacys and Kickhams respectively to contest the decider. This game was played in Bansha as a curtain raiser to the recent Tipperary-Clare League match and Aherlow won by a narrow margin.

In doing so they brought their second title to the Glen for, in conjunction with Solohead, they had already won the minor football crown. Both victories are but fitting reward for the attention the club has paid their juveniles since acquiring the new playing pitch, in the village of Lisvernane. Galtee Rovers, Cashel and Solohead-Aherlow have qualified for the closing stages of the Under-21 football championship.

The O'Donoghue Cup, for which eleven teams entered, has reached its closing stages, with Templemore, Galtee Rovers, Cashel K.C. and Cappawhite left to contest the semi-finals. Responsible for taking the Division through its mammoth fixture list are: D. J. Gleeson, from the Eire Óg club, Mortimer O'Connell, Board Treasurer from Golden-Kilfeacle, and Board Secretary Roger Kennedy of the Kickham club. They expect to complete the games before Christmas. Mortimer tells me that the Board's finances continue in a healthy state.

The Division is exceptionally well-equipped with playing fields, for with those already in existence at Golden, Clonoulty, Dundrum, Tipperary, Emly, Cashel and Bansha, the Gaels of Cappawhite, Kilcommon and Aherlow expect to have their pitches sufficiently developed to take important games next season.

The Golden Gaels, I am told, have plans in hands for extensive improvements of their hurling pitch in the near future.

Camogie flourishes particularly in Cashel, where the good Sisters of the Presentation Order have taught the game to such good effect, that many young girls under their care sport All-Ireland medals, in Emly, where Headmaster Sean McManus' juvenile girls are more than adept at the game, and in Cappawhite where many young ladies rival the youths in dexterity.

Our own Michael Frawley from Emly runs the top Council in Munster, and we can safely say that the games of the Gael are alive and well and extensively played in West Tipperary.

We here in West Tipperary are immensely proud of the fact that our two top referees, John Moloney and George Ryan, officiated in Croke Park on All-Ireland hurling semi-final day. George taking charge of the minor game with John doing the senior.

Board Officers are: Chairman, Senator Willie Ryan; Vice-chairman, John Treacy and George Ryan; Treasurer, Mortimer O'Connell; Registrar, William Hayes; Secretary, Roger Kennedy; P.R.O., W. O'Donnell.

Representatives on County Board: Jimmy Hennessy, Hugh Kennedy, Angus Ryan, George Ryan.



Tipp referees John Moloney and George Ryan who officiated at the Senior and Minor All-Ireland Hurling semi-finals at Croke Park.

ASPECTS OF HURLING COACHING

By BRO. M. V. O'GRADY

Q. What can coaching do for hurlers?

Ans. The greatest thing it does for the hurler is that it makes him think about his own game—both his strong and weak points. Whatever weaknesses he has he can start to remedy them in the practice field. The coach can help him to identify his problems and to make better use of his strong points. It also helps a player's own confidence as he will see himself improving all the time. The 'coached' player learns something from every game. Too many of our players come off the field after a game and never try and rectify the faults they had in that game. Needless to say they are not going to make much progress. Good coaches insist on having discussions with their players after each game with the players doing most of the talking. As a result they are less likely to make the same mistakes again.

Q. Is it more necessary now than in the past?

Ans. Definitely yes. In the past young players spent a considerable amount of their free time hurling. In any parish you could have as many as twenty fields where the locals would meet on a Sunday afternoon for a few hours hurling. That no longer happens. It is difficult enough to get them to come to the club field for training. It is vital therefore when players train to make full use of the time available. A good coach can order a training programme to suit each individual.

Q. Is there a prejudice against it in some quarters?

Ans. Not as much now as formerly. The successful clubs in the past decade have used coaching and it has obviously helped them a lot. At juvenile level clubs like St. Mary's, Clonmel; Cashel King Cormacs, Emly, Loughmore, Kilruane, just to mention a few—have succeeded as a result of their coaching system. Clubs who wish to have success must imitate their more successful clubs. I feel that there are very few clubs now prejudiced against coaching. Some clubs have accepted it but have done nothing else about it. I expect a great demand for coaching courses in the next few years.

Q. Do you find it easier to get the young to accept coaching than the adults?

Ans. Yes. Many adult club players are quite happy to go from game to game without improving their own game. They don't see any point in training on a regular basis. In such a case the coach's first task is to try and motivate the players and give them some target to strive for. Very often this target is the winning of a

county or divisional final. If the players feel that this target is too much for them, then it is unlikely that they will accept a coaching programme.

Q. How would you answer the charge that coaching may make hurling too methodical and rob it of its old time abandon?

Ans. I can't ever see it happening. Coaching improves the skill of the players primarily. Players are capable of doing things on the field that they could not have done previously. However, I believe that too many tactics could make hurling too methodical. Hurling is such a fast game that it is difficult to have more than a few good tactics. So I believe the day when every puck and movement is dictated from the sideline will never come.

Q. What contribution has coaching made to the minor and under-21 successes by Tipperary?

Ans. My first real experience of coaching teams was in 1975 when I was asked to manage the Cashel C.B.S. secondary teams. I must admit that I was somewhat afraid initially in case the lads found my training programme too elementary. Much to my delight I found that they accepted it unreservedly. We had a very successful year and that gave me the confidence to try the same programme with the minors. Again it brought us a good result. We would not have been successful if the teams concerned had not accepted coaching. Coaching a team becomes easier after every session as bit by bit the players become coaches themselves. Fourteen of the 1976 minor team were on this year's under-21 panel and it was gratifying to see that they had progressed steadily since their minor days.

Q. How can we make the best use of coaching in this county?

Ans. I would hope that a coaching committee could be set up as soon as possible. It would be their main function to organise coaching courses, provide coaching aids, etc. I feel that this task is a very demanding one and for that reason I believe a special committee should be appointed. I would like to see separate courses for (a) Primary teachers; (b) Secondary and Vocational teachers; (c) Juvenile Club Coaches; (d) Senior Club Coaches. Hopefully, each school and club would have a qualified coach. These courses could consist of at least two weekends at the end of which exams would be set. I would dearly love to see some of the star players of

the past and indeed present day players as well attend those courses. They would give them the confidence and terminology necessary for good coaching. A county as big as ours can never have too many coaches. It is well to remember that our under-twelve players today will be our minors in five years time.

Q. Finally how do you see the future of Tipperary hurling?

Ans. I believe Tipperary has a great future. If all clubs tackled the problem of properly coaching their teams then our County teams would take a lot of beating. The standard of club hurling in the county is still high in comparison to the rest of the country. Nobody can question the fact that the ordinary man is still very interested in the welfare of the game, and if the good will is there, the rest is not too difficult. With a bit more organisation at all levels, Tipperary hurling can look to the future with confidence.



Continued from Page 20.

No review of doings in West Tipperary would be complete without reference to the scoring exploits of Michael Lawrence of Cashel King Cormac's No. 2 junior hurling team. In four games, from play and placed balls, he amassed the amazing total of eight goals and 28 points compiled as follows: Against Clonoulty at Golden 2-8, against Kickhams at Clonoulty 1-9, against Lattin-Cullen at Dundrum 2-4, and against Cappawhite at Clonoulty 3-7.

A scoring average of 2-7 per game is something to be proud of.

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Obituary Jerry O'Dwyer

WEST TIPPERARY and indeed all Gaeldom, lost one of its greatest and most dedicated members when Jerry O'Dwyer of Dundrum passed away in early summer.

In his youthful days a fine uncompromising hurling defender, he captained the first Knockavilla-Donaskeigh team to win the junior hurling championship in 1931, a short twelve months after he had helped found the West Division with men like Charlie McCarthy (Anacarty), Mick Kelly (Donohill), George Furlong (Cappawhite), Mick Ryan (Fox), Dave Carew and Jim Browne (all of Clonoulty) all still happily with us, and others such as the late Bill and Sean O'Dwyer (Sonny), Bill O'Dwyer, N.T., Sean Stapleton, Lar Joyce and John Hennessy of Emly, to mention but a few.

His playing career ended, he went into administration and took over as the Board's Secretary in 1934, a post he held until 1961. During those 27 years he was a valued member of the county board establishing for himself a reputation for honesty and straight from-the-shoulder talking. In 1961 he relinquished the post and was the Board's unanimous choice for the treasurer's job when the late Willie O'Dwyer, N.T., who had occupied the position from the Board's inception 31 years previously, called it a day.

To this new assignment he brought the same courteous efficiency, while continuing as a member of the County Board for a further 10 years, when failing health caused him to resign.

His monument lies in the virile state in which he handed over the Board's organisation and finance.

In iothlainn Dé go gcastar sinn.

Football Survey: Minor and U-21

By COLM O'FLAHERTY

ONCE AGAIN Tipperary failed to reach a Munster Final. So the gap between our last appearance (M.F. in 1955) widens even further.

However, beneath that sorry fact there was some hope for the future in the spirited displays of our U-21's and Minors.

MINOR

Following a full series of trials a final panel was selected. It appeared a strong one. But now the difficulties began to appear. It emerged that no less than 10 were dual inter-county panelists and as always the hurling had first call, so collective and regular training was made difficult. However, it must be placed on record that the M.H. selectors tried to facilitate us as best they could. A further difficulty was the fact that 6 of the panel were on Templemore's great Harty team. Then to crown all our misfortunes, the bad spell of weather hit us. However, some useful coaching sessions were held with the emphasis mainly on the basics, which are often ignored, and team spirit, so hard to engender in football teams. We had useful challenge games with Coláiste Chríost Rí (2) and Laois.

In the Munster Championship we easily overcame Waterford, at Clonmel.

THE KERRY TRIP

We now headed for Kerry on Wednesday evening, 24th May, to the unheard of venue, Milltown! Here our Munster reps. of 1977 must be criticised for allowing such a game to take place. Some of our players had to travel all the way from Portlaoise, Limerick, Waterford, etc. This meant missing precious school hours before the Leaving and worse still some boys were afraid of being locked out of their college on their late return. We hope that mid-week games at Minor level will not be allowed again.

After a slow start – travel fatigue – Tipp. turned in a marvellous second half and were only deprived of victory by the woodwork. The final score was 1-12 to 1-7. Kerry went on to easily take the Munster title. There were many on this team, who, if they continue to play football, will wear the Senior

jersey with distinction. The team that did Tipp. proud that night was:

M. Hanley, Commercial; T. McGrath, Emly, S. Kearney, Aherlow, P. Brennan, Loughmore; P. Treacy, capt., Loughmore, P. Hanrahan, Fethard, S. O'Keeffe, Commercial; P. McGrath, Loughmore; E. Mullins, Aherlow, D. O'Connell, Killenaule, C. Murphy, Commercial; L. Maher, Boherlahan, R. Lanigan, Grangemocklie, P. Dillon, Fethard.

Sub., M. O'Brien for Lanigan.

THE U-21 SCENE

Here the U-21's faced a Kerry team that already had 3 All-Ireland's and were heading for four-in-a-row.

Trials, when called, were very poorly attended and indeed it was difficult to field a team for the one challenge with the Guards in Templemore. However, it must be stated that the county semi-finals and final were only being played a couple of weeks before the first round and this completely ruined any chance of a thorough preparation. To make matters worse the county final was played a mere three days before the Kerry game! One wonders if the County Board would tolerate this situation in hurling? A number of the panel were in fact injured in this game and were unable to play. So when the game was played in Tipp. town, there was more hope than confidence. But we were all wrong!

For three quarters of the game Tipp. matched the Kerry boys in all departments and as in the Minor game a goal missed proved to be the spur Kerry needed to finish the game 7 points clear, having been on level terms with 15 minutes to go.



Tipperary Minor Team versus Waterford at Clonmel 17/5/1978.

The team was:

Lambert (Ardfinnan); G. O'Shea (Newcastle), C. Bonner (Cashel), A. Buckley (Lattin); A. McDonagh (Commercials), P. O'Neill, capt. (Commercials), J. Minogue (Cashel); E. Doherty (Templemore); K. Geraghty (Kilsheelan); J. Walsh (Commercials), M. Leahy (Emly), M. McCarthy (Bansha); M. McGrath (Loughmore), P. Ryan (Lattin), C. Murphy (Commercials).

SOME FOOTBALL THOUGHTS

With the dismal displays of the Seniors in both League and Championship – 1 win – Tipp. football seems to have a major task ahead of it, if it is to be a force again, as it was so long ago!

It may be futile for me to offer any reasons for the present position or to offer remedies, for unless each club that is primarily a football club takes repair-action, we shall remain the poor relation.

I feel that there is far too much emphasis on competition and winning at U-12 and U-14 level and as a result the young player has never an opportunity to develop his basic skills. Coaching of the basic skills at U-12 and U-14 levels must be a priority. The competitions should be most frequent at U-16 and U-18 level, where at the moment we are losing players heavily to other football codes. There is at the moment little encouragement for young players to play football and in fact in some areas young players are being turned to hurling, where football formerly was the number one game.

Now that the Minor Board is to be abolished and football to be given an equal status at Co. Board level, one hopes that there will be some serious thought given by that body to problems of football. At the moment the majority of that body are unaware, or don't want to hear of the problems besetting Tipp. football.

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HOLYCROSS COME IN OUT OF THE COLD

By JIMMY FOGARTY

THE ETERNAL CHANGE of events is always illustrated by the coming of new teams into the limelight — 1978 was such a year in Mid Tipperary senior hurling when a fresh if not new team captured the glory. If you were a roulette fan, green was the lucky colour to have your chips on although blue proved to be a late saviour.

Sunday, July 9th was D-Day in the Mid, senior hurling final day. The morning was dark and damp but as if by a magician's wand the atmosphere cleared off about noon and Littleton staging its first divisional final since 1940 looked promising for the thousands who took up every vantage point. The atmosphere was perfect as Thurles Sarsfields and Holycross-Ballycahill paraded around the park.

To recap a little before delving into the final it may be opportune to say how the combatants reached the decider. In the opening rounds also at Littleton, Holycross overcame Drom-Inch by 3-9 to 1-7 while Sarsfields proved too good for the champions, Moyne-Templetuohy on a score of 1-14 to 1-5. The semi-finals were in direct contrast to each other. At Holycross in an evening tie, Moycarkey-Borris after dedicated preparation failed to Sarsfields after a thrilling hour by 4-13 to 3-9, a scoreline that flattered the townsmen a little. The other penultimate game was a personal triumph for Seamus Mackey, scorer of 4-3 as Holycross easily beat promoted Upperchurch-Drombane by 8-5 to 2-6.

This then was the background to the '78 final. Holycross were confident, having an autumn win over the Blues in the losers group final of 1977 while

Thurles as always were bubbling with enthusiasm as well this famous club might with 31 divisional crowns already under their belt.

It was a day of reckoning for the Abbeysiders, too often in recent years they had promised much against Sarsfields only to see their chances stemmed in late Thurles flourishes. It was twelve years since they last held the Leahy Cup and this was a sort of make or break effort if the long wait was to end. They had sought that sixth title very eagerly. Sarsfields were beaten in the previous year's final and were anxious to make amends.

Alas, the game itself fell flat with neither side able to raise the tempo and an interval lead of one point was to the Holycross credit. Eight minutes into the second half a Holycross penalty converted by goalie Michael McGrath was really the beginning of the end. Holycross went coasting on a high tide of success and Sarsfields eventually lost by thirteen points.

Holycross, although they failed subsequently in the county championship will be urged on by this success to accomplish the feats that some of their great predecessors did when they were led by such names as Gorman, Doyle, Maher, Cahill, Stakelum, etc. For Sarsfields it meant a lot of soul searching

but later in the season they were to gain some consolation in the senior league.

Mention of the league reminds one of the great interest this new competition held in the Spring not alone for the established senior clubs but for such junior sides as Clonmore, Loughmore, Boherlahan and an historic entry by St. Patrick's College, Thurles. Two groups consisting of five teams each set out in conquest of the Phil Cahill Cup. A fine trophy presented by the Cahill family of Holycross in memory of Phil Cahill, one of Tipperary's most skilful and admired forwards of yesteryear. Interest was so keen that all clubs fulfilled their quota of fixtures with Sarsfields defeating Moycarkey-Borris by two points in one semi-final and Dom-Inch handing out a five point defeat to Holycross-Ballycahill in the other. On an April evening in Littleton, the game was drawn with Tommy Butler securing the equalising point for Drom in the fading seconds.

The replay did not subsequently take place until October and played in Holycross saw Sarsfields overcome Drom fairly comfortably with a credit balance of twelve points. To their captain, Pat Leane, went the honour of being the first to receive the Cahill trophy. Yes, it was a year of green and blue.



Clonmore — Mid Tipp No.1 Champions.

CUMANN LÚITH CHLEAS GAEL

Comhairle na Mumhan

Munster Senior Championships 1979

May 29th – Senior Hurling Championship: Portlairge v. Luimneach.

June 3rd – Senior Hurling Semi-Final: Corcaigh v. Tiobraid Árann.

June 10th – Senior Hurling Semi-Final: An Clár v. Luimneach nó Portláirge.

July 8th – Senior Hurling Final.

★ ★ ★

May 20th – Senior Football Championship: Tiobraid Árann v. Portláirge.

May 20th – Senior Football Championship: An Clár v. Luimneach.

June 24th – Senior Football Semi-Final: Corcaigh v. Tiobraid Árann nó Portlairge.

July 1st – Senior Football Semi-Final: Ciarraí v. Clár nó Luimneach.

July 22nd – Senior Football Final.

**Le gach dea-ghuí do
Choiste Cho. Thiobraid Árann
ó Chomhairle na Mumhan**

RUNAI: DÓNAL Ó NIALLAÍN



Holycross Senior Hurling Mid Champions.

In the No. 1 junior competition, a grade which had often surpassed the senior championship for excitement and endeavour, 1978 was not a vintage year. Once more two groups operated and run on a league system with Clonmore coming through to defeat Loughmore after a fine semi-final and Gortnahoe-Glengoole emerging victorious over Sarsfields in the other.

The final was allocated to Boherlahan where the local club, the latest to develop their own grounds adjacent to the village were given an opportunity to show their fine field to the Mid patrons. But once more the game was a big let-down as Clonmore regained the title they held in 1976 by 3-14 to 1-3 over a Gortnahoe-Glengoole outfit which despite the recall of former county star, Larry Kiely were unable to produce their true form on the hour that counted most but must gain some hope for the future having come through the competition with an unbeaten run.

In minor hurling the standard was satisfactory throughout with Loughmore-Castleiney and Sarsfields getting into the final for the second successive year. The great upsurge of hurling in Loughmore again cherished as they won with a four point margin, their young players continuing to show appetite for the game. As those notes are penned the Under-21 and No. 2 junior hurling competitions are unfinished.

In football, although numerous clubs have made great strides to improve their standard, it is again the old firm of Templemore and Loughmore-Castleiney who continue to dominate. They qualified for both senior, minor and under-21 finals. The

junior grade is unfinished too with Loughmore, Templemore, Templetuohy, Sarsfields and Moycarkey having a vested interest.

Looking back on the championships in retrospect the hundreds of games played gave many hours of satisfaction to what were generally large attendances. Domestic competition was as keen as ever and even if our representatives did not make a worthwhile breakthrough at county level our teams commanded respect from all other divisions.

After the winter break followers of Gaelic games in the division have a lot to look forward to in 1979 and while all clubs will be making pious resolutions at coming conventions one thing that was obvious last term is that further dedication and more coaching will be needed all round to restore the Mid to the prominent place it held in the 1950's and '60's. Besides most senior clubs need an injection of new blood for some of the men who have given them herculean service over the years appear as if they may be on the brink of just having lost their edge.

In senior hurling Holycross-Ballycahill must fancy their chance of staying on the top pedestal for some time but Sarsfields showed in the League final that they will be as eager as ever. Immediate past champions, Moyne-Templetuohy and Drom-Inch are never too much out of the hunt while Moycarkey-Borris for a lot of effort seem unable to produce the goods on the big occasion. Our other senior side, Upperchurch, found the going tough in their promotion year but if they stay in the higher ranks should improve with experience. Yes, there is a lot to look

forward to on hurling fields in 1979.

In football we often have the odd surprise here and there but overall it seems that the Loughmore-Templemore will not be threatened in the coming season.

It was a good year on the administrative scene in the Mid division with Board chairman, Mr. Tom O'Hara ruling with a strong but flexible hand resulting in meetings seldom dragging on too long and the work of the board carried out with little qurimony. Of course Tom has a fine team to steer the ship with him in Mr. Liam Ryan as his efficient secretary and Mr. Tim Maher who looks after the finances. In order to be "with it" the Board has undertaken all the club coaching and development programmes advocated from G.A.A. headquarters and are never shy when it comes to trying out any new programmes.

History was made at Convention in January when G.A.A. President, Mr. Con Murphy, attended as a guest speaker and spoke on all aspects of the association for forty minutes.

The Mid Tipperary division is a proud division and is steeped in tradition and that rich heritage of our forebears vibrates the pulse as much today as it did in the year 1884 when it all began in Hayes' Hotel, Thurles. While on the playing fields we play it hard but immediately after battle we hold little rancour and this is manifested in the great sporting behaviour of players in every club. Mid Tipperary will have a major part to play in the centenary celebrations of 1984 but the country can rest assured that this great division and its clubs will rise to the occasion.

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Late Rev. Robert Harkin, C.C.

Appreciation

REV. ROBERT HARKIN, C.C., Two-Mile-Borris, died on Sunday, September 24th, after a prolonged illness. Aged 42 years Father Bobby, as he was affectionately known, was a native of Thurles and was appointed curate in Two-Mile-Borris in September 1971. Educated at Thurles C.B.S. he was ordained in Maynooth in 1962 and served in the Dublin diocese until 1965, when he was appointed Assistant Priest in Holycross until 1968. Then he left to minister in the Westminster diocese, London, on the emigrants mission. He remained there until 1971, when he was recalled to Ireland and appointed the first curate in Two-Mile-Borris. He was Director of the Cashel and Emly Lourdes Pilgrimage from 1971 until 1975. Father Harkin was a priest who endeared himself to rich and poor in his sixteen years in the vineyard of the Lord, both at home in Ireland and in his work among the Irish emigrants in London. He took a deep interest in all organisations but had a soft spot for G.A.A. activities and was himself a very fine hurler, winning a number of championships with Thurles Sarsfields, and at the time of his death was Chairman of the Moycarkey-Borris club.

NOBLE QUALITIES

Father Bobby was a man of noble qualities who carried out his priestly work with great sincerity, and the mammoth attendance at the obsequies on both occasions testified to his warm

personality and the great esteem in which he was held. In his homily at the funeral Mass the Archbishop quoted from a telegram sent to him by Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster: "Westminster diocese sad at the news of Fr. Robert Harkin's death, but in gratitude to God for his great priestly work in our midst. Our deepest sympathy and prayers for his family and diocese."

In a tribute in the "Tipperary Star" G.A.A. columnist "Culbaire" wrote: "A rare and gallant man and priest has left us with the death of Fr. Bobby Harkin. He faced an appalling illness with resignation, and with his natural gaiety of spirit irrepressible to the last. After a serious operation some three years ago he was soon out there again on the Littleton pitch, the life and soul of the practice matches, enjoying the tussles and the tackles. Digging out ash roots for hurley-makings in the dead of winter, hooping the finished articles - he was the most practical of clubmen and well deserving of the position of Moycarkey-Borris chairman in a year he was not destined to see out. We told him he ought to take the job since diocesan changes could send him elsewhere at short notice, but we never visualised the tragic outcome."

Hurling was a large part of his life. In schooldays at the C.B.S. he was the hardest trier in Hary Cup matches. Growing up in Thurles at a time of high

standards and much success for Sarsfields, he maintained the keenest interest in playing and promoting the game wherever he went. Whether it was a League game at New Ross or a schools game in Emly he wouldn't let anything stop him being there, the best of company for fellow travellers, full of fun. As a club committeeman he was earnest and progressive, active in getting teams motivated and ready, always alert for development projects. The dressing-rooms at Littleton were to a large extent his scheme, also the later walling-in of the pitch. No mere theorist, he was the first to lay hand to shovel and get down to work.

Three parishes drew his support in turn. In all of them he was equally loved, and is now mourned. He was willing to admit being a bit uneasy about urging Holycross or Moycarkey to beat Sarsfields, for whom he always retained something of his boyhood attachment. But urge them he did, loyally and enthusiastically.

If hurling was a basic concern, he was the most broadminded of men, giving his support to all kinds of parish activity. Of his priestly work it would be presumption to speak; but his gentleness and compassion shone out unmistakably there. The love and loyalty of his friends were a tribute to his own qualities, and were gladly given to him during his long illness. Fr. Bobby is to be prayed to rather than prayed for. We speak the feelings of many in extending sympathy to his sorrowing father, brother, sisters and all relations; also to His Grace the Archbishop, to his Parish Priest and all the clergy of the archdiocese on their loss".



(On left) Late Paddy Ryan; (on right) Late Rev. R. Harkin.
Photo taken in London.

LATE PADDY RYAN, LONDON

EVERY YEAR has its passing of respected players and officials. These are mostly men who have, so to speak, played out a reasonable time on life's arena. The past year has, regrettably, seen several instances of death coming ahead of its predictable time. Such was certainly the case when Paddy Ryan died suddenly at his Wembley home in London in the hard month of February. Many friends and acquaintances braved dangerous roads to attend the funeral in Borrisokane on Sunday, February 19th; the North Tipp town is the native

place of his bereaved widow, Pauline.

Paddy was only forty-seven. He had been allowed home a few days earlier from the local hospital at Manor Road, Wembley, where he had been under intensive care after a heart attack. A native of the Ragg in Drom-Inch parish, Paddy attended secondary school at Thurles C.B.S. in the Forties, playing on all the various hurling teams very creditably, and also for his parish sides before emigrating. Attaching himself to the Brian Boru-club, he soon became a leading light on its teams and then graduated to administration, as a twenty-year term in the Chair indicates. He recruited for them practically every Tipp player who arrived in London. For eight years he headed the capital's Co. Board; for seven he was Chairman of the British Provincial Council, became their delegate to the home Central Council. Not long before he died he was chosen on a special committee to compile a history of London G.A.A. His part in establishing the Wembley Games at Whit to the point of drawing 40,000 spectators and gaining enormous publicity in the press and on television was a leading one; he had the right contacts and had the persuasive personality to make good use of them. Great was the grief and shock to his legion of friends when the sad news went round; may he find eternal peace.

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FETHARD'S FOOTBALL TRIUMPH

By TED DILLON



Fethard captain, Sean Moloney, sole survivor of the 1957 winning side, receives the 1978 Trophy from Co. Chairman, Hubie Hogan.

TWENTY-ONE long years of waiting ended for Fethard's success-starved but loyal followers on October 1st last at Cashel when their senior footballers held on grimly to a diminishing lead to beat the favourites, Galtee Rovers, in an engrossing county senior football final. Twenty-one years before, almost to the day, Fethard had beaten Loughmore to take the trophy and only on one occasion since had they figured in a county senior final – when they were beaten by Commercials in the 1974 final.

And there to accept the championship trophy from County Board Chairman, Hubie Hogan, was Fethard's captain, Sean Moloney, who was the only "survivor" from the 1957 team.

This was a well-nigh incredible achievement by Fethard. At the start of the year the famous "Blues" were unable to field a team to play arch rivals Ardfinnan in the prestigious South Division Senior League and there were signs that the future of the club was anything but bright. This development, however, shocked the club's dedicated players, officials and supporters, and a determined effort

was made to remedy the situation. New blood was introduced and the overall ability of the team grew and then came the big breakthrough – the defeat of Clonmel Commercials, the title-holders in the South Tipperary championship.

Emly were easily disposed of (4-9 to 0-2) in the first round of the county championship and, after a draw with the much underrated Cahir-Ballylooby combination they advanced to the next round (4-12 to 0-2). A very fancied Templemore fifteen were disposed of (2-8 to 1-6) in the quarter final and then the champions to upset all predictions, apart from their own, by beating the reigning champions, Loughmore 2-13 to 1-9, to win through to the final.

The Gallant Galtees from Bansha, contesting their third county decider in a row gave them all kinds of trouble throughout the hour, but at the end of the game it was "The Blues" who were narrowly but deservedly triumphant.

As the delirious followers swarmed onto the field to greet their heroes, when referee George Ryan called it a day, there were many in the crowd who were acclaiming a Fethard

triumph for the first time. But there too were the men – and the women who had followed them through the long, lean years and who savoured the victory all the more.

And what a celebration there was in Fethard that night. The whole town, men, women and children, even the Sisters in the local Presentation Convent turned out to acclaim and honour the new champions. Bonfires blazed and the blue-bedecked lorry paraded Sean Moloney and his men through the streets. Evening meals, favourite television programmes, everything was forgotten as just about everybody joined in the cavalcade.

Captain victorious Sean Moloney, who had a special word for the other "veterans", his brother Waltie and Davie Fitzgerald, reminded the younger members of the team and the young boys present for the occasion of the great heritage of football which Fethard has and urged them to dedicate themselves to preserving that heritage. Judging by the re-action of these young men, the future of the game in Fethard is long assured.

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Mid Tipperary G.A.A. Board

Mid Tipperary G.A.A. Board wishes to be associated with the publication of this year book, which records the events in the Premier County during 1978.

The Board wishes to take this opportunity of thanking all followers of Gaelic Games in the Division for their continued support and encouragement during the year.

**May 1979 bring the long-awaited All-Ireland Titles
to our County.**

Semple Stadium Development

HISTORY

FOR some years now it has been recognised in Tipperary and indeed far outside, that the spectator facilities at Semple Stadium are to say the least inadequate. However the first serious steps to improve the situation were not taken until early in 1975, when the committee of Semple Stadium requested a firm of engineers to investigate the various alternatives open to the committee to improve the grounds. Following the first preliminary report of the consultants it was decided to broaden the base of the committee to incorporate representatives from all sections of the association within the county and so in the spring of 1976 County Tipperary G.A.A. Centenary Commemoration and Development Committee was started. As the name of this new committee suggests the development of Semple Stadium takes on an added importance in view of the pending celebration of the centenary of the association in 1984, it will be all the more important that the grounds at the birth place of the association should be a fitting sign of the progress made by G.A.A. in its first centenary of life.

Over the past two years and a half our committee has looked at every possible aspect of the needs of Semple Stadium and more importantly the needs of spectators who attend our games there, and it is therefore after serious consideration that we now propose to implement our development programme, which we believe will meet the requirements of a new age.

OUTLINE OF PROJECT

Comfortable seated accommodation is sought by an ever increasing number of spectators at our games nowadays, and it is with this in mind that we have decided to erect at Semple Stadium a new covered seated stand on the northern terrace with a capacity of almost 12,000. As the erection of a stand on the northern terrace reduces the capacity of that area, we are obliged to carry out a major reconstruction of the Killinan and Town ends of the grounds. When these areas are fully developed and terraced we anticipate that they will accommodate 30,000 approximately, giving us a total grounds capacity of between 55,000 and 60,000.

One of the most important assets to Semple Stadium is its ease of access, both to and from the grounds. To improve further upon this we intend to construct entrances and exits from the Nenagh and Holycross roads to the terrace at the Killinan end. Circulation within the grounds is also of prime importance and with this in mind we have included a sunken circulation area right around the front of the viewing area. There are also extra tunnels and passage ways to and from the terraces and the stand. Toilet facilities have always been sadly deficient at our major G.A.A. grounds. This fact more than any other has been of major concern to our committee. We have therefore decided to erect six new toilet complexes strategically placed around the stadium.

In keeping with modern standards the public will demand and will get in Semple Stadium adequate

catering facilities and shops. These shops will cater for the more direct needs of soft drinks, ice cream and confectionery and will also carry a large range of G.A.A. souvenirs and sports goods.

FUND RAISING

Obviously this plan as we have outlined it to you will involve us in quite an amount of expenditure, in fact it will be in the order of £300,000 and a concerted effort on the part of all who love Semple Stadium, Tipperary and the G.A.A. is going to be needed to raise such a sum. We feel sure, however, that this effort is forthcoming. We have devised various schemes to help us raise this money.

(1) Semple Stadium 10-year Ticket Scheme.

These ten-year tickets, which are now on sale for £100 each or ten monthly instalments of £10 will entitle the purchaser to admission to the following games played at Semple Stadium Thurles:

- (a) Senior Hurling and Football All-Ireland Semi-Finals.
- (b) Munster Finals and Semi-Finals.
- (c) All County Tipperary championship games.
- (d) All Mid-Tipperary championship games for a period of ten years.

(2) A public subscription fund which is open to friends of Semple Stadium and the G.A.A. at home, in Britain and the U.S.A.

(3) Field Advertising.

It is widely recognised that modern sporting activities depend on sponsorship from business sources. The G.A.A. and in particular Semple Stadium which has done so much for the country in providing sporting and cultural recreation must be considered deserving of this type of support.

(4) We have conducted a very successful Monster Draw which raised considerable funds, and the involvement of the county on both the G.A.A. stamp scheme and Ciste Gael is a continual source of revenue towards the overall effort.

(5) Initial grants totalling £65,000 have been granted towards the development by both Central and Munster Councils. The Tipperary County Board itself has decided to allocate 10 per cent of its own income over the next 7 years as its contribution towards the cost of the development.

As the birth place of the Association, the celebration of the Centenary in 1984 will fix the gaze of the sporting world on Thurles, it is hoped that Semple Stadium would be an arena suitable to celebrate such an important event.

It is therefore with confidence that we appeal to every Tipperary man and woman and true follower of the G.A.A. to give this project the whole hearted support it deserves.



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IN THE LAND OF GIANTS

By SEAMUS LEAHY

WHEN I was a boy the Boherlahan-Toomevara games of the Twenties and before were still a talking-point wherever hurling men gathered. They were near enough to be remembered by the generation before me but far enough away for them to have assumed a sort of romantic gloss which suggested that there could never be their like again.

And so on Saturday evenings I used sit on a wall on the Dublin Road and feel that my day was made if I saw Jack Harty or Stephen Hackett or Mick Fren Shea passing home to Toomevara. They walked tall in my eyes because they were the heroes of the heroic encounters on which my imagination had been fed. I felt privileged when Frank McGrath spoke to me and when I read in that Bible of my boyhood, Carbery's Annual, that he had been a champion step-dancer, it only took me a short while to adjust to the idea of a great hurling full-back having any inclination, much less time, for dancing. He was a man of many parts and it was when I heard him describe an incident in an English prison after 1916 and realised that he and Jack Harty and that most gentlemanly of gentlemen, Wedger Meagher, had seen the inside of British as well as Irish jails, it first began to dawn on me that there was more to the G.A.A. than just games.

But when I left Nenagh behind me in Summertime to spend my school holidays in Tubberadora I felt like a man going to live in a land of giants. Where else could one stand at a church gate on Sunday morning and watch going into Mass the heroes of half the stories of one's childhood? Their bicycles left in Hennessy's yard, none of them could have guessed that as they walked down the poplar-lined avenue to the chapel, I saw them dressed in blue and gold and marching behind the Artane Boys' Band. And when Canon Fitzgerald, easily the most wonderful preacher I have ever heard – and since commemorated by a Cup for post-primary hurling – stood at the foot of the altar, I saw only Archbishop Harty throwing in the ball. God rest them all – Arthur and Johnny and all the rest – if they were half the men I thought them, they were mighty men indeed.

THE GIANTS

The real giants of my imagination, however, were the survivors of the All-Ireland winning teams of 1895, '96 and '98. As I made my way to the Cross in the evening I would unfailingly be greeted by "Good morrow me gay boy! What way are you?" and there, sitting on the wall outside his own gate would be the old goalkeeper, Ned Maher, Holder of four All-Irelands, one of them playing outfield. At the Cross would be his son, Jimmy – was it a unique distinction father and son to have won All-Irelands playing in the same position? – then at the peak of his career; and when in 1945 the biggest little man who ever stood between the posts for Tipperary was the hero of the first post-war All-Ireland I felt I was definitely entitled to a share of the credit for getting him in trim.

Fifty yards from the Cross lived Johnny Connolly who played in all Tubberadora's victories. Short and broad-shouldered, he had a silver moustache that gave added dignity to a face that shone with goodness. At night I would sit in his chimney-corner and once was enough to ask him to sing the songs which Tom Leahy of the Mill had penned in honour of the team which, according to Johnny, would have won four in a row only that they were tired of travelling. It wasn't easy getting to Thurles for an early train to take them to distant parts – and they had to pay their own way in times when money was scarce. But he remembered only the glory when he sang –

"Cheer, boys, cheer for those young heroes,
Victory smiling every time,
And the ladies too compare
With their voices in the air
When they meet to greet the Tubberadora team."

At one side of Connolly's home was Peter Flanagan's forge where I would sit for hours blowing the bellows for Peter, a minor in the Triple Crown victory of 1930 and son of a three All-Ireland man, listening to hurling stories and wondering why it was that money never seemed to change hands between the smith and his customers. Then a short distance down the road, past Tobar na nDeor which tradition says sprang up when St. Bridget, on a journey past, (going to a match in Thurles, I was told), wept for tiredness; past the gleann in whose narrow confines the Tubberadora team trained and where my father remembered as a boy being nearly killed when he was accidentally hit in the stomach by Big Mikey Maher's dead best with the sliotar; and there was the home of the Walshes – Johnny and Dick and Denis.



Tipperary – (Tubberadora) – All-Ireland Champions 1898.

Back Row: Watty Dunne, Will Devane, Ed. Brennan, Mikey Maher (capt.), E. D. Ryan, John Ryan, Tim Condon.

Centre Row: Thomas Leahy (President), Phil Byrne, John Connolly, Jack Maher, Denis Walsh, Jim O'Keeffe, Dick O'Keeffe, Michael Conlon (Sec.).

Front Row: Tommy Ryan, Jack Maher (Fields), Ed. Maher, Johnny Walsh.

FAMILY RECORD

What a record the Walshes held – eleven All-Irelands between them, two of Denis's being won over a period of twenty-one years. I never knew Denis but Johnny and Dick were of a kind – big men radiating good humour and kindliness. With a twinkle in his eye Johnny had the gift of making a small man even smaller. Dick farmed near Fethard for many years but once a week he would drive up to Tubberadora, pick up Johnny, and together they would go on to 'the dogs' in Thurles. Sometime in the Fifties Boherlahan reached a county junior football final against a team from the South and when one night Dick turned up carrying a passenger from the rival parish, Johnny was anxious to hear his opinion of the coming match.

"Tell me," he asked, "will y're boys bate our boys on Sunday?"

"To tell the truth," replied the unwary passenger, "our boys will not only bate ye're boys but they'll ate them!"

Johnny digested this piece of information before he gave his own considered opinion.

"Ye're boys may bate our boys," he told him, "but if there's any atin' to be done, our boys will do it."

And so it was.

In Will Dwyer's field at the Cross the heroes of other days might stop for a few minutes to watch the yong lads getting in the few pucks before the failing light drove them onto the road to play skittles. In time to come these young lads would wear the blue and gold of Boherlahan and a few of them, not of Boherlahan but of Tipperary – Mick Maher and Philip and a long-legged John Doyle (who wasn't bad at skittles either). Then there was gangly fair-haired Mick Leahy who never won an All-Ireland but who did terrible damage to defences in a couple of National Leagues – and young Johnny Walshe, as good a half-back as never made it past sub on an All-Ireland team. And always there was Little Jimmy keeping goal with his

back to the road. There were those who used complain afterwards about how Mick and Philip and Francis Maher and John Doyle learned their hurling in Will Dwyer's field and afterwards gave their talents to Holycross but sure **they** didn't think up the Parish Rule in the first place. Coming out of the Munster Final in Thurles this year Philly Dwyer assured me he had often seen better hurling at the Cross and I thought of Myles Finnan's –

"not mine to disparage, not mine to run down,
Our heroes today of the country or town;
Nor say that the best is the merest spriósán
Compared to the hurlers of Glenacoslán".

At the end of the summer I started back home to Nenagh with heavy heart, taking the Princess bus in the morning into Thurles to wait for the connection to Nenagh in the afternoon. As I got nearer Thurles, however, my spirits would rise with the possibility of maybe seeing Tommy Doyle on his way home to his dinner, or maybe even one of the Old Blues. Once I did see Paddy Brolan in the Square and I must have been staring at him with great interest because he called me over and asked me my name. Coming down Killinan hill I would crane my neck hoping for a glimpse of John Maher and I never failed to remark to anyone near me who cared to listen that it was no wonder not only John but his father before him had been great hurlers, seeing the grand field they had to train in right in front of the house.

When I reached Nenagh I was back in the land of mere mortals again. Still, Paddy Mackey would be glad to see me and as he sat on his cobbler's stool in his window on Dublin Road the names of the great men I had seen and talked to over the summer would keep us in conversation for weeks to come. And maybe on Saturday Stephen Hackett or Jack Harty or Mick Fren Shea would be in town and I would see them passing home . . .

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Kilruane Character Pays Off

By MICHAEL DUNDON



KILRUANE MAC DONAGH

Back: Mackey Keogh, Din O'Meara, Sean Hyland, Liam O'Shea, Tony Sheppard, Enda Hogan, Eamonn O'Shea, Sean O'Meara.
Front: Jim O'Meara, Seamus Hennessy, Gilbert Williams, Jim Williams, Denis Whelan, Jim Williams, Denis Cahill.

THE well-known entertainer, Val Doonican, has on many occasions told interviewers, asking about his rise to fame, that it took him twenty years to be an over-night success. The period for Kilruane McDonagh to come to the top of the pile in Tipperary senior hurling has been as protracted, but having confirmed their supremacy in the county this year, they appear set for an extended run as champions.

Kilruane's success story began back in the sixties when the dedication of their committees to juvenile affairs began to reap its reward on the county scene. From these sides developed the team which carried off the club's second county senior hurling championship this year at the expense of a brave Roscrea contingent.

The successors of the great Lahorna de Wetts, who themselves won county recognition in 1902 when they defeated Carrick, had to wait some time however, before the fruits of their juvenile endeavours ripened at senior level. They won four county under-21 hurling championships in a row from 1973 to 1976, but oddly enough, their success at minor level in the years immediately preceding this period was limited to one victory, that in 1971.

From this it can be seen that the senior triumphs entailed much perseverance and patience and the ability to stay going in the face of adversity. This trait of the Kilruane club was never more clearly reflected on the field than in this year's divisional and county finals, when, with defeat staring them in the face, they refused to capitulate, believed in themselves when all others had lost faith, and finally saw their indomitable spirit conquer all with decisive scores coming in the closing seconds of both games.

Many will say that Kilruane were lucky. To a certain extent they were, but ask yourselves, how many other

club sides would have kept their heads up in the situations Kilruane found themselves in both finals this year. The great Sarsfields side of the late fifties and early sixties were masters of the late surge to victory, and while it would be premature at this stage to compare the present Kilruane team with the Thurles side of that period, it should be remembered that the present Kilruane combination is by and large a very young one, which, with the passing years, should develop into a really formidable hurling force in the county.

The pool of talent available to the club can be gauged from the fact that they are challenging for honours at intermediate level also this year, and contested the divisional junior semi-final too. On top of that, and to ensure that the supply of players does not run out, the club was again successful in the juvenile field this year and is in the running in the under-21 championships.

All this suggests a behind-the-scenes efficiency that is second to none because it requires a tremendous concentration by club officials to ensure that the promising young players are not lost to the club when they leave school and take up jobs outside the parish. This has been the bane of many clubs in the county which have had success in underage competition, but which have failed to make the grade at senior level, because their young players have fallen by the wayside somewhere along the way.

It is a tribute to club chairman, Paddy Quinlan, secretary Tom Kirby and their committees, that Kilruane have been able to retain the interest of their players in the games, particularly at a time when there are so many other counter-attractions and the affluence to be distracted by them.

The contribution of Len Gaynor to the club's affairs is also considerable. Recognised throughout the county as



Roscrea

Back: Mick Minogue, Joe Tynan, Barney Loughnane, Roger Ryan, Jody Spooner, Jimmy Cunningham, Kevin Brady, Kevin O'Connor, Sean Moloughney.

Front: Billy O'Connor, Tadhg O'Connor, Liam Spooner, Donie Moloney, Brendan Maher, Peadar Quelly, Francis Loughnane, James Maher. South Senior Hurling Champions, Carrick Swans, who beat Finn McCooles (Ballingarry-Drangan) in the Final.



Tom O'Hara, Mid Chairman, presents the trophy to Holycross captain Martin Butler after the Senior Hurling final at Littleton.

the motivating force behind Kilruane, Len, a great servant for Tipperary, is meeting with success at club level in his "twilight years" and few will begrudge this lionhearted stalwart the honours now coming his way.

From all this it can be seen that Kilruane's success story stemmed primarily from the fact that the club was on a firm footing and had its priorities right, and therein lies a message for all other clubs aspiring to championship success. With the proper attention to the games from the lowest level, players will develop their skills and if in turn clubs look after their players, they will reap the rewards in time. Championships are not won over-night. They are the culmination of much hard-work over a period. Kilruane have shown what can be done. It is a matter for other clubs if they wish to follow.

The question that has to be asked is – how much can Kilruane achieve. It is difficult to assess the potential of the side or to accurately gauge the contribution old hands like Sean Hyland, Paddy Williams or Len Gaynor to the team. Certainly they have a steadying influence on the younger players, who must be benefitting immensely from their presence, while themselves gaining in experience all the time. Indeed, for a relatively young team, this Kilruane side has considerable experience of big occasions, a factor that will be of immense value to them now that they are twice-crowned champions.

Winning the title is always difficult; retaining more so; but to make it three-in-a-row is really an achievement. Time will tell if Kilruane are worthy to stand shoulder to shoulder with the great sides that have recorded the hat-trick of triumphs – Thurles, Toomevara, Boherlahan, Moycarkey and Roscrea.

My Years With "The Guardian"

by GERRY SLEVIN

YOU will all remember that mammoth game in Birr in which Limerick got the better of Tipperary after extra time in the replayed National Hurling League semi-final. It was a game so filled with incident that when I sat down before my typewriter in **The Guardian** office the next morning to try to assemble the story I found myself completely unable to unravel my thoughts. I opened with the first line of the theme song from the film 'Love Story' – "Where do I begin" – and somehow managed to move along from there.

Those same words could well apply to the task now on hand, that of looking back on the happenings and the trends in the GAA in the county as I saw them during my nine year stint with **The Guardian**.

I can truthfully say that when the decision was taken to move on to Ennis, the major regret was my severance of connections with the GAA in Tipperary. They were nine eventful years and I will always remember the innumerable moments of pleasure which my association with the GAA in all its forms gave me. The people, the clubs, the Board meetings, the social functions and of course the games were so much a part of my journalistic life that the Editor could be forgiven for wondering at times if I had a pre-occupation with getting GAA material into the paper!

It was in November 1969 that I came to Nenagh and got my first taste of the inner workings of the Association in the county. In my stay in the adjoining county of Offaly for a number of years before that I still managed to keep abreast of the happenings back home, but as an 'exile', in a peripheral way. Things were now to be different, and in the years that followed I was to become deeply immersed in a scene which in its many facets clearly showed the truth that lies in the Premier County tag appended to Tipperary.

Transition Time

In truth, where do I begin? Let's take the games first of all. It was a transition period as far as inter county matters were concerned. There were retirements aplenty after the 1968 All-Ireland final defeat by Wexford and there was the agonising defeat by Cork in the 1970 Munster final, the first eighty minute decider. Compensation though the following year, when after Limerick's narrow league final victory, it was on to Killarney for

revenge in the Munster final and who will ever forget the rains of that July day. Memorable too was the atmosphere in the Kerry town the previous night and when Galway fell in the semi-final and the scene was set for a Tipp/Kilkenny decider, my own fondest wish was to have the privilege of reporting with a winning slant, something that had eluded me just two years earlier when the Offaly footballers failed to Kerry.

Tadhg O'Connor's men didn't let me down and in the Clare Manor that night we relived every puck of the ball and prepared for the return to Thurles the next evening and the great reception which was accorded the team.

But Tipp – and I – were to have a second All-Ireland title to shout about later that same year when the Intermediate lads put paid to Wicklow's hopes down in Nowlan Park, and before the year was out, we saw Roscrea become the first ever All-Ireland club champions. To be reporting on three All-Ireland successes in one year wasn't bad going at all.

Of course since then, things have been slack enough as far as victories are concerned. But in 1972, the Tipp Intermediate side retained their title at Galway's expense in Birr. It was to be the last national title for four years although not to be forgotten were those great jousts with Limerick in league games; the Munster final of '73 now known as the Richie Bennis final for reasons Tipp people are not fond of recalling and the league final of '75, when underdogs Galway came from the lower division to pip Tipp at the post.

An Epic Game

But the one game which, I feel, gave me most pleasure to report was the All-Ireland minor final of 1976. For some weeks before that I was abed in a Dublin hospital and my main worry was whether or not I would be allowed out to see the game. I made it alright – and the celebrations afterwards in Malahide and next morning I sat up in a hospital bed trying to convey my feelings about the whole affair in long hand for 'Guardian' readers!

At club level it was great to be part of the Roscrea dominance; the emergence of Silvermines and later Moneygall; Kilruane's big break through in both hurling and football; the defiant effort to make the big time by such as Templederry and Ballinahinch and the many club

dinners organised so efficiently and so well attended and appreciated.

Then there was the Tipperary Year Book and the pleasureable onus which Seamus Ryan placed on me as its editor; the introduction of Scor and the joy of seeing its mammoth growth; the birth of Feile na nGael and those great spectacles in Thurles in its initial years, 1971 and '72; the Allstars banquets in Dublin; the trips to Wembley with the Tipp team and another with the Roscrea Bacon Factory team; the interest shown by so many clubs in the development of their grounds and premises and the fine example shown in this regard by Moneygall, Silvermines and Borrisokane with the erection of proper facilities.

There were also the Board meetings at divisional and county level and the opportunities to meet and admire so many fine administrators, people like Seamus Ryan, Tom O'Hara, Tommy Barrett, Hubie Hogan, Donie Nealon, Mick Frawley, Martin O'Connor, the late Fr. Niall O'Meara, the late Sean Ryan, the late Willie O'Dwyer, Michael Maguire, Paddy Maher, John Doyle, Michael Maher, Michael O'Meara, Michael McCarthy, Matt Hassett, Liam Ryan, Jacksie Ryan and many many more.

A Nice Scoop

Mention of meetings, there was one very special one which proved to be particularly rewarding for me because of the 'scoop' involved. It was a Central Council meeting in Croke Park when Michael Maher sought to sway his colleagues towards allowing an appeal against sanctions taken some time before that against the Board and some players, arising out of a league game against Cork in Thurles. There was a strike in the national papers so I had the field to myself and I made the most of it!

The 'Poc Saor' column in **The Guardian** created a lot of interest and indeed controversy at times but I feel it was a worth while exercise while more recently I was honoured to be a member of the Commission which set out to examine the GAA in the county and whose findings, I hope, will serve in some way in shaping the future path of the Association in the county.

Yes, there have been memorable times indeed and the crowning value of it all, I feel, is the series of friend-



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SOUTH SURVEY

By MICHAEL O'MEARA – SECRETARY



The Fethard team which won the County Senior Football Title by beating Galtee Rovers at Cashel last Sunday. *Front row (from left):* S. Aylward, P. Dillon, A. B. Kennedy, S. Moloney (Captain), John Keane, W. Moloney, Joe Keane. *Back:* P. Kenrick, N. Sharpe, D. Fitzgerald, M. Downes, M. Kenrick, M. O'Riordan, P. Harrington, J. Allen. The mascot is Paul Hayes.

FETHARD'S notable triumph in bringing the County Senior Football crown to the Division for the first time since 1974 must rank as the achievement of the year in South Tipperary G.A.A. circles.

"The Blues" began the year in the doldrums and in fact were unable to field a team for a senior football league clash with Ardfinnan. However, by April they had moulded the nucleus of a useful fifteen with young players like Pierce Dillon, Michael Downes, Joe Kane and

Paschal Hanrahan combining their talents with experienced campaigners like John Kane, Sean Moloney, Mick O'Riordan, A. B. Kennedy and company. Their first real test came against champions Commercials in the South and they surprised everyone by forging a deserved win. Then followed their Co. Championship successes against Cahir/Ballyporeen twice, Templemore and Loughmore culminating in that never to be forgotten final success over Galtee Rovers.



Clonmel Commercials, winners of County Minor Football Title by defeating Loughmore-Castleiney at Cashel.

A MEMORABLE DAY

Commercials made county football day memorable for the south by defeating Loughmore in the minor final which acted as a curtain-raiser.

Holders Carrick-Davins made a surprise exit from the Senior Hurling Championship which was again run on a League basis. Swans and Ballingarry St. Patrick's Fionn Mac Cumhaill were the surprise finalists with the experience of the Carrick men proving decisive. Both sides met Mid opposition in the county quarter finals at Clonmel and whilst both suffered defeat they gave creditable displays against more fancied rivals. Fionn Mac Cumhaill's conquerors were Holycross whilst superior fitness won the day for Drom and Inch over Swans.

Ballingarry were convincing winners of the South minor hurling crown but they proved no match for eventual champions Eire Óg, Nenagh in the county semi-final.

A YEAR CROWNED

Fethard crowned a wonderful year by taking the junior hurling crown at the expense of Kilsheelan and then went on to surprise Intermediate champions Killenaule in the divisional play off.

The successes of the Tipperary under-21 hurlers seriously disrupted fixtures during the year with the under-21 hurling decider between Young Irelands and St. Mary's, the under-21 football championship and the junior football competitions all being seriously affected.

In senior football Fethard hold high hopes of bringing off the South and County double. They face old rivals Ardfinnan in the semi-final whilst Kilsheelan have qualified for the decider.

Commercials won the junior football crown for the first time in over thirty years, defeating Carrick Davins in the decider. The same teams have qualified for the O'Donnell Cup (Junior League final).

At Intermediate level Fr. Sheehys and Cahir met twice with each side tasting victory and defeat and at the time of writing the outcome is still unresolved.

The South Board is indebted to its clubs, officials, players, supporters, referees, linesmen, gate checkers, stewards, etc., for the co-operation given over the year.

For many 1978 proved successful but for others defeat was often their lot. A new year always brings new hopes and aspirations, however, and the success of Fethard in particular should serve as an inspiration to all clubs for 1979.



Jack O'Dea, R.I.P.

Readers of the Year Book over the past few years will remember the lively and entertaining articles from the pen of Jack O'Dea.

A lifelong Gael, Jack hurled in his youth with his native Killenaule-Moyglass, won a Fitzgibbon Cup with U.C.D., and figured on junior county selections. For many years he was one of the busiest referees in the South division and in more recent times was one of the most active officials in the county in the

organisation and running of Scor.

A founder member of Clonmel's G.A.A. Centre, he was an authority on set dancing and shortly before his death during last Holy Week he was involved in the founding of a branch of Comhaltas Ceoilteoiri in Clonmel.

Go ndeanfaidh Dia trocaire ar a anam.

Continued from Page 39

ships I have built up with people throughout the county. Wherever the path of life takes one, these can never be shout out and now as I commence a new era in another neighbouring county, I have the satisfaction of knowing that back in my native Tipperary I was part of a scene that

produced so many happy memories and helped me to make so many firm friends.

Of course I will continue to watch closely the GAA in the county and follow its fortunes, glad that I have seen its workings so intimately and appreciative of the amount of hard

work and deep thought that goes into the many facets of its organisation.

Perhaps the day may come when Tipp. and Clare will line out in a Munster final or a league decider. The pen may well have a saffron and blue tint about it, but the heart will have different ideas!

Tipperary Handballers Greatest Year

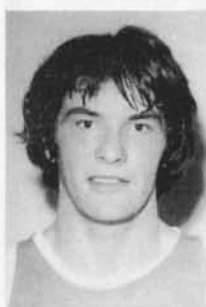
By MICHAEL TYRELL, RÚNAÍ

SOME two years ago when I wrote my article for the Yearbook my headlines stated as follows, "A Bright Handball Future is Confidently Expected". How these words have come true. Tipperary, a county with eighteen affiliated clubs, now commence their county championships towards the end of the year previous to the year in which the representatives will represent our county. Or to make it more simple for our Yearbook reader to follow we now have commenced our 1979 championships so that we can have representatives for the 1979 provincial championships which get underway in late January. That is why we have been successful in handball competitions over the past number of years.

THE HIGHLIGHTS

In the year just ended we have collected the following All-Ireland titles: Under-13 Singles, John Woodlock; Minor 40 x 20 Singles, Tony Ryan, and Ryan was partnered by Willie O'Donnell to recapture the Doubles title in this grade. This pair also recaptured the two hardball titles once more for a second year. But one evening will stand out in the heart of all Tipperary handball followers. Before a very large gallery in Croke Park on Saturday, September 23rd, this county captured the Minor Softball Singles Title and the Junior Softball Doubles after a lapse of twenty-nine years. These must be the highlight of the year.

Tony Ryan from the Ballypatrick Club will go down in the Record Books as one of the finest young players who has graced the handball scene for some years. He has captured over the past two seasons a total of nine All-Ireland titles in minor grade. A player of both stamina and class this fine sportsman must have a fine career in handball. Whilst he has set for this county a record which will not be equalled too easily his finest hour must surely be when he captured the Minor Singles Softball title at the expense of his old rival from Meath Seamus McGovern, and now the name "Tipperary" will enter into the Record Books for the first time in this grade.



Tony Ryan, Ballypatrick, who has set up a record which may never be equalled in Irish handball history. At 17 he is the proud holder of eleven All-Ireland titles, five of which were won during 1978. He has taken the complete range of three minor singles titles for the same year.

A TITLE RECAPTURED

Tom Morrissey and Noel O'Brien from the Clonmel club will be looked upon as a pair who will go down in our memory as two who recaptured the All-Ireland Junior Doubles title after a lapse of twenty-nine years and the sixth pair to win this title for Tipperary. Victory was won by O'Brien's deadly skill in the first two games and in game three Morrissey took over in what was one of the finest games seen at this grade in Croke Park for years.

Once more Willie O'Donnell partnered Tony Ryan to recapture both the Minor Doubles title in 40 x 20 and Hardball. Ryan will be over age for the 1979 minor competitions, the young Fethard clubman will be available for minor grade. Another player who captured a lot of publicity

during the year is Jim McCarthy who became Ryan's partner in the Minor 60 x 30 Softball Doubles. He will be available for minor grades in 1979 so we can look forward to two more good minors for the forthcoming season (that's if they win their way through the County!).

John Woodlock from Fethard captured the Under-13 Willwood Tailteann Singles title in fashionable style earlier in the year. The name "Woodlock" will be to the fore in the next few seasons in handball.

Just some few weeks ago in what must be known as "play it all over again competition", the Munster Under-16 Team of Six Competitions, having drawn level on points with Clare and Limerick we had to face these counties all over again in this competition. The second time around we made no mistake when we defeated Clare to become 1978 winners. Now that we've come to the end of another year in handball we look forward to 1979 with great hope of success. Whilst we've had such players as Ryan, O'Brien and Morrissey making it to the top in '78 we can name others who will be around such as Willie O'Donnell, Jim McCarthy, Jim O'Neill and others who will keep the flag flying in 1979.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who helped in anyway in keeping handball progressing in Tipperary.

Officers of Board: Chairman, Tom Ahern; Secretary, Michael Tyrrell; Treasurer, Ken Conway.



Noel O'Brien (left) and Tom Morrissey of Clonmel who won the All-Ireland Junior Softball Doubles at Croke Park.

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HOW THE HARTY WAS WON

By JOHN COSTIGAN



HARTY AND ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS

Back Row (left to right): Br. Joe Perkins, Pat Treacy, Jim Kennedy, Pat McGrath, Brendan Russell, Timmy Stapleton, Peter Brennan, Br. Seaver (Superior), Jim Maher, Dick Stapleton, Eamon Cody, Pat Cormack, Michael Ryan (Clonmore), and Seán Ó Costagáin.

Front Row (left to right): Joe Bourke, Liam Farrelly, Mick Ryan (Pallas), Joey Sweeney, Pat Hassett, Noel Farrelly, Martin Bourke (capt.), Seán Hanley, Franke McGrath, Bobby Ryan and Noelle Fogarty.

"Templemore C.B.S. Harty and All-Ireland Champions"

"16th of April '78,
The Harty Cup we bore;
From Emly town of famed renown,
To Lovely Templemore.
The Flannan's boys in blue and white,
Could not great Tipp contain;
And now the Harty Cup finds a home
In Carden's Wild Demesne."

The above lines composed by Br. Joe Perkins after Templemore C.B.S. historic achievement really sums it all up. For years Templemore C.B.S. were not even entrants but during the seventies the small school participated in the prestigious Harty by virtue of winning the Munster B. Championship. In 1976 the Munster Colleges decreed that Templemore C.B.S. were first division material and that year saw the Mid Tipp school join the elite of Munster Colleges in the draw for the Harty. In the first round of the '76/'77 competition Templemore C.B.S. were paired with Farranferris of Cork.

The game was played in Emly on a greasy sod in Mid November. For the first half Templemore looked out of their class – I suppose it was nerves and lack of belief in themselves – but gradually they found their feet and they rallied to draw fine game of hurling, 3-5 to 2-8.

The replay was fixed for Emly on December 8th and the people of Mid Tipperary turned up in large numbers to see how Templemore would acquit themselves. This time Templemore C.B.S. carried the game to their more famous opponents and led at half time 1-7 to 1-3. The second half was a thrilling affair with the "Farna" pulling through on the score 3-9 to 1-11. While Templemore C.B.S.'s players and mentors were

disappointed they were far from despondent as they knew quite well that their team was young and would be more mature and experienced for the 1977-78 campaign.

As the Harty Cup campaign for 1977-78 commenced outright victory was far from the minds of the Templemore mentors. In the second week of September with all the boys having being equipped with carefully banded hurleys and with a few training sessions under their belts, Br. Perkins and myself headed for the A.G.M. of the Munster Colleges Council. After the preliminaries the moment of truth arrived when the names of the Harty Cup aspirants were placed in a hat. We waited anxiously hoping not to be drawn against any of the big guns in the first round.

HARTY CUP

The draw having been made Templemore C.B.S. were paired against Sullivans Quay with the winners having a date with "Farna". We came home reasonably happy as we knew on Dean Ryan form we had the beating of the Quay. This first round game was fixed for Emly on October 26th and we faced Emly on that day fairly confident of a win. This we did achieve with a fairly impressive victory, 3-14 to 0-3. The training continued and a few more practice games were played in preparation for our quarter final showdown with "Farna". Having played them the previous year we knew that we were in with a real chance.

Cashel was the venue luckily for us on the toss of a coin. "Farna" were anxious for Fermoy but the Gods favoured us. The game itself was played on November 16th. As we arrived in Cashel the cold wintery showers came down and luckily we had with us that legendary sportsman and character, Tom Fanning, who warmed the boys muscles before they took the field. From the outset Templemore dominated in all quarters but a lucky "Farna" goal from midfield nullified all our outfield dominance. So at half time after playing with the win

in our backs we led by just one point 0-6 to 1-2. Many of our supporters felt at half time that our position was very precarious.

The second half was a ding-dong affair with point for point being exchanged right up to the fifty-fifth minute when Farna went into a point lead from Cork County minor Denis Walsh. At this stage despite the trojan efforts of Pat McGrath, Templemore were finding it difficult to get the ball beyond midfield. Then a Pat McGrath clearance was sent flying across the goal by Templemore's Brendan Russell and Noelie Fogarty rushing across doubled on it first time to the net to put Templemore ahead 1-9 to 1-7 with a minute remaining. Farna were far from finished and back they came to score another point that was scarcely more than two inches over the crossbar. The puck out brought the final whistle and a semi-final place in the Harty for the Mid Tipp C.B.S. on the score 1-9 to 1-8.

Our semi-final opponents were famed North Mon. This game was fixed for Kilmallock on Sunday, March 5th. Harty fever had reached Templemore by this stage and a huge crowd packed into Kilmallock's compact ground. Having seen North Mon play in the final of the Cork Colleges a few weeks before I was very confident that we had the beating of them.

TENSE ATMOSPHERE

We were out on the field at 2.45 and I must say that fifteen minutes up to starting time of 3.00 was an unnerving experience for the Templemore outfit. About 2,000 banner waving youngsters from Cork's North Monastery generated a type of atmosphere that never before had the Templemore boys experienced. That was the only time that we were nervous of the result. We wondered how the boys would react? Would the occasion prove too much for them? Would the tradition of North Mon be a trump card? Having trained thoroughly and being in the proper psychological frame of mind the boys remained calm and composed and were raring to go. This game was a real test of character. From the outset the Mid Tipp boys backed by a strong wind carried the game to the Cork city boys but lack of accuracy left Templemore without a score for fifteen minutes. Pat McGrath had three points in quick succession early in the second quarter and the lads confidence began to grow. Following a fine move Templemore got the break they needed when a Pat Treacy cross was finished to the net by Joe Bourke leaving the score, 1-3 to 0-1 after twenty five minutes. Coming up to half time Liam Farrelly sent a thirty yards ground ball to the "Mon" net so at half time Templemore retired leading 2-3 to 0-3 having to face a strong wind in the second half. After half time Liam Farrelly scored

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what might prove to be the goal of his life when doubling overhead on a Pat McGrath line ball to send it past a helpless "Mon" keeper so with twenty five minutes to go Templemore had a three goal lead to defend and right well they did it thanks to a fine defensive display supplemented with great attacking moves from Pat McGrath and the elusive Noelle Fogarty. So at the call of time the score read 3-8 to 1-9 and Templemore C.B.S. had reached its first Harty final. North Mon supporters left Kilmallock that evening bewildered at the outcome as many of them quite openly stated beforehand that it would be no contest.

THE ENNIS THREAT

The following Sunday the second semi-final was played at Emly and many of the Templemore supporters travelled down to weigh up the opposition. For many of them the opposition which St. Flannan's, Ennis, would afford would not be sufficient and talks of victory celebrations were on their lips. Personally I was aware that this could be our downfall as I left Emly that evening unable to assess the strength of the Ennis boys but I was well aware that their well coached fast ground hurling would be difficult to combat.

As Harty final day approached the sole topic of conversation in Templemore and surrounding parishes was the "Big Game". The surrounding parishes as well as the people from the town attended a fund raising dance in Clonmore which enabled all necessities to be attended to without any expense being incurred. The training continued and the build up within the school was fantastic. All boys were getting their banners ready and the Superior in the interests of the welfare of the school buildings sent all boys home an hour early on the Friday evening before hand as banner waving enthusiastic youths were a danger to window and door alike.

A RECORD GATE

Finally D-day arrived and Mid Tipp was deserted as all Gaels both big and small headed for Emly. It was a beautifully sunny day and the Emly pitch was in tremendous shape – a credit to Mick Frawley and his wonderful committee. As three o'clock arrived both teams took the field before a record "Harty gate". Following the parade the game was set in motion by All-Ireland referee Sean O Grady. St. Flannan's fast first-time hurling proved very difficult to counteract and as half time arrived Flannan's had gone into a 1-3 to 0-1 lead. For the first half Templemore were like novices and some followers questioned as if any training had been done at all.

As I went to the dressing rooms at the break I felt sorry for the boys as I was well aware that they were not doing themselves justice. I would have been very disappointed especially for their sakes, as they had made tremendous sacrifices, if their play never improved. Pre-match tension and the build-up had its effect.

THE VITAL BREAK

As the second half commenced Flannan's continued to dominate and with fifteen minutes to go the score read 2-5 to 0-2. I can recall about that time looking towards the crowded bank of banner waving Templemore supporters and saying to myself that they will be very disappointed and how will we face back to town?

At this stage Templemore got the break they needed when Noelle Fogarty first timed a ball to the Flannan's net to reduce the leeway to 6 points. Shortly afterwards a Michael Ryan cross was grabbed in the air by Noelle Fogarty who reduced the deficit to 3 points with ten minutes remaining. Eamon Cody and Brian Heffernan exchanged points before "flu" victim Michael Ryan (Borrisoleigh) scored the goal of his life when he rounded the Flannan's corner back and put Templemore into the lead for the first time with minutes remaining. Eamon Cody added a point and on the puck out the final whistle sounded to the delight of the huge Templemore following. For them the impossible had happened.

WILD DELIGHT

Wild scenes of delight from the Templemore players and supporters were evident as Archbishop Morris presented the famous trophy to Martin Bourke. It was almost an hour afterwards before the players got togged in as well-wishers invaded our dressing room. Former Superiors and Brothers who taught at Templemore C.B.S. came in to congratulate boys and mentors with tears of delight in their eyes. The presence of former Harty Cup medalists who starred in Thurles' glorious reign like Matt Stapleton, Jimmy Doyle, Tom O'Hara, Philly O'Dwyer, just to mention a few was a source of great pleasure to us. Men who had won the highest honours in the famous blue and gold arrived at our dressing room to offer their congratulations, men like the famous Pat Stakelum, John O'Grady, Paddy Kenny, Willie O'Donnell, Liam Devaney, Noel O'Dwyer, Tommy Treacy and many others. All this brought home to us that we had achieved a victory of great magnitude.

It was six o'clock before we set out for Templemore. The team came home to an unprecedented welcome. The town was packed, bonfires blazed as the local band led in the heroes to a civic reception. Afterwards one and all celebrated the victory into the small hours.

For me it was a memorable night as former classmates and pupils whom I had not seen for years arrived back to share in the famous victory. One and all were proud that the old Alma Mater had reached a certain standard in the hurling world and had joined the elite band on the Harty Cup roll of honour. Everyone celebrated and went home happy in the early hours of the morning. The notice board in the school the following week carried messages of congratulations from far and near and the Mid Board of the GAA honoured the achievement by asking the Captain and players into their meeting the following week where they formally congratulated one and all. One episode that night was memorable to me – it was when Philly O'Dwyer of Bohelahan, who was a member of Thurles C.B.S. first Harty winning team, offered his congratulations to the boys. With a few genuine sincere words he made us feel what a Harty medal meant to him and I know that the young boys went home feeling more proud of their achievement as a result.

NOWLAN CLIMAX

The following week it was down to preparations for the All-Ireland final which was fixed for Nowlan Park on May 7th.

On this occasion Templemore playing much more relaxed hurling than in the Harty final dominated the first half, yet by half time they only led 0-7 to 1-1.

The rain which began to fall just before the break had a slight effect on Templemore's play and the stronger St. Peter's boys came more into the game and with about fifteen minutes remaining the score stood 0-10 to 1-4. At this stage Templemore looked in a dicey situation. They rose to the crisis and with Pat McGrath and Michael Ryan regaining control at midfield and with B. Russell and Noelle Fogarty doing wonderful work in attack they gradually regained control. Then Eamon Cody crashed in two goals in the space of a few minutes and for the first time in history the All-Ireland Colleges trophy was destined for the Premier County.

The history making team was:

Pat Hassett (Errill); Martin Bourke, capt. (Clonmore), Peter Brennan (Castleiney), Dick Stapleton (Castleiney); Pat Cormack (Loughmore), Mick Ryan (Borrisoleigh), Jim Maher (Loughmore); Pat McGrath (Loughmore), Michael Ryan (Clonmore); Brendan Russell (Clonakenny), Pat Treacy (Castleiney), Noelle Fogarty (Templemore); Joe Bourke (Clonmore), Eamon Cody (Clonmore), Bobby Ryan (Borrisoleigh).

Subs.: Liam Farrelly (Templemore), (injured for All-Ireland), Franke McGrath (Loughmore), Joey Sweeney (Loughmore), Timmy Stapleton (Loughmore), Jim Kennedy (Drom), Noel Farrelly (Templemore), Seán Hanley (Templemore).

Report on North G.A.A. Games

RESULTS

Minor Hurling — Eire Óg (Nenagh) 0-9, Roscrea 1-3.
Minor Football — Inane Rovers 4-7, Burgess 0-1.
Junior Hurling — Section B Final: Knockshegowna 1-13, Kilruane 1-5.
Section A Final: Borrisoleigh 1-14, Silvermines 0-5.
Junior Hurling Final Proper — Borrisoleigh 2-7, Knockshegowna 0-8.
Senior Hurling Final: Kilruane McDonaghs 3-6, Roscrea 1-11.
Intermediate Hurling Final — Kilruane Templederry.
Under-21 Hurling Final — Borrisoleigh v. Roscrea or Kilruane.
Under-21 Football Championship Final — At semi-final stage.
Junior Football Championship not completed.

COUNTY RECORDS

Senior Football Quarter Finals — Fethard 2-8, Templemore 1-6; Loughmore-Castleiney 3-10, Commercials 1-6; Cashel 3-7, Golden Rockwell 0-5; Galtee Rovers 5-11, Silvermines 3-2.
Semi-Finals — Loughmore 1-9, Fethard 2-13; Galtee Rovers 1-8, Cashel 1-5.
Final, October 1st — Fethard v. Galtee.
Senior Hurling Quarter Finals — Roscrea 2-20, Sean Treacys 2-8; Kilruane 2-15, Cappawhite 2-8; Holycross-Ballycahill 4-14, Fionn Mac Cumhaill 4-6; Drum-Inch 2-15, Swans 3-7.
Semi-Finals — Roscrea 4-13, Drum-Inch 3-6; Kilruane 3-13, Holycross 2-6.
Minor Hurling Semi-Finals — Ballingarry v. Eire Óg (Nenagh), October 1st.
October 8th: Cappawhite-Eire Óg (W) v. Loughmore-Castleiney.
County Final same day as Senior Final.

Results from South Division

Junior Football — Clonmel Commercials 2-13, Carrick Davins 1-5.
Intermediate Hurling — Killenaule 1-8, Cahir 1-7.
Junior Hurling — Fethard 2-5, Kilsheelan 2-4.
Minor Hurling — Ballingarry 5-8, Carrick Swans 3-2.
Minor Football — Commercials 2-12, Carrick Swans 0-3.
Senior Hurling — Carrick Swans 4-11, Fionn Mac Cumhaill 1-4.

UNFINISHED

U-21 Hurling — St. Mary's v. Young Irelands.
U-21 Football — Young Irelands v. Commercials or St. Finnan's.
Senior Football — Kilsheelan v. Ardfinnan or Fethard.
Intermediate Football — Cahir v. Fr. Sheehy's.

Division County



Tipperary Minor Hurling team beaten

FEIDHM

Cathao

1887 — J. K. Bracken, Templemore.
1888 — Michael Gleson, Nenagh.
1889 — Pat McGrath, Tipperary.
1894 — D. H. Ryan, Thurles.
1896 — Pat McGrath, Tipperary.
1901 — Dick Cummins, Fethard.

1905 — Denis O'K
1907 — Frank Mol
1910 — Tom Kerv
1914 — Timothy F
1915 — Thomas S
1917 — Rev. M. K

on and Records



en by Cork in the Munster Final.

EANAIGH

irleach:

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oney, Nenagh.
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Ryan.
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Ryan.

1925 – Capt. Johnny Leahy.
1927 – Rev. J. Meagher.
1948 – Rev. P. Fogarty.
1970 – Seamus O Riain, O.S.
1973 – Tomás O hEadhra.
1976 – H. Ó Hogáin.

Mid Tipperary Championship Winners 1978

Senior Hurling – Johnny Leahy Cup –
Holycross-Ballycahill 2-12, Sarsfields 0-5.
Junior Hurling Championship – Tommy Treacy Cup –
Clonmore 3-14, Gorthnahoe 1-3.
Minor Hurling Championship – Fr. Meagher Cup –
Loughmore-Castleiney 2-11, Sarsfields 2-7.
Minor Football Championship – O’Keeffe Cup –
Loughmore-Castleiney 1-5, Templemore 1-4.
Under-21 Football – Canon Fogarty Cup –
Loughmore-Castleiney 0-7, Templemore 0-2.
Senior Football – Ryan Cup – Templemore 2-4,
Loughmore-Castleiney 1-9.
N2 Junior Hurling – O’Brien Cup –
Holycross-Ballycahill 2-1, Moycarkey-Borris 2-4.
Junior Football – Sean Ryan Cup –
Senior Hurling League – Phil Cahill Cup – Sarsfields
3-10, Drom-Inch 1-7.
Under 21 Hurling – John Fanning Cup.

West Tipperary Finals

Senior Hurling Championship – Sean Treacy’s 3-14,
Cappawhite 3-3.
Junior Hurling Championship No. 1 – Golden 0-8,
Solohead 0-7.
Junior Hurling Championship No. 2 – Cappawhite
4-11, Cashel 4-10.
Minor Hurling Championship – Cappawhite-Eire Óg
2-12, Kickhams 2-2.
Crossco Cup – Senior Hurling – Sean Treacy’s 2-16,
Kickhams 3-11.
Junior Football Championship – Golden 1-2,
Aherlow 1-4.
Minor Football Championship – Solohead-Aherlow
3-8, Cashel 1-2.

GAMES TO BE PLAYED

O’Donoghue Cup S.F. semi-finals – Templemore v.
Galtee Rovers.
S.F. Final – Galtee Rovers v. Cappawhite.
U-21 F.C. – Solohead-Aherlow v. Cashel or Galtee
Rovers.
U-21 H. C. – Cappawhite-Eire Óg v. Cashel or
Clonoulty.

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NORTH TIPP G.A.A. SURVEY

GREAT EFFORTS have been made this year to conclude our championships. With the success of our County Under-21 hurlers, coupled with the participation of Kilruane and Roscrea in the concluding stages of the Co. Championship, it has become impossible to conclude the Intermediate Championship, the Under-21 Hurling and Football and the Junior Football before the dates laid down early in the year.

I don't wish to blame the clubs involved. I feel the Board will have to look carefully at the system of fixture-making etc., as it is in the Division at the present.

My main problem during the year was the provision of referees. Sean O'Meara has been a great loss to the Board. I still feel that Sean has a big contribution to make to young referees. Only for men like Dónal Ó Nialláin, Denis Floyd, Tom Nolan and Michael Cahill, who refereed the bulk of our games, we would have had to bring referees in from elsewhere.

Our championships to date have been a great success. Kilruane McDonagh, in the Senior Championship, showed their worth as champions in the manner in which they overhauled Roscrea in the North Final.

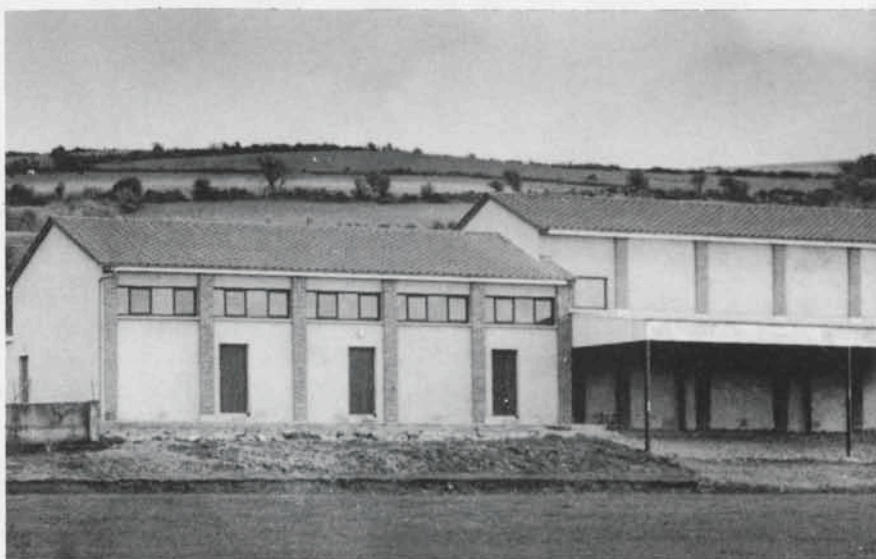
The Junior Hurling Championship provided good fare this year. I saw many of the games and they were most entertaining. Knockshegound, in coming through the weak section, showed what spirit, enthusiasm and effort at club level can do. Borrisoleigh, who were successful in the strong section, proved they were too strong for Knockshe in the final proper.

This final should have no been played at the same time of the day that the county semi-finals were on in Nenagh. We must be more mature in the way we present our games and be more considerate to our faithful patrons.

The Intermediate Hurling Championship provided some great games and the concluding stages, semi-finals and final are arousing great interest. It is indicative of the interest in the promotion of our games that clubs like Ballinahinch, Portroe and Templederry treat their championship so seriously.

It is a pity that the outstanding junior and intermediate players cannot receive more recognition. I feel the time is ripe to introduce the Intermediate All-Ireland Championship again, even at the expense of losing the Under-21 All-Ireland Championship.

The Minor Hurling Championship system seems to be fair to all the clubs. The grading is worthwhile and the final for the Nealon Trophy between Burgess and Shannon Rovers was wholehearted and thrilling. The grading ensures a fair chance for the



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weaker clubs. There is plenty of material available up and down the Division. Éire Óg proved themselves worthy North Champions and they won their way to another county final.

In the Minor Football Championship Éire Óg, Nenagh, lost their title to Inane Rovers. The standard of minor football in the Division is very low, seeing the fare in the North final, while Inane in turn were badly beaten by Clonmel Commercial.

The Junior Football Championship is not completed, while the Under-21 football is at semi-final stages, both competitions being held up because

of dual players participation in senior and under-21 hurling.

All in all, to date, it has been a successful year and I thank the clubs for their goodwill and the efforts they made in running our championships. I thank the Chairman M. O'Connor in particular for his devotion to duty and his help which was forthcoming at all times. I feel indebted to all the other officers of the Board, the gate-checkers and ticket-sellers. The running of the Board's affairs is a team-effort and while the work may have been frustrating at times, it was a pleasure to work for the Division as part of a team.

OBITUARY



THE Reaper claimed the soul of Peadar Flanagan during the year just ending. Peadar was born in Templederry and in his early years, with his brothers and cousins, played for that club.

The opening years of the war saw him a member of the Army with whom he played in many important games. On leaving he became a senior executive with Aer Lingus and saw a spell of activity with Young Irelands in the company of Tommy Treacy, one of the mightiest of Tipperary men. His displays brought him to the notice of the Tipperary selectors and he played an outstanding part, at left half forward, in the defeat of reigning All-Ireland Champions Cork, in the "foot and mouth" Munster Final of 1941. In that same year he was a valued member of the Munster hurling side that beat Leinster in the decider. He was a delightful hurler, speedy and adroit and a prolific points scorer.

Ar dheis láimh Dé go raibh a anam uasal.

JOHN SHALLOE

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Eire Óg's Mighty Minors



*EIRE ÓG, NENAGH,
Co. Tipperary Minor Hurling Champions 1978.*

John Heffernan, Michael McGrath, Connor Ryan, Ger O'Brien, Jim Ryan, Seamus Brereton, Pat Power, Philip Kennedy, Jim Sullivan, Denis Finnerty, Tony Ryan, Seamus Kennedy, Pat Lee, Brian Heffernan (capt.), Charles Cavanagh.

TO win a county title just once is a fair feat; to retain it carries the achievement into the category of remarkable. This is just what the boys in the pale blue of Nenagh Eire Óg did on county final day, October 15th, at Semple Stadium. Their colours may be mild and pallid but the attitude and character of the boys prove their stoutness of heart and their level of skill; for in winning for the second successive year over Loughmore-Castleiney, the Mid holders who were in their third final in a row and seeking a second title, Eire Óg overcame a side from a club on the crest of the wave in many grades and backboned by several leading figures of both Dr. Harty Cup and county minor teams.

The final had exciting elements of showdown about it. The one point Nenagh victory a year earlier had been won against a somewhat controversial background of a Loughmore-Castleiney player's suspension over a semi-final incident – and his consequent absence from the final. A one-point margin was in those circumstances, fuel for argument about what might have been if . . . At any rate, this year's decider had extra incentive for the opposing camps, not lessened by a further element relating to relative representation on the Tipp. minors beaten by Cork in the Munster final. Such debates we always have with us, involving both pride and prejudice, and putting special sting into certain encounters. Not that there was anything but fair, hard hurling between these two great rivals on either occasion.

The Mid team held a double-score lead at 2-4 to 0-5 at the halfway point, mostly through Treacy and Walsh goals; they had a third disallowed. The lead was not a

great one, considering the lively breeze blowing, appropriately, from the north – neither was it all that bad if Loughmore-Castleiney could win at least forty per cent of attack. They did nothing near that, Eire Óg settling aggressively, led by young Finnerty at centre-back, a powerful midfield of Brian Heffernan and Philip Kennedy, and given teeth by such sharp forwards as McGrath, Power, O'Sullivan and Whelan. But if Eire Óg caught the leaders fast by Power's 2 goals, the contest was a long way from concluded. Geehan put Loughmore-Castleiney back level and the fight was on again, to the pleasure of an appreciative crowd. Nenagh ended the stronger, hard as McGrath tried to stem the tide, and Kennedy and Whelan put the North boys three points up. They won by that margin, to great jubilation – just reward for hurling of quality, speed and class against worthy opponents.

A happy year for such mentors as chairman Tom Mulcahy, and his colleagues in charge – John Lawlor, Jimmy Morris, Paddy Donoghue and trainer Liam Heffernan. To add to their satisfaction there is every reason for optimism about next year, with a whole host of players young enough for minor – Finnerty, Kennedy, Ryan, Lee, Power, John Heffernan and Whelan. A couple of these will be going for three in a row – Finnerty and Lee were also on the 1977 team. So were Conor Ryan, Jim Ryan, Ger O'Brien, Brian Heffernan, Philip Kennedy, Jim O'Sullivan, Charlie Kavanagh, Ml. McGrath and J. Griffin. Urban clubs face more distractions and counter-influences than their rural rivals, but there seems good reason to visualise Eire Óg challenging in senior within say, two or three years, if enough of these fine lads continue to regard hurling as a big thing in their lives.

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THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

By MICHAEL DUNDON



TIPP ALL-IRELAND HURLING CHAMPIONS

Front: J. Connolly, W. Devane, T. Flanagan, Jack Maher. **Centre:** Ned Brennan, T. Ryan, D. Walsh, M. Maher (capt.), P. Scanlon, J. Walsh, P. Byrne. **Back:** Tim Condon, J. Flanagan, P. Doherty, T. Leahy (President), N. Maher, Jack Maher, E. D. Ryan, J. Maher.

THE phrase, History Repeats Itself, has become somewhat hackneyed with time, and yet, when doing some research for this article on the state of the association in the country and county in the years immediately before and after the turn of the century, it is the thought that keeps coming to mind.

In many ways it was a period of great success for Tipperary, a time when the association flourished, with the establishment of the North GAA Board; the establishment of the first Munster Council headed by Fethard's Richard Cummins, and the emergence of such great clubs as Tubberadora, Two-Mile-Borris, Suir View, Horse and Jockey, Thurles, and Lahorna de Wetts in hurling; Arravale Rovers, Fethard, Clonmel Shamrocks and Grangemockler in football.

And yet, it was a period not without its disappointments as Tipperary, having dominated the national hurling scene at the close of the century, found themselves giving best to such as Cork and Kilkenny in the early years of the new century.

Games and Nation

It was a period that had a lot of character, when the national spirit, as epitomised in the gaelic games, grew in strength and vigour in the country with Tipperary, mainly through Tubberadora selections, winning five All-Ireland hurling titles in six years, and taking two of our four football All-Irelands in 1895 and 1900.

Mid Tipperary was the heart of the county's hurling, boasting the great Tubberadora, Two-Mile-Borris, Suir View, Ballytarsna, Horse and Jockey, Thurles and Drombane. Drombane won their only county senior hurling title in 1894 when they defeated Golden Fontenoy's in the semi-final and Thurles in the final played at Holycross. The Drombane team was captained by Fergus Moriarty who later distinguished himself as a long-puck specialist and the other members of the Drombane squad were – Jack and Paddy Riordan, Mick

Carroll, Ned, John and Pat Leamy, Ned Lambe, Jim Ryan, Ned Nugent, Jim Short, Jim Corbett, Jim and Paddy Purcell, Ned Long, Paddy Harrington and Jim Gleeson.

After Drombane, Tubberadora emerged the following year, and on their way to their first of two titles, appropriately enough, dethroned Drombane. The combination, which also won national honours, was captained by Mikey Maher, and included Matty Kelly, Johnny and Denis Walsh, Thady and Jim Flanagan, Tommy Ryan, Jack Connolly, Ned and John Maher, Bill Tyrell, Ned Brennan, Jack McGrath, Bill Devaney, Jack Maher, Tom Dwyer, Jim Nolan, Jack Horan, Ned Kearney and Patsy Armstrong.

Tubberadora might well have made it three in-a-row at this stage but following an injury to a player, withdrew at the semi-final stage, allowing Suir View to go through to the final. Horse and Jockey were the other finalists, and after much ado, concerning the venue for the decider, Suir View were awarded the title.

Tubberadora Comeback

However, Tubberadora were back in all their glory the following year beating Horse and Jockey in the final. Then, it was the turn of the men from The Jockey who defeated their neighbours, Two-Mile-Borris, after a replay. Tim Condon captained the victors, ably supported by Mike Wall, Jim, Dick and Joe O'Keeffe, Jimmy Ryan, Bill, Jack and Billie Gleeson, Jack Flanagan, Watty Dunne, Danny Mullins, Jack Maher, Mikey Condon, Jack Horan, Jack Cahill, John Heffernan, Danny Corcoran, Joe Ryan, Con and Dan Gleeson, Stephen O'Sullivan and Ned Grant.

The 1900 final was an unsatisfactory affair Two-Mile-Borris getting a walk-over from Moycarkey, but no one could deny the merit of the champions, who defeated Ballytarsna so handsomely in the first round, that their semi-final opponents,

Kilbarron, withdrew, seeing no point in a contest. Ned Hayes captained the Borris side, and with him were Paddy Hayes, Tom Allen, Matty Ryan, Mickey Treacy, John and Matt Purcell, Paddy Maher "Best", Tom Healy, Tom Kennedy, Tom Whelan, Denis and Billy Maher, Jack Leahy, John Hackett, James Meaney, James Morris, Tom Ryan, Charlie Maher and Pat Lonergan.

Similarly the following year, Ballytarsna, with players from Tubberadora and Horse and Jockey, were such a force that Lahorna conceded the title to them without a contest. Watty Dunne, who won a medal with Borris a year previously, captained the Ballytarsna contingent, and the other members of the team were Tom Dwyer, Jim Lacey, Bob Turner, Phil and Tom Dunne, Tom Moloney, Jack Doherty, Phil Ryan, Jack Gleeson, Ned Maher, Jack and Tommy Ryan, Bill, Jack and Billy Gleeson and Jim Keffe.

1902 saw De Wetts finally assume county supremacy, but their victory lost something in the unsatisfactory state of competition due to objections and refusals to play. In the final they beat Carrick 7-10 to 1-2 with a team captained by Jack Dwan, and including Jim and Martin Darcy, Dan and Tom Ryan, Rody Nolan, Con Brewer, Din Whelan, Pat Williams, Mick Conway, Mick Moloughney, Jim Connors, Jack Meara, Mick and Paddy Kennedy, Mick Maher, Tim Carr, Mick Cleary and Paddy Behan.

Thurles Revival

Borris were back to take the championship in 1903 but in 1904 Thurles re-emerged as a force that was to hold the centre of the stage for much of the next decade. They beat De Wetts in the final with the great Tom Semple as captain, aided by "Hawk" O'Brien, Paddy Connolly, Hugh Shelly, Jer Hayes, Mick O'Brien, Rody Berkery, Paddy Stapleton, Paddy Hayes, Tom Allen, Mick Purcell, Paddy Maher "Best", Billy Maher, Jim Keffe and the Gleeson brothers from Horse and Jockey. It will be noted that in this triumph, Semple had the assistance of players from Two-Mile-Borris and Horse and Jockey.

Football in this period, as I have stated was dominated by two clubs principally, Arravale Rovers and Clonmel Shamrocks. Rovers won the county title in '94, '95 and '96, and again in '99, while Shamrocks were tops in '97 and '98, and again in 1900 and 1901. Tipperary town emerged to take a championship in 1902, and the following year saw the rise of Grangemockler, who went on to win five titles on the trot.

The Arravale Rovers team which won its first title in 1894 was captained by Paddy Finn, and the other members were Bob Quane, Paddy Glasheen, Mick Finn, Phil Dwyer, Jack Carey, Willie Carey, Eugene Kavanagh, Willie Sharkett, Mike Condon, Batt Finn, Jerry O'Brien, Mick Conroy, Pat Glenane, Eddie Quinlan, Jack Pickhams and Mike Cleary. A year later, substantially the same team, after winning the county championship, went on to defeat Meath representatives O'Mahoneys in the All-Ireland final.

In the 1898 final, Clonmel Shamrocks defeated Kilcash. Shamrocks were led by Jack Tobin, and included Larry Tobin, John M. Long, Jack Tuohy, Phil Barry, Bill and Jim Tobin, Willie Foley, Pat Moroney, John Noonan, Bill McRell, Pat Murray, William Gillman, Peter Sweeney, Dan McGrath, John Cunningham, James Ennis and Charlie Beresford.

The 1902 final saw Tipperary club win, defeating Kilsheelan, but in many ways it may well have been another Arravale Rovers victory, as a quick glance through the list of players indicates - Bob Quane, Willie Ryan, Davy Quane, Phil Dwyer, Nick Ryan, John Butler, Dick Hourigan, Paddy Pickham, Jerry Noonan, Jim Gallagher, Pat Hyland, Mick Spillane, John Wyse, Jerry McGrath, Tom Byrne, Jackie and Mike Cleary and Willie Sadlier.

Enter Grangemockler

Grangemockler then emerged as a force, winning the first of their titles in 1903 and holding unbroken sway to 1907. The 1903 final was against Poulacapple or Mullinahone and the Grangemockler team was Jim Cooney, Mike, Bill and Matt

Cooney, Jim Egan, James and John Morris, Peter Walsh, Mick and John Nolan, Davy Murphy, Mike Tobin, Martin Bowers, Jim Duggan, William O'Brien, Tom Whelan and Tom Flynn.

Other events of note in the period under review were the formation of the North Board. In 1899, Kilbarron requested permission from the county board to form a board in the Northern section of the county, but it was two years later before it became a reality. Officers were: President, Ned Keeshan, Roscrea; Treasurer, Michael Kelly, Nenagh; and Secretary, John Spain, Roscrea. Other members of the board were: Peter Carroll, Dan Toohey (Kilbarron), Michael Torpey (Ballingarry), Stephen Coffey, Pat Burke (Carney), Tom Ryan, Pat Gleeson, Michael Gaynor (Lahorna), Pat O'Brien (Nenagh), Jim Looby, Pat Donoghue (Toomevara), Ned Ryan and Neil Moloney (Newport).

Archbishop Croke, the first Patron of the Association, and for long its inspiration died in 1902, and his successor, Most Rev. Dr. Fennelly, accepted the invitation to be the next Patron.

Much of the above information has been gleaned from the late Canon Fogarty's "Tipperary GAA Story", which deals with the events and the people who were to the fore in the association in Tipperary from its earliest days.

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The Cappa-Eire Óg Story

By W. O'DONNELL



CAPPAWHITE-EIRE ÓG - Co. Under-21 Champions 1977.

NORTH-WEST of Dundrum, headquarters of the G.A.A. in West Tipperary and separated from each other by a stretch of the Multheen river, which has its origin in Hollyford, lie the parishes of Anacarty-Donohill and Cappawhite. The combined population-total of the two areas is less than 2,000 and yet the hurlers and footballers of both parishes, down the years have contributed quite a lot to the success story of the G.A.A. in West Tipperary.

Since the Board's inception in 1930 the clubs between them have won County titles in Senior, Junior, Under-21, Minor and Juvenile hurling. For good measure also, they have captured the junior football crown on two occasions. Cappawhite took the title last season, when they defeated Newcastle, southern representatives in the decider at Cashel, while Eire Óg were successful in 1974 beating Ballylooby on the same pitch.

Cappawhite's first county success came in 1942, when the roar of the gun was heard all over the Continent of Europe and when the supporters of the club, in common with every other club, pedalled their merry way all over the country. Those were the days when hurlers like Willie Barry, a sweet striker of the ball, Dick Ryan (Coyle), Tommy Treacy, Michael (Spot) O'Neill, "Rafferty" O'Neill, that sterling defender, Bill O'Neill and Tom Coughlan wore the singlet. That great win was celebrated in style, in and around the "Lovely Village" I can assure you.

The previous year, Eire Óg (Anacarty) senior hurling side had gone down before famed Boherlahan in the county decider at Thurles by a pair of points. This game, because of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in South Tipperary, was not played until early November on a Sunday that must have been borrowed from a Carribean summer.

In '43 things came good for the Eire Óg lads. After a strenuous campaign at home they were drawn against Killenaule in the county semi-final. Due to some dispute the game wasn't played and the Eire Óg players continued their preparation under Charlie McCarthy and the late Tim Crowe. Moycarkey-Borris, famed Mid Tipperary club, having disposed of title holders, Thurles Sarsfields, provided the opposition. A late burst by the Anacarty lads broke the stalemate and they ran out winners by a few points. It was the first and only West Tipperary side to bring a senior title to the Division. Prominent club officials at the time were Tony Doherty, John Tuohy, Denis Tuohy, John O'Dwyer, Jimmy Burke and Charlie McCarthy. The members of the team were Jim O'Donnell, Johnny Ryan (W.), Jim Hanley, Jack Dee, George Ryan, Phil Ryan (C), Tom Ryan (C) (capt.), Tom Burke, Bill O'Donnell, Gerry Ryan, Denis Condon, Michael Ryan (C), Jack Cooney, Tom Joye and Gerry Ryan (W).

The junior hurling and football championships were, because of the war, suspended from 1943 to 1945 inclusive. Cappawhite came back again to take

their second junior hurling crown in 1948, and among the more prominent of their players on that occasion were Pakie Treacy, Dan and Tom Moran, Richie Barry, a fine goalkeeper, Mikey O'Neill and Paddy Barry.

The early 40s were Eire Óg's most fruitful years when they won four Divisional Senior hurling titles on the trot and as stated, took the '43 county title for good measure. With the late Johnny Leahy and Phil Purcell, they selected the Tipperary senior hurling side that won the four county (Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford and Tipperary) League in 1944. In that same year they choose the county team that went under to Cork in the Munster championship.

With the predominance of Knockavilla Kickhams in the 50's, both clubs fell on lean years and were forced into the lower grade. Cappa sought help from Solohill and rejoicing in the name of St. Nicholas captured the '57 Divisional senior title, depriving the Kickham club of eight titles in a row.

Late 50's brought Rev. Jim Power, a native of Moycarkey, as curate to the parish of Cappa. He immediately interested himself in the young lads of the parish with the result that in 1962 his juveniles won the Under-15 county championship, the prize for which was a trip to the All-Ireland senior hurling final in Croke Park. There they saw Tipperary and Wexford battle for the crown, which Tipperary captured for the second year running. John Kelly, later to play at full back for Tipperary and Munster was a member of the under 15 County champions that year.

Those were great days for the two parishes for in the previous season 1961, the hurlers of the two areas got together under the name of St. Vincent's and again took the Divisional senior title. Larry Kelly, on Tipperary's minor 15 (fifteen) in 1957, with such as Jim McGrath, a Limerick inter-county player, Fathers Dan O'Neill and Joe Ryan, Tom Ryan (Smith) of Cappa and Pat Hennessy, T. J. and Sean Ryan (L), Phil Ryan (W), John Cummins, Tom Tuohy and Michael Gleeson of Eire Óg were members of that fine side. For good measure Cappa's junior side won the championship that season and had to compete in the senior tilts the following year.

With help from neighbouring Glengar where there was no team that year and with the blessing of the West Board they were successful in '62. Larry Kelly was again to the fore and he was afforded wonderful assistance from such as Tom Joe McGrath, Jim McGrath, Fathers Joe Ryan and Dan O'Neill, Mick English, Con Ryan (S) and Paul McCarthy, who could stop them with the best and walk a dog into the bargain.

In those days Tom Maher was the club's "general factotem" aided and abetted by Fr. Power. Although they have done well in other grades in the meantime, 1962 ended their senior hurling titles.

Neighbours Eire Óg were not idle in the early years of the sixth decade, 1962 saw their No. 1 junior hurlers and junior footballers bring home Divisional titles. They had another double in 1964 when they won the senior hurling and junior football crowns. Figuring in those victories were Con Walsh, John Hogan, Tom Tuohy, Phil Ryan (W), D. J. Gleeson, Jimmy P. O'Brien, John Corbett, Micheál O'Mahony, T. J. and Fr. Sean Ryan (L), Paddy Corbett, John and Henry Cummins, Noel Ryan and their free-scoring full forward, Michael Gleeson.

The trojan work put in by Father Power and other Cappa enthusiasts, with the juveniles in 1961, came to fruition in 1965 when the parish sent out minor and under 21 sides to win county titles in hurling. Eleven of the minors formed the backbone of the under 21 team. Featuring on both fifteens were such as John Kelly, Tim Crosse, Liam Breen, Patsy O'Neill, Revs. John and Tom O'Neill, Patsy "Lyons" Hayes and Paddy O'Neill.

☆☆☆

1966 saw Eire Óg bring home the No. 2 junior hurling trophy and followed this up in 1967 by again winning the senior hurling championship, their sixth and last success in the grade.

D. J. Gleeson, Phil Ryan (T), Jimmy O'Brien, Patsy Ryan (C), Liam Riordan, Denis Tuohy, Tom O'Dwyer, Paddy

Corbett, John Hogan, John and Henry Cummins and T. J. Ryan (L) were prominent members of that side.

They had to wait six years for another success and this time Danny O'Brien, who had returned from Australia, captained a No. 2 junior hurling side that brought home the trophy from Clonoulty's fine pitch. Danny had been a valued member of the club before his exile and incidentally his team included Phil Ryan (W) who gave glimpses of past form. Cappawhite came good again in 1973 when on a rain-soaked pitch in Cashel, they defeated Golden-Kilfeacle in the junior football championship final. Eire Óg, incidentally, lost the senior hurling final to Sean Treacys that same day by a margin of three points.

Attention and dedication to football saw Eire Óg go the whole way in the junior grade in 1974. Opponents in the county decider were Ballylooby from the South, who did not capitulate too easily. Loyal supporters of the club gave vent to their pent-up enthusiasm, when County Chairman Tom O'Hara, presented the trophy. That 15 had fine footballers, in such as Tom O'Dwyer, the Hanley brothers, John and Seamus, Thomas Carew, Eddie O'Loughlin, D. J. Gleeson, Henry Cummins, John Hogan, Liam Riordan, Conny Ryan, Paddy Corbett, Seamus Ryan, John Cummins, Seamus Foxe, Matthew Ryan, Neil Breen and Jerry O'Dwyer.

Came 1976 and a granted application for regrading to junior hurling status to Eire og. Players and officials promised themselves a county title and geared their preparation accordingly. Their passage to the county decider was sometimes hectic and on a December day, dry and pleasant, they lined out in Semple Stadium against Doney Nealon's Burgess. In a game that was described by County Secretary, as "great stuff", the sides ended as they had begun, with the usual hard luck stories.

Back they came the following Sunday with the Great Feast looming. After an even first half Burgess pulled away in the second for a hard-earned but comfortable victory.

There was talk in the Eire Óg dressingroom of retirals and what have-you but the lads decided to have one more go. They did, got the fright of their lives from Solohead at home, beat Seamus Hogan's Kildangan in the semi-final and came up against Upperchurch in the decider. This was another great game and when the final whistle went, Eire Óg had achieved their ambition, despite stubborn resistance from Seamus Barry, Phil Lowry and their men.

The team that performed this fine feat was Tom O'Rourke, Thomas Carew, John Hanley, John Hogan (capt.), Patsy Furlong, D. J. Gleeson, Paddy Corbett, Matthew Ryan, Seamus Foxe, Ailbie

Buckley, Tom O'Dwyer, Kevin Foxe, Pat Foxe, Seamus Hanley, Jerry O'Dwyer.

The Foxe brothers, incidentally, have worn the county singlet in senior, under 21 and minor hurling.

Early last year the clubs decided to pool their resources in the underage competitions. First success came when the minor combo, featuring such as Sean Hennessy, Pat Foxe, Austin Buckley and Danny Ryan (P) came through to win the day and narrowly lose to Nenagh's Eire Óg eventual county champions, in the semi-final. The under-21 lads led by Pat O'Neill swept all before them at home, getting rare old frights from Cashel K.C. and Sean Treacys. Ballinahinch, who had surprised Kilruane up north, fell before them and Mick McDermott's four goals in the semi-final – and the stage was set for the final at Golden on January 8th against Holycross who had beaten Clonmel St. Mary's in the other semi-final.

With thundering displays from Matthew Ryan, Johnny Ryan (P), Kevin Foxe and Pat O'Neill, the Mid challenge was subdued and the second county title of 1977 came to the area.

The "near" men who performed this fine feat were: Austin Buckley, Pat Foxe, Liam White, Eddie Costello, Michael McDermott, Eamon Ryan (B), John Ryan (P), Tom Butler, Matthew Ryan, Ailbie Buckley, Richie Barry, Willie P. Ryan, Tom McHugh, Eamon Treacy, Brendan and Sean Hennessy, Pat O'Neill (capt.), Kevin Foxe, Dan Ryan (P), Dan O'Neill and John Breen.

Meanwhile the men behind the scenes, John Buckley, Martin McDermott and John Breen were quietly preparing the Cappawhite Junior footballers. Featuring quite a number of their under-21 lads who had already won a county medal, they steadily worked their way through Western opposition, beat Nenagh in the semi-final and came up against Newcastle from the south in the decider at Cashel last February. Their speed, ability, elan and above all, their grim determination to be numbered among the great, stood them in good stead as they raced the favourites into the ground to bring to that small area, nestling at the foot of storied Slieve Phelims, and to West Tipperary, the third county crown in 1977. A pretty sizeable feat all must agree, and one of which all West Tipperary must feel justly proud.

The panel that crowned a wonderful 1977 for the small area was: Austin Buckley, Brendan Hennessy, Eddie Costello, Dan Ryan (J), Micael McDermott, Eamonn Ryan (B), Eamonn Treacy, Martin McDermott, Michael Ryan (P), Pat McDermott, Pat O'Neill, Gerard Griesewood, Eamonn

Camogie's Hard Road to Paradise

By MAOL MUIRE TYNAN

**Represented Tipp and Munster in Community Games in Mosney.
Won Bronze Medals.**



Back: Kara Moloney, J. A. McLoone, M. Hickey, M. Quish, M. Mulhall, J. Murphy, M. Frawley, C. O'Brien, Eileen Bourke.
Front: E. Bourke, B. Hickey, G. English, N. McManus, Mary Frawley, Kath Frawley.

Tipp Co. Champions – Beat Ballina in Final 2-6 to 0-4.

Munster Championship – Beat Blackrock (Cork) 4-3 to 1-0; Beat Ennis (Clare) in final 3-3 to 1-0.

Beat Cavan, Area 4, for Bronze Medals.

Four of the girls have won Under-12 and Under-14 West Divisional medals, K. Moloney, G. English, C. O'Brien, M. Mulhall.
This has been Emly's fourth County Title in five years.

WAS IT arrogance or innocence that inspired our belief that 1978 was to be our year of triumph? In retrospect, I think we can fall into the latter category. For we did not overestimate our own prowess – we simply underestimated the opposition. And, when it comes to championships, there is no room for misconceptions. The chaff is quickly divided from the wheat and yet again we comfort ourselves with that seemingly endless expression, "There is always next year".

Clare were to be our first opponents, and we knew we could beat them, even on their own playing field, Ennis. For, back in June, in the throes of our agony on the training ground of Inch or Roscrea, we, like Yeats, were "running to Paradise" – when "all that I had to do is wish".

WE HAD ALREADY BEATEN Clare in the League. Despite the fact that the margin had been only a matter of points, we felt that we had some latent power that would awaken in the championship and see us through once more. Meanwhile, under the guiding hand of Bernie O'Dowd, we put in our hours of training and spirits were high. The fact that we had runaway with the League the year before and were reigning Munster Champions and gave us fuel for optimism.

But, yon brave hurler, Colm Honan, had to be reckoned with. He aimed at a high degree of physical fitness and skill plus

motivation for victory when he began coaching the girls. When we finally met in July, we were very evenly matched, and until the final whistle, it was anyone's game. Our backline was superb; they fought off all attacks, but scores seemed elusive. We only managed three points. Because our defeat was just one point, it was all the more heart-breaking, and the "ifs" and "maybes" and "buts" flowed freely during the subsequent post mortem. We watched Clare ride off to the semi-final like Oisín speeding towards Tir na nÓg. Prior to the Championship, the League had been snatched from our grasp, though this time, in a more decisive manner. We met Cork (who later won the All-Ireland final) in the Mardyke and they dictated the game most of the way. But we rose to the occasion and against all odds, we managed to make that a memorable drawn game. Hopes of victory against our bogey team, Limerick, diminished slightly when some of our regular team were unable to play. Goalkeeper, Mary O'Brien, was preparing for Leaving Certificate and Maura Hackett (wing-back) was giving us another camogie player.

The changes threw the entire team into disarray and we played very badly. Limerick walked away with victory and we tried to pick up our crushed morale. It was goodbye to the League and, though we did not know it, we were enjoying the

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last days of the season. With the Championship and League gone, we were left with the Munster Championship and that story has yet to be completed.

Lack of success did not leave us less wise, for its an ill wind

... We are now aware that more intensive training is necessary for future victories and more cohesion among clubs would be a valuable asset.

This brings us to the story of Camogie within the County and this is surely a surprising tale. Drom-Inch had been taking all honours with ease for the past three years. Last year they completed their hat-trick in County Championships and were providing as many as six girls for the County team. But 1978 saw the defeat of Drom-Inch in the Ann Frazer Cup as well as the Championship and they were replaced by old rivals, St. Mary's (Newport).

Unfortunately, there were only four senior teams in the County this year – Drom-Inch, Roscrea (St. Bernadettes), Cappawhite and Newport. They were four even teams and victories never came easily.

Cappawhite and Newport met in the Frazer final and Newport took the honours with a four-point margin. This was the first premonition of the future and they went on to win the County final in similar style.

The Junior County Final threw the spotlight on an extremely

good and young team from Emly. Their style of play is skillful and attractive and when they come to Senior level, they will, undoubtedly, bring a new dimension to the game in the County. The season gave recognition to new girls whose talents had previously gone without compliment, and these young novices to Camogie have already provided the nucleus of a fine minor team, though they fell victim to Cork this year.

Everyone interested in Camogie will have to put endless dedication into the game, firstly to improve skill and competition and secondly, to bring honours back to the county. This onus lies with parents and teachers. The latter have proved this in both Nenagh and Cashel convent schools, where girls are learning the skills of the game combined with a high motivation for victory and subsequent honour for their schools. Cashel school has won national acclaim for its extraordinary talent on the Camogie field and has already brought back an All-Ireland to Tipperary. Unfortunately, some of these players seem to be lost to Club and County Camogie and, should they be availed of, I think the game would be in a much better position all round. As more than an afterthought, are the followers of hurling in the County ever going to start supporting their Camogie teams? With some moral support behind them, perhaps girls might find the battle for victory an easier task; that run to Paradise may not be quite so difficult . . .



Scoil Mhuire Cashel Team – Senior Schools Camogie Champions.

Continued from Page 58

Brennan, Dan O'Neill, John "Fox" O'Neill, John Ryan (P) (capt.), Sean Hennessy, Eddie Carroll, John Griesewood.

And lest we forget. A combination of the hurlers from Cappawhite and

Donohill won the first ever West Tipperary Junior hurling title way back in 1930, the year of the Division's inception. The following years, saw them pose the biggest threat to Clonoulty, who were supreme in senior ranks in the opening years of the Division's life. The writer remembers the fine hurling feats

of such as Mick Kelly, an uncompromising full back, Pat Furlong, a copious score getter and member of the junior county team that figured in the triple crown success of 1930, Willie O'Neill, Jackie Ryan (Jerh), Tony Doherty, the Heffernan brothers Jack and Din and the great Pakie Butler.

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ROSCREA ON THE MARCH

By **BARRY BARRETT**

THE all-Ireland semi-finals of 1934, 1936, 1939 and 1941 have a few things in common. Galway hurlers took part in all four games, they also lost each of them, and all four games were played at St. Cronan's Park, Roscrea. It was a signal honour that Roscrea should have been selected for the games, as Thurles – the home of the GAA, can only boast of one such semi-final in the past 55 years. St. Cronan's Park is a spacious field, and had then, what few fields of that time had, a sideline with a complete concrete wall surrounding it.

Roscrea was always renowned for its hurling teams, but the playing of those semi-finals in Roscrea gave the local hurlers added zest, and played no small part in the great hurling games by Roscrea in the late 30's and 40's. Hurling continued to flourish, but it was not until 1968 that Roscrea won its first County Championship, although it had many North Tipperary titles to its name, and many of its players had worn the blue and gold at minor and senior level. Since the first win in 1968, the title has come to Roscrea on four other occasions, 1969, 1970, 1972 and 1973.

FEW AMENITIES

While St. Cronan's Park had a spacious field, its facilities were practically non-existent. Its small dressing-rooms without shower or toilet facilities were, to say the least of them, antiquated. It was felt that today's players were entitled to more than a pitch. At the general meeting of the club in 1978, it was decided to make a determined effort to provide the necessary facilities. Jimmy Neville was appointed Chairman of the Park Committee, with a twelve-man committee. Their terms of reference from the hurling club were simply "to build dressing-rooms at St.

Cronan's Park". After several meetings and discussions, plans were drawn, but then it was felt that winter facilities for keeping fit are a 'must' nowadays – so more elaborate plans were drawn to include a Squash Court, hall, two dressing rooms, showers, toilet rooms and kitchen. The overall length of the building is 35 metres, and the hall will be used for Badminton and Basketball, and it can seat 400 people for other entertainment.

BIG SNAG

The great snag of course, as in most undertakings, was finance. But the Committee also knew that there was a wealth of goodwill towards our national games in and around Roscrea, and the people would respond. It was agreed to hold a 500 Draw, the prizes being £100 weekly, and a free draw for a car every 13 weeks for paid-up subscribers. The task of collecting subscriptions was undertaken by a band of committed supporters, and here our local factories must take a special bow for collecting weekly from the salaries of their workers. This was a tremendous help, also the people who signed Bankers Orders. But of course the collectors who go out week after week to collect have a constant task, but the knowledge that soon they, and their children, will have a sports complex worthy of Roscrea and its Gaels, must make their task somewhat easier. Pat Dynan, PRO of the Draw Committee, aptly summed it up at our first draw, "the response has been overwhelming, more than we had ever hoped for".

The concrete foundation of the building was laid on the 26th September, 1978, so here is hoping by March 1979, our dream will be realized, and each supporter can feel justly proud of his or her part in the reality.

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North Vocational Review

By CYRIL GLEESON

TUAIRISC AR IMEACHTAÍ CLUICHÍ NA NGAEL SNA GAIRMSCOILEANNA I DTIOBRAID ARANN THUAIDH '77-'78 LE COIRÉAL Ó GLIASÁIN

GAELIC GAMES, particularly hurling, have been strong in the North Tipp. Vocational Schools since organized competition between the schools began in the early '60's. Standards in hurling and football are steadily rising due to the regular and efficient running of the games, and the razor-sharp keenness with which they are contested. The fact that North Tipp. Vocational Schools head the All-Ireland Hurling roll-of-honour with nine titles is sufficient proof of the high standards existing.

Since the inauguration of the North Tipp hurling and football competitions various schools have been dominant for periods of time. Nenagh Vocational School were almost unbeatable during the early years of the Senior Hurling Competition. Later Borrisokane became a strong force in both hurling and football. More recently Roscrea have come to the fore. Among the smaller schools Newport have proven to be a match for the best.

The 1978 North Tipp Senior Hurling Championship was won by Roscrea who defeated Nenagh in the final. Roscrea beat Borrisokane in the semi-final, due largely to the scoring power of young Joe Treacy, a lad who was later to surprise Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final replay. Borrisokane had already defeated reigning champions Newport, in a great game.

Borrisokane proved to be too strong for Newport in the Senior Football Final also due mainly to the efforts of Tim Hurley (of Cavan origins) and Michael Griffin (former Tipp minor hurler). Roscrea won the Junior Hurling and Junior Football titles. This was the second year that Roscrea won three out of a possible four North Tipp competitions.

YEAR'S HIGHLIGHT

The highlight of a year of busy activity was the winning of the All-Ireland inter-county competition. The campaign started with a good win over neighbours (and friends) South Tipp at Thurles. Then the going became tough and was to continue so until Timmy Walshe (Newport) accepted the Corn Ui Bhuachalla on behalf of the North Tipp team on the Hogan Stand in Croke Park. First of all there was Cork. This match was a typical Tipp-Cork encounter which was apparently won and lost several times and finally ended in a draw. Tipp can thank Michael Griffin (Borrisokane) for having survived this thriller in Fermoy with two fine goals at a vital stage in the second half. The replay was at famed Boherlahan and Tipp needed the traditional toughness of that club to withstand the Cork "siege" which lasted for all of the last ten minutes. The winning margin of five points belies the anxiety Tipp felt during those closing stages.

The Munster Final against Clare was played at Ennis. After a fall of snow at half-time and a Clare rally mid-way through the second half, Tipp were through to the All-Ireland semi-final against Galway at Borrisokane. Galway had always been tough opponents and on this occasion Tipp could barely keep pace with them. With ten minutes or so remaining, the game, though level for the umpteenth time, appeared to be tilting towards Galway. Ger Lees (Newport) was brought on and transformed the match with a brilliant goal. So Tipp were in another All-Ireland Final against old rivals Kilkenny, who had been having the better of matters in recent years.

The venue was Thurles and the match was a "curtain-raiser" to the famed Kilkenny-Clare League Final. From a hurling point of view the match was a disappointment, due to the closeness of the marking, the tenseness of the players and, perhaps, the big occasion. Tipp dominated most of the game by literally giving every last ounce of energy and when John Murphy of Ballyhale and Kilkenny soloed through to score the equalising goal, with virtually the last puck of the game, the disappointment among the Tipp players was intense. This



Back Row (left to right): Tim Walsh (Newport), Wm. Smith (Roscrea), Ger Lees (Newport), Ml. Conway (Nenagh), Seamus Donnellan (Nenagh), Leo Hogan (Borrisokane), Sean Moran (Borrisokane), Donal Forde (Nenagh), Alan Cullagh (Thurles), Richard Egan (Thurles), Ml. Griffin (Borrisokane), Tim Carroll (Borrisokane).

Front Row (left to right): Seamus Sullivan (Borrisokane), Joe Kelly (Newport), Ml. Healy (Newport), Rodger Coffey (Nenagh), Kevin Ryan (Thurles), Joe Bergin (Roscrea), Paul O'Connor (Roscrea), Sean Flannery (Borrisokane), Joe Stapleton (Roscrea).

disappointment was expressed dramatically by each player as he entered the dressing room, throwing his hurley in disgust into an ever-growing heap of hurleys in the middle of the floor. However, the hurleys were eventually picked up again and Tipp faced Kilkenny once more, in Croke Park this time.

BIG CONTRAST

This game was in complete contrast with the drawn game. The hurling was fast and open and a delight to watch. Kilkenny's traditional style and craft were matched by Tipp's spirit and ground hurling. Both sets of forwards had a field day. Tipp scored four goals in five minutes during the first half, while Kilkenny scored six goals and a point in the last quarter of the second half. Joe Treacy (Roscrea) was brought on the Tipp team to score goals. He duly obliged by scoring two, with a bonus also of seven points. Michael Griffin (Borrisokane) scored four goals from play at full forward, which made him the match-winner.

Comradeship, grit, courage and determination were characteristics of the North Tipp All-Ireland winning team. All the players gave of their best but in addition to those already mentioned special tribute must be paid to Michael Healy and Joe Kelly (Newport); Leo Hogan, Sean Flannery, Seamus O'Sullivan and Sean Moran (Borrisokane); Michael Conway, Roger Coffey and Donal Forde (Nenagh); Joe Stapleton, Joe Bergin and Paul O'Connor (Roscrea); Kevin Ryan and Allan Cullagh (Thurles). Certainly any team that has to play Cork and Kilkenny twice in the winning of an All-Ireland can say that it was well earned. A special word of praise is due to Timmy Walshe (Newport), full back and captain of the team. He played sound and well in all games and was an example and inspiration to his team-mates. He also had the honour of being the first ever Newport Captain of the team. In addition, he captained the first Newport Vocational School Senior Hurling team to win the Munster Championship in 1978.

In the Inter-County Senior Football Competition North Tipp defeated Clare at Borrisokane in the first round. Kerry,

the eventual All-Ireland winners and with twelve of their All-Ireland winning team of the previous year, beat Tipp in the next round, but not before Tipp had given them some anxious moments.

As mentioned previously, Newport Vocational School won the individual schools' Munster Championship in Senior Hurling, at their first attempt. However, they were defeated by Gort, representing Galway, in the All-Ireland semi-final at Ennis. It was a very entertaining game. On their way to the All-Ireland semi-final, Newport (North Tipp Champions '77) defeated Clonmel (South Tipp Champions), Scoil Eoin Naofa (Cork City Champions) and Scariff (Clare Champions) in the Munster final.

An increasing number of North Tipp Vocational Schools took part in the '77-'78 Canon Fitzgerald Hurling Competition, open to all Post-Primary Schools in Tipperary. The Vocational Schools from North Tipp who participated were: Borrisokane, Roscrea, Nenagh, Thurles and Newport. Newport reached the final of Section 2 of the competition but were defeated by Nenagh C.B.S.

Thanks is due to the various G.A.A. Boards in Tipp for their financial help towards the expenses of the Inter-County teams particularly. The North Tipp Vocational Games Committee are especially grateful to the North and County Boards for their extra generous contributions. The Vocational Schools in North Tipperary are "nurseries" for Senior, Intermediate and Junior clubs in North Tipp. The clubs are currently showing their appreciation of this fact by contributing to the North Tipp Board Grant for Vocational Schools.

Tribute is due to the various gamemasters and teachers who have promoted Gaelic games so well in all the Vocational Schools in North Tipp. The men who are presently involved are: John Riordan (Thurles), Frank Slattery and T. J. Egan (Nenagh), Seamus Dennison and Seamus Hogan (Roscrea), Denis Kelly (Borrisokane), Tom Maher and Michael Keally (Templemore).

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Templederry Raises a Monument

By SÉAMUS Ó RIAIN

*Bright home of my childhood, there's no place like thee,
Thy mountains, thy wild woods, thy vales and thy lea;
No matter wherever I'm bound for to roam,
I will never forget you — Templederry my Home.*

IT HAS often been said about rural clubs that everyone in the parish is deemed to be a member. Certainly this was fairly generally true in the past so closely was the entire community involved in the activities of the local club. Even today when membership is defined and registered lists of members are required many rural clubs are in truth community clubs serving the whole parish and answering its needs.

Such a club is Templederry. The people of the parish identify with the club, follow the fortunes of the hurling teams, rejoice in their victories and share their sorrow in defeat. It is a parish with a history of hurling long before the G.A.A. was founded.

Old people have handed on stories of matches played over a century ago when teams might include up to thirty a side and the rules did not restrict so much as in later years. They tell of one competition which was organised among neighbouring parishes for a trophy they called "The Belt". Templederry reached the final against Ballinahinch but no one seems to know what "The Belt" was or who won it.

After 1884 Templederry were early in the field and affiliated a club in 1887. Among the leading organisers were Fr. J. Frost, C.C., and James Coughlan of Latteragh. In the 1890's a football team was got going but it faded from the scene as hurling won popular appeal.

In fact Templederry became a strong hurling force in the first decade of this century. For a number of years they presented a strong challenge to De Wets and Toomevara for the divisional title. Losing to Toomevara by two points in 1902 they worked their way to the semi final the following year by beating Borrisokane and Silvermines but lost to the eventual champions De Wets. In the following years they continued the challenge but could not succeed in making the big break-through. However they had established a name for their club and parish as a hurling stronghold which inspired

succeeding generations. It is worth recalling the team of those years: Mick Kelly (capt.), Bill Quinlan, Tom McDonnell, Jack Berkery, Mick Collins, Mick and Din Shanahan, Jack Murphy, Dan, Denis and Jim Dwyer, Lar Kelly, Paddy Kennedy, Jer and Dan Ryan, Rody and Jim Hayes.

The club continued in senior ranks up to the "trouble" years. In the reorganisation of the twenties — Templederry players joined different junior combinations but a reunited parish won out the north Intermediate Title in 1931 with the following team: Pat and Ned Harrington, Mick O'Flanagan, Gerald, Pat and Hugh Hogan, Mick Gleeson, Dick Droney, Jim O'Meara, Tom Lar and Martin Ryan, Mick Berkery, M. Quinlan, Pat Cash, W. Burke. Subs.: D. Guilmartin, J. Spillane, J. Moloughney, Anthony and J. Flanagan. Back in senior ranks for a number of years without success, led to regressing to Intermediate grade. Many lean years did not dampen the spirit nor lessen the enthusiasm of players or of followers and persistence was rewarded when the North Junior Title came to Templederry in 1970 and again in 1976 and '77.

A Great Victory

Perhaps the most significant victory was won in 1977 when the rising youth brought home the under-21 cup after a thrilling final with Kilruane MacDonaghs, a feat which promises good things in store for the club in the near future.

Another cause for jubilation came in 1976 when Michael Murphy and Michael Stapleton were on the All-Ireland winning minor team and the celebrations in the parish to honour the occasion reflected the hurling spirit of Templederry.

Other Templederry players who won County recognition in the past included Sean Harrington, All-Ireland Junior team of 1930, who later starred for Clare and won Railway Cup honours with Munster in 1935. Peadar Flanagan was another Railway Cup player who played corner forward when Tipperary defeated All-Ireland champions Cork in the delayed Munster final of 1941, the "foot and mouth year". Both these fine hurlers have passed away at a relatively young age.



Templederry — North Tipperary Junior Champions 1970.

Another Templederry player of great promise who was laying claim to a permanent position on the County team was Paddy Flanagan. A teacher in Roscrea and a player with that club he was killed in a tragic car accident outside Moneygall when travelling home after a game, in 1925.

Others to be honoured by the County selectors were Paddy Harrington and Paddy Hogan at junior level and the late Fr. Tommy Hogan in the minor grade, and Seamus Flanagan on the senior team.

On the administrative side Templederry men manned important posts in the North Tipperary Board. Michael O'Flanagan was Chairman in 1909 and Secretary from 1910 to 1913. Michael Kelly and Matthew Hogan were Treasurers for a long number of years, and helped considerably in putting the Board on a firm footing.

Big Problem

One serious problem agitated the minds of club officers over the years. They had no field of their own that could be developed into a suitable pitch. Every year that passed brought a fresh realisation of this acute want. In 1970 the wheels were set in motion in earnest and a field was bought which was ideally suitable both as regards situation, which is beside the village, and quality, since it is dry and requires no artificial drainage. Obviously the field has proved to be a great boon to the club and especially to the youth of the parish.

But they are not resting on their oars. Fired by the desire to have a suitable home for the club before the centenary year of the association they have drawn the plans for a fine Recreation

Centre in their ground. It will have a spacious main hall, a 40 by 20 Handball Court, meeting rooms, toilets and showers. It was a happy thought on the part of the club members to dedicate the building to the memory of the great Young Ireland priest and patriot Fr. John Kenyon, the friend of John Martin, John Mitchel and Thomas Davis, and who lies buried in Templederry. The Fr. John Kenyon Recreation Centre will be a fitting memorial to the patriot priest, the fulfilment of a wish and a promise, and also a place where the people of all ages may come together for enjoyment and recreation.

This short sketch of Templederry club was written out of a feeling for what the club has done and is doing for hurling and the spirit of the G.A.A. There must be much material lying somewhere waiting for someone to research it and write a more complete story. What has been written here could not have been written without the help of Dan Gleeson, James O'Leary and Patrick Murray and the hospitality of the O'Leary home.

The club is giving a fine example of development in line with the policy of the Association as we approach the centenary year. Work has commenced and before long the hope expressed by Martin Kenny in his ballad will have found fulfilment in the Fr. Kenyon Recreation Centre:

*But let us hope on till sweet Liberty smiles,
And radiantly beams o'er our Emerald Isle;
When the common black slab from his grave shall be thrown,
And a monument raised in Templederry my Home.*

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TALES AND GAELS

By **BR. JOSEPH PERKINS**
(YOUTH OFFICER)

TIPPERARY is called the Premier County. We like still to be called it by those outside the county. Do we deserve that name now? In the past decade, if we examine the whole structure of our games, we must admit that we now lack something that we formerly had. We took it for granted that we would be always the greatest and did not take the trouble to work, and work very hard, to remain the greatest in every aspect of our games and organisation.

PRACTICE

Practice does **not** make perfect. **Proper** practice makes perfect. Most young lads perfect their skills by the constant exercise of the act of hitting and kicking a ball. They have seen it done by their companions, their club team and on television. Their eyes can deceive them and they may pick up the wrong way or think they are doing it correctly. When hitting a ball against the gable end of a house or against a wall or barn door they may be perfecting their faults and errors!

COACHING

I have said a few things about coaching already. It starts before you crawl out of the "horse's collar" in the middle of the kitchen floor. I don't like the word "coaching". It sounds a little bit snobbish or "posh" to me. "Training" is more a physical exercise. "Coaching" involves the education of the whole man, mentally, spiritually and physically. It takes in motivation, attitudes, psychology, interest, fitness, habits, morals, skills, referees dress, fields, hurleys, health and honour, etc., etc. Coaching makes the game more attractive both for player and spectator. It makes players less awkward, more skilful, more able to protect himself and less liable to accidents. All-round-standards will rise and keep rising. We will have better players, better referees, better grounds, better **discipline** and better amenities. Good coaches will know how to handle a group of players. There should be a qualified coach in every club and later we hope to have at least one coach for every team in the club. At present we take too much for granted and leave too much to chance.

MODERN TRENDS

The world and everything in it is ever changing. The church had its Vatican Councils. The Government improves its laws, its policies and its methods of implementing them. Every organisation – industrial or sporting – has to take stock of itself and make the necessary changes.

Education is making great strides too. No longer is the chalk and duster sufficient to cope with our modern youth in the school. Audio-visuals are to be seen in every classroom.

To teach our youth the fastest and most skilful field game in the world we too must be "with it". The weaker counties are studying the natural abilities of the once stronger counties, just as we have much to learn from the old Celts, the Greeks and Romans. Standards are becoming more even now with modern technology, science and hard work. The Dublin footballers for example, spent hours looking at themselves on video-tape to see their mistakes, their faults and failures and they had a camera **on** the ball and **off** the ball. The Kerry boys went further. They studied themselves and the Dublin team, found the secrets, their strength and their

weaknesses (because everyone has **some** weakness) and then played according to a premeditated plan. Before the invention of the tape their trainer and team would have to be present at all their opponents' matches, thereby losing time and energy, to study them in action. Now after each training session, having restored their spent-energy with juicy steaks and good food and resting comfortably in easy chairs in a snug room they could study the tactics of their future opposition under the guidance of an educated coach (often self-educated). With the **proper** use of the video-tape an action, movement, skill or piece of play can be studied, re-played and studied again and analysed by one or by a group, hour after hour and day after day. Here, they can see the best matches, the matches of their choice, the matches not shown on T.V. Once the equipment is purchased the cost after that is minimal. The video today is a "sine qua non" for all counties that wish to make progress in the field of sport – and indeed in every other field as well.

We here in Tipperary intend getting one as quickly as possible in order to prepare our seniors, under-21's and minors for the 1979 championship. I myself, with the help of a few others have already made plans for the purchase of a camera and video-tape. Indeed, I have a few offers of help from Tipperary people in the county and outside the county. I ask those who are interested in the welfare of Tipperary hurling and football to offer help as quickly as possible. Get in touch with me without delay. We will acknowledge your help later. The cost of this up-to-date equipment is in the region of £5,000. Big money, but worth it to see the Blue and Gold in its rightful premier place soon again.

Don't forget! Now is the time to help. The smallest subscription will be of benefit. Get others interested in the idea also.

DISCIPLINE, DEDICATION, DETERMINATION

Here we have the 3D's, but the greatest of them is discipline. No club, no school, no team can function without it. A person must have discipline in his own life; he must discipline himself to work with others in his ordinary daily duties; he must discipline himself on the field of play.

A man must be dedicated to the work he decides to accomplish. He must have the gift of "stick-at-it-ness". Dedication to games demands a full seven-day-week for 52 weeks in the year, every year of your life. He must give and not count the cost and not say "What is it for me?"

He must be determined to carry out the duties assigned to him. The will to win must be strong with him – not win at any cost, though. He must have the "killer instinct" – but must not kill. In my opinion "Genius" is 99 per cent perspiration and 1 per cent inspiration.

We belong to the greatest amateur sporting association in the world. It deserves our full support. Prepare yourself physically as best you can. Have a healthy body in a healthy mind. The young man that needs the drugs of nicotine or alcohol to pep him up **is** a drug addict. Develop the body God has given you; don't hinder its growth. Be free so that you will not be a slave to life!

WHO HAS FAILED?

'Tis our adults have failed us and not our youth. They are not prepared to lead the way to the local playing pitch evening after evening. They prefer to be glued to the comfortable armchair and castigate the youth of today for all their faults and misdemeanours. Any club, parish, town, where there are workers—adult workers—we can see success. I have spoken to hundreds of young lads in halls and schools during the year and have seen their eager, earnest faces light up like the face of Matt the Thresher when someone struck the Parish Drum, when they realised that games were being organised for them; that

they would be able to grasp the smooth caman or smell the fresh leather of a span-new "tan" ball.

CLUB SPIRIT

Over a hundred young lads flocked to the field in Roscrea during October and November. The same pleasant sight I've seen in Templemore, Upperchurch, Moneygall, Holycross, Borrisoleigh, Toomevara, Cashel, Carrick, Golden, Clonoulty, Templederry and many another place. The "Spirit of Knocknagow" is not yet dead. We have many men and women who are willing to put the effort into it. A man said to me not so long ago, "don't stress that they'll hurl for Tipperary. Say: they'll hurl for their club. If they are good club men, they'll be good Tipp men." Is fior duit.

A NEW BEAUTY IS BORN

Maybe re-born is more correct! There is a new spirit alive in Tipperary. We were not as industrious as we should have been in the past. Now we are alive and on our feet. We have strengthened our structures. We know our faults, we admit our failures. We have placed our trust in youth. Our policy towards youth is an active one. Much has been done; we now know what we have to do. We have men who are willing to work. The next five or six years are vital for the well-being of the dauntless men of Tipperary. Let us strive to really be the Premier County in every way by 1984.

"Then onward Tipperary like the matchless men of old,
We will march together hand in hand 'neath the famous Blue and Gold;
We'll celebrate Centenary Year, with pride in '84,
When we'll raise the Premier flag on high, as oft we did of yore."

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THE ALL-STAR TOUR '78

By TOMMY BUTLER

WHEN one is born in a place like Drom-Inch, where hurling is almost a religion, it is inevitable that young boys take up the game and try to emulate the stars of their ers. I remember, while I was growing up, Tipperary was going through the greatest era in its illustrious history and I wanted to be like some of those household names.

But fortunes have changed for Tipperary's Seniors in latter times and All-Ireland titles are not coming our way, as they used to. Yet, individuals are still recognised for their abilities and efforts and this gives one great ambitions to try hard—even if county victories are at a low ebb. I know that every player nurses a secret ambition to get an All-Star award and I am no exception. I was pleased (understatement) to have my name on the list of nominations for the No. 11 jersey. I never imagined that I would be chosen, but when Tommy Barrett contacted me to see if I was available for the American tour, he didn't have to wait long for my reply!

Boston — home of a million Irish descendants, including the Kennedy clan — was our first stop. Because of the intense excitement of preparing for the trip and acclimatizing to our new abodes in Boston, we, the members of the All-Star hurling team were not properly motivated for our first game against Cork. We paid dearly!

MEETING THE REBELS

I learned from this encounter (as if I didn't already know) that battling with the rebel county is different to any other match; they must always be treated with the utmost respect. This time they gave us a good beating and went on to win by eight points. Henceforth, we knew that the games were an important part of our tour and that the people over there deserved good games and 100 per cent effort from all the participants. Consequently, much improved performances were served up by the All-Star hurlers in San Francisco and Los Angeles.



Carrolls G.A.A. Allstar 1978
Tommy Butler (Tipperary).



Each member of the touring party was welcomed in the home of a G.A.A. enthusiast in each city and my first hosts were Sean Reynolds and his wife. Sean is a Leitrim man and although there were no Leitrim hurlers on the tour, he was quite happy to have a Tipperary one, and I

am deeply grateful to them both for their kindness to me.

On we went to San Francisco and I was immediately at home with a former Tipperary great and his charming wife — Jim Fogarty from Moyne. We had a wonderful time in the Golden Gate city where we spent ten days of our twenty day tour. We avenged our defeat of the previous Sunday and evened our score with the Cork boys with whom we had built up a healthy rivalry. Though we mixed together at functions and dances organised by various Irish societies, our friendships were stashed away when we put on the green jersey and they donned the red!

We went into our final game in the City of the Angels on even score, but from an early stage, we clipped our rivals' wings and flew out easy winners on a day when temperatures were soaring towards 100 deg. F. This was the last day of the tour and was a fitting final to a splendid tour. I bade farewell to Jim Coulter and his wife Marie (Smith) from Cavan for their hospitality to me in Los Angeles.

EXILES LOVE CULTURE

One is impressed by many things in the U.S. but one thing I observed constantly was the enthusiasm that the Irish and those of Irish descent had for all aspects of Irish culture. They play Irish games against much competition from other areas and from many popular games. The U-14 footballers in Boston gave a delightful exhibition that was of a very high standard. A team of Camogie players from Pittsburg played against a team from Boston and that Pittsburg team included a girl who later this year became the 1978 Rose of Tralee — Liz Shovlin.

These youngsters are very proud to be Irish and want to do the things that make them feel Irish. In S.C., there is a fine Community Centre and this helps to bring the Irish together. Nowhere is there a scarcity of Irish bars!

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COLLEGES SCENE IN TIPPERARY

SEAN Ó COSTAGÁIN

I WOULD like to record our gratitude to the schools of Tipperary for the wonderful work they have been doing for hurling down the years. Many people are unaware of the number of games and the amount of coaching that is going on in our post-primary schools. I still think that all our schools should try by visual aids to try to improve the skills. In this context school gamesmasters would be well advised to purchase the visual aids compiled by our Co. Senior and Under-21 coach Br. O'Grady and use them in their training programmes.

Prestige Cup

The prestige competition in Tipperary Colleges circles is the "Canon Fitzgerald Cup". This competition was the brainchild of the Tipperary Gaels in London who were perturbed in the early seventies with the state of minor hurling within the county. They were worried that Tipperary's dominance in minor hurling had gone so they donated a trophy for under-17 hurling amongst the post primary schools in the county with the view that the up and coming Co. Minors would be given a good chance to prepare themselves and improve their skills. The trophy perpetuates the memory of a great Tipperary priest who spent his priestly life ministering amongst the exiles and the people of a London parish.

The competition commenced in 1971 when Denis Kelly coached Borrisokane V.S. team took the trophy to North Tipperary for the only time. It has gone from strength to strength in the meantime with Templemore C.B.S. and Cashel C.B.S. each winning it on three occasions with the famed Thurles C.B.S. winning it on one occasion. Most of the famous Tipperary minor team of 1976 was blooded in this competition and Templemore C.B.S. won it in 1977 a forerunner to their historic Harty Cup and All-Ireland triumphs.

When I see the Tipperary under-21 team of this year which had such a resounding success in the Munster Final

take the field I cannot but remind myself that eighty per cent of the boys participated in this competition in their school going years. Amongst them that have won Fitzgerald medals are Michael Doyle, Pat Ryan, Tommy Grogan, Michael Murphy, Jim and Seamus Bourke.

All in all I must thank the foresight of the Tipperary Gaels in London in instigating this competition. This year's final was between Templemore C.B.S. and Thurles C.B.S.

A Tough Encounter

The game was played in Thurles on May 18th before a fine attendance of parents and followers. It was a tough hard game with Templemore emerging victors on the score 2-11 to 1-5. After the game both teams were entertained to a Co. Board reception at which our Co. Chairman Hubie Hogan presided.

The Co. Board deserve great credit for the help and encouragement that they give the schools and I must say that it is not through any fault of theirs if schools are not promoting and fostering the great game of hurling.

Another Tipperary Colleges championship which creates great interest is the Croke Cup. This trophy which is a replica of the Ardagh Chalice is one of the most impressive trophies that the schools compete for. The medals for this competition are supplied by Bord na nÓg. The age group that this caters for is under 16 — a preparatory competition for the following year's Canon Fitzgerald competition.

The semi-finals of the 1977-'78 series was between Templemore C.B.S. and Thurles C.B.S. and Cashel and Tipperary Brothers schools. As a result of the semi-final Cashel C.B.S. and Templemore C.B.S. emerged to the final which was played at Semple Stadium on May 25th. After a stern contest Templemore C.B.S. emerged victors with Jim Maher bringing back the trophy to the Mid Tipp nursery for the second year in succession on the score 4-6



Fitzgerald Cup (Tipperary Under 17) Champions.

Back Row (left to right): Br. Perkins, Johnny McDonnell, Pat McGrath, Timmy Stapleton, Peter Brennan, Br. Seaver, Noel Farrelly, Jun. Maher, Eamon Cody, Pat Cormack, Sean Ó Costagáin.

Front Row (left to right): Paudie Everard, Joe Bourke, Liam Cormack, Declan Allen, Joey Sweeney, Pat Hassett, Pat Treacy (capt.), Gerry Ryan, Sean Hanley, Franke McGrath, Bobby Ryan and Noelle Fogarty.

to 1-4. Cashel C.B.S. who are doing great work in the promoting of hurling had not the luck on that evening but I will be very surprised if the great work being done there by John Gleeson, Br. Ryan and Br. Vaughan, is not rewarded with some major victories in the near future.

Carrick's Success

Another Tipperary school that captured a Munster Colleges hurling trophy in 1978 was Carrick-on-Suir C.B.S. A very fine team trained and coached by Borrisoleigh man Br. Davie Ryan and led by Co. Minor midfielder, John Power, had a resounding victory in the Corn Mhic Ruairi Munster U-18 hurling competition. This was the second year in succession that the Carrick school captured this trophy and with the fine juvenile teams that are coming out of the town in later years it appears that the great game of hurling is on a sound basis in that Southern town.

As a result of the fine work of Michael Ryan, Tipperary C.B.S. is again making great strides in the hurling scene. This year the school contested the semi-finals of both the Croke Cup and Fitzgerald, but on both occasions victory eluded them.

Nenagh C.B.S. captured the Cup and Trophies that were made available by the Mid Tipperary G.A.A. Board for the winners of the weak section of the Fitzgerald Cup. In the final on a wet and windy day at Holycross they had a fine victory over a gallant Tipperary C.B.S. on the score 6-6 to 1-5.

No Thurles Luck

The hard luck school in Tipperary during the 1977-'78 campaign was Thurles C.B.S. Yearly the Brothers and teachers, at the famous nursery, strive to their utmost to regain former glories. This year in the Harty they had a resounding win over Doon C.B.S. in the first round and after a thorough preparation they faced St. Flannan's of Ennis in the quarter final of the Harty. In this fine contest at Emly Thurles C.B.S. were defeated by a last minute goal after dominating the game for most of the hour. It was a game Thurles should have won. In the Dean Ryan luck again deserted them when they were beaten in the quarter final by a one-point margin. It is my firm belief that those narrow defeats well make the Thurles boys a very determined bunch for the 1978-'79 campaign.

In that great hurling stronghold in North Tipperary, Roscrea, both post primary schools there are doing their utmost in the promoting of hurling. The C.B.S. because of lack of numbers are not the force they were in the middle sixties when Tadhg O'Connor backboned a fine Kinnane Cup team. But each year they give a good account of themselves and with the appointment there of two very youthful and enthusiastic promoters of hurling, Br. O'Donovan and Br. Madigan, to the staff, I am expecting stern opposition from that quarter in the Colleges competitions in the coming years.

Teachers' Part

Roscrea V.S. yearly give a good account of themselves in the V.S. competitions and very seldom they are absent from the honours list. This year they gave the North Tipp Vocational Schools team Joe Treacy, who scored a record 4-6 in the All-Ireland final against Kilkenny. It is a source of disappointment that they do not make a bigger impression in the Canon Fitzgerald Cup. With a liberal supply of this year's brilliant Roscrea under-16 team I would not be surprised if in 1979 the prestigious Canon Fitzgerald made its way to that North Tipperary hurling stronghold.

At this stage I would like to salute the teachers who trained and prepared the North Tipp V.S. team to capture the All-Ireland title last May. The team was made up of players from Newport, Nenagh, Roscrea, Thurles, Borrisokane and Templemore.

A drawn game was played in Thurles as a curtain raiser to the League Final, and ended 1-7 each. The replay produced a feast of hurling with the North Tipp boys emerging victors in a record scoring contest 8-11 to 8-9. Heroes of that victory were Sean Moran, Tim Walshe, Michael Griffin and Joe Treacy.

It was a fitting reward to those dedicated gamesmasters Cyril Gleeson, Denis Kelly, John O'Riordan, Frank Slattery and all other helpers. I am glad to relate while we have men of their calibre attached to our schools the great game of hurling will never die in the Premier County.

"Gura fada buan sibh go leir".

The above teachers are doing great work in their respective schools and over the last ten years we have seen many fine hurlers that were trained in Newport, Borrisokane, Thurles and Nenagh Vocational Schools.

No review of school game activities would be complete without a few sincere words of thanks to our loyal referees, who take time off their farms and jobs to officiate at our games. It is my firm belief that a reputable referee is as important in schools competitions as in All-Irelands. In this context I would like to say a sincere thank you to the following who helped out: Mick Minogue, Liam Ryan, Martin O'Grady, John Moloney, Joe McNamara, George Ryan, Gerry Ring, Liam Heffernan, Sean O'Meara and Billy O'Grady (Moyné).

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County Bórd na nÓg Activities 1978

Standards Continuing to Rise

By LIAM MAC CRAITH, RÚNAI

PROGRESS in Juvenile activities during 1978 has been most gratifying. Many parishes organised successful Juvenile Leagues, and ardent readers of Rev. Br. Perkin's *"Tales of the Gaels"* would realize the enthusiasm that exists in some of our parishes.

Hurling has showed a marked upward surge and this can also be gauged by the hurley sales through Bórd na nÓg. Board Treasurer Mr. D. Hogan has had a very busy year supplying juvenile clubs and primary schools. Dinny sold approximately 5,000 juvenile hurleys and over 1,000 juvenile sliothars, and if you are getting worried about the future of Tipperary hurling well that number surely provided a fair amount of "clashing of the ash" in the playing fields of the Premier County.

Cashel are still the kingpins of juvenile hurling and again represented our County at Féile na nGael in Kilkenny.

The standard of hurling in the rural parishes is continuing to increase, and on the urban scene it looks as if Templemore are on their way to years of success. Their under-12 hurlers brought the first county title to Templemore not so long after

the celebration of the Harty and All-Ireland Colleges success was over.

It's interesting to note that the under-12 players of 1978 will form the nucleus of the minor team of Centenary Year 1984. Having seen the standard of this year's under-12 hurling I'll safely say that All-Ireland honours are the goal for that year.

Town teams showing a lot of hurling activity this year included Cashel, Roscrea, Clonmel and Templemore. Nenagh won through in under-14 hurling in North Tipp. What a pity that Thurles the cradle of the G.A.A. has not produced county champions in the past decade. However there are some signs of a resurgence particularly through the C.B.S. Primary School who are enjoying considerable success in schools competitions. Lets hope that in 1984 Thurles will be in the limelight of hurling activities.

For Tipperary to continue progress at Juvenile level each club will need to put a lot of effort into recruiting the right personnel to train our young boys. This is a demanding job and every club in the county should ensure that a parish league is organised during 1979. Our young players are there waiting in every parish for the organisers to act.

County Bórd na nÓg will ensure that hurleys, sliothars, etc., are available.



Kilruane Mac Donaghs, North and County Rural Champions under 14.

Back: Pat Kelly, Joe Burns, Cleary, Paul Mulcahy, Tom Hill, Seamie Dunne, Paul Heffernan, Tommy Burns, Sean Williams, Ben Darcy, Cleary.
Front: Ml. Hassett, Terry Deane, Martin Cahill, David Quinlan, Ned Darcy, Liam Meara, Mulcahy, Jack Darcy, Jimmy Cahill, Ml. McDonnell, Tom Darcy, Denis Meara, Donal Cahill, Noel Figgerty.

BÓRD NA NÓG DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS 1978

	North	South	Mid	West
U-14 Hurling	Toomevara	Ballingarry	Templemore	Cashel
U-12 Hurling	Kilruane	Davins	Templemore	Kickhams
U-12 Football	Roscrea	St. Nicholas	Templemore	Arravale
U-14 Rural Hurling	Kilruane	Ballingarry	Moycarkey	Emly
U-14 Urban Rural Hurling	Nenagh	Ballingarry	Templemore	Cashel
U-14 Rural Football	Borrisokane	Ballyporeen	Templemouhy	Galtee Rovers
U-14 Urban Rl. Football	Nenagh	Commercials	Templemore	Cashel
U-16 Football	Roscrea	Commercials	Templemore	Cashel
U-16 Hurling	Roscrea	St. Mary's	Loughmore	Cashel

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Cashel King Cormac's Under 14 Players 1978.

Winners of — County Féile na nGael U-14 Hurling; County U-14 Urban-Rural Hurling Champions; County U-14 Hurling Turas na nÓg; West U-14 Urban-Rural Football.

1st Row (left to right): Gerry O'Brien, Paul Doyle, Brendan O'Connor, John Osbourne, Raymond Davern, Declan Slattery, Jimmy Cummins, John Shanahan, Paul Cormack.

2nd Row (left to right): David Cagney, Seán Slattery, Paul O'Donoghue, Donal Fanning, Denis Harding, Oliver Tattan, Paul Deegan, Pat Walsh, Willy Fitzell, Michael Dwyer, Pat O'Donoghue.

3rd Row (left to right): Willy Loneragan, Colm Bonner, David Bourke.

RESULTS OF COMPETITIONS 1978

Féile na nGael Under-14 Hurling

Divisional finalists were Ballingarry, Templemore, Toomevara and Cashel. Cashel won the honour of representing Tipperary at Kilkenny but were defeated by their host club Graigueenamanagh in the first round in extra time after a draw. This year's Féile was a very well organised event. Full marks to Kilkenny Bórd na nÓg.

In the skills competition Ger Hanrahan of Ballingarry was an impressive winner in the County Final at Holycross. He was unable to retain the All-Ireland trophy won by Liam Peters of St. Mary's in 1977.

Under-12 Hurling

A large attendance turned up at Moneygall to witness one of the best juvenile games this year. Kilruane McDonagh and Templemore battled out to the final whistle with Templemore making juvenile history for their club in taking their first title by a mere two points. Kilruane missed many chances and were very disappointed at the end of the game. However this age group are our youngest competitors and we are sure that they will win on future occasions. All players, managers, teachers, clubs are to be congratulated on a fine standard of competition in all divisions in under-12 hurling this year.

Carrick Davins showed great skill in the semi-final against Templemore, and only the close marking of the mid boys saw them through.

Knockavilla Kickhams won the West title.

Under-12 Football

Divisional champions — Templemore, St. Nicholas, Arravale Rovers and Roscrea.

Again this was an excellent competition and the county final played at Cashel between Arravale Rovers and St. Nicholas Carrick was an exhibition of good football. Tom Neylon's boys made it three in a row but had to fight hard to survive.

Under-14 Rural Hurling

Kilruane McDonagh took the title in rain swept Semple Stadium against a gallant Ballingarry team.

Ballingarry defeated Mid champions Moycarkey-Borris in the semi-final, and Kilruane defeated Emly with a late rally at Holycross.

Under-14 Urban Rural Hurling

Cashel confirmed their Féile na nGael form in taking this title, but not as convincing as last year. Ballingarry were again runners up in this competition, having beaten Templemore in the semi-final. Nenagh were the North champions.

Under-14 Rural Football

Galtee Rovers (Bansha) defeated Borrisokane in the final at Semple Stadium. Borrisokane were leading by 1-1 to 0-0 at the interval, and it was'tnt until the final quarter that Galtee registered their first score and went on to finish the game at 0-7 to 1-1.

Under-14 Urban Rural Football

Clonmel Commercial, that great stronghold of juvenile football put all their skills into affect when defeating Nenagh at Boherlahan. Nenagh defeated Templemore and Clonmel accounted for Cashel in the semi-finals.

Under-16 Football Final

Clonmel Commercial took their second juvenile

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County final this year when they easily beat Cashel at Cloghen. The score 2-8 to 1-2.

Under-16 Hurling

Roscrea and Cashel met in the final which the North team won by 1-11 to 2-1.

Turas na nÓg

Cashel's under-14 hurlers won the trip to the All-Ireland Hurling Final.

Divisional Winners

1. Solo Dancing — North: Kay Kenny, Borrisoleigh; South: Anne Boyle, St. Mary's; Mid: Carol Fogarty, Templemore; West: Marguerite Landers, Arravale Rovers. **County Winner** — Anne Boyle, St. Mary's.

2. Solo Singing — North: Lorraine Gleeson, Kilruane; South: Eleanor O'Riordan, Fethard; Mid: Catriona Gleeson, Loughmore; West: Trina McGrath, Lattin. **County Winner** — Lorraine Gleeson, Kilruane.

3. Instrumental Music — North: Lorrha; South: Fr. Sheehy's; Mid: Boherlahan; West: Aherlow. **County Winner** — Aherlow, D. and J. Donovan.

4. Figure Dancing — North: Borrisoleigh; South: Killenaule; Mid: Thurles Sarsfields; West: Arravale Rovers. **County Winner**: Thurles Sarsfields.

5. Novelty Act — North: Borrisokane; South: Moyle Rovers; Mid: Upperchurch; West: Lattin-Cullen. **County Winner**: Borrisokane.

6. Question Time — North: Éire Óg, Nenagh; South: St. Mary's; Mid: Boherlahan; West: Clonoulty. **County Winners**: Éire Óg, Nenagh.

7. Recitations — North: Antoinette Seymour, Portroe; South: Catherine Hyland, Fr. Sheehy's; Mid: Eileen Ryan, Upperchurch; West: Mary B. Fanning, Cashel. **County Winner** — Catherine Hyland, Fr. Sheehy's.

8. Group Singing — North: Kildangan; South: Fr. Sheehy's; Mid: Loughmore; West: Rockwell Rovers. **County Winner**: Fr. Sheehy's.

9. Set Dancing — North: Borrisoleigh; South: Newcastle; Mid: Moycarkey; West: Clonoulty. **County Winner**: Newcastle.

Newcastle Set Dancing team took the Munster title.

COUNTY BÓRD NA NÓG MEMBERS 1978

President: Liam Ó Duibhin, R.I.P.

Chairman: E. Ó Riain.

Treasurer: D. Ó hOgáin.

Secretary: L. Mac Craith.

County Board Member: Sean Ó Riain.

North: An tAth. T. Seymore, S.C., Miss C. Tynan, M. Prior, M. O'Brien.

South: W. Carroll, P. Forrestal, P. O'Halloran, E. Ó Meaghair.

Mid: J. Ryan, Rev. J. O'Rourke, J. Farrelly.

West: Rev. Br. Ryan, L. Dwyer, S. Ryan, M. Ó Riain.

COUNTY CHAMPIONS 1978

Féile na nGael	Cashel King Cormacs
Under-12 Hurling	Templemore Éire Óg
Under-12 Football	St. Nicholas, Carrick-on-Suir
Under-14 Hurling	Kilruane McDonagh
Under-14 Urban Rural Hurling	Cashel King Cormacs
Under-14 Rural Football	Galtee Rovers
Under-14 Urban Rural Football	Clonmel Commercials
Under-16 Football	
Under-16 Hurling	Rocrea
Turas na nÓg	Cashel King Cormacs

THE LATE LIAM O DUIBHIR O.S. DROMBAN

Uachtarain Bórd na nÓg Co. Thiobraid Arann

It is with deep regret that we record the death of our beloved President, Liam O Duibhir O.S. His unexpected death occurred on 23rd January, 1978.

A specially convened joint meeting was held in Drombane Hall on 24th January and members of Senior County Board, Divisional Boards and Bórd na nÓg paid tribute to a great Gael.

Liam O Duibhir was a founder member of Bórd na nÓg, and acted as Mid. Divisional Secretary for twenty-nine years. He was also Treasurer of County Bórd na nÓg, and our representative on the Senior Board for several years. He also acted as Minor and Under-21 selector.

His death marks the end of an era for Juvenile G.A.A. activities in this County. His spirit will live on for many a day.

A gentleman of noble character, he brought distinction to his profession as teacher in Thurles C.B.S. for 45 years.

His untimely death has saddened us.

To his brother, sisters, relatives and friends, we send our sincere sympathy.

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LATE WILLIE DWYER NT — A TRIBUTE

Classroom images, early Forties. A pair of triangles drawn on blackboard. Well-groomed, wavy-haired teacher explains process of proof: "Put point A of triangle ABC on point D of triangle DEF... line AB along line DE...". Patiently the elements of Euclid were made to penetrate our heads. Alternatively, the same teacher coaches class through the undulating notes of "Pé i n-Eirinn i" or unravels the secrets of grammatical English.

Until a few years ago the same teacher was doing similar things for other generations of pupils, in a newer premises at Scoil Ailbhe, but with no less care and enthusiasm. And when former pupils of earlier decades used to meet him, they often had to confess to themselves that he was wearing his years better than they. His spruce step indicated continuing fitness; his characteristic neatness remained. Yes, if ever a man seemed destined for long, placid retirement it was Willie Dwyer of Drombane after his allotted span at Thurles C.B.S. Yet not long after the presentations, the speeches, the compliments and the piece on the local paper, a huge attendance followed his remains from Cashel to Drombane, and from there, next day, to the hillside graveyard of Templebeg. The slush and the frost of that wintry day reflected the numbness of people who had difficulty accepting that he, of all men, had gone so quickly.

Many of the attendance were friends and neighbours and ex-pupils; many more were G.A.A. people from all over Tipperary, officials and plain followers. Their presence proved that one didn't have to be a notable hurler, or even a less than notable one, to gain respect, affection and appreciation. Willie's part had been among those who also serve — in the background, among those who give time and energy to promoting, encouraging, selecting, working on Boards and Committees for the pure love of hurling and hurlers. Appropriately for a primary teacher, he concentrated on the young in his school through inter-class practice and competition, through games in the primary competitions — out of school on Mid Tipp. Bórd na nÓg and its Rural Schools precursor, as delegate to county senior Board for liaison purposes. His experience and judgment were availed of as a selector of the county minor team for a long and fertile period, the teams being champions at best and contenders at worst. His colleagues never had any trouble working with Willie. An amiable personality, he gave his views on selection on placing or switching without over-assertion or domination, the players know his fairness and his earnestness. Behind the easy manner lay a shrewd brain and a wealth of observation of the game's arts and crafts. He loved Tipperary; the county's fortunes mattered a lot to him; he had high standards in hurling as he had in life.

Willie's gentleness was reflected in his musical ability. His sweet tenor was for long years in regular request at hundreds of concerts and less formal gatherings. His favourites were the lyrical songs, the flowing melodies in both Irish and English, delivered with meticulous taste. He was always a willing, never a pushful contributor. So when, at that last staff dinner in the C.B.S. he quietly dropped a hint that he would prefer not to be called on, he was saying something about his health which only came home to us when death soon afterwards snatched his away. He had sung life's song well and truly, worked with dedication, loved things Irish, and gone to his rest with the respect and sorrow of many. What else was there to achieve?

Post Primary Schools

By TONY SMITH

FOR a number of reasons it was felt necessary to organise a football competition for the post-primary schools in the county this year. While the vocational schools had their own football competitions, the secondary schools in the county had none. It also presented an ideal opportunity for the coming together of those two equally important sectors of education. In the long term, competitions such as this should help to improve the standard of football within the county and subsequently improve the county minor football team.

At a meeting held in Cashel in January it was decided to organise a competition at under-15 level. The following were elected to organise and run the competition: **Chairman**, Colm O'Flaherty, Cashel V.S. **Secretary**, Tony Smith, Rockwell College. **Committee**, Br. Ryan, Cashel C.B.S.; Br. John, Fethard P.B.S.; Michael Ryan, Tipperary C.B.S.

Fifteen teams entered the competition and it was decided that the four strongest teams would enter the competition at the quarter-final stage with the other eleven teams playing off on a knock-out basis for the remaining four places. The success of the competition can be gauged from the fact that all matches were played within the required deadlines and by the fact that the two finalists were Rockwell College and St. Joseph's College, Cahir. Rockwell is more renowned for its rugby prowess while St. Joseph's College had not entered any football competition for over seven years. In the final, which was one of many outstanding matches played in the competition, Rockwell emerged winners on the score 5-4 to 1-3.

NEW U-17 SERIES

For the 1978-'79 school-year it is planned to start an under-17 football competition in October and to complete it by February. Then the under-15 football competition would commence and would finish in early May. While the format for these competitions has still to be discussed it is generally agreed that this year's successful format should be used again.

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Tipperary Football Fortunes

By JOHN McNAMARA

THE County Championships of 1977 were completed with Cappawhite beating Newcastle in the Junior final and Commercials beating Cashel after a replay in a fine Under-21 final.

A new National League was drawn up. This was a double round system with home and away venues. We were beaten in both our away fixtures by Clare and Offaly. In our two home fixtures we defeated Limerick but Meath proved too good for us.

In the Munster Championship we were held to a draw by Waterford in Clonmel. In this game we held a big lead only early on but in the end had to fight back to force a draw. In the replay in Dungarvan we were eventually beaten in extra time in a thrilling encounter. A win here would have given us a home game against Kerry, and it was a pity to have missed out on same.

One second round of the League saw us being defeated by Meath. We had a convincing win over Clare at Bansha, our first win over that county in a number of years, and as a result, we are looking forward eagerly to our two remaining games – against Limerick (away) and Offaly (at home).



Group taken at Co. Senior Football Final – Ned Tobin, former weight-throwing champion, who started the game; Co. Chairman, Hubie Hogan; Tommy Ryan, Cashel; Ref., George Ryan; Co. Sec., T. Barrett; Linesmen, B. Buckley, N. English.

AT local level Commercials had a fine victory over Loughmore in a very keenly contested minor final. There was some great football played also in the semi-final between Loughmore and an Aherlow/Solohead combination. The standard in both these games proved the display at county level was no flash in the pan, and if we had the good luck to have had a "home" draw against Kerry – who knows what might have happened.

The Senior Championship proved to be one of the most interesting and exciting for some years. Fethard and Galtee Rovers emerged as finalists defeating Loughmore and Cashel respectively in the semi-finals. Fethard regained the Senior Championship after a 21 year lapse, with a narrow win over Galtee Rovers in one of the best finals played in a number of years. For Fethard it was the

perfect end to a dream, for even their most enthusiastic followers could not visualize them winning a County Championship early on in the year.

The Under-21 and Junior Championships have yet to be completed and it is hoped they will be before the end of the year.

With new champions Fethard to lead the way, and a new Selection Committee, it is hoped that a stronger effort will be put into the county team. We have a home draw against Waterford and if successful have Cork also at home. Thus 1979 could be the year Tipperary footballers might make the big break through. An extra effort should be put into training to ensure peak fitness which is one of the secrets of the successful counties. Inability to field the ball in the air can also be put forward as one of our biggest weaknesses. Team work could also be vastly improved and lastly an all-out commitment and loyalty to the 'Blue and Gold' jersey of our county is highly desirable.

Certainly, as our recent league victory over Clare proved, we have the talent to stand up along side most counties in the country. It is up to the panel of players to have pride in their county and lift it out of the doldrums we have been in for some years past.

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SCÓR 78

By **TOMMY BARRETT**
(Co. Secretary)

THE introduction of Scór in the GAA Calendar some years ago, was, at the beginning, thought to be maybe another one-year effort but no – Scór has come to stay and in Tipperary it is true to say it has taken a firm grip.

Championships over, or most of them at least for many clubs, the long nights of winter approaching, what was there to do? That was one of the reasons which motivated the people who started Scór and as our Association has always committed itself to promoting our Irish cultures, naturally grabbed the idea like mad.

We are proud to be playing our part and proud too that our County has been figuring in the honours lists over the years up to All-Ireland level.

1978 was a year of very high standards. From November '77 clubs were preparing themselves for their Divisional Competitions and by the new year all was set for our county finals at Thurles on February 10th.

A crowded Premier Hall as usual. Gerry Slevin as Fear a' Tighe was on stage at 8 p.m. and the curtain was up for yet another great night of Irish entertainment.

Moycarkey-Borris were first to break the ice in the Rince Foirne competition which they won. Other contestants – Knockavilla Kickhams (West), Newcastle (South) and Portroe (North).

Ceol Uirlise (Instrumental Music) – Winners: Templemore (Mid), Martin and Breda Coffey. **Other Contestants** – Moneygall (North), Fr. Sheehy's (South), Sean Treacy's (West).

Amhránaíocht Aonair (Solo Song) – Winner: Eileen Briscoe, Newport (North).

Other Contestants – Eileen Noonan, St. Luke's (South); Jerry O'Looney, Rockwell Rovers (West); Mrs. Quinn, Upperchurch (Mid).

Nuachleas (Novelty Act) – Winner – Ballingarry (South).

Other Contestants – Rockwell Rovers (West); Moycarkey Borris (Mid); Silvermines (North).

Question Time – Winner – Fr. Sheehy's (South).

Other Contestants – Holycross/Ballycahill (Mid); Aherlow (West); Kilruane (North).

Aithriseoireacht (Recitation) – Winner – Mahon O'Keeffe, St. Luke's (South).

Other Contestants – Mary Peters, Kilruane (North); Jim Tobin, Loughmore/Castleiney (Mid); John Leonard, Aherlow (West).

Amhránaíocht Ghrúpa – Ballad Group – Winner – Borrisokane (North).

Other Contestants – Moycarkey-Borris (Mid); Rockwell Rovers (West); St. Mary's (South).

Rince Set (Set Dancing) – Winner – Newcastle (South).

Other Contestants – Clonoulty-Rossmore (West); Drom-Inch (Mid); Borrisoleigh (North).

The County Chairman, after presenting the winners with their prizes thanked everybody who contributed to Scór from the beginning at club level, in particular our adjudicators who undertake the thankless and sometimes unpopular task of selecting winners, Hall Committees, Musicians and anyone who in any way helped to make Scór the attraction it has proved to be down the years.

Our champions contested the Munster Finals with Moycarkey-Borris winning the Figure Dancing section. The team: Ml. Cooney, Sean Hayes, Liam Troy, Tom Forrestal, Betty and Josephine Ryan, Ann Callanan and Rita Clohessy.

Fr. Sheehy's won out in Munster Question Time and went on to take the All-Ireland title with the following trio: Donncha Ó Londragáin, Seán Ó Clochasaigh and Séan Condún.



Coiste Thiobrad Árann Theas

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St. Mary's, Camogie Champions 1978

By PATRICIA O'BRIEN

TEN YEARS ago Newport and Kilcommon joined forces in Camogie in Tipperary and became known as St. Mary's Camogie Club. In our first year we entered in Junior, Under-18 and Under-16 Championships. Two years later Camogie was really thriving and it was necessary to set up divisional boards, thus North and South Boards were established. In North Tipp we won 3 Junior titles, 2 secondary competitions (which was confined to non-County players) and an Under-16 County Championship. Five years ago with the decline again in clubs in North and South it was necessary to revert back again to just County.

At this time all teams were Senior and we didn't have any luck in our first year. In the second year we reached the County semi-final of the senior championship to be beaten by Thurles who had reigned as County Senior Champions for a number of years. On the following year, 1976, we succeeded in getting through to the County Final and our opponents were Drom-Inch. This game was played in the Kilcoleman pitch but we failed. The following year saw Junior and Senior Championships. In the Senior there were only four teams, with each club playing each other and again St. Mary's reached the County Final and our opponents were Drom-Inch, reigning County Champions. For a long time St. Mary's were in here with a great chance of winning their first County Senior Title with the score being, Drom 1 goal, St. Mary's 1 pt. This score prevailed all through up to the last 7 minutes when Drom scored a goal and went on to win convincingly.

After this game a lot of the girls felt like retiring and at our A.G.M. for '78 it looked as if St. Mary's were no longer to be. But we advanced to the final of the Ann Frazer Cup in which we beat Cappawhite. This victory was really what the club needed and was the start of better things to come. We were drawn against Drom again in the first round of the Championship and again victory was ours. We later advanced to the County Final against our old rivals Drom for the third year running. Although we had beaten Drom on two occasions this year we approached this final without great optimism. From the start all the girls really got going doing all the foundation work in the first half scoring 2 goals and 4 pts. to Drom's 2 pts. The second half was more a defensive half in which we had to battle every inch of the way before the referee sounded the final whistle on the score St. Mary's 2-5, Drom 1-2.

It would be unfair to single out any one player for her performance as it was a magnificent team effort all down the year. The girls really trained very hard and travelled several miles to and from training and forfeited some of their week-ends for challenge games. So all in all it was well worth it.

Special mention must be made to our male members, Paddy Corrigan, Billy Costelloe and Terry O'Brien who were selectors. Without these three everything would not have been possible and our club is greatly indebted to these men.

As well as winning the Ann Frazer Cup and County Championship, we took part in the 7-a-side All-Ireland in Dublin. In this competition there were 48 teams and we reached the last four which was indeed a great achievement, beating teams from Dublin, Down, Louth and Kildare. We were unfortunate to be drawn against St. Paul's (Kilkenny) who had seven Inter-County Senior players on their side but still put up a great performance. St. Paul's went on to win the All-Ireland outright.

In 1977 we had two players on the Tipp team who won the first ever Senior League. They were the Quigley sisters, Patricia and Josephine.

In 1977 also Tipp won the Munster Senior Championship and our Captain this year Maureen Maher was on that team. Maureen is still on this panel as are her clubmates Mary Griffin and Breda Hogan.

1978 was indeed a great year for St. Mary's and one feels all the years waiting for this glory was indeed worth it all and we now look forward to further successes.

The following is the list of players who brought the honours for 1978:

Joey Jones, Patricia O'Brien, Brigid O'Sullivan, Margaret Hogan, Kitty Ryan, Patricia Quigley, Eileen Carey, Geraldine Carey, Mary Griffin, Breda Hogan, Maureen Maher, Nora Kennedy, Helen Kennedy, Josephine Quigley, Kathleen Quigley, Breda Corrigan, Anne Reddan, Joan Shortt.

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ALL-IRELAND UNDER-21 HURLING CHAMPIONS 1964-1977

CORK (7 wins)

- 1966**—Drew with Wexford, 3-12 to 5-6. Replay: Drew with Wexford, 4-9 to 4-9. Second Replay beat Wexford, 9-9 to 5-9.
1968—Beat Kilkenny, 2-18 to 3-9.
1969—Beat Wexford, 5-13 to 4-7.
1970—Drew with Wexford, 3-8 to 2-11. Replay: Beat Wexford, 5-17 to 0-8.
1971—Beat Wexford, 7-8 to 1-11.
1973—Beat Wexford, 2-10 to 4-2.
1976—Beat Kilkenny, 2-17 to 1-8.

WINNING PLAYERS

3 each: B. Tobin, P. Moylan, St. Murphy, 1968, 1969, 1970; S. Rooney, Brendan Cummins, 1969, 1970, 1971; P. McDonnell, 1969 (sub.), 1970, 1971; Sean O'Leary, 1970, 1971, 1973.

2 each: W. Murphy, P. Curley, 1966, 1968; B. Hurley, F. Norberg, W. Walsh, R. Cummins, D. Clifford, B. Meade, 1968, 1969; P. Ring, 1968, 1970; M. McCarthy, T. O'Brien, 1969, 1970; M. Coleman, J. Horgan, K. McSweeney, 1970, 1971; M. O'Doherty, B. Murphy, S. O'Farrell, 1971, 1973; P. Kavanagh, 1971 (sub.), 1973.

1 each: J. Mitchell, T. Falvey, P. O'Sullivan, C. Roche, J. Russell, D. Coughlan, Justin McCarthy, Gerald McCarthy, S. Barry, T. Browne, Charlie McCarthy, A. Flynn, E. O'Brien, B. McKeown, sub., A. Maher, sub., 1966; N. Dunne, P. Hegarty, H. O'Sullivan, S. McCarthy, sub., D. Lehane, Sub., S. Murphy, sub., 1968; T. Keene, M. Dunne, 1969; C. Kelly, J. Barrett, 1970; B. Coleman, N. Crowley, E. Fitzpatrick, M. Malone, P. Casey, sub., D. Collins, sub., 1971; F. O'Sullivan, M. Corbett, L. Kelly, J. Buckley, D. Burns, T. Crowley, B. Cotter, T. Murphy, D. Relihan, D. Fogarty, J. Barry Murphy, sub., T. Sheehan, sub., 1973; G. Cronin, J. Crowley, B. Geaney, D. McCurtin, J. Fenton, T. Cashman, F. Delaney, S. O'Mahony, C. Brassil, J. Allen, R. McDonnell, P. Morgan, T. Murphy, K. Murphy, D. Buckley, B. Reidy, sub., 1976.

KILKENNY (3 wins)

- 1974**—Beat Wexford, 3-8 to 3-7.
1975—Beat Cork, 5-13 to 2-19.
1977—Beat Cork, 2-9 to 1-9.

WINNING PLAYERS

2 each: K. Fennelly, G. Henderson, B. Cody, M. Tierney, J. Dowling, G. Fennelly, B. Fitzpatrick, 1974, 1975; B. McSweeney, 1974 (sub.), 1975; R. O'Hara, J. Hennessy, 1975, 1977.

1 each: T. McCormack, M. Hogan, J. Dunne, S. Brophy, N. Brennan, G. Woodcock, P. Kearney, T. Teehan, P. Mulcahy, sub., 1974; J. Marnell, J. Moran, J. Grace, J. Lyng, T. Brennan, K. Robinson, sub., J. O'Sullivan, sub., 1975; E. McMahon, J. Lennon, J. Henderson, P. Prendergast, R. Reid, P. Lannon, M. Kennedy, R. Power, M. Lyng, B. Waldron, B. Fennelly, G. Tyrrell, J. Wall, K. Brennan, sub., 1977.

TIPPERARY (2 wins)

- 1964**—Beat Wexford, 8-9 to 3-1.
1967—Beat Dublin, 1-8 to 1-7.

WINNING PLAYERS

2 each: P. J. Ryan, 1964, (sub.), 1967.

1 each: P. O'Sullivan, B. Smith, N. O'Gorman, S. O'Meara, O. Killoran, C. O'Dwyer, L. Gaynor, M. Roche, J. Fogarty, N. Lane, M. Keating, F. Loughnane, J. Dillon, T. J. Butler, T. Brennan, 1964; H. Cendron, S. Ryan, J. Kelly, D. O'Grady, M. Esmonde, T. O'Connor, S. Hogan, C. Davitt, N. O'Dwyer, J. Ryan, J. Walsh, P. O'Connor, P. Lowry, J. Flanagan, T. Delaney, sub., M. Nolan, sub., 1967.

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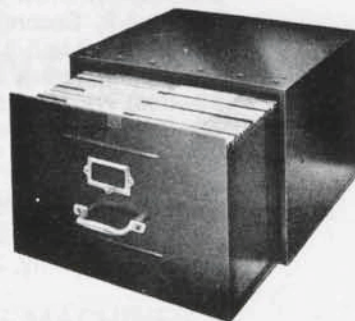
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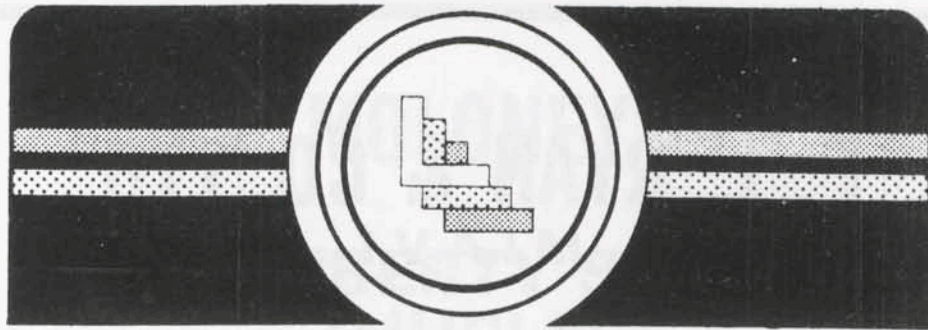
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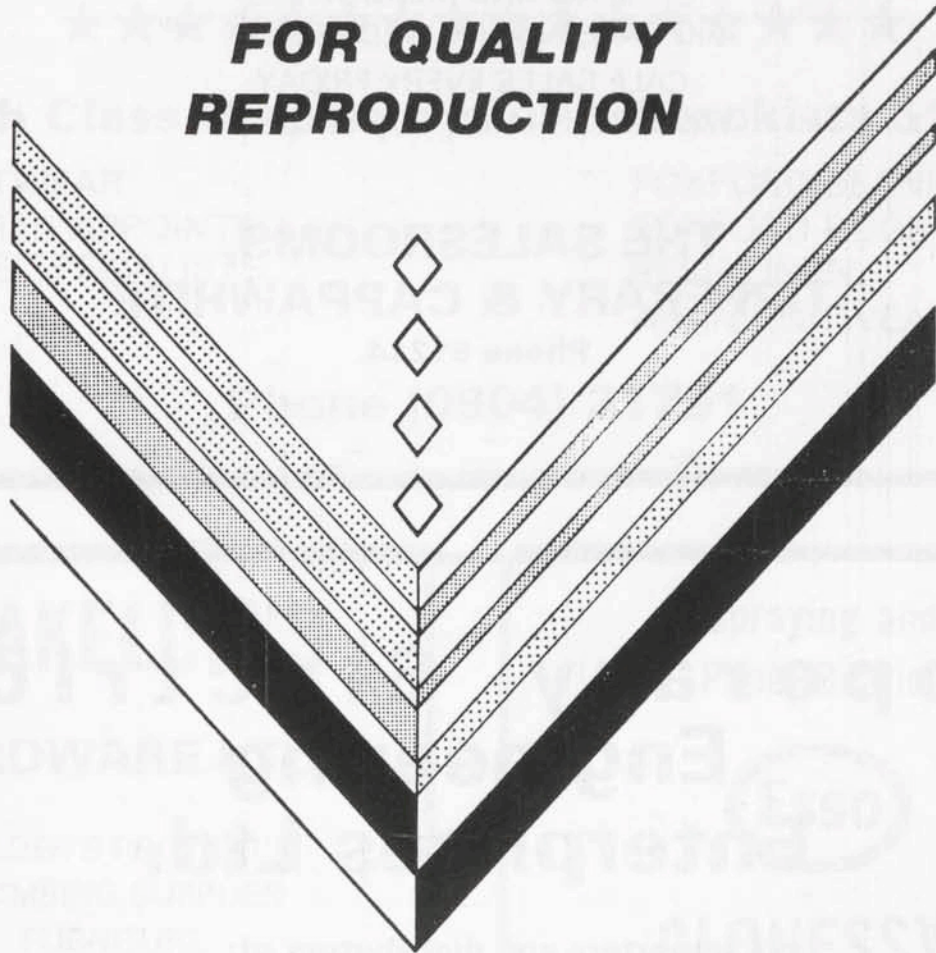
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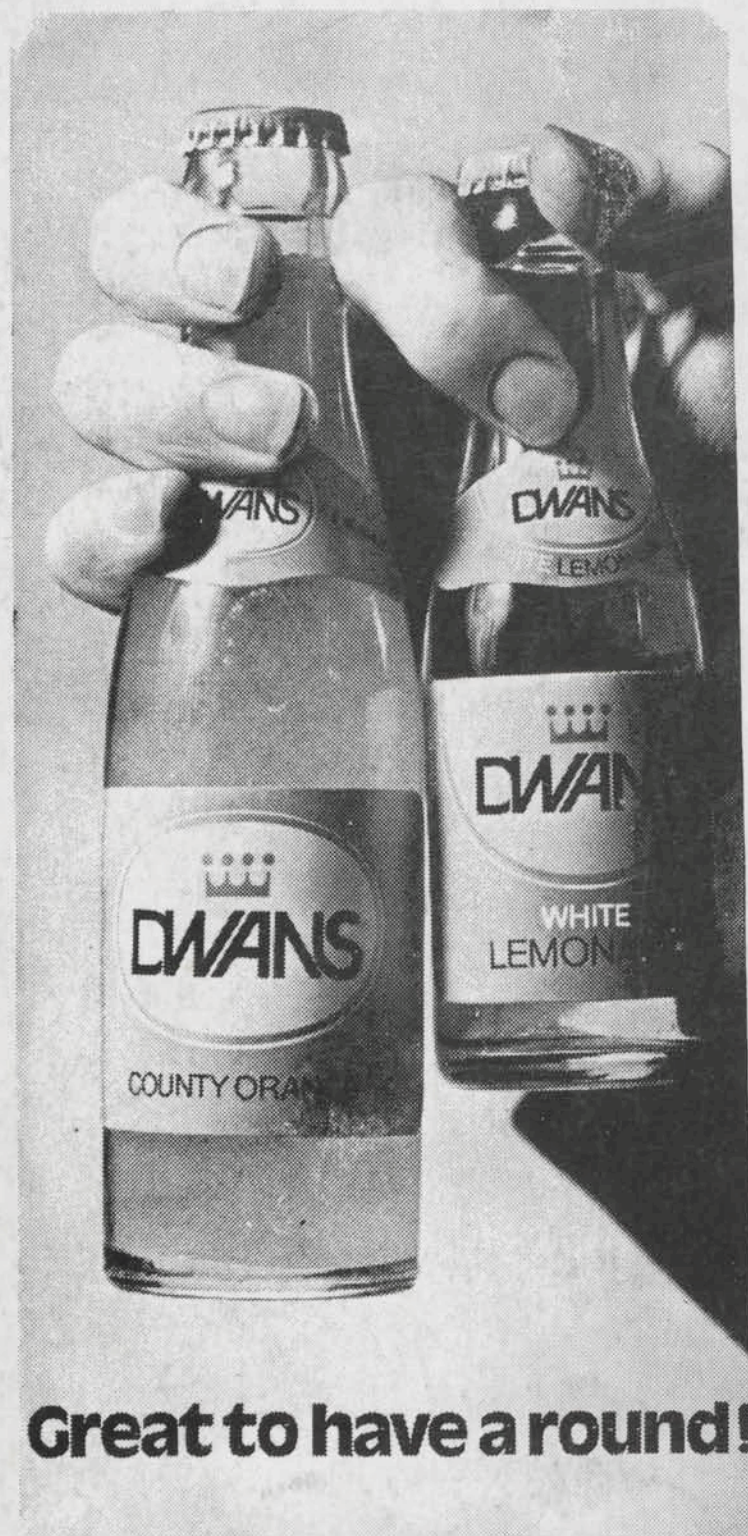
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